

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

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

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

Meeting began 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

There were none.

2. Links Superintendents Report

J Gilbert enquired into what made up the 'home made feed'. A Reid advised that this is lawn sand with some other feed ingredients.

The committee agreed that the turf on the courses looks good.

3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship Course

It was enquired to how long it would take to build the rubble drain at the Golf Centre. A Reid advised it would only be a few hours work.

Burnside Course

J Gilbert suggested that there was quite a lot of work included in this forecast for this early in the year. A Reid advised that he expected C Law is simply covering for any work that may take place in the next few months that he might manage to do early.

J Gilbert advised that the gorse / trees at the 4th hole need to be approved before work is carried out.

J Gilbert asked for the wording of the tree cutting at the 'Triangle' to be amended to 'cut down trees as previously agreed' as it reads as though all the trees will be removed.

Buddon Links Course

All fairways have now been verti-drained. Only areas with little grass cover will be sanded.

Trees at the back of the 10th hole have been removed.

J Gilbert, G Duncan and S Reid will suggest hoop positions for the start of the season.

4. Update on New Holes – Buddon Links

In general, progress with the 2 new holes is on track. There is now a strong grass cover. R Windows will be asked to give advice on the best feed available. There have been problems with the top soil on the new 10th hole, but S Mitchell advised that he is confident it will be fine. It is hoped this hole will be open around June time. The other new holes will most likely be open in June 2014. J Gilbert advised that there is no strict deadline for this work to be complete.

G Duncan advised that the project is currently within budget.

The committee were agreed that the new holes are an excellent addition to the Buddon Links course.

P Sawers suggested that a feature article be made of the new holes. This would be good PR for the course. G Wilson suggested that names for the new holes need to be considered. This will be raised at the next Management Committee Meeting.

5. Summer Circuit

Bunkers

A Reid advised that all bunkers will be ready for the start of the season.

10th – 11th Hole – Championship Course

It is hoped that the turf will be laid in this area either this week or next week. A drop zone may be required.

17th Hole – Championship Course

There may be a slight problem on the 17th fairway of the Championship course with joins in the turf. Preferred lies may need to be used.

4th Green – Buddon Course

The front of the green will need to be used for the start of the season. S Mitchell advised that there are a few positions available. It was advised that the temporary green could be used, but only in extreme cases, and the committee would have to be notified in advance. It was generally felt that the area on the green could be marked and relief taken. It was not seen as an issue if players had to putt through the new area.

Irrigation

This will start next week on all three courses. The Championship course will be the first to have the work carried out and it is hoped should be complete before the start of the season as this course will have the most disruption. There will be less disruption to the other 2 courses. It was considered making this GUR rather than marking the areas. There will not be a huge amount of groundwork, as the main disruption will mostly come from greenkeepers working on the fairways. Notices will be put on the website and the boxes. A letter will also be sent to clubs informing them of the works.

6. Summary of Environment Meeting

It was advised that the Environment performance indicator is on Amber on the performance indicators, and this is because the previous Environmental Management plan is due to come to the end of the 5 year period. J Gilbert said that he had asked the 3 head greenkeepers to come up with their own environmental plans and they had produced very impressive plans which were detailed and comprehensive.

A Reid explained the position of the R&A who were encouraging Open championship venues to obtain the official GEO environmental certification. He explained that, in order to obtain such certification, it was necessary to have input from a qualified ecologist, such as Dr Bob Taylor of STRI. Bob Taylor would be prepared to carry out the necessary work at a discounted cost of £5,500 and G Duncan has advised that there is scope to include it in next year's budget.

After discussion, the committee agreed to recommend the retention of Dr Taylor as a consultant to work towards the GEO certification.

6. Any Other Competent BusinessRockery at Burnside Course

A Reid suggested that since the area has been stripped back, it may be time to make changes. He suggested that the rockery be removed completely and the access to the 1st tee be opened up (similar to the 1st tee at the Championship course). The committee agreed that C Law and A Reid should submit drawn proposals to the committee for approval.

R&A Report

It was advised that the R&A have provided a report to CGLMC Ltd. It was advised that some points are for CGLMC Ltd to deal with, and others are for Angus Council. The directors will receive a copy of this correspondence. A Reid advised that a representative from the R&A is due to visit the course in the next few weeks, so the report can be discussed with them at that point. G Wilson advised that all points highlighted can be dealt with, apart from the Seagreen issue. Discussions were held regarding the drainage at the practice ground – whether the land should be raised, or electrical pumps used.

A Reid advised that he has articles that can be published in regards to the work being carried out by the greenkeepers on the course. He was advised that all articles be given to L Gordon to be publicised. L Gordon will meet with A Reid next week.

J Gilbert suggested that every 3rd weekend on the Championship course, the tee boxes be set on the white tee. This is a request from many of the low handicapped players. The committee agreed to recommend this rota. The clubs will be informed.

S Mitchell now has paint to go onto the boardwalk at the Buddon Course. This is a non slip paint for wet conditions, but it is not effective in the ice or snow. The boardwalk is closed if there is ice or snow so this solution is acceptable.

The yardage markers will be replaced on the sprinkler heads. Broken ones will be replaced first before all of the others.

G Duncan advised that the previous day had been a perfect example of the difficulties faced when making a decision to close, or keep open, the course. He advised that the decision was made to keep the course open all day, but, at certain times, the snow had made play very difficult. At other times, there was no problem with playing conditions. Complaints were received from players that the course was kept open when it should have been closed, but this depended on the time they were due to tee off. The committee agreed that the right decision was made as golfers then had the option to play or not.

There being no other competent business, the meeting was then closed at 1930 hours.

KS