

## **RISK ASSESMENT FOR PLAYERS**

### **Introduction**

This risk assessment pertains to all golfers playing at Davenport Golf Club and the use of the practice ground.

### **Course Layout**

The course comprises some 96 acres of land with nine holes on each side of Middlewood Road, Poynton. The boundaries of the land owned by the Club comprise of Middlewood Road, the stream running along Anson Road which is on the right of the 8th hole and the public footpath along the 9th hole and the Anson museum. The "Clubhouse " side of the course is bounded by farmland and a public footpath which runs behind the 15th green, along the left hand side of the 16th green and to the left side of the 17th hole.

A public footpath runs diagonally across the 15th fairway and by the edge of the practice ground and a second footpath runs in front of the gent's summer tee on the 15th hole.

There are two ponds in play within the bounds of the course. These are on the 9th and 17th holes and contain deep water. Other watercourses which form the boundary of the Club land are not in play.

The course has some steep slopes on the side and back of some tees and the side and back of some greens. The 7th, 8th 17th and 18th holes have moderate slopes on the respective fairways. Some of the access pathways between holes have moderate slopes. Steep slopes form boundaries of the Club land however none of these are in play. Balls hit "out of bounds" into these areas are not recoverable.

### **Public Footpaths**

There are two public footpaths within the boundary of the course both of which are on the 15th hole and are signed with yellow markers. No shots should be played when any member of the public is on these paths and may be in range of any shot played. A public footpath which is also a private road runs along the left side of the 16th hole. Players must not play their shot when any vehicle is on the road and must take care when anyone is walking on the path.

**A sign on the 15<sup>th</sup> tee will be displayed stating:**

**Public footpath crosses this fairway. At all times walkers have priority. Do not play a shot if person is in danger of being hit by a golf ball.**

### **Greenstaff on the course**

Greenstaff working on the course have priority over all players and no shots should be played if the greenstaff are in range or have not acknowledged the presence of any players.

### **Fog**

Where fog is present, visibility is dependent upon where you are on the course. Competition play will be cancelled in serious fog conditions and a klaxon sounded so all play **MUST** cease immediately. However, sensible guidance for general play, which keeps the course open and safe, is that players **MUST** only hit shots to an intended position which is visible to the group/player playing the shot. It is essential to be aware of other golfers, green staff and pedestrians on the public rights of way.

### **Course Closure**

If at any time the Professional, Course Manager or other authorised person decide that weather conditions have deteriorated to the extent that play is not possible or if there is danger of lightening then a single long blast of the horn will be sounded and play must be suspended immediately. Players should vacate the course as quickly as possible in the event of suspension of play. Course closed signs will be placed on the 14th hole by the driveway and on the 1st tee in these cases and players must not start their rounds in these circumstances.

### **Paths on the course**

Where paths are available on the course all players whether walking, using a trolley (pull or electric) or buggy must use them.

### **White lines**

These are usually on the approaches to the putting greens and are used by the greenstaff to denote areas where buggies and trolley should not cross.

### **Roped areas**

Areas of the course may be temporarily roped off by the greenstaff, this will usually be more prevalent in the winter months. Players should avoid walking through these areas unless it is necessary in order to play their shot. Any ropes removed in the course of playing a shot should be replaced in their original position.

### **Footwear**

All players should wear footwear which is appropriate to the conditions of the day of play.

### **Balls struck outside the course**

Any player who believes they may have struck a ball outside the boundary of the course should inform the Pro shop staff on completion of their round. If the Proshop is closed then a member of the Clubhouse staff should be informed or a note left in the office. The player should note the hole being played and the time of the incident. This particularly applies to players on the 9<sup>th</sup> hole should they strike a ball to the right towards the Anson Museum.



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## **Player's Insurance**

The Club provides members and their guests with third party liability insurance. A copy of the Policy letter is available on request.

## **General Risks to Players**

A player may be struck by a golf ball hit offline by a golfer playing on another part of the golf course. All players should be aware at all times when another match is in the vicinity. Players who have played a wayward shot must immediately shout "FORE" to warn all other players.

A player may be struck by a golf ball hit by a playing partner. Non playing partner (s) must not position themselves in front of the shot being played if there is a risk of being struck. Players who have played a shot towards a playing partner-(s) must immediately shout "FORE" to warn other players.

A player may be struck by a ball being played by the following group. Players with a group immediately in front of them must wait until the group ahead are out of range until before playing their next shot.

A player may be struck by the golf club of a playing partner. All players must position themselves at least 2 yards away from the swing arc of their partners.

A player may slip, or trip, on sloping, uneven or slippery ground or on other objects such as detached tree branches. Tarmac paths can become slippery when wet and particularly during frosty conditions. The course has many sloping areas which can require care when a player walks on them. The course has a large number of trees from which branches can become detached and broken following inclement weather. These should be removed by greenstaff, however if there are obstacles on the course which have not yet been removed, players should inform the Proshop on completion of their round.

Bunkers on the course may have steep sides; these may become particularly slippery when wet. Players should enter and exit the bunkers from the shallowest edge of the bunker. Trolleys and buggies must not be taken or parked near any part of a sloping bunker at any time.

Several teeing areas may have one or more steep sides; players should avoid standing near to the edge of the teeing ground in these circumstances.

The course has several areas where the ground has a moderate to steep slope. Specific slopes are detailed on each hole assessment shown below. Players should ensure their golf shoes are suitable for the ground conditions on the day of play in order to minimise the risk of slipping.



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There are two ponds on the course the details of which are in the specific hole assessments. The boundaries of the hazards are designated with red / yellow stakes as provided for in the Rules of Golf. Players should not generally walk inside the hazard stakes or lines unless they are searching for a golf ball. If they intend to play a shot from within the boundary of the hazard (which they are entitled to under the Rule) then extreme care must be taken not to slip into the water. A warning notice of deep water is placed within the boundary of each pond. Trolleys and buggies must not be parked within 10 feet of the ponds.

## **Individual hole assessment with specific risks**

Hole 1 From the gents white and yellow tee the tee shot is hit into a blind area. Players should ensure the area is clear before teeing off. Player must make sure no player is hidden from view before teeing off

Hole 2 The teeing ground is on two levels and there is a moderate slope between the front and back tees.

Hole 3 The putting green has a slight slope to the right hand side and rear.

Hole 4 The teeing ground had a steep slope on the sides of the tee. The hole is a dog leg to the left and players must ensure the landing area is clear if they intend to “cut the corner”. The putting green has a very steep slope at the rear of the green. Players cross the driveway and then cross Middlewood Road to the 5th tee. Fast moving traffic uses Middlewood Road (40mph limit) and players should take extreme care when crossing the road. Drivers of buggies should take particular care in crossing.

Hole 5 The path to the 5th hole passes to the side of the 12th tee. Players should take care if they see other players about to tee off of the 12th and if so, wait until called through. The hole is a par 5 with a dog leg left. The approach shot to the green can be blind depending on the position of the shot being played. Players should ensure the landing area is clear before playing. The putting green has a moderate slope at the back and side and on the approach from the fairway.

Hole 6 The gents tee has a steep slope at the back of the tee and a moderate slope to the front. The putting green has a moderate slope to the side and back of the green.

Hole 7 The teeing ground has a moderate slope between the levels of tee and the fairway and approach to the green has a moderate downhill slope from the tee towards the green. The green has steep slopes at the side and back of the green. The walk to the 8th tee is a moderate slope.

Hole 8 The ladies tee has a moderate to steep slope to the side of the tee. The hole plays as a continuous moderate slope over the entire length up to the green.

Hole 9 The tee shot is hit into a blind area. Players must ensure the landing area is clear before playing. A marker post designates the line of play. There is a pond containing deep



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water to the right hand side of the fairway with a moderate slope into the pond from all directions. There is a moderate upwards slope from the fairway to the putting green.

Hole 10 The putting green has a moderate slope to the sides and back.

Hole 11 The tee shot is hit into a blind area. Players must ensure the landing area is clear before teeing off.

Hole 12 There is a slope down from the 11th green to the 12th tee which can become slippery if wet. Players should approach the tee from the front where the slope is least. The pathway to the 5th hole passes to the left of the tee and players should be aware of other golfers who may be approaching on that path. Players should not tee off if there are other players putting on the 13th green. The putting green has a steep slope to the left side and back of the green.

Hole 13 The tee shot is hit into a blind area. Players must ensure the landing area is clear before teeing off. Players should ring the bell on the right side of the green to signify to player(s) behind that they are clear. The putting green has a steep slope at the back and sides of the green. The footpath from the green has a moderate slope sharp right turn at the bottom. Buggy drivers should be particularly aware of the right turn. The path then crosses back over Middlewood Road

Hole 14 The teeing ground has a steep slope to the left hand side and the hole has a moderate slope down the fairway to the green. The putting green has a steep slope to the left hand side and back of the green.

Hole 15 A public footpath crosses the fairway on this hole and the hole is adjacent to the practice area. Players must give way to anyone using the footpath and also be aware of anyone using the practice area who may be out of sight from the tee. There is a mound with a steep slope on the right hand side of the fairway.

Hole 16 A private road and footpath pass to the left side of the hole. Players must not tee off if there is any vehicular traffic on the road. The putting green has a moderate slope on the right hand side.

Hole 17 There is a pond containing deep water on the fairway and steep slopes in all directions into the pond. The approach to the green is a moderate upward slope and there is a small moderate slope at the back of the green.

Hole 18 The tee shot is hit into a blind area. Players must ensure the landing area is clear when they ring the bell on the left side of the fairway at the 200 yard marker to indicate they are clear and players behind may proceed.

There is a moderate slope down the fairway and the approach to the green can involve a blind shot. There is a steep slope at the sides and back of the putting green.

Practice Ground:- Players practising should be aware of the public footpath which crosses the boundary of the practice area and must give way to anyone using the path. Players



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practising should also be aware of other players using the ground and in addition anyone playing the 15th hole. There is a moderate slope at the 15th tee end of the practice area.

January 2020