

((HEREIN ATTACHMENT - NOTICE CALLING THE FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE GLOUCESTER FOOTBALL & ATHLETIC GROUND COMPANY LIMITED))

GLOUCESTER

Football & Athletic Ground

COMPANY LIMITED

81 Barton Street,
Gloucester,
Sept. 24th, 1896.

Notice is hereby given, - That the ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders
will be held at the Registered Offices, the
Oddfellows' Hall, Barton Street, on October
9th, at 7.30 p.m., for the purpose of
considering the Accounts of the Company,
Electing Directors, and appointing Auditor.

By Order of the Board,

SIDNEY S. STARR,

Secretary.

THE GLOUCESTER

Football & Athletic Ground

Company Limited

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

TO BE PRESENTED TO THE
GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD AT THE
COMPANY'S OFFICES
ODDFELLOWS' HALL, BARTON STREET

ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9th, 1896

At 7.30 P.M. PRECISELY.

DIRECTORS:

A. W. VEARS, Chairman,

CONWAY JONES	T. GURNEY
A. V. HATTON	C. H. DANCEY
G. CUMMINGS	D. REARDON
S. DAVIS	H. W. GRIMES (Representative of the Gloucester Football Club)

SIDNEY S. STARR, SECRETARY.

Directors' Report.

The Directors beg to submit to the Shareholders of the Company a Balance-sheet for the past year ending August 31st, 1896.

The books of the Company have been audited by Mr. B. J. H. Coombs, and the Balance-sheet signed by him.

The Revenue Account shows a disposable balance of only £61 15s. 11d. Under these circumstances the Directors recommend that no dividend shall be paid, but that the whole balance be written off towards general depreciation.

The Directors would call attention to the fact that the earnings of the Company have been very seriously curtailed during the past year, owing to the regrettable epidemic through which the City has passed. Several valuable engagements of the Ground previously entered into had to be cancelled, and several contemplated events had to be abandoned.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, three of the Directors, Messrs. T. Gurney, A. V. Hannon, and Conway Jones retire, and are eligible and offer themselves for re-election.

Mr. B. J. H. Coombs, Auditor, also retires and offers himself for re-election.

By order of the Board,

SIDNEY S. STARR

Secretary.

The Gloucester Football & Athletic Ground Co., Limited

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	£	s	d	£	s	d		£	s	d	£	s	d
Share Capital, 3000 Shares, at £1 each,				3000	0	0	Freehold Land, Football and Athletic Ground,						
Mortgage				2500	0	0	Fences, Turnstiles, Safes, Roller, Machines,				6270	6	9
Creditors, Capital and Counties' Bank	657	8	6				together with all Plant and Effects						
Mortgage Interest to August 31 st 1896	<u>29</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	687	4	4	Less Amount carried to General Depreciation				<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>
Balance of Revenue Account				61	15	11	Account				6248	18	5
							Petty Cash in Secretary's hands						1 10
				<u>£ 6249</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>					<u>£ 6249</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>

REVENUE ACCOUNT

	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d		£	s	d	£	s	d
By Balance from 1895				96	8	4	To one year's Interest, on Mortgage, less tax				96	13	4			
Less Dividends paid to							Bank Charges				29	3	9			
Aug 31, 1895	75	0	0				Secretary's Salary				20	0	0			
" Amount carried to							Office Rent				3	0	0			
Depreciation Account	<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>				Auditor's Remuneration				1	1	0			
				<u>96</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	Rates and Taxes				69	10	9			
Sundry Rents, Football, Fete, Flower Show,							Materials, Repairs, Insurance, Advertisements, &c.				18	10	3			
Training, Grazing, Advertisements, &c.				350	13	9	Printing and Postage				4	3	3			
Sale of Horse				4	0	0	Wages and Sundry Labour				36	3	6			
Transfer Fees						8 0	Horse				4	0	0			
							Erecting Furnace and Hot Water Apparatus				8	0	0			
							New Pitch Pine Posts for Boundary Wire				3	0	0			
							Disposable Balance				61	15	11			
				<u>£ 355</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>					<u>£ 355</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>9</u>			

I have examined the Vouchers and found them and the Accounts correct,

September 1^{7th}, 1896.

B. J. H. COOMBS.

((HEREIN THE MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS - HELD ON
9TH OCTOBER 1896))

October 9th 1896

General Meeting

of Shareholders held at the Registered Office of the Company, 81 Barton Street,
Gloucester.

Chairman Mr. A. W. Vears.

Notice of Meeting

having been read, the

Minutes of the last General Meeting

of Shareholders were read and confirmed.

Report and Balance Sheet

The Chairman in moving the adoption of [the] report and balance sheet further explained the recent Epidemic had had a most damaging effect on the earnings of the Ground. Mr. Reardon seconded and endorsed all the Chairman had said. Mr. A. J. Lane again complained that the receipts had been lumped together and he thought it would have been better to give details as to how the amount was made up.

The Chairman said the Directors did not consider it wise to do so and called on the Secretary to read the details, which was done.

The Secretary again explained to Mr. Lane that the Directors fixed the rent to different individuals according to the nature of the entertainment or purpose the Field was used for, and it had been thought best not to let all tenants know what one another paid as there would sure to be a difference of opinion as to which would do the most harm to the Ground and in consequence which ought to pay most.

The Chairman pointed out that the matter was entirely in the hands of the Shareholders, if they wished it to be done in the future, it should be, and asked Mr. Lane if he would make a proposition to that effect.

Mr. Lane then proposed that in the future the details of Receipts should be shown on the Balance sheet. The proposition however found

No seconder

and therefore fell through.

Directors' Election

On the proposition of Mr. Lane, seconded by Mr. William Dancey, Messrs. T. Gurney, A. V. Hatton, and Conway Jones were re-elected Directors, each one returned thanks, and spoke very hopefully of the future.

Auditor

Mr. Coombs was re-elected Auditor at the same fee of 21/-.

Vote of Thanks to Directors

Mr. Jno. Jennings proposed a Vote of Thanks to the Directors which was seconded by Mr. W. C. Bailey, and carried. The Chairman in responding assure[d] the Shareholders that no expenditure was allowed or engagements made until the matter had been very carefully considered and due enquiries made, and while the Directors would be very pleased to recommend payment of a good dividend, yet their first aim was to keep the undertaking as sound as it was possible to make it.

[Signed] A. W. Vears.

((IN HERE - ATTACHMENT - EXTRACT FROM THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ECHO,
PURPORTED TO BE OF 10 OCTOBER 1896))

GLOUCESTER FOOTBALL & ATHLETIC GROUND CO., LTD.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the above named company was held at the company's registered offices, The Oddfellows' Hall, Barton-street, Gloucester, on Friday evening, the Chairman of the Directors, Mr. A. W. Vears, presiding. There was not, however, a large attendance.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the annual report (which we have already published), observed that the company had not escaped the effects of the recent epidemic, for owing to its influences they lost several valuable engagements for the ground, whilst a number of contemplated events had to be abandoned. In consequence of this they found themselves with £72 less income than the previous year. On the other hand, however, the directors had endeavoured to finance things as closely as they possibly could, and they had managed to save a considerable amount in expenditure, and in one instance as much as £40, as compared with the previous year. The revenue account showed a disposable balance of £61 15s. 11d, but the directors, whilst regretting the fact of not paying a dividend, thought it would be best to write off the whole amount for general depreciation, and thus enhance the value of the shares and strengthen the position of affairs. It took £75 to pay a dividend of 2½ per cent., and as the directors held one-sixth of the shares they deemed it best not to pay any dividend, but to write the money off in the manner stated.

Mr. Dennis Reardon, in seconding the adoption of the balance-sheet, regretted that the directors were not able to declare a dividend, but said that considering all things he thought the company had done very well indeed during the year. Gloucester had now recovered itself from the epidemic, and he believed the company had a very prosperous year before it (cheers).

Mr. A. J. Lane said that last year he objected to the rent receipts appearing on the balance-sheet in a lump sum, on the ground that each receipt should be set down individually. The same thing applies this year. He thought there ought to be a more detailed account. Impressions got abroad that the company charged heavily for the ground, and by placing the receipts in a lump there was nothing to confute an idea which was calculated to do considerable harm.

The Chairman replied that there was a good deal in what Mr. Lane had stated. There was, however, no reason why receipts should not be set out in detail as suggest, although, of course, every item appeared in the books kept by the secretary, and which every shareholder was entitled to inspect if he liked.

Mr. Lane said he was told the same thing last year, but he was afraid that if every shareholder went to the secretary as suggested, Mr. Starr would not be over pleased.

Mr. Sidney S. Starr, the secretary, remarked that it was his duty to show the books when asked to do so. The reason, however, why the items were not set out in detail was because the company had to make different arrangements for different individuals. At his own suggestion, however, Mr. Starr then read out the different items of receipt, and this led the Chairman to explain that in respect to any letting of the ground during the eight months it was rented by the Gloucester Football Club, the directors only got one-half of the receipts, the other half going to the football club. For instance, Mr. Studt had just paid £40 for the use of a portion of the ground for his roundabouts, but the company only got half of this although they had to defray expenses, a clear £20 going to the football club.

Mr. Lane next referred to the heavy charge for rates and taxes - £69 10s. 9d., and [sic]

The Chairman, in reply, said this sum was between £11 and £12 more than last year, but the increase was another result of the epidemic, and not owing to an increased assessment.

Mr. Lane then proposed that next year the receipts be set out in detail, but the motion receiving no seconder dropped through.

The Chairman's proposition for the Adoption of the balance-sheet was then put to the meeting and carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Lane proposed and Mr. W. Dancey seconded that Messrs. T. Gurney, A. V. Hatton, and Conway Jones, the three retiring directors, be re-elected. This was carried unanimously, all three gentlemen returning thanks for their re-appointment and speaking hopefully of the coming year.

On the proposition of Mr. Dancey, seconded by Mr. W. C. Bailey, Mr. B. J. H. Coombs was re-elected auditor, and a vote of thanks to the chairman (proposed by Mr. J. Jennings) terminated the meeting.

((IN HERE - ATTACHMENT - NEWSPAPER EXTRACT; BELIEVED TO BE OF THE GLOUCESTER CITIZEN; OF PROBABLE DATE 10 OCTOBER 1896))

GLOUCESTER FOOTBALL AND ATHLETIC GROUND CO., LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders in the above Company was held in the Oddfellows Hall last evening. Mr. A. W. Vears, chairman of Directors, presided over a moderate attendance.

The report and balance sheet (which has already appeared) was taken as read. The Chairman moved the adoption of the same, and in doing so remarked that there was really very little to be said. Owing to circumstances with which they were all well acquainted the ground was practically closed during the greater part of the year, and the income of the Company was £72 less than the previous year. The Directors, however, had endeavoured to finance as closely as possible, and as a result of their efforts they had saved £40. While they were very reluctant to recommend that no dividend should be paid, he and his brother Directors - who between them held one-sixth of the capital of the Company - thought it the best course to adopt. The disposable balance they therefore proposed to write off towards general depreciation. Mr. Reardon, who mentioned that he would be the greatest sufferer of any individual shareholder in the Company by the non-payment of a dividend, seconded the proposition.

Mr. A. J. Lane again complained about the receipts being placed in a lump sum, and thought a detailed account should be given. An impression had got abroad that the Company charged an exorbitant amount for the ground. He himself experienced some difficulty in getting two committees he had served on to apply for the ground, owing to the cause he had mentioned.

The Chairman and the Secretary explained that the reason the receipts were not given in detail was because different arrangements had to be made with different people. The books of the Company were always open to the inspection of the shareholders. Mr. Vears added that there was a great deal in what Mr. Lane had said, and if the meeting thought fit that the details should be given the Directors had not the slightest objection.

Mr. Lane then moved a resolution in accordance with his views, but there being no seconder it fell through. The Chairman's proposition for the adoption of the report and balance-sheet was formally put and carried.

In accordance with the articles of association, three of the directors - Messrs. T. Gurney, A. V. Hatton, and Conway Jones - retired, but were unanimously re-elected, as was Mr. B. J. H. Coombs as auditor.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, for presiding, and the directors for their services, was carried, on the motion of Mr. J. Jennings, seconded by Mr. W. C. Bailey.