

**Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the CGLMC Ltd Office on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convenor), P Sawers, L Gordon, C Yule, A McArtney.

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), A Reid (Links Superintendent).

Meeting began 1900 hours.

**1. Apologies**

G Wilson, S Brown.

**2. Links Superintendents Report**

J Gilbert advised that in his opinion the new yellow tees were working well and the course furniture fitted in with the existing tee markers. The committee agreed.

C Yule enquired to how far behind the turf growth was on the course. A Reid advised that the conditions are similar to February / March time, but he considered that the growth is not quite as much as a month behind. He advised that he was confident that whenever the weather improves, there will be quick improvements in the growth and we will catch up.

P Sawers enquired to when the bridge at the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole of the Burnside would be open. A Reid advised that it would be the end of April to give the turf a chance to establish.

The shelter for the teehead starters should be completed by mid May at the latest. It is still to go out to tender, but it will not take long to build.

The maintenance of new holes on the Buddon Links course will most likely be a full time role. It will need checked every day with intensive works being carried out.

A Reid voiced his congratulations to all the Greenkeeping staff for the hard work they put in over the winter. He advised that he has already spoken to them in person. The committee extended their congratulations.

A Reid enquired to whether there had been any feedback in regards to the new bunker sand. He was advised that there had been no negative feedback. P Sawers advised that she had received some good comments. This sand will now be used in the bunkers.

### **3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts**

#### Championship Course

Top dressing will only take place one fairway per week, once the growth has started and not at present.

P Sawers advised that she had received comments about a greenkeeper clearing out the burn without wearing a hard hat. A Reid advised that the health and safety instruction to staff is that a hat must be worn, but it need not be a hard hat. P Sawers advised that the person in question was wearing a hat. A Reid asked that any concerns about health and safety matters be referred to him as quickly as possible so he could deal with the matter. P Sawers said she had telephoned G Duncan immediately on seeing the greenkeeper at work and it was agreed that contacting a member of staff via a mobile phone was the most efficient way to ensure matters were dealt with asap.

#### Burnside

J Gilbert advised that he would be delighted to see the area in front of the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee repaired. This should be included in the Winter Works.

It was advised that it had been agreed to have the rough cut to the same finish as it was at the end of last season. J Gilbert asked A Reid to remind C Law. A Reid advised that sometimes it is better to let the turf grow in and establish before cutting it back, rather than constantly cutting. It will be at the appropriate length by the start of the season.

L Gordon suggested that the turf at the back of the 5<sup>th</sup> green be grown a little longer. She was advised that this will happen when the weather picks up.

#### Buddon Links Course

L Gordon enquired to what 'hand water new faces' meant. She was advised that this meant watering the bunker faces that have been revetted over the winter to promote growth.

P Sawers enquired to whether the paint on the walkway at the 17<sup>th</sup> had been completed yet. A Reid advised that it is due to be done by the end of April, but he was not sure if it has been carried out yet. P Sawers then asked if whilst this paintwork is being carried out, whether the sleepers next to the tea hut could be painted also, as she has received comments from players advising that this area is slippery when wet. A Reid advised that this will be carried out in the mean time, but it is due to be turfed next winter.

#### **4. Greenkeeping Staff Structure**

J Gilbert advised that a review and restructure of the Greenkeeping staff was carried out a few years ago and was very successful. At that point, a second phase was suggested in that all three courses should have a 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant position. It was advised that A Reid has been monitoring the staff structure for a while now and believes that now is the time to implement this second phase. A Reid suggested that there are currently staff that almost do a 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant role without having the title. There would be little effect on the salary budget. After discussion, the committee agreed to recommend this proposal to the full committee for approval.

#### **5. Fred Connacher Visit**

This visit was recommended by the Environmental Meeting. F Connacher provided advice and recommendations on his visit. He suggested that CGLMC Ltd apply for a full felling licence for the trees at the 6,7,16 Burnside triangle, as this would cover all eventualities. J Gilbert advised that in his opinion, this is a very worthwhile visit and should be carried out every year. A Reid is still awaiting the formal report. A Reid advised the F Connacher provided excellent technical advice.

#### **6. Any Other Competent Business**

The burn was cleaned out last week. It could not be completed before the start of the season. Areas in play and potential flood areas will be targeted throughout the season.

J Gilbert enquired to why turf had been removed from the area close to the Barry level crossing and why there were trenches in the ground. A Reid advised that the turf was used for the 3<sup>rd</sup> hole Burnside and the trenches are from staff carrying out digger training. The trenches will be filled in and raised, and the turf will be regrown.

The committee agreed to recommend the removal of the rock garden at the 1<sup>st</sup> tee Burnside. This would allow the putting green to be extended and would fit in with the R&A's traffic management plans. A Reid is to draw up plans and present to the full committee. This would be a winter project.

In answer to a question from John Gilbert, A Reid said that he had spoken to the Angus Council Shoreline Manager who had advised that work would only be done to the rock armour if it started to 'fall apart'.

P Sawers advised that she had been asked by the company renting the Tea Hut whether they could have some more prominent signage at the hut to advise visitors that they can get refreshments there. A Reid advised that a small sign has been ordered to put on the box at the 10<sup>th</sup> hole Championship advising of the Tea Hut coming up. It was suggested that a sign that is in keeping with the rest of the building should be erected. There is also the opportunity for a sandwich board that can be taken in in the evening. A Reid is to liaise with the tenants to come to a solution.

P Sawers advised that she has had requests from some lower handicapped players that they would like to be able to play from the Hogan tees during some tournaments. The committee agreed that this would be a club decision and they would then have to request approval from the committee. A Reid advised that this would cause no problems turf wise.

P Sawers advised that she had received a request from some lady golfers asking whether CGLMC Ltd would consider purchasing buggies that could be hired out for the Buddon Links course, as it will be longer in the future. The committee agreed that they would not be willing to do this as it is not CGLMC Ltd policy. Players can bring their own buggy if they require it.

A McCartney inquired as to why pieces of turf were sitting in the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> fairway of the Championship course last week. A Reid advised that this was due to essential maintenance work and the turf was removed promptly. A sign is currently in place at the 1<sup>st</sup> hole Championship advising of the ongoing works. A Reid apologised for this disruption.

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

KS