

Ashton-Under-Lyne Golf Club Annual General Meeting. Saturday May 2nd 1931.

Secretary's Report

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the past year.

The financial position has been explained by the Treasurer, Mr Wood, but I propose to say something on this question.

The loss on the Year's working amounts to £145-4-10 after making an allowance of £45 for depreciation etc., this is certainly serious and calls for the earnest and immediate attention of the Committee.

Very many items of expenditure, such as rates, rents etc., are practically fixed and cannot very well be altered, but strict economy will have to be practised and I am afraid that we have to be content with a reduction of the ground staff; which will mean that the course will not be all that we desire it to be; therefore it will be necessary for Members to bear this in mind.

In regard to the Loan Account, there are 3 loanholders who have ceased to be members of the Club and 4 who are now honorary members only, and their total loans amount to £55-7-0, practically one third of the total; and I submit that the loanholders who have ceased to be members should be paid off at an early date.

There are only a few members in arrears of subscription, which is very satisfactory, but I'm afraid that a few of these must be looked upon as bad, owing to the bad state of trade.

The number of members is as follows: - 135 Gentlemen playing members, 3 Temporary Members and 2 Juniors, and 83 Lady Playing Members and 1 Junior.

Honorary Members: Gentlemen 25, Ladies 28

The Gentlemen's Membership has decreased by 17 playing members, 1 Junior, and 1 County member and Temporary Membership has increased by 1.

The Ladies Membership has decreased by 10 playing members.

The Honorary Membership has increased by 1 gentleman and 2 Ladies.

The Gentlemen's membership during the past 11 years has never before been lower than 162 which was in 1927 or higher than 191 in 1921.

A goodly number of resignations were expected owing to trade depression, but every endeavour must be made to increase the membership, and the notice of motion on the Agenda regarding the dropping of the Entrance Fee for a time, will if passed, offer some inducement in this direction.

The members of the various Committees have attended regularly and shown very keen interest in the affairs of the Club.

The Committee has been referred to occasionally as a mutual admiration society, but any one making a remark of this kind must speak with knowledge, and I do not know of any Committee who take such a deep interest in their work and the welfare of the Members.

The members of the various Committees have been regular in their attendance and devoted a considerable amount of time in dealing with the affairs of the club and arranging for the welfare of the members.

The House Committee; Messrs E Raines and H Ridyard joint secys. has looked well after the management of the House and Shop and while the Bar receipts are very satisfactory, the Shop receipts are not what they ought to be, and the Committee are anxious that the Members should patronize this branch as it exists solely in the interest and for the convenience of the members.

As you are aware, a new Steward and Stewardess were appointed on June 7th 1930, and they left our service to take up another appointment, and on December 6th, the present Steward and Stewardess were engaged and during the five months they have held office they have given every satisfaction to the Committee. In this connection I am sure that the members appreciate the considerable amount of work involved in making changes of this nature. 120 applications were received, and 88 forms were filled in and returned.

The House Premises have been decorated where necessary, and replacements have been made in ~~crochery~~ and glassware, table linen etc.

A very success Dance was held resulting in a profit of £10-18-4, and our thanks are due to the Dance Committee and Mr Raines who acted as secretary.

The Handicap Committee: Mr H L Boardman Secretary: - has also carried out its many duties efficiently, revising handicaps and sending reports to the papers.

The Scratch and Bogey scores have been arranged so as to tally and the arrangement where strokes are received revised, and this in my opinion was vet necessary owing to the general improvement in play, which is a matter for congratulation.

The "Open Day" was a great success and resulted in a profit of 14/8 and our thanks are due to Mr H L Boardman and Mr Payne who made all the arrangements.

The Calendar Committee have arranged a very comprehensive list of events and they are to be congratulated on their efforts.

One or two events call for special mention viz; -

The one on March 26th (Subscriptions and Locker Rents are due, also stating that a member not having paid same cannot compete for a prize), I may say that we had a fairly good entry for this competition. We also have the "Open Mixed Foursomes" on June 27th, Luxor Cup Competition in aid of the Infirmary, Annual Dance December 4th.

You will have noticed that in several events, prizes have not been promised and your support in this direction is asked for.

The Greens Committee: J Gibson Secretary; has also rendered considerable service and carried out many improvements on the Course.

Brooks the Groundsman was engaged on August 8th 1929 and during his term of office I think you will agree that he has made a great and appreciable difference in every way.

Extensive drainage has been carried out as follows: -

The hollow at the drive No 14. Around the No 14 Tee, and on the right hand side of the approach to No 5 green, also the old drains in many cases have been cleaned out and renovated.

The old stone wall on the right of No 5 tee has been removed and the ground levelled.

Bunkers have been made on the left hand side of No 2 Fairway.

Many reconstructions have taken place to temporary tees and several tees have been relaid with fresh turf.

Fences have been repaired, sand boxes painted and lettered, also direction posts and flag pins painted.

The greens and Tees have been wormed and have had dressings of fertilizer and compost.

The rough cutting was carried out twice during the season.

All machines have been thoroughly overhauled and repaired and are ready for work. Two new hand mowing machines have been purchased.

The grass in all hollows is now efficiently cut and you will have noticed the great improvement in this respect.

All steps to gully etc. have been repaired and the footpaths round the Club House have been put in order.

The rolling of the fairways is being proceeded with.

Four men are regularly employed on the Course and addition help is required in dealing with the rough.

I think you will agree that the Course generally never looked better.

It is very necessary that you attention should be called to the fact that some members do not replace divots, also that the Course is constantly disfigured by cigarette cartons and paper and the Committee earnestly desire that each member will do his utmost to prevent this lack of courtesy.

A successful Caddies' Match was held during the Season are due to all those members who assisted and subscribed. There is no mention of a Caddies' Match this season, but if it is decided to hold one your help will be needed and appreciated.

A donation of £16-16-0 was sent to the District Infirmary as a result of the Luxor Cup Competition and Ladies' Competition.

The Ladies are deserving of our thanks for their willing service in respect of the Whist Drives held during the Winter which resulted in the sum of £8-17-9 being handed over to the Treasurer. The Whist Drives have not been very well supported lately and at the Ladies request only two will be held during the season.

In regard to the managing of Caddies which was mentioned at the last Autumn Annual Meeting, the Committee carefully considered the position and decided to adhere to the present system.

The suggestion that increased accommodation to be provided for the Ladies has received the attention of the Committee and it was decided that for financial reasons it was not advisable to attempt to alter the premises at present.

Further provision for Motor Cards has also been considered but again financial reasons stand in the way and it is felt that the need is not urgent.

The unsatisfactory state of the roadway in front of the Club Premises (King's Road) mentioned at the Annual Meeting has been considered and it was decided to ask the parties responsible for the repair, viz: - The Stamford Estate to put same in repair and they carried out certain repairs and we have also done something as regards the footway.

We cannot claim that the Roadway is even now satisfactory, but the main trouble is not on our frontage and is far worse where other owners are responsible and the Committee do not wish to make themselves liable, and so relieve the responsible owners.

In conclusion I should like to say that we are deeply indebted to the Donors of Prizes for their generosity in providing prizes for the various events, thus relieving the Club of considerable expense, and to thank all those members who have assisted the Committee in any way whatever.

Your help and goodwill is desired to maintain the good feeling which exists, and assist in the smooth working of the Club during the coming season, and the Committee feel assured that as in the past, the members will help in any way they can.

J Gibson
Secy.