

GRFC AGM 1934

From The Citizen, Saturday 7th July 1934:

GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB'S GREAT YEAR

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION

TRIBUTES AT ANNUAL MEETING

As might be expected after a record season, both on the field and financially, congratulations and expressions of gratitude were features at the annual meeting of the Gloucester Rugby Football Club, last night, in the Old Corn Exchange.

Officers, members and players were all highly delighted with the splendid balance sheet Mr A Hudson (the secretary) had to put before them.

Dr Arnold Alcock, who was in the chair, said it was his especial pride to be able to say that the great club of 60 years' standing had created a record in the past season. One must congratulate the Committee, the Secretary, and the players on that wonderful feat. It was a great thing to read at the end of last season in the London Press that the Gloucester Club was the finest English club.

The season, he continued, began with disaster in the fire in the grandstand, and ended in triumph. Out of the evil of the fire came good.

Almost An Old Story

It was almost an old story, continued Dr Alcock, to know that they had a record number of wins in one season. The London clubs were beaten, and the game with Oxford University might be put down as one of the finest ever played on Kingsholm.

"It is rather a good thing," he said, "while we are patting ourselves on the back that we had a humiliation when we played the seven-a-side games, but the lesson was learned, and a great deal of notice will be taken of it."

In regard to the financial side, again it was magnificent work, and their standing was very high. What struck him so forcibly was that their season tickets amounted to nearly £1,000.

When they had that regular support the club was on a sound foundation. The gate receipts, amounting to five figures, made one almost frightened as to what they were going to do in the future if they went on on such a wonderful scale.

As the old stand had now been demolished, by next season they would have another magnificent stand to accommodate 3,000 people.

“We shall then have one of the finest grounds in the country,” he added. “From what we know of the keenness of our players there is no reason why we should not again have the best playing side in the country.”

Played as a Team

He congratulated Wadley on the way he had led the side, and on his achievement in playing in every match, and instilling friendship and good fellowship among the team so that they played as a team.

The Committee, in their report, congratulated the players who had represented the club on a most successful season. The first team, under the leadership of Fred Wadley, registered wins against such notable sides as Oxford University, Bristol, Leicester (twice), Blackheath, Swansea (twice), Harlequins, Guy’s Hospital (twice), Llanelly and the O M T s.

The 29 wins recorded established a record for the club, and the number of points, 556, had only been exceeded in one previous season.

The full record of the first fifteen was: Played 39, won 29, drawn 2, lost 8. Points for 556, against 205.

The United, under the captaincy of G Fowke, for the third season in succession was undefeated at Kingsholm. Twenty-two games were won and five lost, while 428 points were scored, against 136. The team contained several players of distinct promise for first-class games.

The Committee appreciated the forbearance of the members in the temporary inconvenience caused by the loss of the grandstand by fire, and recorded their thanks to the County Cricket Club for the use of temporary stands. The Committee had arranged to take down the old stand and to erect a covered stand to accommodate 3,000 people.

Satisfactory Increase

Membership and gate receipts showed a satisfactory increase, and to show a profit of £113 13s 2d on the season was no mean achievement.

The Committee recorded their appreciation of the services of the secretary (Mr A Hudson) in a season of much extra work on the ground, which had been carried out to the satisfaction of the Committee. To Dr Alcock, the President, Dr Greene, members of St John Ambulance, the referees, local clubs, schools’ union, the Press and all those who had helped and supported the game in Gloucester they tender thanks.

The diamond jubilee year of the club would have fragrant memories of difficulties overcome and many delightful exhibitions of rugby.

Mr A Hudson, presenting the report and balance sheet, remarked that they had 200 more members than they had last season. There was a balance of income over expenditure of £113 13s 2d. In answer to a question, he said that when local matches

and schoolboys' matches were played at Kingsholm, the Club made no charge for the use of the ground and gave them all the takings. (Hear, hear.)

Help For Juniors

Mr A Brown, proposing the re-election of the officers, said the balance sheet showed the work they had put in.

Mr A H Margrett, seconding, expressed the Supporters' Club's gratitude to Dr Alcock and Mr J T Brookes for helping them to organise junior football in Gloucester. He paid tributes to the business qualities of Mr A Fielding and the organising ability and work of Mr Hudson, who had spent hours on the ground in regard to the new stand. He also expressed the Supporters' Club's gratitude to Wadley and the team.

Dr Alcock, in reply, congratulated Mr F J Pitt and those responsible for the programmes.

Mr Hudson thanked the President and the Committee for their support.

The officers who were re-elected were: President, Dr A Alcock; vice-presidents, Messrs A F Fielding and J T Brookes; general secretary, Mr A Hudson.

Committee

The result of the ballot for the Committee was: Messrs H J Balchin (158), E T James (150), G F Clutterbuck (147), F W Ayliffe (145), J F Scoon (144), T Millington (140), A T Voyce (134), F A Abbey (131), S Smart (125), R N Loveridge (118), and H H Berry (118). Those who were not elected were: Messrs S T Davies (110), the Rev H J Hensman (107), and F W James (66).

The President congratulated Mr Loveridge, an old player, on being elected to the Committee.

The nominations of Mr F W Wadley as captain for the third successive season, Mr J C Brooks as vice-captain, Mr G Fowke as captain of the United, and Mr T Hiam as players' representative on the Committee, were confirmed.

Mr Hensman's Services

Mr Brookes expressed the club's gratitude to the Rev H J Hensman for his services and wished him a speedy recovery from his illness. Mr Hensman, he said, had written to the Committee saying that he did not wish his name to go forward owing to ill-health, but they thought it only right to nominate him.

Mr A Brown seconded Mr Brookes' expression of thanks, and said he was sorry Mr Hensman had not been re-elected. He was always a constructive committeeman.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr Hensman expressing the Club's thanks.

New Rules

A member asked if books of the rules of the game could be supplied by the Secretary, and Mr A T Voyce replied that they could be found in the County Union handbook. It was suggested that the handbooks should be sold on the ground at the beginning of the season.

Mr Hudson said the rules had been altered, and spectators would get more pleasure out of the game by reading the new rules.

Improvements were also asked for in exits, one member mentioning the one on the popular side which was small for the number of people going out. It was also pointed out that motor cars came out at the same time as the large crowds into Worcester-street, and there was the possibility of a serious accident.

The President said they were all helpful criticisms and the Committee would consider them.

A Great Asset

Mr Margrett concluded the meeting by expressing the Club's gratitude to "The Citizen", and "W B" for the reports of the matches during the season.

"The Citizen is a great asset to the Football Club" he said. "It is sent to all parts of the country and overseas and the lucid way in which "W B" writes is greatly appreciated. Many people whose business carries them away like to read the reports and keep in touch with the Club."

A hearty vote of thanks to "The Citizen" and "W B" was carried unanimously.