

THE CITIZEN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1905.

GLOUCESTER v. NEW ZEALAND.

TO-MORROW'S MATCH.

The New Zealanders were out training again at Kingsholm on Wednesday morning in the presence of a number of interested spectators. The arrangements for to-morrow's match are nearing completion, and the Gloucester Committee have certainly made the best possible use of the accommodation the enclosure affords. The kick-off is fixed for 3.30, but the gates will be open at 2 o'clock.

Of the 82 tries scored by the New Zealand team to date J. Hunter has obtained 21, having failed to score in but one match, viz., Leicester. G. W. Smith has 13 tries to his credit.

Wallace's record, (remarks the "Daily Mail"), is an extraordinary one. He has not only crossed the line nine times in eight matches, though playing full back, but has converted 42 of the 73 tries scored in the matches in which he took part.

THE TEAMS.

The New Zealand team was selected this afternoon as follows : —

G. Gillett, back; G.W. Smith, R. J. Deans, and W. Wallace, three-quarter backs; J. Hunter and W. Stead, five-eighths; F. Roberts, half-back; F. Glasgow, W. Glenn, W. Cunningham, G. Nicholson, J. O'Sullivan, C. Seeling, W. Johnstone, and D. Gallagher (wing), forwards.

The Gloucester fifteen will not be definitely decided until this evening. G. Romans is unable to play, and E. Hall is very doubtful.

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

The official programme of the match will be published by Messrs. Chance and Bland, and will be on sale at 9 a.m. on Thursday.

In to-morrow night's Football Edition will be given a portrait group, three columns wide, of the New Zealand footballers.

THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1905.

GLOUCESTER v. NEW ZEALAND.

THE COLONIALS AT KINGSHOLM.

RECORD ATTENDANCE.

A MARVELLOUS EXHIBITION OF FOOTBALL.

PLUCKY FIGHT BY THE CITY TEAM.

No event in Gloucester in recent years has aroused such enormous interest and excitement as the visit of the New Zealand football team, and the fixture with the chosen representatives of the City at Kingsholm to-day attracted an attendance which promised to easily eclipse all previous local records.

In football circles the game had been keenly anticipated for weeks past, not that it was thought Gloucester had any chance against their opponents, but everybody was anxious to see the wonderful team that had pulverised all and every combination pitted against them.

Opening with a sensational victory over Devon county, the Colonials have never looked back, and the form throughout the tour to date has been brilliantly consistent.

Only once in eight matches have the tourists had their lines crossed, and the aggregate scoring by opponents in these games was 7 points, as against 341 by the New Zealanders.

To better indicate the almost unique achievements of the "All Blacks" a complete record of their doings prior to taking the field this afternoon is appended : –

Played 8 – Won 8, Lost 0, Draws 0.

FOR AGAINST

		G.	T.	P.	..	G.	T.	P.
Sept. 16, v. Devon	W	9	4	55	..	1	0	4
Sept. 21, v. Cornwall	W	4	7	41	..	0	0	0
Sept. 23, v. Bristol	W	7	2	41	..	0	0	0
Sept. 28, v. Northampton	W	4	4	32	..	0	0	0
Sept. 30, v. Leicester	W	5	1	28	..	0	0	0
Oct. 4, v. Middlesex	W	5	3	34	..	0	0	0
Oct. 7, v. Durham	W	2	2	16	..	0	1	3
Oct. 11, v. The Hartlepools .	W	9	6	63	..	0	0	0
Oct. 14, v. Northumberland ...	W	2	7	31	..	0	0	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		47	36	341		1	1	7

In some quarters the New Zealanders have been hailed as the finest Rugby team that ever stepped on the field, but this is a tall order, and those who can remember the great sides which represented England before the Northern split, the Scotch teams of the nineties, and the more recently invincible Welsh International combinations of 1902-3 and 1904-5 will hardly subscribe to this conclusion.

That the Colonials are a very fine side, however, must be admitted, and in the present condition of English Rugby Union football it was generally recognised that it would require an unusually strong team to check their victorious career in this country.

The tourists arrived in Gloucester on Monday afternoon, and during their stay in the city have made the Ram Hotel their headquarters. By the kindness of the Gloucester F.C. the Kingsholm ground was placed at their disposal for training, and on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings the Colonials had a couple of hours' good practice. The visitors were particularly pleased with the dressing and bath accommodation provided in the City club's new building, and Mr. Gallagher, the captain, said it was the best they had struck so far on the tour.

Despite the fixture being in mid-week, the interest in the match was exceptionally great, and this was not confined to Gloucester and district. Most of the large works in the city were closed to allow the employees to witness the game, the schools closed early, and there was a general desire on the part of many who were not ordinarily attracted to a football match to patronise this one.

At first it was not intended to provide any reserve seats, but the demand was so great that the Gloucester Committee were forced to accede to the request. The grand-stand tickets were bought up almost immediately, and hundreds of seats arranged inside the enclosure found ready purchasers.

With the knowledge that there would be a large influx of visitors from the district and Wales, extra accommodation had to be provided outside the ropes, and a special stand was erected behind the goal posts at the Worcester-street end.

The Gloucester Committee made the best possible use of the accommodation provided on the ground, but if reports as to the probable attendance were borne out it was feared that it would be impossible for all the spectators to get a view of the game.

BEFORE THE MATCH.

The weather was gloriously fine, and the conditions were in every way favourable. Although the gates were opened an hour and a half before the match a large crowd was waiting outside for admission some

time before 2 o'clock. Once the gates were thrown open the crowd poured in to the enclosure in large numbers, and in less than half an hour some thousands of spectators had taken up their positions.

Excursion trains from various towns brought full loads of passengers, and with visitors from Stroud, Cheltenham, Swindon, the Forest, and other places, there was a continual stream of people entering the ground. Hinton's augmented band played selections of music during the waiting interval, and this kept the crowd in good humour.

THE TEAMS.

The New Zealand captain paid the City club a compliment by placing a strong side in the field, Gallagher and Wallace re-appearing in the team. Gloucester unfortunately were placed in a serious position owing to injuries sustained by Romans and E. Hall at Northampton. Both were anxious to turn out, but the ex-captain found it absolutely impossible, and L. Vears was requisitioned to fill the important post of full-back. E. Hall was doubtful up to the morning of the match, but he was eventually included, though his playing was attended with considerable risk. The Gloucester Selection Committee decided to play only seven forwards, the opinion being held that an extra half-back would be more useful to the side than a wing forward. The team[s] were finally constituted as follows : —

GLOUCESTER.	NEW ZEALAND.
Back —	Back —
L. Vears	G. Gillett
Three-quarters —	Three-quarters —
C. Smith	G. W. Smith
E. Hall	R. J. Deans
J. Harrison	W. Wallace
A. Hudson	
Half-backs —	Five-eighths —
J. Stephens	J. Hunter
A. Wood	W. Stead
D. R. Gent	

Forwards –

W. Johns (captain)
A. Hawker
F. Pegler
G. Vears
B. Parham
H. Collins
G. Matthews

Forwards –

F. Glasgow
W. Glenn
W. Cunningham
G. Nicholson
J. O'Sullivan
C. Seeling
W. Johnstone
D. Gallagher (wing)

Referee : Mr. F. NICHOLLS (Leicester).

THE GAME.

Five minutes before time the New Zealand team took the field, and the players were enthusiastically received, another loud shout greeting the appearance of captain Johns and his colleagues. The players wore large numbers on the backs of their jerseys, and the spectators were thus able, with the official programme (printed by Messrs. Chance and Bland), easily to identify the men.

The Gloucester captain won the toss, and elected to defend the Dean's Walk goal. Cunningham kicked off against the sun amidst great excitement. Harrison failed to gather, and was only able to punt to touch on his 25. From the first scrum Gloucester got possession, and a short kick went to an opponent, who marked, but Wallace's shot for goal did not reach the mark, and Harrison punted out.

A mis-kick by a visitor lost ground, but Deans gathered neatly and sent to touch. From the subsequent scrums Gloucester heeled, and Gent gained a few yards by punting to touch. Off-side, however, gave the Colonials a free, and Gillett sent to touch near the home 25.

The City forwards were doing good work and beating their opponents for possession. Then the visitors tried passing, but the home men tackled daringly, and rushed the game to beyond the centre. Here some exciting play followed, Gloucester doing grandly in all phases of play. From near mid-field Wood intercepted grandly and whipped out a wide pass to Hudson, who dashed down touch. Gillett, however, proved

too much for the Gloucesterian, who was knocked out, being apparently stunned. There was a delay for Hudson to be attended to, and he had to be assisted to the line. This was hard lines for Gloucester, but the City resumed with great keenness, and kept play in their opponents' 25.

By good forward play the All Blacks removed the venue a dozen yards or so, but Gallagher being penalised for off-side Wood kicked to Wallace, who returned finely. Stephens, however, found touch with the reply.

A good bit of work by Parham, who with a flying kick sent to Gillett, enabled Gloucester to attack. The visit[ing] custodian had his kick charged down, and Roberts only cleared his lines by sending out of bounds. Matters looked promising for Gloucester, but grand kicking by the visitors removed the danger.

A long punt by Wallace went to Vears, who replied well, and the centre was the scene of operations. The visitors tried hard to effect some outside play, but Wood with a beautiful tackle stopped the movement. Clever footwork by the Colonials caused Gloucester some anxiety, but Gent saved nicely. The visitors, however, got in a good position, and from passing Glenn ran over near the posts with the first try twenty minutes after the start. Wallace easily goaled.

Hawker resumed with a good kick, which Wallace returned to the centre. The Colonials soon commenced to open out the game, and the backs indulged in some neat passing. Hunter was almost through, being held up on the line, whilst another attack only just failed. Gloucester were feeling the loss of Hudson, and it was not long ere another score resulted, Smith sprinting over on the left after a neat bout of passing. The goal kick failed.

Following the drop-out Gloucester were almost immediately placed on the defensive. From a pass by Roberts Stead burst clean through, and handed at the right moment to Deans; the latter scored easily. No goal resulted.

Gloucester re-started, and Wood was prominent with a neat bit of work which was heartily applauded. Despite a man short the City played up pluckily, and the forwards shone in some loose play. G. Vears picked up and tried to clear, but he was tackled, and though he let the ball go he was badly kicked by an opponent, the spectators shouting in indignation. Vears had to receive the attention of the ambulance men, but was fortunately able to continue.

From the subsequent scrum the visitors heeled, but Deans failed to take the ball from Stead. The Colonial forwards showed good work in the lines-out, and a dangerous dribble was only stopped in the nick of time by Parham. Palpable off-side play by Gallagher caused his side to be penalised, and Gloucester for the next few minutes held their own fairly well.

From a high punt by Gillett, Gent knocked on, and a scrum followed inside the home 25. The visitors rushed well, and carrying the ball over the line Seeling was credited with a try, which Wallace converted, making 16 point[s] to nil.

On the restart Gloucester kept play confined to the centre, the tackling being very good. Eventually L. Vears was collared in possession by a fast Colonial forward, and the game was fought out in the home 25. Smith was instrumental in gaining Gloucester ground, but the Colonials came back with a brilliant series of exchanges, ending in Wallace beating Vears and racing round behind the posts. The same player converted.

Hawker resumed, but the game was soon taken to the Gloucester quarter. A mistake by Gent in the open gave the visitors an opening which they took advantage of, and Hunter scored after brilliant passing and inter-passing. Gillett kicked a goal from the 25. Then half-time was called.

HALF-TIME SCORE :
NEW ZEALAND 4 goals, 2 tries
GLOUCESTER Nil

Hudson took his place when Hawker started the second half, the ball going to touch. Gloucester made headway from a line-out, but the All Black forwards replied with a telling rush, which Harrison checked in time. From a scrum Roberts started Stead going, and the visiting backs passed and inter-passed in beautiful style. The attack was, however, beaten off, and Hudson with a flying kick sent to touch in the visitors' 25.

The Colonials worked out to mid-field, where the Gloucester backs were nicely fed by Gent. The three-quarters, however, went straight across the ground, and nothing resulted. Big kicking followed, and then the home backs were again at fault in passing. The game was exceedingly fast, and Gloucester were doing very well. The backs, however, lacked the dash and pace of their opponents.

From a long kick by Hudson the ball went over the line, and Gillett conceded a minor. Harrison made a mess of the drop-out, and Gloucester were lucky in preventing a score. Some very fine kicking by Wood kept Gloucester in a good position, but Gillett did good work at full back for the visitors.

Heeling by the Colonial forwards saw the backs indulge in several bouts of passing, but Smith was well stopped on the left, and then Hudson tackled Wallace on the opposite side when he was at full speed. A mark by Gent enabled the Gloucesterian to gain some 20 yards, but the Colonials replied with some superb passing, and but for the great tackling of the home team a score would bound to have resulted.[*sic*].

The Gloucester forwards now and again showed up with some decent rushes, but they could not withstand the brilliant combination of the opposing backs, who passed with unerring accuracy. Wood twice saved apparently certain scores by grand tackles, and Wallace was also stopped in the nick of time twice in quick succession. Wood was penalised for off-side play, and Gillett had a shot for goal, but only a minor resulted.

Following the drop-out there was a spell of loose forward work in which neither side gained much advantage. Then the visitors began to pass again, and only forward transfers prevented two certain tries.

Play was wholly confined to the home half, but at length a miss by a visitor gave the Gloucester forwards a chance. Collins, Parham, and Matthews got possession and dribbled down, but Wallace got back and saved. Gloucester, however, made further headway till stopped by Gillett, who put in a fine kick to touch.

The game came back to the centre chiefly by the aid of the visiting forwards, but Gloucester checked the movement on the half-way line. Ensuing play was fairly even, but Gloucester were not quick enough to take advantage of their chances. A smart bit of fielding by Stephens gave the Gloucester backs a chance, but Harrison kicked instead of trying to make an opening. The Gloucester forwards following up charged down Gillett's return, but the visiting full back caught the ball on the rebound and effected a marvellous clearance.

Up and down the field the ball travelled at a great pace, but Gloucester were mainly engaged in defence. The City's efforts were successful for some time, but after thirty minutes' play a grand combined movement by the Colonial backs ended in Deans scoring a fine try under the posts. Wallace easily converted.

Restarting, Gloucester gained a footing in their opponents' 25, where Wood, in tackling Gallagher, twisted his ankle and had to be carried off the field. On resuming the Colonials attacked, and following some exchanges Wallace dodged over with a clever try, which he converted, making the aggregate points 36 to nil.

In the last few minutes New Zealand attacked strongly, and tries were added by Seeling and Deans, goals being kicked by Wallace.

RESULT :

NEW ZEALAND 7 goals, 3 tries (44 points)
GLOUCESTER NIL.

REMARKS.

The great game is over, and Gloucester, like the other English teams who have met the New Zealanders, have had to acknowledge the immense superiority of the Colonial combination. Forty-four points to nil is a terrific beating; but whilst the scoring in some degree flatters the winners, there could be no two opinions that Gloucester were hopelessly out-manœuvred in almost every phase of play.

That the visitors are a wonderful combination will be readily recognised by all who witnessed their superb exhibition to-day, and greatly as some of the Welsh teams have shone at Kingsholm on occasions, we never remember any side reaching the perfection attained by the All Blacks.

Gloucester made a brave show for the first twenty minutes, and the manner in which the City team held their opponents was a surprise to the most ardent supporter. Then came the unfortunate accident to Hudson, and from this point to the interval there was only one team in it.

The home players offered a stubborn resistance to the repeated attacks of the Colonials, but the bewildering passing, cleverness, and pace of the visitors were altogether too much for them. Tries came in rapid succession, and with Wallace's successful goal-kicking the points mounted rapidly.

With the change of ends Gloucester, strengthened by Hudson, showed recovery, and again the City gave their powerful opponents a real good game. The New Zealanders, however, displayed wonderful football, and the amazing rapidity with which they got over the ground was a revelation to the onlookers.

Gloucester's defence was really great at times, and only the deadly tackling prevented a huge score being piled up. Actually thirty minutes had passed of the second half before the Colonials added to their score, but in the last ten minutes the defence gave way, and ere the end arrived four more tries were added to the score. Again it might be mentioned

that it was not until Gloucester were a man short – Wood having gone off – that the team showed signs of falling away, and the City are certainly to be congratulated on doing so well when operating on equal terms with their opponents.

The game proved one of the most enjoyable, from a spectator's point of view, ever witnessed in Gloucester, and the clever tactics of the New Zealanders should not be lost on local players.

The one idea of the visitors was to give the ball air, and once amongst the backs there was no hesitation in going forward. Time after time the Colonial backs came away with beautiful movements, every one of which resulted in considerable headway being made. The combination of the whole of the outside men was almost perfection, and individually the players stood out as brilliant exponents of the game. Hunter, at five-eighths, was wonderfully effective, and most of the openings made for the third line came through him. At times the Colonial went on his own, and he frequently beat half a dozen opponents by his clever swerving and dodging. Stead proved a resourceful colleague, and at the scrum Roberts did his work effectively.

At three-quarter, Deans, Smith, and Wallace were a brilliant line, the latter, perhaps, taking the eye most. He is an artist in every sense of the word, possessing trickiness, kicking powers, and good pace. Another star performer was Gillett at full back, who gave one of the finest displays imaginable. His kicking was of great length, whilst his ability to recover the slightest mistake was marvellous. The New Zealand forwards were men of fine physique, fast, and full of dash. Although they had rather the best of it in the scrums, Gloucester got the ball back a fair number of times, especially in the opening stages. In the lines-out and loose the visitors used their strength and speed to advantage, and they were always on the ball, and ever ready to snap up an opening. Cunningham, Seeling, and Nicholson were splendid in all departments, but the other members of the pack were little inferior.

Though so obviously beaten in points, Gloucester were by no means disgraced. For long periods of the game the City put up a really good

fight, and a little finish and resource on two or three occasions might easily have been turned to profitable account. The forwards towards the end were feeling the effects of their arduous work, but on the whole they did creditably considering the weight opposed to them. Matthews, Vears, Parham, and Collins were perhaps the most conspicuous of the seven, but all did well. At half-back, Gent had Gallagher, the New Zealand wing forward, on top of him nearly all through, but he often circumvented the opposition, and got the ball away neatly whenever possible.

Wood and Stephens rendered a good account of themselves, the ex-Bristolian doing an immense amount of work. It was a pity he was injured late in the second half, for Gloucester cannot afford to lose his services for long. At three-quarter Gloucester were wholly engaged in defence, and in this department Smith rendered yeoman service. Hudson also did his part well, but Hall and Harrison were hardly fit for such a strenuous game. Considering the little football L. Vears has had this season, and the fact that he was playing out of his proper position, he performed very creditably.

IN THE CROWD.

Half an hour after the gates were opened, a moderate estimate of the crowd computed it to be 6,000 strong, the special stand at the Worcester-street end being quickly filled up, and still they were coming in rapidly. The bank at the Dean's Walk end, too, was very soon a mass of moving humanity, and the cheap side looked to all intents and purposes full. Up to this point the crowd had, thanks to a very efficient band of stewards and a strong force of police, been put in their places expeditiously and without any semblance of a rush.

The general behaviour of the spectators pointed to the keenest possible interest in the coming encounter, everybody being on the tip-toe of expectation and excitement to see this wonderful combination of men, who have in their comparatively short stay in the Old Country practically caused a revolution in Rugby tactics, and have set up a record of which they are no doubt justly proud.

When the history of this great team comes to be written, whatever may be said as to the comparative merits of the various departures they make from the regular formation of the field as accepted by the English Rugby teams, and whatever may be said of the besmirched reputations of some – if not all – of class teams in the kingdom, there is one thing very certain, and that is that the Colonials will have earned the deep gratitude of all Rugby enthusiasts for the great stimulus their visit has everywhere given to the game under that code in this part of the world.

Thousands of people who ordinarily would not walk across the road to see a first-class match between English or Welsh teams will travel miles to see the, at present, all-conquering heroes from "down under."

In spite of their great success to date, the Colonials are by no means a "sidey" or conceited team. They are not in any way boastful, and always play to win, never holding any opponents at all "cheap," which, coupled with their brilliant exposition of the game, goes a long way to increase their popularity and the heartiness of the welcome with which they are received wherever they go.

At three o'clock the spaces had appreciably decreased in all parts of the enclosure, and the grand stand was also receiving its full complement. The non-playing members of the New Zealand team put in an appearance, escorted by Mr. Secretary Bingle, just now, and received a cordial greeting. They were provided with seats in front of the grand stand.

The Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. Langley-Smith), Mr. Russell Rea, M.P., and the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, High Commissioner for New Zealand, were early in their seats, and others noticeable in the precincts of the pavilion were the City High Sheriff (Mr. F. H. Bretherton) and Mr. H. Terrell, K.C., and Mrs. Terrell.

Some ten minutes before the advertised time for the kick-off the ground looked to all intents and purposes full, and the estimate was about 14,000 to 16,000.

The New Zealanders put in an early appearance, and had a truly rousing reception, and the cheering was repeated and increased when Captain Johns led his men on to the scene of the game. The black jerseys somewhat diminished the appearance of the Colonials' physique, but they looked a magnificent set of men. Mr. Nicholls, the referee, was duly recognised by the crowd, who now settled down to enjoyment of the game.

Contrary to some of the pessimistic prognostications, the huge crowd was dealt with most successfully, and there had been no untoward circumstance of any sort to mar the pleasure of the occasion.

The spectators were depressed when Hudson was hurt and had to be taken off, but the hopes revived at the splendid show made by the Gloucester team. Cheer after cheer followed the 'Cestrians as they got up to the Colonials' 25, but the crowd were sporting, and cheered the Colonials loudly when Glenn scored.

They followed the game very keenly, appreciating the fine play of the visitors, which appreciation they showed by applause at every juncture. But on the other hand, when one of the visitors was guilty apparently of deliberately kicking a Gloucester forward disapproval was very plainly shown. Later, however, Wallace scored a grand try, and the recognition of the crowd was as loud as if Gloucester had scored in an ordinary club game, and the scorer came in for special notice from behind the ropes. At half-time there was no encroaching on the field of play, in fact there was no attempt at it.

On resumption of hostilities the spectators greatly appreciated the fine open nature of the game. It was undoubtedly a revelation to most of them, as was the marvellous cleverness of the visitors. The hopes of the home supporters ran very high when for over half an hour in the second half the home defence triumphed over all the wiles and strategy of the Colonials. Of course the reaction came towards the end, but although Gloucester were beaten by 44 points, there was hardly a heart in the vast concourse that was not proud of the gallant fight they had made.

The remarks that one heard on every hand were highly eulogistic of the truly marvellous passing of the Colonials, and one local enthusiast expressed himself to the effect that if the Zealanders were standing on their heads they would be able to pass. And it is very nearly true, but the greatest point about it all is that there is always a man there or thereabouts to receive the ball.

At the conclusion of the game the victors heartily cheered the Gloucester team and the referee with their peculiar short, sharp "Hip, Hurrah!" and they themselves also came in for a genuine ovation.

The ground was cleared safely and speedily, and too great praise cannot be bestowed on the Gloucester officials and the local police for the highly commendable manner in which they so successfully dealt with one of the biggest undertakings in the history of the Gloucester Club.

THE GATE RECEIPTS.

The gate receipts amounted to over £550 – easily a record for club matches, and only once exceeded, namely, when England and Wales played at Gloucester. On that occasion the charges for admission were considerably higher.

This figure also constitutes a record for the New Zealanders' tour, the previous highest being £410 at the Middlesex match.

CIVIC HOSPITALITY.

After the match the Mayor (Councillor Langley-Smith) and the City High Sheriff (Councillor Bretherton) entertained the members of both teams and other guests to tea at the Guildhall. Those invited included the High Commissioner for New Zealand, the City Member, Councillor C. W. Poole, Councillor C. E. Brown (President of the Gloucester Football Club), Mr. A. W. Vears (Chairman of the Gloucester Football

and Athletic Ground Company, Limited), Mr. S. Aitken, and others interested in athletic pursuits.

Altogether about 70 partook of the Civic hospitality, which was dispensed in the Assembly Room. The Mayor and Sheriff, who wore their chains of office, held a reception before tea, and cordially welcomed their guests. After tea a short toast list was gone through, and a most enjoyable time was spent.

Arrangements had been made by the Mayor and Sheriff for the guests to visit the Theatre Royal, where 70 seats had been booked for the performance of "Hamlet" by the Benson Company.

Mr A. H. Pitcher secured several photographic snapshots of the game, the first of which was on view in his window at 4.46, while the match was still in progress.