

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE

APRIL 5, 1884

## GLOUCESTER FOOTBALL CLUB.

The annual dinner of the members of the Gloucester Football Club was held at the Ram Hotel on Wednesday night. Mr. T. H. Chance presided, and Mr. H. J. Boughton was in the vice chair.

Amongst the company were Messrs. S. Bland (City Sheriff), J. Stephens, S. J. Moreland, A. Woodward, A. W. Vears, H. J. Berry, W. H. Phillips, A. J. Stephens, J. H. Mullins, H. Knowles, Harley Butt, W. A. Boughton, W. R. West, E. Broom, W. A. Siveter, J. J. Hough, W. Robbins, A. L. Berry, H. S. Simpson, C. Smith, A. S. Keddell, D. C. Jones, H. V. Jones, C. Priday, F. Bennett, W. Newth, S. Halsey, W. Brown, G. P. Gibson, [—], Baker, G. J. Dewey, T. G. Smith, A. E. Pike, H. Cadenne, [—], Moffat, S. Wingate, H. A. Sanders, and W. S. Beaumont.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the toast "Her Majesty the Queen and the other Members of the Royal Family." He said it was impossible for any Englishman to suppress the feeling that the shadow of death at present rested upon the Royal Family, who always had their hearty good wishes, and he was sure that nowhere than among a body of young athletes, full of life and energy, would more sympathy be excited with the Royal Family, because of the fact that the young Prince now lying dead<sup>1</sup> was denied through nature from taking part in the manly exercise of his countrymen, though he took the keenest interest in those exercises.

<sup>1</sup> Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany; youngest son of Queen Victoria. b. 7 April 1853 - d. 28 March 1884. It was not until he was two years old that the prince was diagnosed as a haemophiliac. In February 1884 he travelled to Cannes, staying with a friend at Villa Nevada. During a visit to the yacht club, Leopold slipped on a tiled floor and injured his knee. What nobody realized was that blood vessels in his head had burst as well. He was taken to his bed, but died that night of a brain haemorrhage. He was 31 years old.

Naturally the sympathy would centre in the Royal Family, and particularly in their gracious Queen, stricken down with a great trouble, especially when they remembered her Majesty's sympathy with all in suffering, whether the person was a sister Empress driven as a refugee to this country or one of her lowliest subjects.

He was sure they would also sympathise in their bereavement with the Prince's brothers and sisters and his young child, and his widow, who was about to again become a mother. He asked the company to drink the toast in solemn silence on this melancholy occasion.

Mr. H. J. BERRY, the secretary, read the annual report of the Club. This stated that in season 1883-4 the Club arranged 21 matches, of which they won 15, lost 2, drew 2, and 2 were abandoned. The matches won were :- the Colts, Bath (2), Swansea, Cheltenham College, Royal Agricultural College (2), Weston-super-Mare, Swindon Rangers (2), Redland Park, Clifton, and London team. Those lost were with Newport and Cheltenham College; and those drawn were with Cardiff and Newport.

The team scored 21 goals and 62 tries, against two goals and three tries by opponents; and 18 goals were kicked from tries and three dropped from the field. There were 350 members and subscribers as against 277 in the previous season.

The gate money amounted to £134 3s. 6d., against £65 19s. 10d. in the previous season, and the grand stand receipts were £16 18s. 1d. The gross total of receipts of the season were £298 1s. 7d. The expenses had been somewhat heavy, owing to the Club paying the members' travelling expenses, and also paying the London team £10 for the railway fares and the cost of tea, and to dividing the gate money with Swansea and Weston-super-Mare.

The balance in hand was about £55 against £33 2s. 8d. last season, and the total at present standing to the credit of the Club was about £138 (cheers). But there were still 32 subscriptions unpaid (a laugh).

The CHAIRMAN proposed "Success and Prosperity to the Gloucester Football Club." He was sure the toast would be drunk with enthusiasm, not only by those who, like himself, had been applauders of the Club's prowess, but also by those who had taken part in its triumphs, and who on an occasion like this might fairly indulge in self-congratulation at the brilliant success which had crowned their efforts (cheers). Gloucester was proud of its Football Club (cheers).

Although, unfortunately, they were not able to present an absolutely clean slate this season, yet no one who knew the strength of the teams with which they had to contend would deny that having won 15 matches and only lost two showed very high attainment (cheers).

He and many of his friends were not only delighted but absolutely astounded at the quality of the play and the amount of success the club had achieved. He had been trying to find out to what that success was attributable, and he believed it was to the combination of muscle with brain possessed by the members. He was asked to couple with the toast the name of the captain, Mr. Hubert Boughton (cheers).

He was delighted that the company shared with him in admiration of Mr. Boughton's qualities, in his brilliant discipline and his marvellous knack of snatching a victory from the mouth of danger. Mr. Boughton would be the first to agree with him that the success of the season was due to the whole team. He would only suggest that if the team carried into the active business of their lives the admirable qualities they had shown in the football field, namely, courage, manliness, courtesy, and straightforwardness, they would win as distinguished a place in the great world of life (cheers).

Song, Mr. Phillips, "*I Fear No Foe.*"

Mr. HUBERT BOUGHTON responded. He regretted that only eight or nine of the fifteen team were present. The fact of the Club not having a clean slate this season was due to their having played against better teams and in more matches than last season (cheers).

They lost the two matches only by a small majority, and there were only two drawn matches as against four last year. He thought the cause of their success was due to discipline, that although they played with men of better reputation they played together and passed the ball well.

He felt, as one about to retire into the active business of life, that this being the last season in which he should be captain - (cries of "No").

Well, they would not discuss that question, but he felt that the fact of there not being more active members present might tend to show to the public that there was a little division in the camp, but he did not think that was so. Owing to a mistake some members had not been invited to a certain tea, and they thought a slight was cast upon them, but that had been explained away. He would exhort the members to keep unity, and then they would be successful, but if there was a division, the Club would cease to be a success (cheers).

Trio, Messrs. Dewey, Smith, and Baker. "*We Are Warriors Three*" (*Princess Ida*).

Mr. VEARS said he had the greatest pleasure in proposing the health of their worthy secretary, Mr. Berry, who with one exception was the oldest member of the Club (cheers).

The Club would have another opportunity of testifying its deep regret that they were about to lose Mr. Berry through his removal from Gloucester, but he was sure he only expressed the sentiments of every member in saying how much they appreciated Mr. Berry's real worth and valued his services (cheers).

Messrs. W. A. BOUGHTON and W. BROWN also testified to Mr. Berry's services and their deep regret at his impending departure.

Mr. BERRY responded, saying he was very sorry to have to give up the honour of the secretaryship of the Club, which was one of the leading clubs in the West Country, but he should most probably be leaving Gloucester shortly.

Song, Mr. Mullins, "*Drink, Puppy, Drink.*"

Mr. J. STEPHENS proposed "Our Civic Authorities." He said he should be pleased to see the trade of Gloucester more flourishing than it was at present, and he hoped that when the footballers were his age things would be more prosperous in the city than they were now. He coupled with the toast the name of the City Sherriff.

The toast was received with musical honours.

The SHERIFF responded. He remarked that he could not say much on behalf of the Corporation, as they got more kicks than ha'pence. The Football Club got plenty of kicks, but those brought in plenty of ha'pence (laughter).

A great change had come over the Corporation with regard to football, for it was not long since there was a tough tussle as to whether or not the game should be played in the Park; but he was glad that wiser counsels had prevailed, and that the thousands who enjoyed seeing the play were not deprived of that pleasure (cheers).

Song, Mr. Cadenne, "*Kiss Me*" (*Prince Ida*).

Mr. H. BOUGHTON said he had great pleasure in proposing the health of the worthy chairman.

Mr. Chance was a thorough sportsman, for he remembered that when the difficulty with the Corporation about the Park was on he (Mr. Boughton) was one who went before the Park Committee with a petition signed by over 2000 citizens in favour of football, and Mr. Chance was one of the first to come forward to support the Club when there was some chance of their being turned out of the ground (cheers).

The toast was received with musical honours.

The CHAIRMAN returned thanks. He could assure them that not only with regard to the particular to which Mr. Boughton had alluded, but with regard to everything else, he claimed to be a perfectly independent member of the Corporation, and he should do his duty to his fellow citizens and promote healthful sport (cheers).

Song, Mr. W. A. Boughton, "*The Postillion*."

The CHAIRMAN proposed "Increased Prosperity to the Trade and Port of Gloucester."

Mr. WOODWARD acknowledged the toast. He was sorry the port had been under a cloud, but was glad that during the last two or three years it had bettered its position with regard to corn imports, owing to the cessation by agreement of the unfair competition of Avonmouth and Portishead with Gloucester.

He was very sorry to say that he was afraid that the agreement not to give bonuses was about to be broken through by Avonmouth and Portishead, and if that was so he could not take such a rosy view of the port's future as some speakers had.

Still, the port had facilities by reason of its inland position which must overcome all fair competition of the ports below.

He trusted that before long there would be a board of directors of the Canal Company who would see the advantage of giving traders a more liberal tariff than hitherto, but he was afraid that unless the citizens helped the company by finding the capital to improve the canal so that the ships now built could come up to the city the principal portion of the trade would be done at Sharpness, as it had been for the last six or seven years.

Song, the Chairman, "*The Man In The Moon*."

Mr. MULLINS, in eulogistic terms, proposed "The Press."

Mr. W. R. WEST, of the *Gloucestershire Chronicle*, responded.

Song, Mr. T. G. Smith, "*The Speaker's Eye*."

The CHAIRMAN proposed "The Hostess," and warmly commended Mrs. Drewitt's catering.

Mr. W. ROBBINS acknowledged the toast.

Song, Mr. Arthur Pike, "*The Pirate King*."

Mr. SIMPSON proposed "The Captain of the Second Team."

A most harmonious evening was spent.