

Ashton-Under-Lyne Golf Club Annual Meeting. Saturday May 3rd 1941.

Secretary's Report

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the past year and in being able to say notwithstanding the stress of the times through which we are passing, we have had a highly successful year.

The financial position shewn by the Balance Sheet and explained by the treasurer is very satisfactory indeed in fact a record balance, and gives evidence of our care in management and the keeping down of expenses, although I am not aware that anything has been stinted unnecessarily.

Mr Robson is to be congratulated on the excellent result, and members deserve our thanks for their willing support, without which it would be impossible to be able to present such a splendid balance.

The balance shews that the amount appearing in the previous year for Furniture, Lockers, Machines, Tools, Glass, China, Tools, and flags etc. has all been wiped out, and the bar stock stands at £353-17-11, which you will agree is excellent.

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

The outstanding subscriptions as stated in the balance sheet amount to £36-8-0, but I rather think that this is an overstatement, as two of the members are serving with the Forces as officers and are only liable for half the subscription and 2 Lady members have left the district.

The number of members is stated in the balance sheet, the Gentlemens membership is the same as last year, and less by 1 Junior. The Ladies membership has increased by 3. Honorary membership has increased by 4 gentlemen and decreased by 4 ladies.

It is very satisfactory to know that the membership is being maintained, although we have room for more.

We are proud to know that we have a number of members serving with the Forces, and although it does not fall to the lot of every member to be able to serve in the Army, no doubt every member is doing something towards achieving victory, and we certainly hope for the speedy and safe return of those who are serving when war shall be a thing of the past.

The members of Committee have again a good record of attendance which shews an average of 93.43%, they have considered and dealt with the many problems arising out of Club-house and Course management, and are doing their utmost to keep up the excellent condition of the Course.

The House Committee; Mr J H Barratt secretary, has again given valuable and the profit shewn has been considerably increased, and the thanks of the members are due to Mr Barratt for his valuable services, also the members who have given their support.

The Handicap Committee; Mr C I Baker secretary has also carried out its many duties in an efficient manner, handicaps have been given and revised from time to time and the many competitions have all been arranged (sic) Successfully, and our thanks are due to Mr Baker for his excellent services.

The Calendar sub-committee has drafted a very complete list of events, as you will see from the Calendar. The holding of competitions during the War has evidently met with the approval of the members judging from the results, so that it has been decided to carry on as before.

The Greens Committee; myself secretary, has endeavoured as in past years to keep the Course in good condition, and has carried out the fertilising, worming, forking and dressing, and the result I am sure merits your approval.

All the machines have been overhauled and repaired at considerable expense and everything is in perfect order for the season.

Certain tees have been reconstructed during the Winter, drains have been opened and other minor improvements have been made.

During the Winter only two men have been employed and their work has given entire satisfaction.

The Committee decided to increase the wages of the groundsmen by 5/- per week owing to the increased cost of living.

It has not yet been decided what number of men will be employed this summer.

The Motor Tractor has been converted so that paraffin can be used in lieu of petrol, this was done because the petrol supply ceased, and will result in a saving.

There will be some difficulty in obtaining certain fertilisers, but no doubt some substitute will be found.

The Course generally is in excellent condition and the ground staff are to be congratulated.

The War Authorities requested that we should erect obstructions to prevent aeroplane landings on the Course, and this has been carried out as you know, and does not greatly interfere with play.

The Lancashire War Agricultural Executives representative visited us in November, in connection with War Time efforts for the cultivation of land and after considerable discussion he agreed to accept 10 acres of land for grazing, the Committee carefully considered this matter and decided that it would be best to offer 15 acres, the whole of the

Home Field, as this would be most convenient and economical as regards fencing, and the representative accepted this and said he was pleased with the offer, and the field was let to Gledhill for grazing cattle, since then however it came to the knowledge of the Committee that the local farmers having had to plough up some of their land were very short of grazing, and after careful consideration, it was decided to let off the remaining 70 acres for the during of the War, and this arrangement has been made with the farmers whose land adjoins the Course. The Committee naturally do not care for cattle on the Course any more than the members, but under present conditions we are bound to do all we can in the interests of the country.

The Social Committee, Mr J H Barratt secretary, has again given valuable assistance, their efforts being solely devoted to the raising of funds for the Infirmary and War Time Efforts, the total amounting to £120-12-11, and I am sure that their efforts are great appreciated.

The Ladies Committee decided not to hold competitions, therefore they have ~~not~~ not been in a position to help the club financially, they have however decided to try and run competitions this season.

The subscribers and givers of prizes are to be thanked for their generous help which relieves the Club of a certain amount expense, thus contributing to the financial success. I may say that the givers of prizes have responded nobly to the appeal by the handicap secretary.

In conclusion I should like to say that the Captain and Members of the Committee greatly appreciate the support and assistance of the members, and although war conditions must of necessity impose certain restrictions, and to a great extent limit the enjoyment of the members, we can confidently look forward to another successful season.