

Ashton Golf Club Annual Meeting Saturday May 7th 1921

Secretary's Report.

I have pleasure in stating that the Financial position of the Club is improving steadily, and the end of the present season should see a further reduction in the Loan Account, £38-10-5 having been paid off during the last season; and the cost of the construction of the Course which now stands at £279-5-10 considerably reduced.

The expenses have been rather heavier than usual, chiefly on account of the employment of additional help on the Course to relieve Butcher during his Wife's illness.

There are now three men and a boy employed, and the Committee consider that this is sufficient to keep the Course in proper order.

The number of Members at the present time is as follows:-191 Gentlemen, 99 Lady's 37 Honorary.

There have been a number of resignations during the Season but the number of new members compensate for this, increasing the membership by 7 Gentlemen and decreasing by 5 the Lady's membership; the Honorary Membership list is reduced by 4.

The circular respecting the Levy of £1-1-0 and 10/6 were sent out to all playing members using the Course, also all members where there was any doubt, and I carefully estimated the income from this source at £122-17-0 for Gentlemen and £38-6-6 for Lady's. I regret to state that a good many members have not seen fit to pay this Levy with the result that the amount received only amounts to £93-9-0 Gentlemen, £24-13-6 Lady's or £43-1-0 below the amount expected.

I should like to point out that the system of Levy is very unsatisfactory indeed' there is a great difficulty in some cases in finding out whether members are using the Course or not and also there are certain members who use the Course so little that they feel that they are not called upon to pay.

Seeing that entrance fees in future will not amount to very much, it will be advisable to see if some more satisfactory arrangement can be made.

The number of outstanding subscriptions are as follows:- 13 Gentlemen, 5 Lady's and 3 Honorary, amounting to £50-8-0.

The various sub-committees have carried out their work harmoniously and rendered excellent service.

The House Committee revised the Tariff List, and also arranged that in the event of a reduction in the price of commodities, the charge should be lowered accordingly.

The stock in hand in the Bar has been kept up, and the profit of £99-12-5 on refreshments is considered by the Committee to be excellent considering the turnover, and gives evidence of careful management.

The stock of crockery was getting depleted, and this has been replaced to a large extent.

The Greens Committee have carried out a great many improvements on the Course.

The greens and approaches have all been dressed with ground lime. Draining has been carried out in practically every necessary place and the Committee are very pleased at the result, as also must be the members be, considering the very great improvement.

The fencing round the greens has been repaired and made good. Posts and wire have been purchased for the repairing of the fence in the Gully to prevent cattle getting into No 12 field which is now taken direct from the Estate and not from the Farmer and it is expected that before long this work will have been completed.

The question of the advisability of purchasing a Motor Mower has been discussed and enquiries made and particulars obtained respecting same, but the Committee decide that owing to the many difficulties on the course it was not advisable to purchase one.

The Handicap Committee has carried out it's duties efficiently and all handicaps have been attended to as necessary

Various events have been arranged, viz-matches with other clubs, and special events and the work has been carried out thoroughly.

The Committee have decided to retain the Telephone service under the new Agreement and to increase the charges to members for local calls. Trunk calls to be per scale in addition.

The local rules have been revised and additions made thereto.

The suggestion inserted in the suggestion book signed by several members, that the Monthly Medal Competition should be played in two divisions and that the drawing for partners should be dispensed with was considered by the Committee who decided that the scheme was not practicable at present.

The whole of the insurances have been revised and increased as necessary, and the Club is covered for Fire, Burglary, Third Party and Workmen's compensation.

The Committee, not being satisfied with the amount of work, and the lack of energy displayed by Butcher in September last, decided to give him notice, and advertised for a Groundsman and Caretaker, and after a careful selection from 43 applicants, it was decided to engage William Spence and Wife of Branhall, subject to suitable arrangements being made as to the vacant possession of the house, this could not be arranged and it was decided eventually to re-engage Butcher on the distinct understanding that he devoted more time on the Course and took a greater interest in his work; this assurance was given and has resulted in a great improvement.

The Ground Rents have been increased by the Estate and Gledhill by 20% and I may say that Gledhill's rent for grazing has been increased by us in the same proportion.

It was decided to hold a Club Dance during the Winter and a good deal of work was done in this connection, but owing to lack of support, the venture had to be abandoned.

During the Winter a number of enjoyable Whist Drives have been held, and the Lady's have played a very important part in this direction resulting in a sum of £11-9-4 being handed over.

A new heating apparatus has been installed and is in working order, and it is expected that before long the interior of the Club House will be decorated.

A Calendar has been forwarded to each member containing a list of events for the Season and the Committee have every confidence that with favourable weather conditions, the Season should prove a great success.

In conclusion may I say that the Committee view with grave concern, that many members do not replace divots, either on the Fairway's or Tees resulting in a great amount of damage to the Course; and I would suggest that every Member makes it his duty to assist the Management by seeing this is done.

Joseph Gibson
Secretary.

Transcriber's Note:-Apostrophes are as per speech written.