

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1910

FOOTBALL

COUNTY CUP FINAL

GLOUCESTER v. LYDNEY

KEEN BUT POOR FOOTBALL

CITY EASY WINNERS

The final in the County Cup competition was decided at Kingsholm, when Gloucester had Lydney (holders) as opponents.

Little interest was centred in the fixture, and the attendance was very moderate, affording further instance, if such was needed, that the cup matches are of no great attraction locally.

Gloucester fielded practically at full strength, but Lydney were short of Austin Lewis, the Brothers Ellaway, and W. Stinchcombe.

A drizzling rain fell at the time of kick-off, and a cross wind made things unpleasant for players and spectators.

The teams were : –

Gloucester. – W. Egerton; A. Hudson (capt.), W. Hall, H. Barnes, and W. Washbourne; W. Dix and J. Stephens; G. Vears, W. Johns, H. Berry, D. Hollands, J. Wyburn, W. J. Pearce, G. Griffiths, and F. Pegler.

Lydney. – W. Harrison; C. Miles, E. Hayward, W. Biddle, and T. Brain; Jack Miles and Fred Miles; J. Nelmes (capt.), L. Watson, C. Merry, W. Wilcox, F. Ward, T. Miles, T. Smith, and J. Graile.

Referee : Mr. J. Miles (Leicester).

THE GAME

Nelmes kicked off for Lydney punctually on time, and the return being charged down the ball came back to Dix, who punted across, touch eventually being found. Centre play followed until Lydney heeled and opened out, but the passing went astray. Dix started a dribble from a loose scrum, and Berry following up well tackled Harrison in possession.

Some flying kicks gained relief for Lydney, but Barnes regained the ground with a couple of nice punts. Lydney worked out, and by good play forced Egerton to send to touch at his 25. Later a kick went over the line, but Hall ran out and punted clear. Immediately after Hudson touched down from another kick.

Following the drop out Dix showed up with a clever bit of work, and Harrison being beaten a score appeared certain. Dix, however, was not fast enough to get home, and essaying a pass to Berry the latter knocked on. Having secured a good position, however, Gloucester attacked smartly, but a forward transfer spoiled a promising movement.

From near midfield Hollands gathered in the open and running round fed Hall, who cross-kicked nicely. Johns picked up cleverly and transferring to Dix the latter recorded the first try, which Egerton failed to convert.

Hollands replied beautifully to the restart, and Gloucester were again on the attack. For off-side by J. Miles, Lydney were penalised, but though Egerton made a good attempt to goal the effort fell short. Soon afterwards Hudson forced a minor with a fruitless drop at goal.

Resuming Lydney reached the home half by the aid of a penalty, but Gloucester soon changed the venue through Hall, who put in a high punt and Washbourne and Barnes charged Brain over directly he received the ball.

This effort led to the City gaining a footing in their opponents' 25, but Lydney intercepted a pass and sent to the centre. Gloucester here got set going, and but for a forward pass by Hall, Berry had a walk in. The City backs got the ball well from Stephens, but little was done, and another effort failed a minute later.

Scrambling play followed, with no advantage to either side, but eventually Lydney got away with a fine rush. The ball was taken past all opposition and over the line, but at the critical moment a Gloucester man got back and kicked dead – a lucky escape.

On the drop out Vears followed up well and secured possession, but he was tackled before he could get away. More mistakes in handling followed on both sides, but Lydney were doing best in the scrums. Gloucester at length got the ball out, and Stephens fed Hall sharply, but a forward transfer was ruled. Harrison earned applause for a splendid relief under pressure, and later the Lydney custodian kicked well. Loose play by the City backs allowed a visitor to get clear away, but a wild pass was given with only Egerton to beat.

In subsequent play both teams threw the ball about carelessly, and there were a lot of mistakes. Vears came into notice with an exceptionally smart bit of footwork, but Harrison recovered splendidly. In the next few minutes there was very wild play, the men being mixed up and tumbling about in all directions. Lydney had the better of the exchanges, and Hall and Egerton had to be pretty sharp to ward off danger.

At length Gloucester came away, Hudson receiving and cross kicking, where Dix and Harrison both took the ball. Between them the ball became loose, and Lydney kicked to touch.

From some loose play Griffiths gathered and threw out to Hall, who fed Barnes. The latter yielded to Washbourne, who raced down touch in fine style, and rounding the opposition notched a good try. The place kick failed.

On the restart Gloucester were immediately on the attack, and Hudson, getting a pass from Stephens on the blind side of the scrum, scored easily. Egerton again missed the goal, though the attempt was a good one.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 3 tries
Lydney Nil

Vears restarted, the return going to Hudson, who knocked on, a scrum following in the Gloucester half. The City soon made headway, thanks to good work by Barnes, but a penalty to Lydney brought the game back. Here the City backs opened out, but Barnes got a kick charged down, and Hudson had some difficulty in recovering.

Lydney, who were now aided by the wind, resorted to kicking, and a minor was conceded as a result of a punt over the line. Ensuing play was contested in the Gloucester end, and Berry getting off-side Lydney had a penalty. Harrison took a shot for goal, but failed.

On the drop-out Gloucester gained an advantage, Johns and Hollands being conspicuous. The first-named when nearly clear, threw out a wide pass, but with a clear field the City men fumbled. A weak effort by Hudson lost ground, C. Miles securing and punting beyond Egerton. Barnes got back, but only managed to get the ball to touch a few yards from the line.

Lydney had a fine chance now, but the Gloucester forwards wheeling the scrum broke clean away. Pearce and Hollands took the ball nearly the whole length of the ground, but with a try certain Hollands lost his head and fouled an opponent. A penalty followed, and Lydney cleared to the 25. Gloucester rushed back, but faulty transfers lost the opening. A neat passing movement put Washbourne in possession, the right winger again racing over, but was called back for a forward pass. Still the City maintained the pressure, and Hall, receiving a long pass, ran over with a smart try. No goal resulted.

Play on the resumption was in favour of Gloucester, but the football was of a poor standard, being very scrambling. Interception of a Gloucester pass by Brain saw the ball kicked down the field, but Washbourne easily had the pace of his opponent and saved. A strong rush by the Lydney forwards took them right to the line, where Stephens captured the final pass and checked a score.

Gloucester gradually worked out of danger, but the visitors stuck pluckily to their task and kept play in the home 25. Hollands, in trying to run round to clear, slipped and fell over his line, and a scrum was ordered five yards outside. Gloucester had several anxious moments, but at length a penalty, for palpable off-side by J. Miles, brought relief.

Still Gloucester could not get up an attack, and operations were confined to their half. At length out of some loose play Hudson whipped out a pass to Hall, who fed Barnes near midfield. The centre got off well, and in reaching Harrison he cleverly tricked him with a feint to pass and ran over with a fine try. Egerton failed at goal.

Having scored again Gloucester played up strongly, and the Lydney defence was severely tested. Following some good passing Washbourne made a fine effort to score, but was tackled just outside. From a line out Dix got hold and dropped a goal, but there had been some infringement and the points were disallowed. Gloucester came near scoring once or twice in the next few minutes, but they were eventually beaten off by good kicking.

In the closing stages Lydney changed the venue and had a spell of attacking, but could not beat the defence. In the last few minutes Dix and Stephens got the ball out, and Hall making a nice opening for Hudson the captain ran half the length of the field and scored under the posts. Egerton, however, failed to negotiate, and the end came with Gloucester easy winners.

RESULT :

Gloucester 6 tries (18 points)
Lydney Nil

REMARKS

Gloucester won comfortably enough but the game, though keen, was a poor exhibition of football. The Lydney forwards played a bustling game, and often gave trouble, but there was an entire lack of judgment in the open, and more than one good opening was thrown away. Gloucester had some slack periods, but at times they clearly outclassed their opponents at all points.

Behind the scrum Lydney marked closely, but in attack there was no method. In pace and general tactics the City players were far superior, and the six tries scored ought to have been augmented.

Barnes, Hall, and Washbourne did a lot of good things, but Hudson, who played with damaged arms, was not seen to any advantage except when he scored his second try. Both full-backs did well, and Dix and Stephens at half got through a lot of good work for Gloucester. At the conclusion of the match the cup and medals were presented to the winners by the President of the County Rugby Union (Mr. C. E. Brown).

JC