





take in the 3rd and 4th holes, then the cost would soar to £1.2 million or even £1.5 million. The club would appeal against any decision made to route the road over the course, but preliminary work had to be done in case the appeal was unsuccessful. MacAuley visited the club early in 1992 and views were exchanged on minimising dislocation while maximising the potential of 20 acres of club land adjacent to the 11th and 12th holes. A general movement of the course away from the motorway area, freeing up the former 1st and 2nd holes for possible commercial exploitation, was also explored.

It was during the 1990s that many golf clubs came to realise that their memberships were getting older, that golf was becoming relatively more expensive for younger adult members, that family life now precluded most members spending all weekend at the club, and that new pay-and-play or other public facilities threatened the status quo of long-established members' clubs by offering affordable facilities to infrequent players. Most importantly they provided an excellent start in the game for young people. At Stockport it was realised that junior golf needed to be fostered if the club's future membership were not to stagnate and that the playing successes of its members over the years were to be maintained. To encourage greater participation by junior members and to better integrate them into the club, a Sub Committee, appointed to look into junior golf, recommended that male juniors playing off a handicap of 14 or lower could play in certain extra adult competitions and that, if they won, a special prize would be given. It was agreed to extend playing times for juniors between 16 and 18 and for those holding handicaps of 14 and below. Friendly matches against other local clubs were to be arranged, and hospitality provided. Archie Ronald, who had done much to further junior golf over the previous six years, was presented with a decanter and glasses in appreciation by the juniors and he, in turn, donated a prize for a monthly medal. A coaching programme with the professional and assistant was arranged for the spring.

In 1991 the UK Golfing Society for Blind golfers played their annual tournament at Stockport. Spectators were amazed at the high standard of golf on display and the boundless enthusiasm of the players.

Forward planning was now entering every aspect of club business. A five-year plan for machinery was introduced in January 1992. The Greens

Committee proposed that the course manager should be invited to join the Development Committee. It was also decided to institute a five-year maintenance plan for the clubhouse. A survey of all club properties was requested, to determine the likely cost implications for the immediate and slightly more distant future.

Pepe Hernangomez, the Chief Steward, retired in February 1992 and moved back to Spain with his wife and son; his daughter continues to live in the area. Following an inspection of the clubhouse and adjacent properties, it was agreed that the steward's present accommodation in the clubhouse would not be offered to his successors. Instead, a two-bedroom, unfurnished unit would be provided within the bungalow; it was also found to be possible to accommodate the secretary and his assistant in a large room overlooking the course, at a total cost of about £10,500 plus VAT. There were more than ninety applications for the Posts of Steward and Stewardess and in April Mr and Mrs Paul Hill of Huddersfield were offered the joint posts. Work on the bungalow and the secretary's new accommodation got under way, and both were to be fitted with security alarm systems.

Good news for the club came in the form of a letter from the Department of Transport. It suggested that the junction threatening the 1st green might be marginally re-sited. But nothing could be taken for granted and extra land for course development was still being sought from a neighbouring farmer. Further expense would be necessary as a result of the latest fire inspection, but the club had met its statutory obligations under new food and hygiene laws, by registering as a waste carrier and a food business.

An inspection by the STRI at Bingley commented on the marked



PEPE RESPONDING TO MEMBERS AT HIS FAREWELL DINNER

improvement in the condition of the course, dramatically so in the case of scarified fairways. But it was still in poor condition where the water pipes had been laid across the 6th and 9th holes. Although compensation had been received, the club demanded that course damage be made good. In May 1992 it was discovered that the course sprinkler system had been damaged. Remote, overnight sprinkling was no longer possible, although manual sprinkling could be carried out. It seems that cables had been cut or damaged during course maintenance. They would have to be replaced and a new control box fitted. The cost was estimated to be as high as £12,000.

A meeting between the Captain and the Chairman of the study group about management structure and administration was held in July 1992. It was felt that a full time manager was not required and the post of honorary secretary should continue. Some concern had been expressed on the possible dominance of a Management Committee Chairman but the proposal that the immediate past captain should fill the post for one year only was thought to have the opposite effect. In addition, a Management Committee composed largely of past captains would ensure that no one member became too powerful. Apart from the Chairman, it was suggested that a Board of Directors should include the Captain, President, Vice-Captain, a Financial Director/Company Secretary and three other directors. The Honorary Secretary would not be a director but would be required to attend meetings to take minutes. A Captain's Committee would consist of the Captain, President, Vice-Captain, greens, house, competition and handicap members as well as a junior representative and possibly a member of the ladies' section. Again the Honorary Secretary would be required to take minutes. The Honorary Secretary's role should be one of providing assistance to the Management and Captain's Committees and the day to day administration of the club's affairs, and the post of honorary assistant secretary would no longer be needed. Amendments would have to be made to the club's articles, legal advice would be required and exploratory meetings would have to be held with members, after which an EGM would have to be called.

Committee discussions about the proposals were many and detailed and by no means unanimous. There were concerns over the potential power of certain officers or individuals and some felt that the dual

Committee system might be unworkable. But the Captain had been charged with setting up a pilot scheme, which he had done, and it would be up to the members to determine the way forward. The EGM was fixed for November 2nd 1992. Seventy-one members attended. The pilot scheme was formally proposed, seconded and passed, the voting being 61 to 9. An additional resolution, that the number of club directors be increased to thirteen and that the honorary assistant secretary need not be replaced, was approved by more than 75% (57 to 14). The Management Committee would henceforth take responsibility for finance, membership, staff employment, course and clubhouse development, computerised accounts and the staff payroll. Approval was given, the following year, for provision of a new and more powerful computer to deal with introduction of computerised accounts and PAYE.

In July 1992 a structural survey of all the club buildings after the fire was received. The clubhouse was reported to be generally in a sound condition. In the new way of running things at the club it was seen as appropriate that the steward should be invited to House Sub-Committee meetings when bar matters were being discussed. These included staffing, renovations and new equipment. As far as the clubhouse itself was concerned, the provision of honours boards had been under discussion for some considerable time. But it became clear that there was difficulty in tracing the records of some of the various competitions and their winners. Committee minutes had been kept meticulously, but not competition records. In November 1992 it was agreed to display three honours boards, for Captain's Prize, President's Prize and McIntyre Trophy. *'The Secretary would attempt to compile a comprehensive list of all major trophy winners not already honoured in the clubhouse.'*

Also in November, Roger Tattersall, the club's Professional for the past thirteen years, announced his intention to leave the club, with effect from the end of February. He had decided to take up a similar post in New Zealand. The customary recruitment procedure was put into action and Terry le Brocq was appointed, starting in March. He came from Jersey and had been employed in the Professional Golfers' Association, not as a professional but in marketing. It turned out to be a short-lived appointment.