

THE CITIZEN

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1906.

TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL.

GLOUCESTER v. LYDNEY.

LYDNEY OPEN THE SCORING.

BUT ARE BEATEN BY A GOOD MARGIN.

CLEVER PLAY BY HALL AND GENT.

For this match at Kingsholm Gloucester were short of Romans and Hudson, the former being absent owing to a bereavement, and the International taking a rest. A. Wood and L. Vears filled the vacancies. Lydney, who were beaten in the first game by 11 points to nil, had W. Probert (forward) away, but were otherwise at full strength. The weather was cold, and the ground on the soft side. The visitors arrived late, and it was 3.15 before the teams took the field as follows : —

GLOUCESTER.	Positions.	LYDNEY.
A. Wood	Backs.	C. Meek
C. Smith	Three-Quarter	A. A. Lewis (capt.)
E. Hall	Backs.	F. Hughes
J. Harrison	"	A. Huzzey
L. Vears	"	W. Bayliss
D. R. Gent	Half-Backs.	E. Bayliss
J. Stephens	"	J. Miles
W. Johns (capt.)	"	G. L. Jones
A. Hawker	Forwards.	J. Nelmes
B. Parham	"	T. Downing
G. Matthews	"	T. Huzzey
G. Vears	"	G. Baker
H. Collins	"	A. Hayden
F. Pegler	"	F. Lewis
W. Holder	"	G. Charles

Referee : Mr. J. H. Milburn (Bristol).

THE GAME.

Gloucester won the toss, and Lydney kicked off with the sun in their faces in the presence of a fairly good crowd. Hawker received and threw out a wide pass to Gent, who kicked to touch at the centre. Midfield play followed until Gent recovered from the scrum and passed to Stephens, who punted down the field, the ball rolling to touch on the Lydney 25.

The visitors gained ground with a loose kick, but for off-side play by Miles Lydney were penalised, and Hall found touch with a nice kick. Lydney were awarded a free immediately after, and Lewis sent play to the centre. A short punt by a Gloucester forward was well followed up by L. Vears, who upset Hughes in good style. From a scrum Gent sent out to Stephens, who missed, and Miles dribbled down nicely.

A good opening presented itself to Baker but he knocked on. The effort, however, led to an attack on the Gloucester line, and the visitors went very close. Several exciting scrums followed, but at length Miles got hold, and the ball going smartly along the line to Lewis the latter raced over easily within five minutes of the kick-off. Meek landed a goal, at which further success there was hearty applause from the Lydney supporters.

Gloucester restarted, Downing replying with a flying kick, which was only moderately returned. Some good work by the visitors' forwards looked promising, but Hall saved. Then the Gloucester backs indulged in a brilliant bout of passing, and Smith made a good effort to score, but Lewis bored him to touch.

Matters looked promising for Gloucester, but good forward work by Lydney relieved. L. Vears was prominent with a fine tackle of Lewis on the latter's 25, and then in the loose Parham picked up and brought off a capital run to Meek, when he passed, but the ball went astray. A scrum ensued close to the Lydney line, and Miles getting off-side he was penalised. From the easy position L. Vears landed a goal.

Lydney resumed and even play followed at the centre. Lewis showed up with a couple of good kicks, to one of which Wood got in a fine return. The Lydney forwards heeled smartly, and E. Bayliss tried to break through, but he was stopped. Loose footwork gave Lydney a slight advantage, but Gloucester rushed well, and L. Vears, with a clever punt found touch in the Lydney 25.

The visitors quickly relieved, and Miles dribbled down to Wood, who gathered neatly and got in a good kick. Lydney were doing better in the scrums than Gloucester and E. Bayliss and Miles combined in a pretty movement down the blind side of the scrum which nearly came off.

Gent made ground for Gloucester with a useful kick, but Lewis returned with interest, finding touch well. Stephens was again at fault in taking a pass from Gent, and this let the visitors down to Wood who put in a beautiful kick. Jones led the Lydney forwards in a good dribble, but an infringement stopped them. Gloucester immediately worked back, and from a scrum Gent got away and passed to Smith, who raced down touch and re-passed to the half-back who ran over with a clever try amidst cheers. L. Vears goaled, giving Gloucester a three points lead.

On resuming, the City backs showed up with a splendid series of exchanges, but Vears failed to take from Harrison when there was a good chance. The centre, however, recovered possession, but was pulled down by Lewis. Gloucester had the better of the subsequent play, and a pretty movement initiated by Gent sent Vears over, but Harrison's pass was ruled forward – hard lines for Gloucester.

The home team continued on the attack, and some neat exchanges saw Smith make a big dash but he succumbed to numbers. Immediately after Miles was again penalised for off-side play, but Wood's drop for goal was unsuccessful.

Pegler replied to the re-start with a good kick, and even play ensued. Stephens missed another pass from Gent near the centre and again Miles dribbled away but Wood dived down and brought off a splendid save.

A. Huzzey, with a tricky run got through the home three-quarters, but his pass was not taken. Gloucester worked back, but there was a lack of finish in their movements. Gent opened out the game, but Harrison was floored before he could travel far. Then some loose play saw Gloucester rush down, and a player cross kicked. Meek, however, saved a dangerous situation in smart fashion. Play to the interval was at mid-field, and there was no further scoring.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Gloucester 2 goals (1p)
Lydney 1 goal

Hawker resumed, and opening play was fought out in the Lydney half. The visitors wheeled a couple of scrums in good style, but they were stopped before getting far. Gent started Stephens moving, and Vears and Harrison handled, but the latter gained little ground with his kick. Stephens made headway with a short run and punt down touch, and later he tried to put Smith over on the blind side, but it did not come off.

Play was confined to the Lydney quarter, where Smith, from a pass by Stephens, shot through and looked likely to score. Lewis, however, came across and brought off a grand tackle. The Lydney defence was sorely taxed in the next few minutes, Vears, being nearly over in the corner. Parham actually crossed, but was called back for an infringement. Near the 25 line Gent initiated a smart movement, which ended in Hall feinting and clean beating the defence with a fine effort. Vears failed at goal.

Lydney resumed, and aided by well-judged punts by Lewis gained a footing at the centre. Gloucester were penalised for some infringement not apparent to the spectators, but Lydney did not make much headway. Next L. Vears broke away with a clever run, but he held on a trifle too long, and his pass was knocked on by an opponent. Jones headed a splendid rush of the visiting forwards to the home end, where Stephens effected a good save.

Gloucester worked back, Johns being conspicuous, and Hyett making a mistake the City looked dangerous. The visitors, however, were equal to the occasion, and another forward burst took them to the centre. Gloucester several times got the ball out, but the marking was very effective. E. Hall got a knock in the head which dazed him somewhat, and Lewis picking up the ball raced to Wood, who, however, smothered man and ball.

Continuing, Stephens got away cleverly and passed to Harrison, but the latter was well marked and was forced to pass. Some clever combination by the Gloucester backs was applauded, and then L. Vears, fielding a flying kick by an opponent, ran clear, and beating Meek, finished up a capital effort by scoring behind the posts. The same player converted.

Lydney resumed, and a couple of minutes later, from passing, Smith dashed down touch and hit off Lewis, but Meek brought him down. Play continued in favour of Gloucester, and Gent and Stephens were nearly through with pretty inter-passing. Then the game changed to the left wing, where Stephens sent Harrison over, but touch was given. From the subsequent scrum, however, the Gloucester backs were nicely fed by Gent, and Hall, with a clever run, scored another beautiful try. No goal resulted.

Lydney dropped out, and Hall replied with a high punt. The Gloucester forwards got under the ball, and securing possession they rushed it over the line for Matthews to score near the posts. This time Vears added the extra points.

Lydney, by no means disheartened by the score against them, played up pluckily, and for a time held their own. A long kick down the field saw Wood pressed and collared for possession, but Smith saved the situation. Then Gloucester, taking advantage of a weak bit of play by E. Bayliss, rushed away, and G. Vears was nearly clear. Gent was prominent just now with some really wonderful play, which kept Lydney on the defensive. The visitors, however, tackled well and prevented further scoring.

RESULT :

Gloucester 4 goals 2 tries (24 points)
Lydney 1 goal (5 points)

REMARKS.

Gloucester were by no means seen at their best to-day, and for quite half the game Lydney were every bit as good as their opponents. In the early stages especially the efforts of the City team were sadly disjointed, and the visitors for some time had the better of the exchanges.

Lydney kept things going splendidly up to the interval, but the change of ends saw a vast difference. Whereas Gloucester considerably improved, Lydney fell away, and points were put on rapidly. The visitors, however, never really collapsed, and now and again, with fine busts, they tested the home defence. The game, though producing some interesting football, was scrambling at times, and mistakes were not infrequent.

In contrast to last week, Stephens missed quite a number of passes, but apart from this fault the City outside half played a good game. Gent was again in marvellous form, and was the outstanding figure on the side. How he got the ball away several times was a mystery, for Miles was repeatedly right on top of him. The Lydneyite was penalised for off-side tactics, but this did not stop him. Miles is a young player of promise, but until he rids himself of the bad habit of continually infringing the rules he will stand a poor chance of promotion to higher class football.

Lydney possess a really good pack of forwards, and for a considerable time the visiting front rank had the measure of their opponents. They were smart in getting the ball back, and wheeled with effect, whilst their loose footwork was also a noticeable feature. Jones was the leader of the pack, and the County forward played a particularly hard game. Hayden, Downing, and Huzzey backed him up splendidly, and some of their work deserved better results.

The efforts the Lydney men put forth in the first half told their tale after the change of ends, and this enabled Gloucester to take the game well in hand. Except for brief periods, the City confined play to their opponents' end, and some very fine work was put in by G. Vears, Matthews, Parham, and Johns. The home forwards handled effectively on occasions, and the following up and tackling were exceedingly good. Indeed, the play all round was a great improvement on that shown in the initial stages; and it was just as well the men realised the situation, for Gloucester held by no means a winning advantage at half-time.

Behind the scrum, Gloucester's combination prove too good for Lydney. E. Hall showed splendid judgment on both occasions he scored, for he drew the defence on Smith and then cut inside and over the line in pretty style. "Whacker," as usual, played a resolute game, and it was not due to any slackness on his part that he failed to score.

Harrison did some clever things at times, but he again displayed a tendency to pass forward. This fault robbed L. Vears of a couple of tries at least. The latter again proved his worth, and was an admirable substitute for Hudson. Vears showed form to-day good enough for anything; his attacks were sharp and effective, and his defence of the stoutest. Gloucester are fortunate in having such a first-class player to fall back on in cases of emergency.

At full back, Wood did good work, his kicking generally being of good length. He was not called upon for much tackling, but he made no mistake in bringing down Lewis when the latter got away in the second half.

The Lydney three-quarters showed a good knowledge of the game, and the marking for the most part was excellent. The centres were left once or twice by Hall, but better players than Hughes and Huzzey have been beaten by the clever centre.

Austin Lewis showed something like a return to his old form, and he was a great factor in keeping down the score. He greatly assisted his side with clever kicks, and his sound play gave confidence to his colleagues.

Huzzey was the better of the two centres, but neither got much chance to distinguish himself. Miles has already been referred to at half-back. His colleague (E. Bayliss) showed a good conception of what is required of an outside half, and will improve with experience.

Meek proved himself an efficient custodian, and certainly the County appear to have some promising players for this position.

Gloucester have now played 11 matches with clubs in the county, and secured the following record : –

			Points	
Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	For.	Agst.
10	0	1	200	23

These figures speak for themselves.

GLOUCESTER A v. LYDNEY A.

CITY SECONDS LOSE BY A POINT.

At Lydney. In the opening half Lydney attacked hotly and indulged in pretty passing, but met a sound defence. Miles dropped a neat goal, which gave Lydney a lead at the interval.

In the second half Probert saved a rush by the visitors. Hughes, however, scored an easy try for the visitors, who had rather the best of the game, but Lydney were handicapped, having only fourteen men. Lydney played up well towards the finish.

RESULT :

Lydney II 1 goal (d) (4 points)
Gloucester A 1 try (3 points)