

**Minutes of the CGLMC Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the
CGLMC Ltd Office on Monday 16th June 2014**

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

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

Meeting began 1900 hours.

Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Links Superintendents Report

J Gilbert advised that he agreed with A Reid's assessment that the playing surfaces are in excellent order and advised of a job well done on all 3 courses.

J Gilbert enquired to whether an intermediate cut would be carried out on the rough on Championship Course. A Reid advised that C Boath has this scheduled to be carried out this week on selected holes. There will not be any specific intermediate cut on the Buddon Links and Burnside courses as they are currently cut on a regular basis.

P Sawers enquired to whether the area of rough between the 5th and 6th holes will be cut back this year again. A Reid advised that this rough has been thinned out, but is not cut back as far as last year. He will look at the area again and a decision will be made. It may be that the rough is strimmed in this area.

L Gordon advised that the rough to the right of the 4th hole on the Burnside course was very long. A Reid advised that this was cut back last week.

A McCartney advised that there are visibility issues from the back tee of the 8th hole on the Buddon Links course. The grass is very thick around the pond on the right hand side making it difficult to see from the tee. S Mitchell advised that this will be looked at in this year's winter works programme.

3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship Course

J Gilbert asked for clarification of the out of bounds area at the back left of the 18th green. G Paton advised that all posts are classed as out of bounds, not just the white posts, and therefore any ball inside the fence posts is in bounds.

G Paton advised that the turf at the approach to the 2nd green is in a fairly bad condition. A Reid advised that he is aware of this, but the turf is just not taking. He advised that this year he has tried to minimise the amount of hoops put out on the course and due to this being a heavily trafficked area it is struggling to grow. It is being fed and watered regularly to encourage growth.

Burnside Course

J Gilbert commented that he believes the course is in its best condition for a few years. A Reid is to pass the comment onto the Burnside staff.

Buddon Links Course

In regards to topdressing the fairways (7 in total), J Gilbert asked for clarification that one hole would be done per week. S Mitchell confirmed that this was correct, except for the 2 new holes which require extra attention. A Reid advised that the reason for the topdressing is to try and get more density into the fairways.

P Sawers enquired to whether the ponds will be cleared. S Mitchell advised that he has not managed to undertake this task yet but intends to get on top of it soon. J Gilbert advised that there is currently a pond management policy in place.

4. STRI Reports

Championship Course

Pg 6 – J Gilbert advised that the attention to detail comment was particularly impressive.

J Gilbert advised that it was good to see that it has been noted that the sward profile is the best of all Championship venues.

J Gilbert enquired to why irrigation had been highlighted in the report. A Reid advised last year the turf was dried out in order to reflect the Links type appearance of the course. Some of the grasses dried out too much. There was also upgrading of the irrigation system happening last year, meaning that it was more difficult to get an accurate coverage. A Reid advised that the new irrigation system is now in place and will provide a more accurate and appropriate result.

Pg 7 – It was enquired to why there is poor turf on the 11th hole. A Reid advised that this turf was not from the nursery but was purchased from an external source. He advised that it was not as 'clean' as he would have liked it but it is similar to the turf in place on the 17th hole which in time has become acceptable.

In regards to the quality of turf on the right hand side of the 11th hole, J Gilbert enquired to whether it would be more appropriate to lift and replace it. A Reid agreed that it would be best to lift it and will arrange for this to be carried out.

A Reid advised that he was happy with how the assessment went. He advised that the grass was wet on the day of the STRI visit but it is good to see that the greens are now becoming firmer even when the ground is wet.

A Reid suggested that the work to the 3rd fairway may be something to include in the winter works. The committee agreed.

J Gilbert advised that these reports are only guidelines and are open to interpretation by the committee and head greenkeepers.

Buddon Links Course

J Gilbert advised that this was a very positive report.

Pg 3 – J Gilbert asked that the greenkeepers be sensible in regards to extending carries from the tees and take into account the ability of junior and senior players.

C Yule enquired to whether S Mitchell agreed with the comments made in regards to the 10th green. S Mitchell advised that he did agree with the comments that the contours are too severe. He suggested that this needs to be addressed within the winter works. G Paton suggested that the whole green does not need to be lifted and only the strong contours to be reduced. A Reid advised that it is often easier to lift the whole green then returf again, which means there is less chance of a 'patchwork' effect taking place. This will be proposed in this year's winter works. A Reid advised that the approach to the green will also be included.

S Mitchell advised that he is pleased with the report.

5. Commonwealth Games Update

G Duncan advised that he has a meeting scheduled with Daryl Greenfield this Thursday. He advised that the Commonwealth Games Organisers are receptive to the fact that CGLMC Ltd need an extension to the car parking allowance that is currently in place.

G Duncan advised that there will be no police checks necessary for golfers parking at the Burnside car park and gaining access to the Practice Ground. CGLMC Ltd will be responsible for issuing tickets to those wishing to park in this area. Tickets will be available from the Burnside Starters Box and the CGLMC Ltd office but will not be made available until closer to the actual 5 day event.

J Gilbert enquired to whether an agreement has been reached in order to have the gate mended. A Reid advised that it was agreed the Commonwealth Games Contractors will replace the gate after the event, but in the meantime will cover the area with temporary fencing in the evening. J Gilbert advised that he has noticed that the temporary fencing has not been put up in the evening. A Reid is to look into this matter and make sure the temporary fence is used in the evenings.

A Reid advised that fencing is to be set up at the Buddon Links course between the 13th tee and 17th green. This fence will become the new out of bounds which is around 1ft in from the current out of bounds area. G Duncan will organise a local rule for this time.

6. Any Other Competent Business

J Gilbert asked that the pricing in the Tea hut be looked into and a report prepared for the Greens Sub-committee.

J Gilbert advised that it was agreed previously that the back tees on the 11th and 13th holes of the Buddon Links course would not be used (unless a player specifically requests to play these tees) due to concerns over the length of the course. S Mitchell advised that these tees will not be used in the future unless permission is received.

J Gilbert advised that on one particular weekend there was an issue with the amount of litter in the bins and them not being emptied. A Reid said there had been a weekend when the litter collector had not reported for duty. A Reid said he would look into improving the present system.

J Gilbert enquired to whether the Bird Ringer has been to the course. A Reid advised that this has not been arranged yet. A Reid will organise.

J Gilbert advised that there are swans and cygnets on the course, and there are also woodpeckers and lots of clover which is good for the bees. A Reid advised that some clover had to be sprayed, but a lot is being retained.

J Gilbert enquired to whether the Horsefly Boxes are now in place this season. S Mitchell said they are not out yet, but will be in place shortly. J Gilbert asked if we need to purchase another box. A Reid said they are expensive at around £1,200. It was agreed not to purchase a new box at the moment.

J Gilbert enquired to whether power-saving suggestions had been put forward. G Duncan advised that a number of improvements have been made. G Duncan is to produce a report for the next Greens Committee Meeting.

S Mitchell asked for committee approval to bring the size of the greens in slightly on the 2 new holes of the Buddon Course. The committee agreed.

P Sawers enquired to whether the new tee position software was up and running. A Reid advised that everything is now in place. The Burnside staff still need to be briefed on the new software. It is quite easy to implement on the Burnside course, but the Championship and Buddon Links courses are a little more awkward. A Reid advised that he needs to find someone who will be responsible for looking after this. It may be possible to remotely provide the information to the printer. At the moment, A Reid is organising the processes to be put in place. A Reid advised that the boxes on the course will still always have the pin position information.

W Thompson enquired to whether it was normal for greenkeepers to not wear steel toe-capped boots when out on the course. A Reid advised that the policy is that greenkeepers should always wear steel toe-capped boots, apart from when hand cutting the greens. This has been risk assessed.

There being no other competent business, the meeting was then closed at 1945 hours.

KS