

Rugby Football Union

First
General Meeting, held
at the
Pall Mall - Restaurant - Charing Cross - London -
January - 26th - 1871

Mr. E. C. Holmes in the Chair.

Present - F. Stokes and B. H. Burns (Blackheath), E. Rutter
(Richmond), W. F. Eaton (Ravenscourt Park)
A. G. Guillemard (West Kent), F. J. Currey (Marlborough Normal
L. J. Maton (Wimbledon Normal), F. Luscombe & J. W. Smith
(Gipsies), C. Herbert & H. Wood (Civil Service), R. Leigh
(Law Club), A. J. English (Wellington College), J. H. Ewart
(Guy's Hospital), F. Hartley (Flemingoes), W. E. Rowlinson
(Clapham Rovers), C. E. Atkinson (Harlequins), E. M. Madden & C. E.
Pope (King's College), W. Hooper & G. E. Gregory (St. Paul's School),
E. C. Hill (Queens House), F. Moore & J. Devonport (Lausanne),
W. Graham (Addison), R. J. Buckland & G. Ellis (Mohicans)

J. R. Lancaster & H. Lepton Wynne (Belsize Park)
H. Emanuel and E. H. Ash (Richmond)

The proceedings commenced with a few introductory remarks from
the Chairman who stated that the meeting had been called with
the view of framing a code of Football Rules to be based upon the
Rugby system of play, but before discussing this subject, it would be
necessary to form a Football Society of the Clubs present -

The first Resolution was then proposed by Mr. Stokes (Blackheath Club)

"That in the opinion of this Meeting the formation of a Rugby
Football Society is desirable; that such a Society be formed forth-
with and that the co-operation of all Clubs be invited" - This was
seconded by Mr. E. Rutter (Richmond Club) and carried unanimously.

It was then proposed by Mr. A. F. Guillemard (West Kent) and seconded by Mr. W. F. Galton (Reventcourt), and carried unanimously that the Society be called the "Rugby Football Union".

The Chairman then submitted a draft of rules for the working of the "Union", and, after due discussion the following were decided upon -

- 1st That the name of the Society be "The Rugby Football Union"
- 2nd That the Officers consist of a President, Honorary Secretary, and Treasurer, and a Committee of 13, who shall be elected Annually, seven to form a quorum - with power to add to their number.
- 3rd That all Clubs willing to conform to the rules of the "Union" be eligible for Membership -
- 4th That the Annual Subscription of each Club be 5/- with an Entrance Fee of 5/- - payable ^{in advance} on the first of Jan^r in each year on admission

- 5th That a General Meeting be held annually in the Month of October
- 6th That each Club be permitted to send two representatives to a General Meeting, exclusive of the Officers of the "Union"
- 7th That the Hon. Secretary be empowered to convene a special General Meeting at any time, on receiving a requisition to that effect, signed by the Secretaries of not less than five Clubs -
- 8th That no rule shall be altered, rescinded or added, without the consent of a majority of two thirds of the ^{those} representatives present, at a General Meeting -
- 9th That each Club be furnished with a copy of the Rules and be bound thereby, and in case of wilful infringement of such rules by any Club, such Club be liable to expulsion from the Union at a General Meeting
- 10th That due notice of the ~~proposed~~ ^{to be proposed} at any General Meeting, of any alterations in the Rules (either of the Union, or of the Game) be given to the Hon. Secretary, and that such proposed alterations be duly advertised, fourteen days before such General Meeting -

It was proposed by Mr. F. Luscombe (Gipsies) and seconded by Mr. F. Stokes that these rules for the working of the "Union" be revised by the Committee before being published -
Carried -

The election of the officers was then proceeded with, and Mr. Stokes (Blackheath) proposed and Mr. Leigh (Ravenscourt) seconded, "that Mr. Algernon Rutter be asked to accept the office of President" - Carried -

Mr. Edwin H. Ash was requested to act as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, which he consented to do for a time -

After some discussion with regard to the best way of choosing the Committee, it was finally decided to elect the following gentlemen

Committee

Stokes - F.	✓	St. John's Park. Blackheath	S.E.
Holmes - E. C.	✓	12 Bedford Row	W.G.
Rutter - E.	✓	18 Parliament Street -	S.W.
Guillemond - A. G.	✓	Eltham	S.E.
Eaton - W. F.	✓	Audit Department. Somerset-House	W.G.
Maton - L. J.	✓	1 Torrington Square	W.G.
Currey - F. J.	✓	Vanburgh Park. Blackheath.	S.E.
Luscombe - F.	✓	Vaughan - Smith W.G. 21 St. Helen's Place	E.G.
Leigh - R.	✓	12 Bouverie Street - Fleet Street	E.G.
Hartley - F.	✓	31 Warwick Square -	S.W.
English - A. J.	✓	Wellington College - Nottingham	
Ewart - J. H.	✓	Guys Hospital - Borough	S.E.
Birkett - R. W.	✓	59 Green Street - Grosvenor Square	W.

It was then agreed that the "Law of the Game" should be drawn up by the Committee and that they should be submitted to a General Meeting for confirmation -

A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the Meeting to a close -
Alfred Rutter, President