



Rossendale Golf Club



Newsletter August 2018

To be or.....not to be? Now there's a question or two

Water or no water – that's a question to ponder upon

It would appear that the bore hole and its financing has created a great deal of discussion between members. Did Council get it wrong? There have been some letters, some whispers and some bar room chat about financing or even the need for a bore hole. With the best will Council try to make the right decisions for members. Considering less than 20% of members have contributed so far, it might appear that Council may have got it wrong this time.

Questions have been asked about the viability and technicality of a bore hole. Briefly, a consultant has advised the greens' team of site and depth of a bore hole. This summer showed that, if nothing else, additional water is needed. An email will be winging its way to members shortly with the technical detail.



One member suggested the bore hole could be the start of an irrigation system for the course; others members believe the bore hole costs should be added onto the subscriptions' some don't think a bore hole is necessary at all. What a mix of views. It was a tough call and Council decided to go down the voluntary donation route.

Has the bore hole debate highlighted how engaged members are in club decisions? If members don't talk to Council, offer suggestions, ideas or opinions then Council can only go on the evidence in front of them. The editor of this newsletter believes that bar room chat doesn't always reach Council, the formal method of email or letters do and are considered. Let Council know what you think of a bore hole, are there alternatives? Voice your opinion – even anonymously if necessary; is the way forward for a more structured communication system with members? Members' views on such financial priorities will be the core of this year's survey. Have your say!

Club, Business or both? Another question

Following an analysis of the use of the tees by both members and visitors it might appear that we have a club within a business. The club runs itself but the business needs an overhaul of its formal structure and governance.

In the 21st century the advice is to have a sustainable business plan based on a strategic plan and a more practicable management model where members see progress against a formal strategic and business plan and have input into those plans. Members are generous in their support of the business - buying raffles, attending competitions and so forth and also by bringing guests onto the course. Over an 8-month period from December to early August members booked 247 tee times with guests. Non-members booked 299 tee times and the club had 38 societies playing the course and eating.



Some members spent over £1500 in the bar last year; the average of a number of members support the bar is £500. The lounge and socials raise money for the club. But, do members see it as part of the business?

Why do you need to know this? Well, those members who eat, drink and use the lounge, etc contribute to keeping the subscription fees low. Volunteers are few and far between and contribute time and energy to the club, but is it enough? Is the current model sustainable? Council are looking at new models of management to further increase the enjoyment of being a club and a successful business.

The 2018 members' survey will give members the opportunity to voice opinions on models of management and budget decisions.

Rossendale players have a great season and the club's players gain an excellent reputation

Continuing the theme of business

EnglandGolf have researched what type of people make up the golfing market. Their analysis shows that only 24% of adults are interested in playing golf. The current golf market of 9.6 million consists of current players, lapsed players and latent players.

There are some interesting facts in the research; of those adults who play 23% are "Older Traditionalists" (average age 59) and the next largest group of 15% is what EnglandGolf term "Younger Traditionalists" (average age 35).

The research also shows a trend in growth of female memberships to clubs. Yes, women showed a greater interest in joining clubs in 2017 than men. Yes, 26% of the Younger Actives are female

One of the reasons given by new players to the game is that they feel it is a great way to keep fit and to socialise with friends. Looks like mental and physical health are both improved by the game.



Great wins for the Club

Ladies' successes



BDGA Rotary Rosebowl at Lowes Park - Susan Bann, Ann Gibbons, Karen Payne & Lady Captain Elect Gini Ratcliffe came away with the trophy on 5th August. They were 1 of 3 Rossendale teams who took part in this annual event which also raises funds for various local charities.

Chris Monks & Carolyn Taylor together with 2 friends from Walmersley won the Lancs. Ladies' Team Event on 16th July at Accrington Golf Club. Another Rossendale team were 4th.

Mixed results

The ELGA Mixed Foursomes Qualifiers winning the competition on Sunday 22nd July were Sandra McGauley & Roger Maycock, Bev Dodd and Graham Clarke along with Carol and Colin Kerfoot they play the finals at Wilpshire in September. Well done guys and good luck on the 2nd.

SOCIAL EVENTS

It's a 50's night, so if Rossendale Golf Club reflects the research of EnglandGolf, 23% of our members could attend this event and take a trip down memory lane whilst our younger actives could enjoy a history lesson. Big Sid will host a quiz that is themed on the 50's

Saturday 22nd September 2018

7.00pm for 7.30pm

£10 a ticket to include a meal – choice of three dishes.

Quiz, music and dinner all for a tenner.

Come on, support your and club enjoy yourself

A free event – 2019 new rules October 2nd 2018 - 6.30 for 7.00pm

Straight from the horse's mouth – for those of you who enjoy being competitive, you will need to be clear about the new rules. It is apparent when playing that players have a different interpretation of some of the rules especially where to place a ball when taking relief.

Simon Edwards PGA England and PGA member of the rules will introduce the new rules along with a gentle quiz. After all he did help write them!! Put the date in your diary and be sure you are aware of the changes next year.

Men's' successes

The men's' team won the BDGA league. Team Captain James Cassell said the team players were consistent and played well all season. Well done men. The team players were James Cassell Chris Nicholls John Spencer Iain Hackett Andy Caunce Andy Dunn Ben Horrocks Ben Lord Chris Brannan Colin Kerfoot Dan Foley David Chapman Ged Taylor Gordon Carswell Mark Bowler Phil Beasley Ric Belsten Robert Holden Roger Maycock

Andy McCourty got a hole in one at Pike Fold!!!!

Juniors' successes

Thomas Whittaker won the Lochmaben Junior Open on the juniors' annual Scotland tour. Harry Lord won the Southport and Ainsdale 36 hole scratch Junior Open on 7th August Luke Bartram won the Faldo series event at Moortown on 24th July to qualify for the Faldo series grand final in Abu Dhabi in November. All with scores we only dream of.

