

# THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1909

## FOOTBALL

GLOUCESTER v LYDNEY

TIN-PLATERS' PLUCKY FIGHT AT KINGSHOLM

CITY FINISH STRONGLY

For the third Saturday in succession the weather was very unfavourable, and only a moderate crowd of spectators attended at Kingsholm to witness the return match between the above teams.

Gloucester fielded short of Gent and Pearce, Dix and Pegler deputising; whilst Lydney played T. Smith (Yorkley) for Stinchcombe forward.

The visitors arrived late, and it was nearly ten minutes past three before a start was made. The ground was on the soft side owing to the recent rains, and with more rain falling the conditions were decidedly unpleasant.

The teams were as follows: –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton, back; F. Smith, W. Hall, A. Hudson, W. J. Vance, three-quarter backs; W. Dix, J. Stephens, half-backs; G. Vears, H. Berry, W. Johns, G. Holford, D. Hollands, J. Wyburn, G. Griffiths, F. Pegler, forwards.

Lydney. – W. Ellaway, back; A. A. Lewis, G. Ellaway, E. Hayward, T. Brain, three-quarter backs; J. Miles, C. Miles, half-backs; J. Nelmes (capt.), T. Smith, L. Watson, C. Merry, W. Wilcox, F. Ward, T. Miles, W. Biddle, forwards.

Referee : Mr. J. Milburn (Bristol).

## THE GAME

Lydney were successful with the toss, and Vears kicked off for Gloucester, the return going to touch inside the visitors' half. Lydney heeled from the first scrum, but C. Miles, after receiving from his brother, slipped after going a couple of yards. A break-away by the Lydney forwards took the ball past Egerton, but the City custodian managed to get back and kick the ball dead.

The drop-out was well followed up by Griffiths, who secured the ball but could not do anything. Lydney got down by the aid of useful kicks, but Egerton returned and play settled at mid-field. Gloucester tried to open out, but though the ball passed through several hands little ground was made.

A loose rush by Lydney gave Gloucester trouble, and the City were driven to their 25. Here C. Miles broke away cleverly from a scrum, and passing to G. Ellaway the latter fed Lewis, who raced over at the corner with a good try. The place kick failed.

Gloucester resumed, but Lydney, getting the better of the scrums, held the advantage. The City backs at length came away, and Hall punting down Smith ran up and gathered. He partly cleared Brain, but the latter put out his hand as he fell and touched the Gloucester man's heel, bringing him down. A wild pass by Stephens was intercepted by G. Ellaway, but he lost the ball with a good opening – a lucky escape for Gloucester.

The City worked out of danger, thanks to Dix, and later Vears led a fine dribble to the Lydney 25. Hollands and Griffiths, with neat punts, gained further ground for the City, but Lydney quickly worked out to the centre. Loose rushing enabled Gloucester to regain the advantage, Berry being to the fore with some clever footwork. Egerton stopped a dangerous rush by the visiting forwards, and later Hollands got in a fine relief kick.

In some loose play F. Smith gathered from an opponent and rushed for the line. He got over and put the ball down in the extreme corner, but at the same moment the flag was knocked down. The Lydney linesman ruled Smith had gone in touch-in-goal, and the referee upheld him. The decision did not please the crowd, and there was some shouting on the part of the spectators, but it passed over.

On the drop-out Gloucester attacked strongly, and from a cross-kick by Vance, Smith gathered and ran over nicely. Egerton failed at goal.

Resuming, the Gloucester backs were at once set in motion, but Hudson's pass to Vance went to touch. Johns was prominent with a splendid dribble for the home team, but the ball was over-run at the critical moment. Gloucester confined play to their opponents' quarters, but there was a lot of fumbling.

Dix tried to work out an opening, but Stephens passed badly to Vance, and Lydney profiting rushed to the other end. A kick by G. Ellaway took Lydney to well inside the home 25, but Hall dribbled through cleverly only to see Johns spoil it by getting off-side.

Lydney were beating the home men in getting possession, but their backs did not travel far. Off-side by Gloucester again spoiled a good movement, and then Stephens missing a pass from Dix, allowed Lydney to make considerable headway. Ensuing play was even but a poor class from the spectator's point of view.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester ..... 1 try

Lydney ..... 1 try

Nelmes resumed for Lydney, the ball going to touch in the home half. Johns and Pegler got in a clever bit of footwork for the City, and tackling the full back stopped a return. Working well together, Gloucester rushed down, and Lydney were hard pressed. From some loose kicking the ball came across nicely to Vance, but the wing man failed to pick up the slippery ball.

Weak passing by Gloucester lost them a possible opening, but soon afterwards the City were nearly over from a forward burst. Lydney relieved with footwork, and brought play to the centre. Hudson, gathering from the feet of his opponents, got in a strong burst, but he lost the ball, and a Lydney man punted to Egerton. The latter was collared, and Gloucester had an anxious time. The situation was saved, but Lydney returned to the attack, and following a series of sharp transfer the home goal narrowly escaped.

Lydney still attacked, and again the City lines were in danger. A good effort took the ball to W. Ellaway, who, however, robbed the City forwards cleverly and came right through to Egerton – a splendid solo effort.

Hollands was the prime mover in a relief movement for the City, but the home backs could do nothing with any chances that came their way. Lydney were going very strongly all round, and they paid a visit to the home half by the aid of smart kicking. Gloucester retaliated with a lovely forward rush, which clean beat the Lydney defence, and Hollands picking up forced himself over the line with a try, which Egerton converted.

Nelmes restarted, and soon Dix had the ball out. Stephens fed Hudson, who dashed through and passed to Hall, but the latter failed to hold the ball. Gloucester were doing better now, and Dix, with clever touch-kicks, frequently helped his side. With another dashing forward movement Gloucester looked likely to score again, but Berry, on being tackled, threw the ball forward.

Gloucester confined operations to the Lydney 25, but the visitors offered a stubborn defence. From a penalty Egerton had a shot for goal, but the ball fell short, and Lewis ran out and kicked to touch. From a pass by Dix, Vance made a good effort to beat Lewis, but the old County three-quarter tackled well. Lydney came away led by Nelmes, but off-side checked them.

A loose rush by the City forwards took them half the length of the ground, but Berry just failed to gather at the critical moment. However, Gloucester was not long denied a score, for a long pass out by Stephens was well taken by Hudson, who threw to Smith for the latter to cross in the corner. Egerton failed at goal.

On the drop-out Gloucester were on the attack again. Holford charged down a return by W. Ellaway, and out of a scramble the ball went over the line and Johns was credited with a try. The place-kick failed.

Lydney restarted, but the City were now outplaying their opponents at all points. From a short pass by Stephens, Hudson broke through in fine style and beat Ellaway, but Lewis came across and floored him when it looked all over for a try. Lydney were seriously pressed in subsequent play, but the defence held out. Just before the end the visitors reached the home half, but nothing further resulted.

#### RESULT :

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Gloucester ..... | 1 goal, 3 tries (14 points) |
| Lydney .....     | 1 try (3 points)            |

#### REMARKS

Lydney, who gave Gloucester a very close game in the first match at home, again made a capital fight, and the City by no means held the mastery the score of 14 points to 3 would indicate. The conditions prevailing were very depressing, and the treacherous state of the ground militated against good football.

For nearly three parts of the game Lydney certainly held their own extremely well, but the City men lasted better, and in the closing stages the visitors were clearly outplayed. Forward, Lydney had a strong pack, and in the scrums they continually beat the home men. Had their backs been a little more resolute in attack their score would not have stopped at one solitary try.

In loose work Gloucester were at times seen to great advantage, but occasionally some fine movements were spoiled by over eagerness. Johns was very noticeable throughout, and Berry, Holford, Hollands, and Griffiths did splendid work. One fault in the home team was weak tackling, the collaring being much too high.

At half-back Dix worked hard, and though there was not that complete understanding between him and Stephens as seen when the latter is in combination with Gent, the pair got on very well together. The City three-quarter line did not do much until the game was well advanced, and there was no outstanding feature.

Towards the end Hudson made one or two dashes, but previous to that the City captain did not distinguish himself. Little was seen of Hall, and of the wing men Smith was the more prominent by reason of the fact that he got the chances. Vance was never given an opening, but he was a trier. Egerton gave a fairly good display, but he has kicked with better judgment.

Lydney, as already indicated, were well served forward. Nelmes was a hard worker, and Biddle, Wilcox, and Ward rendered him good support. The Brothers Miles performed creditably at half-back, but they ought to have done better behind a pack of forwards who heeled so consistently. At three-quarter Lewis outshone his colleagues, his defence being one of the features of the game. G. Ellaway kicked well, but Hayward and Brain got few opportunities. W. Ellaway shaped well as a custodian, and several times helped his side out of dangerous situations.

#### GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY A

The kick-off was half an hour late. The homesters were short of men. The play was uninteresting and confined to the forwards. Soon after the start Welshman scored an unconverted try from a forward rush. Gloucester did nearly all the attacking, and once Harrison saved right on the line. Lydney improved, Marshfield and Howell being prominent. Only short time was played.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

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

Early in the second half Hall was off-side, but Lydney did not benefit by the kick. Baldwin, who was playing for Lydney, put in some good runs. A forward scored a second try for Gloucester in a rush.

The referee soon called time, and put an end to what was only an exhibition game.

RESULT :

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