

Gloucester Football & Athletic Ground Company

Minutes of Directors' Regular Meetings; 7th June 1899 to 14th June 1979

(Part VII - 1931-1940)

1931

Directors' Meeting held at the New Inn Hotel on Tuesday, December 15th, at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Messrs. Arthur F. Fielding, Chairman, J. T. Brookes, Deputy Chairman, H. H. Berry, F. W. Ayliffe, Arthur Hudson, Directors.
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Frank Ayliffe to this his first meeting as a Director.

The Balance Sheet as audited to August 31st 1931 was read;

showing an Income (including a Balance of £52 14s. 1d. from 1930) of	£352 0s. 1d.
Expenses	<u>£249 17s. 5d.</u>
Leaving a disposable Balance of	£102 2s. 8d.

The Balance Sheet and suggested Report was adopted on the proposition of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Ayliffe.

On the motion of Mr. Berry seconded by Mr. Brookes it was resolved to declare a dividend of 2½% (less Tax) which would amount to £59 1s. 3d.

Proposed by Mr. Brookes seconded by Mr. Hudson that the Chairman and Mr. Berry sign the Report and Balance Sheet on behalf of the Board.

Resolved the Annual General Meeting be held at the Company's Registered Office at 5:15 p.m. on Monday December 28th, 1931. Proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr. Hudson.

Advertisements on Worcester Street Hoarding.

Messrs. Hitchings and Graham, the Agents, wrote that several of the Tenants had given notice to quit, and others were suggesting reduction of rent.

After due consideration the Board resolved to leave the matter with the Agents to make the best terms possible.

A suggestion was made that perhaps Messrs. Fry or Cadbury's may be induced to take a space. If so, the Representatives of the Football Club on the Board undertook that the Hoarding on which spaces were taken should be put in good repair.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded a meeting at which all Directors were present.

[Signed] A. F. Fielding

20 / 12 / 32

1932

Directors' Meeting held on December 20th, 1932.

Present: Messrs. Arthur F. Fielding, Chairman, J. T. Brookes, Deputy Chairman, H. H. Berry, Director.
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Arising out of the Minutes, the Chairman stated the Agents for Advertisements had failed to secure new ones except the London Midland & Scottish Railway, at £3 a year.

He also stated the Football Club had agreed that if the Company would give notice to the Bill Posting Company to quit, they, the Club, would make good any loss of rent over the Bill Posting, as the Club is anxious to renew the fence. As the notice had to be served before December 25th he, the Chairman, instructed the Secretary to notify the Agents, which had been done. The Board confirmed the Chairman's action.

The Balance Sheet as audited, showed;

Income, including £43 1s. 5d. Balance from 1931 and also extra Rent £30 from the Football Club	£356 8s. 5d.
Expenses	<u>£265 6s. 9d.</u>
Leaving a disposable Balance of	£ 91 1s. 8d.

The Balance Sheet and suggested Report were duly adopted on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Brookes.

[Dividend of] 2½%.

The Chairman moved and the Deputy Chairman seconded and it was resolved to declare a dividend of 2½% less Tax which would amount to £59 1s. 3d.

Resolved that the Chairman and Mr. H. H. Berry should sign the Balance Sheet on behalf of the Board.

Also that the Annual General Meeting should be held at the Company's Office on Friday December 30th, at 5:15 p.m.

A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman concluded the Meeting.

[Signed] A. F. Fielding.

22 / 12 / 33.

1933

Directors' Meeting held at the Company's Office, 19 St. John's Lane, Gloucester, on Friday, December 22nd, 1933.

Present: Messrs. Arthur F. Fielding, Chairman, J. T. Brookes, Deputy Chairman, H. H. Berry, Arthur Hudson, Directors.
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was received from Mr. Frank Ayliffe.

The Minutes of the last Directors' meeting were read and confirmed.

Arising out of the Minutes the Chairman stated the Club had completed the new fence in Worcester Street. All are now painted, advertisements on three-year contracts, and the Agents, Hitchings & Graham, have increased the income by £5 14s. 0d. more than in 1932.

The Chairman also informed the Board that the Conservative Benefit Society had consented to reduce the Mortgage Interest from 5% to 4¾% after September 30th, 1933.

The Balance Sheet as audited showed Income,	
including Balance of £32 0s. 5d. from 1932,	
and extra rent £30 from the Football Club amounted to	£351 2s. 2d.
Payments and Expenses	<u>£260 15s. 8d.</u>
Leaving a disposable Balance of	£ 90 6s. 6d.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the Balance Sheet and Report as drafted.

Also recommended payment of a Dividend of 2½%, less Tax, which amounted to £59 1s.3d. This was seconded by Mr. Brookes and carried.

On the proposition of Mr. Brookes seconded by Mr. Hudson it was resolved that the Chairman and Mr. Berry should sign the Balance Sheet on behalf of the Board.

Also that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders should be held on Friday, December 29th, at 5:15 p.m.

A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman concluded the Meeting.

[Signed] J. T. Brookes.

1934

Directors' Meeting held at the Company's Office, 19 St. John's Lane, Gloucester, on Tuesday, December 18th, 1934, at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Messrs. John T. Brookes, who presided; H. H. Berry, F. W. Ayliffe, Arthur Hudson, Directors.
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was received from Mr. Arthur F. Fielding.

The Minutes of the last Directors' meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman reported that the Conservative Benefit Society had consented to reduce the Mortgage interest on the £1,300 from 4¾% to 4½% as from March 25th 1934.

Also the Fire Insurance premium for £2,000 on the Gymnasium, Office, and Baths was now £2 10s. 0d. instead of £3 15s. 0d.

The Balance Sheet, as audited, showed Income including a Balance from 1933 and Extra Rent from the Football Club of £30

Amounted to	£336	4s.	6d.
Payments and Expenses	<u>£257</u>	<u>6s.</u>	<u>4d.</u>
Leaving a disposable Balance of	<u>£ 78</u>	<u>18s.</u>	<u>2d.</u>

On the proposition of Mr. Berry seconded by Mr. Ayliffe the Balance Sheet and Report as drafted were passed.

Also resolved to pay a dividend of 2½%, less Tax, amounting to £61 0s. 8d.

Annual General Meeting.

On the proposition of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Hudson it was resolved to hold the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders on Friday, December 28th, at 5:15 p.m.

Thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

[Signed] A. F. Fielding.

16 Dec. 1935.

1935

Directors' Meeting held at the Company's Office, 19 St. John's Lane, Gloucester, on Monday, December 16th, 1935, at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Messrs. Arthur F. Fielding, Chairman.
H. H. Berry, F. W. Ayliffe, John T. Brookes, Directors.
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was received from Mr. Arthur Hudson.

The Minutes of the last Directors' meeting were read and confirmed.

The Balance Sheet as audited, up to August 31st, 1935, was read as follows;

Income

Including Balance from 1934 plus £30 extra Football Rent	£323	6s.	6d.
Payments and Expenses	<u>£247</u>	<u>16s.</u>	<u>8d.</u>
Leaving a disposable Balance of	£ 75	9s.	10d.

A draft Report was also read.

On the proposition of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Ayliffe, that the Balance Sheet and Report be adopted, and to pay a Dividend of 2½% less Tax, amounting to £61 0s. 8d., was duly carried.

Annual Meeting.

Resolved on the proposition of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Brookes that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders be held on Monday, December 30th 1935, at 5:15 p.m.

Thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

[Signed] J. T. Brookes.

18th December 1936.

1936

Directors' Meeting held at the Company Office, 19 St. John's Lane, Gloucester, on Friday, December 18th, 1936, at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Messrs. John T. Brookes, who presided.
H. H. Berry, F. W. Ayliffe, Arthur Hudson, Directors.
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was received from Mr. Arthur Fielding.

The Minutes of the last Directors' meeting were read and confirmed.

The Balance Sheet as Audited up to August 31st 1936 was read, as follows;

Income, including Balance from 1935, plus extra Football rent £30	£326	0s.	2d.
Payments and Expenses	<u>£246</u>	<u>12s.</u>	<u>10d.</u>
Leaving a disposable Balance of	£ 79	7s.	4d.

A Draft Report was also read.

On the proposition of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Berry the Report and Balance Sheet were adopted with a recommendation to pay a dividend of 2½%, less Tax, which would amount to £60 0s. 11d.

Messrs. J. T. Brookes and A. Hudson signed the Report on behalf of the Board.

Resolved that the Annual General Meeting be held on Wednesday, December 30th, at 5:15 p.m.

Thanks to the Chairman concluded the Meeting.

[Signed] J. T. Brookes.

21 December 1937.

1937

Directors' Meeting held at the Company's Office, 19 St. John's Lane, Gloucester, on Tuesday, December 21st, 1937, at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Messrs. John T. Brookes, who presided.
F. W. Ayliffe, H. H. Berry, Arthur Hudson, Directors.
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies were received from Mr. A. F. Fielding and Mr. A. Hudson.

The Minutes of the last Directors' meeting were read and confirmed.

The Balance Sheet as audited by Mr. R. N. Loveridge to August 31st, 1937, was read as follows;

Income, including Balance from 1936	£321 18s. 5d.
Payments and Expenses	<u>£234 3s. 8d.</u>
Leaving a Disposable Balance of	£ 87 14s. 9d.

A draft Report was also read.

On the proposition of Mr. Berry seconded by Mr. Ayliffe the Report and Balance [Sheet] were adopted with the recommendation to pay a dividend of 2½% less Tax, which would amount to £59 1s. 3d.

Messrs. F. W. Ayliffe and H. H. Berry signed the Report on behalf of the Board.

Auditor.

Owing to the death of Mr. J. E. Dutton, Mr. R. N. Loveridge (who had, on the request of the Chairman, audited the accounts) was nominated as Auditor at the Annual General Meeting.

As the Income from Advertisements were considerably less, the Secretary was directed to interview Messrs. Hitchings & Graham and inform them that the Directors were of opinion that the Income from that source should increase, not get less.

Resolved the Annual General Meeting should be held on December 31st.

Resolved that future Meetings be held on Tuesdays, at 6:30 p.m.

Thanks to the Chairman concluded the Meeting.

[Signed] J. T. Brookes.

13 December 1938.

1938

Directors' Meeting held on the Football Ground, on Wednesday, September 27th 1938, at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Messrs. A. F. Fielding, Chairman,
John T. Brookes, Deputy Chairman.
F. W. Ayliffe, Arthur Hudson, Directors.
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was received from H. H. Berry,

Serlo Road, Wall, Fence, and Corrugated Iron - Scott & Fowler's Letter.

The Chairman explained the meeting was called to consider a letter from Messrs. Scott & Fowler, acting for Smith & Choyce, Builders, who are contemplating building a house on the corner of Serlo Road, facing Deans Way, stating their clients were prepared to take down and remove the Company's existing old wall and corrugated iron alongside their land where the house is to be built, build a 14" wall the same height as the old wall and corrugated iron.

The Directors inspected the site, and on the proposition of Mr. Brookes seconded by Mr. Hudson it was resolved to grant permission asked in Messrs. Scott & Fowlers' letter.

The Directors recognised the New Wall will [be] about 4½ inches on the Company's land.

[Signed] J. T. Brookes.

13 December 1938.

Directors' Meeting held at the Company's Office, 19 St. John's Lane, Gloucester, on Tuesday, December 13th, 1938, at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Messrs. John T. Brookes (who presided), H. H. Berry, F. W. Ayliffe, Arthur Hudson, Directors.
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was received from Mr. Arthur Fielding.

The Minutes of the last two Directors' meetings were read and confirmed.

The Balance Sheet to August 31st 1938 and draft Report were read, and on the proposition of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Hudson, were duly adopted.

The Balance Sheet as audited by Mr. R. N. Loveridge [was] read as follows;

To August 31st, 1938;	
Income including Balance from 1937	£334 3s. 6d.
Payments and Expenses	<u>£224 19s. 7d.</u>
Leaving a disposable Balance of	<u>£109 3s. 11d.</u>

The amount (per. Hitchings & Graham) for Advertisements showed an increase of £2 18s. 0d. The Directors were pleased, but it was not considered as much as they expected, and the Secretary was instructed to inform Messrs. Hitchings & Graham.

As stated in the Report, it was resolved to recommend to pay a Dividend of 2½%, less Tax, which will amount to £57 1s. 9d.

Messrs. J. T. Brookes and H. H. Berry signed the Balance Sheet on behalf of the Board.

Resolved that the Annual General Meeting be held on Tuesday, December 20th, at 6:45 p.m.

Thanks to the Chairman concluded the Meeting.

[Signed] A. F. Fielding.

7 / 11 / 39.

1939

Directors' Meeting held at the Company's Office, on Tuesday, November 7th, 1939, at 6 o'clock.

Present: Messrs. Arthur F. Fielding, Chairman, H. H. Berry, Arthur Hudson, Frank W. Ayliffe, Directors.
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last Directors' meeting were read and confirmed.

The Late Mr. J. T. Brookes.

The Secretary said; *'Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, in my position as Secretary, officially I regret sincerely to have to report that on the 17th of January last, Mr. John T. Brookes passed away.*

'He was elected a Director on September 16th 1920, and gave over 18 years devoted service to the interest of this Company. He always used his good influence to foster and maintain the most happy relations between the Football Club and the Company, and in every way faithfully discharged the duties of a Director.'

All present stood as a mark of respect and esteem, and the Chairman proposed these sentiments be included in the Minutes of the Meeting, and that a copy be forwarded to Mrs. Brookes.

Deputy Chairman.

As the late Mr. Brookes filled the office of Deputy Chairman, Mr. Fielding nominated Mr. Ayliffe to fill the vacancy, and the Meeting accepted the proposal.

Dr. Arnold Alcock a Director.

A letter from Mr. Hudson stated the Football Club Committee had unanimously nominated Dr. Arnold Alcock to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. J. T. Brookes and on the proposition of Mr. Berry seconded by Mr. Ayliffe the Doctor was duly elected.

The Balance Sheet to August 31st, 1939, as audited and signed by Mr. R. N. Loveridge was read as follows;

Income, including Balance from 1938	£365 9s. 11d
Payments and Expenses	<u>£247 9s. 4d.</u>
Leaving a disposable Balance of	<u>£118 0s. 7d.</u>

This, and the draft Report was adopted on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Ayliffe.

In consequence of the present War with Germany, the Directors recommend (as in 1914) that no Dividend be paid, but to carry forward the amount to meet any contingencies arising in consequence of the War.

Resolved the Chairman and Mr. Berry sign the Balance Sheet.

Resolved the Annual General Meeting be held on Tuesday, November 14th, at 12 noon.

Mr. Hudson reported that the Corporation had commandeered the Football Ground and Buildings for Civil Defence purposes and that Mr. Percy Lloyd was acting for the Club to obtain acknowledgement from the Corporation that they, the Corporation, were acting for the War Office and would admit liability for rent and compensation.

The Secretary called attention to the 48 years' accumulation of Receipts, letters and other papers and he was directed to destroy all up to 1930.

A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman concluded the Meeting.

[Signed] A. F. Fielding.

19 November 1940.

1940

A Special Directors' Meeting with Representatives of the Football Club was held at the Company's Office, 19 St. John's Lane, at 11:30 a.m. on October 9th, 1940.

Present: Messrs. Arthur F. Fielding (Chairman), Dr. Alcock, H. H. Berry, A. Hudson, Directors.

Mr. A. T. Voyce (Chairman of the Football Club Committee).

Mr. Percy C. Lloyd, Solicitor

Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was received from Mr. Ayliffe.

The Chairman, Mr. Arthur F. Fielding stated as the Corporation, acting on behalf of the Government, had commandeered the Ground from the Company's Tenants (the Football Club) it was a matter entirely for the Club to deal with.

Mr. Lloyd explained the position to the Meeting. Then he, with Dr. Alcock (President), Mr. A. T. Voyce (Chairman of the Club Committee), Mr. Berry, a member of the Club Committee, and Mr. Arthur Hudson, Secretary, constituted themselves an *ad hoc* Committee to consider the position generally and the steps that should be taken; preparing notes on which Mr. Lloyd will approach the Corporation for the Club.

[Signed] A. F. Fielding.

19 November 1940.

Directors' Meeting held at 19 St. John's Lane, on Tuesday, November 19th, 1940, at 12 noon.

Present: Messrs. Arthur F. Fielding, Chairman.
H. H. Berry, Arthur Hudson, Directors.
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies were received from Dr. Alcock and Mr. Frank W. Ayliffe.

The Minutes of the Directors' Meetings of November 7th 1939, and October 9th 1940 were read and confirmed.

The Balance Sheet to August 31st 1940, as audited by Mr. R. N. Loveridge and signed by him, was read as follows;

Income, including Balance from 1939	£141 8s. 1d.
Payments and Expenses	<u>£ 37 12s. 1d.</u>
Leaving a Balance at Bank of	<u>£103 16s. 0d.</u>

This, and draft Report was duly adopted on the proposition of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Berry.

Resolved Mr. Fielding and Mr. Hudson sign the Balance Sheet on behalf of the Board.

In consequence of the continuance of the War with Germany the paying of a dividend was not entertained but reserve the Balance to meet expenses of the future.

Resolved that the Annual General Meeting be on Thursday November 29th, at 11:30 a.m.

A Vote of Thanks to the Chairman concluded the Meeting.

[Signed] A. F. Fielding.

23rd October, 1941.