

Minutes of the Carnoustie Golf Links Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the CGLMC Ltd Office on Monday 16th April 2012

Present: J Gilbert (Chair), G Wilson, S Brown, C Yule, A McCartney.

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

Meeting began 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

P Sawers, L Gordon.

2. Convenors Summary

There was no business.

3. Links Superintendents Report

Divot Work

J Gilbert enquired to why there was still work being carried out on divots at the start of this season, he advised he thought they were all to be mended before the end of last season. J Philp advised that there were some marks where either players have not used a mat over the winter or the new piece of turf has been washed out by the rain. In these cases the divots need to be attended to again.

S Brown advised that there are an awful lot of divots on the 3rd hole of the Championship course. J Philp agreed. He advised that he thought flattening out the area would help but it does not seem to make much difference. This is being monitored and the greenkeepers are trying to find a solution.

G Wilson advised that he has received feedback from players to say that the 7th bunker on the Championship course and the 14th on the Buddon course are much better now.

A McCartney advised that he had been asked to enquire to why the sand in the bunkers is not allowing balls to run back down the face of the bunker and onto the flat. J Philp advised that it is very difficult to keep the sand hard packed all of the time. There has been good feedback from players of the Buddon course where a new sand is being trialled which might fix the problem. J Philp advised that the greenkeepers are constantly trying to improve the bunkers.

J Gilbert enquired to whether all of the felled trees and stumps have been removed from the triangle at the 16th hole as the area was meant to be cleared by the end of March. J Philp advised that all of the agreed trees have been felled but there are still some stumps remaining, the remaining stumps have been cut down as low as possible and are waiting to be ground down when the contractor can get to the site.

4. Monthly Maintenance Forecast

There were no hard copies for committee reference.

G Wilson asked whether this was an appropriate time to be doing tining on the Burnside course. He was advised that it will be a pencil tine used and is normal for this time of the year. It should not cause any disruption to play.

5. Sand Extraction Report

This report was prepared by J Philp and highlights the substantial savings that can be made by excavating sand from the courses.

G Wilson enquired to how much disruption this would cause to play. J Philp advised that the work would be split into 3 parts and would probably take over 3 years to complete, with each section being excavated over the winter when the courses are closed. It is expected that when an area has been excavated it will be re-turfed and made to blend into the surrounding area.

G Wilson enquired to whether Planning Permission would be needed. J Philp advised that he was not sure at this point but was looking into it. He suggested that because the work is being split into sections it may not need Planning Permission. J Gilbert suggested that CGL would at least need Landlord Consent and most likely approval from the R&A plus some advice from M Ebert.

J Philp advised that there are other areas where sand can also be extracted, the ones put before the committee were examples, the other options can also be explored.

S Brown enquired to whether this work is likely to damage the good drainage in the area. He was advised that because there is no ground being raised there should be no effect on the drainage.

It is expected that the sand excavated from these sites would last CGL between 4-5 years. There will be costs involved to top off the backfilled area with Cotside Quarry sand but this will not be significant in comparison to the savings that will be made.

Discussions were held in regards to where the sand will be stored. J Gilbert asked J Philp to have decided this for the Management Committee meeting next month. The sand excavation project will be proposed to the Management Committee for approval.

6. Any Other Competent Business

Practice Tee

S Mitchell advised that he had received reports from greenkeepers who have seen many people playing off the turf even although there are signs advising to use mats. The Course Rangers have told him that it is not in their remit to advise players to use the mats in this area. S Mitchell then asked if this could be added to the responsibilities of the Rangers. G Duncan will be asked to look into this matter.

Bunkers in a Natural Style

J Philp suggested the following bunkers to be trialled in the natural style:

Buddon – 10th & 11th

Championship – 11th & 17th

Burnside – 11th & 12th

This will be proposed to the Management Committee for approval.

Green Speeds

J Philp advised that the green speeds are very good after the current readings.

The fastest speed was 132, 11ft on the 9th Green of the Championship course and the slowest speed was 106, 8.10ft on the 18th Green of the Championship course.

Movement of White Tee

J Gilbert advised that M Ebert had previously suggested that the white tee on the 4th hole, Championship, should be moved back next to the green and yellow tees for safety. J Gilbert suggested that CGL should take this advice and move the tee. The committee agreed that J Philp look at the hole and come up with a suggestion of where exactly to place the white tee.

Tea Hut

J Gilbert advised that the tea hut was closed at 4.00pm last week when there was still plenty of light and players still on the course. He asked that G Wilson check over the tender documents to make sure that CGL have authority to keep the tee hut open until it deems suitable. G Wilson will look into this.

Scorecards

J Gilbert advised that he has been told that the starters have stopped issuing scorecards along with the yardage book. G Wilson will look into this.

Housing for Rubber Mats

J Gilbert asked J Philp to chase up the plastic housings for the rubber mats purchased from Huxely. He advised that other courses have received new orders while CGL are still waiting. J Philp will look into this.

14th Tee Burnside

It was enquired to whether the 14th tee was now open. The tee is open.

Safety Concerns Email

It was advised that an email has been received from a member of the public raising concerns of the safety of the practice ground. J Gilbert suggested that when D Shearer comes to the course to carry out the safety assessment that he is asked to look at the practice ground also. The committee agreed.

S Mitchell advised that the member of the public had approached a greenkeeper about this matter while the greenkeeper was carrying out work. The member of the public was irate and abusive towards the greenkeeper which S Mitchell advised was unacceptable. The committee agreed that the member of the public will be contacted to advise that this kind of behaviour is unacceptable and clubs will be reminded that any concerns that members have in regards to the courses should come through the club.

Burnside Burn

It was advised that there are some weeds growing on the right hand side of the burn at the 10th hole of the Burnside course. J Philp advised that the Championship greenkeepers will clean this out.

Hoops

J Gilbert advised that there are still a few hoops left out on the Championship course. J Philp will look into this and get them brought in.

2 New Holes on Buddon Course

J Philp advised that he has spoken to Captain Tom Gray at the M.O.D ground who has advised that CGL can get a key to the barrier up at the top of the course for access when the work is being carried out.

He also advised J Philp that there is the potential that the area to be cleared may have some left over 'bombs' from the M.O.D ground. J Philp advised that Captain Gray has agreed that if any are found he will come and check their safety, but the first action that must be taken is for the police to be called. J Philp enquired to whether CGL will need to take out insurance for this work. The committee agreed that the Contractors have been told and will be reminded of the previous use of this land. It will be the Contractors responsibility to take out insurance.

There being no other competent business, the meeting was then closed at 1945 hours.

KS