

# Gloucester Football & Athletic Ground Company

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

(Part III - 1911-1915)

### 1911

Directors' Meeting held on the Football Ground on Friday, September 1st, 1911.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), F. H. Bretherton, S. W. Bingle, A. C. Williams, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

#### Painting Pavilions.

The Directors inspected the Pavilion and Gymnasium and resolved that it was necessary to at once have all the woodwork re-painted. Resolved that the fronts facing the playing field and the end towards Worcester Street should receive three coats of "Kastella" paint (Samuel Wills & Co., Bristol; makers) and the backs/side towards Deans Walk and the Rails in front of Pavilion, one coat.

Resolved that five firms should be invited to tender, viz.

Caleb Stephens; Conway Jones & Co.; W. H. Phillips; E. Pickford & Son.; John Pollard.

Tenders to be opened by the Chairman and Secretary, who were authorized to accept the lowest on behalf of the Company.

#### Damage done by Sheep.

A letter was read from Mr. John Newth, who had taken the sheep grazing for the summer months, to the effect that he had received several claims amounting to over £14 for damage done by the sheep, by eating the crops growing in gardens in Serlo Road.

He, Mr. Newth, considered the sheep had got into the gardens through the defect in the Company's fence. The Board contended however that through the long drought the sheep having eaten all the keep, should have been moved by Mr. Newth. However after careful consideration it was resolved on the proposition of Mr. Bretherton seconded by Mr. Williams that Mr. Newth be requested to get the matter settled on the best terms and the Board will meet him to some extent, and the Secretary was directed to at once inform Mr. Newth of the Directors' decision.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors' Meeting held on Friday, September 22nd, 1911.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. H. Dancey, H. A. Dancey, H. J. Berry, S. W. Bingle, A. C. Williams, C. E. Brown, F. W. Lovesy, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Mr. Bretherton sent an apology being unavoidably prevented from attending.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Painting.

The Chairman read a list of the Tenders sent in for painting Pavilion, etc., as per resolution at the last meeting, viz.

John Pollard	£13 12s. 6d.
Pickford	£14 10s. 0d.
Conway Jones & Co.	£17 9s. 6d.
Caleb Stephens	£26 7s. 0d.

Mr. W. Phillips did not tender.

The Chairman reported the lowest tender (Mr. Pollard) had been accepted and he was well on with the work. A letter was read from Mr. Pollard stating the end of the Gymnasium towards Deans Walk was in a bad state and needed three coats instead of one as on specification, the extra cost would be £1 7s. 6d. Resolved that he be instructed to paint same three coats. Also to give the three double doors in Worcester Street three coats of paint. Mr. Pollard to be asked to give a price for the work.

Newths' letter re. damage done by Sheep.

A letter (with receipts) from Mr. Jno. Newth stating he had settled all claims for £8 13s. 6d. (the amount being £14 odd). On the proposition of Mr. Lovesey seconded by Mr. Bingle it was resolved to pay him one half, viz. £4 6s. 9d.

Balance Sheet for 1911.

The Balance Sheet to August 31st, 1911, showed a balance on the years' working of

£105 6s. 3d.

Proposed by Mr. H. A. Dancey seconded by Mr. S. W. Bingle

to pay 2½% [dividend] which amounts to

£ 78 15s. 0d.

and to carry forward

£ 26 11s. 3d.

Resolved that the Annual General Meeting be held on Thursday, October 12th, at 7:30 p.m. at the New Inn Hotel, Gloucester.

Resolved that Messrs. A. W. Vears and C. H. Dancey should sign the Balance Sheet on behalf of the Directors.

[Signed] A. W. Vears

Directors' Meeting held on Tuesday, October 12th, 1911.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. H. Dancey, C. E. Brown, S. W. Bingle, Harry A. Dancey, A. C. Williams, F. H. Bretherton, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary reported that the painting was now finished and that Mr. Pollard's charge for painting all the double doors and little doors in Worcester Street amounted to £2 15s. 0d. Thus the Bill for all the painting done would come to £17 15s. 0d.

The Chairman remarked that a movement was on foot to build a Milk Depot in Gloucester, and Mr. Henry Moffat, one of the promoters, had now the plan of the Football Field showing what parts the Directors were prepared to sell. Mr. Moffatt promised that these sites should be considered with others.

Culvert.

The Secretary reported that some of the Crown bricks of the Culvert that runs under Deans Walk from the River Twyver had dropped out. The Directors instructed the Secretary to call the Corporation's officials' notice to the matter.

The Directors then attended the Annual General Meeting.

A. W. Vears.

November 29th, 1911.

Directors' Meeting held on Wednesday, November 29th, 1911.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. H. Dancey, H. A. Dancey, Directors.  
William Dancey, Agent.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

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

Mr. William Dancey attended the meeting to explain that some of the advertisement tenants on the Worcester Street hoardings were asking for a reduction in the rents. After hearing the correspondence read by Mr. Dancey and his explanations the Board decided to leave the whole matter for Mr. Dancey to get the best terms possible.

Sale of Land.

A letter was read from Mr. Chinery (Messrs. Geo. Packer & Co.) re. sale of part of the ground nearest to Deans Walk. As however no definite offer was made, it was decided to postpone the further consideration of the matter.

Messrs. Wells' account for Boards and Trestles amounting to £17 10s. 0d. was passed and a cheque signed for same.

[Signed] C. H. Dancey

February 7th, 1912.

**1912**

Directors' Meeting held on February 7th, 1912.

Present: Messrs. C. H. Dancey, H. J. Berry, Harry A. Dancey, C. E. Brown, A. C. Williams, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies were received from Mr. Vears (who was confined to the house through illness), F. W. Lovesy, S. Bingle, and H. W. Grimes.

Mr. C. H. Dancey was voted to the Chair.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Summer Lettings.

The Secretary read an application from Mr. Arthur Hudson enquiring on what terms the Directors would lease the Ground to him for the four summer months for Cricket, Tennis, and Athletic Training. Mr. Vears wrote to the meeting his views on the matter as well as every particular as to former summer lettings and average summer receipts, and it was resolved that the Board would not entertain letting the field for Cricket, Tennis, and Training only, as they were of opinion that the Secretary letting for some things, and Mr. Hudson for others, would lead to confusion and possibly friction. However, it was further resolved that the Directors would be willing to consider any definite offer for taking the Ground by Mr. Hudson for the four summer months. He (Mr. Hudson) to have the right of letting it for what he could, under conditions to be defined and decided by the Directors.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

February 16th, 1912.

Directors' Meeting held on Friday, February 16th, 1912.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), S. W. Bingle, A. C. Williams, Harry A. Dancey, H. J. Berry, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apology for non-attendance received from Mr. F. W. Lovesy.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Summer Lettings to Mr. Hudson.

A letter was read from Mr. Arthur Hudson offering to pay £10 10s. 0d. for the sole right of the Field for the four summer months; also to take over and employ Dyke the Groundsman during that period which he pointed out would amount to over another £16 (no sheep grazing as the Football Club had that right).

The Directors again reviewed the whole matter and were unanimous not to accept such a low offer. However it was proposed by Mr. Harry Dancey and seconded by Mr. A. C. Williams that the Board would be prepared to accept £34 as rent and Hudson to employ Dyke for the four months at 18/- per week.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Memo: Hudson was to have attended at 8 o'clock to meet the Directors. He however did not come until 8:30 when he met the Chairman and Secretary who informed him of the Directors' decision, and he in reply stated he was unable to see his way to pay such an amount and the matter was considered at an end so far as Mr. Hudson was concerned.

Directors' Meeting held on Friday, March 15th, 1912.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), F. W. Lovesy, S. W. Bingle, A. C. Williams, F. H. Bretherton, C. E. Brown, C. H. Dancey, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr. H. J. Berry and Mr. H. A. Dancey.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

? Cricket and Tennis; No Training.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Midland Railway Cricket Club offering £6 for use of the Field for Cricket from May 1st to August 31st. Following the reading of the letter many points were raised. If cricket was allowed, training round the track would have to be stopped. Also care would have to be taken to keep away from the Tennis Courts, and questions such as how many Cricket Clubs could play at once on the Field, should other clubs apply. Also would tennis players have to pay an increased fee, if there was no Training.

Mr. Lovesy re-opened the matter of Mr. Hudson's offer as per minutes of the last meeting and after discussing the matter from all points, Mr. Lovesy proposed and Mr. C. E. Brown seconded and it was resolved to adjourn the meeting until half past seven, Monday, March 18th. In the meantime the Secretary to enquire if Mr. Hudson would stand to his offer if the Directors were willing to reconsider their decision of February 16th.

The adjourned meeting was held at the New Inn Hotel on Monday, March 18th, 1912, when there were present;

Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. H. Dancey, H. J. Berry, S. W. Bingle, F. W. Lovesy, F. H. Bretherton, C. E. Brown, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Chairman reported to the Meeting that Hudson was still willing to stand to his offer viz. paid £10 10s. 0d. for the four months, May, June, July and August, and to engage and pay Dyke during that period.

Minute of February 16th rescinded.

Mr. Lovesy proposed and Mr. C. E. Brown seconded and it was resolved to rescind the Minute of February 16th.

Hudson's offer accepted.

Mr. Lovesy then proposed and Mr. Brown seconded and it was resolved to accept Mr. Hudson's offer on the following conditions;

Mr. Hudson to pay the sum of £10 10s. 0d. to the Company and 18/- per week to Dyke; the first payment to Dyke to be made on Saturday May 4th, and the last on Saturday August 31st. For this, Hudson has the right for Cricket, Training, Tennis, Pony Grazing, School Treats, Drilling, and Sports, inclusive.

Other Lettings.

Hudson also to have the right of letting the Field for other purposes such as Circuses, etc., but when the extra lettings shall have brought an income of £10, all amounts over that to be equally divided between Mr. Hudson and the Company.

It was to be clearly understood also that there should be no practice wickets on the actual Football Ground playing part.

The Company not to provide a Horse.

The Company not to provide tools except such as are on the Ground on this date; March 18th.

Should there be extra charge on Water Rate, Hudson to pay the extra.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

26.4.1912



Directors' Meeting held on Friday, April 26th, 1912.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. H. Dancey, S. W. Bingle, F. H. Bretherton, F. W. Lovesy, A. C. Williams, Harry A. Dancey, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies were received from Mr. H. J. Berry and Mr. C. E. Brown.

The Minutes of the last meetings were read and confirmed.

Advertisements on Hoardings.

A letter was read from Mr. Wm. Dancey stating he had let the Hoardings to the Gloucester Bill Posting Company, for a term of three years at £14 per annum.

Football Club Rent.

A letter was received from the Football Club asking for a reduction in their rent. A long discussion took place on the matter, everyone present taking part, and the tenancy was reviewed practically from the time the Company secured the Ground for the Club and it was deemed advisable to hold a conference with representatives of the Football Club.

On the proposition of Mr. Lovesy seconded by Mr. Bretherton it was resolved;

*'That the Football Club Committee be asked to appoint a deputation to consider the question of the reduction of the rent with the Directors who would prefer that the meeting should take place immediately after the publication of the Football Club Balance Sheet for the past season.'*

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

May 3rd, 1912.

Directors' Meeting held on Friday, May 3rd, 1912.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), Harry A. Dancey, A. C. Williams, C. E. Brown, F. W. Lovesy, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies were received from Mr. H. J. Berry, F. H. Bretherton, and H. W. Grimes.

Football Club Deputation.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Football Club asking that their deputation should be allowed to meet the Directors as soon as possible and not wait until the publication of their Balance Sheet, as negotiations were on foot to secure another ground.

The Directors wishing in every way to meet the Club it was resolved on the proposition of Mr. C. E. Brown seconded by Mr. Harry A. Dancey that subject to it being convenient to the Football deputation the meeting should take place at the New Inn Hotel on Friday next, at 7:30 p.m.

[Signed] A. W. Vears

May 10th, 1912.

Directors' Meeting held on Friday, May 10th, 1912.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), A. C. Williams, C. H. Dancey, C. E. Brown, F. W. Lovesy, Harry A. Dancey, Directors.  
H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Deputation from Football Club.

Messrs. John Hanman, Lionel Lane, and W. H. Worth attended on behalf of the Football Club requesting that a very considerable reduction should be made in the rent...

and the following resolution was carried;

*"That the rent payable by the Club shall remain the same as hitherto, but that if in any year the Club does not make sufficient profit as shown by the Audited Balance Sheet for that year to pay the rent in full, the rent shall be abated in proportion to the deficiency but not exceeding the sum of £75 per annum.*

*Any Abatement so made, however, is to be carried forward in the Club's Balance Sheet as a debt due to the Company and is to be repaid out of any subsequent profits the Club may make, provided that the Club shall not be called upon to make any repayment on account of arrears of rent except out of any profits it may have in hand over and above the sum of £25."*

The deputation considered the offer a very fair one and promised to report favourably to their Committee.

In the event of this resolution being confirmed by the Shareholders and adopted by the General Meeting of the Club, it is understood that the Directors shall have a representative on the Football Club Finance Committee.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

June 7th, 1912.

Directors' Meeting held on Friday, June 7th, 1912.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. H. Dancey, H. J. Berry, C. E. Brown, F. W. Lovesy, Harry A. Dancey, S. W. Bingle, A. C. Williams, Directors.  
H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was read from Mr. Bretherton who was away from home.

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

All present then attended the Special General Meeting of Shareholders in reference to the resolution regarding the Football Club's rent.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors' Meeting held on Friday, September 20th, 1912.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. H. Dancey, Harry A. Dancey, F. W. Lovesy, Directors.

Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies were received from Messrs. C. E. Brown, Director, and H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.

Hudson's Lettings.

The Secretary produced Mr. Hudson's book showing what lettings had taken place during his tenancy so that the Directors might decide what they considered extra lettings as per the agreement.

Boxing.

The question of Boxing was discussed, Mr. Hudson having let the Gymnasium for Boxing for £2 10s. 0d., and two Boxing exhibitions outside at 30/- each time.

The Directors decided that the letting of the Indoor Boxing came within Hudson's taking for £10 10s. 0d. but that the two outside exhibitions they considered "shows" as they were cases in which a charge had been made for admittance.

The extra lettings as per Hudson's book were;

Pony with child rider	£ 10s. 0d.
Liberal Meeting	£ 2 2s. 0d.
West Australia	£ 5 0s. 0d.
2 Outside Boxing Shows	£ 3 0s. 0d.
Sangers' Circus	<u>£ 8 0s. 0d.</u>
Total:	£18 12s. 0d.

Hudson to have the first	<u>£10 0s. 0d.</u>
	£ 8 12s. 0d.

Balance, to be divided, equals £ 4 6s. 0d.

the Company's portion, in addition Ten Guineas.

Representative on the Football Club Finance Committee.

On the proposition of Mr. C. H. Dancey seconded by Mr. Vears, Mr. Lovesy was unanimously elected to represent the Company on Finance Committee of the Football Club and Mr. Lovesy kindly consented to act.

Balance Sheet and Amount Refunded to the Football Club.

Owing to the amount of £75 having been refunded to the Football Club over their loss at last season's working, it was resolved that in making up the Balance Sheet the amount received for Rents should be shown on the Receipts side less the amounts allowed to the Football Club.

Rates.

The Secretary called attention to the fact that although the Rent of the Football Club had for the time being been reduced yet as the Corporation had assessed the gross rental at £300 only, the Directors considered it best not to make any attempt at obtaining a reduction as the gross rental was usually £400.

Symonds' debt £2 6s. 0d. Bad.

The Secretary reported the amount £2 6s. 0d. was still outstanding from William Symonds, the Roundabout Proprietor. The debt is a balance due since 1908. Mr. Starr stated he had made every effort to get it and from information gained it would be useless spending money to try and recover it. the Directors decided the amount should be marked off "Bad."

Mr. Clark's Cheque for 1910 lost.

Mr. C. G. Clark having stated he had lost his Cheque for 1910 dividend (£1 5s. 0d.) he made the request that another might be issued to him. The Secretary reported the lost cheque had not been presented at the Bank. It was therefore resolved to give Mr. Clark another providing he signed a letter indemnifying the Directors against any loss should the original be at any time presented for payment.

The next meeting of Directors was ordered to be summoned for Friday, September 27th, at 7:30 p.m.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors' Meeting held on Friday, September 27th, 1912.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. H. Dancey, A. C. Williams, F. W. Lovesy, Harry A. Dancey, S. W. Bingle, F. H. Bretherton, H. J. Berry, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

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

Mr. Hudson attended before the Board explaining that he thought the "Outside Boxing Shows" should be considered as coming within his ten guinea taking, and should not be placed with the "Extras." The Directors, however, after fully debating the matter decided that the two outside Boxing Shows were distinctly "Extra" and adhered to their decision of Sept. 20th.

Mr. Hudson expressed himself as satisfied and thanked the Board for permitting him to attend.

The Chairman read the Balance Sheet for the past year which showed;

Receipts, including Balance brought forward	£343 15s. 9d.
Expenses	<u>£312 15s. 6d.</u>
Leaving a Balance on the years' working of	£ 31 0s. 3d.

It was resolved that the Directors recommend that no dividend be paid this year but carry the Balance forward.

It was decided that a note should be made in the Directors' Report pointing out to the Shareholders that the amount refunded to the Football Club practically equalled 2½% on the Share Capital.

It was resolved that the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders should be summoned for Thursday October 10th, 1919, at 7:30 p.m., at the New Inn Hotel, Gloucester.

It was also resolved that Messrs. C. H. Dancey and A. W. Vears should sign the Balance Sheet on behalf of the Directors.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors' Meeting held on Friday, October 10th, 1912.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), S. W. Bingle, C. H. Dancey, H. J. Berry,  
C. E. Brown, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Directors then attended the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.



Directors' Meeting held on Monday, November 18th, 1912.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. H. Dancey, H. J. Berry, S. W. Bingle, Harry A. Dancey, F. H. Bretherton, A. C. Williams, C. E. Brown, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was read from Mr. Lovesy who was unable to be present.

Hudson Lessee Summer Months, 1913.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Arthur Hudson offering to become lessee of the Ground during the four summer months of 1913, on the same terms as last year.

After a short discussion it was resolved on the proposition of Mr. Bretherton seconded by Mr. C. H. Dancey to accept same.

Dyke's Death.

The Secretary reported that Henry Dyke, who had been Groundsman for 21 years, died suddenly on the previous Saturday (November 16th) and in consequence he had to put someone in charge of the Field, and stated he had engaged Alfred Collier (Dyke's son-in-law) who was well acquainted with [the] duties to fulfil the position for the present.

The Directors instructed the Secretary to write to the widow (Mrs. Dyke) and express to her and the family the Board's most sincere sympathy.

It was resolved to allow the appointment to stand over until the next meeting of Directors.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors' Meeting held on Monday, November 26th, 1912.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. H. Dancey, S. W. Bingle, C. E. Brown, A. C. Williams, H. J. Berry, F. H. Bretherton, F. W. Lovesy, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

New Groundsman.

Three applications were read for the post of Groundsman;

F. W. Gibbons, 24 Sweetbriar Street;

J. C. Holder, of Stroud (recommended by Mr. Selby Thomas);

Howard Dyke (son of the late Harry Dyke); recommended by Rev. A. R. Robertson and Mr. Tanner, Superintendent of the Cemetery where Howard Dyke was at present working.

First of all the Directors discussed whether they would throw the place open for competition and advertise for a man, but it was resolved unanimously not to advertise.

Howard Dyke appointed.

The Chairman said after what he had heard of Howard Dyke he would like the Directors to see and interview him. Dyke was then telephoned for, and answered many questions asked by members of the Board and on his retiring from the room Mr. Vears proposed and Mr. C. H. Dancey seconded and it was unanimously resolved to appoint Howard Dyke as Groundsman on exactly the same terms on which his father filled the position.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

## 1913

Special Directors' Meeting held at Mr. Grimes' Office, Bell Lane, Gloucester, at 6:00 p.m. on April 22nd, 1913.

Present: A. W. Vears (Chairman), F. W. Lovesy, H. J. Berry, A. C. Williams, S. W. Bingle, C. E. Brown, Harry A. Dancey, Directors.  
H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Chairman apologized for the absence of Mr. C. H. Dancey who was indisposed.

Sale of the Vinegar Works Corner.

The Solicitor (Mr. H. W. Grimes) reported that he had received a letter from Messrs. Bruton Knowles & Co., enquiring on behalf of a Client if the Company would sell a piece of the Football Field adjoining the Vinegar Works with a frontage of 60 feet and a depth of 60 feet, at 6/- per square yard.

The matter was fully discussed and it was finally resolved as follows, on the proposition of Mr. C. E. Brown seconded by Mr. Lovesy;

*'That the Solicitor be instructed to accept the offer contained in Messrs. Bruton Knowles & Co.'s letter subject to the purchaser undertaking to remove at his own expense and re-erect in a substantial manner in a position to be decided by the Directors the existing entrance gates.*

*Also to the plans of any proposed building upon the land being first submitted to and approved by the Directors.'*

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Special Directors' Meeting held at Mr. Grimes' Office, Bell Lane, Gloucester at 4:30 p.m. on June 4th, 1913.

Present: A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. H. Dancey, H. A. Dancey, Directors.  
H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. C. E. Brown, and S. W. Bingle.

Mr. Grimes reported receiving a letter from Mr. Frank Treasure, acting for Mrs. Hardacre, the purchaser of the 412 yards of land near the Vinegar Works, asking if the Directors would sell an additional piece about 4 yards deep at the back of the Building now in course of erection. After considering the matter it was resolved on the proposition of the Chairman seconded by Mr. C. H. Dancey that the land asked for be sold at 6/- per yard, or to sell a larger portion (about 225 square yards) contained within a straight line drawn from the southern boundary to the River Twyver, at 5/- per yard if no better terms can be obtained.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Meeting to Sign Conveyance of Land to Mrs. Hardacre; held at the Company Office, 92 Northgate Street, Gloucester, on August 27th, 1913.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), F. H. Bretherton, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.  
Mr. Small, representing Mr. Grimes, the Company Solicitor.

The Secretary produced the Engrossment of the Conveyance to Mrs. Hardacre of 482 square yards of land for £144 12s. 0d. which had been approved by the Company's Solicitor, and it was resolved that the Seal of the Company be affixed thereto, which was accordingly done.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors' Meeting held on Monday, September 15th, 1913.

Present: A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. E. Brown, H. J. Berry, F. W. Lovesy, Harry A. Dancey, F. H. Bretherton, Directors.  
H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apology was received from Mr. Bingle who was out of town and unable to attend.

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

The Secretary stated he had received an application for the use of the Gymnasium for Badminton, and with the sanction of the Football Committee had offered it at 5/- per night Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Thursday afternoons, but at present the terms had not been accepted.

Covered Stands on 6d. Side.

The Chairman explained that the meeting was called mainly to receive another deputation from the Football Club, this time re. the erection of some covered Stands on the 6d. side of the ground.

The Directors thoroughly discussed the matter, and without passing any resolution it was distinctly understood that they could not go to any further expense at present to provide extra Stands.

Messrs. Arthur Fielding, L. Burton Barnes, and W. Johns, representing the Football Club placed the matter from their point of view before the Directors, and the whole thing was most thoroughly gone into in the most amicable and agreeable manner.

No definite figures were stated, but roughly the Stand was to be about 150ft long and about 10ft deep and the estimated cost about £120.

The deputation were informed that the Company could not entertain carrying the work out, as they had no money to do it with.

The deputation then asked if the Directors would offer any objection to the Club building the Stand, but to this no definite answer was given. On the deputation retiring the following resolution was carried on the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Lovesy;

*“That the Directors have no objection to the suggested Stand being erected on the 6d side provided the plans are first submitted to and approved by the Directors, and that the Club undertake its removal at the end of each Football season, if required.”*

The Secretary was directed to let the Secretary to the Football Club have this reply in time for the Football Committee meeting taking place the following evening.

Mr. C. E. Brown and Mr. Grimes kindly promised to attend the Football Meeting and further explain the Company's position.

Groundsman Resigns.

The Secretary reported that Howard Dyke had given him notice to resign the post of Groundsman as he had a Post Office appointment at Haverfordwest.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1913.

Director's Meeting held on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1913.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. H. Dancey, H. J. Berry, F. W. Lovesy, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. F. H. Bretherton, C. E. Brown, and Harry A. Dancey.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

New Groundsman.

Two applications were received for the post of Groundsman, but on the proposition of Mr. Lovesy seconded by Mr. C. H. Dancey it was resolved to advertise for a man and make the appointment at a meeting to be held on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Accounts Passed.

The Secretary presented the following accounts which were duly passed, and ordered to be paid;

Bruton Knowles, & Co.	£5	0s.	0d.
H. W. Grimes	£8	1s.	2d.
Corporation Account	£5	9s.	10d.

All these being costs in connection with and in consequence of the Sale of the Land next to the Vinegar Works. Also an Account for Mr. Harry A. Dancey of £15 15s. 0d for Plans prepared from time to time during the last six years for various prospective lawyers, solicitors, and others with a view to sale of various portions of the Ground.

Balance Sheet to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1913.

The Secretary read the Balance Sheet to August 31<sup>st</sup>, showing;

Receipts, including balance brought from last year	£480	17s.	10d.
Expenditure	<u>£325</u>	<u>11s.</u>	<u>2d.</u>
Leaving a Balance on the year of	£155	6s.	8d.

Resolved

that the Directors recommend the payment  
of 2½% dividend  
further reduce the Mortgage by  
and carry forward the Balance

£ 78	15s.	0d.
£ 55	8s.	0d.
<u>£ 21</u>	<u>3s.</u>	<u>8d.</u>
£155	6s.	8d.



Resolved that the Annual General Meeting be held on Friday October 10<sup>th</sup>, at the New Inn Hotel, Gloucester, at 7:30 p.m.

Resolved that Messrs. A. W. Vears and C. H. Dancey sign the Balance Sheet on behalf of the Board.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors Meeting held on Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1913.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), A. C. Williams, F. W. Lovesy, H. J. Berry, C. E. Brown, S. W. Bingle, C. H. Dancey, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apology was received from Mr. Harry A. Dancey who was unable to attend.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

New Groundsman.

The Secretary reported he had advertised in the '*Citizen*' for a week for a Groundsman and had received 14 applications, the following being the names:

1. Mr. C. Mayo, 28 High Street, Gloucester.
2. J. Harris, 6 Kingsholm Road.
3. Daniel Symmonds, 64 Kingsholm Road.
4. John Bailey, 18a Russell Street, Gloucester.
5. Lewin Bartlett, 6 Swan Lane, Gloucester.
6. G. H. Bayman, 42 Jersey Road, Gloucester.
7. S. Clutterbuck, 132 Coney Hill Road, Gloucester.
8. Edwin Nicholls, 16 Mount Street, Gloucester.
9. James Kent, Royal Infirmary (Porter).
10. J. C. Holder, Cashes Green, Stroud.
11. Wm. Tombs, Maisemore.
12. Thos. Ed. Jones, 36 High Street, Gloucester.
13. Samuel E. Gingell, 57 Napier Street, Gloucester.
14. W. Ollerinshaw, 53 Cecil Road, Gloucester.

All the applications and the various references were read and carefully gone through and the number gradually reduced down to four, and it was resolved on the proposition of Mr. A. C. Williams seconded by Mr. C. E. Brown that the following be requested to attend before the Directors on Friday next, October 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6 o'clock;

- |        |                                     |
|--------|-------------------------------------|
| No. 2  | J. Harris, 6 Kingsholm Road         |
| No. 7. | S. Clutterbuck, 132 Coney Hill Road |
| No. 8  | Edwin Nicholls, 16 Mount Street     |
| No. 10 | J. C. Holder, Cashes Green, Stroud  |

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors Meeting held on Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1913.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), A. C. Williams, C. E. Brown, S. W. Bingle, F. W. Lovesy, H. J. Berry, Harry A. Dancey, C. H. Dancey, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary reported that the people who had applied for the price for use of the Gymnasium for Badminton had written to say they would not require it as they had again taken the Baths.

New Groundsman.

S. C. Clutterbuck wrote withdrawing his application for the Groundsman's vacancy.

The Directors therefore interviewed the other three;

J. Harris, 6 Kingsholm Road.  
Edwin Nicholls, 16 Mount Street.  
J. C. Holder, Cashes Green, Stroud.

Each candidate was questioned by all the Directors and each one given every opportunity to ask questions. Finally, on the proposition of Mr. C. E. Brown seconded by Mr. C. H. Dancey, J. Harris, 6 Kingsholm Road, was unanimously appointed, on exactly the same terms and understanding as the present Groundsman, and as the late Harry Dyke work under.

The New Stand Plans.

The Plans of the new Stand to be erected by the Football Club was submitted to and approved on the proposition of Mr. S. W. Bingle, seconded by Mr. C. E. Brown.

Howard Dykes' Notice.

Resolved that the Secretary give Howard Dyke formal notice to end his services with the Company on October 18<sup>th</sup> (notice to be given him October 11<sup>th</sup>).

The Directors then attended the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors Meeting held on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1913.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), A. C. Williams, C. H. Dancey, F. W. Lovesy, H. J. Berry, S. W. Bingle, C. E. Brown, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Removal of Turnstiles.

A letter was read from Mr. H. G. Brown, Secretary of the Football Club asking if the Directors would allow one of the Turnstiles on the Worcester Street side to be moved near to the new Stand on the 6d. side. The Chairman stated the object was to save one gate man every week.

After the matter had been talked over, it was resolved on the proposition of Mr. Brown seconded by Mr. Lovesy that permission be granted providing the Football Committee would make good the fencing etc., at the place from which it is moved from, and also to replace it in its present position if required.

Hudson, and Summer 1914.

A letter was read from Mr. A. Hudson offering to take the Ground for the Summer months of 1914, on exactly the same terms as the two last summers.

A discussion followed when it was pointed out that as the new Stand had been erected on the 6d. side of the Field, the conditions could not be exactly the same. The Secretary pointed out that he knew it was in Mr. Hudson's mind to get the Football Club to meet him over permitting the Stand to remain in its position through the summer.

The Directors however were of opinion that any alterations of condition, concessions, or allowance should be arranged by the Company, as Landlord, and not between the Club and Mr. Hudson, as tenants, and on the proposition of Mr. Bingle seconded by Mr. Lovesy, it was resolved to enquire from Mr. Hudson what he was prepared to pay, taking into account the fact that arrangements might be made by the Company for the new Stand to remain standing in its present position during the Summer Moths.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors Meeting held on Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1913.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), F. W. Lovesy, H. J. Berry, S. W. Bingle, C. E. Brown, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Late Mr. C. H. Dancey.

The Chairman and all present feelingly alluded to the death of Mr. C. H. Dancey, all acknowledging the great service he had rendered. The Chairman proposed and Mr. Lovesy seconded that a vote of sympathy be sent to Mr. Dancey's widow and relations, and at the same time to express to them the gratitude felt by the Directors and Shareholders for the help he had always so willingly given.

Hudson, and Summer 1914.

A letter was read from Mr. A. Hudson offering to take the field for the four summer months 1914, on the same conditions and at the same rent as last year. It was resolved to accept the offer on the proposition of Mr. Lovesy seconded by Mr. Brown.

Mr. Grimes and Agreement with the Town Clerk re. Hoarding near Vinegar Works.

The Secretary reported that Mr. Grimes, when selling the land near the Vinegar Works, gave an undertaking to the Town Clerk (subject to the confirmation by the Directors) that when the time expired for which the Hoarding was taken by the Bill Posting Company it (the Hoarding) should be reduced in height, and now Mr. Grimes wished that confirmed.

On the proposition of Mr. Bingle seconded by Mr. Lovesy this was done, and the Secretary was directed to inform Mr. Grimes.

[Signed] A. H. Vears.

November 28th, 1913.

Meeting of Directors, Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1913.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), F. H. Bretherton, A. C. Williams, H. J. Berry, Harry A. Dancey, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. C. E. Brown and F. W. Lovesy.

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

New Director.

The Chairman explained that he had ordered this meeting to be called to elect a Director to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. C. H. Dancey, and proposed Mr. A. C. Williams be appointed. This was seconded by Mr. Harry A. Dancey and each one present expressed the opinion that Mr. Williams with his connections and experience of the Gloucester Football Club would make a good Director. The proposition was carried unanimously.

Mr. Williams acknowledge his election hoping he might be as useful to the Company as the late Mr. Dancey was.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Attached to this page of the Minutes is an Obituary Notice taken from the press - date unknown.

#### *THE LATE MR. C. H. DANCEY.*

*At a meeting of the Directors of the Gloucester Football and Athletic Ground Company, held on Monday evening, kindly references were made to the late Mr. Charles Henry Dancey, who was an original director, and who in the early stages of the formation of the Company did a great deal to help forward the matter in the initial stages, rendering much service which needed sub-committees to deal with; and it was a source of delight to him when a new permanent home was found for the Gloucester Rugby Football Club, of which he had always been a great supporter. The Chairman mentioned that on looking through the attendance book he found the late Mr. Dancey had attended no less than 188 summoned Directors' meetings, not to mention the host of sub-committee meetings held when the Company was being formed. Mr. Dancey gave so much valuable time to matters where his knowledge was particularly useful without fee or reward of any kind, and he moved that a vote of sympathy be sent to his widow and relatives, at the same time acknowledging, with gratitude, on behalf of the shareholders the great help Mr. Dancey had always rendered.*

## 1914

Meeting of Directors held on the Ground on Monday, May 4th, 1914.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), H. A. Dancey, A. C. Williams, F. H. Bretherton, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology for non-attendance was received from Mr. F. W. Lovesy.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read two letters received from the Corporation with reference to a new Drivingway near the Vinegar Works (in place of the one opposite the land sold to the Garage people). They, the Corporation, estimated the cost at about £9. The Directors examined the pavement opposite where the Double doors had been placed which had been very much damaged by the Traction Engines belonging to the Circuses using the Field this year.

All the Directors were of opinion that the estimated cost [was] very high for the removal of the setts and replacing them in a bed of concrete.

Seeing however that the work had to be done Mr. Bretherton proposed and Mr. Williams seconded that subject to the Deputy Surveyor (Mr. Carter) proving to Mr. Harry Dancey that the estimate is correct the Corporation be instructed to carry out the work.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors' Meeting called to be held on the Ground, Thursday August 13th, 1914.

Present: Only the Chairman and Secretary.

The matter for consideration was repairs or renewal of steps in front of the Pavilion.

An apology was read from Mr. Harry A. Dancey, in which he expressed his opinion that the steps were repairable.

After waiting for any other Director the Chairman gave orders for the repairs to be proceeded with, only having new timber where absolutely necessary.



Directors Meeting, held at the New Inn Hotel on Monday, September 7th, 1914.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), A. C. Williams, F. W. Lovesy, F. H. Bretherton, W. A. Johns, H. J. Berry, Harry A. Dancey, S. W. Bingle, Directors.

H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.

William Dancey, Agent.

Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of meeting held May 4th were read and confirmed.

Repairs to Pavilion Steps.

Resolved on the proposition of Mr. Bretherton seconded by Mr. Berry that the action of the Chairman with regard to the repairs in front of the Gymnasium be approved.

### **War with Germany.**

England, with France, Russia and Belgium being at War with Germany, Football throughout nearly the whole country was suspended, nearly all first class Clubs having cancelled their fixtures. The Gloucester Football Club wrote the Company pointing out that they, the Club, had cancelled their fixtures and would not require the Ground for Football but mentioned that when matters had settled down the Committee would be pleased to meet the Directors and come to some agreement which will be mutually satisfactory.

It was unanimously resolved to instruct the Secretary to acknowledge the letter and to point out that the Company would not recognise any termination of the Tenancy and that the Directors will be pleased to meet the Committee of the Football Club whenever the Committee think fit.

The Secretary was also directed to suggest that the Club ought to get good terms for the Sheep tack as there was plenty of keep on the Field at present, and also in view of there being no Football.

Groundsman.

A letter was read from the Club to the effect that as there was no Football, the Club would not require the services of the Groundsman, Harris.

After some discussion, it was resolved on the proposition of Mr. Bretherton seconded by Mr. Dancey that the Company should pay Harris 6/- a week if the Club would pay him 3/- a week which would make up their amount to 9/- equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  wages while there was no Football.

The Secretary reported Harris would be satisfied with this, and he, the Secretary, was directed to inform the Club of the Board's decision.

Army Authorities and the Field.

Some ideas having been expressed that the Army Authorities might be able to use the Field, the Chairman explained that he himself had made enquiries and he was led to understand it was not big enough for horse exercise.

Reduction of Rent of Bill Posting Hoardings.

Mr. William Dancey, the Agent, attended the meeting with reference to a letter he had received from the Bill Posting Company asking for a reduction in their rent as their business since the War began had been practically reduced to nil.

After hearing Mr. William Dancey on the matter the Directors unanimously resolved to sanction Mr. William Dancey reducing the rent from £14 a year to £10, during the War.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

September 29th, 1914.

Directors Meeting, held on September 29th, 1914.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), H. J. Berry, F. W. Lovesy, Harry A. Dancey, W. A. Johns, A. C. Williams, C. E. Brown, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apology was received from Mr. S. W. Bingle.

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

Football Club and Groundsman.

A letter was read from the Football Club consenting to pay Harris the Groundsman 3/- per week while no Football was being played.

The Balance Sheet to August 31st, 1914.

The Balance Sheet to August 31st, 1914 was submitted by the Chairman showing a Balance in Revenue Account for the year of £113 9s. 10d.

Resolved to recommend that no dividend be paid this year, on the proposition of Mr. Lovesy seconded by Mr. C. E. Brown.

The Report as written by the Chairman was also passed.

The Secretary was ordered to summon the Annual General Meeting for 7:30 p.m. at the New Inn Hotel on Monday, October 12th.

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

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors Meeting held on October 12th, 1914.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), H. J. Berry, A. C. Williams, C. E. Brown, Harry A. Dancey, Fred. H. Bretherton, F. W. Lovesy, S. W. Bingle, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was received from Mr. Grimes.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and the Directors all attended the Annual General Meeting which followed.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

## 1915

Directors Meeting held on Friday, February 26th, 1915.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), Harry A. Dancey, H. J. Berry, A. C. Williams, F. W. Lovesy, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies were received from Messrs. C. E. Brown, F. H. Bretherton, W. Johns, and H. W. Grimes.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

New Certificate for C. G. Clark's Shares.

The Secretary reported that the Executors of the late Mr. Charles George Clark were unable to find the Share Certificate of the 50 Shares held by him, and having signed an indemnification a New Certificate had been issued to them.

Civil Training Corps. and Fire Insurance.

The Football Club having let the Gymnasium to the Civil Training Corps., the Secretary reported receiving a letter from the Insurance Company to the effect that the Insurance would not be prejudiced by the letting to the Training Corps.

Rates and Taxes.

As no rent was being received at present from any source, the Secretary was instructed to address the following to the Collector of Income Tax, and a similar one to the City Treasurer:

"Copy"

*With reference to your application for Income Tax.*

*Through the War no Football is being played or Gate money taken; therefore at present we are unable to say what rent the Football Club will be able to pay, and the Directors consider this a case that must remain for adjustment when the War is over. To the present, the Company have received no rent whatever.*

Re. Sale of Land.

Mr. Chinery enquired from Mr. Harry A. Dancey if the Board was still willing to sell some more land and at what price. Mr. Dancey read the letter he had received from Mr. Chinery.

Reference was made as to price and conditions on which the ground was sold for the Garage in April 1913, and after full discussion and a plan inspected by all the Directors showing the position of piece desired, it was resolved on the proposition of Mr. Lovesey, seconded by Mr. Dancey;

'That Mr. Dancey be instructed to offer to Mr. Chinery land 60 feet frontage by 150 feet deep at 6/- per square yard, but the land behind the Garage at 5/- per square yard, subject to the Purchaser, at his own expense, undertaking to remove or otherwise provide similar entrance gates and paving way, as now existing, in a position to be decided by the Directors; also to the plans of any proposed building upon the land being first submitted to and approved by the Directors.'

Harris the Groundsman, and the Chairman.

The Chairman mentioned that he himself was not at all satisfied with the amount of work done by Harris the Groundsman for the amount paid him weekly, viz. 6/- by the Company and 3/- by the Club, making a total of 9/- per week. The Chairman's contention was that there were minor repairs etc., which Harris ought to do, but did not.

A conversation on the matter followed and owing to the great scarcity of labour at present, the Directors thought no change could be made, but the Secretary was directed to inform Harris that his attention to the various repairs needed would be expected and that the Directors while realizing the difficulty of working in his time with other occupations, expected him to earn the money paid him.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors Meeting held on March 24th, 1915.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), Harry A. Dancey, S. W. Bingle, F. H. Bretherton, A. C. Williams, C. E. Brown, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apology from Mr. H. J. Berry.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Hudson's Offer for Summer Months.

Mr. Arthur Hudson's letter was read, making an offer of Five Guineas for the use of the Field for the four summer months, May, June, July, and August, for Cricket, Training, Tennis, Pony Grazing, School Treats, and Cycle Sports inclusive. Also that he should have the right to let the Ground for other purposes, such as Drilling, Circuses, Boxing Displays, Entertainments, Political and other meetings, etc. But when these extra lettings shall have brought an Income of £5, all amounts over that to be equally divided between the Company and Mr. Hudson.

On the proposition of Mr. Bretherton seconded by Mr. Bingle it was resolved to accept the offer.

? Sale of Land.

Mr. Harry A. Dancey read a statement from Mr. Chinery saying his (Mr. Chinery's) client was willing to offer £200 for the land as mentioned at the last Directors' meeting with 60ft frontage. The Directors decided not to entertain such an offer, but would be willing to accept £300 for the piece 60ft frontage with 150ft deep.

Mr. Dancey pointed out that he had suggested a piece with 40ft frontage and then a straight line to the River Twyver, which would amount to about 1416<sup>1</sup> yards, as per plan "B". The Directors were unanimous in the desirability of selling this and on the proposition of Mr. C. E. Brown seconded by Mr. Bingle, it was resolved to offer this piece for £200. Mr. Dancey consented to submit the offer.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

<sup>1</sup> The figure 266 has been crossed through and the figure 1416 inserted.

Directors Meeting held on Friday, April 16th, 1915.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), Harry A. Dancey, A. C. Williams, S. W. Bingle, F. W. Lovesy, F. H. Bretherton, H. J. Berry, Directors.  
H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was received from Mr. C. E. Brown.

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

Hudson's Agreement.

The Secretary reported the signing of the Agreement between Mr. Hudson and the Company for the summer months as per conditions decided at the last Directors' meeting.

Rates.

The Secretary reported a further application from the Corporation for City Rates and stated the City Authorities had reduced the amount under the present circumstances (viz. the Ground being practically void through the War) to one quarter the amount. The Secretary was directed to quote the amount he [was] expecting to receive in rents as near as could be ascertained. £38 1s. 0d. was the definite amount as near as could now be estimated.

On the proposition of Mr. Berry seconded by Mr. Bretherton it was resolved to pay the amount now demanded by the Corporation unless any further concession could be obtained by Mr. Grimes, who undertook to confer with the City Accountant on the matter.

Re. Land Plan "B" and Mr. Chinery.

Mr. Dancey reported Mr. Chinery, on behalf of his client, had offered £175 for the piece of land 40ft frontage as per Plan "B" referred to at the last Directors' meeting. However, anxious as all the Directors were to get rid of so much of the river bank they were unanimous in declining the offer, but as Mr. Grimes offered to interview Mr. Wm. Jones (Mr. Chinery's client) to see if he could effect a sale at a better price the Directors decided to leave the matter in his, Mr. Grimes', hands.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

N.B. Mr. Grimes subsequently saw Mr. William Jones and arranged the Sale of the Land at £200.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

June 28th, 1915.



Directors Meeting held at 20 Bell Lane, Gloucester (the offices of the Solicitor to the Company), on Friday, June 11th, 1915.

Present: Messrs A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. E. Brown, H. A. Dancey, Directors.  
H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

re. Land - Plan "B".

With reference to the last Minute of the last Directors' meeting, the Solicitor produced the engrossment of the conveyance from the Company to Mr. William Jones Junior of the piece of land agreed to be sold to him, the purchase price being £200.

Resolved on the proposition of the Chairman seconded by Mr. C. E. Brown that the Seal of the Company be affixed to this deed.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Meeting of Directors held at the New Inn Hotel on Monday, June 28th, 1915.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), H. J. Berry, A. C. Williams, C. E. Brown, Directors.

H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.

Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr. Bingle and Mr. Lovesy.

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

Football Club Rent, 1914-1915.

The Chairman explained the meeting had been called to consider the position of the Company and their tenants, the Football Club, and as to what rent the Club could pay, having regard to the fact that no Football had been played and in consequence no gate money having been taken and also that the Club were overdrawn at the Bank.

The Secretary produced an estimated Balance Sheet for the year ending August 31st 1915, whereby it was shown that the expenditure would amount to about £220 0s. 0d., while the receipts from other sources than Football would only amount to about £46 16s. 0d., which together with the Balance from last year £113 would bring the total receipts to about £160 0s. 0d.

No resolution was passed but it was recognised that if the Club could pay £150, it would meet the Company's liabilities to the end of the Company's present financial year.

At 8 o'clock a deputation from the Football Club attended, consisting of Messrs. Arthur F. Fielding, J. T. Brookes, L. Burton Barnes, H. Williams, W. H. Worth, and H. G. Brown.

The positions of the Club and Company were most fully considered, the result being that Mr. Arthur Fielding promised to call the Gentlemen together who were guarantors for the Club to the Bank, lay the whole matter before them and in due course further communicate with the Directors.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

August 20th, 1915.

Meeting of Directors held at the New Inn Hotel on Friday, August 20th, 1915.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), H. J. Berry, F. W. Lovesy, A. C. Williams, Directors.

H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.

Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Apologies were received from Messrs. C. E. Brown and H. A. Dancey.

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

Football Club Rent 1914-1915.

The following letter from Mr. Arthur Fielding had been received and each Director having read it, it was ordered to be entered in the Minutes.

*To the Chairman of Directors,  
The Gloucester Athletic Ground Co.,  
Northgate Street, Gloucester.*

*Dear Sir,*

*My Committee have asked me to write you suggesting that at your Annual Meeting a proposal should be made for each Shareholder to contribute 1/- per share with a view to raising sufficient money to pay the Mortgage interest.*

*The Football Club being the largest shareholder, are prepared to find their proportion provided five sixths of the remaining shareholders will agree to this proposal.*

*In addition the Football Club will make every effort to raise subscriptions from their members and supporters to endeavour to save the ground from falling into the hands of the Mortgagees. My Committee are of the opinion that the members and supporters of the Club will readily assist, providing it can be shown that the Shareholders of the Company are also making every effort in the same direction.*

*We consider that from a business point of view it is in the interests of every shareholder to very carefully consider the matter, as it is of course very obvious that the entire capital of the Company will be lost if the interest is unable to be paid.*

*Many of the Shareholders will no doubt at first demur at such a proposal, but if there should be a representative meeting the situation could be fully explained, and we feel sure that sufficient would support the proposition to enable it to be carried through.*

*We respectfully suggest that in calling your Meeting the matter should be brought to the notice of the shareholders to ensure a good attendance.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*(Signed) A. F. Fielding  
Chairman of the Gloucester Rugby Football Club.*

A discussion followed the reading of the letter and on the proposition of Mr. Lovesey seconded by Mr. Williams, the Chairman was instructed to reply to Mr. Fielding as follows:

*August 20th, 1915.*

*Dear Sir,*

*I duly received your letter of the 11th inst., and brought it before the Directors and the Directors feel it is a matter which they cannot deal with as a Board, but they will bring it before the Shareholders at the Annual Meeting.*

*At the same time I think it right to say the Directors do not think the Shareholders will agree to the suggestion.*

Stephens' Rent - Vinegar Works Corner.

The Secretary reported receiving an application from Messrs. John Stephens, Son, & Co., offering £10 for the use of a piece of land close to their works for 6 months, and stating Mr. Wm. Jones had agreed to allow them to use the doors into the portion let by him.

The Chairman explained the position of the suggested piece of land, and stated he had interviewed Mr. Harry Stephens who had consented to raise the offer to £15 for the six months providing the Directors' door near their works was closed during the six months.

On the proposition of Mr. Lovesey seconded by Mr. Berry the offer was accepted and the Secretary was directed to write Messrs. Stephens as follows:

*"In reply to yours of the 18th, my Directors will accept £15 for the hire of 130ft. x 75ft. of ground near your works at the position agreed with our Chairman (Mr. A. W. Vears) from August 23rd 1915 to February 28th, 1916, providing you undertake to make good any damages done by you to the Ground or fences.*

*The Directors also agree that the small door shall be secured and unused during your tenancy of the piece of Land."*

Harris, Groundsman, and Winter Months.

The Secretary reported that Mr. A. Hudson's tenancy would expire on August 31st and that he (Mr. Hudson) was discharging Harris on Saturday, August 28th. Therefore the question arose as to the future engagement of Harris by the Company during the winter months. After consideration it was agreed that if the Football Club would pay Harris for one day per week (3/-) the Company would pay him two days (6/-) and the Secretary was instructed to enquire if the Football Club would consent to this.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

September 28th, 1915.

Directors' Meeting held on Tuesday, September 28th, 1915.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), H. A. Dancey, A. C. Williams, F. W. Lovesy, S. W. Bingle, C. E. Brown, H. J. Berry, Directors.  
H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was received from Mr. Arthur Fielding.

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

Mr. Arthur Fielding - a Director.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Football Club stating Mr. Arthur Fielding had been duly appointed a Director representing the Football Club in place of Mr. W. Johns. The letter was ordered to be acknowledged.

Football Club Response to pay Harris during Winter Months.

The Secretary read a letter from the Football Club to the effect that they would not pay Harris for any time as suggested at the last Directors' meeting.

The matter was discussed and it was resolved that the Directors cannot accept the decision of the Football Club and ask them to reconsider the matter, and would point out that as the Club received the amounts of any sub-letting they are responsible and liable for at least a portion of the Groundsman's wages.

The Secretary was requested to interview the Chairman of the Football Club on the matter. This was carried on the proposition of Mr. C. E. Brown, seconded by Mr. H. A. Dancey.

Football Rent - Season 1914-1915.

As the accounts of the Company have to be made up it was resolved on the proposition of Mr. Bingle seconded by Mr. Brown that the Secretary write the Football [Club] and ask what the Club intended doing with regard to the amount they (the Club) can pay on account of the rent for 1914-1915 season.

Football Club Suggestions re. Shareholders subscribing 5% towards Mortgage Interest.

The following letter was read from Mr. A. F. Fielding in further reference to the suggestion that the Shareholders be asked to subscribe 5% on their holding towards funding the money to meet the Mortgage interest.

*To Mr. A. W. Vears,  
Chairman of the Gloucester Football & Athletic Ground Co., Ltd.,  
Northgate Street,  
Gloucester.*

*Dear Sir,*

*I am in receipt of yours of 21st and shall be sorry if your Shareholders will not agree to the suggestion made by my Committee, as I do not think they will consider themselves free to solicit subscriptions and donations from supporters of*

*Rugby Football unless they can definitely state that the Ground Company are equally assisting to save the Ground.*

*If your Shareholders have any other proposal in which the interest can be found I have no doubt your Committee would be glad to do all they can to co-operate.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*(Signed) A. F. Fielding*

*Chairman of the Gloucester Rugby Football Club.*

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors' Meeting held on Monday, October 11th, 1915.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), A. C. Williams, H. A. Dancey, S. W. Bingle, A. F. Fielding, F. W. Lovesy, F. H. Bretherton, H. J. Berry, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

An apology was received from Mr. H. W. Grimes.

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

This being the first meeting Mr. Arthur Fielding attended as a Director, the Chairman on behalf of the Board gave a warm welcome.

Harris and Football Club.

The Secretary reported having interviewed the Chairman of the Football Club and had also written the Football Club re. paying Harris for 1 day per week, and that now the Club had consented to do so as from September 1st.

Football Club's Rent.

A letter was read from the Treasurer of the Football Club to the effect that the income of the Club in the last financial year was £18, and that  $\frac{2}{3}$ rds of that amount, viz. £12 would be paid to the Company in due course.

3rd/5th. Gloucester Regiment and Baths.

An application was read from Captain H. S. Davis, Officer Commanding the 3rd/5ths of the Gloucestershire Regiment in camp at Sneedham's Green for the use of the Baths and Gymnasium, and at what price they could have the use of the Baths with hot water for two afternoons a week. The cost of coal, groundsman's time, and other expenses were considered. Coal, estimated 12/- per week; Harris, 2 days = 6/- and probably other incidentals after due consideration. It was resolved on the proposition of Mr. Lovesy seconded by Mr. Dancey that the charge be 25/- per week, for two afternoons, offering Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, to choose the two days from.

If the terms be accepted the Secretary was directed to order one cartload of coal only as the men of 3rd/5ths may be moving from Sneedham's shortly and therefore may only require the use of the Baths for a week or two.

Balance Sheet to August 31st, 1915.

The Secretary produced a Balance Sheet to the end of August which showed that when the Club had paid the £12, there would be in hand about £73 2s. 3d., but pointed out that there was outstanding Interest on Mortgage to June 24th; the sum of £74. After discussion it was resolved on the proposition of Mr. Bretherton seconded by Mr. Williams that £50 be paid to the Conservative Benefit Society on account of the Interest due.

The next Directors' Meeting was ordered to be called for Monday, October 25th, at 7:00 p.m.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors' Meeting held on Monday, October 25th, 1915.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. E. Brown, A. C. Williams, H. J. Berry, Harry A. Dancey, A. F. Fielding, F. W. Lovesy, S. W. Bingle, F. H. Bretherton, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

#### Football Rent.

The Secretary reported he had received from the Treasurer of the Football Club a cheque for £10 on account (and not £12 as promised in Mr. Worth's letter of October 6th). Also that from information obtained from Mr. Worth, the Secretary stated the total amount the Club had received up to August 31st 1915 was £28 11s. 0d.  
and deducting as the Club wished to  $\frac{1}{3}$  = £ 9 10s. 4d.  
left a balance on the Club's showing of £19 0s. 8d. due to the Company.

Seeing therefore the Club had only tendered £10 on account the Secretary asked the Directors for instructions on the matter. A long debate took place. Mr. Arthur Fielding pointed out that the Club had deducted the  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd. on the first and only signed Agreement between the Company and Club. The Chairman and other Directors pointed out that to meet the wishes of the Football Club, the terms had been altered many times for the sole purpose of helping the Football Club under various experiences.

Finally it was recognized that should the War end quickly it would be years before the Football Club would be in a position to pay its former rent and on the statement of Mr. Fielding that the Club would be quite willing to hand the Ground over to the Company, Mr. C. E. Brown proposed and Mr. Bretherton seconded and it was unanimously carried that the Shareholders be called together to consider the financial position of the Company at the earliest possible date.

#### Messrs. Stephens' want some Ground.

The Chairman stated Messrs. John Stephens, Son, & Co. wanted to either rent or buy about 1½ acres of the ground near their Works, but as the suggested position could not be at present defined or the negotiations reached a stage to report anything definite, he suggested a sub-committee be formed to meet Messrs. Stephens to ascertain their requirements and deal with the matter. On the proposition of Mr. Berry seconded by Mr. Bingle the following were appointed a sub-committee to obtain details;

The Chairman, Mr. C. E. Brown, Mr. A. F. Fielding, and Mr. F. W. Lovesy.

Mr. Fielding promised to call a meeting of the Committee of the Football Club to have in writing a confirmation that the Club was willing to give up the Ground.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.



Meeting of Sub-Committee re. Letting, or Selling More Land to Messrs. Stephens, Son, & Co.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), C. E. Brown, A. F. Fielding, F. W. Lovesy, Harry A. Dancey, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

Mr. Harry A. Dancey produced various plans showing how the whole Ground could be most profitably laid out for building sites and to the best advantage. The whole scheme was given a lengthy consideration and finally it was resolved on the proposition of Mr. Fielding seconded by Mr. Lovesy that the Directors offer to let to Messrs. Stephens a piece of land, as marked Green on Mr. Dancey's plan...

[Inscribed hereon is a freehand sketch of Mr. Dancey's plan]

... for a term of Five Years at £80 per annum, or for three years at £85 per annum, or to sell them the piece for £1,016, which is worked out at about 4/- per square yard.

The Secretary was instructed to state the Terms of Letting to Messrs. Stephens first and not selling price unless asked for. Also that the Offer should be conveyed to Messrs. Stephens in writing by the Secretary.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors' Meeting held on Monday, November 15th, 1915.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), A. F. Fielding, Harry A. Dancey, A. C. Williams, S. W. Bingle, C. E. Brown, F. W. Lovesy, Directors.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

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

Stephens' Letter - More Ground.

A letter was read from Messrs. Jno. Stephens, Son, & Co., stating they would not require the land offered as on plan, but that they would be glad to take an extension of the piece they at present rented to the extent of 25ft. in depth, making a total measurement of 130ft. by 100 [ft.] (instead of 130 x 75 as at present) for which they were prepared to pay £40 as from August 23rd 1915, to Dec. 31st, 1916.

The Directors carefully considered the matter and after a lengthy discussion it was resolved on the proposition of Mr. Lovesy seconded by Mr. Bingle to offer the increased size space, as from August 23rd 1915 to December 31st 1916, for the sum of £55, it being understood that Messrs. Stephens' would pay the amount on accepting the offer.

Football Club.

A letter was read from Mr. Arthur Fielding as Chairman of the Football Club, confirming his statement at the last Directors' meeting viz. that the Club agreed that the Company are at liberty to do whatever they think fit in connection [with] letting, hiring, or any other method in which the Ground can be utilised for the benefit of the Shareholders, and the Club also agreed that any sum of money they may receive above their expenses during the current year shall be handed over to the Company.

Balance Sheet and Report.

The Balance Sheet was read by the Chairman and the Directors' Report, showing a deficiency to August 31st 1915, of £36 17s. 1d. on the Revenue Account. [*sic*]

Annual General Meeting.

Resolved that the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders be held at the New Inn Hotel, Gloucester, on Monday, November 29th, 1915, at 7:30 p.m. Also that Messrs. A. W. Vears and C. E. Brown sign the Balance Sheet on behalf of the Board.

Football Club and Grazing.

A letter was read from Mr. H. G. Brown stating the Football Club had let the Grazing to Mr. A. Hudson for £10 10s. 0d. to August 31st, 1916.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

Directors' Meeting held on Monday, November 29th, 1915.

Present: Messrs. A. W. Vears (Chairman), F. H. Bretherton, H. J. Berry, Harry A. Dancey, C. E. Brown, F. W. Lovesy, A. F. Fielding, A. C. Williams, Directors.  
H. W. Grimes, Solicitor.  
Sidney S. Starr, Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Stephens' paid £55.

The Secretary reported Messrs. Stephens, Son, & Co. had accepted the terms for hire of 130ft. x 100ft. as per minute at last Directors' meeting and that they had paid the £55 which had been duly banked.

Football Club & Company.

The Chairman mentioned that he considered the time had come when all income from any source whatever should be paid to the Company, as from September 1st, 1915. With this the whole Board agreed and the Secretary was directed to write the Secretary of the Football Club and ask that all moneys received since September 1st should be handed to the Company and that the Club should instruct their sub-tenants, viz. Mr. A. Hudson and the Volunteer Training Corps. to pay their respective amounts to the Secretary of the Company.

Balance of Mortgage Interest to June 24th, 1915; - £24.

The £24 Balance of Mortgage interest due June 24th 1915 was ordered to be paid, now that there was money at the bank wherewith to pay it.

Volunteer Training Corps.

When the Football Club first let the Gymnasium to the Volunteer Training Corps. for 10/- per week, it was for the Gymnasium only. Now besides the Gymnasium, the Committee Room, Secretary's Office, bathrooms (one as a lock-up Armoury) and the whole field are used and he considered the Training Corps ought to pay at least one pound per week, particularly as it is expected the Army Reserve men will also be Drilling with the Training Corps and the buildings will be in continuous use during the winter.

The Board agreed that the rent should in future be one pound per week, and the Secretary was instructed to write the Training Corps to this effect.

The Directors then attended the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.