

Ashton-Under-Lyne Golf Club Annual Meeting. Saturday May 2nd 1942.

Secretary's Report

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the past season and in being able to say that we have had a very successful year, especially so, seeing that we are passing through difficult times.

The financial position shewn by the Balance Sheet and explained by the Treasurer must be considered highly satisfactory, and gives evidence of careful management, but the members themselves by their support have contributed largely in bringing about such a good result. Mr Robson is to be congratulated on being able to present so satisfactory a Balance Sheet, and deserves our warmest thanks for his willing service.

The Auditors Messrs H Barker and W Derbyshire are to be thanked for their valuable services in connection with the audit of accounts. In this connection, I am sorry to say that Mr Barker has resigned office and transferred to honorary membership, and I am sure that the members of the club are grateful for his willing and helpful service during the past 10 years he has held office.

The subscriptions and locker rents in arrear as stated in the Balance Sheet stand at £60, but I am afraid that this is an overstatement as there are several resignations and members who have left the district, but in any case I have been able to get in a considerable amount since the balance sheet was prepared, and I make the total amount of subscriptions etc. now outstanding to be £36-13-6.

The number of members is stated in the balance sheet, and the numbers are reduced by 3 gentlemen (sic) playing members and 2 Country members, and 8 Lady playing members. Honorary Members are increased by 6 Gentlemen and 5 Ladies.

It is very satisfactory under the statement to know that the membership is being maintained, new members nearly balancing the resignations.

We are proud to know that we have a number of members "gentlemen and Ladies" serving with His Majesty's Forces, and hope for their speedy and safe return when the war is ended. As most of you are aware the subscription in these cases is waived and although this means a considerable loss in income, the committee feel that it is a right and proper course to adopt.

The members of Committee have again a good record of attendance which shews an average of 88.6%. They have considered and dealt with many problems arising out of course management and upkeep of the club and are doing their best to maintain the course although having cattle grazing thereon makes it somewhat difficult.

The House Committee; Mr J H Barratt secretary, has again given valuable assistance and the Bar results are very satisfactory, here again I have to report that Mr Barratt has resigned and transferred to honorary membership, and I sure that we are very grateful for his services

during over 8 years, and hope that his health may be speedily restored.

The Handicap Committee; Mr C I Baker secretary has carried out its many duties efficiently, the handicaps have as far as possible been kept up to date, and revised as most of you are aware, and many competitions have been arranged, and our thanks are due to Mr Baker for his valuable assistance, and we are pleased to see that he has survived the revision of handicaps.

The Calendar sub-committee has drafted a comprehensive list of events, attention may be directed to one or two items viz: - July 4th Captain's Day, this is a departure from the usual arrangement. September 12th Luxor Cup, proceeds in aid of the District Infirmary.

War Damage Insurance has been effected to the amount of £1350, this includes all the cub's property and effects, but excludes members' effects.

The Greens Committee; myself secretary, has tried far as possible to keep the Course in good condition, and has fertilised and forked the greens, although it has not been possible to worm the greens owing to the presence of cattle. I think you will agree that under the present conditions there is not much room for complaint.

The machines have been overhauled and repaired and everything with the exception of the tractor is in good order for the season.

We are still carrying on with two men and I consider that they are doing wonderfully well, and deserve our praise, judging from the capital condition of the Course.

The Committee have again let the grazing of the large portion of the Course, amounting to 70 acres to Mr Bowler for the grazing of cattle. Last year the grazing was let to Messrs Gledhill and Bowler and Gledhill has made a claim for damage which he stated was caused by our cutting of the grass on the fairways and the matter will have to be settled by the Court.

The greens had to be fenced last year and cost a considerable sum, but we shall reap the benefit this season and has long as cattle remain on the course.

We have again had a visit from a representative of the Agricultural Board and he was quite satisfied with what had been done, the only suggestion made was that we should narrow the fairways.

A portion of land at the approach of the 7th green and round the 8th tee has been purchased by the Waterworks Joint Board from the Stamford Estate, but this will not affect the course, it simply means that we shall pay the same rent, but to the Waterworks Committee in place of the Stamford Estate.

As you are aware we had a visit from the enemy some time ago, and considerable damage was caused to the Course by bomb, the damage has been made good as far as possible and notice of claim for damage was made to the Authorities at the time, but it still remains for us to claim for the cost of restoration.

The Social Committee, Mr J H Barratt secretary, has again given valuable assistance, their efforts chiefly consisting in raising money for the ~~Sick Nursing Association~~ War efforts, the total amounting to £76-12-8, and I am sure that their efforts have been greatly appreciated, and the work done by their Secretary deserves our warmest thanks.

The Ladies Committee decided not to hold competitions, therefore they have ~~not~~ not been in a position to help the club financially, they have however decided to try and run competitions this season.

The subscribers and givers of prizes are to be thanked for their generous assistance which relieves the Club of a certain amount expense, especially at the present time when everything is so costly, and I may say that they have once more responded to Mr Baker's appeal.

In conclusion I should like to say that the Captain and Members of the Committee value very much the members support and assistance, and although war conditions must ~~necessarily~~ impose a goodly number of restrictions, and limit the action of the Committee in various ways, we can look forward confidently to another successful season.

J Gibson.