

20/11/50

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

(FOUNDED IN 1873)

TO-DAY'S GAME IS VERSUS **A B E R A V O N**

(KICK-OFF 2-45 p.m.)

NEXT WEEK'S GAME:

Saturday : **UNITED v. CARDIFF ATHLETIC**

(Kick-off 2-45 p.m.)

NEXT FIRST XV HOME FIXTURE:

December 4th

NEATH

Kick-off 2-45 p.m.

MEN OF METTLE

IT is more than 20 years since an Aberavon side appeared at Kingsholm and we are glad to see them once again in the first home match Gloucester plays in the present season against Welsh clubs. It must prove an informative tussle inasmuch as a week hence we appear at Arms Park to pit our strength against Cardiff.

"Playfair's Rugby Annual" this year, describes Aberavon as remaining the "problem child of Welsh Rugby" but their record to date shows them as having won 9 games out of 15 and as having scored 176 points to 107. At Stradey Park a week back, Aberavon held The Scarlets well and lost only by 12 points to 8. Such a result shows that the side consists of opponents to reckon with and Aberavon has the reputation of trying hard to play open attractive football. That is what Gloucester spectators like above all else and we can ask no more than that to-day's encounter should be fast, open and clean.

Official Programme : Price Threepence

A DIFFICULT PERIOD

BECAUSE Gloucester has lost six games in a row and now has a decided adverse balance of points, the "Jonahs" are seeking scapegoats when in fact there are none to find. The simple truth is that after several seasons in which records have been set up, our Club has not yet been able to find "ready-made" first-class players to fill certain key positions. Inevitably there has to be a period of team building. That every effort is being made to bring on younger players and give them first-class experience is proved by the fact that thus early in the season no fewer than 31 men have been played in the First XV. Almost half (15) have been forwards, the remainder have been backs. There is the further point that injury or sickness has prevented some former First XV men from appearing.

The time has obviously arrived when, in finding the proper blend to recapture the former high level of success, there will be disappointments from the results point of view. For that reason the wise onlooker will watch with understanding and ready encouragement the progress of the younger men and have a sympathetic thought for those whose one aim is to provide a Gloucester XV, well-balanced and playing as a team, as quickly as can be. With no further County calls to face the side has now the opportunity to weld itself into a team, gaining experience and ability with each match played. With the many stiff hurdles ahead, that is very necessary.

QUESTIONS ON "TOUCH"

SEVERAL questions arising from the new laws relating to the line-out have been received and here are Mr. Frank Blackwell's answers :—

Is the player allowed to jump in the air when throwing the ball in from "Touch" ?

Yes. The old law which said "a player throwing in the ball must have both feet in touch," did not seem to permit jumping, but when the law was revised and read "the player throwing in the ball must not put either foot into the field of play" all uncertainty was cleared away and he can jump up, if he wants to.

A player in a line-out catches the ball and turns to throw it to his scrum half, who is standing some way away. The player in front of him in the line and the two players behind him, link together, thus preventing opponents from getting to the player with the ball or he takes cover behind them. Is this lawful ?

No. It is a deliberate case of 'obstruction' and a penalty kick must be given against him.

There was a quick throw in from touch before the Touch Judge could get to the spot. The Referee allowed the game to go on. Would the Touch Judge have been entitled to keep his flag up if he considered the ball had been thrown in from the wrong place ?

No. The Referee had decided the spot was correct and that the ball had been thrown the necessary five yards. Therefore the Touch Judge had no authority to keep his flag up. If the wrong side had thrown the ball in, then he keeps his flag up. When the ball became dead, play must go back to the spot where the ball had gone into Touch.

Further questions will be welcomed.