

RUGBY

"KIWIS" VISIT TO KINGSHOLM

RECOLLECTIONS OF PREVIOUS TOURING SIDES

By "W.B."

IN VIEW OF THE VISIT OF THE NOW FAMOUS "KIWIS" (THE NEW ZEALAND ARMY TEAM) TO KINGSHOLM TO MEET THE COMBINED BRITISH SERVICES (ARMY, NAVY AND R.A.F.) IN A REPRESENTATIVE MATCH ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, IT IS INTERESTING TO RECALL THE APPEARANCES OF PREVIOUS TOURING SIDES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE—RIGHTLY REGARDED AS THE CENTRE OF RUGBY IN THE WEST.

I well remember the visit of the first Maoris team away back in 1889, when they opposed Gloucestershire at the Spa Ground, the former headquarters of the club. The match created tremendous interest, and with the enclosure canvassed for this special occasion the "gate" receipts realised £193—a wonderful return in those days, for the prices of admission were very moderate compared with present-day charges.

Joe Warbrick, who captained the Maoris, and played full back, was a player of international class. The whole team was a remarkable set physically, and they needed to be to go through a tour of 74 games! Of these they won 49, lost 20 and drew 5.

FAMOUS ALL BLACKS

There was a long break—16 years to be exact—before we saw another side from Overseas in Britain—Dave Gallagher's New Zealand (All Blacks) of 1905-6. Although they lost one match, to Wales at Cardiff, after a memorable game, I always regarded this combination as the finest exponents of Rugby in my time. Of 33 matches played, they won 32 and lost one, and amassed the huge aggregate of 868 points to 47.

Of the ten previous touring sides, all have visited Gloucestershire, five matches each being played at Gloucester and Bristol respectively. The following details from my record books should prove interesting to keen Rugby enthusiasts:

THE MAORIS (J. Warbrick's Team)

February 2, 1889, at the Spa. Maoris beat Gloucestershire by 1 goal, 1 try to 1 try.

Gloucestershire Team: A. F. Hughes (Gloucester); G. Coates, T. Bagwell, R. Grist and C. E. Brown (Gloucester); W. George and S. A. Ball (Gloucester); H. V. Page, G. J. Witcomb, T. Collins, R. C. Jenkins (Gloucester), H. C. Baker, E. Leonard, R. Faulkner, and Edwards (Clifton). Grist obtained the try for Gloucestershire. Gate receipts £193.

"ALL BLACKS" (Gallagher's Team)

Oct. 19, 1905, at Kingsholm. New Zealand beat Gloucester by 7 goals 3 tries (44 points) to nil.

Gloucester team: L. Vears; C. Smith, E. Hall, J. Harrison and A. Hudson; J. Stephens, A. Wood and D. R. Gent; W. Johns (capt.), A. Hawker, F. Pegler, Gordon Vears, B. Parham, H. Collins and G. Matthews.

The Gloucester team were severely handicapped owing to Hudson and Wood being injured, and it was whilst these players were off the field the All Blacks did the major portion of the scoring. Gate receipts £570.

SOUTH AFRICA (Roos' Team)

Nov. 3, 1906, at Kingsholm. South Africa beat Gloucestershire by 3 goals (1d.) 3 tries (23 points) to nil.

Gloucestershire team: A. Wood (Gloucester); A. Hudson (Gloucester), W. Hyam (Devon Albion), T. Wild (Lydney) and C. Smith (Gloucester); J. Stephens (Gloucester) and F. Niblett (Cinderford); J. Holder, G. Matthews (Gloucester), J. D. Bedell-Sivright (Cheltenham), J. Watkins (Cinderford), J. L. Mathias, T. Webb, T. J. Richards and W. Bale (Bristol). Gate receipts £690.

AUSTRALIA (Moran's Team)

Oct. 1, 1908, at Kingsholm. Australia beat Gloucestershire by 2 goals 2 tries (16 points) to nil.

Gloucestershire team: B. Davy (Cheltenham); A. Hudson (Gloucester) capt., M. E. Neale (Gloucester and Bristol), V. F. Eberle and E. F. Eberle (Clifton); D. R. Gent and T. Elliott (Gloucester); W. Johns, H. Barry (Gloucester), A. Teague, A. Redding, J. Hyndman (Cinderford), W. W. Hoskin (Clifton), W. Stinchcombe (Lydney) and F. Feltham (Bristol). Gate receipts £350.

SOUTH AFRICA (Millar's Team)

Dec. 12, 1912, at Bristol. South Africa beat Gloucestershire by 1 goal 2 tries (11 points) to nil.

Gloucestershire team: W. R. Johnston (Bristol); W. Washbourn, L. Hamblin, Stanley Cook (Gloucester) and C. Kingston (Bristol); A. Hall (Gloucester and Bristol) and J. Baker (Cheltenham and Gloucester); Gordon Vears, N. L. Hayes, W. Johns (Gloucester), C. Merry, A. Redding (Cinderford), M. Shaw, W. Bradshaw (Bristol) and L. H. Peckover (Cheltenham). Gate receipts £400.

"ALL BLACKS" (Porter's Team)

Sept. 28, 1924, at Kingsholm. New Zealand beat Gloucestershire by 2 tries (6 points) to nil.

Gloucestershire team: T. Millington (Gloucester); S. A. Brown (Gloucester), L. J. Corbett (capt.), R. C. Pickles and T. Spoor (Bristol); Dr. G. C. Taylor, G. Thomas (Gloucester) and C. Carter (Bristol); S. Bayliss (Gloucester), M. Shaw, A. S. Prowse, A. T. Hore (Bristol), W. Preece (Bream), S. Dubberley (Cinderford) and A. R. Rickards (Cardiff). Gate receipts £1,300.

This team was undefeated, the record being: Played 30, won 30; points for 721; against 112.

NEW SOUTH WALES

(Wallace's Team)

Dec. 31, 1927, at Bristol. New South Wales beat Gloucestershire and Somerset by 13 points to 4. Names of the Combined Counties team not available.

SOUTH AFRICA (B. Osler's Team)

Oct. 3, 1931, at Bristol. South Africa beat Gloucestershire and Somerset by 4 goals (2d., 2p.) (14 points) to 1 penalty goal (3 points).

Gloucestershire players who took part in this match were: T. W. Brown (Bristol); M. A. McCanlis (Gloucester), K. Dowling (Bristol), C. B. Carter and T. J. M. Barrington (Bristol), F. Wadley, A. D. Carpenter, L. E. Saxby (Gloucester) capt., K. Salmon (Cross Keys and Berry Hill), C. Fry (Cheltenham), G. C. Gregory and W. Bryant (Bristol).

MAORIS (Barelay's Team)

Nov. 10, 1926, at Bristol. Gloucestershire beat the Maoris by one penalty goal (3 points) to nil. Millington kicked the goal.

Gloucestershire team: R. D. Evans (Clifton); R. N. Loveridge (Gloucester), D. Burland, L. J. Corbett (Bristol), C. J. King-Turner (Blackheath); T. Millington (capt.) and R. Milliner (Gloucester); A. T. Voyce, M. Short, G. McIlwaine (Gloucester), J. S. Tucker (Bristol), J. Davies (Lydney and Gloucester), A. D. Carpenter (Cinderford and Gloucester), E. Ling (Clifton) and E. Smith (Stroud). Gate receipts £550.

"ALL BLACKS" (Manchester's Team)

Oct. 3, 1935, at Bristol. New Zealand beat Gloucester and Somerset by 3 goals (1d.) 3 tries (23 points) to 1 try (3 points).

Gloucestershire players selected for the match were: H. Boughton (Gloucester), H. Sherman (Bristol), F. G. Edwards (Gloucester), W. V. Sheppard (Leicester and Gloucester), M. S. Hobbs, R. R. Morris, F. W. Tucker, P. Henderson, R. Hurrell (Bristol) and A. D. Carpenter (Gloucester).

It had been arranged for an Australian team to tour this country in 1939, and the side would have met a combined Gloucestershire and Somerset Fifteen at Kingsholm. The tourists had arrived in England, but with the outbreak of war the fixtures were abandoned, and the players returned home for the more sterner struggle ahead.