

**Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Sub-Committee Meeting
held in the CGLMC Ltd Office on Monday 14th April 2014**

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convenor), P Sawers, G Paton, C Yule, K Sampson, L Gordon, A McCartney.

In Attendance: A Reid (Links Superintendent), K Stott (Burnside Head Greenkeeper).

Meeting began 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

W Thompson.

2. Links Superintendents Report

J Gilbert advised that he agreed with A Reid's report that credit is due to the Head Greenkeepers and Greenkeeping staff in having the courses in great condition for the start of the new season.

J Gilbert praised the work done on the bunker revetting on the Burnside, along with the burn wall between the 3rd and 4th holes.

J Gilbert advised that C Law had stepped down as Burnside head greenkeeper and K Stott has replaced him in the position. J Gilbert praised C Law's work on the Burnside course and suggested that the course has been in the best winter condition for a long time. A Reid is to pass congratulations on to C Law.

J Gilbert recommended that in regards to the R&A plans, CGLMC Ltd want an Open to return in the near future, but cannot follow all of the R&A recommendations without some discussions and negotiations. J Gilbert advised that CGLMC Ltd will be considering the viability of a further 2 holes on the Buddon Links course and a Driving Range that may need to be included in the R&A's plans for Carnoustie. A Reid asked whether CGLMC Ltd should wait until an Open date is announced before having these discussions. The committee agreed to wait until a date is announced, but plans should be put in place for this time.

A Reid advised that there is no pressure from the R&A to ever use the whole practice ground for parking. He advised that after further discussions with the R&A, they have advised that the drainage would only need to be improved in the smaller, lower pockets which in turn affect the access to the rest of the practice area.

Stroke Index – Buddon Links Course

J Gilbert advised that A Reid and S Mitchell had worked on the new stroke index for the Buddon Links course. He advised that some players had raised concerns about the stroke allocation for some of the holes.

A Reid advised that a new stroke index was needed due to the new numbering of the holes, plus the 2 new holes needed to be included. He advised that he and S Mitchell followed the SGU Guidelines plus their knowledge of the course in order to produce the Stroke Index. J Gilbert advised that in his opinion the result was fine, but this can be reviewed over the playing season.

G Paton advised that he was going to raise this issue on behalf of his club, but since the cards have already been printed, he would wait until the end of the season. G Paton raised concerns over some of the stroke allocation, in particular the 1st hole score being too high and the 16th hole score being too low. Discussions were held on the ways in which the Stroke Index can be measured. After further discussions, the committee agreed to review the Stroke Index for the Buddon Links course at the end of the season.

Future Turf Managers Initiative

A Reid advised that Duncan Cairnie attended the Future Turf Managers Initiative scheme which is run by BIGGA and sponsored by some of the main machine suppliers. This scheme is to train Greenkeepers in Turf Management. A Reid advised that the training included attending mock Committee Meetings and Interviews. He advised that Duncan Cairnie was fortunate to be chosen to attend this course as it is very difficult to get selected. Duncan Cairnie has advised A Reid that this was a very worthwhile course to attend and will be a benefit to CGLMC Ltd in turn.

3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship Course

Tees

J Gilbert enquired to whether 'Rescue' work had already been carried out on the tees. A Reid advised that the areas J Gilbert was referring to was the work that was carried out at the end of last year and is still trying to recover. He advised that the treatment worked well but is taking time to grow again. New treatment will take place again in the coming months.

Others

J Gilbert advised that the passing places on road to practice area has already been created, but in future this type of work needs to be passed by the committee before going ahead. A Reid is to pass this on to C Boath. The area at the right hand side of the Burnside 1st hole is still to be completed. This is a CGLMC Ltd initiative, and not a request from the Commonwealth Games organisers.

Advice Request

A McArtney advised that he witnessed a player taking a divot out of the turf whilst hitting a ball from a bunker that had plugged into its face. He asked what the rule is if a ball lands in this position. He was advised that the player can either play the ball as it lies, or take a penalty drop.

Ladies 10th Tee

P Sawers advised that the area around the Ladies 10th Tee is much improved.

Area between 10th & 11th holes

A McArtney advised that he is aware of a few players having their balls land in the returfed area between the 10th and 11th holes and asked whether this should be made GUR where the turf joins. J Gilbert advised that this turf has been laid for 1 year now and players are not guaranteed a perfect lie when landing in the rough. A Reid advised that there have been a few new bits of turf laid in this area this year. J Gilbert recommended that this area be left in play.

Burnside Course

Environmental

J Gilbert advised that the treatment of the broom this time is the best result he has ever seen.

Bridge at 18th Hole

G Paton advised that the sign on the bridge at the 18th hole is missing. He also advised that the frame of the bridge is rusted. A Reid advised that this bridge is due to be raised but not during the summer playing season. The bridge will be made safe in the meantime.

Out of Bounds at 18th hole

G Paton advised that the out of bounds area can become confusing and recommended that it be moved towards the burn instead. J Gilbert agreed that this out of bounds area needs to be looked at. He recommended that the white posts be reinstated in the meantime and J Gilbert, A Reid and G Paton will discuss options to be presented to the next Greens Committee meeting.

Buddon Links

Junior Area

J Gilbert asked A Reid for confirmation that the new short course will be ready for opening in May. A Reid advised that there will be a course in place for May. Currently the greenkeepers are trying to create definition using different turf lengths.

A Reid advised that the committee need to decide on how the course will work and who can play it. He advised that he is currently awaiting signage to instruct play. J Gilbert advised that he, C Sinclair and R Reyner have been tasked with producing the rules and regulations for the course and reporting back to the committee.

3rd Hole (Old 4th Hole)

K Sampson enquired to whether a new bunker is being erected on the right hand side of the fairway as the bunker of the left has been removed. A Reid advised that a bunker will be erected on the right side of the fairway but the greenkeepers ran out of time this winter so it will not be put in place until next winter. J Gilbert explained that that the reason the bunker was removed was firstly down to the fact that it looked out of place, and secondly to encourage golfers to aim down the left hand side of the hole, keeping play further away from the 6th hole of the Championship course. A Reid advised that ideas will be produced for this area for the next winter works. J Gilbert advised that this bunker was only a recent addition. K Sampson enquired to whether the decision to remove this bunker was passed by the committee, J Gilbert advised that it was passed by the Committee.

Approach to 1st Tee

G Paton advised that there is an exposed pipe at the join between the turf and the tarmac at the approach to the 1st tee. A Reid is to deal with this. He advised that it may be disused, otherwise it will be covered.

Old Winter Tee on 4th Hole

G Paton recommended that the old winter tee of the 4th hole be removed as the Astroturf is very deteriorated. A Reid advised that he thought this had been removed and will make sure removal is carried out.

Hollow at 17th Hole

G Paton advised that there is a hollow area on the 17th hole that many balls land in, and the surface is now down to soil and needs to be patched. A Reid will organise this area to be tidied up.

4. Commonwealth Games Update

J Gilbert advised that there is lots of work being carried out at the far end of the course. He asked A Reid to give an update on the works for the information of the Committee.

A Reid advised that adjacent to the 12th Green Buddon Links will be the Personal Security Area for spectators prior to entering the MOD ground. Spectators are being encouraged to walk from the hotel along the cycle path then onto the core path and into the MOD ground as the theme for all of the venues is to have the spectators 'walk the last mile'.

Tarmac will be laid if required and the road resurfaced up to the lake.

The mound at Barry Station will be removed and will become hardcore for a bus park. This can be used by CGLMC Ltd in the future.

A temporary mobile mast will be erected (likely to be in place from around May until August) to the right of the Buddon 10th tee and will be fenced off.

The Commonwealth Games organisers want use of the path alongside the railway. They will erect a fence, but not a security fence and it will still be open to the public.

A Reid advised that the organisers are expecting between 1,500-2,500 persons attending per day.

There will be parking restrictions at Barry Station and on Anderson Street.

A Reid advised that the organisers wanted to use the space at the practice ground, but logistically this was not possible.

Including practice days, set up and removal, the event will last for 2 weeks. The hotel will be restricted for 4 weeks.

There will be allowances made for access to the first tees of Buddon Links and Championship courses.

Discussions were held regarding the car parking for season ticket holders and visitors. There will be disruption to parking for 1 month. A Reid advised that there will be other areas to use as car parking for golfers.

This event does not take place during Tassie week.

J Gilbert recommended that the plans for this time need to be considered further and suggested that he, P Sawers, A Reid and G Duncan discuss the plans in greater detail with the Commonwealth Games Organisers.

J Gilbert enquired to whether A Reid was happy with the works being carried out at the west end of the Links.. A Reid advised that he was. J Gilbert advised that there cannot be any disruption to play whilst this work is being carried out.

5. Any Other Competent Business

Ponds on Buddon Course

J Gilbert enquired to how A Reid and S Mitchell were progressing with the ponds on the Buddon Links course. A Reid advised that they are being maintained over the summer and being kept as high as possible. They are currently at their highest point.

Toilets

J Gilbert enquired to how the new toilet block was progressing. A Reid advised that the structure is complete, and the plumber is currently awaiting the delivery of the sanitaryware. J Gilbert asked A Reid to chase this up. A Reid advised that he also needs to follow up the key fob lock delivery as this has not arrived yet.

Photovoltaic Panels

J Gilbert enquired to how C Boath was progressing with his investigation into Photovoltaic Panels. A Reid advised that he met with McGills recently, and they are currently assessing the Greenkeeping Sheds and Golf Centre for potential sites. The representative from McGills requires further information in order to assess whether the panels will be cost effective. J Gilbert suggested that C Boath produce a report to be submitted to the committee, or organise a presentation from one of the suppliers.

K Sampson advised that Forfar GC have erected a wind turbine and biomass plant at their course. J Gilbert advised that the R&A would be against a wind turbine.

J Gilbert advised that P Sawers and G Duncan are still to discuss the Energy Saving Report further.

Pin Positions

G Paton advised that there is a system that can produce pin positions at a cost of £300 per year. A Reid advised that he is familiar with this system and it is used at St Andrews course also. A Reid advised that he has received authority from G Duncan to purchase this software. He also advised that after the 1st year, CGLMC Ltd will receive a '3 courses for the cost of 2' discount on the software. A Reid suggested that there be no change to the policy of the greenkeeper selecting the pins on the day and the committee agreed. The committee also agreed to run the system on all 3 courses. J Gilbert confirmed that it was at the discretion of the greenkeepers to place the pins appropriately for the day unless during a competition where the Committee can decide on pin positions.

K Stott

K Stott advised that he was delighted to take on the position of Head Greenkeeper for the Burnside course and that he was looking forward to getting on with the job.

Buggies

A McArtney advised that he recently witnessed 2 buggies out on the course, one being an old buggy with golf bags strapped to the back. He suggested that this looked unprofessional. A Reid advised that only one buggy should be out on the course at the moment as CGLMC Ltd are waiting on a delivery of a new buggy. A Reid agreed that this looks unprofessional. J Gilbert advised that C McLeod has final authority to make decisions on whether the buggies go out. He suggested that this may have been a requirement that the 2 buggies had to be used on this day.

Mobility Scooters

A Reid advised that he has updated the policy to specify the particular types of scooters that can be used on the course and where they can be used. He has also altered the policy to allow scooters to drive on non mown turf in the winter. This will be released to members who are known to use mobility scooters and will be updated on the website.

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

KS