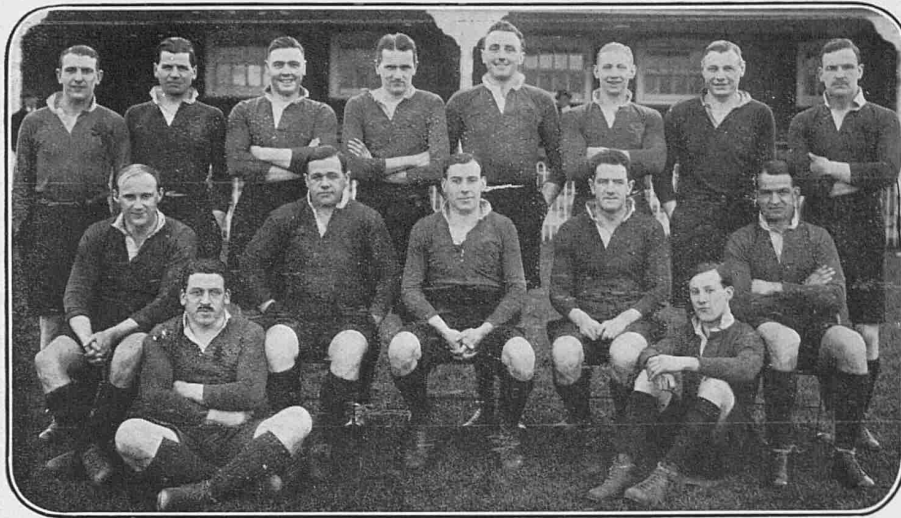


Rugby Ramblings.



THE LONDON SCOTTISH XV

Bassano

The side which beat the Old Leysians 13 to 7, thanks principally to the fine work their forwards put in even though they were reduced to seven after R. M. Findlay dislocated his shoulder

The names, left to right, are: Back row—R. M. Findlay, H. G. Taylor, R. K. F. McLennan, G. MacLaren, W. V. Berkley, A. E. Mackinnon, G. J. M. Gray, R. E. Black; seated—W. N. Roughead, C. R. McCullough, D. Drysdale, G. G. Aitken, A. C. McLeod; in front—Captain J. A. Ross, R. W. Langrish

One or two of the magnates of the Rugby world have recently had something to say about the game and its future. Amongst them was Mr. James Baxter, known to his intimates as "Bim," an old International forward, a past president of the Rugby Union, now and for many years past-chairman of the England selection committee, and one of the most stalwart supporters of that amateurism which is the very life of Rugby. Mr. Baxter is an all-round sportsman, a fine golfer who knows every inch of Hoylake, and a keen yachtsman who did splendid work in the War.

Such a man is not apt to mince his words, and indeed Mr. Baxter has quite a reputation for speaking his mind. His latest pronouncement is to the effect that Rugby's trouble is the growing tendency to win at any cost, and we all know that he is right. We often hear the phrase "the will to win," which indicates a very valuable asset as long as zeal is not allowed to outrun itself. But too often zeal does so offend, and then it becomes a nuisance and a blot on the game.

Victory is always desirable, and the man who is not keen on winning will never do much either in sport or in more serious matters. But victory is not everything; honour is a great deal more important. It is always difficult to understand what satisfaction can be served from a victory obtained by doubtful tactics, or as Mr. Baxter bluntly puts it, by "cheating." Surely it is a thousand times better to lose honourably than to win dishonourably.

For when the One Great Scorer
Comes to write against your name,
He writes, not that you won or lost,
But how you played the Game.

In Mr. Baxter's protest against unfair play there is a message to every individual player, and there is also a message to every club and club committee. For without the sanction of the latter the former would not be able to play at all. If every club selection committee would drop the people who are known to employ dubious tactics the Rugby world would be a very different place. Mr. Baxter's own committee have set a good example; it is common knowledge that more than one player has missed his cap because of a somewhat unenviable reputation.

Perhaps not everybody realises that the very best kind of Rugby to watch is public school football. There indeed is to be found all that is best in the game—intense rivalry, hard, keen play, the ability to take the inevitable hard knocks without loss of temper, and the entire absence of doubtful tricks. Some of the games seen in London just before

Every lover of sport and the stage should make a point of getting "The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News" every Friday.

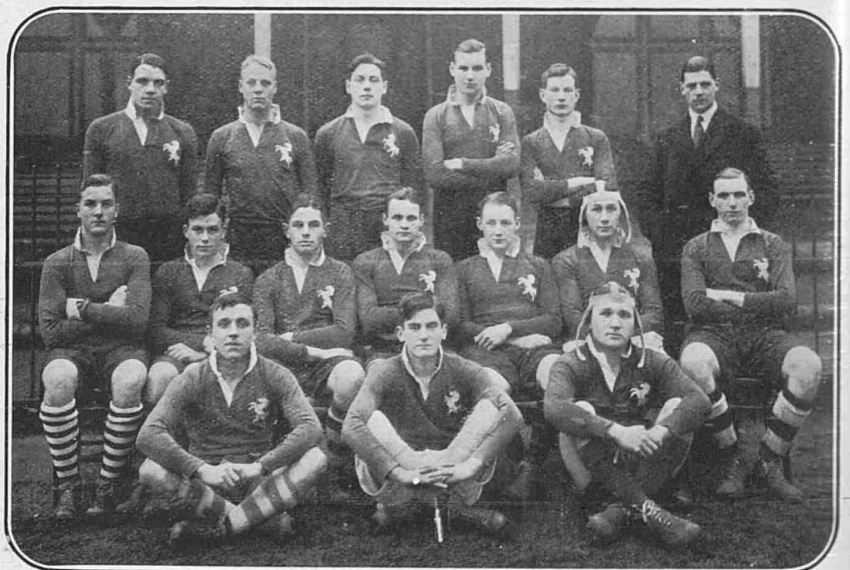
Christmas were splendid in every way, and sundry boys were engaged who are pretty sure to attain the highest honours in years to come. No, I am not going to mention any names; too much publicity is not good for boys, but they will not be forgotten.

A canny Scot, the hon. secretary of a famous Edinburgh club, utters a word of warning as to the fitness, or rather lack of it, shown by Rugby men to-day. Probably there have always been complaints of the kind, but it is certain that it is more difficult nowadays for players to maintain their best condition than it was years ago; life has so many more interests and attractions than it used to possess. Our Scottish friend is particularly down on dancing, and he is quite right. Many a promising player has ruined his chances by a too diligent attendance at night clubs and other equally dreary resorts. The youth of to-day gives no heed to the advice of those who have gone before him, otherwise he would watch his condition carefully and live so that his Rugby career may last as long as possible. There are many years to come when he may dance his fill but will no longer be able to disport himself at the Rectory Field or at Twickenham.

Having got through all the necessary trials, and most of all the usual difficulties and heart-burnings of selection, the various countries are now in line for the International championship. France and Ireland, indeed, have already broken the ice, but somehow or other we do not yet reckon France as a serious competitor. Yet we ought to, surely, seeing that she has, on some occasion or other, defeated all the four home countries.

There are signs that not one of the nations is particularly confident about the future. England, rather to her amazement, carried off the honours last season with a total of five matches won. For once in a way luck was undeniably on the side of the men in white jerseys, and few people think that they were really a powerful side, though they were equal to all the demands made upon them. This season it is quite possible that they may be stronger.

Their most dangerous rivals will probably prove to be Ireland, as was the case last year. "LINE-OUT."



THE KENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEAM

Bassano

The Kent boys beat the Middlesex boys at the Rectory Field by a goal, a penalty goal, and three tries (17 points) to two tries (6 points)

The names in this group, left to right, are: At back—F. D. G. O'Dwyer, G. J. Frerichs, J. R. Harrison, W. J. Webb, R. A. Harvey, L. F. Morris (Hon. Sec.); seated—R. C. A. Brandram, E. L. Phillips, M. H. A. Martin, T. H. Tilling, A. S. Davies, J. A. G. Scott, J. G. Atkinson; in front—F. R. Coggan, P. E. M. Shaw, G. G. Lilburn-Black