

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1905.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. LYDNEY.

A WELL FOUGHT GAME.

CITIZENS' SUCCESSFUL BY ELEVEN POINTS.

For their match at Lydney to-day, Gloucester were short of Gent, Wood, and Pegler, whilst the home team had Tawney and Wild away. The two City half-backs rested in view of the International trials next week, Gent having been selected by both the Welsh and English Unions.

In the two fixtures between the teams last season, Lydney won at Kingsholm by a successful goal-kick, and Gloucester at Lydney by 22 points to nil. The following were the teams : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	LYDNEY.
G. Romans	Backs.	F. Moore
A. Hudson	Three-quarter	A. A. Lewis (capt.)
J. Harrison	backs.	R. J. Goss
E. Hall	"	F. Hughes
C. Smith	"	W. Bayliss
J. Stephens	Half-Backs.	J. Miles
A. Hall	"	E. Bayliss
W. Johns (capt.)	Forwards.	J. Nelmes
A. Hawker	"	G. L. Jones
B. Parham	"	W. Probert
J. Jewell	"	F. Lewis
G. Matthews	"	G. Baker
H. Collins	"	A. Hayden
G. Vears	"	T. Huzzey
J. Merchant	"	T. Downing

Referee : Mr. G. Thomas (Bristol).

THE GAME.

The weather was bitterly cold and the attendance did not come up to expectations. Moore, who deputised for Tawney at full-back for Lydney, belongs to Bream.

Gloucester won the toss, and Lydney started, but for getting in front of the ball a scrum was ordered at the centre. Miles was early penalised for an infringement, and Lewis mulling the kick Gloucester gained a footing in their opponents' end. Bayliss dribbled away cleverly to midfield, but Gloucester returned with a forward rush to touch. There was a slight delay at this point owing to Jones receiving a cut eye, but he was able to resume.

Picking up in the loose Hawker sent out a wide pass to E. Hall, but the centre was collared before he could pass. Merchant, however, secured and dodged cleverly, but his final pass was not accepted. Breaking away from a scrum Stephens dribbled right to the line, where Moore saved by dropping on the ball.

Gloucester lost ground by faulty handling, and Lydney rushed out to midfield. Gloucester tried to open up the game, but the efforts were feeble, and ground was lost. Pretty play down touch by the home halves sent the ball to Romans, who fielded nicely and kicked to touch. Some good footwork by the Lydney forwards was well stopped by Hawker, but Lydney heeling well confined play to the Gloucester half.

E. Hall got in a good relief kick to the centre, where operations were vigorously contested. A penalty against Miles for off-side gained Gloucester twenty yards, but the Lydney forwards with a desperate rush got down to Romans, who saved in fine style. Lydney were doing well forward, but at length Stephens started a bout of passing, and after a nice run by Hudson, and inter-passing with Hall and Harrison, Hudson scored a beautiful try. Romans failed at the easy place.

Gloucester attacked immediately on the drop-out, and following neat play by E. Hall, Smith scored wide out. The place-kick failed.

Lydney did better on the re-start, the forwards playing strongly. Hudson replied with a dashing run, but his pass went astray. Even play followed, until Romans came away and passed to Harrison. Hall, the next to receive, cut through beautifully, but his transfer to Smith was adjudged forward – a lucky escape for Lydney.

A mistake by Romans in fielding enabled Lydney to reach the centre, but the City custodian later redeemed himself with some good kicking in midfield. Harrison dribbled through nicely, but Hudson overran the ball, and nothing resulted.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
Gloucester 2 tries
Lydney Nil

Gloucester re-started, and A. Hall and Hudson were prominent with some pretty play, which enabled the City to reach their opponents' 25. Heeling by the City forwards saw Stephens feed A. Hall, but the latter ran straight across the ground, and the ball went to touch.

A free to Lydney was taken by Lewis, who sent the game close to the Gloucester line. Here the City made the mistake of passing, E. Hall knocking on, and the visitors were severely pressed. Stephens brought relief with a timely punt, but Lydney returned to the attack, and E. Bayliss made a creditable effort to pierce the defence on the right wing. Gloucester cleared slightly, but Lydney were having the better of the exchanges, and kept the game in the Gloucester end for some time,

At length Harrison, Hawker, and Smith combined in an effort which completely changed the venue. Off-side play, however, lost the position, and later Lydney profited by mistakes of the Gloucester backs. Passing by the home three-quarters looked promising, until Hughes failed to take from Lewis. Hudson picking up, he raced through the opposition, but eventually succumbed to numbers.

From the Gloucester 25, A. Hall kicked clear and beat Moore for possession. Gloucester had an open field, but a Lydney man got up and saved. The City were wrongly penalised for off-side, and Lydney were able to get a good clearance with the resultant kick. The City, however, worked strongly, and clever combination by Harrison cut a nice opening, but his pass went behind Hudson.

On the other wing, Hall and Smith tried hard to get away, but again the handling was faulty. Ensuing play was fought out in the Lydney half, but Gloucester could not gain an opening. Capital footwork by the Lydney forwards brought play out to the centre, where mistakes were made on both sides. Loose kicking by Gloucester gained the City a fine opening, but hesitation lost a good chance. Harrison was temporarily knocked out in stopping a rush, but was soon able to resume.

Immediately Gloucester attacked on the left wing through E. Hall and Smith, the latter making a fine, though unsuccessful effort to score. From a scrum on the 25-line the Gloucester backs got possession, and E. Hall missing out Harrison sent wide to Hudson, who took the ball nicely and sprinted over with a good try. Romans added the extra points, and immediately after the end came.

RESULT :

Gloucester 1 goal 2 tries (11 points)
Lydney Nil

REMARKS.

It was a well-fought game, and the result was about in accordance with the run of the play. Gloucester won by reason of their superiority behind the scrum, the advantage being very pronounced at three-quarter.

The Lydney forwards played a dashing game. They were consistently good in the scrums, and their footwork at times was excellent, but the third line gave them poor support. The match produced some capital play, and was interesting throughout.

One pleasing feature from a Gloucester point of view was the clever work of the City three-quarters. The display to-day was not perfect, but the players appeared more at home, the handling was cleaner, and the attacking movements more finished. The three tries obtained were all the result of smart combined efforts, and there were several other occasions when Gloucester missed scoring by the merest shave.

In the centre Harrison and E. Hall played with excellent judgment, cutting out some nice openings, and generally feeding their wings at the right moment. Hudson and Smith were both at the top of their form, running strongly and testing the defensive abilities of the home defence again and again.

Gloucester suffered through the absence of Gent and Wood at half, but on the whole Stephens and A. Hall made serviceable substitutions. Stephens worked the scrums, and in this rôle he shaped extremely well. Miles, on the other side, was sharp in getting round after the ball, and now and again overstepped the off-side rule, for which offence he was duly penalised. A. Hall did not repeat the brilliant form he showed in the same match last season, but his display was an improvement on the London Welsh match.

Gloucester were best represented forward by Merchant, Vears, Hawker, and Matthews, but the City pack were slightly inferior to their opponents as a whole. The visitors were beaten in getting possession, but in a number of instances Lydney benefited through the manner in which the ball was put in the scrum.

For Lydney, Jones, Nelmes, Downing, and Probert were a distinguished quartette, but the eight worked with great determination, and they tackled and followed up in fine style. Miles and Bayliss played well at half, and were often successful in their smothering tactics. The Lydney three-quarters were not particularly noticeable, and the line suffered greatly in comparison with their opponents. Romans, apart from one mistake in fielding, gave a good display, and for a first appearance in the good-class match Moore performed creditably at full-back for Lydney.

GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY A.

A POINTLESS DRAW.

This match was played at Kingsholm, before a very small attendance, in bitterly cold weather.

The teams were : –

Gloucester A. – J. Watts, back; H. Hughes, H. Cook, C. Goddard, and H. Smith, three-quarter backs; H. Ewers and J. Goddard, half-backs; F. Pyart (capt.), H. Taylor, W. Holder, H. Quixley, T. Meadows, F. Clutterbuck, R. Craddock, and T. Guy, forwards.

Lydney [A]. – H. Turner, back; T. Probert, A. Jenkins, W. Ellaway, and L. Powell, three-quarter backs; G. Ellaway and A. Huzzey, half-backs; W. Wilcox (captain), G. Thomas, W. Grail, W. Stinchcombe, W. Downing, H. Fields, B. Nelmes, and G. Williams, forwards.

Referee : Mr. C. Craddock (Cheltenham).

Pyart kicked off, and the opening stages were very even, but Gloucester got the ball better in the scrum. W. Ellaway broke up a nice passing bout, and the ball was carried to Watts, but the latter saved grandly and got in a fine return, although hampered.

Gloucester continued to get the ball back well, but the passing was not of the best, and several good chances were thrown away. Ewers opened out the game nicely, and the ball went across via J. Goddard, C. Goddard, and Cook to Hughes, but the latter was collared.

Gloucester were certainly having the better of the exchanges, but the tackling of the Tinplaters was very keen and close, and they gave nothing away.

The game was somewhat scrambling for a time, and then the ball was given some air, and C. Goddard was conspicuous for a smart recovery after slipping up. The movement, however, was checked, and more play in neutral territory followed. Lydney got the ball out once or twice, but the halves were content to kick rather than feed their three-quarters.

From an exchange of kicks Hubert Smith cut through very prettily, and several hand to hand transfers ensued, but the ball went astray on the right wing, Hughes failing to gather. The game was rather ragged, but Lydney were improving, and paid a visit to the home end. From a punt across, W. Ellaway received with a clear field before him, but he did not pass and was brought to earth. Lydney, however, kept up the pressure, but the handling was poor in the extreme, and Cook and Smith brought relief with a good dribble. Turner saved well under pressure, and Gloucester centred play.

The Lydney halves were penalised once or twice for off-side, but the visitors' kicking was very good, and they lost nothing in this department. Holder passed out wide to his three-quarters from a line-out, but Cook mulled, and the ball was sent to Watts, who, however, cleared and found touch. Ewers handed out nicely, and J. Goddard, Hughes, Cook, and C. Goddard carried on the movement, but the latter held too long, and Lydney replied with a telling rush. Gloucester were throwing away a lot of chances by bad handling, and just on half-time Lydney pressed.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester	Nil
Lydney	Nil

Immediately on resuming, J. Goddard set his third line in motion, but the final transfer went astray. The Lydney outsides were making more use of their opportunities, and gave Gloucester an anxious time for a moment or two, until Cook kicked out. Jenkins marked, but gained little ground. Lydney, however, were playing up very strongly, and again gave the defence an anxious time.

The Gloucester forwards relieved, but Lydney were quickly on the attack again. Then J. Goddard and Hughes dribbled right away grandly to Turner, who just managed to save. He was temporarily laid out, but he was quickly able to resume.

Play fluctuated in the Lydney half for some time, but the Gloucester three-quarters could not get away, the tackling of the Lydney men being very keen. J. Goddard broke through nicely once, but his pass to Smith went into touch. The home men, however, kept up the pressure for some time, and then the visitors, with a fine bustling rush, transferred operations to the other end, and Gloucester's defence was severely tested. A good rush, with Ewers in the van, brought relief. Jenkins and Probert got moving nicely, but the passing broke down.

The Lydney men were certainly having the best of matters now, but the defence stood the test. Lydney, however, kept up a hot attack. Gloucester eventually got out of danger, and, transferring play right to the other end, forced a minor. The game was scrambling to the end, but neither side could claim an advantage.

RESULT :

Gloucester A Nil
Lydney A Nil

REMARKS.

It was a poor game, calling for little comment. The forwards were about equally matched, and both packs played a strenuous game. Outside the scrum also things were pretty even, although the Lydney men certainly gained advantage many times by well-judged kicking. The passing on both sides lacked finish, and it was disappointing that the Gloucester men showed up so poorly in this department, as they certainly had plenty of chances.

Of the Gloucester forwards, Quixley, Pyart, Craddock, and Holder were conspicuous, and Ewers played capitally at half, though sometimes he passed out a little too hard.

No particular praise can be bestowed on the home quartet, who seemed unable to get properly going, Goddard especially failing by continually slipping up. Watts kicked well at full back.

Of the visitors, G. Ellaway, Jenkins, and Turner performed creditably in their respective positions. The visitors kept going to the bitter end, and only good defence kept them out.

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