

The Citizen

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1946.

RUGBY.

MEMORIAL GROUND PLAN FOR CITY.

Gloucester Rugby Football Club launched at its annual meeting in the Central Church Hall on Wednesday evening, a memorial fund to purchase a ground for the use of local Rugby Clubs.

It will commemorate Rugby players who made the supreme sacrifice in the two great wars. The ground envisaged will be large enough for five or six playing pitches, and will be situated outside the City. So far about £800 is in hand to start the fund.

Dr. A. Alcock, who was re-elected President of the club, announced that the Club had voted £500 as a start, and the Hon. Sec., Mr. A. Hudson, had generously given to the fund the whole of the honorarium of £150 which the Committee had voted him for the war years.

Mr. A. T. Voyce said the Committee planned to put some money they had received from the services matches to the fund, and the President had handed a cheque to the Hon. Treasurer.

Dr. Alcock told the meeting that it was Mr. Hudson who had thought of the scheme and planned it. He knew that what was needed and what would be a real memorial to last for generations was a playing field for many Rugby Clubs in Gloucester and district.

Mr. H. Smith (Hon. Sec. of the North Gloucester Combination) said that for many years the ground question had been a bugbear to local clubs and the Combination and the local clubs were very grateful that the Gloucester Club was going to help them.

Financial Success

The accounts and balance sheet presented by Mr. Hudson showed remarkable financial success. He pointed out, however, that the year had been an abnormal one, and one could not make real comparisons with the previous season of 1938-39. They had finished the year with a balance of income over expenditure of £648, whereas their profit in 1938-39 had been £287. Their expenses would almost certainly go up in the coming season, and he added a word of warning about husbanding their resources.

The gross income was shown at £6,287. Subscriptions at £551 showed a reduction of nearly 50 per cent, but they had had the stupendous figure of £4,993 in gate receipts. Another large item of income was the grant from the Services for the International matches of £340. The income, he said, was just double what it was in the last playing season.

On the expenditure side, Entertainment Tax had taken £1,999, compared with £222 in 1939, and altogether their taxes amounted to £3,092. Their share of local rates was £218, and that would be over £300 in an ordinary season. Expenses for away matches were £180 compared with £400 in the last season, and home matches expenses had cost £154 compared with £268.

Another item which would be very much greater in future was ground expenses, shown in the statement as £148 wages, £15 special

expenses, and £94 repairs and renewals. Mr. Hudson pointed out that they would have to replace their railings which would cost £400 or £500.

The profit of £648 was in addition to the £550 for the playing field memorial.

The balance sheet, showing assets very conservatively estimated at £11,848, showed the strong financial position of the Club.

Two New Offices

Among a number of changes of rules agreed to by the meeting was the alteration of the name from the Gloucester Football Club to the Gloucester Rugby Football Club. Two new offices created were Treasurer and Fixture Secretary, and the President announced that the offices of Secretary and Treasurer would be taken honorarily. Increases in subscriptions and season tickets were agreed to.

Proposing the re-election of Dr. Alcock as President for the 24th time, Mr. Voyce said the great success of the Club was largely due to him and his guiding hand at Committee meetings. A number of members paid tribute to Dr. Alcock's work for the Club.

Messrs. A. T. Voyce and A. Hudson whom, the President said, had kept Rugby alive in Gloucester during the war by the enormous amount of work they did in arranging for the Services International matches at Kingsholm, were elected Vice-Presidents. Mr. Hudson was also re-elected hon. secretary, a position he has held for over 25 years. Mr. H. J. Balchin was elected to fill the newly-created position of hon. treasurer to take over the financial side from Mr. Hudson.

Committee Voting

Voting for the Committee resulted in the following being elected: Messrs. S. Smart 75 votes, F. Wadley 74, H. Boughton 72, T. Millington 67, F. A. Abbey 58, R. N. Loveridge 58, L. H. Middleditch 54, T. Burns 45, G. Halford 43, R. E. Hook 34, and S. F. Taylor 30.

Several tributes were paid to Mr. Harold Boughton's fine captaincy during the last playing season, and he and Mr. A. D. (Bumps) Carpenter were elected life members of the Club.

In regard to the prospects for next season, Mr. Voyce said they would carry on the pre-war tradition by running a second team and, provided young local players would join them, although they had not got a second team yet, they hoped to be able to field a good one.