

# PRESTWICH GOLF CLUB NEWS

November 2020.



LET'S TRY TO FORGET COVID 19

&

CELEBRATE THE CLUBS ACHIEVEMENTS

**BREAKING NEWS**

**Prestwich Golf Club has been awarded SAFEGOLF accreditation**



Full details of our accreditation on the next page

## MONTHLY MAGAZINE IS BACK

With the onset of the Covid Epidemic and the associated restrictions that were placed on the club the Board decided the monthly magazine couldn't keep pace with the rapidly changing directions and guidance we were receiving from Government and our regulating bodies and it was suspended, replaced with the B.R.S Messaging service that could keep everyone abreast of the latest news.

It proved to be the safest and most effective means of communication ensuring members were kept up to date with clear punchy messages.

B.R.S. messages are short and to the point, that is their role and with regards Covid shall continue to be the only means of communication the club uses, however they don't cover all the club news or give any background to the stories, that is the role of this magazine which we hope will be valuable especially to all of our new members.

## LAUNCH OF THE NEW COURSE

Plans for the grand opening of the new course, where we intended to celebrate the years of hard work that went into developing it and showcase the course and our revamped facilities were shelved due to the Covid restrictions.

We were limited to a fairly low key Captains Drive in comparison to the traditional event, however the long awaited opening was with us and the long suffering members who had endured a nine hole course for 18 months whilst the course was reconstructed were back to playing 18 magnificent holes.

The Course spoke for itself and very soon interest from non-members was growing with visitor numbers at their highest for a number of years. In a large number of cases the interest was converted into membership with over fifty new members joining in the first three months of the course opening.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The Clubs' Five Year Strategic Plan based on our investments on the Course, Clubhouse and Golfing Development strategies was to steadily increase membership over the next few years and to reach full membership by 2025.

In a rather adverse way we have to thank Covid and its furlough schemes which presented everyone with more free time and there was a general upturn in interest in golf. We surpassed our year one target for membership within three months of opening the Course.

In a more recent, rather sad turn of events, Swinton Park Golf Club closed its doors and members of one of our closest neighbouring courses were left searching for a new home to pursue their golfing passions. We are pleased that so many chose Prestwich Golf Club and welcome them to our club.

*Welcome!*

**We extend a warm to all our new members and trust you will enjoy membership of the friendliest club in the northwest**



We are proud to announce that England Golf have awarded Prestwich Golf Club with the SAFEGOLF accreditation.

This has been the result of twelve months of hard work behind the scenes by Tony Meachin & Rod Barber who have ensured all the clubs policies and procedures are in place to match England Golf's exacting standards.



ENGLAND  
GOLF

## WHAT WILL IT MEAN TO THE GOLF CLUB?

Prestwich Golf Club is a great club, it's always been very friendly, forward thinking and this award helps us to spread that message and tell people that children are safe and secure here and that we understand about beginner golfers.

It will allow us to approach schools and other voluntary organisations to offer golf coaching to children and develop a strong junior section which will ensure the long term future of the club and the sport.

For years Prestwich Golf Club had one of the most successful junior sections in the area with members representing the county, however this disappeared over recent years, OUR PLAN IS TO REGENERATE THE JUNIOR SECTION, our lifeblood for the future.

There is only so much the Board can do – we have obtained the accreditations necessary to reach out and develop our junior section, now we are desperately seeking the assistance of our members to help us achieve it,

Over the last few months we have enrolled a number of junior members – **If you could spare a few hours a week and help us develop and manage a new junior section you will find it most rewarding and valued by the membership and the Board.**

**If you can assist please contact Mark in the pro's shop or Tony Meachin and discuss how you could help.**

**It's YOUR CLUB  
HELP US DEVELOP IT!**



**£7 MILLION  
SUPPORT FUND**

## PRESTWICH GOLF CLUB WIN COVID SUPPORT GRANT

In May the R & A released a £7 million fund from which clubs could bid for grants up to £10,000 to cover the costs required to ensure their businesses were ready to recover after the Covid restrictions were lifted.

**They couldn't be used to recover income lost as a result of the Covid restrictions.**

We had just a week to develop and submit a bid and to ensure we met the exacting standards imposed by England Golf who administered the grant process on behalf of the R&A.

Our bid centered on two areas – The balcony upgrade and kitchen upgrades.

**WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN BEING AWARDED OVER £8500 FROM THE FUND**

Less than half of the clubs who submitted bids were successful mainly because they didn't meet the standards set by the funders.

The Club had to be accredited with SAFEGOLF  
The Club had to have signed up to the R & A's WOMEN IN GOLF CHARTER.

We were fortunate in being so close to attaining both of these accreditations and having developed a close working relationship with England Golf's Club Support officer we satisfied the requirements.

The Board have elected to part "match fund" the kitchen element of the grant which will allow us to make the kitchen fully compliant with all food hygiene regulations. It will fund new fridges, freezers, deep fat fryers, griddle, plate warming cabinets, food processors and also replace all non-compliant wooden storage cupboards etc. with stainless steel shelving and storage.



## WOMEN IN GOLF CHARTER

Members of the Board have been beavering away ensuring that we comply with all the latest equality legislation.

Our **SafeGolf** accreditation will allow us to develop our junior section but another under represented element of the club is our ladies and girls sections.

We have achieved moderate success in increasing lady membership (*6-day Members*) through our subscription incentives however as part of our Five Year Strategic Plan we need to ensure this element of our membership are fully represented throughout the club.

The “Women in Golf Charter” developed by the R & A was a ready-made platform to achieve this.

Working with our partners at England Golf we have tailored the Charter to our operations and made commitments on how we intend to achieve each statement within the charter.

The final draft CHARTER is currently with England Golf for approval which we anticipate within the next few days. Once approved it will be officially signed and the club will be committed to delivering its objectives.

### **ONCE AGAIN THE BOARD CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH**

### **WE HAVE DEVELOPED THE FRAMEWORK TO ACHIEVE LADIES FULL REPRESENTATION THROUGHOUT THE CLUB**

### **WE ARE NOW LOOKING FOR LADIES TO TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE AND HELP US DELIVER THE AIMS OF THE CHARTER.**

We need a “Women’s Champion” (*an official role within the charter*) to help us drive and develop the ladies section.

We also need a “Women’s Development Committee”, which will assist the “Women’s Champion” in delivering the charters objectives.

If you can spare some time to help the club deliver this essential element of the clubs development please contact Mark or have a word with Barbara Elliott (*Club President*)



## WEB SITE

The Club web site is a source of valuable information about the golf club.

The Club website can be found at [www.prestwichgolf.co.uk](http://www.prestwichgolf.co.uk)

Under the members section you can find all of the Clubs Policies including the draft “Women in Golf Charter” and news items including the club magazine.

## CLUBHOUSE ROOF

First of all we must apologise to new members whose first look at the clubhouse was shielded by scaffolding allowing contractors to access the clubhouse roof.

Ever since the clubhouse was built in 1991 the roof created problems with leaks appearing all over the place.

Over the years the Club has spent thousands of pounds in repairs to the roof all of which only provided temporary solutions.

As part of the refurbishments the decision was made to replace the entire roof at a cost of £28,000.

The job is now completed and the resulting roof looks great, we are confident the leaks are an issue of the past.

## WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH THE BALCONY EXTENSION?

You will recall that the Board committed to extending the balcony.

### **THE BOARD APOLOGISES FOR NOT DELIVERING THIS PROJECT AT THE MOMENT BUT IT REMAINS IN OUR FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.**

### **WE WILL NOT COMMIT THE CLUB TO SPENDING MONEY WE HAVEN’T GOT, AS SOON AS REVENUE PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT IT WILL BE DELIVERED,**

The Board are committed to prudent financial management and will not commit to any spending that could jeopardise the long term future of the Club.

## THE COURSE & CLUBHOUSE REFURBISHMENTS FINANCES

I am sure most new members are aware that three years ago the Club sold a small plot of land for a housing development and invested the proceeds on developing the course onto an existing equivalent sized plot which had been in the ownership of the club for years and upgrading the clubhouse facilities.

From the onset the club were determined not to follow the examples of other local clubs who overcommitted and finished up with debts higher than they had before the cash injection.

It was always the intention to retain an element of the capital in a reserve fund to safeguard the long term future of the club and this has been achieved.

Existing members will be aware of where and how the capital has been invested through previous newsletters but for our new members here is a recap of how the cash has been used,

Below is a list of projects funded from the income generated by the land sale:

- Service the outstanding loans, bank overdrafts
- Land Agents fees
- Solicitors fees
- Course Architects fees
- Course reconfiguration contract
- New greens sheds
- *New grounds Maintenance equipment wash facility*
- Greens shed compound perimeter fencing
- \*New Tractors
- Arboriculture survey
- New greens machine
- New fairway mowers
- Increased staffing
- Refurbish greens staff facilities
- New practice nets
- Tree Felling
- Disabled Access Stair Lift
- Refurbish locker rooms
- Function room toilets refurbishment
- Disabled toilet facilities
- \*\*Decorate the function rooms
- Replace Patio Doors
- New security CCTV systems
- Course perimeter fencing
- Pedestrian "A" frame gates
- Roof repairs
- Balcony surveys
- Balcony Architects

Repairs to the balcony & Fire escape staircase

- Contingency for reduced income throughout reconstruction years.
- *Practice area*

*Note – items in italics are yet to be completed*

*\*Tractor purchases part offset by Insurance pay-out*

*\*\* Contribution from Brewery*

There remains a few projects that require funding these include:

- Bunkers filling with sand and final sculpting.
- Course signage and furniture.
- Refurbishment of existing pathways
- Construction of new pathways.
- Resurfacing of top car park
- Remodelling of main car park.
- Obtaining Standard Scratch certification
- Completion of fencing around existing first and sixth holes.
- Potential fencing requirements for the boundary of new 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> fairways to accommodate the revised Mount Heath Developments plans.
- Contingencies to construct a new public footpath alongside the new 7<sup>th</sup> as per planning approval (*although we are in discussion with Bury MBC to eliminate this*)

We have now reached the point where some of the above will have to be deferred until our income provides the capital to deliver them.

Although we have taken loans for some of the greens equipment as an alternative to leasing we will not commit the club to debt which we cannot service..

The club is debt free and as long as we do not commit to projects we cannot afford will remain so.



**PRESTWICH GOLF CLUB**



**Women in Golf Charter**

In association with the R&A and England Golf



Our commitment to a more inclusive culture within golf

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October we received news  
from England Golf that our  
"Women in Golf Charter"  
has been fully approved.**