

GLOUCESTER RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

(FOUNDED IN 1873)

**TO-DAY'S GAME IS VERSUS
LONDON SCOTTISH**

(KICK-OFF 2-30 p.m.)

NEXT WEEK'S GAMES:

Thursday, Jan. 6th—THE ARMY
(Kick-off 2-30 p.m.)

Saturday, Jan. 8th—LEICESTER
(Kick-off 2-30 p.m.)

A POWERFUL SIDE



OUR Visitors to-day, the London Scottish, are a side who are only here once in two years. This season the London Scottish have been having a successful time and their Christmas tour over the Border shows them to be a strong and resolute XV. On Christmas Day they beat Edinburgh Acads. 9 points to 3, and on Boxing Day vanquished the West of Scotland by 11 points to 3. Those wins brought their total of victories to eight out of 14 matches played and two others were drawn. They have scored 170 points to their opponents' 106 and in view of our own somewhat "shaky" season, we may anticipate a close struggle. The London side has a well merited reputation for playing attractive football and we shall hope to watch plenty of that to-day. To-day is, traditionally, a great day with the Scots!

Official Programme: Price Threepence

THE NEW YEAR

AS we come to the start of the New Year, it is perhaps time for a stocktaking of events past and assessment of hopes for the future. It has to be admitted that it is quite a long time since Gloucester with all its prowess in rugby, has had such a lean season and one has to go back far into the records to find a comparable situation when the balance of wins and of points were so preponderantly in favour of our opponents.

The critics, friendly or otherwise, have all sorts of reasons for this, from the shortcomings of the Club Committee to the faults and failings of players. It is not the purpose here to sort out the rights and wrongs of this except to say this. Rugby is a great amateur game and no man goes out to play on to Kingsholm in our Red and White shirts with any idea other than to do his best. The Committee cannot manufacture first-class players with the wave of a wand and the Committee, and particularly those on whom the onus of selection rests, can only do their best with the material at their command.

HEAVIEST PART TO COME

THERE is not the slightest shadow of doubt that Gloucester rugby is going through one of those troubled periods all clubs know sometime or other. In our case it is made all the more pronounced and understandably more difficult to comprehend when we remember the wonderful results of the past two seasons.

We have the heaviest part of our season's programme to face with the coming of 1955. It will not make it any easier for players and officials alike if uninformed and destructive criticism is to be all they get from supporters. If—as some critics say—there are better players in the local sides than any on view in either the First XV or the United, they will be heartily welcomed at Kingsholm and given every opportunity of proving their worth.

We can overcome our troubles in one way only—by co-operation for the good of the game we all love. In that spirit and hope we move forward into 1955 and we wish all our players and all our supporters a **HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**

FIRST AND UNITED SCORERS

THE scorers for Gloucester this season are as follows :— Michael Eaker 46 points; R. Blair 22 points; Trevor Jones 21 points; Denis Ibbotson 15 points; Roy Sutton and Peter Ford 12 points each; David Jones 9 points; and H. Wells, D. Perks, G. Hollingsworth, R. Amos, D. Hill, H. Terrington, G. Hastings, C. Thomas, G. Counsell and Glynn Williams 3 points each.

The scorers for the United are :—Trevor Jones 18 points; D. Morgan 15 points; R. Smart 14 points; N. Crabtree and G. Hollingsworth 12 points each; D. Perke, J. Herbert, M. Burford and M. Jones 6 points each; B. Sibery 5 points; and D. Smith, Ivor Jones, C. Crabtree, P. Lewis, G. Williams and E. Turner 3 points each.