



ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

GOLF CLUB

Established 1913

Date: 14th November 2019

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President: I.W. Sherlock

Captain: S. Hanmer

Honorary Secretary: S. Martin

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Members will be held in the clubhouse on
Thursday 28th November 2019, commencing at **7.00 p.m. prompt**.

Agenda.

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 29th November 2018 (A copy of the Minutes is appended below).
2. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's Report and the Financial Statements for the year ending 30th September 2019. (A copy of the Treasurer's Report is appended below and the Accounts are enclosed.) The Independent Accountant will report on the Accounts.
3. To receive the Honorary Secretary's Report (A copy of the Secretary's Report is appended below).
4. To consider that from the 25th March 2020, the subscriptions be revised to such amounts as the meeting shall decide and that the Schedule to the Rules be amended in accordance with decisions taken at the meeting.

The Management Committee recommends that the subscriptions be revised as indicated:

Subscriptions	Present	Proposed
7 Day	£935	£950
6 Day	£795	£810
6 Day (Ladies)	£750	£760
5 Day	£705	£650
3 Day	£395	£405
Country	£470	£475
Social	£ 60	£ 60
Juniors under 16 Years	Free	Free
Juniors aged 16 and 17 Years	£120	£120

Subscriptions in the 18 - 21-year-old category will be c33% of the full subscription and then increase by c7% pa until they pay the full subscription at 31 years old (on 25th March).

5. To receive the Social Secretary's Report.
6. **Election of the Captain.** The nomination to be put to the meeting is -
W. Evans proposed by S. Hanmer and seconded by C. I. Sherlock

7. **Election of Lady Captain.** The nomination to be put to the meeting is –
K. Watson. Proposed by S. Qualters and seconded by S. Barlow
8. **Election of the Captain Elect.** The nomination to be put to the meeting is:--
S. P. McGee. Proposed by L. Butterworth and seconded by A. H. Jackson.
9. **Election of Independent Accountant.** The nomination to be put to the meeting is -
Moss & Williamson Limited. Proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by the Secretary.
10. **Election of Members to the Management Committee.**

The nominations are:-

Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
J. Hall	D. Lewis	G.T. Hughes
A. Lambert	J.P. Dawber	G.T. Hughes
G. White	P. Newton	A.R. Clegg
D. Lewis	B. Kennedy	J Kennedy

There are three vacancies for 3 years and one vacancy for 1 year.

11. Any Other Business.

Note 1.

During the period 1st December 2018 to 13th November 2019, there were 12 full Management Committee meetings and attendances were as follows:

C.I. Sherlock	9	S. Hanmer	11	L. Butterworth	5	S. Martin	11
A. Lambert	12	G. White	9	M. Wild	12	J. Hall	10
W. Evans	10	M. Barlow	11	D. Lewis	10		
J. Orchard	12	D. Howles	11	D. Clarke	8		

Note 2. Comparative membership figures are as follows:

	7 day	6 day	5 day	3 day	Country	PMG	Junior	Social	Total
Men									
Nov 2015	254	73	26	21	1	-	28	111	514
Nov 2016	254	74	26	59	1	-	76	103	593
Nov 2017	259	54	32	100	1	6	66	89	601
Nov 2018	298	29	21	115	1	31	69	79	643
Nov 2019	292	35	16	100	1	64	67	79	654
Women									
Nov 2015		50	1			-	5	39	95
Nov 2016		48	1			-	5	42	96
Nov 2017		45	2			0	10	39	96
Nov 2018		52	3	1		0	12	34	102
Nov 2019		56	4	1		1	11	30	103

A good attendance is desired at the meeting. This meeting will start at 7.00 p.m. prompt.

S. Martin
Honorary Secretary.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2018

Present: The Captain and 93 Adult Playing Members.

The Captain opened the meeting and welcomed the members to the 105th AGM of AULGC. He particularly welcomed the new members to their first AGM. He asked the members to stand in memory those members and past members who have passed away during the last 12 months: Jack Bintliff, Colin Boyle, Jack Buckley, Harold Craig, Geoff Green, Nick Hanson, Tom Harrison, Dr Ian Kerr, Ken Littler and David McLean.

The Captain advised that the following members offered their apologies for absence;

- Dave Lewis (H&S) – arrived 8.09pm
- Darren Shenton
- Mike & Lynne Wood
- Moira Davies
- Sandra & Charlie Qualters
- Jacqui & John Dawber
- Rene & Geoff Stocks
- Gail Robertson
- Roy Schofield
- David & Jinty Mackinnon
- Mike Nelson
- Andy Shaw
- Peter Sidebotham
- John Connery

The Captain reminded members that questions should be raised “through the chair” and that respect should be shown for all opinions.

Item 1 on the Agenda.

Captain referred to the Minutes of the last AGM held on 30th November 2017 and handed-over to the Hon. Sec.

The Hon. Sec. said he hoped everyone had read the minutes in their own time (they were sent to members with the Notice, Reports and Accounts). All matters arising had been dealt with as promised at the 2017 meeting.

There were no questions.

Nigel Kay proposed and Ian Morgan seconded that they be accepted as a true and correct record of the 2017 AGM and the vote in favour was unanimous.

The Captain asked the Independent Accountant, Mike Warburton of Moss & Williamson to give his Report on the Financial Accounts for the Year Ended 30th September 2018. He emphasised the comments on page 2 of the Accounts and that they reflect a true and fair view of the Club’s affairs.

The Captain thanked the Accountant, Mike Warburton.

Item 2 on the Agenda:

The Captain asked the Treasurer to give his Report on the Income and Expenditure for the year ended 30th September 2018. The Report had been sent to all members with the Notice and Accounts and the Hon. Treasurer commented on the significant issues:

- The £42K loss is very disappointing and was sustained as a result of;
 - a. The budget for subscriptions income was too optimistic at £310K against £292.6K achieved
 - b. Bar Sales were £6K down on budget as Room Hires were down

- c. Club wages had increased by £22K. This included a staff bonus of £4.5K that had been omitted from the budget, £2.2K in cleaning costs that should have been in the 2017 Accounts and additional Bar wages of £6.8K due to increased national hourly rates and increased hours worked during the transition.
- The increase in members numbers is excellent but as most new members have joined on special offers it will take time for the increase to reflect in increased subscription income

Numerous questions were raised and answered.

Item 3 on the Agenda:

The Captain asked the Hon. Sec. to give his Annual Report. The Report had been sent to all members with the Notice and Accounts and the Hon. Sec. commented on the significant issues as follows:

The worst, wettest winter on record closed the course for a record number of weeks. And as Jonny (Hon Treasurer) has said, an optimistic subs income budget combined with several one-off costs have left us with a significant deficit to deal with.

On the good side, fabulous in terms of the improvement seen in the golf course as a result of a few changes in personnel. And fantastic in terms of final member numbers, especially against a backdrop of decreasing member numbers nationally and regionally. Nevertheless, for subs income it's all *jam tomorrow!*

Luke Kelly won the Lancashire Amateur Championship and Jacqui Dawber won the Lady Derby Trophy.

Hon Sec thanked all who have helped him personally and AULGC during the year.

Conclusion

Operating in what feels like increasingly difficult market conditions, we have battled hard to produce the deficit Jonny has just spoken about. Bar sales have plateaued, green/comp fees have done well, and our efforts to generate more subscription income promise lots of *jam tomorrow*. As I've said many times this year, members are our top priority and we must continue to sweat the assets for members benefit. Albatross Digital have produced far more leads than we could ever have done without them. We are pleased with the numbers we have converted but the key is in retaining them. Once again, the work behind the scenes represents a really top quality team effort. Much has been achieved this year and, despite the challenges ahead, I continue to look forward with great optimism.

There was some discussion on precisely what the Committee intends to do to retain the new members and suggestions were made including;

- Everyone should try to include them and make them welcome
- Free social event tickets would help to integrate them
- Free 4Ball voucher would enable them to bring their friends (this was started recently)
- Half hour competition slots would introduce them to existing members and help to integrate them

Item 4 on the Agenda:

The Captain asked the Hon. Treasurer to speak on the proposed subscription rates for 2019. Hon Treasurer brought out the main points from the Report circulated. The proposal was that the subscriptions should increase by £40.

Seconded by the Hon Sec.

A variety of questions were raised and answered.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Item 5 on the Agenda:

The Captain asked the Social Secretary, Jacob Hall, to present his Report. There was some discussion on the variety of functions and profits/losses and Bar Sales.

Item 6 on the Agenda:

Election of the Captain. The outgoing Captain, Chris Sherlock spoke about his year in office. He felt honoured and privileged to have served the Club, particularly with his father Ian as President. He thanked all for their support during a memorable year in office and went on to propose Steve Hanmer to be Captain of Ashton-under-Lyne Golf Club for the year 2018/19. Lee Butterworth seconded the proposal. Motion carried.

The new Captain, Steve Hanmer, gave a proud speech of acceptance.

The Captain then asked Anna Lomas to say a few words as out-going Ladies Captain. Anna had enjoyed her year tremendously.

Item 7 on the Agenda:

Election of Lady Captain. The Captain announced the nomination of Christine Bennett, Proposed by Susan Barlow and seconded by Hilary Lewis. Motion carried.

Christine Bennett made a short speech of acceptance.

Item 8 on the Agenda:

Election of Captain Elect. The Captain announced the nomination of Wayne Evans as Captain Elect, Proposed by Alan Jackson and seconded by Tony Lambert. Motion carried.

Wayne Evans made a short speech of acceptance.

Item 9 on the Agenda:

Election of Independent Accountants. The unopposed Nomination of Moss & Williamson was carried.

Item 10 on the Agenda:

Election of Members to the Management Committee.
The Captain read the nominations from the Notice of AGM:

Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
M. Barlow	K. Shoel	N.P. Kay
S. Craig	S. Oddie	N.P. Kay
L. Butterworth	J.P. Davidson	N.P. Kay
D. Howles	G. Brooks	N.P. Kay
D. Clarke	P. Garside	A.J. Lomas

And asked all to stand and be recognised.

A secret ballot took place during the recess and Mike Barlow, Lee Butterworth and Dave Clarke were all elected for three years and Darren Howles for two years which unfortunately meant that Simon Craig was not elected this time. The Captain thanked Simon for serving last year said how delighted he was that there was competition for places on Committee. Motions carried.

Captain thanked all for standing and the independent adjudicators for their diligence in organising the ballot.

Item 11 on the Agenda:

Any Other Business.

Questions were raised and answered on the following subjects:

- Boundary fences
- Grids blocked on car park/drive
- Divot repair bags
- Own-a-Hole
- Tidy the area around the shed
- Curtains
- Pictures
- Slow play
- Practice Nets
- Lettering on front of Clubhouse
- Integration of new members – move touch-screen into Bar Area
- Mounds 15th hole
- Plans for course for next year – Newsletters/pathways & bunkers/decompaction of fairways
- Catering, particularly on Tuesdays
- Room set-up

The Captain thanked members for their attendance and participation and announced the date of the next AGM: **Thursday 28th November 2019**. He informed the new committee members that the next Full Committee Meeting is Monday 3rd December 2018 commencing at 7.30pm, business dress.

The Hon. Sec. proposed a vote of thanks to the two Captains for their diligence and professionalism in chairing the meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Captain _____ Proposed by _____

Hon. Sec. _____ Seconded by _____

28th November 2019

Honorary Treasurer's Report to Annual General Meeting November 2019

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report and to provide an explanation of some of the noteworthy items in the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2019 and in the 2019-20 budgets.

2018-19 ACCOUNTS

The financial year just gone has been a positive one and I can say for the first time since my tenure began that we have made a surplus. The surplus achieved is due to the changes made in 2018 and the hard work by everyone on the committee to stay within budget where possible.

The final result for the year is a pleasing surplus of £8,550, resulting in an improvement in liquidity. This is slightly above budget and a significant turnaround from last year's deficit.

Monthly management accounts were prepared from the start of the financial year and this enabled us to anticipate that the surplus for the year would be above budget. It was therefore decided to invest the additional surplus back into the club on selected unbudgeted expenses. These included the following significant items; the driveway, balcony, front of Clubhouse facelift and SKY/BT Sport.

The majority of income streams were above budget. Course expenses were below budget. The Club and General expenses were over budget, mainly due to the additional unbudgeted expenditure mentioned above.

Please find below a more detailed explanation for the more noteworthy items in the accounts.

Income

1. Bar takings were up nearly £30K on the previous year and were well above the budgeted figure. This increase is due to the additional members that have joined the Club over the previous two years. Once again the ratio of bar income from members compared to non-members has increased with the ratio now being at 63:37 this has led to a decrease in the gross profit percentage compared to last year due to the members' discount.
2. The influx of new members over the last couple of years has finally been turned into subscription income. Subscription income for the year was £5k up on the budget and £29k up on the previous year's total. Another positive during the year was the increase in Play More Golf Fees, this category of membership has grown considerably since its inception. Total Play More Golf Fees have increased by nearly £10k on the budgeted and previous year's totals.
3. Despite the bad weather during the year Green Fee income continues to increase and is £7k up on budget and £10k up on the previous year. Green fees were increased again during the year but this is also testament to the hard work of the greens team, who once again have maintained the course to a high standard.
4. Competition Fees are also up on last year's figures and what were budgeted for. This is mainly due to the increase in the number of members at the Club, with the majority of competitions throughout the year being well attended. Included in Competition Fees is a contribution of £1,200 from the Senior Section as proceeds from their Open competitions.
5. A new welcome source of additional income is the Kitchen Rent, during the year we received £6.5k which was slightly above budget as £500 of this should have been included in the previous year's accounts.

Sundry Income is down as the previous year included £1,262 received from a fundraising day.

Money received from Sponsorship and Members Efforts is up on last year's figures and the budgeted amount, this is due to the increase in monies received for the scorecard advertising. Snooker Table income is down on the previous year and on the budgeted amount.

Expenditure

Club Expenses

1. The Club's wages were over budget by £3,814. This was mainly due to the delay in bringing the cleaners in house. This was budgeted to commence at the start of the new financial year, but was delayed until January. Club wages have reduced by £7,400 from the previous year due to the cleaners now being in house and the previous year's figures included a bonus to the house manager.
2. General repairs and maintenance is over budget by nearly £18k as it includes some additional unbudgeted costs which I mentioned earlier. These included £15k spent on the new balcony and repairs to the front of the Club House, it also included almost £2k on repairs to various shutters around the Club House.
3. TV Licence & Sky costs are well over budget as it was decided during the year to install SKY and BT Sport to enhance the services available to members in the 19th.
4. Stocktaking fees have increased due to the Club changing the provider during the year, the new provider now provides the Club with a more detailed analysis of the stock along with recommendations to improve efficiency.
5. Depreciation costs for the kitchen were over budget due to the unbudgeted additions to kitchen equipment during the year, this cost the Club £8,602, and these included a new oven and kitchen canopy.

Course Expenses

1. The Greens Committee has managed its budget extremely well this year, the overall spend on course expenses are both under budget and last year's spend.
2. Course maintenance is well under budget this year and is also well below last year's spend. This is even more impressive as the unbudgeted upgrade of the drive costing £11,870 is included within the course maintenance figure; please see the greens section of the Secretary's report for details on the work carried out during the year.
3. Depreciation costs are over budget due to the cost of the new greens machinery being slightly higher than budgeted for and being purchased a couple of months earlier than anticipated.
4. Profits were made on the equipment which was part exchanged during the year.

General Expenses

1. Computer Maintenance and Support is over budget due to the money spent on upgrading the Wi-Fi system within the club at a cost of £993.
2. Subscriptions to Golf Associations are over budget due to the increase in member numbers, as the Club pays for the members' affiliation fees. The cost of the fees has also increased this year.
3. Prizes are well above last year's total and the budgeted figure, part of the reason for this is due to the increase in competition income during the year as mentioned in the income section above. Another

reason for the increase is that as the number of participants in the competitions has increased the Club has introduced an extra division, and have also increased the number of prizes in the Sunday competition.

4. Sundry expenses have increased on last year's total and the budgeted costs. This is due to the one-off payment for repairs to a car hit by a ball on Mossley Road. It was also decided in the year that the Club would now pay for the Ladies' Captain's jacket.
5. Legal and Professional Fees are over budget as it includes £5.5k spent on planning drawings for an extension and lift to the front of the Clubhouse, this is part of the Club's future plans.
6. Non-Recoverable VAT is the result of a complicated partial exemption calculation based on the ratio of our Exempt and Taxable Income applied to our VAT Input Tax.
7. Marketing is over budget due to an additional cost of £750 relating to telesales marketing.

Capital Expenditure and Special Projects

Capital expenditure during the year includes the following items; Baroness LM331 and Toro Workman, to aid the greens staff, kitchen canopy and Falcon Dominator Oven for the kitchen, a new TV for the 19th. Special projects completed during the year consisted of the driveway refurbishment and the work to the front of the Clubhouse and the new balcony.

2019-20 BUDGETS

EXPENDITURE

The budget for the majority of expenses is to remain consistent with the amount spent last year. I will explain any expenses with significant variances below.

Club Expenses

1. Planned expenditure includes upgrades to the locker room and upstairs toilets with the remaining budget being used for the general running costs of the clubhouse.
2. New three year contracts have been agreed for the supply of gas and electricity. Unfortunately the costs have risen considerably from the previous contract.

Course Expenses

1. The greens budget includes the cost of improving the paths around the golf course and maintaining the course throughout the year.

General Expenses

1. The cost of the workplace pension will increase in line with government legislation.
2. Included in the budget for marketing is the cost of the continued partnership with Albatross.

Capital Expenditure

1. Greens will be purchasing a new mower during the year via a hire purchase agreement.
2. House will be upgrading the function room and the men's shower room during the year.

INCOME

The budget for income is conservative with only subscription income budgeted to increase by a significant amount compared to last year.

Subscriptions

The proposed increase in subscription fees is a minor increase but is still needed to keep the Club moving forward. After a really positive year on and off the golf course it would be a mistake to stand still.

The budgets have been built with a slightly lower number of members than we had at the time of preparing the budget and include the proposed increases in subscriptions. We therefore believe the budgeted figure for subscriptions is a conservative one which protects the Club from any fall in membership numbers at renewal.

As I said above to keep the Club moving forward it is important that members accept the proposal to increase the subscriptions.

The budgeted profit of £8,522 will generate sufficient cash flow to service existing and new borrowing costs and repayments.

I hope that you have found this report useful and informative, and I look forward to presenting the annual accounts and the 2019-20 budgets to the Annual General Meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JPO' followed by a stylized flourish.

Jonny Orchard
Honorary Treasurer
8th November 2019

Honorary Secretary's Report to Annual General Meeting November 2019

What a good year!

Against a background golfing economy that remains difficult our numbers look pretty good right now (please see below) and for this year it has translated into subscription income. The big question is; can we sustain it? We will have a good idea of the answer to that question in April next year when we know how many of our newer members are renewing.

The seeds sown last year have borne fruit in that the course has improved with the appointment of the qualified Head Greenkeeper and our partnership with Albatross Digital Marketing has brought in significant numbers of new members

For the first time in a while, having completed some unbudgeted work, we've made a decent trading surplus.

Extra/Added-Value for Subscriptions

- FREE Room Hire for Parties
- FREE Reciprocal Golf at 7 other clubs
- FREE Lancashire Card available for discounts at 1400 clubs (80 in Lancs)
- FREE Group Lessons for Juniors
- FREE Birthday Fourball
- 3 FREE casual rounds of golf for Social members.
- Bar Card for 25% discount on drinks
- Discounted take-away meals from Amaani Restaurant
- Discounted legal services at Rupert Wood & Son Solicitors
- Discounted DIY at Atlas Trading
- Discounted rates at Physio-Team Works in Mossley
- Discounted rates at Specsavers AUL

Please tell your friends.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship remains very important to us. Thanks again to all of sponsors.

European Tour

Matt Nixon has had limited opportunity this year having narrowly lost his Card last year. Let's hope he can *pull the rabbit out of the hat* yet again at Tour School to regain his Card.

Joe Brice continued playing the Euro-Pro Tour having turned pro last year.

Luke Kelly turned pro this season, also playing the Euro-Pro Tour.

We wish them all well and, of course, continue to follow them with great pride.

Staff

A good year despite more change.

Marketing & Social Media

Efforts to raise our profile continue through what have become the usual channels. Albatross have been the outstanding performer.

Membership

Whilst membership numbers look good, most new members joined on special offers through to March next year. Can we retain them? That's where we all have a part to play. As you might expect, research tells us that people stay when they feel welcome!

We now have 570 adult playing members (including 56 aged 18-30)

Year	Total Playing Members 18+	Aged 18 to 30	3-Day Members	Social	Juniors
2014	408	12	1	150	33
2015	439	16	20	150	63
2016	468	21	59	145	75
2017	494	35	100	128	76
2018	551	44	115	106	81
2019	570	56	101	109	78

Also included are 65 PlayMoreGolf members, up from 35 last year. And it's great to see the Ladies Academy numbers increasing steadily. Well done to all involved. We now have 15.

Honorary Life Membership

Martin J Wild has accepted our offer of Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his outstanding golfing achievements representing AULGC and Lancashire.

Society Numbers and Income for financial years to:

Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2019
41 £17K	39 £15K	48 £17K	38 £14K	45 £15K	53 £14K	45 £12K

Despite our efforts at promotion, the trend for smaller Societies continues. Whilst Sundays are still the most popular day, we continue to try and move these to midweek where there is less impact on members.

Visitors and Societies brought in £45,000 this year. Without that income we would be looking at an additional c£100 on the subs.

Room Hires for financial years to:

Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2019
30	46	76	103	90	84	85

Bar Sales for financial years to:

Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015	Sept 2016	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2019
£102K	£106K	£116K	£128K	£135K	£136K	£164K

Health & Safety

Good progress continues to be made, evident in the many improvements on the course. This is supported by significant improvement behind the scenes. Importantly, our insurers are happy with our progress and our long-term plans. For next year the focus will remain to provide a safe place for members, visitors and guests, and will continue to be driven on a risk-based approach.

House

Our House Manager and Caterer have settled-in well.

Work on House included:

- SKY & BT TV installed
- New ovens
- New tumble dryer
- New canopy/extractor in the kitchen
- New Balcony Chairs
- Fabulous new glass balustrade on the balcony – completed with a bit of luck
- The usual, never ending, repairs and renewals

- Refurb of front entrance

Proposed major projects Planned for house in the next 12 months:

- Retiling of shower room in men's changing room
- Decorating function room during the winter.
- Dancefloor to be re-covered.
- New carpet in function room and 19th area.

Proposed long term projects that require significant funding:

- New lift
- New disabled toilets

Good news; our defibrillator has still not been called into action. It's on the wall in the lobby, near the PSI machine.

Greens

2019 has seen the golf course in its best-ever condition. Whilst the weather was mixed, closures were fewer and further between until autumn came early and spoiled the party with more closures at that time of year than I can remember.

The heavy scarification of the fairways continues to bear fruit with the fairways in excellent condition throughout the summer. And the swamp grass has virtually disappeared!

Just to recap some of the works over the last 12 months:

- New tees at 13 & 17
- New Top-Dresser
- 3 of 5 staff attended 1st Aid Seminar
- New tees and surrounds mower
- New scarifying blades
- Wider path and safety rail up the bank to 18th green
- Trees & copses thinned
- Improved pathways
- Drainage works

The programme for this winter is now underway and includes 9 new tee plates to replace the concrete blocks, more fairway de-compaction by slitting and verti-draining, and again a focus on improving pathways.

As always, your support and understanding regarding the challenges we can face from the weather and the land itself is appreciated. Gareth White, our Greens Sec., thanks all members for the feedback provided. It has again been great to hear so much positivity!

He also says, hopefully without sounding cheesy, that we are all custodians of this course, not just the Greens Team. Repair your divots and pitch marks, use the litter bins, write ideas in the suggestion book, let others know how good the course is and bring guests, support your pro and above all enjoy your time on the course. The lads and I are proud of it, you should be too.

Practice Field

Ultimate development will be expensive and is likely to take some time. Meantime, 2019 has seen progress.

Worldwide Handicapping

Comes in from November 2020. The course will be assessed by England Golf in good time.

Competitions

New Rules came in from the 1st January 2019.

We hosted the Lancashire Boys Championship on Sunday 19th May 2019. The County asked that the bank/gully to the left of 17 be marked as a Red Penalty Area. Ultimately, we retained that and extended it to the gully across 18. The County reps were delighted.

Saturday comps are averaging 140, Sundays 60, Twilight Stableford has run all summer but we're disappointed we have had just two lady entrants all summer.

We now have sufficient entrants for three divisions on Sundays with two prizes, and we have been able to give two prizes in each division for Tuesday Competitions this summer.

Three Day Members' K O failed and we had to amalgamate it with PMG members.

The inaugural Colin Boyle Trophy won by Ben Froggatt

The Captain's Picnic to Howley Hall GC was a great day.

The Rabbits enjoyed themselves with 18/20 players taking part.

The A-Team put up a proud defence of their 2018 league title. Unfortunately, this season we were runners up to Denton GC by a mere three points. Close... but no cigar!

The B-Team qualified for the semi-finals of the league championship play-offs but lost their semi against Castle Hawk. Still no cigars!

The Dunham Team had their best run for many years and got down to the last 8 but lost away to Stand GC. Winning that match would have given them a place in finals day at Dunham Forest. Thanks for the support and to the caddies who attended our matches, much appreciated.

The City Glass Foursomes Team and our Over 55 Seniors both fell at the second fence this time.

The National KO team enjoyed two victories before a defeat in round 3

The honours were even this year in the Ashfield Cup clashes.

The Ladies won easily, and the men suffered a significant defeat on foreign soil.

The Men's Exchange Days at Withington and Romiley GCs were a mutual success.

For the Ladies:

- The Tameside league team were the stars this season bringing the Shield back to AULGC by beating Blackley GC by two points.
- Louisa Brunt was in fine form and set a new ladies' course record with a four under par 69 gross in the second round of the Kenworthy Cup, a 36-hole competition.
- Both the Handicap and Bronze Shield teams were unable to qualify for the divisional finals of the Lancashire league despite some close matches at the group stage.
- The Archie Preston team played well to win their first two matches away from home against Buxton and Reddish Golf Clubs. The third fixture, again an away draw, against Davyhulme GC was lost on the last putt of the last match on the 18th hole.

The Competitions twice-weekly Reports are still eagerly anticipated. Thanks yet again to our world-wide correspondent!

Congratulations to all the Trophy Winners.

Very many thanks to all our Team Managers/Organisers – your efforts are very much appreciated. Happy Birthday! – The vouchers continue to be well received by members.

Junior Development

Our Junior Academy continues to thrive to the point where we need more help organising their coaching sessions.

Resurfacing the Drive

Long overdue but a good-looking job

Members Survey

210 members responded and whilst the results reflect well against other clubs, there is much for us to do. The feedback will help our planning and prioritisation.

My thanks to you

I'd like to emphasise my sincere thanks to all those members who have helped me and AULGC. It really is very much appreciated. There are lots of you. You know who you are. Thank you.

Treasurer/Finance

Young Jonny Orchard is now well into the swing and the monthly management accounts are invaluable.

Captain

Steve Hanmer has thoroughly enjoyed an extremely busy year. He's a clear thinker adept at dealing with the particularly tricky issues. And whilst he is easy-going, he's also very decisive and determined. He and JJ Lewis won the Winter Four Ball KO but if you were at the Captains Drive-In you are forgiven for wondering how!! Although his year as Captain will soon be over, I'm sure he will continue to help us take the Club forward. Very well-done Steve and thank you.

President

Ian Sherlock is an excellent figurehead. He is always available and always forthright in his desire to help resolve a myriad of issues. I'm delighted he will continue in the role for a third and final year. Thank you, Ian. It is very much appreciated.

Conclusion

Still operating in difficult market conditions, we finally have some *jam today* in the shape of the significant spending and surplus you see in the accounts. The increase in Bar sales is spin-off from bringing in so many new members (and I'd like to think making the Bar more attractive with SKY & BT TV) and the increase in green/comp fees reflects the condition of the course. As I've said many times in recent years, members are our top priority and we must continue to sweat the assets for members' benefit. Albatross have done well but have they hit saturation? Time will tell. Meantime our next big challenge is to retain as many new members as possible come next spring.

A great team effort has resulted in a great year with plenty of good news but most certainly no room for complacency. Again, I continue to look forward with great optimism.

This year's quote re change is:

Be the change you wish to see in the world. *Mahatma Gandhi*

We've changed a lot in the last eight years and still nothing is more certain than more change. By embracing it I expect us to survive and ultimately, if we have more years like this year, we can move on to thrive!!

Steve Martin
Honorary Secretary