

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1909

FOOTBALL

RUGBY

GLOUCESTER v. LYDNEY

WEAK CITY TEAM SUCCESSFUL

This County League fixture was decided at Lydney. Gloucester were again poorly represented, the absentees including Cook, Hall, Berry, Holford, and Griffiths. The match had an important bearing on the League championship. A win or a draw for Gloucester would give the City premier position, whilst a defeat placed them equal with Cinderford.

Gloucester. – W. Egerton; F. Smith, A. Pegler, T. Elliott, and Hubert Smith; D. Gent and J. Stephens; G. Vears, W. Johns, F. Pegler, J. Wyburn, S. Hayward, R. Craddock, W. Nelmes, and D. Hollands.

Lydney. – W. Ellaway; A. A. Lewis, A. Huzzey, E. Hayward, and L. J. Powell; J. Miles and G. Ellaway; T. Downing (captain), W. Stinchcombe, J. Nelmes, L. Watson, C. Merry, F. Ward, W. Biddle, and T. Miles.

The homesters made one change, A. Huzzey taking Beard's place. Alec Lewis, being absent from Gloucester, Hubert Smith played centre, with Pegler on the wing.

Vears started for Gloucester, who had a slight breeze against them. G. Ellaway took the ball, and dodging the Gloucester forwards, kicked to touch at half way. Lydney tried to open out, but Hayward had his kick charged down by Vears, and ground was lost.

Wyburn fielded a kick by Lydney, and with a strong run got close to the home line. Lydney were hard pressed for a minute or two, but Miles relieved. For off-side play Lydney were penalised, and Hayward made an unsuccessful attempt at goal. Gloucester opened out near the centre, and Elliott, running through in fine style, scored a splendid try for the visitors. Hayward failed to convert.

Lydney, on the drop-out, put in a good forward rush to the Gloucester 25. Weak play by the Lydney backs, however, lost the advantage, and the Gloucester forwards dribbled through to W. Ellaway, who fielded smartly, and kicked over his own line, and there was a race for possession, Powell just failing to score before the ball went dead.

Gloucester had an anxious time of it, Lydney setting up a warm attack. Gloucester at length broke away, Frank Smith running well, but Lydney again attacked, and had hard lines in not crossing after good work by Hayward. Miles set Lydney on the move, but their back play lacked finish. Nelmes crossed for Lydney, but the referee, to the surprise of the spectators, did not award a try, and gave a touchdown, evidently being of the opinion that the ball was not grounded. This was distinctly rough on Lydney, who were now having much the better of matters, but could not score. Egerton was several times called upon, but was generally very reliable.

HALF-TIME SCORE :  
Gloucester ..... 1 try  
Lydney ..... Nil

Lydney restarted, and the first item of notice was a smart bout of passing by Gloucester. Elliott got through and handed to Pegler, who was not fast enough to get round, Powell effecting a fine tackle. Jack Miles was here ordered off the field, but it was not apparent what the offence was. Biddle was taken out to play three-quarter, Hayward going stand off. Lydney, one short, played up pluckily after this, and Huzzey fielded in the open, and looked like scoring. He was not quite fast enough, however, and a good opportunity was lost.

Gloucester, by some loose play, reached the Lydney 25, and Gent dribbled away smartly from a scrum and scored a clever try, which Hayward converted.

Lydney got away well to the City 25, Huzzey and Lewis being prominent. The Tinplaters were not destined to stay long in their opponents' half, as fine handling by Gent, Stephens, and the two Smiths took play close to the Lydney line.

Injuries to Biddle and A. Pegler caused a lengthy stoppage, and the Lydney man was forced to retire. Lydney, although now two men short, kept pegging away, and good work by Lewis and Powell placed the homesters in a favourable position, but Elliott, with a clever run, transferred play to the centre again.

Here the Gloucester threes were given possession, and F. Smith, after one of the best runs of the match, just failed to clear Austin Lewis, who raced across and tackled the Gloucestrian from behind. Play was being contested at mid-field when the whistle blew no side.

RESULT :

Gloucester .... 1 goal 1 try (8 points)  
Lydney ..... Nil

REMARKS

Our Lydney representative says : – The game was not a very good one to watch, and really calls for very little comment. Gloucester's two tries were good efforts, but apart from these there was little in it, the teams being well matched.

Lydney, on their play, hardly deserved to lose, and deserve credit, considering they were short of J. Miles nearly the whole of the second half, and Biddle for the last 25 minutes. What Miles was sent off for it is difficult to understand, but it was rough on Lydney, as up to this point he had been better than Gent, and was the best half on the ground.

Elliott was the best Gloucester man, and put in a lot of clever runs, whilst Hollands, Johns, Vears, and Hayward were the most noticeable of the forwards. The Gloucester backs passed better than Lydney, whose back division had to be twice re-arranged in the closing half. Austin Lewis did a lot of effective work for Lydney, and Hayward, Huzzey, Powell, and G. Ellaway were also very good, each being prominent in turn.

Forward, Lydney were the equals to their rivals, Stinchcombe, Downing, Watson, and Nelmes being the pick. The last-named appeared to score a fair try in the first half. Both full backs were good.

The refereeing, both from the Lydney and Gloucester point of view, was very weak.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY A

#### CITY SECONDS FINISH WELL

This, the concluding match at Kingsholm, attracted but a small crowd of spectators. Both teams underwent several changes.

Gloucester A. – H. Hancock; W. J. Pearce, J. Hamblin, G. Welshman, and Harry Smith; W. Dix and A. Hall; C. Ramstedt, H. Aston, J. Hall, H. Harris, F. Welshman, W. Blackford, J. Lane, and T. Meadows.

Lydney. – F. Vedmore; G. Howells, G. Harrison, O. Rigby, and G. Snell; C. Miles and A. Munday; B. G. Preest, C. Baker, J. Casey, E. Dorington, W. Evans, J. Snell, F. Evans, and another.

Gloucester A started, and a good dribble by J. Hall at once caused Lydney to defend. The visitors cleared with a forward burst, and a good kick found touch at the centre. From this point the Seconds made headway, and from a cross punt by Welshman Lydney conceded a minor.

On the drop out Smith was tackled, and feebly allowed an opponent to rob him of the ball. A try looked certain, but a forward transfer took place right on the line. Lydney, playing vigorous football, attacked strongly, and the Seconds had several narrow escapes. Vedmore, fielding a kick from a drop out, ran round and punted, and again securing possession Lydney ought to have scored, but another forward pass was given.

The Gloucester forwards were being well beaten in the scrums, and ensuing play was strictly confined to the home 25. Pearce eventually brought relief with a strong run, and the Seconds got past mid-field before being checked. A. Hall, receiving from Dix, opened out nicely, but Smith was well collared, and throwing wildly an opponent received and found touch well. Vedmore checked a sharp rush of the home men nicely, and then Lydney completely changed the venue with a good burst. The ball was taken past Hancock, but Smith got back and saved. For some illegality Gloucester were penalised, and Vedmore took a shot at goal, but failed.

Subsequent play was very scrappy, and clearly denoted the end of the season. Gloucester eventually took up a strong position, but mistakes spoiled a couple of openings. Then Dix got the ball away to A. Hall, who threw wide to Smith for the latter to score. G. Welshman failed at goal. Lydney dropped out, but Gloucester scored again almost immediately. Dix broke away with a short dribble, and gathering the ball cleverly sent to J. Hall, who scored behind the posts. Dix added the extra points.

Resuming, Lydney gained a footing in the home end, but they were beaten off. Pearce was prominent with a couple of capital dashes, but his efforts were not supported. Dix also made a praiseworthy attempt to score, but was collared from behind a few yards out.

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

Lydney re-started and a spell of even play was witnessed. Gloucester several times heeled, but the passing broke down badly. A. Hall, with some neat play, put the Seconds well down, and from a line-out close to the line Ramstedt scored, the place-kick failing.

The Seconds ought to have scored again just after the drop-out, but Pearce passed over Welshman's head. Lydney, with some good footwork, went away to the other end after this, and Miles nearly scored. Dix, with an exceptional smart bit of footwork, brought play to midfield. Here the same player fed Welshman near the touch, and the latter cutting inside Vedmore threw out a wide pass to Hamblin, who just crossed the line. The goal kick failed.

Lydney played up pluckily on the restart, and were conspicuous for some forward work. Then from a line-out Lane secured and kicked to Vedmore, who fumbled and lost the ball. J. Hall dribbled away, and gathering on the bounce transferred to Dix, who scored the fifth try. The place kick again failed.

Lydney played up strongly on the drop-out, and for a time kept Gloucester on their line. The Seconds eventually cleared, and in turn set up a hot attack. The visitors tackled well, but Dix finally tricked the opposition from a scrum and scored smartly. The same player converted.

J. Hall replied to the re-start, and Gloucester at once got an opening, thanks to fumbling by their opponents. Pearce finely cross-kicked and gave Aston a soft try near the posts. Dix failed at goal. Before the end Gloucester scored again, but the try was un-converted.

RESULT :

Gloucester A .... 2 goals 6 tries (28 points)  
Lydney A ..... Nil