

**Ashton Golf Club Annual General Meeting. Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup> 1926**

**Secretary's Report**

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the past year, and in doing so, do not propose to deal with the questions of finance, as any explanation required by the members will be given by the Treasurer.

The loss on this year's working is very small, but the upkeep and new rentals, and increases in rates over and above the agricultural rate, owing to taking over the land direct, and the loss from the grazing rent mean that we shall have increased expenditure.

The Committee have gone very carefully into the figures and believe that by exercising strict economy, and the loyal support of the members, we shall be able to gradually improve the Course, and pay off our indebtedness in three or four years.

One point that is necessary to emphasise is that we must have an increase in men members, and the Committee are hoping that the members will assist in this matter.

The number of members is as follows: - 163 Gentlemen, 3 Country members, 1 Temporary member and 3 Juniors.

There are 102 Lady members, 1 country member and 6 Juniors.

Honorary Members: Ladies 27, Gentlemen 17.

There have been several resignations, also new members during the year, and the membership in the case of Gentlemen shows a decrease of 16 and the Ladies membership is decreased by 5.

The outstanding subscriptions are very few, and it is expected that most of these will be got in.

Owing to deaths and resignations of loan holders last year, we shall have to pay off a sum of about £76 this year.

A Postal Ballot was taken re opening the Bar on Sundays and there was a majority of 6 in favour. The Committee decided in this connection that on Sundays all refreshment shall be served in rooms and not at the Bar.

The leases between Lord Stamford's Trustees and the Waterworks Committee and the Club have been prepared and signed by the members of the Committee on your behalf, and the whole of the land occupied by the Club as a Course is now taken direct as from 25<sup>th</sup> March.

In connection with the negotiations for getting Cattle off the Course, an arrangement has been made with Mr. Gledhill to pay off the £350 compensation in instalments: -- £10 for the first year, leaving the balance of £200 as a loan at %5 interest free from tax; £100 of this to be paid off in 1927 and the remainder in 1928.

This arrangement we hope will relieve us from the necessity of either increasing the present loan, or creating a new one, providing we have the necessary assistance from the members.

There has been a very gratifying response from the members who promised donations of £3/3/- to the Cattle Fund, and only a very few promises are still unfulfilled, and these no doubt, will be paid very shortly.

The Committee still look to those members who have not yet promised or given anything to this fund, to do their little bit and not leave to the few, the burden of improving the Course, as all improvements benefit each and every member.

The vacancy on the Committee caused by Mr S W Herbert accepting the Captaincy, has been filled by appointing Mr R Whitworth and I feel sure that this arrangement will meet with your hearty approval.

The Professional, A T Kay left our employ in September and the Groundsman H G Taylor in November and it was decided to try and manage without either Professional or Groundsman.

The Caretakers, Mr and Mrs Nield have given every satisfaction and Mr Nield has given valuable assistance both on the Course and in the working of the Professional's shop.

A movement is on foot whereby we are to have a photograph of the various Captains of the Club framed and hung in the Club House, and this I believe will shortly be realised.

The members of the various Sub-Committees and General Committee have attended regularly and given a good deal of their time to the varied work of the Club.

The House Committee has again looked well after the interest of the members and management of the Bar and the resulting profit of £222/8/8 is considered very satisfactory and gives evidence of careful management.

The Committee has instituted a professional's shop for the sale of golfing requisites and repairs, and the progress so far (during a lean time) has been very satisfactory.

It is necessary however that we should have the whole hearted support of the members in this Department to make it a thorough success.

The Handicap Committee has also attended to its many duties and it is pleasing to note that handicaps are generally being reduced, showing improvement in the play of members.

The Committee have had the Course measured from each Tee to Green and full particulars have been forwarded to the Lancashire Union of Golf Clubs, and application made for a National Scratch Score for the Course, but same has not yet come to hand.

The local rules have been revised and everything is in order for the coming Season.

An open Mixed Foursomes Competition has been arranged for June 5<sup>th</sup>, as last year, and for this event we ask your support and help.

Matches have been fixed up with other Clubs and other events arranged.

A Caddies Match was held and proved a great success.

The Greens Committee have carried out many improvements on the Course: -- The following work has been carried out:-- Draining to No 18 Fairway, and many other places, New Tee at No 18. The rough has been harrowed and burned off. Hollows lifted to No 14 Fairway. Hollow next to No 1 Green has been lifted. Slag dressing has been given to weedy patches on Greens, also bare patches on Fairways have had screened ashes rolled in. The men have also commenced cutting and rolling the fairways. An attempt is being made to get the Telephone Poles off the Course, or at any rate moved out of the way, but we have not been successful so far.

Fertiliser and sand has been delivered, and the whole of the greens and tees, also bad places on the Fairways are to be treated. There are three men now employed on the course, but it will be necessary to employ occasional help to keep down the rough with a scythe and it proposed to engage the services of an expert mower to do this work.

It is necessary to call attention to the question of payment for telephone calls; it is felt that some of the members are not paying for calls as they should; and the members are asked to assist the Committee in this matter.

During the Winter months a number of enjoyable whist drives have been held, and the Committee desire to thank the Ladies for their efforts, also to express their appreciation for the sum handed over to the Treasurer, to the Cattle Fund, from the Dance, also for their generous donations to the fund.

A calendar containing a list of events for the Season has been posted to every member and a varied programme has been arranged and coupled with favourable weather we can confidently look forward to a successful season.

The Committee are desirous of putting the Course in really first class condition and ask for the co-operation of the members in seeing that all Rules and Regulations are observed, especially in regard to divots; Any member requiring enlightenment as to the meaning of the work Divots is requested to apply for information to any member of the Greens Committee.

In conclusion, I should like to express my thanks to all those member who helped in any way to make the past season a successful one, and to say that such help and assistance in future will be greatly appreciated.

**J Gibson**  
**Sec'.**