

9 Sep 1947:

Admission prices to United matches set between 1/6 and 6d.

Ground let to Gloucester Athletic Club for £25, but grant of £10 also made.

Progress made re use of Estcourt Park ground by N Glos Combination.

Mrs Goddard could no longer provide teas, but an offer to cater from Mr Outridge was accepted, but for plain teas for 55 @ £5, with meat teas '£7/10/- only on exceptional occasions.

Fire insurance on the grandstand to be increased to £7,500.

Programmes to be printed by Ford & Branch.

Discussion of allocation of tickets for the Australian match on 20 Sep. Ground & facilities to be made available to the Australians from 18 Sep. Dinner after match at the Bell Hotel.

16 Sep 1947:

Nett profit on programmes v Lydney was £5.

W Hogg had written to apologise for his conduct at the end of the previous season – his apology was accepted but the decision not to select him was confirmed.

Season ticket sales were up.

Somerset had returned 300 tickets from the Australians v Glos & Somerset match, and enclosure ticket sales were very slow. 16 police had been ordered. It was thought that programmes were being left to the Gloucester committee.

30 Sep 1947:

President's photograph admired.

Teas had been satisfactory. Meat tea to be provided after the Cardiff match. The County had complained about the number charged for by the caterer at the Australia match (apparently the Australians had not understood that tea was provided). The Club complained about the lack of publicity and advertising by the County of this match. The County said that tea was not required for the Glos v Wilts & Dorset match, but the Gloucester Club provided them at their invitation.

Meeting arranged between the committee and all players to discuss tactics.

14 Oct 1947:

Seats for 30/- members to be reserved for important matches.

All programmes were sold for the Cardiff match, at a nett profit of £35.

Coney Hill had asked permission for C Dunn to play for them, but he had been selected to play for the United at Cardiff, and the player confirmed he would play. However, he did not, and it was understood he played for Coney Hill instead. The problem was to be referred to the N Glos Combination.

W Dix had declined to play for the United at Cardiff, so was not selected for either team this week.

New set of stockings to be provided for 1st XV players, and handed out with jerseys at each match.

28 Oct 1947:

£39 was taken at the gate for the Schools match v Leicester on 18 Oct.

RAF granted use of Kingsholm for Command match v Cosford on 3 Nov, free of charge.

Girl Guide rally at Kingsholm in 1948 approved for charge of £5.

County charging £3 for clerical assistance for sale of programmes for matches at Kingsholm.

Mr Sleeman of Drybrook to be rebuked for his unauthorised actions in trying to arrange matches at Kingsholm, and inviting J C Morgans of Lydney to play for Gloucester.

Estimates to be obtained for installing a loudspeaker.

Cinderford Silver Prize Band to be invited to play at the Leicester match.

11 Nov 1947:

Quotation for £151/12/6 for loudspeaker system not actioned.

Coleford Town Band wanted to play at Kingsholm, but Cinderford Band to continue to end of season.

Coney Hill would apologise re C Dunn, and he would be considered for selection on merit.

5 dozen knives and forks to be purchased for canteen.

Full tea at £7/10/- to be provided at United matches from Saturday.

Gloucestershire Regiment granted use of Kingsholm on 12 Nov.

Jack Taylor had personally abused the President at the Moseley match when now allowed to use the loudspeaker to speak about a Youths' Boxing Tournament. In future, it was agreed that "should a similar case arise drastic action be taken".

Strong criticism of police at Moseley match. Cost of enclosing the playing pitch with stout mesh netting to be determined.

The committee voted not to elect H J Balchin as a Life Member.

25 Nov 1947:

Drybrook and Lydbrook bands wanted to play at Kingsholm.

Gloucestershire granted use of Kingsholm on 3 Dec for match v Wessex Brigade Training Centre. Students Union use of ground on 10 Dec was declined.

Wire fencing for playing pitch would cost £200.

Gatemen were requesting an increase in pay.

Use of Kingsholm granted for charity match, Bristol Tramways v Police, in Jan.

J W Thornton had resigned as a playing member of the Club for business reasons.

Old Centralians declared that none of their players would be available as reserves for the United.

W Hogg asked for reconsideration of his case.

9 Dec 1947:

Further consideration of fencing for playing area.

New terms agreed with gatemen, and extra payment for Xmas matches.

Necessity of the car park was questioned owing to the petrol restrictions.

Club to provide transport and teas for N Glos Combination match at Fieldings.

Roy James had offered to provide a Players Club Room early on Saturday evenings.

New jerseys to be provided.

23 Dec 1947:

Only 8 cars were parked at the Coventry match.

Morning kick off agreed with London Scottish on 3 Jan, so that players could attend the England v Australia match at Twickenham.

SW Counties Schools trial match agreed at Kingsholm on 7 Feb, provided united v N Glos Combination cancelled owing to County semi-final at Bristol that day.

10Gns grant to Remembrance Day.

£5 gratuity to 2 staff for work in selling season tickets.

Tea Room getting overcrowded, and supervision required to ensure players did not go short.

6 Jan 1948:

Committee met players' delegation, and agreed their proposal that Roy James should provide a Club Room for use by the players after the game, and to entertain visiting players.

60 yard section of fence ordered from the BRC Eng'g Co, Bristol.

N Glos Combination were not sympathetic to views of Old Centralians in withholding their players.

20 Jan 1948:

Social Club had been used last Saturday, and President pleased.

C Dancey wanted payment for work done on concrete stand which came to nothing, but prepared to credit it against any future work – detailed account required by Club.

Quotations for loudspeaker systems discussed, but no decision.

Tea Room to be painted brown and cream for £33/12/-.

Permission given for Joe Hopson to play for Stroud.

W Hogg reinstated as a playing member of the Club.

3 Feb 1948:

Tom Price, newly elected as Players' Rep, asked if quality and quantity of food could be improved, and for a show to be booked for players on their next visit to London. Mr N Wickham had resigned as he was no longer a playing member.

Widow of the late Tommy Bagwell had asked for assistance, but committee decided not to offer help.

Applications for additional matches at Kingsholm were either turned down or deferred – there was concern about the state of the pitch and overuse.

Club declined to assist in the formation and training of a Ladies Rugby team – the President “considered it inadvisable from all points of view”.

The second English trial match had been allocated to Gloucester for 1949/50.

10 Feb 1948 – Grounds s-c:

Suggestions made for improving playing pitch, and for improving the entrances.

Bringing bicycles into the ground was seen as a problem.

17 Feb 1948:

Use of the ground by the Glos Public and Secondary Schools Games Association for a match v London & Home Counties was approved for 8 Apr.

Use of ground by N Glos Combination v Bristol Combination was approved for 17 Apr.

War Agricultural Committee to be invited to visit and provide advice on improving the playing surface.

Various improvements agreed to entrances.

St John Ambulance to be allowed to make a collection at one match, but band would have to forego their collection, so may require compensation.

C A Bowell, formerly with Bristol and Bath, had applied to join the Club – he was to be told that this was not thought worthwhile.

Mr Burns to organise the tour, booking accommodation for 30, travelling by bus.

Committee members invited to visit Social Club as often as possible. Agreed that supply of refreshments for visiting players be transferred from ground to club.

2 Mar 1948:

Meals, coach, railway tickets and a show to be booked for 20 Mar, when match being played v Guy's Hospital.

The Agricultural Committee's rep had advised harrowing and reseeding the pitch, but it was decided to seek further advice from the RFU. The match on 24 Apr had been switched to Cheltenham in order to allow more time to work on the pitch.

The Estcourt Road site where N Glos Combination teams were playing had to be vacated soon for preparation for cricket; next season 6 pitches would be offered to the Combination.

Suggestions sought for sites for the Rugby Memorial Ground.

16 Mar 1948:

Guarantee increases from £50 to £60 for London Welsh and from £50 to £75 for Headingley had been offered.

Wire netting had been installed for one section of the Worcester St stand – the whole ground would be completed when netting became available.

Mr Arthur of the Bingley Research Station recommended aeration and reseeding for the pitch. This was agreed, an aeration machine was to be borrowed from Rotol, and a tractor. 8Gn fee to Mr Arthur to be paid.

Glos Young Framers' Club granted use of ground for match v S Wales YFC.

Club ties now available at Vance's, but would only be sold to players, old players and committee who must be armed with a permit.

23 Mar 1948 – Grounds s-c:

Agreed way forward on implementing the Bingley Research Co recommendations; some equipment would need to be purchased.

31 Mar 1948:

Wire fencing had been ordered for the rest of the ground from Weldmesh Co Ltd; Mr Smith to do the work.

Difficulty in identifying a contractor to work on the pitch improvement. Aeration machine on loan from Rotol; agreed Club should buy its own. Arthur Paish to be asked to undertake returfing. Then decided to ask Mr Holder to quote for all work.

Tour to Devon & Cornwall discussed – 32 to go, including 22 players.

Club in good shape as regards both playing and finances.

List agreed of players qualified for Club ties.

Team photos to be taken on 27 Mar (1st) and 3 Apr (United).

Some reluctance to let ground during summer, but Girl Guide Rally allowed.

RC of the Citizen to be asked to write a special piece about the Memorial Fund in the programme for the last match of the season v Harlequins.

12 Apr 1948 – Grounds s-c:

Mr Holder started work on 12 Apr to put Bingley Research Report into effect – turfing, fertilising, seeding and sanding – for £78-4-6.

Various minor improvements to ground and purchase of equipment agreed.

17 Apr 1948:

Work on pitch proceeding satisfactorily; purchase of motor cutter considered.

Tour had been a success; allowable expenses discussed.

Glos AAA could not be accommodated because of work on ground.

Fixtures with Devonport Services declined owing to long journey and unsuitability of Services ground.

Cheque for 5Gns received from All Blues for Memorial Fund.

Girl Guides only to be allowed to conduct tent pitching competition behind goal lines and in car park.

AGM to be in St John's Hall on 25 June.

Problem re insurance of a player, Alan Wadley.

18 May 1948:

Mr Holder had completed his work on the pitch, but was to be retained as a consultant and to apply fertiliser. A motor cutter had been used, but was not suitable for purchase; meanwhile a Corporation machine was being loaned.

An aerator machine had been ordered for £81 plus 5%.

A goal post was rotten – wooden and tubular iron replacements to be costed.

Sale of programmes had raised £350-10-0 for the Memorial Fund.

County committee considering further grant to Alan Wadley, who faced an operation.

Annual grants of £10 agreed to Gordon League, Atlas, Widden Old Boys, Coney Hill, Old Centralians, Old Cryptians, All Blues, Civil Service, Tredworth, Old Boys, GWR, and Spartans. £5 to RU Old Comrades and Students Union. 5Gns to Gloucester Cripples and St John Ambulance. 10Gns to remembrance Day Fund. £200 to Memorial Fund.

It was proposed that some of the Welsh clubs and Cheltenham be discarded from the fixture list; Neath and Exeter to be excluded; try to get home and away with Coventry, and to add Cambridge University.

Gloucestershire had been allocated the final England trial in 1949/50 – the Club would try to obtain this fixture for Kingsholm, and transfer the Club fixture to Coventry.

AGM to be in July, perhaps at Mercers' Hall.

1 Jun 1948:

Donation of 10Gns to be made to Remembrance Day Fund.

Work on ground to be done by H Smith – estimate below £100, so no permit required from Ministry of Supply.

Motor cutter not to be purchased.

Replacement posts to be obtained in wood, because tubular iron posts required a Ministry of Supply permit.

AGM to be at Cadena Café on 2 July.

Teignmouth offered guarantee of £30 for game on Tuesday following matches with Devon Services and Torquay Athletic – fixture to be accepted but an increase in the guarantee sought.

Listers RFC had been disbanded.

Use of Kingsholm granted for English v Welsh Universities next March.

Concern about security of the money taken at gates while it remained at the ground.

Mr Boughton voiced his dissent with regard to fixtures arranged with Cheltenham, but it was decided to adhere to fixtures made.

18 Jun 1948:

Players' Meeting – to be eligible to vote for election of 1st XV Captain, a player must have played 5 times for the 1st XV. Nominations were made – AG Hudson, RR Morris and DD Evans. AG Hudson was elected. CW Davies and R Collins nominated as Captain of United XV – Committee nominations would be announced before the AGM.

The weekly insurance payment through injury was thought inadequate.

ERU rules did not allow of dinner and drinks at Club expense – not known how many players would be prepared to pay for themselves.

Better arrangements should be made for the players' Social Club.

Next season would be Dr Alcock's 25th year of office as President.

Committee Meeting – Corporation mowing machine not available – Civil Service machine might be.

25 Jun 1948:

Tractor to be used with Civil Service mower in time for Girl Guides rally.

Use of Kingsholm granted for Schools International on 31 Mar 1951.

Teignmouth had agreed to increase the guarantee to £40.

Nominations for committee were all of existing committee plus HW Collier, Rev HM Hughes, EJ Martin, Ben Price, EC Rogers and HG Smith. Captain nominated W Hook as his Vice-Captain. SH Davies appointed Captain of United XV, and R Collins as Vice-Captain.

The new Editor of the Citizen was a keen rugger man.

The Memorial Fund now stood at £1817.

[At this point, the Citizen report on the 1948 AGM and a voting form for the AGM are pasted into the minute book.]

GRFC AGM 1948

From The Citizen 3 July 1948

GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB'S RECORD SEASON

Financial records were broken last season by the Gloucester Rugby Football Club as well as equalling the record number of victories in matches. With gate receipts totalling £6,007 and income from members' subscriptions at £1,359, the highest income of all time, £8,120, was reported at the annual general meeting of the Club in the Cadena Café, last night.

This was in spite of petrol restrictions during the winter affecting the attendance at matches.

Expenditure, too, showed enormous increases, and, said the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. H. J. Balchin), gave an indication of the kind of figures they would have to face when they were allowed to carry out the improvements to the ground which were planned.

In spite of that, however, the profit shown was £1,910. Last year it was £926.

The Club had to pay almost double in amusement tax compared with last year at £1,006. The expenses of away matches, including the longest tour in the Club's history were nearly trebled at £896.

Refreshments, canteen and tea expenses were more than doubled at £326, as was the playing equipment at £113, and special ground expenses, which included the cost of putting wire all round the ground, were £208, compared with £35. Mr. Balchin said they had permission to spend about £180 on the ground.

The Club also increased its grants to local clubs by £60 with a total of £155. Lighting and fuel at £65 was almost double, and income tax had gone up by £240 to £1,120. The Club also made another grant of £200 to the Rugby Memorial Fund for a ground for local clubs.

The balance sheet showed assets totalling £16,525.

Successful, But Difficult Season

"Our one thought," said the President (Dr. Arnold Alcock) "has been reconstruction, building up a new side, and looking to the future. We have the ground, and we have the men, and our balance sheet is very good indeed, but what we cannot get are licences and permits to improve the ground for members and players."

He went on to say that although it had been a successful season, it had been the most difficult in the long history of the club. The reason for that was the absence of Mr. Arthur

Hudson, the Hon. Sec., whom they had to do without since last February, when he was taken ill.

This had meant that others had had to do a little bit extra. Mr. T. Millington in his first year as Chairman had had to carry on without a Secretary, and Mr. Tom Burns, the Hon. Fixtures Secretary, had had to take on extra work, helped by Mr. S. F. Taylor.

The playing pitch at Kingsholm had given them great anxiety because frost and age had put it in bad condition. It had been fertilised, seeded, and turfed, play being stopped after the Harlequins match, April 10.

He spoke of the Memorial Fund which now totalised £1,817, and thanks to the efforts of Messrs. R. N. Loveridge and S. F. Taylor, the programmes had brought £350 for the fund.

Roy Morris' Record

He congratulated the players on their most successful season, Gordon Hudson, a great captain who had sacrificed himself considerably in thinking of his team rather than advancing himself in the game, and Roy Morris, a great hearted old warrior who had played in all the 40 matches which was a record. The United team had also put up some excellent games under the great influence of W. Moreland and of W. Cale who had acted as non-playing captain and got the side together.

Finally, he said, they gave thanks that they had had few serious injuries. Alan Wadley, who was injured in February, had been operated on a few weeks ago very successfully and they hoped his knee would stand the strain in the future.

Mr. T. Goddard, who proposed the election of the officers, pointed out that Dr. Alcock was entering his twenty-fifth year, as President, and that Mr. Hudson had had over 25 years experience as Secretary. Mr. C. Williams, who seconded, thought that Dr. Alcock ought to be made a life member of the Club.

Officers elected were: President, Dr. Arnold Alcock; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. T. Voyce and A. Hudson; Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. Hudson; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. H. J. Balchin; Hon. Fixture Secretary: Mr. T. Burns.

One Committee Change

Voting for the committee resulted in one change, the Rev. H. M. Hughes, who played for the City immediately before the war, topping the poll and displacing Mr. A. F. Abbey. The result of the ballot was: The Rev H M Hughes 92, T H Millington 91, F Wadley 86, S Smart 79, L H Middleditch 75, R N Loveridge 69, S F Taylor 67, R H James 61, H Boughton 59, G Halford and R E Hook 52.

Those not elected were: A F Abbey 47, H W Collier 41, H G Smith 39, Ben Price 27, E C Rogers 26, E F Martin 19.

The president spoke of the great services which Mr Abbey had rendered to the club, and said it was a touching thing to lose him from the committee.

Value of Schools

Mr Voyce spoke of the great value of the schools to Rugby and said he hoped that shortly the Rugby Union would recognise the great schoolboy movement and also the other movements which dealt with lads up to 17 and 18.

There would be four pitches available at Estcourt-road for local Rugby thanks to the Parks and Cemeteries Committee, but while they had hunted for a memorial ground they had not been able to find one yet.

Mr Tom Burns mentioned criticisms in "The Citizen" and by members of the committee as to whether they should encourage the return of Welsh teams to the fixture list, and asked for an expression of opinion, but no more was said of this.

Tom Price was congratulated by several speakers on gaining international honours, and it was agreed to send a telegram of congratulations on his cricket scores this season to Willie Jones, and a letter of sympathy to Mr Ralph Roberts the County Rugby Hon. Secretary, who recently met with an accident.