

Minutes of the Carnoustie Golf Links Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the CGLMC Ltd Office on Monday 10th June 2013

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

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

Meeting began 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

There were none

2. Links Superintendents Report

J Gilbert asked what the intentions were for managing the rough. He enquired to whether there was a suitable time in the near future to cut it back a little. C Boath advised that individual thick areas are being targeted as and when they need thinned out. There was no blanket cutting scheduled.

J Gilbert advised that last year, in general, the scores on the Burnside course were coming in quite high, but this year they are lower. It seems that play is becoming quicker also. The Northern Ladies got around the Championship course in around 4 hours with generally low scores last week. He felt that these indicators supported the view that the rough is at the correct level and is perfectly fair.

J Gilbert commented that the new holes on the Buddon Links course are maturing well and look excellent.

J Gilbert enquired to whether there was a completion date for the ongoing irrigation works. C Boath advised that Hunter would be visiting the course next week, and at that point he would be more likely to get a completion date. The software side of things is taking a long time.

3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship Course

C Boath advised that in connection with environmental course management, he gave a talk at Woodlands Primary School in regards to the work Carnoustie is doing for bees in the Operation Pollinator project. It was picked up by Angus Council and they are going to give recognition to CGLMC Ltd for this work. C Boath advised that he and P Sawers are to attend a ceremony in the Carnoustie Hotel. L Gordon is to look into promoting this event.

There have been problems with young people hanging about the course in the evening, drinking and on BMX bikes. This takes place mainly on a Friday and Saturday evening around the shelter at the 12th hole and around the Greenkeeping sheds (mostly BMX's at the sheds). C Boath advised that he has called the police on a few occasions, and they deal with it at the time, but it does not solve the ongoing issue. C Boath advised that a new Community Police Officer has been appointed and he is keen to deal with this issue. C Boath and the Head Greenkeepers will be working closely with the Community Officer. B Boyd has been asked to highlight this problem to the police also. These youngsters do not cause much damage, the problem is that visitors may encounter them and they give a poor image of Carnoustie. P Sawers advised that the Golf Centre will have to be monitored if they start to gather near it.

Burnside Course

J Gilbert enquired to whether the young broom had been sprayed. C Boath advised that as far as he was aware, it was carried out last week.

Buddon Links Course

There were no questions on the report.

4. STRI Reports

The reports were outstanding and a congratulatory message had been received from the R&A. L Gordon to publicise.

C Boath advised that the greenkeeping staff are continually trying to improve the courses.

J Gilbert enquired to the ways in which the Championship course can be improved. C Boath advised that he is trying to improve the rooting of the turf and to keep organic matter down. Lowering the organic matter helps the playing surfaces also.

J Gilbert congratulated the greenkeeping staff on these outstanding reports.

L Gordon will provide extracts from the reports to the local press.

5. 1st Tee Championship Course

Tee Head Starters Box

A McCartney advised the he thought that the facing on the box was meant to be red brick, not white harling. He was advised that it was changed to blend in with the hotel.

The electrics are going in at the end of the week, but this will only be minimal for a light and a heater. There will be no wi-fi or data cables.

It is expected to be complete within 2 weeks, and this will be ahead of the original 6 week schedule.

Hogan Sign

J Gilbert advised that he gave permission to temporarily erect the sign in its current position, until a decision was made by the committee on where they would like it placed. Discussions were held but the committee agreed that it should be left in situ at the moment and possibly moved once a decision had been made on the placement of the box for tees and pencils. C Boath advised that it is good for breaking up the traffic going onto the first tee.

Tees/Pencils Box

J Gilbert advised that retrospective permission is required for this box. It is against the 'uncluttered' ethos of the 1st tee, but is also very useful. Discussions were held regarding whether it should be kept or removed, and if applicable, where it should be placed. The committee were of the opinion that it should be placed nearer, if not hooked onto, the Tee Head Starters box. After further discussions, the committee agreed to bring back ideas for placement to the next Greens Committee meeting. It was asked that the Pro Shop be advised of the procedures and etiquette of putting things on to the course.

6. Any Other Competent Business

J Gilbert advised the committee that visitors are only allowed to use the Yellow or Red course when they play at Carnoustie, apart from every third weekend when the white course is available. J Gilbert then proposed that visitors should only be offered the Yellow or Red course even if the tee boxes are on the white tees. G Wilson advised that he thought visitors could play off of any course at the moment. He was advised that this had been discussed in the past, but was not agreed. It was advised that PGA professionals, or visitors who ask in advance for special circumstances can request to play from the white tees with permission given by either G Duncan or C McLeod. It was discussed that the course are long and reasonably difficult off the yellow tee. After discussions, the committee agreed to recommend that visitors can only use Yellow or Red tees unless special permission is obtained. Members and guests are allowed to play off any tee.

A McCartney enquired to why the 12th hole tee Championship is always placed where the green tee used to be sited. He was advised that this is necessary for the agreed length of the course.

C Both advised that the burn weeds at the 10th and 18th holes of the Championship course are to be cleared this coming week. The committee agreed that they are much better than last year.

It was advised that the operators of the Tea Hut have asked whether a black umbrella with red 'Coca-Cola' text can be erected outside the Tea Hut. This is to draw attention to the hut, and not necessarily to shade customers. After discussions, the committee agreed that there is already plenty of signage directing players to the Tea Hut and that the facility should be kept reasonably discrete.

P Sawers advised the directors that in general, the Northern Ladies competitors gave universal praise in regards to the Championship course, although, she did advise that some of the lower handicap players were finding that many of the balls that landed in the bunkers were sticking to the face of the bunkers. C Both advised that this is something the greenkeeping staff are constantly trying to resolve. He advised that the sand being too dry, or too wet, or being raked badly can all contribute to this situation. This is an ongoing problem which is constantly being worked on.

A McCartney enquired to whether a bench could be purchased and placed at the right hand side of the Caddie Masters door. The committee agreed that this was not required as there is a bench at the front of the building that can be used.

S Brown suggested that the rough had started to creep onto the fairway at the 17th hole of the Burnside course. He was advised that in fact this area has been cut back and the fairway is now wider that it was in the past.

There being no other competent business, the meeting was then closed at 1935 hours.