

GRFC AGM 1933

From The Citizen, Saturday 1st July 1933:

GLOUCESTER FOOTBALL CLUB

HIGH HOPES FOR NEXT SEASON

EXCELLENT RECORD

Gloucester Rugby Football Club, with one of the most successful seasons behind them, are looking forward to next season – their diamond jubilee – with high hopes.

Dr Arnold Alcock, the President, who occupied the chair at the annual general meeting in the Corn Exchange last night, said they were winding up one of the most successful seasons in the history of the club.

From the playing point of view they had done as well as any first-class club could be expected to do in these times when the opposition was of such a standard of good football. Everything during the season could be described as harmonious and happy. That was due to the efforts of Mr Brookes, Mr Hudson, and the Committee. They congratulated Wadley on a most successful season. They could not forget two victories over Newport. It was pleasing to see the gate receipts of the Second Team were up by about £20, and it was no mean effort to distribute £144 to charity. Considering they paid out £750 to the Government and the local government, it was wonderful to show a balance of £216.

Prospects

“We must all be pleased when we think of the prospects of next season,” continued the President. “I might remind you it is our diamond jubilee next season. No club has ever embarked on a season with better prospects. We have young players coming on, with their experience of last season.”

He congratulated Mr A T Voyce on being President of the County Union. He concluded his remarks with a vote of thanks to “The Citizen.” “We owe a great deal to the Press,” he said. “Sportsmen revel in the Football Edition of “The Citizen.” I mention that because in the last number of the “Football Citizen” W B made a very nice remark of thanks to the officials and the Committee of this Club. We reciprocate those feelings whole-heartedly, and are always delighted to see “W B,” whom we can describe as a perfect encyclopaedia on Rugby football.”

Mr A Hudson, presenting the balance sheet, which was published in “The Citizen” on Thursday, said there had been an increase in membership amounting to £70. The gate receipts actually showed a slight increase per match. In regard to rates, he thought the authorities could well reduce the rateable value of the ground. He pointed out that the ground was used for all kinds of charitable institutions in the city. If the Education Committee wanted a ground they had to go to Kingsholm to borrow it. That should be taken into consideration.

Old Grand Stand

One member pointed out that the balance sheet showed a deposit of £958 17s 6d at the bank. He was voicing the opinion of many members when he said that some of that money might well be spent in pulling down the old grand stand. It was about time the committee resolved to do that, and put a covered stand nearly the whole length of that side, similar to Bristol. (Applause.)

The chairman said it was an excellent suggestion, and the committee would give it very careful consideration. They must understand, however, that times had been difficult, and they were doubtful always as to the future and dare not move too quickly.

A member asked why the grants to local clubs was down by £11, and the Rev H J Hensman pointed out that there had been a special grant the year before to the Gordon League for their ground.

Several people representing local clubs said they accepted the grants as being quite satisfactory.

Officers Re-elected

Ald. S J Gillett proposed the election of the officers, voicing the club's appreciation of the services rendered by Dr Alcock as President. No-one, he added, had done more for local football than Mr A F Fielding, Mr J T Brookes and Mr A Hudson.

The Rev H J Hensman seconded, and the officers were elected as follow: President, Dr Arnold Alcock; vice-Presidents, Messrs A F Fielding and J T Brookes; general secretary, Mr A Hudson.

Dr Alcock, in reply, said it was his tenth year in the office of President. He also paid tribute to Mr Hensman's representation of the Gloucester Club on the County Union.

Future Arrangements

Mr Hudson gave some interesting details of arrangements for the future. The fixtures, he said were not very much changed. Bristol would be playing here on the last Saturday in September, and Oxford University would be here for a last run-out before the 'Varsity match. The year after next the Club would be playing London Scottish and Richmond again. The reputation of the club was higher than ever it was. "We are looking forward to another really good season from the playing point of view," he added. They were also doing all they could to improve the second team fixture list.

Committee and Captains

The election for the committee resulted as follow: F W Ayliffe (142), F A Abbey (141), E T James (138), J F Scoon (136), the Rev H J Hensman (134), H J Balchin and T Millington (132), A T Voyce (120), S Smart (118), and Harry Berry (101).

Those who were not elected were: A Brown (99), F W James (81), and George Romans (80).

The meeting accepted the players' nominations for the following offices: Captain First XV, F Wadley; vice-Captain, J C Brooks; Captain United, G Fowke; players' representative on the committee, T Hiam.

It was suggested that the club should thank Mr J Holder for refereeing the Boxing Day match at a moment's notice, and that Mr J Hemming should be made a life member of the club. The chairman said the committee would bear those things in mind.

Committee's Report

The Committee, in their report for the season congratulated the players who had represented the club, on a most successful season. The first fifteen had a record of which any side might be proud, and which might bear comparison with the record of any of the first clubs in the country. The record made even more satisfactory reading when it was realised that several matches, including the two games against Leicester, were lost by the narrowest of margins. The class of football served up was real first class stuff.

The United had also had a most successful season. For a long period the side was unbeaten, and it finished up with only three matches lost out of 27.

A welcome feature of the season's work was the number of games won away.