

Ashton Golf Club, Annual Meeting, Saturday May 2nd. 1925.

Secretary's Report.

I have pleasure in presenting my Report for the past Season, and in doing so I should like to point out that there is a loss on the Year of £120/13/6; The income is £169/1/4 less than last Year; £80/4/7 of which is accounted for by the receipts from the Gymkana, and the remaining difference is owing to the receipts from Entrance Fees and Subscriptions being so much less.

The Expenditure shows an increase over last year of £194-12-4, this is accounted for as follows:--- £7/13/2 extra expenditure on Club House; £5/8/2 less on General Expenses, and £192/7/4 more on the Course. This has been brought about by increase in wages of £78/15/4; Rent, Rates and Taxes £7/4/3; cost of new horse and provender £26/4/3; Fertilisers £17/8/1, and new machines and repairs £66/2/2.

The loan account has been increased by £8, this increase represents interest, and includes certain loans paid off during the year.

There have been four men employed constantly on the Course, and this number are necessary to keep the Course in proper order.

The number of Members is as follows:--- Gentlemen 179. Country Member 1; Temporary Members 3; Junior Members 2.

Ladies ¹⁰⁷ ~~106~~; Country Member 1; Junior Members 7.

Honorary Members, Ladies **33**; and Gentlemen 11.

There have been a number of resignations, also new members during the year.

The membership in the case of Gentlemen shows a decrease of 4:

and the Ladie's membership is increased by ³4. I hope that during the coming season this will be altered and that we shall have a considerable increase in the number of Gentlemen members.

The outstanding subscriptions amount to £ 46.

The members of the various sub-committees and General Committee have been regular in their attendance, and rendered valuable service.

The House Committee has again looked well after the interests of the members, and management of the Bar; and the resulting profit of £161-10-0, must be considered very satisfactory, especially seeing that the weather during the past season was far from favourable.

The Handicap Committee is still on the look-out for promising players; handicaps have been reduced, and in some cases lifted and revised; and this Committee has done all in its power to deal efficiently with all handicaps.

Several alterations have been made in the Local Rules, and I should like to ask the members to read them carefully so that there may be no misunderstanding.

Various events have been arranged, and matches made with other Clubs which have been a source of enjoyment in the past.

I am very pleased indeed to see that some of the younger members are making a great effort to qualify for positions on the Match Teams; and the Handicap Committee will be delighted to second their efforts.

The Greens Committee have carried out many improvements on the Course, and worked well together.

The Greens and Tees have received dressings of Sea Sand, Fertilizer, and Worm Killer, and have had the weeds extracted.

No.7 Green has been re-drained. No.5 Green has been taken up, drained and newly formed and re-laid, also a new Ladie's Tee has been made at No.13.

The fairways have been dressed with Basic Slag, and a very considerable amount of new draining has been carried out all over the Course, also a great many of the old drains have been opened out and cleaned.

The offensive view at No.3 Tee has been screened by shrubs and a great many other improvements effected, and the Course will no doubt be in excellent condition this season.

The Sub-committee appointed to see what could be done in regard to getting cattle off the Course has met on many occasions, interviewed the Farmer, Waterworks Engineer, and Stamford Estate, and have eventually arrived at an understanding whereby this result can be brought about, and Cattle be got off the Course this Season.

Notice has been given to the Farmer on the lower fields that the grazing would not be let this year.

The various ground rents paid at present to the Stamford Estate, Gledhill and the Waterworks Committee amount to £116-3-0 per year, and £21 is received back as grazing rent from the farmers; therefore the net cost is £95-3-0.

If the new arrangement is made and no grazing allowed, the Club would pay as ground rent to the Estate and Waterworks Committee direct.

the sum of £119-16-4, and in addition to this there would be an increase in rates of £18-14-8.

The new arrangement therefore will cost the Club £43-8-0 more per Annum.

The understanding with the farmer is that he shall continue on the old lines for this season, and at the end of that time he shall receive compensation, but in the meantime no cattle shall be turned out on the Course this season.

I have estimated the cost of decorations, furniture, new lockers, and lockers removal, heating proposed new drying room, at £266, then there is the loss on the year of £120, and in addition to this there will be £350, compensation to the Farmer, making a total sum of £736, which will have to be found in some way.

The rent of the Club Premises will also be increased by about £42, per year, owing to increased accommodation provided by Mr. Kenworthy.

I may say that the arrangement suggested in regard to freeing the Course from Cattle, and the heavy expense incurred during the past year, must of necessity mean money, and the Committee feel confident that now they have done their utmost to bring about such desirable improvements; and have a Course fit in all respects for anyone to play on, that the members will in their turn respond nobly in regard to finding the money, and show their practical appreciation, either by wiping out the burden immediately, or in some other appreciable manner.

The new locker rooms have been completed, also the Smoke Room and Ladies Room, the furniture and decorations have yet to be paid for; and I believe these additional rooms will prove to be a great convenience to the members.

It is intended to provide a new drying room in the Basement, and this will no doubt prove very acceptable.

It is also the intention of the Committee to provide gentlemen's Urinal accommodation and extend the Professional's Shop.

The Caretakers "Mr and Mrs. Field" have given every satisfaction, and the Groundsman and staff have carried out the instructions of the Committee faithfully and well.

During the Winter Months a number of enjoyable Whist and Bridge Drives have been held, and the Committee desire to thank the Ladies for their efforts, resulting in a sum of £15/7/- being handed over to the Treasurer.

A Calendar containing a list of events for the Season has been printed, also the Rules of the Club; a copy of which has been posted to all the members.

The Committee are desirous of having the Course in the best possible condition this season, and ask for the co-operation of the members in seeing that all Rules and Regulations are observed, and that all divots are re-placed; thus assisting them to make the season one to be remembered.

In conclusion; I should like to thank all those members who have helped in any way, towards making the past season successful, and look forward to such help and assistance in the future.