

Ashton Golf Club Annual General Meeting. Saturday May 7th 1927.

Secretary's Report

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the past year, and in stating that the year has been a very successful one; "after taking into consideration the various liberal amounts written off, viz.-£20 off furniture, £20 off lockers, £30 off machines" and the amounts spent in renewals and repairs, the loss on this year's working is very small indeed.

The expected increase in membership has not materialised, but hopes are still entertained that before long we shall be able to announce a substantial increase in membership.

The lack of numbers is in my opinion due to the bad conditions of trade.

The Committee "a short time ago" decided to advertise in the Reporter for new members, by publishing a series of articles accompanied by photographs, and no doubt all the members have seen the articles. It was certainly a new departure, an in the nature an experiment and it is rather too early to judge the result.

The Committee also decided to spread the entrance fee over a period of 3 years in the case of gentlemen and 2 years in the case of ladies; this was of course strictly speaking a departure from the Rules and requires approval of the General Meeting.

I would like to ask every member to do what he can to introduce new members, as I feel it is the only real way to attain this object; but in addition it would greatly help the membership and good feeling existing in the club, if the members would endeavour to make welcome the new members, not only by speaking to them and encouraging their efforts, but by having a game with them occasionally.

The number of members is as follows: - 162 Gentlemen, 3 Country, 2 Temporary and 3 Juniors.

98 Ladies, 1 country, 3 Juniors.

Honorary Members: 27 Ladies, and 17 Gentlemen.

There have been several resignations, as well as new members during the year, and the ordinary membership in the case of Gentlemen shows a decrease of 1 and the Ladies membership is decreased by 4.

The members of various sub-committees and General Committee have attended regularly and devoted a considerable amount of time to the duties of office and in the interests of members.

The House Committee has again looked well after the interests of the members and management of the Bar and Shop, and the resulting profit of £239-6-7 gives proof of careful and capable management.

The professional's shop is being carried on successfully and the Committee have arranged for

Brennan to have lessons in club making etc. under a professional, so that he would improve and be of more service to the Club and not be at a dead end.

I appeal to the whole of the members to support this branch of the Committee's undertaking and help make it a thorough success.

The Handicap Committee has also attended to its many duties revising handicaps as the occasion requires, also revised the local rules and prepared a very interesting list of events for the coming season. Matches have been arranged with other clubs. June 25th has been fixed for the Mixed Foursome Competition and for this event your support and assistance is required to make this event a success.

A Caddies' match was held and proved a great success, and no doubt one will be held this year as usual.

The Finance Committee have met on several occasions and very carefully considered ways and means and have endeavoured to keep down all expenses to the lowest limit.

The Greens Committee has done valuable work as will be seen on the Course, and the result of their management will be seen to greater advantage later.

The following works has been carried out: -

Hollows have been levelled at the drive No 14; Footpath cindered and renovated at No 8; New Tee at No 14; New Ladies Tee at No 17 and No 13 Tee re-formed and laid. Drainage in several parts has received attention and drainage to No 4 green put in order. Approach to No 15 green has been lifted also portion of the hollow at the drive No 7 fairway. The telephone poles have been removed from the course. The greens were dressed with 20 tons of sea-sand, also forked up this winter and they have already been dressed with compost and fertiliser. Three men are constantly employed on the Course, but additional help will be required as last year, to enable us to cope with the keeping down of the rough, although this will affect the profits on the shop.

Several seats have been given by two members of the Committee for use on the Course, and will prove acceptable, and our thanks are due to the givers for their generosity.

The lease of the land has been completed between the Waterworks Committee and the Club, but the lease between Lord Stamford's Trustees and ourselves has not yet been completed owing to Law difficulties.

The Steward and Stewardess resigned last February and the vacancy was advertised and resulted in a very large number of applications, and the Committee were at very considerable trouble in making the new appointment, and it is hoped that the new Steward and Stewardess will give every satisfaction.

The appeal for the Cattle Fund was very successful, practically all those members who promised donations fulfilled their promise, but as will be seen from the balance sheet, we are still requiring help financially, although not for this fund, but to wipe out the cost of the extensions. There are a ~~good~~ many members who have not yet subscribed anything, although judging from general remarks at the introduction of this scheme; it was stated that there were a good many members who could not afford £3/3/-, but who would do their little bit, this has not resulted in anything tangible, and the

burden has been placed on the shoulders of the willing few ones. In any case it is time this list was closed, but I feel sure the Treasurer will be glad to receive smaller donations from all those members who have not yet subscribed and who feel that they are under some sort of obligation.

It is necessary to call attention to the fact that some of the members are not paying for telephone calls, and the Committee have decided on a new arrangement whereby this trouble will be obviated.

There were complaints from a few members at Easter in regard to the Greens not being open for play; but owing to the greens having been forked up, and the bad weather it was considered inadvisable to open them until later, and at any rate it is far better to have a few complaints at Easter than have complaints all the year round.

This report would I think be incomplete, "if after detailing the various good works carried out by the Committee" no mention were made of complaints the committee can justifiably make against many of the members, viz. – the serious damage to the fairways caused by not replacing divots, also the damage to Tees, even where a wooden club is used.

It is also necessary "judging from complaints received" to call attention of members to the rules relating to play in bunkers (sic) etc.

It was decided at the Annual Meeting to provide Badges and Ties but only a few have been sold, and the remainder are on our hands.

We are indebted to Mr H Holden for providing a very successful concert, also to the Ladies for their efforts in connection with the Whist Drives which were held during the Winter and which proved both enjoyable and profitable, and the thanks of the members are due to them for services so willingly rendered,

In conclusion, I ask for the hearty co-operation of every member to assist the Committee in every possible way, and at the same time wish to thank all those members who have in any way contributed to the success of the past season.

J Gibson
Sec.