

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1904.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. LYDNEY.

CITY TEAM BEATEN AT HOME.

LYDNEY'S LUCKY WIN.

For the first time in the history of the Gloucester Club, home and away fixtures were this season given to Lydney, and naturally considerable interest attached to the initial meeting of the teams at Kingsholm to-day. Owing to the call of the county and other causes, both clubs were weakened by the absence of prominent players. These included Gent, Harrison, Hawker, and Matthews (all engaged at Exeter) on the Gloucester side, and Austin Lewis, Nelmes, Ridler, and T. Downing (Lydney). The weather conditions were wretched in the extreme, and the attendance was considerably affected.

The teams took the field at 3 o'clock, lining up as follows : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	LYDNEY.
G. Romans	Backs.	W. Ellaway
C. Smith	Three-quarter	F. Hughes
E. Hall	backs.	Jim Jones
W. Hyam	"	T. Wild
A. Hudson	"	W. Bayliss
J. Stephens	Half-Backs.	Jack Jones
A. Hall	"	J. Mills
W. Johns (capt.)	Forwards.	T. H. Huzzey (capt.)
B. Parham	"	W. Probert
G. Vears	"	G. Baker
F. Pegler	"	A. Hayden
H. Quixley	"	H. Fields
H. Collins	"	F. Lewis
J. Jewell	"	B. G. Preest
R. R. Sly	"	G. L. Jones

Referee : Mr. J. Milburn (Bristol).

THE GAME.

Lydney won the toss, and Johns started from the Dean's Walk goal. There was only a poor return, and play opened in the visitors' half. From the first scrum the Gloucester forwards heeled, but A. Hall sent out a bad pass, and Lydney gaining possession, put in a sharp passing bout, ending in Hughes sending to touch. Lydney were penalised for off-side play by Jack Jones, but little ground was gained by the kick.

Gloucester again lost ground through faulty passing, but "Whacker" Smith sending back to Romans, the latter found touch with a nice kick. Lydney were confined to the home end, and the ball was eventually sent to Romans, who was legged in trying to run round. The visiting forwards were well up, and play was forced to well inside the Gloucester 25.

Romans transferred the game out of danger with a nice punt, and play was contested at mid-field. Here A. Hall secured and passed to Stephens, who punted to Ellaway. The latter replied to Romans, who attempted a flying kick with fatal results. The ball was charged down by the opposing forwards, and following some neat exchanges a forward scored in the corner amidst great enthusiasm from the Lydney supporters. The place-kick failed.

Gloucester dropped out, but some of the players got in front of the ball, and a scrum was ordered on the 25-line. Breaking loose, Lydney dribbled to Romans, who failed to gather, and a try seemed certain with Wild and Bayliss at hand. Hudson, however, saved by kicking dead – a narrow escape.

Resuming, Gloucester made headway with a forward burst, Vears showing up well. Then "Whacker" Smith, receiving a pass, made off down touch, but could not get clear. E. Hall was temporarily laid out, but was able to resume. A nice bit of play by the City forwards took the ball well down the field, and a cross-kick put Gloucester in a good position. Wild saved the situation, but a moment later Hyam fielded cleverly and broke through. He appeared to have an easy chance of scoring, but essayed a transfer, which was taken by a Lydney man.

Gloucester pressed heavily, but faulty play behind the scrum enabled Hughes to kick clear. Subsequently the ball was taken to Romans, who was floored, and the Gloucester line was again in serious danger. A penalty against Jack Jones enabled Gloucester to relieve the pressure, and then a fine forward burst looked promising. Wild, however, came across and just robbed Hudson, sending to touch nicely.

Wheeling a scrum, the Lydney forwards dribbled away, and Miles took the ball down to Romans and prevented a return. The Gloucester backs tried passing, but Hyam was tripped, and the movement came to nothing. "Whacker" Smith, with a splendid follow-up and tackle of Ellaway, placed Gloucester in a good position, and exciting play ensued in the Lydney 25. Loose play enabled Gloucester to get close, but a wild pass lost the opening. Hyam, however, recovered and found touch a yard outside. Gloucester struggled hard for a score, but only a minor rewarded their efforts.

On the drop-out there was some fast and even play at the centre. Eventually Lydney got the upper hand, the forwards doing well in the loose. Romans was again hard pressed, but managed to turn the ball to touch in time. From a dangerous position Gloucester cleared effectively with a brilliant burst, which was not checked till the centre was reached.

A further dangerous rush was well stopped by Wild, who punted to Hyam. The latter raced round and passed to Smith, who returned the ball to Hyam for the ex-Stroud player to score a very fine try. Romans failed at goal.

Having drawn level, Gloucester resumed with determination, and a dashing forward burst, headed by Johns, who kept the ball cleverly at his feet, completely beat the Lydney defence. The ball was taken over the line, and E. Hall dashing up, was credited with a try. No goal resulted.

Lydney were off-side on the drop-out, and Gloucester, thanks to fine play by "Whacker" Smith, were nearly over again. Lucky kicks by Lydney gained relief and Romans, failing badly, allowed the visitors to get well inside the home 25.

E. Hall broke away with a clever run, but his pass to Hyam was knocked on. However, Gloucester made ground immediately after, "Whacker" Smith, who was playing a great game, following up and bringing down a couple of opponents in succession.

From a scrum Stephens broke away down the blind side and looked like going over, but he was hemmed in. Lydney cleared as the result of mistakes by the home players, but they were stopped by Romans at the centre. Gloucester had the better of the exchanges to the interval, but there was no further score.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 2 tries
Lydney 1 try

Lydney restarted, Hyam getting in a good return to Bayliss, who sent to touch. The Gloucester forwards were early prominent with a good burst, but Wild checked them in daring fashion. The ball, however, got loose, and Hudson and Pegler dribbled down to Ellaway, who picked up and gained a few yards.

Heeling by the City forwards gave Stephens a chance, and the half-back, doubling his opponent, was nearly through, when he slipped and fell to the ground. Lydney worked out of danger, but A. Hall making his mark, Romans had a shot for goal, but he missed the mark.

Gloucester showed up with some good work on resumption, but Lydney kept the game at mid-field. A punt by Jim Jones was well taken by Romans, who sent to touch. From a nice passing bout the ball came across to "Whacker" Smith, who raced hard for the corner. The old International got round the wing man, and appeared to get the ball down all right, but a touch-in-goal was given.

Lydney played up well on the restart, the forwards heeling well. Gloucester, however, retaliated, and Ellaway, getting his kick charged down, there was a clear field. The forwards over-ran the ball, and Lydney saved. A minute later, however, Gloucester were on the attack again through Hudson, but the defence was very fine.

Play was wholly confined to the Lydney half, and some neat exchanges and a sharp run by Hyam nearly let E. Hall over in the corner. From the succeeding scrum "Whacker" Smith, receiving a pass from Stephens, cut inside and looked all over a scorer, when a Lydney man touched his toe, and he fell a yard from the line. Lydney, by sharp forward dashes, worked out, but they were quickly sent back, and the home team had another fine opening, but it was not accepted. Gloucester continued to maintain the pressure, but they lacked scoring ability, and one or two possible chances were thrown away.

Lydney played up manfully, and the forwards, using their feet well, they reached the centre. Several careful kicks gave them a good position, and then from a punt by Hughes Romans made another wretched mistake, the ball bouncing behind him and going over the line. Hyam made a great effort to save, but Wild beat him, and touched down in a good position. Huzzey took the place and landed a neat goal, thus giving a two points' lead.

Gloucester restarted, and there was a great rush half the length of the field. Ellaway looked beaten, but the citadel was saved. Lydney worked out a few yards, but off-side gave Gloucester a penalty. Romans had a chance to retrieve his sorry mistake, but he failed at goal, though the attempt was a good one. The last ten minutes was of a give-and-take character, Lydney holding their own and doing a fair share of pressing. Gloucester, in turn, assumed the aggressive, and from a punt over the line by Hyam Hudson touched down, but the referee ruled off-side. Soon afterwards the end was whistled.

RESULT :

Lydney 1 goal, 1 try (8 points)
Gloucester 2 tries (6 points)

REMARKS.

To-day's game was fairly given away by one man – Romans. During his long career the City full-back has never given a feebler display, and this after allowance for the conditions. After his first serious mistake Romans appeared to lose all confidence, and but for the judgment and resource of Hyam, Lydney might easily have had a couple more tries.

It was distinctly unlucky for Gloucester to lose after having so much of the game, but things appeared to go dead against the City. Not once, but half a dozen times, the visitors' defence was clearly beaten, but something turned up at the critical moment to rob Gloucester of well-deserved scores.

For quite three-parts of the game play was in the Lydney half, but when the visitors did break away the movements always looked dangerous. The two tries scored by Lydney were both the outcome of mistakes by Romans, but it is not every team that would have turned them to profitable account. This is where the winners showed to advantage, and Lydney can take full credit for making the best of their opportunities.

The conditions were not favourable to open play, but Gloucester did a lot of handling, and gave their opponents heaps of work to do in defence. Hyam's try was a real beauty, and one of the best seen at Kingsholm this season. This player did heaps of other good things, especially in touch-kicking, and was one of the most prominent three-quarters on the field.

"Whacker" Smith, too, rendered yeoman service, doing two men's work at times. Hall put in one or two tricky runs, and Hudson, who was not called upon often, made the best use of his chances.

As a line, Gloucester were stronger than Lydney, but the defence of the visitors, Wild especially, was very fine. They marked their men well, and there was no half and half sort of work about the collaring. The occasions when the visitors attempted passing were very few, and therefore they were not tested to any extent in attack.

At half, A. Hall got the ball away very neatly from the scrum, and Stephens opened up the game well. Jack Jones and Miles were a hard-working pair, and were smart with their feet. In the front rank Gloucester held command in the scrums, and heeled well, but Lydney screwed with effect at times, and were dashing in the loose.

Vears, Johns, and Pegler were the shining lights on the home side, whilst Jones, Huzzey, and Probert distinguished themselves for Lydney. Both packs brought off some grand rushes, but judgment was lacking at times. At full-backs Ellaway did good service for Lydney; Romans' display has already been referred to.

GLOUCESTER A v. GORDON WANDERERS.

Played at Hempsted in wretched weather before a small attendance. The game opened evenly, but Gloucester early forced a minor. The Wanderers' forwards showed good form, but Gloucester sent them back with good touch kicks. Savage, for the Wanderers, was also very useful in this department. Barnard headed a dangerous rush by the home team, but Watts saved pluckily and kicked to touch. The Wanderers, by the aid of good forward work, pressed, but Ewers brought relief with a timely punt, and the venue was changed to the other end, where Gloucester were awarded a free for a foul. Watts took the kick, but the ball went wide. Even play followed to half-time.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester A Nil
Gordon Wanderers Nil

The second half was practically a replica of the first, both sides attacking hotly at times, but there was strong evidence of over-eagerness, and both sides lost possible chances from this cause. Both sets of forwards played a strenuous game, and there was at times a good deal of unnecessary roughness, the referee (Mr. E. W. Jordan) more than once having to warn players for their excess of zeal. Just towards the end Gloucester pressed strongly and looked like scoring, but Parsons saved his lines with a splendid tackle, and the game ended in a pointless draw.

RESULT :

Gloucester A Nil
Gordon Wanderers Nil