

Ashton Golf Club, Annual General Meeting, Saturday, May 3rd. 1924.

Secretary's Report.

I have pleasure in reporting that the financial position is very satisfactory, as will be seen from the balance sheet; the whole cost of the construction of the Course has been written off; the loan account has been reduced by £91-19-2; and the interest on loans amounting to £16-17-8 has been paid for 1923 and 4.

The expenditure on Fertilizers, and renewals and repairs to House and Machinery is considerably less than the previous year, this is owing to the fact that the machines had been put in good order, and that we had a fair stock of Fertilizer etc. on hand at the commencement of the year; in addition the greens have not required treating to the same extent.

The extra man has been kept on right through the season, so that all drainage matters could be pushed on as far as possible.

There are three men employed on the Course in addition to the groundsman.

The number of members is as follows:--

Gentlemen 183.      Country Members 1.      Temporary Members 1.

Juniors 2.

Ladies 104.      Temporary Members 1.      Juniors 4.

Honorary Members, Ladies 31 and Gentlemen 8.

There have been a number of resignations also new members during the year.

The membership you will be pleased to know has been increased in the case of Gentlemen by 16, and the Ladies membership increased by 7. The Hon. membership has decreased by 2.

The outstanding subscriptions are very few, the total amount owing amounts to £6-6-0 *Has 2 dues Sub.*

The members of the various sub-committees have been regular in their attendance and rendered excellent service as also have the General Committee.

The House Committee has exercised sound judgement in buying, looking after the stock and general management, and the resulting profit of £170-5-11 is considered by the Committee to be very satisfactory indeed.

A Gymkhana was held in August and was very successful, resulting in a sum of £80-4-7 being raised, and thanks are due to all those who so ably assisted the efforts of the Committee.

The Handicap Committee have carried out their work well, a considerable amount of trouble has been taken in obtaining information as to the system of handicapping in other clubs, and I believe we are now on sound lines.

A scratch score of 72 has been adopted for the purpose of handicapping only.

The handicaps have been adjusted from time to time, and just recently the whole have been revised and in some cases lifted.

Age and infirmity are now taken into account by the Handicap Committee.

Various events have been arranged, and matches with other Clubs which have proved very enjoyable in the past, especially to those members who are so fortunate as to be included in the Teams.

In this connection it is highly desirable that some of the younger members should make some effort to qualify for a position on the Match Teams, and that the general standard of play should be improved so that the Club will be in a position to hold its own in any match that may be arranged.

The greens committee have carried out a great many improvements on the Course and worked well together.

The hazards have been improved and increased; the greens, tees, and fairways in some cases have had dressings of sand and breeze.

A considerable amount of draining has been carried out on sound lines, and the old drains thoroughly cleaned out and in some cases re-laid, and as a result the Course generally should be in excellent condition this season.

The question of having the Course free from cattle has been carefully considered, and steps taken to see if it is at all possible to bring about this greatly to be desired result, and although it is not at present practicable the Committee are still hoping to accomplish something in this direction before very long.

Arrangements have been made for a supply of Fertilizer, Worm Killer etc. which will be used as occasion demands.

A new shelter has been erected near the 4th green, and should prove of service.

New locker rooms as suggested at the previous meeting have been approved by the President (Mr. Kenworthy); the rental of the Club Premises to be increased by a percentage on the cost of the building, and the work has been commenced; as soon as the building is completed the present locker room will be made into a Smoke Room for men only.

All machines have been overhauled and repaired and are in thorough working order.

The Caretakers, (Mr. and Mrs. Field) are giving every satisfaction.

The Committee decided that it was desirable that the offices of Professional and Groundsman should be separate and distinct and to that end appointed A.T. Kay as professional on Oct. 30th.

H.G. Taylor was appointed groundsman on Dec. 3rd. and his work, and the energy displayed by him, is having excellent results, both on the Course and in the management of the men.

During the Winter months a number of enjoyable whist drives have been held, and our thanks are due to the Ladies for their efforts, which resulted in £12/7/4 being handed over to the Treasurer.

A Calendar containing a list of events for the Season has been drafted, also the Rules of the Club have been revised and brought up to date; unfortunately it is not yet to hand from the printers, but as soon as it is ready one will be posted to each member.

In conclusion I should like to say that there have been a good many complaints regarding members who are not as careful as they

might be on the greens, tees and course generally, and the Committee earnestly desire that members will endeavour to remember that it is their duty to assist in keeping the Course in proper order by replacing divots and exercising reasonable care.

The Committee ask for the support of the whole of the members in making the Season a record one.

J Gibson  
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