

Minutes of the Carnoustie Golf Links Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room at 20 Links Parade on Monday 17th September 2012

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convenor), G Wilson, S Brown, A McCartney.

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), A Reid (Links Superintendent),
C Law (Burnside Head Greenkeeper).

Meeting began 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

P Sawers, C Yule, L Gordon.

2. Links Superintendent's Report

There were no points raised.

3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship Course

J Gilbert asked whether any work will be carried out on the 14th Bunker to the left hand side of the green. A Reid advised that C Boath would like to work on it as it has recently got worse. The committee agreed that the work should be carried out, as long as it is finished before the Dunhill tournament.

S Brown enquired to whether the approaches to the greens were being top dressed. A Reid advised that they had just been done this morning (Monday).

A McCartney advised that many people are cutting across the dip in the banking between the 1st green and the 18th tee. He was advised that it is in the winter works schedule to build a mound in this area. A Reid advised that in the longer term, he would like to widen the opening in the wall to allow a more obvious exit from the course. Caddies are already aware that they should not cut across the area. A Reid is to look into the idea of widening the opening in the wall. J Gilbert asked what buggies were expected to do. A Reid advised that there is not an official route, but generally they are expected to go left before the burn and cross the bridge then exit through the gap in the fence.

The committee agreed to cut the gorse and broom at the left of the 7th hole in preparation for the Dunhill tournament.

All works were approved.

Burnside Course

It was enquired to whether the proposed work would cause any disruption to the greens. C Law advised that there would be very minimal disruption.

It was advised that the broom will be dealt with using B Taylors suggested methods.

It was agreed that C Law would not spike the temporary green areas too late on in the season.

All works were approved.

Buddon Course

J Gilbert questioned whether it was appropriate to spray the ditches if they were not completely dry. A Reid advised that he has been in touch with SEPA and they have agreed that the ditches are dry enough for spraying. Only ditches that are completely dry will be sprayed.

All works were approved.

4. Control of Weed in Burn

J Gilbert advised that this has been an issue all year, and many Season Ticket holders have been unhappy with the amount of weeds in the burn. A Reid advised the committee that he has had approval from SEPA to remove the vast majority of the weeds mechanically, and this will save a huge amount of time and resources. He advised that this process still takes time and man power. The conditions of removing by machines is that no silt can be removed along with the weeds. A Reid advised that using chemicals is not an option. The committee agreed that A Reid should look into the logistics of the operation and into staffing. Options will be brought forward for an ongoing programme to keep the weeds under control. The Committee agreed to make a commitment for the burn weed to be kept under control.

5. Practice Ground

J Gilbert advised that now that the new core path is going to be built, the way the area is played will have to be changed. He suggested that whilst looking at this, the committee may want to consider giving players the option of playing off turf. J Gilbert, A Reid and G Wilson will arrange to visit the practice ground and look at the options. Any other committee member is welcome to join this visit. The committee agreed that the artificial turf will remain, and that playing off of grass will only be an addition to the facilities.

6. Course Closures

The committee agreed that the course closures will remain as normal with the courses closing as follows:

Championship 1st Monday in November (5th November), then the Burnside Course 2 weeks later and the Buddon 2 weeks after that.

The committee agreed that mats will be used to play off fairways only. This will be reviewed at Christmas.

7. New Holes Update

A Reid advised the committee that the construction work on the new holes was now complete and they have been sewn out. There is a little bit of the seeding coming through, particularly on the 12th fairway. There has been some wind damage, especially on the mounds, and this may need to be oversown. Any turf to be laid will be completed when the course is closed. The Contractors have left the site very tidy. A Reid has agreed the Contractors can continue to use the compound whilst they work on a project at Panmure. D Shearer is to visit the course and meet with S Reid who has some questions in regards to Health and Safety.

8. Any Other Competent Business

The committee agreed to make the temporary 12th green Buddon Links larger.

J Gilbert advised that W Ramsay was very happy with how the Junior Competition went on the Buddon Links Course. J Gilbert passed on W Ramsay's thanks to the greenkeeping staff and advised that the course was in great condition. Many of those involved were impressed.

J Gilbert raised concerns regarding widening the ditch at the 8th hole of the Buddon Links course. He suggested that if it was widened and the water still ran low, it could become a 'gutter track'. A Reid agreed that it may not need to be widened, but he would still like the wood to be removed from the sides. A Reid is to look into the consequences of widening the burn at that point and report back to the committee.

J Gilbert requested that the rock garden at the 1st tee be attended to on a monthly basis. C Law agreed.

J Gilbert requested that in future, the rough be cut back perhaps half way through the year, and not just before the Tassie as it is unfair for Season Ticket holders to have to put up with it all year. A Reid advised that as there are no major tournaments coming up in the next few years, the rough can be kept shorter. When there are major tournaments upcoming, it will still be the greenkeepers intention to keep the rough at a manageable level. A Reid advised that they have to be careful as the unpredictable weather can cause the grass to grow very fast in wet years and stunt it in dry years. C Law advised that the rough on the Burnside course will stay as it is.

A Reid advised that D Shearer had suggested that a bell be installed on the 10th hole of the Burnside course as it is a blind shot from the tee. The committee agreed that a sign should be erected and no bell installed.

A Reid advised that the Huxley mat housing is now available to purchase. He advised that the mat housing is 5ft sq and the mats are 6ft sq, the mats can be cut to fit. A Reid suggested that as a trial, only a few housings be purchased. They are very heavy (2 men to lift) and he is not keen to dig them into the ground. The committee agreed that they should not be dug into the ground as the point in having them is so they can be moved. After discussions, the committee agreed to purchase 4 mat housings and trial them on all 3 courses. A Reid advised that more could be ordered and delivered within a few weeks.

A Reid asked for feedback in regards to tee furniture on the Championship course. The committee agreed to discuss this at a later date.

A Reid advised the committee that by 2015, he expects that all that sand in the bunkers on the courses will have been renewed. He suggested that the sand trialled on the 9th hole be used and mixed with a little Tay sand to darken it. The committee agreed.

G Wilson raised his concerns as he was out on the Burnside courses a few weeks ago and there were 2 greenkeepers working on the bunkers without hard hats, they were though wearing tammys. A Reid advised that the greenkeepers are only required to wear a tammy or peaked cap, but are requested to move out of the area of play when balls are being hit. These points will be reiterated to the greenkeeping staff.

There being no other business, the meeting was then closed at 1940 hours.

KS