

Ashton Golf Club Annual General Meeting. Saturday May 5th 1923

Secretary's Report

I have to report that the financial position is sound although there is a loss on this year's working of £68-4-8, which has increased the amount still owing for the cost of construction of the course which now stands at £235-12-3.

This I think is explained by the fact that a considerable amount of money has been spent on necessary improvements on the Course thereby increasing the cost of construction.

The loan account has been reduced by £21-12-0, viz from £443-11-3 to £421-19-2 and is I think fairly satisfactory but I should like to see this account reduced much more.

The expenses have been rather heavy, chiefly owing to the extra expenditure on Machinery repairs, Fertilizers, Sand, Lime etc, for the Greens and carrying out the advice of Mess^{rs} Carter's expert.

The extra man has also been kept on during the Winter so that all drainage matters could be attended to and all work pushed on, but unfortunately the bad weather has been against us or the progress would have been rather more marked.

There are three men employed on the course in addition to the professional.

The number of members is as follows:- 168 Gentlemen, 2 Country Members, 1 Junior, 97 Ladies, 1 Country Member and 4 Juniors and 42 Honorary Members.

There have been a number of new members also resignations during this year and 9 members have been struck off the list owing to subscriptions being in arrear.

The membership has been reduced in the case of Gentlemen by 13, Ladies' membership has increased by 3, Honorary Membership has decreased by 1, Gentlemen's Junior one less and Ladies Junior 2 less and the Country Members increased by 1 Gentleman and 1 lady. There are 8 nominations on the board, 5 Gentlemen and 3 Ladies awaiting election so that there will not be much difference in the total number of members.

The various sub-committees has been regular in their attendance and carried out their work efficiently, and rendered good service. The House Committee has revised the wet and dry tariff, attended to the requirements of the members generally, and the profit of £140-7-11 on the Refreshment Account must be considered very good indeed.

Whist Tables and Chairs have been purchased and are a welcome addition to the comforts of members.

New Caretakers were appointed on November 25th, obtained possession of the house premises and have carried on to the entire satisfaction of the Committee since their appointment.

Mr A Lees resigned his membership of the Committee on December 15th 22, he has acted for a

number of years as Secretary to the House Committee and our thanks are due to him for his valuable services. Messrs F L Eaton and Reg Bennett have been added to this Committee.

The Panel for the list of prize winners has been lettered and fixed in the Dining Room.

The Handicap Committee have carried out their work well and have under consideration a new system of handicapping which will I believe tend to a more scientific method of handicapping.

As you all know this Committee decided to increase all handicaps by 2 sometime ago and I believe this has been generally approved by the members, unfortunately in a few cases there were decided objections, but the Committee felt that the handicaps all round were too low; that in the past some of the handicaps had been reduced too drastically and that the lifting up by 2 would form a better basis on which to work any new scheme of handicapping ; but in any case, a member playing below his handicap regularly in competition would soon be able to prove his merit. I believe the alteration has been warranted based on the returns provided in competition.

Various events have been arranged and matches with other Clubs which have proved so enjoyable in the past.

The hazards and local rules have been revised and brought up to date, and the Calendar has been carefully arranged.

A Caddies match was held on July 27th and proved very successful.

The Greens Committee have carried out a great many improvements on the course, the greens have been treated with worm killer, fertilizer, Sand and lime and are in splendid condition.

Draining has been carried out as far as possible where necessary and the old drains which had become choked have been opened out from end to end.

The natural hazards of the Course such as ditches, in a good many cases have been improved by forming bunkers and the pit on the left of No 3 approach has been cleaned out, drained and filled in and a Bunker formed which is considered a great improvement. The tee at No 10 has been moved back and the general opinion is that the hole is greatly improved. No 7 green and the approach has been trenched and drained and fine ashes rolled in. All machines have been repaired and put in thorough working order.

The new professional was appointed at the commencement of October and has proved I believe to be the right man, he is keen, a good worker and I believe desires to see Ashton Golf Club second to none. The wages of the three workmen have been reduced by 10/- each per week.

The third party insurance has been increased to £1000 and a policy has been taken out to cover 500 visitors, also extra premium paid to cover members while playing on own and other Clubs' Courses.

The Committee decided to provide each year a candlestick memento for the Mrs Woodcock Cup for the Ladies.

During the Winter months, a number of very enjoyable Whist Drives have been held and the Ladies

have helped considerably in this direction resulting in the sum of £1-13-0 being handed over to the Treasurer.

A Finance Committee has been appointed to Budget for the year and this will be a great help as we shall know in advance how far we can go in the spending department.

Plans were prepared for the erection of an upper storey to the Garage for Ladies and Gnetlemens Locker Rooms which would leave the existing Locker Rooms to be made into a Gentlemens Smoke Room and a Ladies Retiring Room. The Committee approved of the suggestion as an excellent one, but when the cost was estimated it proved prohibitive "at any rate for the present". The idea being to present the scheme to the President for his approval and to get him to carry out the work and increase the rental by percentage on the cost.

A Calendar containing a list of events for the Season has been posted to each member and the Committee look forward with every confidence to the hearty support of the Members to make the Season a most successful one.

J Gibson
Sec^y.