

Mr. President, Gentlemen, It gives me great pleasure to report on the progress of the Club over the past twelve months. The membership of the Club at the 30th September, 1984 was as follows:-  
Gentlemen Members 347  
Lady Members 252  
Gentlemen Life Members 80  
Lady Life Members 18  
Country Members 16

This gives a total membership of 713 at the year end, as compared with 765 last year, a decrease of some 52 members. This figure can be accounted for by the fact that the Lady membership has dropped by 53, and whilst the financial position of the Club suggests that the membership we possess is loyal in its regular attendance, we cannot afford to be complacent. The Committee must constantly seek new ways of attracting more members, particularly ladies. Indeed, the present Ladies' Committee is dependent on a small number of staunch supporters who cannot be expected to continue for ever.

1983/84 has been another eventful year for the Club. Physical improvements include the new picture windows which have added a new dimension to watching cricket on cold September afternoons as well as enhancing the appearance of the Club premises. The spare land at the rear of the Club has been cleared during the course of the year and certainly looks less of an eyesore now. Much of this worthwhile work was tackled by members of the Cricket and General Committees, and we are most grateful for their efforts.

On the social side, the Social Committee, led by Bob Mawhirt, has provided a variety of events to attract extra revenue. The Sports Quizzes, held in the Autumn, and the General Knowledge Quizzes, held in the New Year, proved to be very popular with both members and visitors alike and helped to fill the Club on off-peak nights, as did the Greyhound Night at the beginning of the Club year. In addition, the Mini Gala and the recent Bonfire Night were organised with the same degree of efficiency and professionalism as we have come to expect from the Social Committee. In an attempt to attract younger members to the Club, dances have varied between the more traditional kind and the disco format, though response to the latter has been rather disappointing. It would be a shame if the Social Committee were restricted to simply producing more of the same because of members' apathy, and I am sure that any ideas from Club members would be given careful consideration.

May I, while talking about social events, draw the members' attention to the forthcoming Annual Dinner Dance to be held at the Post House Hotel in Ossett. It is an occasion when the social and cricket sections of the Club have an opportunity to come together, and it is my belief that every member of the Club should have this sentiment at heart.

The greatest success of the year was undoubtedly in August when the Club entertained a team from the Lords Taverners. The Cricket Secretary will doubtless have more to say on this matter in his report but I would like to emphasise two points that came out of the day. Firstly it proved that there is a strong contingent of people who are prepared to get down to a lot of hard work in order to benefit the Club. To mention them individually would both take too long and would be unfair to people whose names are omitted, but every section of the Club pulled its weight and contributed to an enormously successful day. Secondly it proved that this Club is at its best when it has a strong sense of purpose. We seem to relish the idea of a challenge, and that suggests to me that we should not be content just to drift along, but should be constantly looking for new ventures to unify the various factions and boost members' pride in the Club. I think we shall all be very proud when a cheque for over £3000 is presented to the Taverners charities at the Annual Dinner Dance.

No reflection on the year's events would be complete without mentioning the efforts of the Ladies' Committee. In addition to providing cricket teas, refreshments at the dances and organising their annual Cheese and Wine Party, you will have seen from the Balance Sheet that they have donated £450 to Club funds. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for all their hard work and effort over the past year.

As a new Committee is about to be elected, this is usually the time to look forward to the future. We have heard in the Treasurer's report that the Club is in a very sound financial position, a fact which should give us all a great deal of pleasure when we consider the improvements that have been made and the fact that on two occasions brewery and budget increases were absorbed by the Committee in an attempt to give something back to our members. Now that we are on a firm footing, and have been for two years or more, it is vital that the Development Committee is convened once more in order to map out the long-term future of the Club. Different people have different ideas about where the priorities lie, but it seems to me that the time for mere speculation is over. We must now get down to a serious discussion of all the alternatives and come up with a plan to which we are committed and which we are determined to put into action. Surely that was the idea of the Reserve Fund when it was originally established.

Sadly this is my last report as Club Secretary, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank various people who have helped to make my job such a gratifying one. Firstly I would like to thank all Committee members for their hard work and enthusiasm. It's easy to criticise Committee members, but there aren't that many people who are prepared to put their own head on the block. Secondly I would like to thank Pat and Malcolm Swaine whose great efficiency and cellar management have not only made my job easier and that of the Stock Committee, but have also put this Club back on the beer map. Finally I would like to thank Jim Crossley, on your behalf as well as mine, for all the hours of hard work he has put in in order to ensure that we are in the financial position in which we find ourselves today.

I sincerely hope that my successor will be able to report next year in the same spirit of optimism as I have done tonight - to a great extent that depends on the support of you, the members.

Thank you for your attention.