



# Rossendale Golf Club

## October 2020



### The Club is in a strong position

#### Our progress through Covid

The Board has been successful in the following:

- i. Managed Covid and kept the club from legally being shut down
- ii. Reopened the clubhouse with all the legalities that requires
- iii. Applied for and got Grants to keep the club financially stable
- iv. Opened the Halfway house and looking for ways to keep it open
- v. Kept the club in a safe and reasonably strong financial position
- vi. Kept the course in playable and good condition
- vii. Is working busily to make sure we are ready for WHS – that involves reading hundreds of pages of documents from various bodies. And just so you know, that isn't easy because England Golf are in disagreements with Club V1 (our main provider) and Intelligent golf
- viii. Created a great website, increased the followers on Facebook and Twitter
- ix. Dealt with HR issues to ensure the staff were treated fairly under the furlough scheme
- x. Appointed a replacement for Martin
- xi. Ensured that we are legally compliant with Safeguarding including the necessary legal roles that are required in clubs with Juniors
- xii. Have raised over 65 volunteers throughout the club
- xiii. Increased membership on 2019 numbers
- xiv. Increased corporate memberships and sponsors

#### Rest assured we work for members

Swinton GC got into financial difficulties and a group of members bought the debts and took over the club. A few years down the line and that group have sold off their 'ownership' to property developers. Other clubs have been sold back to farmers who have then closed the course and redeveloped the land.

This can't happen at Rossendale!

Members can be assured that the Articles of Association protect us from such an eventuality. The land and its use cannot be changed without members' agreement even if the club ever faces the financial situation that some clubs have found themselves in, all decisions about our future would go to members votes. And that would be through an EGM.

#### We value our dignitaries

The Board has been asked if is getting rid of Captains and Presidents. That just can't and won't happen. A golf club needs Captains and Vice Captains, has always had them in place and why would there be a need to change that? It is an honour to be asked to play that role and one that the new structure went a long way to protect and to ensure that members incumbent in those roles enjoy those roles. We took the decision this year to allow our current Captains and Presidents to remain in post for 2021.

Presidents are also an important and prestigious role and are part of the fabric of golf clubs whose role is to be ambassadors for the Club.

We've always been proud of our Captains and Presidents; they play a significant role and always will do in supporting the reputation of the club present and past dignitaries are valued by us.

#### The Kitchen and Bar

Iain is in place and is busy looking at how the bar and kitchen best function.

We've done an analysis that shows that only 16% of members spend more than £1000 a year at the clubhouse. The average spends by 83% of members is less than £300 p.a. This is not enough to sustain the bar and kitchen for members only. The membership fees cover the cost of the Course and all aspects of golf. Private Functions, Club Events, Opens and Societies keep the clubhouse just about above water. The loss of revenue from those big events has meant the hours of opening have to be restricted to keep costs and losses to a minimum.

Covid restrictions and now the winter season will hamper the board in the directions it can take for the next few months.

#### New Score Input Screen

Everyone has struggled putting scores into the screen in the lounge. It is so old Club V1 no longer design one like it.

A new 22" screen will be installed in November which will allow members and visitors to input their scores. It will be located at the top of the stairs by the lift.

## Clear Transparent Information

### Members' forum to be held by Scott – look out for the dates

The new structure envisaged that the Member Director (Scott Hearn) would run member meetings to hear members' views and pass on progress of the board. Obviously, this has not been able to operate But we've tried our best with the Newsletter, Emails, Facebook, Twitter and the Website to keep members informed.

We are currently managing the WHS, Barry and his committees have been working extremely hard to make sure we get our slope measures, that we have new cards to record on and that the club is ready for WHS on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Irene has been glued to the office chair to transfer all the necessary data to England Golf so that when WHS comes in all members will receive their handicap and updates as and when that happens. We're ready to go!

### All the information and more

Our Website now includes a section on WHS. To get to it go to [www.rossendalegolfclub.net](http://www.rossendalegolfclub.net) and the screen shot below should appear. Click the middle button World Handicap System and a full documented page with all the information currently available will be displayed. Debbie has worked hard to add additional pages to the website on WHS and a new Club information page

The Governance Section contains all the policies that govern the club, including the Articles of Association, Course Policy, Buggy Policy and many, many more. It's a veritable source of information. Competition results are recorded, Membership offers and details are updated and now we have created an additional page for any further information that members might need. The newsletter is also placed on the website on the front page. So, it may be worth taking a browse through the website.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Browser tabs: (1 unread) - dh.nash@sky.com, Rossendale Golf Club | Societies
- Address bar: Not secure | rossendalegolfclub.net
- Navigation menu: Home, Book a Tee, Club Professional, Course Tour, Competitions, Memberships, Function Room Hire, Societies, Visitors, Governance
- Main banner: A large image of a golf course with a flag on a green. Text overlay: "Big course small price! Join us." Below the image: "We are more than just a club!"
- Buttons: Three buttons below the banner: "Click for Club Notice Board", "Click for World Handicap System", "Click for Memberships"
- Taskbar: Windows taskbar at the bottom with search bar, task view, and various application icons. System tray shows time 10:36 and date 05/10/2020.

Next Newsletter – Your questions! Send your questions, queries and concerns to the office and we will respond, keeping you anonymous, in the next newsletter.

### Up and Coming Events

**The Mixed Winter League** begins on 25<sup>th</sup> October and it will have a mix n match format according to weather conditions, the fee of £4 will still include soup and roll (Covid dependent). It is live on BRS now. If anyone wants a partner please let Roger Maycock or Debbie Nash know via the office or their mobiles.