

GRFC AGM 1948

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GLOUCESTER RUGBY CLUB'S RECORD SEASON

Financial records were broken last season by the Gloucester Rugby Football Club as well as equalling the record number of victories in matches. With gate receipts totalling £6,007 and Income from members' subscriptions at £1,359, the highest income of all time, £8,120, was reported at the annual general meeting of the Club in the Cadena Café, last night.

This was in spite of petrol restrictions during the winter affecting the attendance at matches.

Expenditure, too, showed enormous increases, and, said the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. H. J. Balchin), gave an indication of the kind of figures they would have to face when they were allowed to carry out the improvements to the ground which were planned.

In spite of that, however, the profit shown was £1,910. Last year it was £926.

The Club had to pay almost double in amusement tax compared with last year at £1,006. The expenses of away matches, including the longest tour in the Club's history were nearly trebled at £896.

Refreshments, canteen and tea expenses were more than doubled at £326, as was the playing equipment at £113, and special ground expenses, which included the cost of putting wire all round the ground, were £208, compared with £35. Mr. Balchin said they had permission to spend about £180 on the ground.

The Club also increased its grants to local clubs by £60 with a total of £155. Lighting and fuel at £65 was almost double, and income tax had gone up by £240 to £1,120. The Club also made another grant of £200 to the Rugby Memorial Fund for a ground for local clubs.

The balance sheet showed assets totalling £16,525.

Successful, But Difficult Season

"Our one thought," said the President (Dr. Arnold Alcock) "has been reconstruction, building up a new side, and looking to the future. We have the ground, and we have the men, and our balance sheet is very good indeed, but what we cannot get are licences and permits to improve the ground for members and players."

He went on to say that although it had been a successful season, it had been the most difficult in the long history of the club. The reason for that was the absence

of Mr. Arthur Hudson, the Hon. Sec., whom they had to do without since last February, when he was taken ill.

This had meant that others had had to do a little bit extra. Mr. T. Millington in his first year as Chairman had had to go on without a Secretary, and Mr. Tom Burns, the Hon. Fixtures Secretary, had had to take on extra work, helped by Mr. S. F. Taylor.

The playing pitch at Kingsholm had given them great anxiety because frost and age had put it in bad condition. It had been fertilised, seeded, and turfed, play being stopped after the Harlequins match, April 10.

He spoke of the Memorial Fund which now totalised £1,817, and thanks to the efforts of Messrs. R. N. Loveridge and S. F. Taylor, the programmes had brought £350 for the fund.

Roy Morris' Record

He congratulated the players on their most successful season, Gordon Hudson, a great captain who had sacrificed himself considerably in thinking of his team rather than advancing himself in the game, and Roy Morris, a great hearted old warrior who had played in all the 40 matches which was a record. The United team had also put up some excellent games under the great influence of W. Moreland and of W. Cale who had acted as non-playing captain and got the side together.

Finally, he said, they gave thanks that they had had few serious injuries. Alan Wadley, who was injured in February, had been operated on a few weeks ago very successfully and they hoped his knee would stand the strain in the future.

Mr. T. Goddard, who proposed the election of the officers, pointed out that Dr. Alcock was entering his twenty-fifth year, as President, and that Mr. Hudson had had over 25 years experience as Secretary. Mr. C. Williams, who seconded, thought that Dr. Alcock ought to be made a life member of the Club.

Officers elected were: President, Dr. Arnold Alcock; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. A. T. Voyce and A. Hudson; Hon. Secretary: Mr. A. Hudson; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. H. J. Balchin; Hon. Fixture Secretary: Mr. T. Burns.

One Committee Change

Voting for the committee resulted in one change, the Rev. H. M. Hughes, who played for the City immediately before the war, topping the poll and displacing Mr. A. F. Abbey. The result of the ballot was: The Rev H M Hughes 92, T H Millington 91, F Wadley 86, S Smart 79, L H Middleditch 75, R N Loveridge 69, S F Taylor 67, R H James 61, H Boughton 59, G Halford and R E Hook 52.

Those not elected were: F A Abbey 47, H W Collier 41, H G Smith 39, Ben Price 27, E C Rogers 26, E F Martin 19.

The president spoke of the great services which Mr Abbey had rendered to the club, and said it was a touching thing to lose him from the committee.

Value of Schools

Mr Voyce spoke of the great value of the schools to Rugby and said he hoped that shortly the Rugby Union would recognise the great schoolboy movement and also the other movements which dealt with lads up to 17 and 18.

There would be four pitches available at Estcourt-road for local Rugby thanks to the Parks and Cemeteries Committee, but while they had hunted for a memorial ground they had not been able to find one yet.

Mr Tom Burns mentioned criticisms in "The Citizen" and by members of the committee as to whether they should encourage the return of Welsh teams to the fixture list, and asked for an expression of opinion, but no more was said of this.

Tom Price was congratulated by several speakers on gaining international honours, and it was agreed to send a telegram of congratulations on his cricket scores this season to Willie Jones, and a letter of sympathy to Mr Ralph Roberts the County Rugby Hon. Secretary, who recently met with an accident.