

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD IN THE CLUBHOUSE AT 7 P.M.
SATURDAY 12th MARCH 1960.**

Present: The Captain (H. Greaves) in the Chair, The President (R. Wood) and 70 Members.

The Captain referred to the deaths of Mr. J. C. Payne and Members stood as a mark of respect.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th March, 1959, were read and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Butlin reported on the statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1959, and the balance sheet as at that date, which had been circulated to the Members as part of the notice of the Annual General Meeting.

Mr. Butlin commented on the various items and gave explanations of the variations from the amounts recorded for the previous year ended 31st December, 1958. Expenses had increased and were continually increasing, and income was not, and the loss on the year was £158.

Mr. H. Schofield and Mr. J.H. Firth seconded that the accounts be accepted.

AUDITORS' REPORT

Mr. R. Shepherd and Mr. H. L. Sagar both congratulated Mr. Butlin on the way the accounts were kept and prepared, and the meeting generally was obviously of the same mind. Mr. Sagar also mentioned the very good service that Mr. K. Gregory had performed as House Secretary and his relinquishing of that position was much regretted.

SUBSCRIPTION INCREASES

Mr. Butlin then spoke on the recommendations of the Committee to increase the subscriptions. He felt that two courses were open to the Committee: to reduce expenditure very considerably, which the Committee felt would have to be of such a nature that the facilities of the Club would be seriously impaired; or secondly to increase the subscriptions to fill the gap. Members were provided with an estimate of the possible future financial position if the subscriptions that the Committee recommended were passed. Mr. Butlin's lengthy and lucid statement was warmly received by the Members and Mr. H. Holden proposed and Mr. J. Whitehead seconded that the Committee's recommendations be accepted.

Dr. J.A. Fiddian thought that the proposed increases were unnecessarily high. After Mr. E. Raines, Mr. R. Wood (President) and Mr. Butlin had commented on this opinion, no amendment was put to the Meeting and the Committee's recommendations were passed with something approaching acclamation.

Mr. Butlin therefore, proposed that Rule 14 be amended by the addition of the following words "... except that juniors who are 14 years of age or more at the 25th March in the

current year and paying the higher rate of subscription, shall be eligible to compete for prizes"; Mr. W. Walker seconded this and this was also unanimously carried.

Mr. J. Harrop and Mr. R. Clegg seconded a vote of thanks to the Treasurer, House Secretary and the Auditors.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Because of the amount of detail necessarily contained in the Treasurer's Report, and the fact that the Captain, Mr. Greaves and the Captain-elect, Mr. Hartley would later have much to say on the progress and future of the Club, the Secretary felt that his remarks should be very brief. They consisted mainly of an appeal to Members to use the catering facilities of the Club to support the steward and stewardess, so that possibly we might not have another 11 stewards in the next 10 years. Mr. F. Cooper proposed and Mr. J. Whitehead seconded a vote of thanks to the secretaries Mr. F. Rowley, Mr. J. Buckley and Mr. W.E. Sowerbutts, and the Handicap Secretary, Mr. C. Boucher.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT

A report was given on the social activities during the year by the Social Secretary, Mr. C.B. Baxendale. He said he had had some difficulty in balancing his accounts, but 1959 had been another successful year, and Mr. A.V. Powrie proposed and Mr. A. Hobson seconded a vote of thanks to the Social Secretary and his versatile Committee.

RETIRING CAPTAIN'S VIEW

The Captain Mr. H. Greaves spoke on the many improvements that had taken place during his year of office. Many fairways had been aerated and fed, and new tees had been completed at the 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 10th with a view to lengthening and improving the character of the course. The greens were showing the effects of the drought of 1959, but the greenkeeper felt that he could soon get them back into first class condition. The Golf Foundation scheme of tuition to juniors was put in hand and events like the trip to the Pike and the Crowden cricket match had been very successful. The latter event was an opportunity in fact for many Members to play golf instead of cricket strokes at golf. The dance at the Queens had been very successful.

Mr. Greaves thanked the Committee, and especially those members not seeking re-election, Mr. J.H. Firth and Mr. K. Gregory.

Mr. Firth's service to the Club over many years was quite exceptional, and the President, Mr. Wood, also thanked him for those years of services, and Mr. R. Lees seconded. Mr. Firth responded with some nostalgia, but he said that although he was leaving the Committee his interest in Ashton-under-Lyne Golf Club would not be any less.

Mr. Greaves then proposed Mr. E.B Hartley as the new Captain for 1960-61, and he stressed the work that Mr. Hartley had already done on behalf of the Club, particularly on the social side of its activities and as an organiser of good humour and efficiency. Mr. R. Lees seconded Mr Greaves' proposal, and Mr. Hartley took the Chair in an atmosphere of conviviality and warmth.

Mr. Hartley said that it was a great honour to be in the Chair because he had had so much

pleasure from the Club, and he saw no reason to think that another successful year should not lie ahead, both on the playing and the social side. A good calendar had been prepared and there were many Tuesday competitions. This year there would be an area of fairway, and then a few yards of semi-rough at the side of each fairway, and then the jungle, and this would make for better if not always more enjoyable golf. The Captain then suggested that Members might have a drink with him, and there were few abstainers.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The ballot then took place for the three vacancies for three years on the Committee, and Mr. R. Lees, Mr. R. Clegg and Mr. P.A. Jones were elected.

Mr. Hartley then said that there were no nominations for the Social Committee and that the two retiring members, Mr. J.L. Brodie and Mr. G. Greenhough, were prepared and happy to continue.#, and they were re-elected.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Norman Sykes suggested that a trolley hut should be purchased and Mr. H. Schofield seconded.

Mr. Frank Cooper felt that there was a need on the course for one, or perhaps two, gentlemen's conveniences.

Mr. F. Buckley considered that the towel position should be improved.

The Captain mentioned that he hoped to arrange provision of a shower in the men's locker room.

Mr. P.A. Jones suggested that the Winter Fourball should take the form of an American Tournament.

Mr. A.V. Powrie spoke again about the considerable problem of trespass, and Mr. H. Schofield thanked the ladies for the decorating and brightening of the Club House generally.

The result of the Winter Four Ball was that J. Bamford and D.J. Lowe were the winners and the runners up were C.W. Cooper and R. Hough.

The result of that day's competition was that G. High and N. Berry won with 47 points after a tie with A. Shaw and R. Shepherd.

After a vote of thanks to the Captain for presiding, he declared the Meeting closed shortly before 10 p.m.

E.B. Hartley Captain ~~124~~124/3/601 Date