

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1909

FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v. LYDNEY

CITY HELD BY THE TINPLATERS

GLOUCESTER'S LUCKY WIN

For this match at Lydney, Gloucester still lacked the services of Hudson and Johns, but Pearce re-appeared in the forwards, and G. Griffiths also came back after a fortnight's absence. Lydney made several changes from the side defeated by Cinderford, Huzzey and Powell (three-quarters) being the principal absentees.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; F. Smith, W. Hall, T. Elliott, J. M. Baldwin, three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent (capt.), J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears, H. Berry, W. J. Pearce, D. Hollands, J. Wyburn, G. Holford, Lieut. Carleton, G. Griffiths, forwards.

Lydney. – W. Harris, back; A. A. Lewis, G. Ellaway, E. Hayward, W. Ellaway, three-quarter backs; J. Miles, F. Miles, half-backs; J. Nelmes, L. Watson, W. Stinchcombe, W. Biddle, W. Wilcox, T. Downing, T. Miles, – . Sterry, forwards.

Referee : Mr. Vowles, Bristol.

THE GAME

Vears started for Gloucester, and Lydney returned to the centre. Gloucester got the ball back, and after passing Hall kicked through to Lewis, who punted high in the air.

Nelmes was up, but was off-side, and the visitors were thus enabled to clear. Gloucester then got away by footwork, and the ball was rushed over the Lydney line, but Holford spoilt matters by being off-side.

From the ensuing "free" Lydney were placed out of danger by Austin Lewis, who found touch near the centre. Good handling by Lydney followed, the brothers Miles and Hayward showing up well. The latter's pass from G. Ellaway was, however, not taken when the City defence looked like being beaten.

Hall got going well, and handed out to Elliott, who was nicely tackled by W. Ellaway. Lydney were now showing up well, and the home backs again tested the Gloucester defence with a passing bout. The home halves got away, but Fred Miles' pass to Hayward was rather slow and Baldwin intercepted. Still, the City wing man did not get very far before being brought down by W. Ellaway. Egerton marked, and sent to Biddle, who with a nicely judged kick found touch in the Gloucester 25.

Egerton was hard pressed for a time, but by a clever bit of work he brought his side relief. Hall and F. Smith got away with a nice bit of work, only to be sent back again by the home forwards, among whom Stinchcombe was very prominent. Hayward marked from a stupid kick by Stephens, and Harrison tried a shot at goal. The kick, however, was not a good one, and the ball fell short.

Gent dribbled away from a scrum, and Baldwin supporting him the ball was kicked on to the home line. There was a race for possession, and Harrison saved by touching down. Gent, Stephens, and Elliott handled capitally, but a forward transfer to Hall lost the City men a fine chance.

Still, Gloucester were now in a good position, and clever inter-passing by Elliott and Baldwin nearly resulted in a score, only sound tackling by the brothers Ellaway checking the movement.

The Lydney forwards came away with the ball at their feet to the centre, and although Egerton checked them he was unable to get in his kick.

A scrum was formed on the centre line, and for handling the ball J. Miles was penalised. The kick, taken by Egerton, gained little, and the home forwards rushed right to the City line, where Tom Miles lost a certain try by knocking on.

Jack Miles crossed the line just after, but in attempting to get round he lost possession of the ball, and Gloucester touched down. This was hard luck for the home team, who really deserved to score. From the drop out Gloucester dribbled right away, and G. Ellaway saved in the nick of time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Lydney	Nil
Gloucester	Nil

Nelmes re-started, and the brothers Miles immediately got away. Still the movement did not go far, and the Gloucester backs removed to the centre. Here Berry got away in fine style, and a try looked a certainty. Watson, however, got away and effected a clever tackle, much to the delight of the home supporters.

For not putting the ball in straight the homesters were penalised, but Egerton from an easy position failed to land a goal. The ball was sent over the Lydney line, and G. Ellaway raced out and kicked to well beyond the centre. Good passing by the brothers Miles and Ellaway nearly took effect, and the home team found a footing in the Gloucester 25.

Lydney hereabouts had hard lines in not scoring, the City men for a considerable time being kept busy on the defence. Off-side by Downing brought the City relief, Egerton finding touch with a nicely judged kick. G. Vears was injured and had to leave the ground.

Lydney continued to do everything but score. G. Ellaway got through in good style, and sent out to Austin Lewis, who just failed to clear Smith and Hall, who had cut across. Vears now resumed amidst cheers.

The home forwards kept the visitors near their line, but the Gloucester backs were very sound in defence and their tackling very sure. Egerton was several times prominent, and he again brought relief with a nicely judged kick. Still the home forwards were not to be denied, and they kept up a constant attack. Vears was injured again and had to retire.

Gent, Stephens, and Hall handled nicely, and the visitors for the second time during this half crossed the centre. Gent placed his side in a favourable position with a good bit of work. For lying on the ball Downing was penalised, and Egerton landed a goal.

Lydney played up desperately after this, and it was not long before they were attacking again. Lewis cross-punted and put his men on side, but Elliott was in the right place, and saved by making a mark.

The Gloucester backs then got in a splendid passing bout, but they could not penetrate the home defence, Harrison saving pluckily. Play was soon at the other end again, Gilbert Ellaway showing to advantage. Lydney were attacking hotly at the finish.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal (d) (3 points)
Lydney Nil

REMARKS

Our Lydney correspondent says : Everyone who saw the game will agree that the better side on the day's play did not win, and Gloucester themselves have never had a luckier win. The Tinplaters, although short of five regular men, gave a much improved display, and for the greater part of the game the City men were kept on the defensive.

What lost Lydney the game was the fact that they lacked just the extra bit of finish behind necessary to beat a fine defence like Gloucester's. The City backs, too, were faster than the Lydney men, and this helped them considerably. Forward, Lydney gave a magnificent display, and the Gloucester eight were quite outplayed.

The return of Tom Downing made a wonderful difference, the veteran playing a remarkable game, and being the best forward on the ground. Watson, Stinchcombe, and Nelmes were also very prominent, and in fact the whole eight could hardly have been improved upon.

For Gloucester, Berry was in fine form, and he received good support from Holford and Vears. Behind a fine pack, Jack Miles did a lot of clever things, and it was hard lines that he lost the game for his side in trying to get nearer the posts. Fred Miles gave him useful support; and for Gloucester, Stephens and Gent worked hard in defence.

The Gloucester third line rarely got going, but they handled capitally when the ball came their way, Hall being the pick.

For Lydney, G. Ellaway played finely in the centre, and Lewis. W. Ellaway, and Hayward also did well, but the home passing was rather too slow.

Egerton gave a grand display at back, and W. Harrison was also a big success in his first important match.

Lydney deserved to win comfortably, and they showed that they are a capable side, and should do well in future matches if they always play as well.

Gloucester got few chances in attack, but they are to be congratulated for the fine way in which they stopped the Lydney attack.

The game was a very pleasant one throughout, and did credit to both sides.

GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY A

A SCRAMBLE AT KINGSHOLM

At Kingsholm in the presence of a small crowd. Hubert Smith, Vance, and Hayward dropped out of the home ranks, and Lydney had several changes, the Brothers Westbury and S. Stephens (Gloucester) assisting.

Gloucester A. – H. Hancock; Harry Smith, J. Hamblin, H. Barnes, and W. Washbourn; W. Dix and J. Goddard; F. Pegler, W. Blackford, J. Hall, F. Welshman, W. Nelmes, N. Hayes, W. D. Henderson, and T. Millard.

Lydney A. – Bartlett; T. Brain, T. Beard, W. Harris, and A. Munday; W. Wickson and S. Stephens; C. Harrison, H. Kear, C. Westbury, F. Lewis, T. Smith, R. Wellington, J. Lewis, and F. Westbury.

Referee : Mr. G. F. Dere.

The City kicked off, and Lydney were at once forced to their line. A passing movement, initiated by Dix, looked promising, but Hamblin held on too long, and was collared in possession. A useful kick by Lydney brought relief, and scrambling play followed at the centre.

Intercepting, a visitor punted high, but the ball went over the line, and Hancock touched down. The drop-out was returned to Dix, who got in a good reply, and the home forwards being put on side there was a good opening. The ball, however, was kicked too hard, and hit the corner flag, rebounding over the line. Nelmes was well up, but when in the act of falling on the ball it was kicked from under him over the dead ball line.

Resuming, Gloucester again pressed, and after a sharp dash by Dix, Goddard scored near the posts. The kick at goal failed.

Lydney re-started, but could not make any headway. Dix, with a burst right through the pack, put the visitors on the defence, and Hayes was nearly over. Smith, getting the ball, threw out a wide pass, but it was not accepted. Immediately after the City backs tried a passing movement, but Washbourn failed to take from Hamblin.

Gloucester continued to have the better of the exchanges, but a Lydney man intercepting, ran to Hancock before being upset. The Lydney forwards, with some loose work, rushed the home men, and a score nearly resulted. Play was very scrappy, both teams playing wretched football.

Hancock relieved the monotony somewhat with a smart run and pass, but the transfer was missed. F. Westbury, for Lydney, replied with a breakaway to Hancock, but the man to whom he passed was brought down from behind. Gloucester gained ground from this point, and Barnes forced a minor with a kick over the line.

After this Lydney forced the pace, and the Gloucester line was hotly assailed. Dix and Goddard eased the pressure, and Blackford receiving at the centre, raced home easily, the try being converted.

Soon after the restart, Gloucester attacked again, and Dix, receiving from a scrum, jumped the full-back and scored a good try. Barnes failed at the place-kick.

Lydney gained no relief on the drop-out, and following a neat opening by Dix, Washbourn crossed easily, the goal points being added.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester A 2 goals 2 tries
Lydney A Nil

Lydney restarted, and a spell of even play followed at midfield. Barnes at length found touch in the visitors' 25 with a useful kick, and then from a round of passing, Washbourn scored behind the posts, Barnes goaling.

Ensuing play was all in favour of the City Seconds, and Washbourn, fielding a visitors' kick, only just failed to cross in the corner. Immediately after Lydney had to touch down.

Play on the drop-out showed no improvement, and was utterly devoid of incident. The game was mostly confined to the Lydney half, but the home backs fumbled their chances repeatedly. In the last ten minutes the home team showed improvement, and they had hard lines in not scoring on two occasions. Their persistent efforts were at length rewarded; Welshman scoring from a scramble on the line. Barnes again converted.

RESULT :

Gloucester A ... 4 goals 2 tries (26 points)
Lydney A Nil

A poor, scrambling game, with scarcely a redeeming feature. The Seconds won easily enough, but with the chances they had they might have doubled the score. The forwards were by no means a success, and the backs, with one or two exceptions, showed very moderate form. Washbourn, who was tried on the left wing, created a favourable impression, and he should not be lost sight of.