

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1908

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LYDNEY

A DRAWN GAME

This was the City's last out match, and a full side, with the exception of Johns, who is suffering with a bad heel, made the journey to Lydney. Dix appeared at half-back vice Albert Hall.

Lydney had selected a good fifteen, and on the form against Neath were confident of running their powerful opponents to a close finish.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – F. Welshman, back; F. Smith, G. Cook, J. Stephens, A. Hudson, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent, W. Dix, half-backs; G. Vears (capt.), B. Parham, H. Quixley, H. Berry, G. Holford, D. Hollands, R. Craddock, G. Griffiths, forwards.

Lydney. – I. Tingle, back; A. A. Lewis, A. Huzzey, W. Griffin, W. Ellaway, three-quarter backs; G. Ellaway, C. Miles, half-backs; W. Wilcox, J. Nelmes, W. Stinchcombe, T. Downing, W. Biddle, L. Watson, F. Lewis, F. Sleeman, forwards.

Referee : Mr. H. G. Smith (Bristol).

## THE GAME

There was a fair gate, and Lydney started in dull weather. There was a fair return to the kick-off, and the game opened at the centre. Downing broke through nicely, but off-side spoilt the movement, and neutral territory was still the scene of the operations.

Griffin gained a nice slice of ground with a touch-finder. F. Smith intercepted, however, from the succeeding movement, and an exchange of kicks left matters much as before.

T. Downing again distinguished himself with a pretty run, and kicking at the right moment gained a footing in the Gloucester 25, but the visiting forwards centred play. Lydney were penalised for not putting the ball in fairly, but the kick was charged down, and the game was in the Gloucester 25 again. A slight delay occurred owing to Miles being injured.

Gloucester reached the centre, and the first passing bout took place, but the ball was forced into touch. Gloucester got the ball from the next scrum, and Hudson, Cook, and F. Smith handled, but the latter was finely tackled by Austin Lewis.

Lydney worked the blind side of the scrum, but Gent charged down the kick. Then Stephens cut through prettily and passed to Gent, but the latter's pass was intercepted by Austin Lewis, who kicked well down. This was supplemented by a good kick by Miles, and Lydney again reached the visitors' 25. Lewis was tackled in possession and passed back to Ellaway, who found touch.

Gent twice sent to touch, and again the game settled at mid-field. Hudson and Hollands effected a good clearance in the face of the Lydney forwards. Hollands fielded and kicked well, but there was a capital return.

Dix found touch in the Lydney 25 with a good kick, but the home forwards put in a telling rush which was only stopped by flying kick by Welshman.

Lydney again rushed and Welshman was severely pressed; but he ran out and found touch outside the Gloucester 25. Ellaway, the half-back, was the cause of Lydney being penalised again, but not much ground was gained.

Lydney opened the game out nicely but Griffin failed to take a very wide pass. The home men, however, were very dangerous, and the visitors' line had a narrow escape. Tingle had a shot for goal with a drop, but it fell short, and, headed by Berry and Hollands, Gloucester relieved to the centre.

The Lydney forwards were putting in a lot of good work in the loose. Lydney at last had their reward. Downing picked up in the loose and transferred to Stinchcombe, and the latter put Sleeman over in the corner. Tingle failed at the kick.

Lydney kept up the pressure after this, and again rushed over the line, but Welshman touched down just in time – a fortunate save. Gloucester worked out to beyond the centre, but Hudson passed wildly, and before Gent could get going W. Ellaway pounced on him and he was thrown into touch. There was a little scuffling on the line, but there was not enough harm done to cause the referee to interfere.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Lydney ..... 1 try  
Gloucester ..... Nil

On resuming the Lydney forwards again got the ball back from the opening scrums, and Hudson, taking an opponent's pass, handed on to Stephens, and the latter gave to Cook, who put in a lovely long touch kick. This placed Gloucester well in the Lydney 25, but the Foresters' front rank, playing up strongly, held the visitors in check.

W. Ellaway was smartly tackled by F. Smith, and Gloucester got to within five yards of the line, but Lydney, who throughout had got the ball well in the scrums, relieved to the 25 line. A high punt gained Gloucester ground, but W. Ellaway twice served his side with good kicks.

Gloucester, however, kept pegging away, and held Lydney in their own half for some time. Downing brought them much-needed relief with a fine kick, and Lydney were on the aggressive again, Welshman having to run back and kick out when severely pressed.

Stephens intercepted and gave to Hudson, who ran to the centre. When confronted by Tingle he punted straight up into the air, but the movement went no further. Gloucester had got out of immediate danger, and from a free they carried the game right down. W. Ellaway again came to the rescue of his side and kicked out. Gloucester got the ball out of the succeeding scrum, but a poor pass was sent to Hudson, who slipped up in trying to dodge through.

Gloucester were now having the better of the exchanges, and twice in quick succession the ball came out well, but each time the defence prevailed.

Gloucester kept up the pressure, but Dix held too long with Cook waiting on the wing. Downing again came to the relief of his side with a lovely break through. He kicked right past Welshman, but Cook raced back, and gathering the ball on the bounce sent the ball to touch.

Gloucester were awarded a free, which gave them relief, but Lydney, chiefly aided by some lovely work by W. Ellaway, kept the game in the Gloucester half. An open movement gave Hudson the ball, but Griffin just touched his foot and spun the International over when he was going great guns.

An exchange of kicks left the game in the Lydney 25, where some hot scrummaging took place. The ball was sent up to Welshman who returned to the Lydney 25. Here the ball came out nicely to Cook who, tricking the men cleverly, cut inside. Hudson was well up, and receiving right on the line absolutely forced his way over and scored. Welshman failed at goal.

With the teams level the game was very hotly contested. Lydney, with a good rush, carried the ball into Gloucester territory, where the visitors were penalised. W. Ellaway took the kick, but it fell short, and Hollands kicked out. Tingle, however, returned well, and Cook marked, finding touch at the 25 flag.

Here Hudson dribbled through and kicked past Tingle into touch in Lydney's 25, where, however, the home team received another free. Hudson gathered the kick, but in trying to cut through he slipped again. To the end Gloucester kept up the pressure, but were unable to penetrate the defence, and the game ended in a draw.

#### RESULT :

Lydney ..... 1 try (3 points)  
Gloucester ..... 1 try (3 points)

#### REMARKS

The result just about represents the run of the play. In the first half Lydney certainly got the ball back better in the scrums than the Citizens, but they could not get away. Gloucester, on the other hand, had few opportunities of opening up the game, with the result that for the greater part of the time the three-quarters had nothing much to do except in defence.

In the second half, especially towards the end, the Gloucester forwards came again strongly, and for a considerable time held the whip hand. Gent and Dix did their best to get the ball away, but the spoiling tactics of the Lydney backs were very effective and Gloucester were able to make very little headway [3 or 4 words unreadable].

The Gloucester outsides, however, showed up with one or two smart efforts, and the one that led to Hudson's try was well carried out, although it was quite on the cards that Cook could have gone in on his own without giving the ball up to Hudson. The latter's sheer strength carried him over.

For Gloucester, Berry, Holford, Parham, Hollands, and Vears were always in the thick of it in the forwards. In Miles and Ellaway, Gent and Dix had a very hard nut to crack, and there was very little between them. All the Gloucester quartet distinguished themselves in turn, and no individualising is called for in their case.

Welshman was very safe, and kicked better than the home custodian. The best man on the Lydney side on the day's play was W. Ellaway, who repeatedly got his side out of difficulties.

Stinchcombe, Sleeman, and Nelmes were the best of the Foresters' forwards, who were right on the top of their form. In fact, one of the home team's most regular supporters expressed the opinion that they had played the best game of the season to-day.

## GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY A

### HANDSOME VICTORY FOR THE CITY SECONDS

The return match between these teams followed after the boys' game. Both sides were well represented, the teams being as follows : —

Gloucester A : F. Perry, back; J. Beard, C. Cook, W. Hall, and J. M. Baldwin, three-quarter backs; F. Arthur and A. Hall, half-backs; A. Hawker, F. Pegler, J. Wyburn, W. Blackford, S. Hayward, H. Wixey, W. Bailey, and J. Hall, forwards.

Lydney A : W. Harrison, back; G. Howell, W. Royal, A. Munday, and G. Harrison, three-quarter backs; Jack Miles and F. Miles, half-backs; F. Downing, H. Kear, G. Reeks, T. Miles, A. Jones, G. Charles, F. Essex, and G. Williams, forwards.

Referee : Mr. D. Knight.

Hawker started for Gloucester, and there being no response the game opened in the Lydney half. The City Seconds got the ball out nicely from the first scrum, but Cook knocked on after W. Hall had made a pretty opening. Lydney got down by useful kicks, but A. Hall with a lovely break through ran to the centre, where a forward pass was given against Cook.

Gloucester continued to open out, and a lovely movement initiated by Arthur saw the Brothers Hall handle cleverly. Timing a nice pass to Baldwin, the left wing beat the opposition and notched a smart try. Hayward failed at goal.

On the resumption Pegler was prominent with a good bit of work which caused Lydney to defend. Later the visiting full-back was at fault in fielding, the mistake only being recovered in the nick of time. From a line-out Hayward threw out wide, and the brothers Hall repassed beautifully, and the latter had hard lines in not getting through.

After Lydney had staved off disaster on the left wing, the ball came nicely across to Beard, who essayed a repass on the line but it was forward. Smart play by A. Hall might have resulted in a try had more judgment been exercised in the transfer.

Then Baldwin, in attempting a drop at goal, had his kick charged down, and Lydney dribbled to the centre. Here Perry was tackled and robbed of the ball, and Royal had a clear opening. He, however, hesitated, and the man to whom he passed was tackled ten yards outside.

Beard was instrumental in changing the venue, and later Gloucester attacked strongly. Westbury, who was assisting the visitors, broke away with a strong burst, hitting off Baldwin in fine style. He eventually passed inside to a colleague but the latter was checked.

The game was very fast, and a determined effort by A. Hall put Lydney on the defence. Then a passing movement was initiated by Arthur, and though Baldwin had little chance he made a determined burst and got the ball down. Hayward kicked a fine goal.

Before the interval tries were added for Gloucester by Baldwin and Beard, but the place-kicks failed.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester A ..... 1 goal, 3 tries  
Lydney A ..... Nil

Lydney re-started, but the home team soon got set going, and the visitors were hard pressed. Heeling well Arthur set his backs moving, and after a pretty bout of passing Beard scored nicely. Hayward missed the goal.

Hawker replied to the drop-out with a strong run and punt, and the Lydney line only just escaped. The visitors kicked out to Perry, who ran round, but slipped to the ground in trying to cut inside. Immediately after Beard made another sharp dash, but succumbed to numbers.

Subsequent play was confined to the Lydney half, but the attacks were beaten off. Good kicks gained ground for Lydney, and a strong forward burst was only checked in time. Gloucester quickly came away, and following clever passing Baldwin was only held up right on the line. A visitor was hurt in making the tackle, but was able to continue.

Resuming, Gloucester immediately attacked, and a mistake by a visitor gave Bailey a try under the posts. Hayward added the extra points.

Lydney were dangerous on the drop-out, but a combined forward burst brought the City out. The visitors rushed back, but Baldwin effected a good clearance. A splendid burst by the Gloucester front took them to the other end, where J. Hall was floored a couple of yards outside. From the subsequent scrum Hawker threw out wide to Cook, who fed Beard for the latter to run over easily. Hayward converted.

Gloucester continued to have all the game, and after Baldwin had failed in an attempt to break through, W. Hall slipped over cleverly from a pass by his brother. The goal kick was unsuccessful.

Lydney made a spurt before the end, but could not make any impression.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 3 goals, 5 tries (30 points)  
Lydney ..... Nil



## REMARKS

The City Seconds played a bright, open game, and proved altogether too clever for their opponents. Forward, the home eight were in fine form, and Arthur and A. Hall worked in perfect unison at half-back.

At three-quarter the City players indulged in some beautiful exchanges, W. Hall being seen to great advantage. He fed Baldwin nicely, and the wing man led off the scoring with three fine tries, whilst he had hard lines on one or two other occasions. Beard, on the other wing, too, was in splendid form, and he had his show in the second half. Perry was safe at back, and made few mistakes.

Lydney played an extra man outside for the greater part of the game, but the defence could not stand against the clever work of the home players.

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