



Rossendale Golf Club Ltd



The Aim of this Policy Document is to set out details of the Management of the Strategic Plan for Rossendale Golf Course in relation to the management and maintenance of the Golf Course. To provide and implement long and short-term plans identified within the Strategic Plan and communicate to members.

Objectives

To provide a visually attractive golf course which provides a challenge for all level of golfers, and which members are proud to invite guests to visit and play. The aim is to achieve good playing conditions all year round, taking into account the challenging weather conditions for this area. Visitors are welcome provided they satisfy the Club's criteria:

- (a) Membership of a recognised golf club or Society
- (b) Playing ability to a minimum standard as laid down by Council.

Roles and Responsibility

The **Greens Committee** is responsible for the management of the golf course, course maintenance, course standards and improvements along with recommending any significant changes. The Chairman of greens will act as the conduit between the committee, Director of Golf and the Executive Board and communicate instructions and comments received via these channels. They will generally meet monthly and minutes will be produced which will be included in Board papers.

The Green's Chairman along with the Greens Committee are responsible carrying out the requirements of this Course Policy Document and any other Board decisions identified in the Strategic Plan relating to the course.

Implementation of RGC Course Policy

The Greens Chairman will in conjunction with the Head Green Keeper

1. liaise with the Honorary Secretaries on staffing and problem areas.
2. effectively manages the course budget and liaise with the Finance Chairman to plan the annual budget
3. Oversee course machinery rental/maintenance and repairs.
4. Ensure implementation and compliance around Health & Safety for the Course and greens staff.
5. purchase and ensure appropriate storage of fertilisers, dressings, pesticides etc and ensure the maintenance of records pertaining to COSH.
6. storage and safety of all equipment for use on the course
7. short and long-term work schedules
8. allocation of tasks in relation to the course and grounds
9. conduct regular greens committee meetings and liaising with Council
10. monitor the implementation of ecological schemes where applicable
11. monitor the disposal of waste products resulting from general course maintenance.

Staff: Numbers and positions held

Full time - Head Green Keeper (1) Deputy Head Green Keeper (1) Assistant Green Keeper (2)

Reduced Hours - Gardener/Handyman (1)

Seasonal - Temporary Green staff (1)

Course Maintenance Facilities

There are currently two existing sites which are used to store and maintain equipment used on the course.

- Adjacent to the car park situated on the right-hand side of the entrance to the club.
Head Green Keepers office/Rest Room/ toilet, large shed housing some small machinery, hand tools and workshop.
- Barn on the course between the 7th and 11th tees
Large machinery store/dangerous & hazardous chemical storage/general purpose & materials storage.

Work on the Course

The increase in the popularity of golf, coupled with earlier retirement, has resulted in members and visitors playing more and wishing to play earlier. The golfer of today is much more aware of the quality and presentation of courses and demands constant improvements in the playing surfaces on a year-round basis.

The Green Staff are faced with ever increasing levels of compaction, wear and tear and the need to work without inconveniencing the golfer. Improved mechanisation has assisted the greens staff to carry out most tasks quickly and efficiently, but inevitably there are conflicts between course maintenance staff and golfers. Greens staff are aware that the course is there for the benefit and enjoyment of members and visitors, and where possible work programs are planned accordingly. To achieve the best possible balance: -

- Staff start early enough to prepare the course by working ahead of the golfers
- Hole closures are planned well in advance to ensure that a full course is available.

This has the added advantage of increased productivity, as staff can work without interruption. Our green staff take a great pride in their professional role and the presentation of the course.

Work on the course will be conducted with as little disruption to players as is possible - but greens staff will have priority.

The greens committee will identify a "Maintenance Week" where specific works on the course will be carried out which have an element of disruption but are required to be undertaken during the golf season to ensure maximum long-term benefits for the following year. These arrangements will be listed in the Club diary and fixtures, in addition there will be notices and e mails posted nearer the time and the dates will be included in the Newsletter for members' information. The co-operation and understanding of the membership is required if continuous and satisfactory playing conditions are to be achieved.

Green Staff Hours

The greens staff working hours are as follows: Summer: 0630hrs – 1430hrs Winter: 0700hrs – 1430hrs
Additionally, all staff are rostered for weekend and public holiday working at the appropriate overtime rates, to provide greens mowing/bunker raking/hole and tee marker changes.

The Course

General

In the main the Course is laid out on a clay understructure and can be subject to extremely wet conditions particularly with the local climate which tends to be wet. In addition, current weather patterns for this area over recent years have seen significantly warmer and wetter winters. Many areas of the country are experiencing the same issues which increases disease activity and greater deterioration of surfaces through continued wet periods.

The long-term aim is to relieve these conditions with deep annual tinning programs coupled with agreed future installation of new drains and associated work when finance is available.

The Greens Chairman has the Authority to ban the use of all buggies, electric and hand trollies, or a combination, whenever ground conditions so dictate. In general circumstances these actions will be taken in consultation with the Head Green Keeper and Director of Golf. Medical exemptions on an individual basis are available to be considered through Director of Golf, however there may be extreme occasions where even with a medical exemption the ban will stand.

In the event of the restriction regarding buggies/trollies being activated members will be notified by e mail and a notice placed on the notice boards of the imposition of the restrictions/ban and again when the action is lifted.

Tees

Objective: - to provide a firm, level surface during the main golf season.

Good maintenance of tee grounds is essential. Tees will be cut to approx. 8-10mm during the main season.

A rolling program of renovation and levelling will be maintained and tinning, scarifying and fertilising will be undertaken on a programmed basis identified by the Greens Committee.

The use of winter tees on all 18 holes is a long-term objective, there are currently 14 constructed winter tees with the aim to complete the remaining tees in the future. The use of winter tees enables the main tees to be fully recovered for the main golfing season.

Day to Day maintenance of the Tee areas is part of the overall strategy, and routine duties will include: -

- Movement of tee markers two – four times a week.
- Emptying of rubbish bins two – four times a week, and if full.
- Divotting of any major damage

- Twice weekly cutting of all tees at appropriate heights, ensuring care is taken not to scalp the sloping edges of the tee ground.
- Trimming of the tee markers and steps where appropriate
- Regular inspection and spot spraying for weeds and fusarium or other disease.
- Aeration and scarification

Fairways

Mowing to 14mm will be the standard during the playing season. Annual verti-draining, scarification, slit tinning, divotting, deep tinning will be continued to maintain the improved conditions of the fairways. Fertiliser, along with spot or broom spraying for weeds to be undertaken when required.

Each year, in addition to the 'winter rules of golf' a decision will be taken by the Greens Committee whether the fairways will be taken out of play during the 'Closed' season.

Intermediate Rough

There will be no **intermediate rough**, this should make for a clearer definition between the fairway and the rough.

Rough

Rough will be cut to a height in the region of 35-50mm. Other area of rough, identified as being well off-line, will be left to their natural state, for ecological and practical reasons. Other areas will be cleared as recommended by the Greens Committee. It takes 2 days to cut all the rough on the course and it will be cut as often as necessary dependent on weather and ground conditions and the speed at which the grass may be growing.

Surrounds & Approaches

The presentation of the surrounds of greens, tees and approaches, has a marked visual impact on the course. To prevent the green surrounds and approaches from being infested with poor quality grasses, they will receive a similar aeration and feed treatment program as the greens. A surround will be formed of one triple machine width around each green and four to five cuts at the front which will then merge into the fairway. Careful cutting of the surround is essential to achieve an even surface and avoid scalping.

Greens

Objective: When considering the location of the Golf Course, the geography, together with the climate of the area it should be recognised the growing season can be slower between April and May than other areas a short distance away. However, it is the objective to provide a true, firm, fast surface which will hold a well-struck golf shot played from the closely mown area, throughout most of the golfing season. The further aim is to maintain the high quality of the greens to enable them to remain in play as much as possible during the closed season.

To be achieved by: Aeration/hollow tinning/verti-draining/scarifying programmes

Fertilisers and top dressing programmes

Verticutting

Cutting heights

Over seeding programme to improve sward composition

Ironing the greens

Removal, pollarding and pruning of trees and shrubs around the greens which inhibit light and air circulation.

The height of cut on the greens is the responsibility of the Greens Chairman/Head Green Keeper and depends on future weather conditions, forthcoming events and the state of the soil etc.

During good growing weather the effective height of cut should be no lower than 4mm rising to 7mm during the autumn/winter months. The use of the iron and the frequency of its use on the greens will be at the discretion of the Greens Chairman after consultation with the Head Green Keeper and the Professional. Hole position should be changed on a regular basis to reduce excessive wear to one area of the green and prevent "crowning" of the hole - "Crowning" or a raised area immediately around the area of the hole is a result of player footfall compacting the ground near the hole when removing the ball, tending or removing the flag, particularly if there has been excessive rainfall.

Since the introduction of the rule allowing the flag to remain in place whilst a player putts there appears to be significantly more damage to the edges of the hole. Players are asked to remove the flag prior to removing the ball from the cup to reduce any potential to cause damage to the edge of the hole.

Temporary Greens

It is the policy of the Club to play Temporary Greens only when absolutely necessary. Temporary greens normally come into play when major works are carried out during the 'Closed' season and particularly when the ground is frozen to a depth of 4cm or more and walking on them would damage the root system. The fact there is frost on the greens does not necessarily signify the need to use temporary greens and Head Green Keeper will have responsibility on a day to day basis for the decision to instigate the use of temporary greens but will communicate that to the Greens Chairman and to the Professional for his information.

Bunkers

Definition of bunker margins should be clear with edges, fringes and faces trimmed. Each bunker should have a lip to prevent sand bleeding into the surrounding grass which looks untidy. Rotovation of the sand will be undertaken by the greens staff to reduce compaction of the sand when necessary. Wooden rakes are provided for each bunker and should be replaced quickly if broken to ensure each player landing in them can remove their marks after taking their shot. The quality of sand will be reviewed annually. There is much debate about the placing of rakes, either in or outside the bunker and there is no definitive R & A ruling. The local rule for Rossendale Golf Club is that the rakes should be placed on the rests which are provided off to the side, on the edge of bunkers, furthest away from where a ball might be expected to land and roll into it.

Draining & Ditches

The dispersal of surface water is of paramount importance. All draining ditches will be kept clear of silt and debris. During the summer months growth on the banks will be cut and cleared. Later in the year any sludge/debris will be cleared to ensure the free flow of water. Sub - surface drainage will be inspected regularly for blockages or damage to remove the potential for flooding on the course.

Paths & Tracks

There are several 'public rights of way' as defined by the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 which supersedes the Highways Act 1835. These are marked by black & white posts on the course which are the responsibility of the Golf Club.

The long -term aim is to introduce wide substantial tracks and paths throughout the course to enable maintenance vehicles, buggies and golfers to move about the course freely without causing damage. All paths and tracks are inspected regularly, kept free of weeds and grass growth where possible maintained, repaired and renewed as necessary. Paths where green matting has been used will be checked regularly for mud and silt deposits which can make the surface slippery. Members should always take care using the paths and report any concerns.

Gardens & Borders

It will be the responsibility of the Head Green Keeper to ensure the gardens and borders around the Clubhouse and where applicable on the Course are maintained in a satisfactory condition. Plants and flowers should be planted to enhance the general appearance of the Clubhouse and the Course.

Hazardous Substances

The use of chemicals, fertilisers and other hazardous substances will be kept to a minimum. The Head Green Keeper will ensure the storage of these substances are in a secure area/cabinet and appropriate records kept of their purchase and use and in line with COSH guideline.

Top Dressings

The machinery now available to the green keeping staff mean the greens can be top dressed more effectively and more frequently. The decisions when to undertake this work will be the responsibility of the Head Green Keeper in consultation with the Greens Chairman. The decision to undertake top dressing of the greens will be when deemed appropriate. The occasions when this work is being carried out will be communicated to members and efforts will be made to avoid days when prestigious competitions are due to be played.

Closing the Course

In general, the course tends to close itself due to play becoming impractical in extreme weather conditions. However, **on very rare occasions** the course or any specific part of the course may be closed on the Authority of the Greens Chairman, this will occur after consultation with the Senior Green Keeper on duty and the Club Professional and will be because of extreme weather conditions with the result that **damage to the course is likely to result if play is permitted**. Although not an exhaustive list examples might include where the greens, all the course or several holes in a particular area on the course are waterlogged as a result of persistent/heavy rainfall or under snow for lengthy periods of time. An **Authorised Member** of Council may review a decision to close the course or may close the course in the absence of the Greens Chairman again in consultation with the Head Green Keeper and Club Professional. In these circumstances members will be informed of the closure/partial closure and reopening by e mail and signs will be placed at the entrance area of the Clubhouse. During a Competition the Course maybe closed or play suspended by the relevant Competition Secretary, again this will be done in consultation with the Greens Chairman, Professional, Head Green Keeper and any sponsor of the competition if applicable. This will be done on the consideration the course has become unfit for the competition to go ahead/continue. A decision to reopen the course may be taken at any time after an inspection by the **Authorised Person** or nominee, who will ensure it is appropriate to resume play.

The following signals will be used to announce those decisions:-

Suspension of Play - One prolonged note of the siren – repeated.

Resumption of Play - Two short notes of siren - repeated.

Cancellation of Play (course unplayable) - Three consecutive notes of the siren – repeated

Authorised persons for this purpose are Professional/Assistant Professional or Competition Secretary.

Snow & Icy conditions

The fact that the course has not been officially closed does not mean it is fit to play. It is impossible for management and staff to identify all areas of the course which are potentially dangerous because of ice or snow therefore the responsibility & decision to play rest with the player.

Fog

'General definition of poor visibility – If the distance between the Tee and Green of any of the par 3 holes on the course is not visible.'

When fog is apparent during a recognised competition and in the interests of safety the decision to discontinue and resume play shall rest with the **Authorised Person** and will be based on the above definition. Members and visitors must abide by the decision. Where no **Authorised Person** is present, the responsibility & decision to play rest with the player when he/she is of the opinion they cannot see where their next shot is likely to land:

Authorised persons for this purpose are Professional/Assistant Professional or competition secretary.

Lightning

As there have been deaths and injuries from lightning on golf courses, all clubs are urged to take precautions for the protection of persons against lightning. When lightening is apparent during a recognised competition and in the interests of safety the decision to discontinue and resume play shall be with an **Authorised Person**, members and visitors must accept that decision.

Authorised persons for this purpose are Professional/Assistant Professional or competition secretary.

Players are advised there is no need to wait for the siren if they feel in danger from thunder and lightning and what action they should take.

Appendix A : A copy of the advice provided to Club members around adverse weather conditions, course safety and course closure is attached to this document and has been forwarded to all playing members; is included in the Induction Pack for new members; is available on the website www.rossendalegolfclub.net under heading Course Policies and is available in hard copy on the notice board. Societies and Visitors will also be made aware by the Professional when booking the course or paying their green fees.

Ecology

Rossendale Golf Club supports a wide range of ecology and wildlife. It is an important part of our policy to preserve the natural habitat and to that end RGC's maintenance will have as little impact on wildlife as possible. Certain animals, however, e.g. squirrels, moles, geese and rabbits damage the course and may need to be culled humanely. Tree Pollarding will take place as part of normal course maintenance in consultation with a local expert. There are no trees on the course which are subject to Preservation Orders, but tree felling will only take place when necessary for the health of the course or for Health & Safety reasons.

Complaints

Any complaints about the course must be made to the Secretary/ Manager, who will look into the matter together with the Green Chairman and the Head Green Keeper. If they cannot deal with the complaint themselves, the matter will be submitted to the Green Committee or Council as appropriate. Members should not address grounds staff directly with complaints.

Professional Advice

The Greens Chairman and Greens Committee regularly seek advice from qualified Agronomists, notwithstanding the authority which the Head Green Keeper holds for seeking assistance and soil analysis etc. from such bodies as the Sports Turf Research Institute. An STRI report is produced periodically and will be made available to all Members via e mail and placed on the notice board in the Clubhouse. This will enable members to understand the strategy of the Greens Committee.

Irrigation

The overall policy is to use the minimum amount of water to encourage deeper rooting grasses to predominate. During most golf seasons there are times when rainfall is insufficient to sustain grass growth and needs to be supplemented; water is also needed to assist the absorption of fertilisers and other treatments. Unfortunately, there is no irrigation system on the course and although desirable, any such system is beyond the Club budget for the foreseeable future. Considering the aspiration to eventually have an irrigation system various interim measures will look various options of natural ways of storing water on the course. This will ensure good quality natural water is available at any time which can be utilised during prolonged dry spells to water greens and tee beds without resorting to using mains water which due to treatments is less beneficial and more costly.

Machinery

The policy of the Club is to purchase/lease, maintain and replace when necessary the best, and most appropriate, range of machinery and equipment for the upkeep of the course.

The Club has invested in a range of specialist machinery and equipment to ensure the continuing high standards of course maintenance. It is essential, therefore, that the Honorary Club Treasurer, in consultation with the Green Chairman, maintains a rolling 10-year capital plan of machinery replacements, additions, repairs and renewals for consideration. This plan should be updated annually, and approved by the Green Committee, and the Council, for incorporation into the Club's overall financial plan.

The Head Green Keeper has a responsibility to keep themselves up to date with developments in golf course machinery, and to bring their recommendations to the notice of the Chairman of Green, including competitive quotations for acquisition and disposal of machinery. He is also responsible for the maintenance of all machinery in all its aspects, including all health and safety requirements, as well as records of use, preventative maintenance, major servicing, adjustments, etc. The Head Green Keeper will recognise the heavy investment from Club funds and prudently preserve these investments.

Health & Safety

The Honorary Secretary is the Clubs Health and Safety Officer, and co-ordinates all Health and Safety issues throughout the Club. Rossendale Golf Club maintains a Health & Safety Policy in respect of the Course which shall be distributed to all members of the green keeping staff, together with comprehensive Risk Assessment covering work aspects on the course.

The Head Green Keeper is responsible for maintaining and updating the Club's policies relating to green keeping issues, in consultation with the Secretary.

The Clubs retains a qualified Health & Safety Consultant Advisor to provide advice and support as required.

All accidents and/or incidents must be reported to officials as soon as possible and recorded in the Clubs accident/incident book, keep in the administration office. Honorary Secretary will liaise with the Club Insurance Brokers as necessary.

Players have a responsibility for the Health and Safety of themselves and others whilst on the course.

Appendix A : A copy of the advice provided to Club members in relation to course safety is attached to this document and has been forwarded to all playing members; is included in the Induction Pack for new members; is available on the website www.rossendalegolfclub.net under heading Course Policies and is available in hard copy on the notice board. Societies and Visitors will also be made aware by the Professional when booking the course or paying their green fees. All policies and guidelines are constantly under review.

Appendix B: Provides advice and instructions regarding the use of the Practice Ground by golfing members and should be adhered to for the safety and benefit of everybody using the facilities. Again a copy of the document is available on the website www.rossendalegolfclub.net

Appendix A

Course Safety – Rossendale Golf Club

1. Rossendale Golf Club Management fulfils both moral and legal obligations relating to the health and safety of the members and staff. Persons playing or walking on the course do so at their own risk and should not do anything which might jeopardise the safety of themselves or others.
2. Public Footpaths throughout the course are clearly marked by small black & white posts. Members of the public have right of way when using these footpaths. It is the duty of all members to ensure that non-members do not stray from them and ensure that they shout a warning if it looks likely that a golf ball might be going near to a path where a walker might be.
3. Players should be aware of the presence of course personnel carrying out course maintenance whilst golf is in progress. Golfers should give **greens staff** precedence on the course and ensure they are aware and have acknowledged their presence prior to playing a shot which could put them in danger, thus placing them at an unnecessary level of risk.
4. All players are expected to adopt golfing etiquette by not playing a golf shot if there is the remotest chance of injuring someone, or walk in front of a fellow competitor or partner prior to them playing a shot.
5. Special care must be taken by all members to avoid trips, slips and falls when standing and walking on all paths, or when walking near banks/slopes, as these are considered to be some of the most hazardous areas of any golf course, particularly during or immediately after adverse weather conditions.
6. **If the course has not been officially closed, this does not mean it is necessarily fit to play and golfers must determine for themselves whether they consider it is safe to do so.**
7. Several tees and greens are situated close to one another. Players should familiarise themselves and should take care when moving from each green to the next tee and playing to the green when a tee is in close proximity. Particular attention should be taken by people when moving from the 3rd green to the 4th tees which cross the path of people driving to the 16th fairway.
8. Separate guidelines are available for the practice area on the course and golfers practicing should give precedence to players on the course. However, players on the 3rd and 15th tees should be mindful of persons on the practice area and ensure they have stopped practicing before taking their drive.
9. On no account, should anybody place themselves in danger by entering ponds/streams on the course to retrieve golf balls.
10. Players should not play to the 7th green until the warning bell has sounded. When you are playing the 7th hole please ensure you sound the bell as you pass, going to the green. Players approaching the 8th tee should ensure they do so via the area between the ditch and the trees not along the edge of the 7th fairway.
11. Players should familiarise themselves with the Club's procedures for Suspension of play during dangerous situations or adverse weather conditions.
 - a) DISCONTINUE PLAY IMMEDIATELY - One prolonged note of the siren
Players should mark ball and take shelter immediately. Rule 6-8
 - b) DISCONTINUE PLAY - Three consecutive notes of the siren, repeated -
course unplayable. Players should discontinue play either before or immediately after completing the hole being played. Rule 6-8
 - c) RESUME PLAY – Two short notes of siren - repeated. Players should resume play from where play was discontinued. Rule 6-8

Snow & icy conditions

1. It is impossible for the greens committee to identify areas of the course that are potentially dangerous because of ice or snow therefore it is a player's own responsibility if he/she chooses to play.
2. The fact that the course has not been officially closed does not mean it is fit to play. Players have a duty of care not to behave in such a way that they or others might be put at risk of injury by their actions. If conditions are such that you are unable to judge where the ball is likely to land, then do not play.

Fog

If a player hits a shot "blind" into fog and hits another player/member of staff or member of the Public, he/she could be found negligent and held personally liable for the injuries inflicted.

If the club had knowingly permitted play in hazardous conditions it could also be found negligent.

Policy for Rossendale Golf Club 'General definition of poor visibility – If the distance between the Tee and Green of any of the par 3 holes on the course is not visible.'

In the interests of safety when fog is apparent, the decision to discontinue and resume play shall rest with an authorised person. Members and visitors must accept the decision made by the authorised person. Where no authorised person is present, it is the player's own responsibility to discontinue play when he/she is of the opinion they cannot see where their next shot is likely to land:

Authorised persons

- Professional/Assistant Professional
- Member of competition/handicap committee

Procedure

1. The signal for discontinuing play immediately due to fog will be a prolonged note on the siren. When the authorised person sounds the siren a player must discontinue play. A player must mark the position and lift their ball.
2. When play is discontinued by the authorised person, if players in a match or group are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the authorised person has ordered resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they must discontinue play immediately and not resume until the authorised person has ordered resumption of play. If a player fails to discontinue play immediately he/she is disqualified, unless circumstances warrant waiving the penalty as provided in (Rule of Golf 33-7).
3. The signal to resume play will be two short notes of the siren, repeated.
4. If play is abandoned the siren will be 3 short notes, repeated.

Whenever possible, the person who discontinues/suspends play should be responsible for deciding when to resume or commence play.

Lightning

As there have been many deaths and injuries from lightning on golf courses, all clubs are urged to take precautions for the protection of persons against lightning (**rule of Golf 2012-15 page 140 refers**)

In the interests of safety when lightning is apparent, the decision to discontinue and resume play shall be with an authorised person. Members and visitors must accept the decision made by the authorised person.

There is no need to wait for the siren if you feel in danger from thunder and lightning.

Golfers are urged to mark the ball and take shelter immediately. Umbrellas and trees should not be used as shelter. Golfers should put distance between themselves, golf clubs and trolleys. Players should keep as low to the ground as possible and ideally crouch down in the nearest bunker or hollow. Ensure mobile phones and GPS systems are switched off.

Authorised persons: -

- Professional/Assistant Professional
- Member of competition/handicap committee

Procedure

1. The signal for discontinuing play immediately due to lightning will be a prolonged note on the siren. When the authorised person sounds the siren a player must discontinue play. A player must mark the position and lift their ball. When play is discontinued by the authorised person, if players in a match or group are between the play of two holes, they must not resume play until the authorised person has ordered resumption of play. If they are in the process of playing a hole, they must discontinue play immediately and not resume until the authorised person has ordered resumption of play. If a player fails to discontinue play immediately then he/she is disqualified, unless circumstances warrant waiving the penalty as provided in rule 33-7.
2. The signal to resume play will be two short notes of the siren, repeated.
3. If play is abandoned the siren will be 3 short notes, repeated.

Whenever possible, the person who discontinues/suspends play should be responsible for deciding when to resume or commence play.

Players have a duty of care not to behave in a manner whereby they or others might be injured by their actions.

Playing in adverse conditions is dangerous and players do so at their own risk.

Appendix B

PRACTICE GROUND

The practice area is for the use of **Rossendale Golf Club members only**. It is important that all members use the practice area having the safety of other course users in mind. It is the responsibility of all members using the practice area to comply with the safety and etiquette guidance below: -

- FOR SAFETY** only hit balls if they are sure there is no chance of hitting any other golfers e.g. Players teeing from the 15th tees or walking down the 3rd fairway.
- FOR SAFETY** when using the practice green be very mindful of players driving from the men's 3rd and 15th tees.
- FOR SAFETY** must give precedence to any golfer who has hit a shot from the 3rd or 15th tee on to the practice area and must not continue to practice until that player has cleared the area.
- FOR SAFETY** must not walk onto the practice area or down the left-hand side of the area when players are driving off the 3rd tee.
- FOR SAFETY** must only hit full shots in a direction **away** from the 3rd tee.

It is etiquette to stop hitting practice shots from the side of the 3rd tee when players are driving from that tee.

It is etiquette when practicing chipping, bunker shots or putting on and around the practice green to stop when players are driving from the ladies 15th tee.

When only **one** golfer is on the practice area it is acceptable to hit 'short' shots e.g. chipping, towards or from any part of the practice area.

When **two or more golfers are practicing, no one may** hit a golf ball from a position where any of their shots [no matter how unlikely or bad!] could strike other practicing golfers or any other person walking on the course. As a rule, all golfers using the practice area should form a line to the right-hand side of the 3rd tee. It is etiquette to communicate with other golfers on the practice area to ensure they are aware of any actions you may be intending which could put you in the line of any other golfers practice shots.

e.g. 'When I have finished this tube of balls, I will be walking to the practice bunker and playing sand shots'.