

Ashton-Under-Lyne Golf Club Annual General Meeting. Saturday May 6th 1933.

Secretary's Report

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

The financial position has been explained by the Treasurer, Mr Robson and I am sure that you will agree that the Balance Sheet is very favourable indeed, especially so when you take into consideration the bad state of trade.

The loan account stands practically at the same figure as last year, although one amount of £5/16/11 had been paid off, this accounted for by accrued interest; the list still contains five names of Honorary Members and one member resigned, to whom we still owe £60-6-7, and this in my opinion should be paid off, and in addition I see no reason why the whole of the loan account should not be cleared providing we have another year or two like the present.

You will be pleased to hear that there are only three men members in arrears of subscription, the total amount being £15/5/-, and I venture to say that I doubt if any club in the country can present such a record.

The number of players is as follows: -

132 Gentlemen Playing members, 2 Junior Members and 1 Country Member, and 87 Lady Playing members and 3 Juniors.

Honorary Members: - 22 Gentlemen and 26 Ladies.

The Gentlemen's membership has increased by 6 playing members, Juniors have decreased by 2 and Country members have decreased by 1.

The Ladies membership is the same and Juniors have increased by 2.

Honorary membership has increased by 3.

I wish to point out however that although the men's membership has increased by 6 from last year, last year's membership was the lowest on record viz: - 126. The record membership was in 1921 when we had 191 Gentlemen and 99 Ladies.

The average membership over 14 years is 161 Gentlemen and 95 Ladies.

It is to be regretted that a few of the older members have resigned, but this is of course a natural sequence, and their places have been taken by new members, and to these we extend a very cordial welcome.

It is however very necessary that the membership should be materially increased if we are to maintain the Club and Course as it should be maintained, and to that end the members are asked to do all in their power to introduce new members.

The lease of the Waterworks land expired on April 8th and arrangements have been made for the renewal and this is practically complete.

The members of Committee have attended excellently, and taken very keen interest in the

affairs of the Club, both in regard to financial matters and the upkeep of the Course.

During the Winter the staff consisted of 2 men only and I think you will agree that they have carried out a considerable amount of important work.

It is the intention of the Committee to carry on the cutting of the grass by horse traction and a horse will be purchased shortly, two youths have been engaged to augment the ground staff for the Summer.

New panels have been fitted in the Dining Room on which to record the names of the Winners of the Payne Bowl and to make provision for other records to be continued when the present Honours Board is filled.

The House Committee: - Messrs E Raines and H Ridyard Joint Secys. Has rendered valuable service in the management of the Bar and Shop and the result as a whole is satisfactory, although I have to report that the Shop is not paying as it should, and again I ask the members for their patronage and support. The results from the Bar are excellent and give evidence of careful and expert management, involving a great deal of labour and our thanks are due to the Secretaries for carrying out this by no means light task.

The Steward and Stewardess continue to give satisfaction and as a good deal depends on their efficiency and service in this department I feel that they have earned our appreciation.

The Handicap Committee: - Mr E S Jones Secretary, has also carried out its many duties efficiently. The Scratch score most of you know has been revised, and now stands at 70, although has not yet been formally approved by the recognised authority.

Handicaps have been adjusted from time to time, and all handicaps have been put up one, and our thanks are due to Mr Jones for his valuable services.

The Open Day was a success, although financially no profit resulted and thanks are to be given to Mr Jones and those who organized or assisted.

The Calendar is a very comprehensive one and special mention should be made of one or two events: Open Mixed Foursomes, June 24th. Luxor Cup Competition, October 14th, in aid of the District Infirmary, also the Annual Dance on December 1st. The Luxor Cup Competition combined with the Ladies effort resulted in the sum of £17/2/6 being handed over to the Infirmary.

The Greens Committee: - Mr J Gibson Secretary, has also given considerable time and thought to the improvement and upkeep of the Course, and carried out many alterations and improvements. Brooks the head groundsman continues to give every satisfaction and I am sure that we will appreciate his efficiency.

Drainage has been carried out in the hollow at No 12 and the pit on the right of No 2 and other places involving the use of 500 drain tiles. The fairway to No 14 at the drive has been levelled and the Ladies Tee has been removed. The No 5 Tee has been re-formed and laid.

The greens and tees have been treated with worm killer and fertilisers and have been renovated as required. Fencing posts have been purchased and repairs to all fences are being carried out.

The rough cutting was carried out twice during the season. The Course generally is looking very fine and before long we should be in splendid condition.

A successful Caddies Match was held during the year the Committee are grateful to all those who helped in any way of subscribed. It is expected that a Caddies Match will be held during this season and I appeal to all members for their assistance as in the past.

The Social Committee: Mr J Taylor, Secretary, has done excellent work and handed over the sum of £100 as a result of their efforts. I should like to say at this point that our financial standing would not be so favourable if it had not been for this Committee's efforts and you will have the opportunity later of thanking them and the secretary for their exceedingly valuable services.

The Ladies Committee has handed over the sum of £25, this season to the General Funds and the Committee and members must greatly appreciate this timely and welcome assistance.

The subscribers to the Prize Fund and the Winners of the various events, who provided runner prizes are deserving of our warmest thanks and it is owing to their generosity that the Club is relieved of considerable expense.

The Club is running very smoothly and as far as I know, a real good feeling exists apart from little differences which are bound to crop up with a membership such as we have, and these differences will long continue.

In conclusion I ask for a continuance of your help and backing, in assisting the Committee to maintain the present high standard of the Club and to make to present season one to be remembered.

Secretary.