

**Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Sub-Committee Meeting
held in the CGLMC Ltd Office on Monday 10th March 2014**

Present: P Sawers, G Paton, K Sampson, C Yule, A McCartney.

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

Meeting began 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

J Gilbert, L Gordon, W Thompson.

2. Links Superintendents Report

A Reid advised that he would have liked to have replaced the fence posts at the left of the 18th green Championship during this winter, but the staff have been too busy. He advised that he is keen to do it sooner rather than leaving it until next winter. It is hoped that the posts will be replaced in April or May, but there will be a few weeks when there is no wire in the fence.

3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship Course

P Sawers enquired to how many bunkers are to be revetted. A Reid advised that there are only 2 or 3 bunkers left to be completed. He advised that the bunker on the 4th fairway and the bunker on the 2nd fairway will need completed soon, but the bunker by the 16th green is not so pressing. This work should be complete before the start of the Summer season.

A Reid advised that in regards to the low area at the ladies 10th tee, it has now been decided that this area will be stripped of turf, raised and re-turfed. He advised that this work has been approved in the past. There is scope in the winter works budget to accommodate this work. The left of the 10th fairway will also be raised. A Reid advised that this work will be complete before the start of the summer season, but might need to be made GUR initially.

Waste material is being removed from the course free of charge by the Commonwealth Games organisers.

P Sawers enquired to whether there was work to be carried out on the ladies Dunhill tee at the 16th. A Reid advised that this work has been completed. The tee is a little bigger and neater, and this will be kept as a tee for the future.

Burnside Course

G Duncan enquired to whether all of the bridges at the 4th hole had been raised. A Reid advised that the bridge to be raised is not the pedestrian one, it is the other bridge on the corner. The pedestrian bridge will be worked on next year.

G Paton advised that the banking on the right hand side of the 3rd hole (at the 4th tee side) was collapsing. A Reid advised that it will be looked at further.

Buddon Course

P Sawers enquired to what a '4:0:8 Invigorator' was. S Mitchell advised that this is a fertiliser. He advised that this programme is being used for the start of the season to try and encourage growth on the tees and divots.

K Sampson enquired to when the distance markers on the sprinkler heads would be back on the tees. A Reid advised that they have been shipped from USA, and they should be available within a few weeks.

K Sampson enquired to why there were many bird boxes on the ground around the course. S Mitchell advised that he is aware of this. All broken boxes are currently being repaired by Barry. These boxes are logged when they are occupied.

K Sampson advised that currently the area between the golf centre and the 1st tee Buddon Links is very muddy. A Reid advised that he is aware of this situation. It is hoped that with position of the new 1st tee, traffic will be directed around that back of the Golf Centre giving a chance for this ground to recover.

4. Dog Walking on the Course

G Duncan advised that a meeting was held between him, A Nicholson, A Reid and J Gilbert to discuss the issue of out of control dogs. He advised that A Nicholson had suggested that there is not a great deal that CGLMC Ltd can do. A Nicholson is to discuss with Angus Council whether an agreement similar to the one currently ongoing in Montrose could be put in place.

C Yule suggested that Season Ticket holders, whose dogs are out of control, could have the sanction of their season ticket being suspended or withdrawn.

A McCartney enquired to whether the staff can ask dog walkers to keep their dog on a lead. G Duncan advised that they can, but the dog walker has no legal obligation to oblige. A Reid advised that the signage on the course 'asks' dog walkers to follow the rules, it does not 'tell' them.

G Duncan advised that dog fouling is a criminal offence and wardens will take eye witness evidence without any other backup evidence. Dogs being out of control on the course is not a criminal offence.

P Sawers enquired to what kind of evidence is needed if not photographs. G Duncan advised that he believes that eye witnesses may be the most effective kind of evidence.

G Paton advised that there are no signs on the courses to advise that golfers have right of way over dog walkers on the golf course. G Duncan advised that this can be done.

G Duncan advised that this is a serious and increasing problem for CGLMC Ltd. He advised that the greenkeeping staff can approach dog walkers whose dogs are out of control on the course, but they rarely receive a good response from this. Discussions were held regarding whether Season Ticket holders should be focused on. After further discussions, the committee agreed to keep a record of all known dog walkers who are spoken to or who are seen to have dogs out of control on the course. This list will be reported back to the Greens Committee in due course for review.

A McCartney enquired to whether it was a criminal offence to allow dogs to remove golf balls from the course. G Duncan is to look into this.

5. Summer Opening of Courses

The courses will open on 28th March.

A Reid advised that the Buddon Course will open half hour later than normal at 9.00am. This will give enough time to set up for the opening of the 2 new holes on the Buddon Links course which will take place at 9.45am. Guests will meet at the practice ground. The dress code will be golf attire.

For the opening week, the yellow tees will be used on the Championship Course.

The blue tees will be used on the Burnside course for the first week.

The white tees will be used on the Buddon Links course for the first week.

The Burnside and Buddon Links tees will alternate weekly rather than every 2 weeks. The clubs will be made aware of this change.

G Paton enquired to whether the scorecard for the Buddon Links course was ready as the clubs need to update their computer systems. G Duncan advised that the scorecards are ready and will be sent out to the clubs. C McLeod has a mock up of the card.

6. Any Other Competent Business

Playing off Boxes in Winter

A McArtney advised that on 2 occasions in one day, he had to advise visitors that they could not play from the back tee. He then advised the starter of the situation. A McArtney suggested that a sign should be erected advising visitors that they should play from the boxes during the winter season. The committee agreed to signage and also to advise the starters to inform visitors of this rule.

Junior Area

P Sawers advised that a meeting was held between her, A Reid, J Gilbert, R Reyner, C Sinclair and G Duncan in regards to the Junior area. She advised that after the discussions held, three proposals were agreed to be considered.

These proposals are as follows:

It was proposed that the Junior area be turfed apart from the 6th green which should be astroturfed. This green is not likely to be moved as there are issues with lifting astroturf. Using astroturf on this green will give an idea of how it performs, and lasts, before any decisions are made on using it on the rest of the Junior area. The cost to astroturf one green is £6,000.

K Sampson suggested that this cost was very high for one green. P Sawers advised that this area is currently in poor condition. It would mean that it could be made very neat and would give an insight into how the astroturf works and how popular the area is.

K Sampson enquired to whether the material that is half grass, half astroturf (similar to what is used on Rugby Pitches) had been looked into. A Reid advised that he was under the impression that this only came in longer length grasses and is also likely to be expensive.

Astroturfing would mean that there would be one hole on the course that is perfect from the start, and likely to stay perfect all year round.

P Sawers then went on to the second proposal which came about from discussions over who should be allowed to play the course. She advised that it was proposed that everybody should be allowed to use this area with Junior golfers having priority. It was suggested that during school times, the area will not be used by Juniors, therefore visitors or members looking to use the area to warm up, or seniors who would like to play a short game should be allowed to use it. P Sawers advised that opening the course up to other players would help with the OSCR application. K Sampson advised that he did not believe that anyone other than Juniors would be likely to want to use the area.

It was agreed that there would be policing issues with the Junior area whether it is made exclusively for juniors, or whether it is open to all players. P Sawers advised that some of the members from the Ladies club have advised that they would be interested in using the area rather than playing a whole round of golf.

C Yule suggested that for the first season, the area should be made available to all players, and the popularity can then be monitored and reviewed. P Sawers advised that this area will hopefully be ready for the May Day weekend.

The third proposal put forward by P Sawers was that a small 3 hole practice area be built at the practice area adjacent to the 2nd hole on the Burnside course that would be exclusively for Juniors. A McArtney advised that many golfers use this area to practice their Iron play.

The committee then debated again that 5 of the 6 holes be turfed, and the 6th green be astroturfed. K Sampson, C Yule and A McArtney were not in favour of the use of Astroturf. C Yule advised that he would like further explanation on why astroturf would be advantageous. P Sawers advised that R Reyner is likely to be able to speak to this at the full meeting.

After further discussions, the committee agreed to propose the following to the full board:

1. All greens should be turfed for the 1st year then reviewed.
2. The course should be open to all players with priority times for Juniors.
3. The 3 hole course will be put on hold until the 6 hole course has been built and monitored for a year.

Toilets of Championship Course

A McArtney enquired whether the toilets of the 15th hole Championship will be ready for the start of the season. A Reid advised that he is currently awaiting the delivery of the tank. Most of the structure is ready, but no furniture has been installed as the tank is not yet on site. P Sawers asked that an estimated timeframe from the contractor be obtained.

There being no other competent business, the meeting was then closed at 2000 hours.

KS