

Ashton-Under-Lyne Golf Club Annual Meeting Saturday May 6th 1944.

Secretary's Report

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the past year, and in being able to say that the season has been a very successful one, although the War presents a serious handicap.

The financial position shown by the Balance Sheet, and explained by the Treasurer, is very satisfactory and speaks for itself, and the members have contributed largely in bringing about such a satisfactory result. Mr Firth is to be congratulated on being able to present such a statement of account and deserves our warmest thanks for his valuable services.

The Auditors Messrs W Lowe and E F Widdop are to be thanked for their co-operation and assistance in editing the accounts.

The number of members is stated on the Balance Sheet, but since this was sent out there has been some slight alteration, and there are now 147 gentlemen playing members, 2 Juniors and 1 Country Member, and 64 Lady Members and 3 Juniors. Honorary Members, 20 gentlemen and 37 Ladies. Increase over last year of 5 gentlemen and 1 Country Member and a decrease of 15 Ladies and 6 Junior Members.

The Honorary Membership has decreased in the case of gentlemen by 6 and there are 9 more Ladies.

It is very satisfactory to note that the gentlemen's membership is well maintained, but the falling off of the Ladies Membership is no doubt due to home duties and war efforts, and the cancelling of all the Ladies competitions.

We are proud to know that we have a goodly number of members, Ladies and Gentlemen serving in His Majesty's Forces, and we hope that before long we may welcome their safe return and the cessation of hostilities. These members as you are no doubt aware have their subscriptions waived, and in addition it has been decided to waive the subscription of the Officers Mess from Ladysmith Barracks.

The members of the Committee have again a good record of attendance which shows an average of 83.3%. Various problems have presented themselves from time to time and these have been carefully considered and dealt with, and every endeavour has been made to keep the Course in good condition, although this presents a serious problem owing to having cattle on the Course, and a limited staff.

The house and smoke room have been decorated, and the comforts of the members have received attention.

The House Committee, Mr H H Cawthron secretary, has again rendered valuable assistance and the excellent results on House account are due to careful management, and our thanks are due to the secretary for his willing service.

The Handicap Committee, Mr C I Baker secretary, has carried out its duties efficiently, and kept up to date the various handicaps, and Mr Baker is to be thanked for his valuable services.

The Calendar sub-committee has drafted a very comprehensive list of events for the coming season and it is hoped that these events will have your cordial support as in the past.

The Greens Committee, myself secretary has endeavoured as far as possible to keep the Course in good condition, and the greens have been forked and the greens and tees fertilised. Worm killer being poisonous cannot be used on account of the presence of cattle. Samples of turf were sent to Bingley Research Station for analysis, and their advice was sought in regard to suitable fertiliser, and this advice has been followed, and I think you will agree that under the prevailing conditions, there is not much ground for complaint.

The fairways have been cut several times and the fairways have been narrowed to some extent.

The machines have been overhauled and repaired and everything is in readiness for the season.

We are still carrying on with two men and they are doing very well and deserve every praise.

The Committee has again let the grazing over the whole course.

Last season, as most of you are aware, we had to sue Messrs Gledhill and Bowler for payment of the grazing fee on 70 acres, as they withheld payment saying that they had suffered damage on account of the airways being cut, and for which they entered a counter claim; Judgement was given against the Club, the cost of which swallowed up the whole of the rent we expected to receive.

The claim made for War Damage to the course caused by bomb amounted to £52-3-7 and this amount has been received.

It was pointed out some time ago by Lord Stamford's surveyor that the field of 2½ acres on which No 16 green and fairway are situated, was not included in the original lease to the Club and that Mr Bowler, the farmer has been paying rent for 16 years although we were in free possession. The amount paid by Mr Bowler amounted to £72. This matter has been settled by the payment of £60 and the field in question is now rented by the club direct from the Stamford Estate, from March 25th 1943.

The social Committee, Mr H Burlinson secretary has again given great assistance in raising money for War efforts and I am sure that we all appreciate their efforts, and the work done by the secretary calls for our warmest thanks.

The subscribers and givers of prizes are to be thanked for their generous assistance, whereby the club is relieved of the considerable expense, especially seeing that everything is so expensive at the present time.

In conclusion, may I say that the Captain and members of committee greatly value the support and backing of the members, and although War conditions impose many restrictions, we can still look forward with confidence to another successful year.

J Gibson
Secy.