

Minutes of the Carnoustie Golf Links Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the CGLMC Ltd Office on Monday 13th August 2012

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

In Attendance: S Reid (Links Superintendent), C Boath (Championship Head Greenkeeper).

Meeting began 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

S Brown.

2. Links Superintendents Report

The Committee agreed the report was comprehensive.

3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

J Gilbert asked that the reports be dated from one Greens Committee meeting to the next, and not for the month.

Buddon Course

In regards to the 'thinning of plantation areas (advice required)' under Environmental Work. Advice will be sought from A Nicholson.

The thatch removal work on the greens will be carried out after the Tassie. This is essentially scarifying work and can be slightly disruptive. The sooner it is done in the year, the better chance it has for recovery. Concerns were raised in regards to whether there would be any disruption to club competitions. The committee agreed as a compromise that the whole course be done as late in September as possible to allow most competitions to be played and still give the grass time to recover.

Burnside Course

All of the work on the greens will be carried out after the Tassie, there will be no disruption during or in the run up to the event. The only slightly disruptive work will be the midi hollow which makes relatively small holes then is overseeded, thatch removed and rolled. C Yule asked what thatch was, S Reid advised that it is a build up of dead grass. After discussions, the committee agreed that they did not want both the Buddon and Burnside Courses being disrupted at the same time, so the Burnside work will wait until October after the Buddon has recovered. This will most likely be after the Dunhill.

J Gilbert enquired to whether any of Bob Taylor's recommendations regarding control of broom will be put in place. S Reid advised that Bob had suggested 'weed wipe'. This had not been included in the works before, but will now. S Reid advised the committee that 'weed wipe' is a method of killing broom without damaging the Heather. It is a longer process than spraying but has a better effect.

C Yule advised that he believes the weeds in the burn at the 17th hole are building up too much. S Reid advised that his team are aware of the weed build up and plan to have it cleared out and looking its best for the Tassie. It is difficult to delegate staff to this kind of work when most of the Greenkeeping resources are being put into the new holes. C Yule suggested that a CGL employ an extra member of staff to take on this work. S Reid advised that this would be helpful.

L Gordon advised the committee that she saw staff out on the course clearing burns with no safety hats on. She was advised that all staff are supplied and advised to wear hats when they are out during playing times but it is difficult to monitor them all of the time. S Reid will put a notice up for staff making them aware of the situation and advise them of their responsibility to wear safety equipment. The committee asked A Reid and the head greenkeepers to ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibility to follow the Health and Safety guidelines.

Championship Course

There was no business.

4. Winter Works

J Gilbert advised that he attended a meeting with S Reid and G Wilson last week to discuss the proposed winter works, that meeting was intended to go over the basic works to streamline the current meeting. J Gilbert asked the committee whether they had any items that they would like to raise.

Championship Course

J Gilbert advised the committee that there is no Planning Approval required for the sand extraction. This has been confirmed in writing by Angus Council. J Gilbert suggested that as there are 3 different sites, M Ebert draw up rough landscaping plans of the areas where sand is being extracted to make sure it blends in with the rest of the course. The committee agreed.

The lowering of Braid's bunker will be sympathetic to the height of the other bunkers. It will only be lowered by 8-10". The reason the bunker is being lowered is to reduce the difficulty for high handicapped players (it is not a hazard for low handicapped players in general).

All works are dependent on the weather.

Burnside Course

It was agreed that the drainage at the 3rd hole of the Burnside course was a worthwhile project as the cost is minimal and pipes are already in place.

The 11th tee will be extended forward to create a proper winter tee.

Bunker work will be carried out at the LEFT of the 18th tee, not the right as stated in the report.

In regards to flood prevention, the areas being raised will include the 4th hole, 5th hole, 7th hole, 8th hole, 12th hole and 17th hole short of the burn. The 12th hole may have to wait until next winter. In general it will only be small localised areas being worked on. The 17th has the largest area.

S Reid advised that he was confident that the Burnside works could be achieved over the next winter.

Gorse cutting is ongoing.

All trees being removed have previously been agreed.

Buddon Course

Pg 2, no. 6, J Gilbert suggested that this bunker should not be considered as the 7th hole is difficult enough as it is. The committee agreed.

J Gilbert advised that a site visit would be required before approval can be given for the proposed spoil heap. S Reid advised that this spoil heap will most likely not happen this year as much of the waste from the other spoil heap will be used in the re-filling of the sand excavation which will free up some space.

5. Junior Tees 17th Buddon Links

S Reid advised that the tee markers have been moved to the very front of the tee. If the committee want a level surface it will need to be moved around 20yds forward or put on the track in front of the tee. The committee agreed to move the tee 20yds forward, still making the hole 80yds. This will be included in the winter works.

6. Any Other Competent Business

L Gordon advised that there is still a problem with overflowing bins on the course. J Gilbert advised that G Duncan had dealt with this issue a few weeks ago, but the situation does not seem to have become any better. S Reid advised that the person who used to empty the bins was taken on under new terms and conditions and comes in between 1.00pm to 2.00pm to carry out the work. J Gilbert suggested that the Rangers should be asked to empty the bins if they are starting to become full. The committee agreed that G Wilson look into amending the Terms and Conditions of the Rangers responsibilities. S Reid advised that the bins with 3 compartments that are out on the course at the moment are not ideal as they don't hold as much waste as a bin with 1 compartment.

They are only used to look good in terms of recycling, but DJ Laing still sort through the waste after it is removed to extract the recycling. The committee agreed that bins with one compartment should replace the current bins and small stickers / signs be put on the bins to inform golfers that this waste in the bin is recycled.

C Yule advised that he had seen some grass cuttings lying at the side of some of the holes recently and enquired to whether the grass is normally picked up after cutting. S Reid advised that most of the mowers have grass collectors on them, but sometimes they become blocked. Grass can also be left behind from strimming. The Greenkeepers are aware of this and do generally remove as much as possible.

S Reid showed the committee images of the trees at the 13th hole. Discussions were held regarding whether all, some or none of the trees should be removed. The committee came to the decision that young trees should be planted behind the current ones to fill out the area, then when they have matured the old ones will be dealt with.

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

KS