

# THE CITIZEN

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1908

## FOOTBALL

THE "WALLABIES" OPPOSE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AT KINGSHOLM

AUSTRALIANS' WIN

GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S PLUCKY FIGHT

The visit of the "Wallabies" to Gloucester on Thursday failed to arouse the great enthusiasm which was so manifest on the occasion of the appearance of the famous "All Blacks" and South Africans at Kingsholm.

This being only the second match of the Colonials' tour accounted in some measure for the falling off in interest, for it will be remembered the other two combinations came with a record of brilliant performances which clearly stamped them as exponents of the game of the very highest class. But there were other causes, and not the least was the fixing of the match for mid-week, and this right at the start of the season. Gloucestershire tried hard to get a Saturday date, but their application was not acceded to, and the County had to make the best of matters.

There was also an outcry locally against the charges of admission, it being contended that a sixpenny gate should have been the minimum for a mid-week match. This was the popular price charged by the Gloucester City Club when the New Zealanders were here, but the County Union fixed 1s. for the South African fixture and decided on the same price for the present contest.

The ground arrangements were the same as worked so satisfactorily on the occasion of the South African match when the gate receipts totalled about £700, which was the best of the tour in England except at the International match. Judging by the booking of seats for to-day's fixture, however, this return was not likely to be approached.

Unlike the New Zealanders and South Africans, the “Wallabies” did not put in an appearance at Gloucester till the evening before the match, the management preferring to keep the men at Newton Abbot, the team’s headquarters in the West. The tourists were met at the railway station by Messrs. E. S. Bostock-Smith and C. E. Brown (President and Vice-President of the County Union), Mr. R. A. Roberts (hon. Secretary), and other officials on Wednesday night, and proceeded to the Ram Hotel, where they were accommodated during their brief stay in the City.

On Thursday morning the visitors paid a visit to the Cathedral. In conversation with Mr. McMahon (the manager of [the] team) he reported that the players were all very fit, and the glorious summer-like weather was greatly appreciated. The conditions altogether favoured the Colonials, and they were fully expected to give a good account of themselves.

The match was attended by a number of the leading Rugby critics, nearly all the Metropolitan papers being represented. Bristol, Cardiff, Newport, and Birmingham also sent representatives, and the Australian Press was represented by Mr. E. E. Booth, who will be remembered as forming one of the “All Blacks” combination in 1905.

The gates were opened early, but there was not a rush of visitors. Spectators, however, filed into the ground slowly, and at 3 o’clock there was a good crowd on the popular side, though the attendance fell short of the South African “gate.” During the long wait Rowland’s augmented band played a selection of music. The ground was in grand condition, the general opinion being that it never looked better. As the time drew near for the kick-off the enclosure was well filled, though the chairs behind the goal-posts were poorly patronised.

The Wallabies took the field punctually to time, led by Dr. Moran, and were enthusiastically cheered. The players formed up into line and chanted their weird war-cry as the Gloucestershire players entered the arena. Little time was cut to waste, and the teams took up their positions as follows : –

GLOUCESTERSHIRE. – B. Davy (Cheltenham), back; A. Hudson (Gloucester) (capt.), M. Neale (Gloucester), V. F. Eberle (Clifton), E. F. Eberle (Clifton), three-quarter backs; D. R. Gent (Gloucester), T. Elliott (Gloucester), half-backs; W. Johns (Gloucester), H. Berry (Gloucester), A. Teague (Cinderford), A. Redding (Cinderford), J. Hyndman (Cinderford), W. W. Hoskin (Clifton), W. Stinchcombe (Lydney), F. Feltham (Bristol), forwards.

AUSTRALIANS. – P. Carmichael, back; D. B. Carroll, E. Mandible, J. Hickey, C. Russell, three-quarter backs; F. Wood, C. H. McKivat, half-backs; Dr. H. M. Moran (capt.), T. Griffen, J. T. Barnett, C. A. Hammond, P. McCue, S. A. Middleton, T. Richards, N. Row, forwards.

### THE GAME

The Australians won the toss, and Johns kicked off from the Worcester-street goal. The reply went to Hudson, who marked nicely and punted to beyond the centre. Another exchange of kicks followed, ending in E. Eberle punting to touch at midfield. A couple of scrums and lines-out took place, but nothing occurred. Then a big kick went to Davy, who marked in the face of the opposition. With his kick he returned play to the centre. The Wallabies heeling, their backs handled, but they were checked on the 25 flag.

Loose play ensued of which the visitors shone, but infringements checked a couple of promising openings. Gent cleverly got the ball away from a scrum, but Elliott held on too long and was tackled. A smart bit of work by Johns took Gloucester[sic] out, and Hudson joining in, the captain kicked past Carmichael, who could only get in a poor kick to touch.

Centre play followed, in which the Gloucester[sic] forwards were seen to advantage in the loose. The Colonials were beaten in footwork, and Gloucester[sic] found a footing in their opponents' half. Here Hudson was prominent with a great tackle of Mandible, which was loudly cheered. Off-side play by Gloucester[sic] lost the home team ground, but Davy recovered with a nice kick to touch.

Following up some high punts, the Colonials set up an attack, but the passing of the three-quarters was very faulty. Still, the visitors were having the better of the exchanges, and off a poor left-foot kick by Davy, Row made a mark in a good position. Carmichael had a shot for goal from the place-kick, but a fine attempt just failed.

Mandible finely replied to the drop-out, finding touch inside the Gloucester[*sic*] 25. The Wallabies soon set up an attack, and after beautiful passing right along the line Russell scored on the right wing. From near the touch-line Carmichael landed a fine goal.

Johns restarted, and to the reply V. Eberle found touch well inside the Colonials' half. The home half-backs opening out, Hudson was given possession, and the City captain tried hard to work out an opening for Neale, but threw forward.

In the next minute the Gloucester[*sic*] forwards broke away, but a good tackle checked them, one player having his garments torn, and there was a wait in the game.

Resuming, the Wallabies carried a scrum and dribbled through, Neale saving near the centre. Gloucester[*sic*] were being beaten for possession in the scrum, and the Colonials handling smartly the home lines were in danger. The Gloucester[*sic*] defence, however, held out, and a loose forward rush took play to more favourable quarters.

The Wallabies again resorted to passing, but Mandible missed, and Johns being on the alert dribbled away. Carmichael fielded but was forced to kick straight to touch. A lobbing pass from Elliott was well taken by Hudson, who got in a good kick, but the visitors soon regained the ground.

Gloucester[*sic*] were once more on the defence, but mistakes by the Colonials saved the home men. However, another score soon came, Russell running in at the corner after a series of short passes. The goal-kick failed.

Gloucestershire did well on the restart, though Elliott was at fault in trying to run instead of kicking. Grand play by Hudson when matters were going against his side gave Gloucestershire an advantage, but an off-side tackle by an opponent of Davy, which the referee allowed to pass, took the game in front of the home goal. Gent dribbled away cleverly after the visiting halves had missed, but he was fouled and Gloucester[sic] were awarded a free. After a spell of even play the Colonials took up the running again, and Barnett was credited with a try, though the final pass appeared to be a forward one. No goal resulted.

The Wallabies had most of the subsequent play, but their passing was sadly at fault, forward transfers being much in evidence. Just before the interval Gloucester[sic] broke away grandly, Hudson being to the fore. Carmichael saved luckily, but the ball getting loose Hyndman picked up and passed out, E. Eberle finally punting to touch near the visitors' 25.

HALF-TIME SCORE :

Australians .....	1 goal 2 tries
Gloucestershire .....	Nil

There was nearly a ten minutes' wait before the second half was commenced. Barnett set the ball rolling, Hudson replying to touch with a good kick. The visitors heeled from the first scrum, and Wood whipped out a wide pass to Carroll, who sprinted hard for the line. Neale, however, effected a fine tackle, and though a transfer was given nothing resulted.

A loose rush took Gloucester[sic] clear, and Neale coming up kicked down the field to Carmichael. Running hard, Neale brought off another fine tackle, and Gloucester[sic] gained a footing in the Colonials' 25.

The Wallabies dribbled out, and then Elliott was at fault in holding too long and passed badly. The ball was snapped up by an opponent, who beat the Eberles' cheaply and cross-kicked. There was an easy chance of a score, but a knock-on took place near the posts.

Another attack was frustrated by good tackling, after which Hudson and Neale combined in a good effort, but the latter was finely collared by Mandible. Berry was injured in a scramble and had to retire.

With only seven men in the pack Gloucestershire played up strongly, and Gent by smart work fed Hudson, who sent to Neale. The latter brilliantly eluded his opponents and cross-kicked, but V. Eberle just failed to get up in time.

Berry soon afterwards returned, and Gloucester[*sic*] were getting the ball better. Brilliant passing looked promising, but Hudson failed to take the ball. He, however, recovered and kicked nicely to touch. Play was exceptionally fast, despite the great heat, and Gloucestershire were doing well in all phases of play.

Another pretty movement gave Neale possession, and the ex-Bristolian put in a dashing run down touch, but succumbed to Carmichael, who knocked his opponent out in the tackle. There was a stoppage whilst attention was given to Neale, who was unable to resume.

Berry came out to three-quarter when play was continued. The Colonials at once made headway through weakness by E. Eberle, and then in quick succession two players were laid out with heavy tackles. Both were able to continue after a slight delay. With the advantage of an extra man the Wallabies pressed severely, but there was a lack of finish in their attacking movements.

Gloucester[*sic*] cleared through the agency of Gent, [1 or 2 words unreadable] and Berry, and mid-field was the scene of operations. For palpable off-side by the visitors a penalty was awarded Gloucester[*sic*], and Carmichael failing to field a scrum followed in the Colonials' end.

A loose forward rush changed the venue, but the play was not particularly brilliant. In the Gloucestershire 25 a visitor broke away cleverly, and secured a nice opening for Wood, who ran over behind the posts. The transfer looked perilously like forward, and there was a loud shout from the spectators as to the legitimacy of the point, but it was allowed. A goal resulted, and the Wallabies led by 16 points.

Johns restarted, and ensuing play was very even. The visitors called forth shouts from the crowd for a foul of Gent, when the little half-back was dribbling, but the referee took no notice of the incident.

Just after Gloucestershire started an attack, in which several players took part, but at the critical moment the passing failed. Gloucestershire continued to hold their own splendidly, and were lasting quite as well as their opponents.

Elliott, V. Eberle, and Hudson took part in a smart movement which led to the Wallabies being forced to defend. Encouraged by this effort the home team played desperately and Johns nearly succeeded in doing the trick. The Colonials tried hard to relieve, but they were beaten back, and Russell just saved in the nick of time.

For lying on the ball Russell was penalised, but Elliott failed with a shot at goal, a minor resulting. Gloucester[sic] replied well to the drop-out, and play was again fought out in the Wallabies' half.

Gent, who was playing a wonderfully smart game, got the ball away under the noses of Wood and a wing forward, but Berry failed to take the ball.

Towards the end the Wallabies did better, but never got dangerous.

#### RESULT :

Australians ..... 2 goals, 2 tries (16 points)

Gloucestershire ..... Nil

#### COMMENTS ON THE GAME

Phew! Did you say county cricket or football? The sun at any rate must have declared for cricket, for old King Sol blazed forth in full summer radiance. Just right for the Colonials, of course, just their football weather, but very trying for the County.

There was not all that anticipatory excitement which preceded former visits of famous exponents of the good old Rugby code from Down Under, but at least the attendance was satisfactory, and included Mr. Russell Rea, M.P., Mrs. Russell Rea, the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Mr. Henry Terrell, K.C., Mr. C. A. Crane, President English Rugby Union, Mr. W. S. Donne, President Somerset Union, Dr. R. McCartney, Mr. C. E. Brown, Mr. Bostock Smith, Gloucestershire President, and many distinguished past and present players.

The whole party of the visitors, players, and reserves formed up in front of the grand stand, and after a rousing reception gave their famous war-cry – an awe-inspiring chant – as the home men filed onto the ground. The County responded with cheers.

A rumour gained currency that Neale was an absentee, but to the general relief he put in an appearance, and they started ten minutes late.

It was quickly noticeable that Hammond always packed in the same place, at the base of the scrum, and was out in an instant if the Gloucester scrum half (Gent) got the ball. He in fact assisted Woods when necessary, and played the loose forward to perfection.

One or two early attempts at passing by the Wallabies' outsides did not give the idea of especial brilliance, but of course it was too early to form a definite opinion.

Carmichael's kick from Row's mark, when the Colonials were in a fine attacking position was a beauty, but just went wide.

There was no doubt about the passing just after, as, after a beautiful opening by Woods, the ball went all along the line, and Russell, although finely tackled by Eberle, registered a good try, which Carmichael improved with a magnificent kick.

Row was now in a "corner" position in the scrum vice Hammond. The Colonials were continually attacking, but eventually Johns broke clean away.



The Gloucester[*sic*] men were beaten in front, where the Wallabies were expected to shine. The County men, however, made a great mistake in not tackling low. Twice, mistakes in handling, quite close to the line, lost the visitors a try, but the persistent attack had its reward, and Russell again got over, after two short transfers.

Elliott was badly at fault in clinging to the ball, and only smartness by Neale saved the County. Elliott apparently thought he could shake these visitors off, but he received a rude awakening. Their tackling was like the weather – “too hot.”

The referee made a serious mistake in not penalising the visitors for a bad offside tackle of Davy, but he “spotted” Mandible for fouling Gent, and accordingly gave a free to the County. Then came Barnett’s try, and very shortly half-time.

Comparisons are always odious, but one could not help thinking after seeing the first half that the standard of the Wallabies’ passing fell considerably short of the brilliance in that department of the All Blacks and Springboks.

The visitors’ forwards were a fine strapping lot, and in the tight scrums beat the County, but in loose work the home men quite held their own. Up to date Elliott had been the weak spot, but the pleasanter side of the picture was afforded by Hudson, Johns, in grand form, and Neale. Davy, too, had tackled very well.

Neale’s brilliant follow up and tackle of Carmichael was the first feature of the second half. Elliott, however, was again badly at fault in not letting the ball go, and the consequence was that the Colonials with a kick across and run down were nearly over.

Neale quickly found that there was no mistake about the Colonial tackling, and Berry had to receive the ambulance men’s attention as the result of a melee.

A bit of fine inspiring play by Neale put the crowd in good humour, and gave Gloucestershire a footing in the Wallabies' 25 – about the nearest they had been to the line. Berry's return was duly recognised by applause. Neale again put in a beautiful run, but he met Carmichael and was flung to touch, being laid out by the impact. Neale on the touchline, and Row and V. Eberle on the field, all hors de combat at the same time spoke pretty well for the vigour of the game, and unfortunately Neale was so badly injured as to have to be taken off – very bad luck for Gloucestershire.

There was a doubt in the minds of the crowd as to the legality of the pass that gave Wood his try, but the five points accruing were put on the board. In fact, one or two of the referee's decisions were unfavourably received. A groan of disappointment greeted Elliot's failure at an easy place-kick from a penalty. Strange as it may seem, the Gloucester[*sic*] front, although depleted by having Berry taken out to the wing vice Neale, were holding their opponents better this half than in the opening stages, and the County were having quite as much of the game for a time. In fact the County, short of one of the best men, were doing remarkably well when the end came.

As the game approached its end, it was borne in upon one with increasing power that the Wallabies are not the equal of their famous predecessors from the Antipodes and South Africa. They are a fine lot forward, but although it is always injudicious to say the least of it, to prophesy in regard to football, one may be pardoned for expressing the opinion that their record will not be so flattering as the other Colonial combinations. Given a strong pack of forwards against them and anything like a good back division, the visitors look like coming undone.

With only fourteen men for the greater part of the second half, Gloucestershire may be said to have done very well indeed, and their display was a source of great satisfaction to their supporters. With the exception of Elliott, who was a failure, and the Brothers Eberle, who were the weak spot in the third line, every man played up to his reputation and with infinite credit.

## THE TEAMS ENTERTAINED

At the invitation of Mr. Russell Rea, M.P., the two teams and officials were entertained to a high tea at the Guildhall. Owing to the "Wallabies" having to leave Gloucester at 7 o'clock, the proceedings had to be brief, and there was not much time for speech-making. The City Member offered a warm welcome to the Australians, and before the gathering broke up Mr. Russell Rea was heartily thanked for his hospitality.

The "Wallabies" play Cornwall at Camborne on Saturday.

The contract for erecting the extra stands on the Football Ground was entrusted to the firm of Messrs. J. Romans and Co., Ltd., Docks, Gloucester, and, as on all previous occasions, was carried out satisfactorily under the superintendence of Mr. W. C. G. Gardner and their agent, Mr. Williams Jones.