

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the CGLMC Ltd Office on Monday 14th October 2013

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

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), A Reid (Links Superintendent), C Law (Burnside Head Greenkeeper).

Meeting began 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

G Wilson.

2. Links Superintendents Report

A Reid advised that the course rating for the Championship Course was received today. He is still awaiting the ratings for the Buddon Links and Burnside Courses.

J Gilbert advised that he was at all three courses during the Dunhill Links and found that the general feedback suggested that the best greens are on the Championship Course. There were some comments suggesting that the practice putting green is slower than the greens on the course and bunker floors are firmer this year.

3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship Course

It was suggested that the revetting of the bunkers should be carried out as winter works, and not while there is still competitive play on the courses. A Reid advised that the bunkers are closed while they are being built. J Gilbert suggested that this work is disruptive to play and should be held back until the end of October. The committee agreed.

J Gilbert asked for confirmation that none of the bunkers would be re-built lower than their current height. A Reid confirmed that no bunker would be made lower unless it was discussed and approved by the committee.

It was advised that the work on the 5th (Hogan) tee Championship has already been carried out.

J Gilbert enquired to the use of the "Rescue" product and how it was being applied on the courses.. A Reid advised that the product is very effective, but requires a cautious approach. It is likely use of the product will continue next season.

Burnside Course

It was agreed that the Vertidrain on the 15th green would start the last week in October.

J Gilbert advised that he thought there was someone employed to rake the weeds from the burn. C Law advised that there is, but there is currently a large amount of weeds to be removed and he would like them all removed by the winter.

J Gilbert asked for confirmation that some of the trees on the 16th hole marked for removal will be retained. This was confirmed.

A McCartney advised that there is a lot of weeds at the left hand side of the burn on the 17th hole. C Law advised that they are to be removed.

L Gordon advised that she had been asked to enquire to the reason for the large amount of sand on the greens last week during the ladies sweepstake. C Law advised that this was an unfortunate mistiming along with a breakdown of one of the machines. He advised that normally they can stay ahead of play and the greens be ready for play in the morning, but on this occasion they were not.

J Gilbert advised that the sanding of the greens is a heavy maintenance procedure and should be discussed by the committee if it is likely to be disruptive to play. A Reid advised that this was included in the monthly maintenance reports. J Gilbert advised that it should have been highlighted that it could be disruptive to play in order to give member's notice. In future, these should be discussed by the committee.

Buddon Links Course

J Gilbert enquired to whether the burns and ditches were too full of water at present to use the weed killer. A Reid advised that this will only be carried out when the burns and ditches are dry enough. All works of this nature are carried out in line with the agreement with SEPA.

4. STRI Reports

J Gilbert enquired to whether the dry areas on the Championship fairways were a problem. A Reid advised that the fairways were intentionally dried out to reflect the dry summer in Carnoustie. He advised that some areas on the top of mounds dried out too much and didn't come back. The irrigation system was not working accurately over the summer which was another factor in allowing some areas to dry out too much. A Reid advised that the problem is not significant and will be straightforward to correct. If next summer is of a similar, dry nature, then measures will be taken to prevent the problem re-occurring. The irrigation system will be working properly next summer.

K Sampson enquired to how 'trueness' is measured. A Reid explained the devices used to measure this.

The committee extended congratulations to the staff for an excellent STRI Report.

5. Pond Management

The committee reviewed the report.

1. Large New Pond to the Right of the 12th Hole, Buddon Links

This pond already has a problem with bulrushes, which will become more significant over time. The proposal is to raise the water level slightly, which would drown the bulrushes as they do not survive in more than 1 metre of water.

C Yule enquired to whether there were any safety issues in raising the water level of the pond. A Reid advised that the pond is currently 2m deep in places and the proposals will only raise another 0.5m in total, therefore it will be no more dangerous than it currently is. There are signs advising of the deep water and thin ice in the winter. The height of the water depends on the water table.

Many of the bulrushes have already been removed from the pond.

2. Pond at the Practice Ground

The committee agreed to allow the area to become marshland. There will be no maintenance required in this area apart from grass cutting.

3. Pond at the South West Corner

J Gilbert advised that although this pond is not on the course, he is keen that it looks good. It is in an area which is heavily used by the public and is an excellent wildlife habitat. Some willow will be cleared from around the pond to make for easier public access.

4. Ponds at the 4th and 9th Holes, Buddon Links

J Gilbert advised that these areas are overgrown. He suggested that starting with the 9th hole and then the 4th hole, over 2 years, the ponds be de-watered and the vegetation be removed.

(5.) New 12th Hole

J Gilbert advised that he would be keen to keep this smaller pond pristine.

The committee agreed with the points raised in the Pond Management Report.

6. 1st Hole Buddon Links

L Gordon enquired to whether a junior area was still being considered for this piece of ground. J Gilbert advised that he had thought it could be multipurpose for juniors, members and visitors.

C Yule enquired to whether anybody has spoken with C Sinclair who had suggested he would be keen to see a junior area. The number of holes would be decided later, although a multiple of 18

would be best as it would easily allow for a round to be played. J Gilbert suggested that the existing 1st green be

kept for the moment (until the R&A request its removal). It could have around 4 flags and would allow for chipping and putting practice. This warm up area (apart from the 1st green) would be flat ground with greens marked, which would allow for changes to be made easily.

A Reid advised that he would like to move the practice nets to behind the Pro-Centre, allowing for a better flow to the warm up area.

The committee agreed to propose to the full committee that plans should be developed for a multi-use warm up facility that could be used by juniors, members and visitors. A Reid is to liaise with C Sinclair in order to draw up some design proposals.

J Gilbert suggested also that the public putting green be laid out with longer holes, which would make it more challenging. It would still be for putters only. P Sawers advised that the public putting green is in the worst condition this year than she has seen for a while. A Reid advised that it was heavily damaged after the Dunhill last year and is only starting to recover.

7. Any Other Competent Business

J Gilbert enquired to whether the old Stroke Savers had been written off. G Duncan advised that they had. J Gilbert then advised that there were still old stroke savers being issued. G Duncan advised that this was not acceptable and he would ensure that only accurate course guides were issued.

It was agreed that proper course guides and score cards would be set up for the opening of the new holes on the Buddon Links in April. This will include the names for the new holes.

J Gilbert enquired to whether a Lightning Policy had been drafted. G Duncan advised that a policy is in place and explained how it operated. The policy is sent out to all visitors and is on the website.

C Yule advised that it is important that Carnoustie now have a concise policy for lightning on the course.

G Duncan is still in conversation with Angus Council in regards to the flooding partnership. G Duncan is to find out whether G Wilson has been in contact with the R&A.

A Reid advised that the fence at the railway was damaged by a heavy goods driver working at the Dunhill. He had also damaged the boundary fence of the Burnside course. He advised that Network Rail will repair their side of the fence, and his staff will repair the course. All costs will be met by IMG or their insurers. A Reid advised that the driver was extremely apologetic and although he was partly to blame, the whole incident was an unfortunate accident.

K Sampson advised that he had been asked to raise the point that last Tuesday morning (around 8.30am) on the Burnside Course, the first 6 greens had not been cleared of dew. C Law advised

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that they would have been cleared by this time in the morning. P Sawers advised that the ladies teed off at 8.37am and the greens were clear by then. A Reid suggested that either the dew may have re-settled, or if it had been heavy, it may have clung to the grass more than normal. There was no reason to think that the greens had not been cleared by that time last Tuesday.

A Reid advised that last year the 16th tee on the Championship course was moved to the Ladies Dunhill tee. He asked the committee for approval to use this tee again during the week this winter and then move to the normal tee for the weekends. G Duncan advised that there are safety concerns raised about using the front of the normal 16th tee, but the Dunhill tee is fine. After discussions, the committee agreed to use the Dunhill tee during the week, and the back of the 16th tee at the weekends.

P Sawers congratulated C Boath for his recent award.

There being no other competent business, the meeting was then closed at 1945 hours.

KS