

Ashton Golf Club Annual General Meeting. Saturday May 5th 1928.

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 from all points of view.

The financial position of the Club is quite good and steadily improving as you will see from the balance sheet; therefore I have not dealt in any way with the question in this report leaving any necessary explanation or comment to the Treasurer.

There have been several resignations from unexpected sources, also loss by death of two members; Mr J R Widdop and Mr Arthur Williams, but the vacancies have been more than covered by new members,

The number of members is as follows: - 167 Gentlemen Playing members 3 Country , 3 Temporary and 3 Juniors. 100 Ladies, 1 Country and 3 Juniors. Honorary Members Gentlemen 21 Ladies 30.

The Gentlemen membership has increased by 5 playing members, 1 Temporary member and 1 Junior, and the Ladies membership has increased by 2 playing members. The Honorary membership has increased by 7.

The position is considered satisfactory but the Committee hope that the membership will continue to increase and I believe there is every prospect. The Committee have done all in their power to attract new members but I believe the real way lies with the members themselves, doing what they can to induce their friends to join, and to this fact I attribute the increase in membership.

The resignation from the Committee of Mr Jos H Taylor on the grounds of ill health was accepted on October 20th 27 and the vacancy was filled by the Committee who appointed Mr Jas Lohead.

The members of various sub-committees and General Committee have attended regularly and devoted a considerable amount of time to the work of the Club and its members.

The House Committee has again looked well after the management of the House and Shop and the resulting profit gives every satisfaction. The professional's shop is being carried on successfully, Brennan is still having lessons in club making etc., and suitable stock carried, and all that is required now is for the members to give this undertaking their loyal support.

In passing I should like to point out that it would not be possible to maintain the Club and Course on the present subscription if it were not for the fact that the Bat and Shop are making profits. I therefor ask for the support of every member.

The Handicap Committee has also attended to its many duties revising handicaps as required, revised the local rules, and prepared a very interesting list of events for the coming season. Matches have also been arranged with Fairfield and Bramhall. I should like to draw your attention to the date of the Open Mixed Foursome viz: - June 30th, this is as you are aware a great event and the Committee ask for your support and assistance so that it will again prove successful.

A Caddies' match was held as in previous years and proved very enjoyable, both to the Caddies and spectators.

The Finance Committee have again rendered valuable assistance and kept watch on the spending departments, thus helping to produce a satisfactory balance sheet.

The Greens Committee has done valuable work on the Course, and the effects will be seen to advantage later.

The Following works has been carried out: -

Weedy patches have been cut out of all greens. Drains have been opened out at various places, and an extensive scheme of drainage has been practically completed on No. 6 and 7 fairways, and fine ashes spread and rolled in the fairways. The approach to No. 4 Green has been drained. The work has necessitated the purchase of a large number of drain tiles. The greens and tees also approaches ~~have~~ had a dressing of lime and sand at the end of the year and have this year been dressed with worm killer. Our thanks are due to Mr W H Andrew for paying the expenses of Mr Chevalier, the Reddish Vale professional who visited the course and advised as to treatment. I have also to report that Mr Wm Monk kindly promised to present the Club a motor suitable fitted up for the work of traction on the Course, this machine is nearly ready and on its arrival the work of cutting the fairways will be carried out by means of the motor and triple mower, this displacing the horse and speeding up work generally. I'm sure you will all agree that our thanks are due to Mr Wm Monk for his generosity.

The Committee decided some time ago to adopt different and speedy measures in dealing with the rough on the Course and to this end sanctioned the purchase of an Albion two horse mower, the necessary power for this to be hired as required. The triple mower has been thoroughly overhauled and the machines put in working order. Three men are still employed on the Course regularly and it will still be necessary to have extra help for scything.

The Cattle Fund has now been closed and with one or two exceptions all the promises that were made have been fulfilled.

The lease of the land from the Trustees of Lord Stamford has been completed.

A very successful dance was held this Winter and it is expected that a Dance will in future be held annually.

Donations have been given to various worthy objects, viz: - County Police Sports Fund 2/2/-, A sun of £15 was raised by competition for the Ashton Infirmary and it has been decided to give a donation of 5/5/- to the Hartshead Pike Restoration Fund.

The Steward and Stewardess continue to give every satisfaction and the ground staff are doing likewise.

I have again to ask the assistance of the members in seeing that every player replaces divots, this question is really serious and has been repeatedly mentioned, and unless the rule relating to this matter is strictly observed, the offending members will have to be reported and dealt with as it is impossible to keep the Course in good condition if members fail to observe the rules in this respect.

In conclusion, I should like to thank every member who has assisted in any way in helping to make the year a successful one, and confidently appeal for your co-operation and support in the coming season.

J Gibson
Sec.