

**Minutes of the Carnoustie Golf Links Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the Links Management Committee Ltd Office on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012**

Present: J Gilbert (Chair), L Gordon, C Yule, A McArtney, P Sawers, G Wilson, S Brown.

In Attendance: J Philp (Links Superintendent), S Mitchell (Head Greenkeeper, Buddon Course).

Meeting began 1900 hours.

**Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2. Convenors Summary**

There was no business.

**3. Links Superintendents Report**

J Gilbert referred to the salting of the course that is mentioned in J Philp's report. He suggested that in the winter when agreed that temporary greens are to be used in freezing weather, the paths and bridges will be salted. The committee agreed that this would be general policy from now on. A McArtney enquired to whether CGLMC Ltd were liable if there are accidents due to players slipping on the ice, he was advised that CGLMC Ltd are not liable as players have a duty of care.

J Gilbert asked J Philp why the rubber housings for the new mobile mats were not out on the course as it was agreed by the committee that they would be trialed. J Philp advised that the rubber housings have not arrived yet, there are 3 on order and he expects to receive them by the end of January.

J Gilbert advised S Mitchell that the drainage work carried out on the Buddon course seems to be a great success.

L Gordon advised that she is delighted with the filling in of the bunker on the 8<sup>th</sup> hole.

G Wilson advised J Philp that there is a large piece of matting which has fallen into the burn at the 5<sup>th</sup> hole of the Championship course near the green. J Philp advised that this will be removed.

G Wilson advised that he has noticed a large amount of rabbit droppings around the fairway of the 15<sup>th</sup> hole on the Championship course. J Philp advised that he is aware of this and is awaiting a visit from a specialist for advice.

#### **4. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts**

##### Championship Course

J Gilbert asked for confirmation that the cutting of the gorse would only be carried out on previously agreed areas. J Philp advised that this is the case.

J Gilbert asked why S Reid would like to lower the mounding on the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole. J Philp advised that S Reid regrets not lowering this area when work was originally carried out on it, J Philp explained in detail the work that would be carried out. This alteration should hopefully stop so many balls rolling off the mound. The area affected will be around 10m x 6m.

##### Burnside Course

It was agreed that the Verti draining holes would not be as large as last year.

The broom will be strimmed in areas on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> holes. J Gilbert asked if 'Timbrel' chemical will be used, J Philp advised that it will not be used at this stage, the 'Timbrel' is used when there is re-growth, that is the best time to get the chemical into the plant.

J Gilbert advised that there is still a spoil heap sitting in the 6, 7, 16 triangle on the course, he suggested that this would have to be smoothed out and sown before trees were moved in this area. J Philp agreed, he advised that the trees will be removed and new trees will only be planted where there is space, the spoil heap will be smoothed out and sown then more trees can be planted. J Philp advised that the work in this area will be finished by the end of March in time for the new season.

A McArtney advised that there is a huge amount of brambles in the 6, 7, 16 triangle area, some players trip on it. J Gilbert advised that this area is well out of play but it will be looked at and any stray bramble bushes moving into in-play areas will be dealt with.

J Gilbert asked how high the rear right of the third green would be raised , J Philp advised that this would not be by much, the area would be around 6m x 4m.

G Wilson enquired to whether the area between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> holes will be ready for the start of the season, J Philp advised that it would. The committee will be asked to view the work before the turf is applied. A McArtney enquired to whether there is still space for Open Championship cabins and equipment, he was advised there is still plenty of space.

P Sawers asked when the work on the bridge at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole would be complete, she was advised that the bridge is complete but is being kept out of play to give the turf surrounding it time to grow. She then asked that a space be made in the fence next to the bridge as players are having to make a long detour at the moment. J Philp will arrange this.

Buddon Course

S Mitchell has advised in his report that he would like to carry out work on the practice green by revetting the practice bunkers, this would make the green more interesting and would have a better aesthetic.

J Gilbert asked whether all environmental work that is to be carried out to the pond at the 4<sup>th</sup> hole will be safe for surrounding wildlife, S Mitchell advised that all work is safe.

J Gilbert enquired to whether the mounds on the 5<sup>th</sup> hole will be smoothed as well as being stripped and turfed, S Mitchell advised they will be smoothed also.

All work on the maintenance forecasts were approved.

**5. Photo Display regarding trees behind 13<sup>th</sup> Green**

Images of the area on the 13<sup>th</sup> green were handed out, some showing the green as it is with the trees on it, some images showed a single birch and the last set showed the green with no trees. J Gilbert asked the committee whether they would be in favour of removing all of the trees in question from this green. After discussions, the committee voted on whether to remove the trees, the votes were as follows:

For: 2 votes

Against: 4 votes

Abstained: 1

It was agreed not to take this issue further at this point, but it will be revisited in the summer when the trees are in bloom.

**6. S.T.R.I Visits**

J Gilbert advised the committee that R Windows visits and evaluates the Championship course every year with instruction and payment from the R&A (this is a condition of being an Open Championship course). In the past, R Windows has also reviewed the Buddon and Burnside course at CGLMC Ltd expense but it was agreed a few years ago the due to R Windows high fees, the Buddon and Burnside courses would only be reviewed every 2 years. J Gilbert advised that R Windows was due to visit the Buddon and Burnside courses last year but this was deferred to this year. J Gilbert then advised that he would like to know whether the greenkeeping staff feel R Windows visits are necessary at all. J Philp advised that he thinks the visits are worthwhile as it is good to be able to see on paper the progress the courses are making. S Mitchell advised that he felt R Windows offered good advice and the reviews were interesting, but the money that is spent on his visits outweighs the gain made from advice he gives. S Mitchell also advised that he did not find that comparing the other 2 courses to the Championship course an effective way of measuring.

P Sawers asked if there is another expert that can be asked to do this work for a lower fee, she was advised that there is not. After discussions, the committee agreed that J Gilbert should investigate the costs and the need for R Windows visits further and report back to the committee.

**7. Any Other Competent Business**

J Philp asked for committee approval on behalf of C Law to remove some 'limbs' from a Scots pine tree overhanging the top tee on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole of the Burnside course. The tree is restricting the backswing of some players. The committee agreed.

J Gilbert advised that the spoil heap on the west boundary has been steadily getting bigger, he advised that the committee agreed in the past that this area of spoil would be reduced by using the budget to hire skips to take the waste off site. J Philp advised that this waste can all be used when the 2 new holes are built, he advised that it would be inefficient to remove all of waste then have to buy it back when the holes area being built. C Yule advised that Cotside Quarry would take this waste if the committee wanted it removed. After discussions the committee agreed that the spoil heap should be kept at the moment if it can be used for building the 2 new holes. S Mitchell agreed to clean up the area and lay more hardstanding material, he will also connect the site to the main road for better access. It was enquired to whether the core path can still be built with the spoil heap this size, J Philp advised that it could be built and explained to the committee the direction the path would take. All of the rubble and hardcore will be removed from the site.

There being no other competent business, the meeting was then closed at 1935 hours.

KS