

**Minutes of the Carnoustie Golf Links Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the CGLMC  
Ltd Office on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012**

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convenor), L Gordon, P Sawers, G Wilson, A McCartney.

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), A Reid (Links Superintendent),  
S Mitchell (Buddon Head Greenkeeper).

Meeting began 1900 hours.

**1. Apologies**

C Yule, S Brown.

**2. Links Superintendents Report**

Championship Course

J Gilbert advised that the overseeding of the greens was not mentioned in the September report. A Reid advised that the work took place in October so will be covered in next month's report.

Burnside Course

J Gilbert enquired to whether the yardage markers would be ready for the start of next season. A Reid advised that he had spoken to Angus McRae about this and it was being dealt with. New markers will be on the course by the start of the season.

Buddon Links Course

J Gilbert enquired to whether the clover had been sprayed in line with Bob Taylor's advice. S Mitchell advised that only certain approved areas have been sprayed.

P Sawers suggested that the 2 new holes look excellent. L Gordon agreed. S Mitchell advised that the areas where the wind had removed the seeds are being overseeded.

**3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts**

Championship Course

J Gilbert enquired to what 'Vredo' was used for. A Reid advised that it is used for greens maintenance. It makes slits instead of holes and causes little disruption.

J Gilbert asked A Reid to check with Bob Taylor that the blanket cutting was environmentally friendly.

A Reid advised that the 'weed wipe' had been used twice (not a few times). It was agreed that it should be used more often.

Sand extraction will only take place within a part of the designated area between holes 10 and 11 Championship. M Ebert will be consulted in regards to the design and formation of the mounds within the area.

#### Burnside Course

J Gilbert enquired to what 'dumpy tines' were. A Reid advised that they are wide solid tines and are quite disruptive. This will not be carried out until November and will be done instead of graden work. Some greens will have graden work whilst others will be tined. A Reid advised that probably all the greens will be worked on, but only selected areas of each green.

J Gilbert advised that the broom is becoming very invasive and is overrunning large areas of heather. He advised that Bob Taylor's environmental report advice was that we need to protect the heather. A Reid advised that the weed wipe has been used a few times and has been successful, but it is a time consuming process. The work can be done at any time of year, but the problem is finding the time to do it. A Reid advised that the best thing to do is let the broom grow and then treat it, rather than constantly cutting it back.

#### Buddon Links Course

The ditches will only be treated when they are dry. S Mitchell advised that they are being raked at the moment.

### **4. Course Flooding**

A Reid advised the committee that the main reason for flooding on the course is the Barry Burn bursting its banks. He suggested that it was unlikely we could ever reach the point where we totally prevented this happening and that we should focus on getting the water back into the burn as soon as possible after the flooding had occurred. The committee were in agreement that it should be the case that the Championship course is the last to flood, if it was possible to control that. It was suggested that the water be re-directed before it even reaches the courses, but this would have to be discussed with Angus Council. A McArtney advised that he had had suggestions from players that a pond be put in at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole Burnside. A Reid advised that this would probably not be effective as the water would continue to flow just as strongly once the pond was filled. After further discussions, the committee agreed to take steps to protect the courses, and make sure as much drainage as possible is in place. Angus Council will also be contacted to discuss redirecting the water before it reaches the course, and expert advice will be sought.

J Gilbert suggested that the business plan be looked at again as it would seem that flood prevention should be dealt with as soon as possible. There could be major financial implications if the course was to flood during a tournament or during a busy period in the Summer.

## **5. Championship First Tee Proposals**

J Gilbert advised the committee that last week the Full committee agreed to carry out the work on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee area. He advised that, after speaking to A Reid who had been in contact with architect D Wren of Project Management Scotland, it was advised that this area could be developed for a lesser expense than the original plans. It was advised that the shelter would still be erected, and discussions were held regarding whether telecommunications would have to be supplied to the shelter. The plan is to remove all of the slabs and turf to the tarmac. The new shelter will be built in the red brick to match the small wall. This would mean that the road would not need moved and no mounding would be needed, keeping the area simple and tidy. The out of bounds would be where the grass meets the tarmac. The price for this work does not include the sanding over of the tarmac.

A Reid advised that a representative from the R&A has seen the first tee as it now stands, and they have said that they are very happy with the space it provides. The committee agreed that the new plans were complementary to the area and more in line with what the R&A would like to see.

It was advised that the greenkeepers could carry out all of the work, apart from the building of the new shelter.

G Duncan is to check with the R&A to whether the new shelter will need telecoms or electricity. Visualisation images will be given to the committee for viewing. G Duncan advised the committee that the wooden hut will have to be demolished, as it is too unstable to move.

The committee agreed to recommend the revised proposals to the Full committee at the next meeting.

## **6. Practice Ground Costs**

J Gilbert advised that he asked at the Full committee meeting for a breakdown of the costs for the practice facility as they had risen from £25,000 to £50,000. After looking over the cost breakdown, he suggested that the new mechanised facility would not need covered bays (it was originally thought that junior lessons could be held there, but now they can use the indoor facility at the hotel). The only shelter that would be needed would be one to house the ball dispenser and an area for washing the balls. J Gilbert suggested that the drainage for this area be sorted before any new work is carried out. A shelter would be needed to house a power supply plus ball washing facilities. A machine would be needed to pick up the balls and it may need staff. The drainage would be dealt with in 2016 and the machinery / shelters in 2017. G Duncan advised that by this time, a new driving range may be built elsewhere. The business plan will be updated.

A review of the whole business plan will be organised also.

## **7. STRI Report, Burnside**

G Wilson advised the committee that the Championship report was excellent. He said well done to Craig Boath and all of the staff. He advised that congratulations also came from Hoylake.

The committee agreed that the Burnside report was also extremely good and reflected the views of the committee and season ticket holders.

J Gilbert enquired to whether it is necessary to do any work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> green Burnside (during the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 holes work) as it is in such good condition. A Reid agreed that it is in good condition and it would only be necessary to replace the green for design reasons, not turf quality.

## **8. Any Other Competent Business**

The committee said well done to the staff on all courses for the clean-up effort following the flooding.

J Gilbert advised that it has already been agreed that the tees should be moved forward when it is frosty. It was agreed that the same procedure as last year would be used for the temporary greens. Any slippery areas will be identified and gritted / sanded to make safer.

J Gilbert asked that non slip strips be placed along the boardwalk at 17/18 holes of the Buddon Links course. This is not a problem in the winter as it is closed off.

S Mitchell asked for approval from the committee on behalf of C Law that the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> fairways of the Burnside course be widened. This would not be the whole fairway. J Gilbert and G Wilson will look at this on their course walk which will take place in the next few days.

G Wilson suggested that A Reid only be obliged to attend perhaps 2 major Full committee meetings per year or if he is requested by the committee. The committee agreed to recommend this at the Full meeting.

A McCartney advised that there was some subsidence on the Championship 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> hole bridges. A Reid advised that they have been dealt with and concrete blocks have been put in to support them.

A Reid enquired to whether any decisions had been made on course furniture. He was advised that G Wilson and J Gilbert will look into this on their course walk, and it will be discussed at next month's meeting.

There being no other competent business, the meeting was then closed at 1955 hours.