

Ashton-Under-Lyne Golf Club
Secretary's Report
6th May 1950

Mr Captain and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report and once again I think I can, with confidence say, that the past Season has been a most successful one in every way.

The Financial Statement submitted by the Honorary Treasurer has already been accepted by you and after Mr Turner's detailed explanation of the Income and Expenditure, I feel sure there is nothing further to be said in that direction, except, that our warmest thanks should be extended to Mr Turner for his valuable and efficient services to the Club in the office of Hon Treasurer, also to Mr W Lowe and Mr E R Widdop, who have once more conscientiously and efficiently carried out the audit of the Treasurer's Accounts.

Since the Balance Sheet was printed, shewing the state of membership, there has been some slight alteration, and we have at present: -

- 229 Gent playing members compared to 240 at the same time last year.
- 126 Lady playing members compared to 139 at the same time last year.
- 21 Junior Boys compared to 17 at the same time last year.
- 7 Junior Girls compared to 5 at the same time last year.
- 3 Country members (Gents) compared to 6 at the same time last year.
- 25 Hon Members Ladies compared to 22 at the same time last year.
- 15 Hon Members Gents compared to 17 at the same time last year.

a total membership of 426 as compared with 446 last year, shewing a net decrease at the present time of 20 members. These figures do not take into account any nominations which are at present posted in the Club.

The Members of the Committee have maintained a good record of attendance at Committee Meetings with an average of 95% of attendances since the election of the new members in October last, and they have given much time and thought to many matters of importance which have been brought before them from time to time, to the condition of the course and the comfort and convenience of the members generally.

It is usual at this meeting to express our thanks to the Secretaries of the various sub-Committees. This year, as in the past the House Committee, Handicap Committee, and Social Committee have done excellent work, and we are undoubtedly, indebted to ~~the~~ Mr Cawthron (House Committee) Mr Brown (Handicap Committee) and to Mr Battersby (Social Committee) for the time, the energy, and thought they devote to the interests of the Club.

The Calendar Sub-Committee has again arranged a comprehensive list of events for the coming season, and we are looking forward for the same support, which has been given by members, in the past years. In this Connection our thanks are due to the many donors of prizes which makes such an attractive list of fixtures possible.

Mr W Brown is playing in the Lancashire Amateur Championship Competition, and I am sure he has the good wishes of every one of us towards his success. Two members of the Club have qualified for

the "Evening News" Competition, Mr Greaves and Mr Clough and to them also go our good wishes.

With regard to the Course, I personally think that last year it was maintained in a splendid condition, and compared favourably with any previous year, and the Greenkeeper and his assistants are to be congratulated on their work. At the present time however, the Course is not by any means in such a good condition as we would like it to be, and like many other clubs, we are now suffering from the abnormally hot and dry summer of last year. The Committee however have taken steps towards the cultivation of the Fairways, they have all be spiked and fertilised, and we are looking forward (given a spell of fine and warm weather) to a speedy improvement, and hope to see later in the Season, our course in a better condition than it has ever been before.

As it was well known, it was the intention of the Green Committee to reconstruct the 9th Green during the past winter months. Owing to the enormous amount of soil etc, to be moved, it was decided to enlist mechanical aid. Unfortunately just as operations were commenced, we were met with a spell of atrociously wet weather which after a period rendered any further work on the site impossible, and we have had to construct a temporary green for this Season.

Perhaps it is not generally known, but as a matter of fact, to reconstruct the 9th Green in accordance with the model submitted by the Greenkeeper, and approved by the Committee, it meant the moving of at least 1,300 cubes yards of earth. Immediately a spell of reasonably dry weather comes along, the work of building up the 9th will be proceeded with, ready for the Greenkeeper to complete during the winter, and to be in commission next spring.

As you probably know the tractor has been away for complete overhaul and rebuilding, and the work was again held up on account of it not being available at the time when we most needed it.

The Committee decided to purchase two motor mowers for cutting the tees and approaches, we have already got one in operation and it is proving very useful.

It has been decided to build sheds on the course for the purpose of housing tractor, machines etc, and the mixing and storing of fertiliser etc, this will I'm sure be a great help to the greenkeeper in carrying out his maintenance of the course.

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The Captain and Members of the Committee greatly appreciate the backing and support received from the Members generally, and once again we are all looking forward to another enjoyable season with the good fellows at Ashton Golf Club.