



R O S S D A L E

ROSSDALE GOLF CLUB

Information for New Members

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Clubs Victoria Achievement Awards 2002
Winner Best Golf Club Venue
Rossdale Golf Club

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	3
Short History of the Club.....	3
Management & Committees	3
Annual General Meetings	4
Golfing Year	4
Entrance Fee.....	4
Annual Subscription.....	4
House Charge.....	5
Fixture Book	5
Membership Categories	5
Caring for your Course	6
Buggy Tyre Slicks.....	6
Golf Shoes and Mobile Phones.....	6
Clubhouse Facilities.....	6
Clubhouse Functions.....	7
Office Hours.....	7
Services provided by the Office.....	7
Club Newsletter and Communications	7
Reciprocal Clubs	7
Dress Requirements	8-9
Competitions	9
Services of the Professional	9
Visitors	10
Rules of Golf.....	10
Course Etiquette.....	10-11
Time Sheets.....	11
Handicapping	12

INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared primarily to help in the assimilation of new Members into some of the procedures at Rossdale, and also to provide prospective members with insight into the Rossdale Golf Club.

The following points are put forward in good spirit with the intention that they form part of the welcome to all who join Rossdale, and to assist in the enjoyment of the game of golf.

Another valuable source of information is the club Fixture Book. This Book, in addition to providing details and conditions of competitions to be conducted throughout the year, contains many other important items of which all Members should be aware. It is necessary, in the interests of the membership, that members make themselves familiar with and observe these basic requirements.

SHORT HISTORY OF THE CLUB

Rossdale Golf Club was originally formed as the Australasian Golf Club in 1926, and operated as a private club until 1929, when, owing to the financial climate of that time, it became a public course owned by Rupert Ross.

In 1948, negotiations with the owner by a small group of regular players took place, and on 6th June 1949 Rossdale Golf Club was formed.

The name Rossdale evolved from a combination of the owner's name, Ross, and the latter part of the name of the suburb of Aspendale, where the course is situated.

The original layout was reversed, and Bill Barlow the first curator, with the use of trees, bunkers, mounds, waterways, and elevated greens, developed this flat area into a well groomed, interesting and pleasant course to play.

The installation of holding tanks to fully optimise the watering system, the upgrading of course drainage, course beautification, plus the redesign and enlargement of greens have been initiated as part of the club's long term strategy.

Over the years, the Clubhouse has been developed by additions and renovations making it an ideal place in which to relax after golf. Regular functions are held in the Clubhouse also enabling Members to enjoy the facilities on a more social level.

Improvements to the Course and Clubhouse are ongoing, and designed to provide the members with greater enjoyment of the facilities.

CLUB MANAGEMENT & COMMITTEES

The primary object of the club is to 'promote and foster the game of golf as a sport and recreation and to encourage social activities between members'. The club is a Company limited by guarantee and is administered through an elected Board of Directors and Committees of Honorary Officials supported by support staff and a professional Secretariat. Information relating to the composition of the Board of Directors, Committees and the Lady members Committee is contained in the Fixture Book.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Annual General Meeting of the club is usually held within five months of the end of the financial year, which operates from 1st July to 30th June.

It is normal for the Annual General Meeting to be held in mid November each year, but this may vary depending on the urgency of business and at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

GOLFING YEAR

For men, traditionally the golfing season commences on the first Saturday in February with Ladies usually commencing on the last Wednesday in February with their President and Captain's Open Day.

ENTRANCE FEE

A portion of the entrance fee is payable at the time of interview, with the balance paid over an agreed period. A new member has the status of Temporary Member until the Membership application is formally accepted by the Board of Directors.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

From June 2002, the Board of Directors adopted a new subscription payment scheme to "ease the burden" that many members experience when it comes to paying subscriptions. This innovative system has been overwhelmingly accepted by the membership. Basically there are now three options for paying subscriptions:

1. Paying fees in full at the commencement of the financial year. A \$30.00 or \$20.00 "Bonus House Credit" (depending on the category of membership) will be issued if all fees are paid by the 31st July. This Bonus Credit can be used for purchases in the bar and catering areas.
2. Paying in two half-yearly equal instalments. Usually in July and January, or
3. Paying monthly in twelve instalments (from July to June each year) using a Direct Debit System. There is also a fortnightly payment option, 26 instalments (from July to June each year) using a Direct Debit System.

Depending on the time of year that you join, your subscription will be "Pro Rata" of the full year's subscription. You will be initially charged this Pro-rata amount in full and depending on the time of year and the amount owing, a payment option plan, as above, can be arranged.

Fees can conveniently be paid by cash, cheque, credit card, eftpos or direct debit.

HOUSE CHARGE

It is common practice for many private golf clubs to apply a House Charge because it ensures that every member contributes, in some way, towards the running of the trading departments. For quite a number of years the club charged an annual house fee called “Voucher Books”. This was in the form of two \$50.00 booklets made up in \$1.00 and \$2.00 voucher coupons which were redeemable in the Bar and Catering departments

From July 2002 the Voucher Book system was replaced with a “Point of Sale” system. Once the first instalment, or payment in full, is made, the Members *House Account* will be “credited” with the \$200.00 amount. To make a purchase, simply use your *Golfink* ‘swipe card’. The \$200.00 House Charge will be charged in July of each year, or when a new member joins. At any time a member can ‘top up’ the House Charge using cash, eftpos or credit card. Note – if any part of the \$200.00 is not used within the current financial year (by the 30th June), then the *unused amount* will be written off.

FIXTURE BOOK

A Fixture Book (syllabus) is made available to members in February each year. This pocket-sized book is full of valuable information, and the longer you are a Member, the more you will appreciate its value.

Listed below are some of the contents of your Fixture Book:

- Composition of Committees
- Members’ Names and Phone Numbers
- Membership Categories
- Playing Rights
- Competition Conditions
- Reciprocal clubs
- Corporate/Trade day bookings
- Selected Club By-Laws
- Calendar (current year)
- Calendar (following year)
- Times Sheets information
- Fixtures for the Season
- Social events
- Pennant Calendar

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- 7 Day Member
- 5 Day Member
- Junior Member (Levels 1, 2 & 3)
- Life Member
- 9 Hole Member
- Ladies 9 Hole Member
- Daylight Saving Member
- Interstate/Overseas Member
- Social Member
- Reserved Member
- 6 Day Member
- Veteran Member
- 7 Day Member (18-20 years)
- 7 Day Member (21-25 years)
- 7 Day Member (26-28 years)
- 7 Day Member (29 years)
- 7 Day Member (30 years)
- Country Member
- Honorary Social Member
- Corporate Member

CARING FOR YOUR COURSE

HELP BY:

- Repairing plug marks on greens – a simple thing
- Raking bunkers after use – courteous and easy
- Replacing and repairing divots – carry a sand bucket
- Not littering the course
- Obeying directional signs and hoop placements

And you can help everyone's game 'flow' if you remember:

- There are other players on the course apart from yourself
- To call following players through when a ball is 'lost'
- To be ready to play your shot when it is your turn.

The club has developed an excellent publication titled the "Keep Pace Program", which addresses the age old issue of how to overcome 'slow play'. This document is widely available around the club.

BUGGY TYRE SLICKS

Slicks are compulsory at Rossdale and members are requested to wheel their buggies outside the bunkers surrounding each green.

GOLF SHOES and MOBILE PHONES

From the 1st July 2003 only soft spike golf shoes may be worn. It is important to note that soft spike golf shoes do not provide the same degree of "grip", particularly on steeper mounds at the back of certain greens so please take care. In relation to Mobile Phones, it is club policy that Mobile Phone **cannot** be switched on and operated while on the course or in the clubhouse. However, you may carry a Mobile Phone with you on the course for use in case of an emergency. If there is an emergency and you don't know a persons PIN number, call **112**.

CLUBHOUSE FACILITIES

The following facilities are available in the Clubhouse for the benefit of Members.

- A large lounge area in which to relax either after a game.
- Extensive Bar facilities, which also has a wide selection of takeaway wines, package beers, spirits and soft drinks
- A Veranda/Pergola area incorporates a beautiful place to relax outside in the fresh air. It has a BBQ area and golf shoes maybe worn in this area. The clubhouse is totally *Smoke Free*. There is a designated smoking area on the lower decking.
- A dining area serviced by our professional Catering staff who can provide meals that range from light snacks to first class sit-down dinners
- Locker Rooms with associated shower and toilet facilities

The Clubhouse, with its friendly atmosphere and picturesque outlook, provides the perfect spot to relax and enjoy a drink or meal!

CLUBHOUSE FUNCTIONS

A variety of special functions are held in the clubhouse for members and guests throughout the year. Details of these functions can be found on notice boards, Fixture Book and in the quarterly Newsletter. The clubhouse is also available to hire for private functions, seminars and Corporate days. Menus and other details are available from our Events Administrator, Hospitality Operations Manager or office staff.

OFFICE HOURS

The office is open every day of the week on the following times:

Monday to Friday	9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Saturday	10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.
Sunday	Closed All Day – Bar Attendant Available

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE

Apart from the financial and administrative tasks required to ensure the smooth running of the club, the office provides a friendly source of information for Members.

The General Manager operates an “Open Door” policy for the benefit of all Members. Should you have any queries, comments or suggestions, please feel free to visit the office at any time for their assistance, or, in their absence, the office staff on duty.

CLUB NEWSLETTER and COMMUNICATIONS

The club has a quarterly newsletter called the “GUR”, which, in golfing terms, means “Ground Under Repair”, but at our club it means “Golf Unites Rossdale”.

The newsletter is distributed around the Clubhouse and contains a wealth of information. With current news and views from Directors, Management and members, it is well worth a read. The club’s Website (www.rossdalegolf.com.au), has recently been launched and contains a wealth of information about the club.

RECIPROCAL CLUBS

Rossdale has reciprocal arrangements with a number of golf clubs in Australia and overseas. This enables Rossdale Members to enjoy the hospitality of these clubs and also play on their courses.

The list of all Victorian, Interstate and Overseas golf clubs that have reciprocal arrangements is detailed in the Fixture Book. If you require further information on these clubs, please contact the office. It is advisable to obtain a Letter of Introduction from the office if you intend playing at a reciprocal club.

DRESS REQUIREMENTS

MENS DRESS CODE

NOT PERMITTED ON COURSE

- * NO hats, caps, visors or clothing with large or excessive logos or motifs
- * NO tee shirts unless worn under open neck shirts with turned down collars
- * NO trousers and shorts with elasticised or draw string waist (trousers must not be rolled up or tucked into socks)
- * NO track and leisure suits, sports shorts
- * NO denim clothing or jeans
- * NO gym style or sport shoes, sandals, boots, thongs, scuffs

PERMITTED ON COURSE

- * Neat and clean golf attire
- * Hats, caps and visors with peak to the front
- * Shirts with fitted ribbed band may be worn outside trousers and shorts.
- * Round neck golf shirts are acceptable
- * Trousers and tailored shorts with belt
- * Socks and sockettes predominantly white if worn with shorts
- * Golf style shoes with soft spikes preferred

NOT PERMITTED IN CLUBHOUSE

- * NO hats, caps and visors
- * NO clothing with large or excessive logos or motifs
- * NO tee shirts unless worn under open neck shirts with turned down collars
- * NO trousers and shorts with elasticised or draw string waist
- * NO Track and Leisure suits, sports shorts
- * NO denim clothing or jeans
- * NO golf style or sport shoes, boots, thongs, scuffs

PERMITTED IN CLUBHOUSE

- * Neat and clean casual attire
- * Shirts with fitted ribbed band may be worn outside trousers and shorts.
- * Round neck golf shirts are acceptable
- * Trousers and tailored shorts with belt
- * Socks and sockettes predominantly white if worn with shorts
- * Dress and walking style casual shoes
- * Leather Sandals with a back strap on the Verandah and into Bar Service Area.
- * Boat shoes with or without socks on the Verandah and into Bar Service Area.
- * Golf style shoes with soft spikes only on the Verandah and into Bar Service Area

WOMENS DRESS CODE

NOT PERMITTED ON COURSE OR IN CLUBHOUSE

- * Denim clothing
- * Track or leisure suits and leggings
- * T-shirts with slogans or large motifs
- * Sun tops or brief shorts and skirts
- * Athletic or jogger type shoes
- * Golf shoes (Clubhouse)

PERMITTED ON COURSE

- * Neat practical golfing attire.
- * Women's tailored skirts, slacks, 3/4 pants or shorts. Elasticised waist bands must not be obvious.
- * Shirts specifically designed to be worn outside skirts, slacks etc. to hip length.
- * Accredited golf style shoes with soft spikes are preferred.

PERMITTED IN CLUBHOUSE

- * Neat casual attire
- * Dress shoes or dress sandals are acceptable.

The Board reserves the right to maintain and enforce proper standards of dress both on the course and in the Clubhouse. Players and Visitors not complying with the spirit of the dress standard to the satisfaction of the General Manager, Assistant Manager, Professional (or his staff), Bar Manager (or his staff), Lady President or a Member of the Board, will not be admitted to the course and/or the Clubhouse. Any variation to these rules will be authorised by the Board of Directors and displayed in the Clubhouse.

COMPETITIONS

Competitions are held on Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, Public Holidays, and in the form of a 9 hole twilight event each Thursday and Friday during the daylight savings period.

Competitions for Women Members are held each Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Mixed events are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, and on Friday twilights after 4.00 p.m.

A competition is conducted each Tuesday by the Professional, who controls the time sheets. Bookings may be made personally or by telephoning the Pro-Shop.

It is very important that Members (and Guests) wishing to enter a competition or the Professional's competition, do so prior to commencement of their rounds. Entries may not be made at the halfway mark or at the completion of play.

Whilst there is no compulsion on new Members or their Guests to enter either Club or the Professional's competitions, they are encouraged to do so in the interests of Club spirit.

Should entries not be made, players must adhere within their own matches to the competition of the day. In this way, the field should move smoothly and avoid hold-ups. For example, if one group decided to play a stroke round while the field was playing a par competition, hold-ups would occur.

In playing competitions other than stroke, it is necessary, in order to keep within the spirit of the above, that players 'pick-up' when they are no longer able to score on a particular hole.

SERVICES OF THE PROFESSIONAL

Our resident Professional, provides golf tuition by appointment, a wide range of golfing equipment for sale, club cleaning & storage, club repairs and with his friendly staff, advice on matters relating to the game of golf. The Professional is supported by a teaching Professional who also conducts group clinics by arrangement and looks after the club's Junior Development program.

VISITORS

Conditions relating to the introduction of Guests are covered fully in the Fixture Book. The following points regarding play are important, and it is requested that they be observed.

Fees must be paid **prior to the commencement of play**.

Guests may play in Club competitions on Sundays and Public Holidays, (Sunday Mixed event, Beardsworth Trophy, Anzac Day and Stephen Gardiner Cock of the Walk excepted), provided they have a current Australian handicap. Competitions fees **must be** paid for guests as well as green fees.

Guests should be personally known by the Member before being introduced into the Club.

Members are responsible for the dress of their Guests both on the Course and in the Clubhouse.

For the purpose of playing golf, the following categories of membership are restricted to ONE GUEST on Sundays and Public Holidays:

- Junior Members
- Country Members

RULES OF GOLF

A copy of the Rules of Golf Book is issued to all Members upon joining the Club. Members, particularly players fairly new to the game, should become familiar with the Rules. A simplified leaflet called "Golf Rules in Brief" is also available around the clubhouse. This leaflet contains the basic rules and is particularly useful for beginners to the game. In order to enjoy the game of golf, like any other sport, it is suggested that people new to the game take time to learn the rules, which can be a little daunting to start with!

COURSE ETIQUETTE

Special reference to the code of etiquette expected to be observed by all Members is contained in the Fixture Book. Section 1 of the Rules of Golf is also devoted to etiquette.

It is not proposed in these notes to cover again the same ground, other than to ask that the various elements be observed.

Mention must, however, be made of slow play, and this item is regarded as being so important as to warrant inclusion of a direct extract from the Fixture Book, as follows:

“In the interests of all, players should play without delay. Slow play irritates most players, particularly those in groups following. While players are not expected to run around the Course, they are expected to keep up with the group preceding them.

Any group which has a complete hole clear in front of them should allow faster groups to pass through. Should they fail to do so, the following group should call “Fore” and play through.”

Common sense is to be used in the marking of a card after completion of a hole, so as to avoid undue delay. For example, scores can be recorded whilst other players are hitting off on the next tee, or even later on the fairway whilst others are playing their next shots.

TIME SHEETS

With the large number of Members using the Course, particularly during the popular playing periods, it is necessary to use time sheets for bookings on both of the commencing tees (1st and 10th), on Wednesdays (Ladies day) Weekends and Public Holidays.

The time sheets are located on a purpose desk inside the Pro Shop, with availability of the sheets **detailed in the Fixture Book.**

Members are entitled to book for themselves and/or playing partners, only to a maximum of one group of four players. On each Monday morning, the time sheets are relocated to the Pro-Shop.

From this point on, they are administered by the Professional, or a member of his staff. The professional also is the starter, and has complete control of bookings and the tees. In this capacity, the Professional or his nominee acts under the authority of, and is responsible to, the Club Captain.

The time sheets cover the period for commencing competition play in the AM and PM. Members who wish to commence their game of golf during these periods are strongly advised to book ahead. Failure to do so may result, on arrival at the Club, in disappointment resulting from the fact that all available times may have been filled.

As a precaution, it is suggested that those who have not booked contact the Professional by telephone prior to leaving home. Vacancies, particularly for singles or pairs, are quite often available.

Because of heavy bookings, it is important that Members be present and ready to play 10 minutes before their nominated tee time. Failure to do so will mean:

- a) forfeiture of place in the field by Members/s, with no guarantee of inclusion in a later time slot;
- b) the other Member/s who are on time either play as a reduced group or forfeit their place in the field.

The co-operation of Members is particularly sought in regards to the following;

- a) if a booking is made for less than four players, do not assume there will still be a vacancy, as most vacancies are filled;
- b) before you book, ensure that all concerned are able to play at the nominated time.

In particular, if it is necessary to cancel, Member/s should remove their name/s from the time sheet as soon as possible. Late cancellations on the day concerned must be communicated to the Professional.

HANDICAPS

For male Members, details of requirements for you to obtain a handicap can be obtained from the office, the Captain or the Handicapper.

Male Members require three cards of stroke play to obtain an official Australian handicap, which will then be added to the computerised handicap system.

For Lady Members, details of requirements for you to obtain a handicap can be obtained from the office, Lady Captain or the Ladies' Handicapper.

Lady Members also require three cards of stroke play to obtain their handicap.

Once you become a member of the club an Australian Golf Union or Women's Golf Australia "Golflink" card will be ordered for you. This will take approximately three weeks to obtain and will be sent to your home.

When you enter a competition at the club, and any club, you simply "swipe" your Golflink card next to the computer terminal in the Pro Shop. Check that your name appears on the screen after your have swiped your card and you are then entered. It is important that you return **all cards**, whether they are completed or not.