

Minutes of the Carnoustie Golf Links Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the CGLMC Office on Monday 11 August 2014

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convener), L Gordon, P Sawers, A McArtney, C Yule, I Frier, G Paton

In Attendance: A Reid (Links Superintendent), C Boath (Head Greenkeeper, Championship Course).

Meeting began 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

W Thompson.

2. Links Superintendent's Report

C Boath said that "Fairy Ring" was causing problems with the look of some greens on the Championship course, but it was not affecting putting.

J Gilbert commented that all three courses were absolutely spot on and looking great for the time of year. He also stated that overseeding could take place as often as was required as long as there was no pattern left on the greens. A Reid commented on the drainage work taking place on the practice ground and said that the work had been minimal at the moment. Plans were in place to put lateral drains in at the far end of the practice ground. A Reid said that there should not be much disruption to the use of the practice tee when work was going on but it may be required to close off half the tee at a certain point. He said that it was awkward when working in the middle of the practice ground and therefore it may be required to close the tee for a few hours.

J Gilbert said he would like to look at the options because he would still like golfers to be able to hit a full drive on practising.

C Boath said Dundee Botanical Gardens were coming to review the sea pea planting of last year which took place at the back of the 18th green of the Buddon Links. A Reid said cleaning of the burn prior to the Tassie would take place and that permission had been received from SEPA to do some mechanical work.

3. Course Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

J Gilbert said he felt that sand on the Burnside bunkers was very good but the Championship bunkers were not quite so good.

A Reid explained that a lot of different sands had been tried on the Championship but the ball was plugging too easily. He explained that the bunkers are smaller on the Burnside and Buddon Links and therefore the bigger bunkers on the Championship Course are more of a challenge. He said he had found a sand mixture which he is optimistic will be better. C Boath said he was planning this winter to take all the sand out and place the same sand in all bunkers.

J Gilbert asked in the short term to loosen the floor of the bunkers and add sand if required.

J Gilbert asked C Boath if he could prepare a short report on bunker raking which could be located within the Caddiemaster's office so that caddies would better understand the correct way to rake a bunker.

J Gilbert said he was very happy with the results of the Rescue product , where it had been used on the Championship Course.

C Boath said the recent rainfall had resulted in a lot of pitch marks appearing on the Championship Course and once again he was disappointed about the lack of repair work undertaken by golfers.

Burnside

J Gilbert asked A Reid about heather plants on the 15th and whether they were developing properly. A Reid said work was taking place to develop the heather and he appreciated money had been spent on buying in the plants so they needed to be looked after.

Buddon Links

J Gilbert said top dressing could take place on the one fairway a week basis.

J Gilbert asked that work be done to ensure that the practice tee was available for the Tassie when it would be heavily used.

4. Junior Tees

P Sawers asked that the junior tees on the Burnside and the Buddon Links be prepared as proper tees. A Reid said this would take place and that tee balls would be used and marker posts installed.

P Sawers said that the Golf Services Manager should be approached to produce score cards for the junior course.

I Frier asked A Reid to try and identify level spots so that the tees are presented properly.

J Gilbert mentioned that the short game practice area adjacent to the 2nd hole Burnside could possibly be another junior course but he would like to defer that until next year. He would like to see a draft plan of how it is envisaged that this be used for juniors.

5. Tea Hut

P Sawers advised that the present contract is up until May 2015 and that the present licensees always pay their rent in full and on time.

It was agreed that a price list of items should be put on display. A McCartney questioned whether the price list should be in both sterling and American currency as they are different.

Comment was made with regard to the coffee shop in the Golf Centre and P Sawers said she was going to meet with the Hotel on a number of matters to do with the coffee shop.

6. Commonwealth Games

J Gilbert said that he was unhappy that the contractors had not adhered to a request to close one of the gates at the end of day.

He mentioned the iron play area on the practice ground and said that the soil there had been compacted which would cause problems during an Open Championship when correct drainage was important. He mentioned the area behind the 12th green Buddon Links where there is now a tarmac area which he thought should be reinstated back to the way it was before.

It was agreed that J Gilbert and A Reid would go out and look at the area and report back.

It was confirmed that the BBC gave a donation the Links charity for the use of a golf buggy during the Commonwealth Games.

J Gilbert advised he will look at all issues with regard to the Commonwealth Games, including mitigating the area behind the 12th green Buddon Links.

7. Energy Report

J Gilbert said this should be deferred until the next Greens Meeting.

8. Any Other Competent Business

A Reid reported that the toilet door is now working correctly on the 15th Championship / 8th Burnside. New water fountains are being ordered which A Reid said were expensive and it could possibly be the case that people were asked to donate water fountains.

P Sawers asked that the course rangers check the bins on a Saturday and a Sunday, particularly in the tee areas near the tea hut.

A McArtney commented that the rough on the 4th hole Burnside was quite severe and A Reid said they would try some more chemical treatment to get it under control.

P Sawers requested that a cut off walkway be constructed leading to the ladies 18th tee of the Buddon Links.

Meeting closed 20.00 hours