

Ashton-Under-Lyne Golf Club Annual General Meeting. 4th May, 1946.

Secretary's Report

As you are all aware, gentlemen, I was elected Honorary Secretary at the Autumn General Meeting last year, and although this is considered the Secretary's Annual Report, and covers the activities of the Club for the whole year, I would like to emphasise the point that my intimate connection with the affairs and management of the Club extends over a period of seven months only, and I have to thank the Captain and Members of the Committee for the valuable assistance they have given to me during that time.

The Financial Statement presented by the Honorary Treasurer has already been disposed of, and after Mr Firth's clear and concise explanation of the accounts, further comment from me on the financial position is unnecessary. We do however owe our warmest thanks to Mr Firth for his valuable services to the Club in the office of Honorary Treasurer. Our thanks are also due to Mr Lowe and Mr Widdop for their willing and efficient services as Auditors.

Many matters have engaged the attention of the Committee from time to time during the past year. These have been dealt with and every endeavour made to keep the course in as good a condition as possible with the available staff.

During the winter months the ground staff have completed the draining of the 8th and 9th Greens, have cleared the drains in front of the 4th green, cut a new channel and generally cleaned up the ditch at the left of the eighth fairway, improved the 8th and 9th tees, straightened up the grass bunker running in front of the fifth approach, cleaned up the bunkers at Nos 6 and 12 Greens and many other works of re-instatement of ground broken up and damaged by cattle. The ground staff were badly handicapped by the breakdown of the Tractor, which was away for a period of 9 or 10 weeks undergoing complete overhaul and repair, which meant of course that during that time all material had to be moved by wheelbarrow.

A former member of the ground staff who has been serving in the Army for the past six years has now been demobilised and applied for reinstatement and the Committee have re-engaged him, in the first place for a probationary period of six months. The tractor is now back and working satisfactorily, the machines have all been overhauled and are in very good condition so with an additional man the work on the course should be greatly speeded up. The greens have all be hand weeded, spiked and treated with compost and fertilizer, and on the whole I think we can with confidence look forward to a great improvement in the condition of the course.

The Committee have again let the grazing of the Home field to Mr Hall of Gorse Lane Farm, reserving the right to mow the fairways as and when desired. This letting of the grazing meets the requirements of the War Agricultural Executive Committee, whose representatives visited and inspected the course in March last.

The House Committee; (Mr Cawthron secretary), has again rendered valuable assistance and the excellent financial result on House account is to a great extent due to the careful management. During the year electrical plugs have been installed and electric fire provided in the gentlemen's locker room, the steward's quarters have been decorated, also the dining room and ceilings in the

Bar and smoke room have been painted.

The Handicap Committee; (Mr H R Schofield secretary) has carried out its duties efficiently, and kept up to date the various handicaps.

The Calendar Committee has arranged a comprehensive list of events for the coming season, and it is hoped that the Members will give their hearty support as in the previous years.

The Social Committee (Mr H Burlinson, Secretary) has again been busily engaged raising funds for war and other charities.

Our thanks are due to the secretaries of these committees, Mr Cawthron, Mr Schofield, and Mr Burlinson for their willing, valuable and efficient services in the Club's interests.

Our thanks are also due to the many donors of prizes for their generous help, which makes an attractive list of fixtures possible.

The number of members is shown on the Balance sheet, but since this was issued there has been some alteration, and apart from the nominations already posted, we now have 196 gentlemen playing members, 1 life member and 1 country member; 100 lady playing members and 2 juniors. Honorary members 29 ladies and 17 gentlemen.

The increase in membership from last year is as follows: -

Gentlemen:	New Members	37		Net
	Transferred from Hon:	1	Total 38	Increase
	less 5 resignations		5	33
Ladies:	New Members	13		
	Transferred from Hon:	16		
	do. do. Jun:	1	Total 30	
	less 4 resignations		4	26

An total increase of playing members over last year of 59.
which is a very healthy sign and augers well for the future.

The members of the Committee have a good record of attendance which shows an average of 91 per cent, about 50 per cent of the Non-attendances is due to the meeting in August when many people are away on holiday.

When the Secretary's Annual report was presented last May we were at war with Germany and Japan and there was at that time 28 members of this Club serving in H M Forces, I am very glad and feel infinitely grateful, as I am sure you all do, to be able to say that we have already welcomed back to the Club 22 of those 28 members, the remaining six are still serving in the Forces and we sincerely hope to see them all safely back very soon.

I should like to say that the Captain and members of the Committee greatly appreciate the backing and support they receive from the members, and appeal once again to all to play their part in

keeping the course tidy, and above all to replace turf displaced in play.

In conclusion, I wish to express my own personal appreciation for the manner in which my service as Honorary Secretary has been received, not only by the Committee but also the general body of members, and assure you that I will continue to do all I can to further the Club's interests. I feel sure the condition of the course will continue to improve and that the Club is assured of a good season and continued prosperity.

Hon Sec.