

# Scrabo Golf Club

1950---2000.

Fifty years of change and  
development.

W.Caughey.

beside the pathway going to the top tee at thirteen down on to the present fifteenth green. However the green was the wrong shape, the carry over the rough too long and there was danger to golfers playing up the twelfth from misdirected shots. The fifteenth hole was to be played as a severe dog-leg turning right on to the present thirteenth green. A tee that was used for a time can still be seen on the ninth fairway much further back behind the present fifteenth tee. Here the prevailing wind made the carry over the fairway mound too long, the shape of the fairway in front of the mound caused most drives to kick severely left down on to the ninth fairway, and the entrance to the green was too narrow and required an exceptional shot—all this made the hole too difficult even for the good golfer. These two holes would have eliminated the crossover problem that exists today on the thirteenth and sixteenth fairways.

In 1971 the new 18 hole course was completed and play on it began on 20<sup>th</sup> March. In September 1971 a tender of £23,000 was accepted from Medway Limited for the construction of a new Clubhouse and this was opened the following year.

By 1974 the order of play was then established as we know it today, although a few variations were tried from time to time.

In August 1978 William Caughey set the first under par Amateur Course record when he returned a gross score of 69.

This score held for several years until Bertie Wilson, the very accomplished Clandeboyne and Ulster player went round in a gross 67 in an Open Stroke. Incidentally, at this time, Bertie was also a member of Scrabo and appeared several times in the District Cup for the Club.

In July 1991 John Rea (Jun) scored a magnificent 65 which established the new record. John had in earlier years won two Captain's Prizes—one of these he got by finishing with birdies at the last four holes!

After this some changes were made that would have had an effect on the record. Two very awkward mounds of rocks at the front of the 16<sup>th</sup> green were removed and this allowed an easier, fairer shot on to the green; a large mound of rock was levelled on the 16<sup>th</sup> fairway to make a larger landing area for tee shots; the 7<sup>th</sup> green was resited to make approaches easier; an extension to the front of the 5<sup>th</sup> tee

made the tee shot less demanding for the handicap golfer.

In recent years Andrew McCormick ,Scrabo's Irish International player,toured the Hill in an outstanding 64 shots to set the present record.