

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held at the CGLMC Office at 20 Links Parade on Monday 9th March 2015 at 7pm.

Present: J Gilbert (Convenor), P Sawers, W Thompson, I Frier, G Paton, A McArtney, C Yule

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

Meeting began at 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

L Gordon

2. Links Superintendent's Report

A Reid suggested that a boundary of some description be erected on the edge of the 1st tee Championship which would run to the burn. He provided some examples of this to the sub-committee.

J Gilbert said that he supported the idea and preferred the bollards and chain rather than a fence. I Frier said that he agreed that the bollards looked best and more in keeping with the surroundings. W Thompson strongly supported the principle of framing the tee. P Sawers suggested sandstone bollards to match in with the Golf Centre would maybe be an option.

J Gilbert requested that A Reid bring further examples to the next Greens meeting so that the Greens Sub-Committee could make a decision on what type of barrier to recommend.

W Thompson commented that the Championship course had been in magnificent condition over the winter. He mentioned, however, that the 14th tee Championship had suffered a lot of wear and tear and was not in good condition now. A Reid said that a new winter tee was being considered which would be sited down the walkway into the bushes. This was considered to be an excellent idea by the sub-committee.

J Gilbert said there were only 3 weeks until the end of the season but the tee would be looked at to see if there was anything that could be done in the short term.

3. Winter Works Updates

Championship

W Thompson said that the work on the 9th hole was outstanding and the removal of the bunker was not noticeable. He then said that the information that was received was very useful but it would be beneficial to have a percentage complete summary based on the original winter works schedule. J Gilbert said that this would be provided but it was always understood that the winter works proposals were ambitious and very labour intensive.

J Gilbert stated that there would be some GUR at the start of the season. These areas would require the golfer to take mandatory relief. Drop zones would be provided with lift and place in operation and signs would be erected to inform the golfer.

P Sawers asked that this information be put on the website and notices provided to the local clubs. Also this information should be passed to L Gordon for the newsletter.

W Thompson asked if information on matters such as this could be provided in the report so it could be seen prior to the meeting. J Gilbert commented that this has been discussed at the last Greens sub-committee meeting.

W Thompson commented that the work on the 10th hole was spectacular and suggested that before and after pictures would be well worth publicising. P Sawers said that K Stott, Burnside Head Greenkeeper, has pictures of the area before the work started and these could be used in a press article.

Burnside

J Gilbert said, on behalf of the Carnoustie Winter League, that, in their opinion, the Burnside had never been in a better condition over a winter and asked that these comments be passed onto K Stott and the team.

W Thompson asked about the broom growing between the 10th and 11th Burnside, which had been mentioned to him by his club committee.

J Gilbert explained that the process was to paint the plant with Timbrol and this was best done when the plant was growing because it then absorbs the chemical more effectively. This is a very labour intensive operation as the chemical has to be applied by hand. This will be carried out at the appropriate time as part of the broom management programme. J Gilbert referred to the broom on the 14th Burnside which had been treated, which was now dead and awaiting removal.

Buddon

J Gilbert said that it was permissible to sand both of the new fairways at the same time.

J Gilbert said that the new tees on the 2nd, 4th and 18th were excellent and the 8th hole was much more playable since the gorse and trees were cut back.

W Thompson said that it would be very informative to obtain data on the winter play over the Buddon Links as the course appeared much busier. He said when the 2 course season ticket was introduced as the minimum next season, more data on the number of rounds should be provided to establish if there was any changes in playing patterns. W Thompson said that the Carnoustie Club were introducing a Wednesday competition on the Buddon Links.

S Mitchell said that the 10th green would be in play from the start of the season but the pin will be at the back.

J Gilbert said that the rest which the 11th hole had received over the winter seemed to be very beneficial and this was confirmed by S Mitchell who said that the green surface was excellent.

4. Any Other Competent Business

USA Business Trip

J Gilbert asked A Reid for a summary of the recent business trip to the USA undertaken by him, C Boath and A McRae.

A Reid said that the Golf Industry Show was on a different scale to anything in the UK and was at least 5 times as big as the BIGGA exhibition in Harrogate, which itself is very impressive.

He said there were a lot more products on display and some of these were not available to be seen in the UK at the moment. A Reid said they had attended educational seminars and these had been extremely informative. There was also a visit to the Hunter Industries Factory who supply the sprinklers for the courses. Hunter Irrigation are the largest supplier of sprinklers to the domestic market in the USA and Carnoustie are an important client to them as they advance further into the golfing market.

J Gilbert asked if there were other Scottish venues represented. A Reid said there were at least 3, including Royal Aberdeen and The Old Course, St Andrews.

Burnside Shoe Cleaner

J Gilbert said that in his opinion a shoe cleaner should be provided for the Burnside course. The sub-committee agreed and suggested that an air cleaner similar to the one on the Championship course should be installed.

Approval was given for this purchase under the delegated powers given to the sub-committee.

Energy Audit

J Gilbert asked how the energy audit was progressing.

A Reid said that the full report would be due shortly. He said that the main concentration of the audit was at the Golf Centre and Greenkeeping Sheds, as these were the two biggest users of energy. A Reid said that the energy consultant had commented that the heating system in the Golf Centre was an excellent system but that no one knew how to manage the system efficiently. There would also be a number of recommendations with regard to the energy use in the Greenkeeping Sheds and that the full report would be available shortly.

W Thompson and A McArtney advised that the manufacturer of the heating system in the Golf Centre should be contacted for training and reference manuals. A Reid said that he and the General Manager had discussed that the best way forward was to employ a Janitor/Handyman who would have a sufficient knowledge to work the system properly. W Thompson said he supported this idea and said that a proper job specification should be produced which would detail the duties involved. A Reid said that he would compile an appropriate job description.

Amateurs

J Gilbert referred to the 2 week period at the end of March when competitors in the British Amateur were to be allowed access to the Championship course. He said no charge would be made for the competitors but they would have to play off mats and also play to any temporary greens that were in operation on the day. J Gilbert said that a maximum of 2 balls would be allowed to be hit by any player. W Thompson said that this was the process that had been agreed and the list of players in the World Amateur Golf rankings had been received. Competitors who wish to take advantage of this opportunity would have to contact the Pro Shop to book a time and provide acceptable ID on arrival.

W Thompson said that on the 15th April the Scottish Elite team would need 2 times only and that times between 10am to 11am had been pencilled in. Also on the 15th May there was the potential for a match between the Carnoustie Select and the Scottish team. As this day is fully booked they need to use local times and W Thompson said he would discuss this with the local golf clubs.

J Gilbert said that the tees would be marked with a short pole and a painted white dot.

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With regard to the week before the Championship, J Gilbert said it was previously agreed that competitors could use any available times after the

ballot had been drawn. It was confirmed that these rounds should be charged at 50% of the normal fee.

W Thompson said that he would organise the process where the team manager would have a formal session with A Reid on arrival at Carnoustie.

Toilets 15th Championship

A McArtney queried why the toilets were locked last Wednesday. A Reid said this was normal procedure and said that the toilets should be accessible by using the fob. A McArtney commented that his fob did not seem to work and A Reid said he would check the locking mechanism.

The meeting closed at 1940 hours.