

Ashton Golf Club Annual General Meeting. Saturday May 3^d 1930.

Secretary's Report

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the past year, and I feel that it can be claimed that the season has been a very successful one.

The financial position has already been presented and explained by the Treasurer, Mr Robson, therefore I do not propose to go into the financial position, except to say that the increased wages, paying for the whole of the decorations and wiping £30 from the Electric Lighting Account represents the extra amount of income from subscriptions, and that very careful management in all departments has been necessary to produce such a satisfactory result.

The only other item to which I desire to refer is the question of Loanholders. I find that there are 8 loanholders whose loans amount to £64/1/4 who have either ceased membership or been transferred to the Honorary Members List, and I should like to see those loans paid off.

The raising of subscriptions was certainly necessary and has not affected the membership seriously, and it gives me great satisfaction to be able to state that there are only six members in arrear of subscription: - viz.- 2 Gentlemen, 2 Ladies, 1 Junior and 1 honorary member, and I believe it would be very difficult to find any other club in the country where such a satisfactory state of affairs exists.

The number of members is as follows: - 152 Gentlemen Playing Members, 1 Country Member, 3 Junior Members, 2 Temporary Members and 93 Lady Playing Members and 1 Junior Member.

Honorary Members: 24 Gentlemen, 26 Ladies.

The Gentlemen's Membership has decreased by 11 playing members and 3 temporary members, and the Ladies' membership has decreased by 3.

Honorary Membership has increased by 5 Gentlemen and the Ladies decreased by 2.

The position is not unexpected owing to trade depression, but calls for increased effort in obtaining new members, and the efforts of all the members in this direction are requested.

At the same time, I should like to extend a hearty welcome to all the new members and I ask for the co-operation of the old members in extending this welcome.

There have been resignations from very old members of the Club, and transfers to honorary membership, but of course this is quite natural and to be expected, but we regret the loss very much indeed.

The members of the various Committees have been regular in their attendance and devoted a considerable amount of time in dealing with the affairs of the club and arranging for the welfare of the members.

The House Committee; Messrs E Raines and H Ridyard joint secys. Has looked well after the management of the House and Shop and although receipts from the Shop and Bar are considerably less than last year, it is hoped that with the membership there may be considerable improvement in the coming season. The shop is well stocked and your support is asked for in this connection.

The Club premises have been decorated at considerable expense, the usual criticism has been made respecting the same by the members, and the great majority I believe approve; at any rate it was very necessary that this work should be carried out in order to have the Premises fit for the coming season.

A new water supply service has been laid at the expense of Mr Kenworthy, to remedy the faulty service, and this has brought about a very great improvement.

The Handicap Committee: Mr H L Boardman, Secretary has also carried out its duties efficiently, revising handicaps, sending reports of results to the papers so that players who desire their name in print should have no complaint.

The Calendar Committee are to be congratulated on the calendar for the coming season.

No matches have been arranged with other clubs. This question received serious consideration by the Committee, who were of the opinion that the members generally, also the members of other clubs, were not very keen on having them.

Your special attention is called to the following: -

Open Mixed Foursomes, June 28th. Caddies Match July 22nd. Annual Dance December 5th. Fourball Bogey January 1st and your support in all these events is desired.

The Greens Committee: J Gibson Secretary.

This Committee has also rendered very valuable service, carried out many improvements on the Course. Extensive draining has been laid and existing drains have been altered and improved.

The Bunker and Mounds at No 5 Green "the stumbling block to many budding players" have been removed.

The No 12 Green has been entirely reconstructed.

The Pit on the right of the approach to No 15 green has been raised and drained. Fencing has been repaired to boundaries.

The 11th Tee has been relaid and two ladies tees have also been relaid. Wooden flags now replace the iron pins so that the holes cannot be damaged to the same extent as formerly.

All the machines have been overhauled and renovated and are in first class condition.

The greens and tees have been renovated and treated with worm killer, compost, fertilizers and lime.

The appointment of a new and experienced head groundsman was made on August 8th and although the new man has only been with us through the winter, a considerable number of very noticeable improvements have been made and we can look forward to great improvements and alterations to the Course in the near future.

Four men are employed on the Course regularly, and additional help in scything etc. is engaged as required.

The Course is rather ragged in appearance at present, but this will all disappear when the triple mower and roller have been over the fairways.

I greatly regret that it is again necessary to call attention to the damage on the Course caused by thoughtless members who do not replace divots. The Committee are open to complaints from all quarters, but they feel that in this matter it is necessary to carry war into the enemies camp and it is sincerely hoped that the special loose notice in the Calendars sent to each member will have the desired effect and that each member will do his utmost to assist the Committee in their endeavour to maintain a high standard on the Course.

The Committee have been greatly concerned in respect to proposed building encroachment on the Course, also regarding the Town Planning Arrangements as it will affect the Club and have been at considerable trouble in this matter, but I am pleased to say that so far we do not seem to be in any immediate danger from this menace, but in any case you can rest assured that everything that is possible will be done to safeguard the Club's interests.

A caddies' match was held during the season and thanks are due to all those members who assisted and subscribed or, helped in any way to make the event a successful one. Your help and assistance is asked for the Caddies Match to be held on July 22nd.

The Annual Dinner Dance was held on December 6th and was a great success raising £17/11/8 profit; and the Dance Committee deserve our very best thanks for their excellent services.

A donation of £18/10/- was given to the District Infirmary as a result of the Luxor Cup competition and Ladies Competition, and your help and support is requested for a similar competition on October 11th, the proceeds to go to the same institution.

The Ladies are deserving of our best thanks for their service in regard to the Whist Drives held through the Winter resulting in a profit of £15/10/10.

In conclusion I should again like to thank the Donors of Prizes who so willingly provide prizes for the various events, this relieving the Club of considerable expense; and to thank all those who have assisted the Committee in any way to make the past season a success. Your goodwill and help is still as necessary as ever to maintain the good feeling which exists in the Club and the Committee know that they can depend on members to play their part as occasion requires

J Gibson
Sec.