

GRFC AGM 1935

From The Citizen, 6 July 1935:

## **GENEROUS GIFTS TO GLOUCESTER CHARITIES**

### **CITY RUGBY CLUB'S FINE RECORD**

#### **TRIBUTES AT ANNUAL MEETING**

In the fifteen years since its reorganisation after the Great War, the Gloucester Rugby Football Club has given £2,200 to charities in Gloucester alone.

This praiseworthy fact was revealed at the annual general meeting of the club held last night in the Old Corn Exchange, Gloucester, Dr Arnold Alcock (president) in the chair.

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

Dr Alcock referred to a comment he overheard at Twickenham when he was there to witness the seven-a-side competition. A Londoner behind him remarked that "the next team coming on is Gloucester, the leading provincial club." (Applause.) From his remarks afterwards it was obvious that he knew a great deal about the game, which was even more pleasing.

That incident revealed what a reputation they had, and what a task they would have to face to keep up that reputation. That reputation had been built up firstly by their hard-working officials, whose hearts and souls were in the game, and by the players, most of whom had been born and brought up round about the City in the spirit of Rugby football.

#### **Puzzling Fact**

As president of the club, he liked to think he was a personal friend of every committeeman and every player. Their club, although 62 years old, was in excellent health and very virile.

The Supporters' Club had backed them up very well during the year. It was difficult to say why that club was not very much stronger. When their policy was known, he thought it ought to be considerably stronger, because their main object was to foster junior football in the city.

"if we allow those junior clubs to fade out," said Dr Alcock, "where are the players coming from. I appeal to everybody to do what they can in pushing on the work of the Supporters' Club which stands in very much the same category as the United."

Justifiably favourable comments had greeted the publication of the balance sheet which he thought was a record one. They had read in "The Citizen" of the wonderful assets and strong membership of the club, but he wished to draw their attention to the

particularly low expenses, which could be traced back very largely to the wonderful work of the secretary. (Applause.)

“As for the season,” continued Dr Alcock, “we cannot call it by any means a record one, but I think that some of the finest exhibitions of Rugby football were given at Kingsholm as ever before.”

The match with Leicester was one of scintillating and brilliant play, and what happened then on the football field was almost unknown previously.

A lot of that was due to Fred Wadley, team captain for three years, who held the brilliant record of having played in every match for two seasons. (Applause.)

### **Life Members ?**

Another player he must mention was Roy James, who last season probably played better than ever before, and he was almost certain that the committee would strongly recommend that these two players be made life members of the Gloucester Club.

Then there was Boughton, who had added great lustre to the club, and after his wonderful goal-kicking especially, he did not think there was a man in the country who had not read his name, and the name of the Gloucester Club in the Press.

Regarding C C Tanner, he was pleased to say that his new duties would not take him very far away, and he was still very keen to turn out again next season.

The report of the committee extended congratulations to all players on a fine season. The first team, under the leadership of Fred Wadley for the third year, accomplished many notable performances and generally the games were a delight and pleasure to players and spectators alike. Twenty-five victories was a splendid record, and the number of points scored had only been exceeded in two previous seasons.

The first team had played 39 games, winning 25 and losing 14, and scoring 550 points against 314. The United had another successful season under the captaincy of George Fowke and maintained the ground record for the fourth season in succession. Twenty-five games were won, on drawn, and five lost, while 528 points were scored against 178. The report stated that the team contained several players of distinct promise, who should prove of great value to the premier side.

### **Thanks Expressed**

The grateful thanks of the club were accorded Fred Wadley and George Fowke who were retiring from active service as players, while congratulations were extended to Harold Boughton on gaining international honours.

The ground and buildings had been kept in good condition and a new covered stand erected capable of accommodating 3,000 persons in place of the old one. Advantage was taken of squaring the ground and it was hoped that these improvements had been appreciated.

The committee again desired to record their appreciation of the services of the Secretary, who had done much extra work in connection with the new stand. They also thanked Dr Alcock, Dr J Greene, St John Ambulance Association, Gloucester Supporters' club, referees, local clubs, schools' union, and the Press for their invaluable help.

The financial statement (revealing a total income of £,962 16s and a profit on last season's working of £360 3s 9d) has already been published in "The Citizen."

Mr A Hudson, general secretary, presenting the balance sheet for the fifteenth time, said that a very substantial trade balance was revealed. Subscriptions had increased by over £100, while membership was about 100 up on last year. Their balance sheet was one of stupendous figures, which, Mr Hudson contended, was quite necessary for a club of the standing of Gloucester. Their assets could not be too great because they were only an amateur side.

### **Wonderful Record**

In answer to a question, Mr Hudson said that local club grants were down that year because the Spartans had dropped out. They were prepared to give every support to local clubs who had only to make application to the committee.

The balance sheet was unanimously adopted.

Mr A T Voyce proposed the re-election of officers for the coming season. He spoke in eulogistic terms of the splendid work performed by Dr Alcock and Mr J T Brookes, chairman of the committee. Their club, after the War, was brought into being again, mainly through the activities of Mr A Fielding, Mr J T Brookes and Mr W Ayliffe. Cordial thanks, too, were due to their indefatigable secretary (Mr Hudson).

Mr A Brown seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Dr Alcock, in reply, said that his first year as president of the Club coincided with Mr Voyce's first captaincy of the Club in its Jubilee year. He paid tribute to Mr J T Brookes and extended congratulations to him on his election as vice-President of the County Union.

Mr Brookes thanked the secretary, committee and players for their continued support; Fred Wadley for the splendid manner in which he had led the team; George Fowke, the retiring United captain, and the members of the Club and supporters. He congratulated John Brooks and Trevor Hiam, who had been nominated, as captains of the first and United teams respectively.

"Over £2,200 has been given to charities in Gloucester alone in the 15 years since our reorganisation after the Great War," said Mr Hudson amidst applause.

This was a wonderful record, and he hoped the people of Gloucester would not be unmindful of it.

## **Officers and Committee**

The following officers were re-elected:

President: Dr Arnold Alcock

Vice-Presidents: Messrs A F Fielding and J T Brookes

General Secretary: Mr A Hudson

The nominations of Mr J C Brooks as captain of the first team, Mr Don Meadows as vice-captain, Mr Trevor Hiam as captain of the United, Mr Ivor Williams as players' representative on the committee were confirmed.

The result of the ballot for the committee was: Messrs H J Balchin (152), F W Ayliffe (140), E T James (138), J F Scoon (127), F A Abbey (122), H H Berry (121), T Millington (117), S Smart (112), S T Davies (111), R N Loveridge (109), and A T Voyce (108). Those who were not elected were Messrs G F Clutterbuck (107), and W Reed (61).

The Chairman thanked Mr Clutterbuck for his past services on the committee.

Mr Brown said he considered local Rugby football to be at the lowest ebb it had ever been. There were now about four or five teams and in the old days there were about 14. Clubs not only needed financial support, but also moral support.

Mr Voyce asked those present if it was their wish that the suggestion should be put before the committee regarding the advisability of obtaining a ground for local clubs as had been done in Bristol.

By a unanimous vote the meeting advanced this suggestion for the consideration of the committee.