

## Secretary's Report – 7<sup>th</sup> May 1949

Mr Captain and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report, and think you will all agree that the past Season has been a very successful one.

The Financial Statement will I presume, have been disposed of, after hearing Mr Turner's usual lucid and full explanation of the various items of Income and Expenditure. Mr Lowe and Mr Widdop have again completed the Audit of the accounts in a thorough and conscientious manner, and to the, along with Mr Turner, the thanks of the members are undoubtedly due.

The membership is being steadily maintained, and we have at present:

- 240 gentlemen playing members, compared with 238 last year.
- 139 lady playing members, compared with 124 last year.
- 17 Junior (boy) members, compared with 8 last year.
- 5 Junior (girl) members, compared with 3 last year.
- 6 Country members (gentlemen) compared with 7 last year.
- 22 Honorary members (ladies) compared with 15 last year.
- 17 Honorary members (gents) compared with 12 last year.

a total membership of 446, as compared with 407 last year, a net increase of 39 members.

The winter months have brought many changes as since the appointment of the new Steward and Stewardess, a new gas cooker and water boiler have been installed, also we have fulfilled a long felt want in providing an electric refrigerator which will be of great advantage to the Stewardess in respect of catering. A fairly large amount of painting and decorating has been done – the smoke room partly covered with rubber flooring – and a new carpet provided. After all the upset this work has caused in the Club-house the new Steward and Stewardess will now have a chance to prove themselves during the coming season.

We all regret, I'm sure, the circumstances which have been the cause of the appointment of a new Professional. I refer of course to the tragic death of "Dick" Haslam.

The new Professional, Mr C Gillett, has not been with us very long, but personally I have no doubt that the immediate future will prove the wisdom of the Committee's choice in this direction.

The COURSE generally has been maintained in excellent condition during (sic) the past Season.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Green has been ~~reorganized and~~ reconstructed in a new position, which has had the effect of lengthening the hole by 86 yards, and increasing the bogey from 3 to 4. Opinions may vary at the present time regarding the alteration but I feel sure, that in time it will come to be recognised as one of the best, if not THE best 4 bogey on the course. It is a beautiful piece of work done by our Greenkeeper, Mr Brooks assisted by Lees and Ogden and they are to be complemented on the manner in which the work has been carried out.

An experiment was carried out last Season with selective weed killer on the tees, which proved entirely satisfactory, also a small part of the 14<sup>th</sup> fairway was treated with fertiliser, which certainly shewed signs of much improvement. It is proposed ~~further~~ to proceed further in these matters

during the coming season.

The Home field near the Club-house has again been let for grazing to Mr Hall of Gorsey Lane Farm.

The Members of the Committee have again a good record of attendance at Committee meetings with an average of 86 per cent of attendances over the 12 months. Not quite so good as last year but illness has been the cause of non-attendance. Many matters of importance have had to be dealt with, and the members of the Committee have given much time and thought to these matters, the condition of the course, and the comfort and convenience of the members generally.

The House Committee, Handicap Committee and the Social Committee have been very active during the past year, with excellent results in every case, and we owe our heartiest thanks to several gentlemen, acting as a Secretary to these committees for the time and thought they devote to the interests of the Club. Viz: -

Mr Cawthron (House Committee)  
Mr Schofield (Handicap Committee)  
Mr W Brown)  
Mr H Burlinson (Social Committee)

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Our thanks are also due to the many Donors of Prizes for their generous help, which makes it possible to have such an attractive list of Fixtures for the Season.

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Before I conclude there is one point I would like to stress, that is, the replacement of divots on the TEES. I ask every member present to do all he can himself to help in this matter, and bring it to the notice of other members who cannot be present at this meeting – as I assured by the Greenkeeper that if this is properly carried out, there would probably be no necessity for winter tees.

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I am sorry I am unable to be present to give this report but acting on medical advice I am taking a holiday in the south of England.

In conclusion may I once more thank you for the backing and support you give to the Captain and the Committee, and once again look forward to another enjoyable Season with all the good fellows at Ashton Golf Club.