

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING *held at the MAYFAIR
HOTEL, LONDON, W.1, on FRIDAY, 11th JULY, 1947,*
at 5 p.m.

There were representatives of 242 Clubs present :—

Aldershot Services	Devonport Services	London
Army	Dorset and Wilts	London Hospital
Royal Horse Guards, BAOR	Dudley Kingswinford	London Irish
R.A.M.C. Depot, Crookham	Dukinfield	London Scottish
Officers & N.C.O.'s Wing, R.A.S.C.	Dulwich College	London University
3 Bn. R.T. Regt., BAOR	Dulwich Col. Prep. School	London Welsh
No. 1 Training Bn., R.E.	Durham City	Luton
R.E.M.E., Aborfield	Durham Colleges	Lutterworth
Ashford (Kent)	Durham County	Lydney
Associated Equip. Co.	Ealing	Maidstone
Aston O. Edwardians	Eastbourne	M.T.S. Crosby
Bank of England	Eastern Counties	M.T.S. London
Barbarian	E. Grinstead	Metropolitan Police
Barclays Bank	E. Midlands	Met. Police, "D" Division
Bath	Esher	Middlesex County
Bec Old Boys	Exiles	Middlesex Hospital
Bedford	Finchley	Mounds Bay
Berkshire County	Five Ways O. Edwardians	Napier
Billingham	Gateshead Fell	National Physical Laboratory
Birkbeck College	Gidea Park	Newark
Birkenhead Park	Gloucestershire	New Brighton
Birmingham	Gravesend	Newbury
Bishopton	Greshams School	Newbury Grammar School
Blackheath	Guaranty	New Milton and District
Blaydon	Guildford	Nore Command
Boots Athletic	Halifax	Northern
Bradford	Hampshire County	North Midlands
Brighton	Handsworth	Norwich
Bristol	Harlequins	Notts.
Bristol Aeroplane	Harrogate	Notts., Lincs. and Derby
Bristol & District	Harrow	Notts. Schoolboys
B.B.C.	Hartlepool O. Boys	Old Alleynian
Burton	Hartlepool Rovers	Old Beccehamians
Cambridge	Headingley	Old Blues
Camp Hill O. Edwardian	Heaton Moor	Old Citizens
Catford Bridge	Hereford	Old Colfeians
Charing X and R.D. Hospital	Hertfordshire	Old Cranleighian
Cheltenham	Hongkong and Shanghai Bank	Old Dartfordians
Cheshire County	Insurance Offices	Old Dixonians
Chiltern	Ipswich	Old Dunstonian
Chingford	Ipswich Y.M.C.A.	Old Edwardians
Cornwall County	Kenilworth	Old Elthamians
Coventrians	Kent County	Old Fullerians
Coventry	Kings College Hospital	Old Gaytonians
Cumberland and W.	Lancashire County	Old Grammarians
Davenport	Lensbury	Old Haberdashers
Devon County	Lloyds Bank	Old Leysians

Old Masonians	R.A.F., Brize Norton	Sutton
Old Merchant Taylors	„ Catterick	Sutton Valence School
Old Nottinghamian	„ Church Lawford	Taunton School
Old Pauline	„ Conningsby	Toc "H"
Old Rutlishians	„ Cranwell	Tonbridge
Old Stortfordians	„ Digby	U.S. Portsmouth
Old Tottonians	„ Dishforth	U.C.S. Old Boys
Old Uppinghamian	„ Felixstowe	Upper Clapton
Old Whitgiftians	„ Feltwell	Vauxhall Motors
Old Wimbledonians	„ Halton	V.C.D.
Old Wycombiensian	„ Henlow	Vickers (Aviation)
Old Wyggestonians	„ Honington	Walsall
Osterley	„ Hullavington	Wanstead
Oxford Exiles	„ Melksham	Warlingham
Oxfordshire Nomads	„ South Cerney	Warrington
Oxfordshire University	„ Upwood	Wasps
Exeter College, Oxford	„ Yatesbury	Waterloo
University College, Oxford	Royal Navy and R.M.	Welwyn
Park House	St. Bart's Hospital	Westcombe Park
Pearl Assurance	St. Dunstan's College	West Herts
Penzance and Newlyn	St. Mary's Hospital	Westminster Bank
Peterborough	Saracens	Westmorland
Pinner	Selfridge	Weston-Super-Mare
Polytechnic	Shrewsbury	Winchester
P.L.A.	Sidcup	Windsor
Public School Wanderers	South Leicester	Woodford
Richmond	Southern Railway	Woolwich Polytechnic
Rosslyn Park	South Wigston	Worcester
R.N.C., Greenwich	Staines	Workington
R.N.A.S., St. Merryn	Stoneygate	Worksop College
Royal Aircraft Est.	Streatham	Worth Prep. School
Royal Air Force	Sunderland	Wycombe Grammar School
R.A.F., Abingdon	Surrey County	Zurich Insurance
„ Bassingbourne		

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th June, 1946, were read, and it was unanimously resolved that they be confirmed and signed.

Mr. John Daniell (Chairman) thanked those present for their support. Referring to the retirement of Mr. Mark Waters, as Hon. Treasurer, he thanked him for the valuable services he had rendered to the Union, and mentioned how fortunate the Rugby Union had been in having only three Hon. Treasurers in the last 50 years. He was sure all those present would wish to record their special thanks to Mr. Waters; this was responded to by the assembly.

Referring to the retirement of Engineer Commander S. F. Cooper as Secretary, after 23 years service, the Chairman remarked that Commander Cooper might truthfully be described as the Founder of the modern Twickenham.

It was almost impossible for him to express adequately the thanks, which all Clubs, all Rugby footballers in general, and the Rugby Union Committee in particular, owed to Commander Cooper for his long period of devoted service to the game.

In the course of a long life the Chairman had met and known most of the famous Secretaries of sporting bodies, but never had he known anyone of more outstanding ability, efficiency, and tact, than Commander Cooper.

We all regretted his departure, but realising that he had had a strenuous and very full term in office, wished him and Mrs. Cooper a long and happy life in retirement.

The Chairman's tribute to Commander Cooper was warmly welcomed by the whole Meeting.

His successor, Mr. F. D. Prentice, had been appointed and we give him a great welcome.

He also thanked Mr. Creasey for the splendid services he had given in connection with the restoration of the premises at Twickenham.

Election of Officers.

Mr. Daniell, the retiring President, declared the Officers for 1947-48 elected as under :—

<i>President</i>	Col. B. C. Hartley, C.B., O.B.E.
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	Mr. L. G. Brown, M.C., M.D., F.R.C.S. Mr. E. Watts Moses.
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	Mr. J. R. Creasey.

The Chairman before vacating his seat to Col. Hartley referred to Col. Hartley's services to our game for the last 50 years, as player, selector, and a member of the Committee.

Col. Hartley on taking the Chair proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Daniell for his able services as Acting President and President since 1940, which was accorded with acclamation. He thanked those present for the honour paid to him and pledged himself to support the policy of the Union and would do everything possible to encourage our great game. He congratulated the Selection Committee for the work they had done during the season ended, and he hoped that Constituent Bodies and Clubs would not hesitate to bring all matters they wished considered before the Committee. He mentioned a Booklet which was being printed under the auspices of the Rugby Union which would shortly be available to Schools and Clubs.

Balance Sheet, 1946-47.

Mr. Mark Waters, before presenting the Accounts, expressed his great appreciation of the demonstration of goodwill shown during his period of office as Hon. Treasurer, and welcomed Mr. Creasey who was to succeed him.

Mr. Waters presented the accounts for Season 1946-47, and Mr. Cleaver (Nuneaton) proposed and Mr. Thorneloe (Leicester) seconded, that they be adopted. Carried unanimously.

Auditors, 1947-48.

The Chairman referred to the valuable help given to the Union by Mr. Gillespie and his Assistant, and on the proposal of Mr. Tiley (Gateshead), seconded by Mr. Williams (Weston-Super-Mare), Messrs. Gillespie Bros. were unanimously reappointed.

Bye Laws, Laws of the Game and Rules as to Professionalism.

The proposals to the alterations and the amendments submitted were considered.

On behalf of the Committee Admiral Sir Percy Royds took the Bye Laws, etc., in the order on the Agenda paper, and after discussion :—

Alteration to Bye Law 1 was accepted.

Alteration to Bye Law 3 and the amendment proposed by the Committee for the new paragraph were accepted, Mr. Kemp (Hampshire) withdrawing the amendment proposed by Hampshire R.F.U.

Alteration to Bye Law 5 was accepted.

New Bye Law 12 was accepted.

New Bye Law 13 was accepted.

New Bye Law 14 : It was explained that so as not to clash with what had been passed by Bye Law 5, that the wording of the first sentence should be " any club shall have the right to make nominations for President, Vice-Presidents and Hon. Treasurer only." Lloyds Bank R.F.C. agreed to withdraw their amendment with the change in the wording and the Bye Law was accepted with the change stated.

New Bye Law 15 was accepted.

Bye Laws 17, 18 and 19 alterations were accepted.

Bye Law 23 : It was explained on behalf of the Committee that after " Hon. Assistant Treasurer " the words " if appointed under Bye Law 5," should be added in brackets. Col. Warden spoke in support of the Eastern Counties' amendment and was supported by Lloyds Bank R.F.C. Mr. Watts Moses on behalf of the Committee opposed the Amendment and was supported by Sir Wavell Wakefield. Mr. Barrett (New Brighton) spoke for the amendment and Mr. Hoskin (Royal Aircraft Establishment) against. A Vote was then taken resulting in 60 For the amendment and 150 Against.

The amendment put forward by the Harlequin F.C. was rejected.

The New Bye Law was then accepted with the addition as stated in Paragraph 1 above.

Bye Law 27 : addition was accepted.

Bye Law 28 : alteration was accepted.

Bye Law 44 : alteration was accepted.

New Bye Law 46 was accepted with the word " Nor " for " or " in line 4. Mr. Kemp withdrew the Hampshire amendment.

Rules as to Professionalism.

The Rugby League and Players in H.M. Armed Services : after discussion Lloyds Bank agreed to withdraw their amendment, and the addition to the present Rules was accepted.

Rugby League and Workshop Competitions : new clause was accepted.

Rugby League and Junior and Schoolboy Players : new clauses were accepted.

Rule 4(b) : alteration was accepted.

Rule 10 : alteration was accepted.

Bye Laws 2, 23 and 28 : Mr. Birkin (Notts., Lincs. and Derby) spoke on the amendments and was supported by Mr. F. Jones (N. Midlands) and after discussion in which Mr. Whittaker (Lancashire), Col. Warden (E. Counties), Mr. Kemp (Hampshire) and Mr. Hague (N. Midlands) spoke, the amendments were rejected.

Regulations for the County Championship Competition.

Mr. F. Jones (N. Midlands) spoke in support of the motion in favour of County Championship matches on Saturdays only, and was supported by Mr. Birkin (Notts., Lincs. and Derby). After considerable discussion in which Mr. Barrett (N. Brighton), Mr. Cooper (Old Uppinghamians), Mr. Hoskin (R. Aircraft Est.); Mr. Mole (Old Edwardians), Mr. Shepherd (Old Gaytonians) and others spoke, the amendment was lost.

Laws of the Game.

Law 15 : Proposal by Harlequin F.C. was rejected.

Law 20 : Proposal by Harlequin F.C. was rejected, but it was agreed that the International Board be asked to introduce some such words as proposed in the amendment by Surrey R.F.U.

Law 34a : It was unanimous that no alteration be made.

Law 2 : Proposal by Harlequin F.C. was withdrawn.

Law 15(i) : The proposal by Harlequin F.C. was withdrawn in favour of the Surrey R.F.U. amendment. It was decided that the International Board should be requested to introduce into the Law, legislation permitting the outside foot of the outside player, on the side the ball is being put in, to follow the ball into the scrummage to keep it from coming out at the side.

The Chairman proposed a special vote of thanks to Admiral Sir Percy Roys for the able way he had dealt with the questions relating to Bye Laws, etc. Carried with acclamation.

Other Matters.

At the conclusion of the Agenda, Mr. C. D. Aarvold (Blackheath) appealed to the Committee to reconsider the period of suspension of J. Gregory. Mr. Whittaker (Lancashire) supported the Committee's decision and mentioned he had warned J. Gregory of the risk he would be taking by playing Rugby League Football. Mr. Gibbs (Kent) asked that the request of the Blackheath Club be reconsidered by the Committee.

Mr. Voyce asked for information regarding the issue of Clothing Coupons. The Secretary reported he was attending a meeting of the Board of Trade and had applied for a marked increase of Coupons to the R.F.U. Commander Cooper took the opportunity of thanking the numerous Clubs and players who had written to him on his retirement.

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman for so ably presiding over the meeting.