

Ashton-Under-Lyne Golf Club Annual General Meeting. Saturday May 7th 1932.

Secretary's Report

I have pleasure in again presenting the report for the past year.

The financial position has been explained by the Treasurer, Mr Wood and you will no doubt agree that the position is far more satisfactory than it has been for some time, and this is owing to the Committee's action in cutting down expenses on the Course, and the excellent results produced by the Social Committee, plus the profits from the Bar,

The annual saving effected by the reduction of expenses will amount to £175/10/- over previous years, and if the efforts of the Social Committee are maintained "and this will absolutely be necessary until our membership is materially increased", and nothing extraordinary occurs, we shall be in the happy position of having a credit balance at the end of next year.

The Loan Account has been reduced by £16/9/3, but the list still contains one ~~Honorary~~ Non Member and three Honorary Members whose loans amount to £40/9/6, and I should like to see these paid off.

We have at certain periods of the Year, "only for a short time", a rather large overdraft at the Bank, and some time ago, the Bank asked the Committee to guarantee half the amount of such overdraft, and the whole of the Committee are now guarantors for £20 each, which of course is a responsibility not to be lightly undertaken, and any new member of the Committee will naturally be expected to take up his share of the responsibility, and so release any retiring member.

The Committee granted permission for a "Pylon in connection with the Electricity Scheme" to be erected adjoining the 10th Green, but only after serious consideration had been given to see if it was at all possible for any other arrangement to be made, so as to avoid having the Pylon on the Course, but as there was really no way out of the difficulty they finally agreed to accept £100 as compensation.

Since then we have had another Pylon thrust upon us next the 9th. Green, and after negotiations it was decided to accept £25 for this.

The Committee regret that they have been compelled to have these Pylons on the Course, but I am sure that the members will appreciate the difficulty and approve of their action which has resulted in the sum of £125 being handed over to the Club; and I may say that this amount is exceptional, the usual amount only being a nominal sum per year.

There are only a few members in arrears of Subscription, apart from the names of those who remain on the list through not having sent in their resignations, the amount being £16/5/-, and it is really very satisfactory having regard to the bad state of trade.

The number of members is as follows: - 125 Gentlemen Playing Members, 2 Country Members,
1 Temporary Member and 4 Juniors, and 87 Lady Playing Members and 1 Junior.

The Gentlemen's Membership has decreased by 9 playing members, and 2 Temporary Members and increased by 2 Country Members and 2 Juniors. The Ladies' Membership has increased by 4 Playing Members.

The Honorary Membership has decreased by 8.

There have been a good number of resignations of playing members, "not wholly unexpected", some of whom were members of very long standing and we regret their loss very much, not simply because of the loss to the Club, but on personal grounds; fortunately this loss has to some extent been modified by quite a number of new members and we extend to them a cordial welcome.

The Committee greatly desire that the membership should be increased, and have given much thought to this important question, and in an endeavour to assist in bringing this about had a considerable number of handbooks printed which were circulated among the members and others whom it was thought might be interested.

The members of the Committees have attended excellently and taken keen interest in the affairs of the Club and especially in regard to the economy and financial matters generally.

During the Winter the staff has been cut down to two men only, and the extra assistance of 2 Youths at less salary than before will be shortly engaged for work during the Summer Months and a horse will be purchased, and this arrangement will as previously stated, bring about a considerable saving, and it is the intention of the Committee to pursue this policy in future.

I feel sure you will agree that the Course has not suffered in any way through this arrangement, although very little constructional work can be undertaken, but when such work is necessary, and the funds can be provided, additional help will be obtained.

The House Committee; Messrs E Raines and H Ridyard Joint Secretaries has rendered valuable Service in the management of the Bar and Shop and the result as a whole is very gratifying, but the results from the Shop are not what they ought to be, and the members are asked to patronize this branch which exists solely for their convenience.

The results from the Bar are excellent and give evidence of careful and expert management involving a considerable amount of work.

The Steward and Stewardess continue to give satisfaction, and the results from the Bar prove their worth in regard to money matters

The Handicap Committee: Mr E S Jones Secretary: - has also carried out its many duties efficiently, revising handicaps as occasion requires and sending reports to the papers.

The Open Day was a great success and resulted in a profit of 4/- and our thanks should be given to Mess^{rs} H L Boardman, R Bennett and J C Payne for organizing the same.

The Calendar is a very comprehensive one and special attention should be given to one or two events: Running Fourball Bogey Competition, Gymkhana July 23rd. The Luxor Cup Competition in aid of the District Infirmary also the Annual Dance on December 2nd. The Greens Committee: J Gibson Secretary; has also given considerable service and carried out many alterations and improvements on the Course.

Brooks the Groundsman continues to give every satisfaction and I am sure that you will appreciate his efficiency.

Drainage has been carried out in many necessary places, and the stone wall has been removed at Number 11. The fences have been repaired, and a new foot-bridge made across the bottom of the gully and the gully at the bottom of Number 8 has been lifted and improved.

The subsidence on the left of the approach to number 9 has been remedied.

Worm Killer, fertilizer and compost has been applied to all greens and tees.

Some of the greens have been renovated, and some tees relaid, and a new tee has been made at number 6.

A new supply of flag poles has been obtained and painted and the tee boxes have been painted and numbered etc., and new flags have also been purchased.

Rough cutting in all hollows, pit and bunkers has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner.

The whole of the machines have been thoroughly overhauled and repaired and are in good working order.

The rough cutting was carried out twice during the season.

The Committee considered the question of Motor Traction and visited Romiley to see their tractor at work and obtain any necessary particulars, but eventually decided that at any rate for the coming season they would continue with horse traction, and we are now on the lookout for a suitable horse.

I consider that the Course generally is looking very fine and hope that the members will have reason to be pleased with the Committee's efforts in this direction.

A successful Caddies Match was held during the year and our thanks are due to all those members who assisted and subscribed.

There is no mention of a Caddies Match in the Calendar for this Season, but I presume one will be held as usual, and I ask for your financial support and assistance when required.

The Social Committee: Mr P Tildsley Secretary.

This Committee consisting of 5 members of Committee, four members appointed by the General Meeting and six Ladies has done excellent work in carrying out many social events such as a Gymkhana, Dance, Whist and Bridge Drives, as well as many other little events of which many of you have special knowledge resulting in the sum of £100 being handed over to the general funds.

There has been a considerable amount of work involved in all these arrangements and the

Committee and members must appreciate great the valuable services of this Committee and especially those of Mr Tildsley the Secretary who as you know has had to retire from this position owing to his new appointment at Chorley and I feel that we wish him every possible happiness in his new sphere.

I must say that the Committee decided to ask Mr J Taylor to take on the duties of secretary to this Committee and you will be pleased to learn that he has consented and I believe he will make an excellent and popular secretary.

The Ladies' Committee had handed over the sum of £50 this season to the general funds and the Committee and Members greatly appreciate this timely and welcome assistance.

We are deeply indebted to those members who have so kindly subscribed to the Prize Fund, also to the winners of the various events in providing runner-up prizes which as you know relieve the Club of considerable expense.

The Club is at present running very smoothly and apart from one or two minor growls of little importance, a real good feeling exists and I ask for your cordial help and backing "which has always been forthcoming when required" in assisting the Committee to make the present season a successful one.

J Gibson
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