

ANNUAL MEETING OF GLOUCESTER FOOTBALL CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Gloucester Football Club was held at the Ram Hotel on Monday evening, Mr. T. G. Smith presiding over a large attendance of members.

Mr. H. J. Boughton, as one of the sub-committee appointed to try and procure a new ground, reported that they had done all they could with this end in view. They thought they had succeeded in obtaining Baddings Field, but, after negotiations were opened with the proprietor, the residents in London-road merporialised him, asking him on no consideration to let the ground to the Football Club, and so the negotiations were broken off. They then tried to get the field at the back of the station belonging to Mr. Vassar-Smith, but that gentleman informed them that he had promised the friends of the Home of Hope not to let the field to any sporting club. They then tried Beard's Field, Bristol-road, but learnt that if they had it they would have to leave at any time on receipt of 14 days' notice, as the land was up for sale in building lots. Having tried a place in Barton-street that was far too small, the matter dropped, and for the present the idea was given up.

Mr. H. B. Sloman suggested trying for a piece of land next to Linden-road, but the subject dropped without any resolution being arrived at.

On the proposition of Mr. S. G. Simpson, seconded by Mr. H. W. Bennett, Mr. T. G. Smith was unanimously re-elected captain of the first team, and Mr. Smith, in assuring the members of his intention to do his best for the club, said there was a time when he made up his mind to give up playing, but as the football season approached he felt some of the old enthusiasm coming over him.

Mr. W. G. Roberts was re-elected captain of the second team, on the motion of Mr. C. E. Brown, seconded by Mr. J. Mills, and Mr. S. G. Simpson yielded to a request that he would captain the Juniors.

Messrs. H. S. Simpson and A. W. Vears were re-elected hon. sec. and treasurer respectively. The next business was the election of a committee. The old committee consisted of the officers, with Messrs. H. J. Boughton, H. E. Taylor, H. E. Cadenne, R. H. O. Bankes, A. J. Barnes, W. H. Fream, E. D. Tandy, and C. E. Brown. At the last meeting of the committee it was recommended that no second team committee be elected; that the whole committee should not number more than ten, including the four officers; and that a sub-committee consisting of the two captains and three others, non-playing members (old football players by preference) be selected out of the general committee to pick the teams.

Mr. S. Starr pointed out that that non-playing members would not be able to see a man play off the Spa, and he assured the members that some men played very differently abroad to what they did at home. He opposed the proposed abolition of the second team committee, adducing as an argument that they had done their work well the facts that the second team was unbeaten for two successive seasons, and last winter only lost three matches. He suggested, too, that the task of selecting 30 men every week would be a heavy one for a small committee of five, and that therefore the work would not be properly done. He proposed and Mr. S. Bingle seconded, that the second committee be not abolished.

Mr. A. J. Barnes was in favour of the abolition of the second team committee, but understood that the sole committee was to have consisted of ten members, in addition to the officers, a fair proportion of whom were to represent the second team. As the second team should be looked upon as a recruiting ground for the first, these were members who were anxious to see some new blood infused into it with a view to the development of talent.

Mr. O. H. Jones contended that the second team had been a recruiting ground for the first, and the men from it who had assisted the premier team had been successful in every instance.

Mr. R. George knew a man playing for the first team that the second team would not have.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Barnes seconded that one committee only be appointed, to consist of the captains, six first team, and three second team representatives. This amendment was carried unanimously, and the following were then nominated for the committee.

First team representatives: Messrs. G. J. Dewey, H. J. Berry, H. J. Boughton, C. E. Brown, H. B. Sloman, E. D. Tandy, F. Tandy, W. H. Fream, A. J. Barnes, and C. Robbins. Second team representatives: Messrs. O. Jones, R. George, S. S. Starr, A. Matthews, H. G. Brown, and H. W. Bennett. The poll resulted in the following six being elected for the first team:- Boughton 62, Brown 60, Barnes 56, Sloman 49, E. D. Tandy 39, and F. Tandy 34; and the three following for the second team;- Bennett 52, George 47, Starr 45. The meeting then proceeded to elect the three non-playing members of the committee to act upon the team-selection committee, and Messrs. Boughton, Tandy and Bennett were selected to act with the two captains in determining who shall play.

The Secretary announced that matches had been arranged for the first team with Cirencester R.A.C. (2), Clifton (2), Moseley (2), Swindon (2), Cardiff (4), Swansea (2), Newport (2), and Llanelly (2), while special features of the season would be matches with the Maori team that is to visit England, and matches with Willesden and Kensington (the latter as usual on Boxing-day). A county trial match will also be played, and matches are arranged between the county and Oxford University, Somerset, and Devon. There were still eight more second team matches to arrange, but at present fixtures were made with the second team of the Moseley, Bristol, Cardiff, and Newport clubs, Westbury Park, and the Gordon Boys, who were to be assisted by their president, Mr. H. B. Champain of Cheltenham College, and other friends.

It was pointed out that there was a resolution on the minute book whereby local teams were excluded from the second team's list of engagement, and while that stood the Gordon Boys could not be played. After some discussion it was resolved by 32 to 25 to rescind the resolution in question, thus permitting of the fixture now proposed and giving the executive the option of arranging matches with local teams if they liked.

It was decided to have a colts match, and two practices, in which all local players would be invited to join, before the first match on October 13th, so that play on the Spa will commence on September 22nd.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings. It transpired in the course of the evening that the balance in the hands of the treasurer was £2. 10s. 6d.