

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE CLUB HOUSE ON
SATURDAY, 1st MARCH, 1969 at 7-30 p.m.**

PRESENT: The Captain (Dr. J.A. Fiddian) in the Chair, the President and over 120 members.

The assembly stood in silence, as a mark of respect and to the memory of eight distinguished Members who had died during the past year – namely - Mr. A.L. Burton, Mr. J. Baxendale, Mr. R. Shepherd, Mr. W. Calvert, Mr. R. Plant, Mr. T. Hobson, Mrs. M.L. Hall and Mrs. D. Borsey.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported on the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1968, and the Balance Sheet as at that date, which had been circulated to Members as part of the Notice of Annual Meeting. He explained the variances of the 1969 figures from the previous year.

AUDITOR'S REPORT: The Hon. Auditors, Messrs. S. Roberts and B.R. Shaw expressed their satisfaction with the Accounts and Records. Various questions were raised by Members appertaining to the Club House expenses, the rising costs of Wages and alterations, which were explained in some detail by the Treasurer. Mr. R. Clegg then proposed and Mr. A. Howard seconded the adoption of the Balance Sheet. Tribute was paid to Mr. Butlin for the excellent services he rendered the Club in the capacity of Treasurer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Secretary mentioned the fact that the Committee had endeavoured to keep improving facilities. Items worthy of the mention being the Car Park facilities, Decoration of the interior of the Club House and improved condition of the Course which had been most noticeable: thanks were especially due to Mr. W.E. Sowerbutts. The two new holes were opened for play in June, 1968 and we now have a 20 hole Golf Course. The Social events had been well supported and had contributed to maintaining revenue from the Bar. The momentous decision by the Committee to appoint Mr. L. Butlin as Business Manager for twelve months on an experimental basis was then brought to the notice of Members. The duties and responsibilities of the position were then elaborated. The Secretary was most pleased to announce the fact that Mrs. J. Whitehead had been made a Life Member, after being a Member continuously for the past fifty years. The Report was concluded by reference to the possibilities of the Club House being extended. The Secretary then thanked the Members for their co-operation during the last four years and trusted this support would be afforded his successor.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: The retiring Captain then called upon the Treasurer to outline the Committee's recommendations to increase the Annual Subscriptions. This was supported by the Secretary. The fact that the standard set at the Club must not be allowed to deteriorate

was pointed out to the Meeting and certain items would have to be met in the new financial year – for example – alterations to the heating system were required. A new Boiler would have to be purchased, wages would increase and the salary for a new Manager would have to be found. The purchase of a new Tractor was also a further liability which would have to be met.

An Amendment to refer the increase in Subscriptions back to the Committee was carried by 72 votes to 19.

SOCIAL
COMMITTEE
REPORT:

The Social Secretary (Mr. A.J. Dixon) gave a resumé of the activities held during the year and was pleased to state that the profit on the year amounted to £70.

ELECTION OF
NEW PRESIDENT:

Mr. R. Wood, President of the Club proposed and Mr. R. Clegg seconded that Mr. J. Harrop be invited to become President of the Club. Both gentlemen spoke warmly of the character of Mr. Harrop, a most sociable and energetic past Captain of the club. This was unanimously passed by the Meeting.

NEW PRESIDENT'S
REPLY:

Mr. J. Harrop stated that he felt justified in being proud of this appointment and would be pleased to give his services to the Club and was most touched by the way in which the Members had received him.

RETIRING
PRESIDENT:

Captain J.A. Fiddian proposed and Mr. J. Buckley seconded the thanks of all the Members for the services rendered by the Past President, Mr. R. Wood, who had been a Member of the Club since 1913. Mr. R. Wood, in reply, said that he had always felt that the Club had paid him a great honour and some of the happiest days of his life-time had been spent at the Club.

NEW CAPTAIN:

The Retiring Captain (Mr. J.A. Fiddian) proposing Mr. F. Robinson as the new Captain, mentioned the fact that Members may think him a very quiet person, but he had a marked ability in any situation and a dry sense of humour, and he wished him all success in his year of Office. Mr. R.H. Meeks in seconding the proposal, stated he hoped the Members would support their new Captain. The proposal was unanimously accepted and was greeted with accord. Upon receiving the Captain's Tie and occupying the Chair, the Captain thanked the Members for conferring this honour upon him. He felt that the prime purpose of us all was to play Golf and he intended to foster the Competitive spirit which prevailed. He trusted that the teams in the Stockport League would have a good season and went on to thank Members for a record number of prizes afforded to him for the coming season. He would be grateful if some of the regular Four-balls would break up from time to time to encourage a better spirit. The prizes would be presented weekly at Sunday Lunch-time. The perseverance of the tree planting would be carried on to beatify the Course.

VOTE OF
THANKS TO
EX-CAPTAIN:

The Captain thanked and congratulated the ex-Captain on his year of Office and mentioned his single-mindedness of purpose in executing his duties. Seconding, Mr. R.H. Meeks echoed these sentiments.

EX-CAPTAIN'S:
REPLY:

Mr. J.A. Fiddian thanked all for their support, especially his Committee, in the year of his Office. He mentioned the fact that Messrs. G. High and F.J. Rowley were retiring from Office and would certainly be missed. The improvements to the Course had been due, for the major part, to the efforts of Mr. W.E. Sowerbutts. A new shelter at the third hole had been kindly provided by Mr. S. Bennett. It had been decided that the Club, in future, would provide the Tie for anyone accomplishing a "Hole in One". Plug mark lifters were to be provided and would be available in the Professional's Shop. The Social Functions had been well attended, but would have been more enjoyable if we had possessed better accommodation. He closed his remarks by complimenting the Members on their loyalty and friendliness.

VOTE OF
THANKS:

Mr. J.H. Hopkinson offered a Vote of Thanks to all Officers and Members of all Committees and stated that the Members should be grateful for the work put in by these people on their behalf. This was enthusiastically seconded by Mr. E. Hartley.

CAPTAIN
ELECT:

It was proposed by Mr. P.A. Jones and seconded by Mr. N. Howard that Mr. J.W. Stephenson be Captain Elect for 1970/71. The proposal was warmly received, being rather unique, as Mr. Stephenson was a Past Captain of Dukinfield Golf Club. In accepting, Mr. Stephenson stated that he was conscious of his obligation and would do his best.

ELECTION OF
TREASURER:

Mr. L. Butlin was re-elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

ELECTION OF
SECRETARY:

Mr. P.W. Cater was elected Secretary for the ensuing year.

COMMITTEE:

After ballot, the following were elected to serve on the Committee: - Messrs. R.H. Meeks, C.W. Cooper, and F. Greenhough for three years and Mr. A.J. Dixon for two years.

AUDITORS:

Messrs. S. Roberts and B.R. Shaw were elected to serve as Hon. Auditors for the ensuing year.

SOCIAL
COMMITTEE:

Mr. A. J. Dixon was elected as Hon. Secretary and Messrs. W. Pickles and F.W. Wright, Members of the Social Committee.

ANY OTHER
BUSINESS:

Members requested the Committee to examine the possibility of increasing the wages of the Professional, Mr. C. Gillett.

Mr. R. Lees mentioned the fact that the Golf Architect suggested that the 8th Hole should be played from the 9th Fairway. This was proposed and seconded, but the motion was not carried.

The question of allowing servants of the Club to attend Social Events was raised. Numerous Members then raised points as to the increase in Wages involving the Steward and Stewardess and their Assistants and were most

dissatisfied by the manner and attention afforded them. The heavy Kitchen Costs involved during the last two years was queried. The appointment of a Manager at this time, was thought by a number of Members to be inopportune and if this could be afforded.

A number of Members then brought the attention of the Meeting to a "Round Robin" signed by approximately Thirty Ladies who objected to the language used to them by the Steward. These points were to be examined by the Committee in due course.

A Special General Meeting would have to be called to review the proposed new Subscriptions, at an early date.

Owing to the lateness of the hour, the Meeting was closed with a Vote of Thanks to the Captain for presiding.

Signed..... F Robinson Captain
Date..... 7/3/70.