

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

MARCH 21, 1885

## GLOUCESTER FOOTBALL CLUB

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### ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the Gloucester Football Club was held at the Ram Hotel on Wednesday night. The City Sheriff (Mr. J. Stephens) presided, and Mr. H. J. Boughton, captain of the Club, occupied the vice-chair. The Mayor of Gloucester, who wore his chain of office, arrived during the after-dinner proceedings. The others present included Messrs. T. G. Smith (secretary), A. W. Vears (treasurer), J. W. Baylay, W. A. Boughton, G. J. Dewey, C. Turnbull, G. Coates, W. E. Cadenne, W. Stout, W. Robbins, John Fielding, Baker, H. G. Chance, A. Pike, H. E. Taylor, H. S. Simpson, W. H. Fream, G. Moffatt, E. Broome, J. H. Mullins, H. Knowles, J. L. Whatley, S. Halsey, R. S. Wingate, H. V. Jones, A. H. Brown, W. Bagnell, A. H. Gorin, Lodge, W. G. Knowles, &c.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the loyal toasts, which were cordially received.

MR. T. G. SMITH read the report of the Club for the past Season, which stated that the result was not equal to those of the two previous years. Out of 20 matches 11 had been won, seven lost, and two drawn. The ill-success of the Club's play he attributed, among other causes, to want of combination and not playing continuously with the same team, only two members of the same pack having played in every match.

MR. VEARS explained the financial position of the Club, which was not so good as in former years, there having been a deficit of something like £25 on the last year's working. They had, however, still a good round sum to the credit of the Club at their bankers. He suggested that the executive should look closely into the working expenses.

The CHAIRMAN, in giving the toast of the evening. "Success to the Gloucester Football Club," expressed the pleasure he felt in being a member of it. He was rather sorry to hear from his friend Mr. Smith that the success of the club had not been as great as in the previous year, but he had given a very good reason for that in stating that the club had not played the same members together. He was generally present as a spectator at their matches, and he had noticed some little defects in the passing. If the members played every time together he thought that would be got over. They learnt from Mr. Vears that their funds were not so good as previously; but if they carried out their play more spiritedly, they would fetch that up by causing a larger number to assemble to witness their matches (applause).

MR. H. J. BOUGHTON, in responding, said it would be remembered that he had intimated at their dinner last year that he purposed resigning the captaincy of the Club; but when the season of 1884-5 commenced he was, under great pressure, induced to again undertake the post. It was, however, now his intention to tender his resignation of the captaincy. He did not like to leave the ship when it was in troubled waters, and he had been told that he was doing so now. But although their ship might be in somewhat troubled waters she was not sinking, and there was plenty of blood left in the Club to maintain its prestige in the future. When their general meeting took place he should ask them to excuse his taking the post of captain. He thought a few reasons ought to be given for the number of defeats they had suffered, which were in all probability a greater number than in any previous year. He thought the primary cause, as had been pointed out, was that they had

never been able to get together the same pack for two consecutive matches. The men comprising a football team were like the component parts of a machine, and if men were being continually removed — in some cases five or six who played in the previous match were absent — it would cause that loss of combination which was essential in football, and which had enabled them in the past to be styled the champion Club of the West of England. Another reason for their being beaten was doubtless owing to the great improvement which had been shown by other clubs they had met. This was particularly the case with the Cardiff Club. Another cause was their want of weight and strength. No Club they had met had a greater lot of forwards than they had, but if they were heavier and stronger they would do much better than they had. Two of the greatest Rugby players had truly said — "All your science and fast open play will be neutralised if you are over weighted. If your barrier forwards is demolished [*sic*] and your opponents come pouring through your halves and three-quarters you have got no chance of getting off." The Club had played a splendid game this season, but they had been over-weighted. He should look back with pride on the two years that he had had the honour of being their captain, and to the ten years during which he had done battle for the Gloucester Football Club (applause).

MR. VEARS proposed "The Mayor and Corporation," and warmly commended the Mayor for the efficient manner in which he discharged his duties.

The MAYOR, in responding, spoke of the interest with which he regarded the Club, and the advantages the members derived in muscular development and the improvement of football ability. The Club had his hearty good wishes, and he hoped it would go on and prosper. He was pleased the Club occupied a portion of the civic property, and that its matches gave so much pleasure to so many hundreds who watched them. As long as the Club continued to work as it had, he was sure the Corporation would do all they could to

encourage the manly game. He had attended the dinners of the Bicycle and Tricycle Clubs, as he had every desire to promote manly sports, and he should have regretted being unable to be present at the dinner of the Football Club, which was foremost in promoting manly power.

MR. BAYLEY proposed "The Health of Mr. Smith, secretary, and Mr. Vears, treasurer," and complimented those gentlemen upon the efficiency with which they discharged their duties.

MR. SMITH and MR. VEARS responded.

The VICE CHAIRMAN proposed "The Chairman," whom he eulogised.

The toast was drank with musical honours, and was heartily acknowledged by the CHAIRMAN. He added that in discharging the duties of Sheriff his predecessor had set him a very good example, and he hoped his successors would discharge the duties of the office with becoming dignity.

MR. VEARS proposed "The Captain of the Second Team, Mr. Owen Jones."

Some other toasts were drank and several songs were sung, a pleasant evening being passed.

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