



RALSTON GOLF CLUB

NEWS

October 2009 Issue 8

www.ralstongolfclub.co.uk

A Message from Captain Iain Gordon

By now you will have received notification of the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) that will take place within the clubhouse on Tuesday 27th October 2009, starting at 7pm. This is a particularly important meeting for the Club and a good attendance is expected to consider the agenda and decide on the two proposals.

You may recall that last AGM agreed that there should be an EGM to consider Life Membership categories. The Council was already considering 'Life Membership' following on from the comprehensive report submitted to the Council by Past Captain Walter Wood and his working group towards the end of last year. It became clear to the Council that the complexities of 'Life Membership' required further consideration and so the Council decided not to introduce any proposal at the last AGM but instead to look in more depth at this important category of membership.

A group of Council members under the Chair of Captain Iain Gordon has looked in detail at the implications of the current arrangements for Life and Half-Life membership, which were at the time appropriate for the Club.

The challenge nowadays is that the profile of the Club has changed; effectively meaning a significant number of members will qualify for the current categories over the next 5 to 10 years. This will cause a threat to the financial arrangements for the Club. In other words the predicted income generated will be significantly reduced. On top of the current recession and predicted overheads during this period the Council strongly believes the categories we have at the moment will place an inordinate financial burden on the day-to-day business of the Club.

It has to be stressed the Council is keen to retain 'Life' and 'Half-Life' categories, as a recognition of members who have been loyal to Ralston over many years. The last thing the Council wants are members resigning.

We would ask that all members consider the facilities we have at the Club, they are second to none in the area and further afield for that

matter. However, to keep the Clubhouse as it is and the course in such good condition does require a significant amount of income. We are not alone, virtually every Club is looking at ways of attracting members and a significant number are looking at 'Life' membership. The advantage we have is that Ralston has a facility on and off the course that is the envy of many clubs. Please consider what is provided by the Club, the reality is you will struggle to find a comparison.

If you are already a 'Life' member or 'Half-Life' member you will move to either of the two proposed categories i.e. age 65 years and 40 years full membership, attracting a 50% reduction in the annual fees or age 65 years and 30 years full membership attracting a 25% reduction in the annual fees. The Council is of the belief that the proposal is fair and rewards loyalty to those members who have stayed with the Club. It is appreciated this will see a rise in the costs of annual membership for those affected but this should be balanced against financial increases that impact on every aspect of our lives.

For Full members there is no change proposed. The Club has managed to continue to attract new members in recent years however these are changed times from previously when a long waiting list was in place. By increasing the "Life and Half Life" annual subscription it will help the club to keep the Full member fee at an attractive and competitive level. This will hopefully improve the prospects of retaining existing members and continue to attract new members.

The Council is responsible for looking after the interest of the club. We believe after long and careful consideration we have achieved a fair balance that will protect and promote the prospects of the Club going forward in uncertain times.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the EGM either by writing or emailing thesecretary@ralstongolf.co.uk The Council would urge members to attend the EGM and participate in the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you on the 27th. October 2009



Captain Iain Gordon



Greens Winter Programme

Renovation of the 3rd ditch.

This will be narrowed and the base will be slabbed allowing golf balls to be found. The ditch will be piped and grassed over towards the left hand side. This should allow a continuous flow of water helping to dry other areas of the course.

1st Path

This path will be astroturfed.

Winter Greens.

Large winter hole cups will be purchased and used this year. These will be moved as often as possible to spread the wear on the greens.

Practice Area.

Yardage posts will be put at the practice area to be used for target practice. If time allows astroturf mats will be installed for winter play.

Distance Markers.

New permanent distance markers will be purchased in January to save money on paint.

Gravel Banding.

This machine will be hired and Greenstaff will Gravel Band the 15th and 16th fairways.



Special offers

Thursday Night Special 2 courses for only £5.00

A main course and a dessert

A popular offer for family and friends

Book ahead to avoid disappointment

Sunday Carvery Lunch

A selection of Sunday Roasts, Main Course only £5.00

Add a Starter or Dessert for only £2.00 each

Served from 12 noon until 3.30pm

Please book a table in advance.

Clubhouse Winter Hours

1st October to 31st March

Bar

Sunday	11.00 am - 6.30 pm
Mon. & Wed.	12.00 noon - 6.30 pm
Tues, Thurs, Frid.	12.00 noon - 11.00 pm
Saturday	11.00am - 11.00 pm

Catering

Sunday	10.00 am - 5:00 pm last orders 4:15*
Mon., Tues. & Wed	10.00 am - 4:00 pm last orders 3:30*
Thurs, Frid, & Sat	10.00 am - 9:00 pm last orders 8:15*

Burns Suppers - Booking Now

The Traditional Burns Supper

One of the most popular nights of the year is the Traditional Burns Supper which sells out every year with good food and great speeches and a few drams in celebration of the National Bard, Robert Burns. Next year on Friday 29.

January over 100 men will gather to toast the immortal memory.

The Lads and Lassies Burns Supper

Following the success of the first ever Lads and Lassies Burns Supper, the club is organising a 2nd Burns Supper on 20 February 2010. Book now for an evening of celebration, entertainment and good food.

October

Sat. 24	Bingo / Hoy
Wed. 28	Ladies Social Evening
Friday 30	Past Captains Dinner

November

Wed. 11	Ladies A.G.M.	
Fri. 13	Sportsmans Dinner	Tkts Only
Friday 20	WW II Quiz Night	
Sun. 22	Jnr A.G.M.	

December

Sat. 5	Annual Dinner Dance	£29.95
Wed. 9	Ladies Xmas Lunch	
Sun. 13	Kids Christmas Panto	£6.00
Fri 18	Quiz Night	
Sat. 19	Christmas Party	£14
Saturday 25	Christmas Day	full
Thurs. 31	Hogmanay Dinner Dance	£29.95

Golf Quiz

Have a go at answering the Quiz.

Quiz Prize A dozen golf balls.

Answer the Questions True or False

Question 1 - A player may not touch loose impediments in a bunker when searching for a ball lost in a bunker.

Question 2 - In stroke play, on the final green Player A putts to two inches and his fellow-competitor knocks the ball away from the hole and says "That's good enough." The players leave the putting green and go into the clubhouse to return their cards. Player A is disqualified.

Question 3 - The line of putt is the line which the player wishes his ball to take after a stroke with his putter

Question 4 - A player is entitled to take free relief from an immovable obstruction that is twenty metres away on his line of play

Question 5 - In a foursomes competition, C and D are partners. Prior to playing the side's second stroke from the fairway, D moves the ball after he has addressed it. Player C must now play the second stroke.

Question 6 - The margin of a bunker extends vertically downwards, but not upwards

Question 7 - A player is entitled to free relief from a burrowing animal hole in a water hazard

Question 8 - A ball is in a water hazard when it touches the outside edge of a stake defining the water hazard

Question 9 - If a ball, when not in play, is knocked off a tee by the player in addressing it, it may be re-teed without penalty.

Question 10 - A ball is outside the teeing ground when any part of it lies outside the teeing ground

Closing date 12/11/09. Winner and answers will be announced on the club website.

Answers should be sent to;

The Golf Quiz, c/o the Secretary