

MINUTES OF THE GRFC COMMITTEE, July 1956- July 1957

D10800 /Box 6/ Item 3

17 July 1956 - first meeting recorded:

- Revd H.M. Hughes elected Chairman of Committee.
- sub-committees appointed for Selection, Finance, Ground, & Emergency.
- Mr Gordon Hudson appointed as representative to North Gloucester Combination.
- Social Club Committee agreed that subscription should be 5/- and players should be honorary members.
 - estimates for work for Visitors' Dressing Room received from Wm Jones (Gloucester) Ltd. It was decided that 3 other contractors should be asked for estimates, for completion of work by end of August.
 - agreed that £60 was adequate guarantee for visit of Birkenhead Park to Kingsholm on Easter Monday, 13 September 2010
 - following admission charges agreed for match v Bucharest: Centre stand 7/6, Wings 5/-, Inside Rails 4/-, Enclosure 3/-, Worcester St 2/-, Deans Walk 1/6, Boys 1/-.

31 July 1956:

- agreed, after inspection by Mr Meade, Glos Farm Institute instructor, that turf of the ground would benefit from application of good fertiliser and agreed to accept tender to dress playing pitch of approx 2 acres at £7 10s per acre.
- agreed, for work on Visitors' Dressing Room, to accept estimate from Wm Jones (Gloucester) Ltd, not that of Baker Bros, subject to a guarantee of completion of work by end of August.
- Romanian party due to arrive on 11 September and leave for Bristol on 16 September, with accommodation required for 25 people, agreed to have a dinner after the match.
- suggested that a memento be presented to each of Romanian visiting party, agreed to approach Messrs Priestley's to obtain a "bannerette".
- reported that New Inn could accommodate the Romanian team, could also provide dinner for 60-70 at 10/- to 12/6 per head, compared to Bell Hotel at 15/6 per head and New County at 12/6 per head.
- Widden Old Boys Club very appreciative of being allotted a pitch on the Memorial Ground.
- applications for membership received from A.Townsend and D.W. Jones, both formerly of Cheltenham club, also stated that Brian Lane had intimated availability in coming season.
- agreed to increase Groundsman's wages by 10/- per week.

21 August 1956:

- Romanian match:
- decided that New Inn would accommodate the Romanian team and provide dinner at 10/- per head.
- Secretary RFU had asked for payment of guarantee of £600 for this match by 1st Sept.
- agreed that necessary facilities be given to BBC representatives, for reporting in sound and TV editions of "Sport in the West" that evening.

4 September 1956:

- agreed, after tenders had been received, to accept the tender of Black and White Motorways Ltd for £177 for motor coaches for away matches.
- agreed to accept order from Messrs Priestley's for 26 "bannerettes" for Romanian party, at cost of 20s 6d each, later reduced to 19/- each.
 - decided to accept offer made by RAF Innsworth military band before Romanian game and at half-time, subject to donation from collection on ground for RAF Benevolent Fund.
 - agreed to place barbed wire along the top of boundary fences at Deans Walk end, in view of damage caused by children.

18 September 1956:

- reported that Black and White Motorways Ltd had agreed to alter seating in one of their coaches to provide card playing facilities, also same driver to be sent for each journey as far as possible.
- letter of thanks received from Moseley Club Secretary for hospitality and excellent arrangements made for Romanian match v Bucharest and for dinner. All such letters to be forwarded to the Mayor and the Town Clerk, whose support had contributed to the entertainment of visitors.

2 October 1956:

- letter received from player A. Townsend who has decided to resign and return to Cheltenham RFC – no objections.
- reported that names on recent "Record Boards" appeared in incorrect order in recent years; names should appear in order of seniority.

16 October 1956:

- reported that there was drop in receipts both from Season Tickets and Gate Money. Suggested that, in view of increase in players' travelling expenses, consideration should be given to selection of local players.
- reported letter from Mrs Savage, a club member, saying that some records played over loud speaker were worn. Her offer accepted to replenish the club's stock of records from her own.
- Memorial Ground: proposals approved for tenancy by Gloucester Hockey Club of playing pitch, proposals to be given sympathetic consideration for playing pitch for cricket for Robinswood Hill Sports Club.

30 October 1956:

- Club Ties: previous minute found of 18 October 1955, in which it was agreed that replacement Club Tie could be made after 3 years membership with 1st XV.
- agreed to send letter of thanks to H.G. Smith for his generous gift of club badge/plaque installed above bar in Social Club Room.

13 November 1956:

- following Prices of Admission decided:
 - Grand Stand, Centre stand 7/6,
 - Wings 5/-, Enclosure 3/-, Worcester St 2/-, Deans Walk 1/-.
- Captain, Peter Ford, ordered by doctor to remain in bed for 5-6 weeks.

4 December 1956:

- Captaincy: unanimously agreed that George Hastings should be asked to take over captaincy temporarily, while Peter Ford is ill.

18 December 1956:

- letter received from D.Phelps, saying that he wished to continue to play for own club, Gordon League.

8 January 1957:

- members stood in silence in memory of sudden death Mr L.Middleditch who had rendered splendid service to the club.
- captain , Peter Ford, welcomed back on his first appearance in Committee after convalescence.
- cancellation of Universities Athletic Union (UAU) on Boxing Day: it was deplored that more voluntary help was not forthcoming to clear playing pitch of snow.

23 January 1957:

- proposed that reduction of income from Gate Receipts could be offset by income from Draws.

15 March 1957:

- strongly worded letter sent to Newport RFC, regarding unruly behaviour of their players on leaving the ground on July 16th (1956). Plaques had been taken from Committee Room and pictures taken down from the walls. Hon Sec of Newport RFC had apologised and offered to pay for damage.
- Devon Tour: agreed that Continental Hotel Plymouth would be HQ for the tour, and that the tour would run from evening of Friday 20th April to the morning of Tuesday 30 April.

19 March 1957:

- Devon Tour: agreed that 22 players be taken. Continental Hotel Plymouth booked at 33/- per head per day. Hire of Black and White Motorways motor coach was £48.10s to include coach driver's accommodation.

2 April 1957:

- Devon Tour: since Devonport Services Plymouth could no longer offer their ground. Continental Hotel Plymouth now cancelled and London Hotel, Teignmouth, booked for accommodation.

7 May 1957:

- Memorial Ground: reported that a 1949 Fordson tractor had been purchased for £50. New set of gang mowers also acquired for £270, these transactions approved.
- Devon Tour report: tour had been enjoyed by all. Match at Weston-Super-Mare had been a success and it was suggested that it can be repeated. Also suggested that the match on the Monday be against Torquay. Tour expenses amounted to approx £200.

4 June 1957:

- Dr Alcock referred to the somewhat lean time the club had experienced from a playing and financial point of view.
- Revd H.M. Hughes presented the report for the 1956/57 season:

Played 44, Won 21, Drawn 6, Lost 17.
Points For 380, Points Against 326.

Revd Hughes said that the lean period of the years following the record breaking season of 1953/54, seemed to be ending.

23 July 1957:

- Boys' International v Wales: decided not to grant permission to use Kingsholm on a Saturday in next March or April (1958); a mid-week match would be considered.