

**Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the
Links Parade Office on Monday 11th February 2013**

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convenor), L Gordon, A McCartney, S Brown, C Yule, G Wilson.

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), C Boath (Championship Head Greenkeeper).

Meeting began 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

P Sawers.

2. Links Superintendents Report

J Gilbert enquired to whether the dead trees at the right hand side of the Burnside course (due to be removed) were large trees and whether they were a health and safety risk. C Boath advised that the trees were small and were no health and safety risk. J Gilbert highlighted the point that these trees could be habitats for wildlife.

C Boath advised that J Philp (previous Links Superintendent) visited the course. He gave a talk to the staff which he also delivered in Harrogate at the Bigga conference.

G Duncan and A Reid are arranging interviews for the Head Mechanic replacement. C Yule enquired to whether a presentation will be arranged for Eric Watson. G Duncan advised that there is no official policy to arrange a presentation and individual cases are assessed on merit. Eric would have been with CGLMC Ltd for 25 years this year, which normally merits acknowledgment. This will be discussed at the next full meeting.

3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship Course

J Gilbert advised that as much top dressing as necessary can be carried out on all three courses up until 15th March, then only one fairway per week thereon.

All gorse cutting should be completed by the end of February as to not disturb any nesting birds from March onwards.

C Boath and A Reid are to liaise with the Committee in regards to sand capping and completing the final shapes of the mounds between the 10th and 11th holes Championship.

L Gordon advised that the Ladies club are happy with the new walkway at the 8th hole.

Burnside Course

Top dressing comments as Championship course.

G Wilson enquired to the areas where the broom is being treated. He was advised that the 10th, 11th and 14th holes are being treated. J Gilbert advised that if the treatment fails after the summer, the heather will need to be removed and all of the broom be killed. This will be discussed further at the next Environmental Sub-Committee meeting on 8th March.

J Gilbert asked C Boath to advise C Law to liaise with the committee before planting on the 4th hole.

J Gilbert enquired to why work was being carried out on the mounds at the 16th tee, C Boath advised that this is a tidying up exercise.

Buddon Course

Top dressing comments as Championship course.

4. Course Closure

G Duncan advised the committee on the procedure that is currently in place to decide on course closures. He advised that the Head Greenkeeper in charge on that day will advise G Duncan of the state of the course, and give an opinion of whether the course should stay open or closed. He advised that in the winter, this decision often has to be made while it is still dark, adding to the difficulty. He advised that a call has to be made as early as possible as there are players at the starters box before the course is due to open, and many others will phone in the morning to find out whether they should travel or not.

G Duncan advised that usually the course can go from open to closed, or closed to open, but not open to closed to open in one day, as this would logistically be too difficult. He advised that there have been rare occasions where the 'wrong' decision has been made, but as stated before, it is difficult to judge the course in the dark, and often the weather forecasts can be wrong.

G Duncan advised that in general the procedure does work. He advised that to move forward, more information and advice has to be given to golfers quicker and easier. Therefore, the website will be updated quicker and more often.

The committee agreed that the staff have done well to keep the courses open as much as they have over the winter, especially in comparison to other courses. They agreed that keeping players up to date is important.

5. Greenkeeping Equipment

J Gilbert advised the committee that a Greenkeeping equipment list was compiled by A Reid which was submitted to the Finance Committee for discussions. The Finance Committee referred the list back to the Greens Committee for discussions regarding necessity and priority. A Reid has submitted a report to the Greens Committee advising of the need for the equipment and their necessity. J Gilbert suggested that this is an excellent report which highlights the reasons why CGLMC Ltd needs to invest in new equipment. He suggested that if CGLMC Ltd want to get ahead and stay as one of the best, then the courses have to be kept up to the highest quality. J Gilbert then proposed that the whole equipment list be submitted to the Finance Committee to discuss the affordability, and this was seconded by G Wilson. The committee unanimously agreed.

A McArtney enquired to whether there will be any tax relief of the equipment. He was advised that a figure of around £24,000 would be saved in corporation tax if all the equipment was purchased.

6. Any Other Competent Business

Mats will be removed and normal play will commence on 29th March 2013. All clubs will be informed.

S Brown enquired to the procedure of pin placements in the winter. C Boath advised that pins are generally placed 3 yds in from the edge of the green in the winter so as to protect the centre of the greens for main season play.

G Wilson advised that the work on 17th hole of the Championship course has been excellent and blends in very well.

There being no other competent business, the meeting was then closed at 1925 hours.

KS