

Ashton Golf Club Annual General Meeting May 6th 1922

Secretary's Report.

I have pleasure in stating that the financial position of the Club is improving, as you will see from the Balance Sheet, the Loan Account has been reduced by £114-18-4 and the cost of construction of the Course reduced by £111-18-3, now standing at £167-7-7, this the Committee feel is very satisfactory indeed.

The expenses are still very heavy and will be so next year, on account of the many improvements which are considered absolutely necessary to the Greens, Tees and the Course generally.

There are four men employed on the Course at the present time and the Committee consider that general efficiency cannot be maintained with less.

The number of members is as follows: 181 Gentlemen and Juniors and 1 Country Member. Ladies 94, Juniors 6. Honorary Members 43. There have been a number of resignations during the latter part of the Season, possibly owing to the increase in Subscription, especially in the case of Members who did not make use of the Club. The Membership has been reduced in the case of Gentlemen by 10, Ladies 5 and the Honorary Membership has been increased by 6.

The Levy made on Playing Members last Season has been paid except in one or two cases, but I feel sure that the increase in the subscription is a far more satisfactory way of maintaining a sound financial position.

The number of outstanding subscriptions and arrears are as follows: 12 Gentlemen, Ladies Nil, and 2 Honorary amounting to £54-9-0 and in the case of 6 of the above, the Committee will be compelled to strike the names off the list of membership.

The various sub committees have carried out their work harmoniously and well and rendered excellent service; as you will see from Calendar each sub Committee has now its own chairman and secretary, and if any point arises, during the Season the members have only to mention the matter to them and the question will be brought forward at the first opportunity.

The House Committee has revised the Tariff and Bar charges from time to time.

The stock in hand has been kept up, and the price charged in the Bar are on all fours with prices charged in other Clubs, and the profit of £132-17-9 on refreshments is very satisfactory and gives evidence of careful management.

The Handicap Committee has carried out its duties efficiently and all handicaps have been attended to and brought up to date. The Scratch score of the Course has been fixed at 74 and approved by the National Handicap Committee, and all handicaps have been raised by one stroke. The handicap limit is now 25 and any member without handicap is required to put in 2 cards of not more than 100 gross to receive the limit handicap. The Handicap Committee has also introduce a system by which a record of the scores in Monthly Medals is kept so that same can be readily referred to and taken into account when handicaps are altered or adjusted.

The Greens Committee have carried out many improvements on the Course, repaired various fences, improved the approaches to the Greens, levelled up some of the hollow places so that the grass can be cut properly, dressed the fairways with Basic Slag, formed a nursery and sown same so that a good supply of grass sods can be obtained for replacements. Have had fixed 2 Hydrants for the supply of water, also purchased 300 yards of hose and couplings, so that worm killer can be effectively applied, or Greens watered in the case of drought. One shelter has also been purchased and erected, and all the machines and tools etc, are in thorough working order.

The Committee also decide to obtain the expert advice of Messrs. James Carter & Co of Raynes Park, London in respect to the condition of the Greens, Tees and Course generally, also as to their treatment, also asked for a report of their suggested treatment the year round. The expert, Mr Reginald Beale FLS, visited the Course on the 23rd March and advised and reported as follows:-

The soil was of a highly plastic nature over clay, but carried turf well above the average of inland courses, both on and through the green and that he was of the opinion that he Course generally can be worked up to a high state of perfection. The putting greens are soft and wormy and he suggested dressing with fertilizer and sand, and sowing grass seed, also treatment for the killing of worms when conditions are favourable and the removal of weeds; and in the Autumn to work in some dry, sharp hard material and roll during the time the greens are out of use in the Winter so as to make the surface quite firm and assist the drainage, and in addition to dress with air slaked lime. The Course, through the green should have the soft places dressed with coarse, hard, sharp material worked in and in the Autumn have a dressing of pulverised chalk or air slaked quicklime, also that the surface should be harrowed so as to remove the dead herbage.

You will see from the foregoing report that there is a considerable amount of work and expense before us and the Committee are doing all that is possible to carry out the suggestions of the expert, in fact a considerable of the work is already in hand and the remainder will follow in due course.

In regard to the Panels on which to record the winners' names also Captains etc; the Committee appreciated the offer of three members to defray the cost of a panel each, and while recognizing their generosity, decide that the Panels should be provided out of Club funds and not be left to individuals. I therefore prepared a design for the panels, suitable for fixing over the Dining Room mantel which the Committee accepted, and they asked me to get in Tenders, but unfortunately I have not had time to prepare the necessary details, but no doubt I shall be able to do so shortly.

The Officers' Mess Subscription has been raised from £10-10-0 to £15-15-0 this season.

During the Winter a number of enjoyable Whist Drives have been held and the Ladies have been to considerable trouble to make them successful, and the thanks of the Members are due to them for their efforts resulting in £13-13-2 being handed over to the Club. A very successful Concert was given by the President, Mr Kenworthy and our thanks are due to him for his kind ness and generosity.

A Calendar has been forwarded to every member containing a list of events for the Season and the Committee have every confidence that with favourable weather conditions, the Season should prove a great success.

J Gibson

Secretary

**Reg Whitworth
Chairman**