

Ashton-Under-Lyne Golf Club Annual Meeting. Saturday May 4th 1940.

Secretary's Report

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the past year and in being able to say that the season has proved highly successful in every way.

The financial position shewn in the Balance Sheet and explained by the Treasurer is very satisfactory and Mr Robson is to be congratulated on the result. It is to be understood however that owing to War conditions, great care will have to be exercised in the management and keeping down of expenses as many members will be serving in the Army.

The balance sheet shows that the whole of the Machines, Lockers, Glass, China, and Tools now stands at £222-14-9 which is a very low figure, although considerable expense has been incurred in renewals to machines, £56-14-0 and £129-10-5 in alterations and decorations of the Club Premises, also alterations to the Course which has been paid for out of revenue.

The Auditors, Messrs. H Barker and W Derbyshire are to be thanked for their willing services in auditing the accounts.

The outstanding subscriptions are lower than ever, only two gentlemen and one lady and three honorary members being in arrear, and I think you will agree that this is a record to be proud of and far ahead of any other Club in the Country.

There are still a few members who seem to be of the opinion that subscriptions should be paid at the end of the year instead of the beginning, and I would ask such members to fall into line with the large majority.

The number of members is stated in the balance sheet, the gentlemens membership has increased by one playing member and one junior and decreased by one Country Member. The Ladies membership has decreased by four playing members and increased by five juniors. Honorary Membership has increased by four gentlemen and seven ladies. It is very satisfactory to know that the membership is being kept up, but we still have room for more.

The members of Committee have again a good record of attendance which shews an average of 82.5%; they have considered and dealt with all matters arising out of Club House and Course Management and are constantly on the look out for any improvement that can be made to meet the requirements and convenience of members.

The Club-house has been recently decorated, the ventilation of the Smoke Room has been dealt with and a new Caddies shelter has been formed.

The House Committee: - Mr J H Barratt secretary, has again given valuable and the profit on the house account has been increased and you will see from the balance sheet that the Bar stock in hand is considerably more than last year viz: - £143-17-5 and the thanks of the members are due to Mr Barratt for his excellent services, also to ~~these~~ the patrons of the Bar who assist greatly the finances of the Club.

The Handicap Committee: Mr J Taylor secretary for part of the year and Mr C I Baker the present secretary has also carried out its duties efficiently, the work of handicapping as you are no doubt aware calls for constant attention and revision and our thanks are due to these gentlemen (sic) for their willing services.

The Calendar Sub-Committee has drafted a very complete list of events as you will see from the Calendar. The Committee very carefully considered the question of holding competitions during the War and decided to carry on, and judging from the entries and enthusiasm in the competitions already held, this arrangement seems to meet with general approval.

The Greens Committee: - myself secretary, has endeavoured as in previous years to keep the Course in good order, and to that end have weeded, fertilised, wormed and forked the greens and tees and the results I'm sure merits your approval.

All the machines have been overhauled and repaired and everything is in order for the season.

A new competition tee has been constructed at No 9 adding length and improvement to the holes and the new green at No 6 has I believe proved a real improvement.

I should like to point out that during the Winter only two men have been employed on the Course and the whole of the improvements have been carried out by them.

It has been decided that owing to War Time conditions only three men will be employed on the Course instead of four during the summer.

The Course generally is in excellent condition and the ground staff are to be complimented on their excellent work.

There is one matter in connection with the Course which calls for special mention and which the Committee view with concern and that is the question of damage done by members omitting to replace divots; the Course is becoming disfigured from end to end by this neglect and in addition this is the cause of bad lies, and every member is requested to replace divots and see that other members do the same.

Our thanks are due to Mr W Brown for his services in connection with the analysis of competition cards during the season which has been of great assistance in arranging where strokes should be given at the various holes.

A visit was paid on April 21st by the Advisory Officer from Bingley Research Station who inspected the Course along with the Committee and who gave a very satisfactory report, and his advice as to treatment has been followed throughout.

A successful Caddies Match was held during the season and the Committee thank all those who subscribed or assisted in any way. It has been thought advisable not to hold this event this year owing to the lack of interest shewn, coupled with the fact that owing to War conditions, most of the Caddies left are young boys.

The Social Committee: Mr J H Barratt, Secretary, has given splendid support and handed over £10; this is considerably less than last year and is owing to the fact that the result of their effort has been devoted to the Red Cross Society, and Sick Nursing Association, as you will see from the balance sheet making a total of £30-10-0 handed over to these excellent institutions and I am sure that every member greatly appreciates their services.

The Ladies Committee unfortunately have no money to hand over this year, their assistance was greatly valued but in their wisdom they decided not to hold competitions, many of them are engaged on War work and are no doubt busily engaged, therefore the Calendar is blank as far as they are concerned.

The subscribers and givers of prizes are to be thanked for their generous help which relieves the Club of a great amount expense, and our thanks are accorded to all those who have so willingly come forward with offers of prizes for this season, the response being excellent.

In conclusion I may say that the Captain and Members of the Committee greatly value your support and assistance, and although we are passing through troublesome times brought about by war, and every member must have his own difficulties to face, we can with your help and backing look forward to another successful year.