

Academy RFC host annual meeting

AT THE A.G.M. of Academy R.F.C. last week there was a good turn-out of players to hear the reports on last season's activities both on and off the field and to elect the officers for the forthcoming season.

It was particularly pleasing to see several of the Club's recently formed U-18 squad present at the meeting.

On the playing side it was reported that while most of the teams had a reasonably good first half of the season, with the second XV in particular achieving a fine league and cup run, results dropped off somewhat after Xmas.

The most successful team in the Club was the U-18 XV who had an excellent season, losing only four matches and for this achievement John Rainey received the Goldstone trophy on behalf of his team from the president, to generous applause from senior players and members alike.

On the social side the club had a busy year with the first XV entertaining touring sides from both Balmly Beach and Var-couver Island in Canada and Townsville in Australia, while enjoyable tours were made by the first XV to Athlone and Galay, by the fourth IV to the Isle of Man and by the fifth XV, Tankards, and U-18 XV jointly to Melrose R.F.C. in Scotland.

TOUR

For next season the senior squad is looking for-

Trimble; Captain 2nd XV, Mervyn Lynn.

Under "any other business" the U-18 squad again came up for discussion, with several members emphasising how vital the continued recruitment of young players would be to the future playing strength of the club.

SUCCESS

The success of the pre-

sent U-18 squad augured well for the future and the incoming committee were hopeful of keeping these players together at U-20 level next season to help them gain further experience before progressing to the senior ranks.

Incoming president, Chris Sturgess, states however that recruitment of young players must be a continuing priority. To this end, with the

valued assistance of Davy Haslett (who is currently enjoying a successful term as coach of the Irish Schoolboys side), the Club would soon be contacting several secondary schools in the North Belfast and South Antrim Area, in particular Glengormley High School, Monkstown Secondary School, Boys Model School and of course Belfast Royal Academy, with a view to recruiting any school-

leavers who would be interested in either beginning or continuing their rugby career.

Any young players of the age of 16 and over would be made welcome at the club and anyone interested should contact the clubhouse at Hydepark, Mallusk (Phone Glengormley 3085) for further details regarding membership, pre-season training etc.

The election of office-bearers for the 1988-89 season resulted as follows:

President, Chris Sturgess; Senior vice-president, Danny Best; Junior vice-president, Ken Knox; Hon. Sec., Bobby Tennant; Hon. Treas., Graham Lynn; Senior Fixture Sec., Drew Emery; Junior Fixture Sec., Willson Fawcett; Hon. Subs. Sec., David Carllisle; Ulster Branch Rep., Brian Lutton; Ulster Branch Competitions Rep., Robin Reid; Convenor of Coaching, Ken Knox; Press Officer, Alan Russell; Elected Committee Members, Davy Haslett, Eric Saunders, Phillip Cunningham, Dominic Walsh, Ray Buchanan, ex-Officio President; Captain 1st XV, Phillip

Now it's captain Trimble

ACADEMY'S abrasive second row forward Philip Trimble will lead the Hyde Park side next season. He will, however, be in a role of a 'non-playing' captain for the early stages of the new rugby term after receiving a hefty ban from the Ulster Branch (IRFU) following a piece of over-enthusiastic play against Queen's in the latter part of season.

Trimble, though, is just the type of player to bring the best out of the Academy side. Always leading from the front by his industrious, non-stop effort, his presence is certain to help his side attempt to break away from a niche they have found for themselves over the past few seasons, midway in the Section Two league table.

Taking over the Presidential reins is Chris Sturgess, while his senior deputy is former First XV flanker Davy Best and the junior Vice President is Ken Knox.

The full list of officers are:
President — Chris Sturgess;
Senior vice President — Davy Best; Junior vice President — Ken Knox; Hon Secretary — Bobby Tennant; Hon Treasurer — Graham Lynn; Fixtures Secretary — Drew Emery; Ulster Branch Representative — Brian Lutton; Coaching convenor — Ken Knox; PRO — Alan Russell; Captain 1st XV — Philip Trimble; Captain 2nd XV — Mervyn Lynn.