

GRFC AGM 1932

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WHAT RUGBY DOES FOR CHARITY

GLOUCESTER CLUB'S EFFORTS

SOUND FINANCES

What Rugby football does for charity was clearly illustrated at the annual meeting of the Gloucester Football Club in the old Corn Exchange last night.

The Club's balance sheet showed that £124 8s had been given to local charities from the proceeds of last season. A balance of £320 16s 11d of income over expenditure was also shown.

Dr Arnold Alcock, the President, who was in the chair, said the Club's financial position was more than sound, and they had a substantial balance.

"What appeals to me," he said, "is the amount we are able to give to charity. Hospitals in these days, when they are struggling against the hard times, might well be grateful to Rugby football." Dr Alcock went on to refer to Mr A T Voyce organising a match at Bristol in aid of charity. The amount raised, he said, had been rather understated.

As a matter of fact, Mr Voyce was able to give £25 each to the Cheltenham, Lydney, Dilke Memorial, and Stroud Hospitals, and £47 10s to the Gloucestershire Royal Infirmary. That made £147 10s. The Bristol hospitals also received £147 10s. That was a grand total of £295.

Enjoyable Season

Dr Alcock said the last season could be described from the spectators' point of view as a most enjoyable one. It had been characteristic of the peace and concord between the Committee and the players.

Referring to L E Saxby, last year's captain, Dr Alcock said he was a wonderful leader. He was almost unique in being chosen in the Trial match straight away as leader of the forwards. He got his cap and made good. The Club would always remember him and ever be grateful for his leadership.

"That leads us on to the record of three Internationals in one match," continued the Chairman. "We also had nine of our players playing for the County. Is it any wonder that our playing record was not quite of the very best? The players being away spoiled the cohesion of our team. In fact, we were a little too good to play for records."

Optimistic Future

In regard to the prospects for next season, one could not but be other than extremely optimistic. All the forwards except Saxby they hoped to have with them. The backs they hoped would be the same, with added experience. McCanlis and Tanner were also extremely keen to turn out again.

The Supporters' Club had given £13 10s to the junior clubs to help bring them up to a high standard.

He concluded by saying how sorry they were that Mr H G Kingscott was not putting up again for election on the Committee.

Mr A Hudson (general secretary) presenting the balance sheet, said it was one of which he was proud. The progress they had made in the last 10 years had been wonderful. In regard to the subscriptions which were £20 or £30 down, he said the number of members was exactly the same. The fact that the subscriptions were down was due to the fact that several members could not quite afford the £1 subscription, and had switched over to the 8/6 tickets.

Committee's Report

The committee's report stated that from the playing point of view the season was not as successful as they had hoped. That was due in a large measure to the calls made on the players for international, county and trial games. Only at rare intervals were they able to field a full side.

The report also referred to the services rendered to the club by L E Saxby. The value of the service he had rendered as player and captain could not be over-estimated. He carried with him into his retirement the gratitude and affection of every player and all who watched "Rugger" at Kingsholm. "We can ill afford to lose men such as "Sax", but anno domini is a stern master and will be served," the report continued.

Smarter Turn-Out

Before the balance sheet was put to the meeting a member suggested that more money might be spent on jerseys and knickers. The amount spent was £83, but he would like to see over £100 for that item. On some Saturday afternoons the team had not been turned out on the field in the way they should have been. He knew they were not going to a garden party, but on some occasions their jerseys were in a terrible state. The secretary need not fear condemnation from that meeting if another £20 was spent. (Applause)

Mr Hudson said the remarks would receive serious consideration. It was a nice criticism of the balance sheet, and would be duly observed.

The Rev Hensman proposing the election of the president, vice-presidents and secretary, said he thoroughly agreed with that criticism, although it was sometimes difficult to turn out smartly at times such as Easter when they played three matches in four days. The satisfactory balance sheet was due not only to the loyalty of the spectators, but the way in which Mr Hudson managed the affairs. He kept the expenses down without inflicting hardships on the players.

Tribute to Spectators

Last year he had reminded them that the players were playing for the sake of the game and not for the spectators alone. The power of the Press was illustrated by the fact that in the following few weeks he had letters from all parts of the country from old friends and unknown people supporting his view.

Mr Hensman continued that as one who had played all his Rugby in other parts of the country he could say that he had never known a crowd of the size of Gloucester behave in such a sporting way in which the Gloucester crowd did towards visiting teams. He congratulated the spectators.

The following officers were elected:

President: Dr Arnold Alcock

Vice-Presidents: Messrs A F Fielding and J T Brookes
Captain 1st team: Mr F Wadley; Vice-Captain: Mr R James
Captain United team: Mr G Fowke
General Secretary: Mr A Hudson
Committee: Messrs F A Abbey (154), F W Ayliffe (149), H J Balchin (156), A Brown (130), G F Clutterbuck (153), Rev H J Hensman (160), Messrs E T James (157), T Millington (166), J F Scoon (157), S Smart (132), A T Voyce (156). Players' representative: Mr T Hiam.

United's Wonderful Season

Mr J T Brookes referred to the wonderful season the United team had had, and Mr Hudson, also thanking the meeting for his re-election, said since 1920 the club had given £1,650 to Gloucester charities, and local clubs had benefitted by about £550. Mr A T Voyce said the team relied a tremendous lot on the skippers. Last year their skipper was excellent on the field and off. He was sure Wadley had learned a lot from Saxby. He knew how to play the game and how to treat the players. He had the whole of the players and the Committee behind him, and Mr Voyce continued that he was sure Wadley would have a successful season.

Referring to the Rugby Union's split with France, he said it had upset the international table, and they all trusted that the split would soon be healed. He concluded by asking for more support for the second team.

Ladies' Season Reduction

At the end of the meeting the question was raised as to reduction in ladies' season tickets.

Mr Hudson said the request was made last season for a reduction in ladies' season tickets. The committee had considered it, but the question was affected by the increased entertainment tax contained in the Budget last November. Every season ticket now had a tax put upon it, and it meant that extra to what they had to pay last year the club would be called upon to pay over £100 on a similar number of tickets. The committee had decided that as the club had agreed to pay the extra tax they might leave any alteration alone for one season at least.

The Rev H J Hensman said if the Government had not inflicted the tremendous extra expenditure the committee would have reduced the prices, at any rate of the ladies' season tickets. They could not, however, increase their liabilities this year because if they did they would be fighting to avoid a deficit. The club were bearing the extra tax.