

Ashton-Under-Lyne Golf Club Annual Meeting. Saturday May 6th 1939.

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 highly successful.

The financial position is shewn in the Balance Sheet which the Treasurer has explained in detail and the result is very satisfactory, indeed Mr Robson is to be congratulated and thanked for his excellent services.

I do not propose, after such explanation to say so much on this matter, but there are several points to which I would call your attention, the loans paid off recently £81-2-6 stood at £756-9-6 in 1918 so that you will see that considerable progress has been made. Course construction £1119-12-5 has been wiped out, but in addition a very large amount has been expended during past years on Course improvements, drainage etc., which has been paid for out of revenue, as for instance the new 6th green and 7th tee ~~also drainage~~.

It is also interesting to note that alterations to the Club-house cost £347, Electric Lighting £70 getting cattle off the Course £350, totalling £767 has been paid off during the Club's existence as well as many other items.

It is necessary to call attention to the outstanding subscriptions, although some of these represent arrears for two or three years, the reason being possibly that members in arrear consider they have ceased to be members, although notice of resignation has not been given, and we naturally consider them members.

I would call attention to the fact that a few members make a practice of paying their subscription at the end of the year instead of the beginning, possibly with a view to their executors having to be troubled instead of themselves, and I would ask those individuals to pay at the same time as the majority of the other members.

For the benefit of new members I would like to point out that the Policy of insurance to cover third party risks taken out by the Club, covers injury caused by any member or visitor whilst playing on the Course, also covers all members while playing on any recognised golf course in the United Kingdom, the limit of the indemnity being £5000.

There is another little matter to which it is necessary to direct your attention and that is that some members neglect to notify any change of address and I would ask them do so as early as possible.

The number of members is stated on the Balance Sheet, the Gentlemen's membership has increased by 5 and decreased by 1 Junior and the Ladies membership has also increased by 5 and 4 Junior members and there are a few more nominations posted and not taken into account.

Honorary membership has decreased by 3 Gentlemen and 4 Ladies.

It is very satisfactory to know that the membership is still increasing but we still have room for more and the Committee are still looking forward to a further increase.

The record year for members was 1921 when we had 191 gentlemen, 45 more than at present and 99 Ladies or 4 less than now.

The members of Committee have again a good record of attendance which shews an average of 85.2%; they have carefully considered and dealt with all matters arising both in the Club House and upkeep and maintenance of the Course and are ever on the look out to see where improvements can be made.

The Club-house has been recently decorated and in addition a W.C. has been installed in the Gentlemens locker room.

The Committee have had under consideration for a long period the question of the Rules of the Club which have been out of print for a long time and they thought it necessary that the Rules should be altered and brought up to date, and to that end have carefully revised same, and present to you later as a complete set of New Rules, a copy of which had been sent to every member and you will be asked to adopt these rules, and if approved they will be printed.

The House Committee: - Mr J H Barratt secretary, has again given very considerable assistance and the profit on the House Account has been increased and the thanks of the members are due to Mr Barratt for the excellent result, and his valuable services.

The Handicap Committee: Mr J Taylor secretary has also carried out its many duties efficiently, and our thanks are due to Mr Taylor for his services which when you consider that he has to try and please every member in regard to handicap and still do his duty, calls for a great amount of tact and judgement.

The Calendar Sub-Committee has drafted a very complete list of events and attention is directed to the Caddies' Competition, July 11th, Invitation Four-ball July 22nd, Luxor Cup Competition in aid of the District Infirmary September 9th, and the Annual Dance December 1st.

The Greens Committee: - myself Secretary, has endeavoured as in previous years to keep pace with the growing needs of the Course, and to that end all the machines, gang mower etc. have been overhauled and repaired at much expense and two new hand machines have been ordered.

It was thought advisable to bring into use the waste land adjoining the 6th Green which was unsightly and after much thought and advice from Mr Chevalier, it was decided to form a new 6th green on lines somewhat different from the others, and it is expected that this will prove a real sporting hole.

A new tee has also been constructed further away from Mossley Road in order to remove as far as possible any danger to traffic on the road.

The Course has been lengthened by 120 yards and additional tees have been made at Nos. 4, 14 and 16.

The new green and tees have been constructed entirely by our own staff during the Winter, thus effecting a considerable saving in expense, this has necessitated the employment of two youths the whole year instead of the season only.

The treatment of the greens and tees and the worming and fertilising has proved very satisfactory indeed, but in order to be assured that we were working on right lines the Committee decided to again seek the advice of an expert from Bingley Research Station, and a short time ago such expert visited the Course, along with several members of the Committee and the groundsman made a thorough inspection of the Course. I have now received the expert's report in which it is stated that he is very pleased with the conditions generally, and considers that the greens and course are in very good order, especially so early in the season. Several suggestions as to future treatment are contained in the Report, also particulars of the special fertilisers to be used. The Course generally is in excellent order and the Ground Staff are to be congratulated.

Certain improvements have been made in the professional's shop and Haslam appears to be giving satisfaction.

A successful Caddies Match was held during the season and thanks are given by the Committee to all those who subscribed or assisted in any way whatever.

The Social Committee: Mr J H Barratt, Secretary, has given valuable support and handed over the sum of £50 and I am sure that everyone will appreciate their assistance and value the services they give.

The Ladies Committee has handed over the sum of £20 and their help is also very gratifying, especially seeing that they provide their own prizes and memntoes (sic) and our thanks are accorded to them for their financial assistance.

The subscribers to the Prize Fund and the winners of the various events who give runner-up prizes are to be thanked for their generous help which relieves the Club of considerable expense, and our thanks are especially due to those members whose names appear as givers of prizes so constantly, and it is hoped that other members who have not yet come forward, will earn our thanks by doing so at an early date.

The members are again asked as sportsmen to play their part in keeping the Course tidy, and above all to replace turf displaced in play, and so have some consideration for other members of the Club.

In conclusion I may say that the Captain and Members of the Committee greatly appreciate your help and assistance and look forward to a continuance of such support during the season, and know that your assistance has always been willingly given, we can predict another successful year.