

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Sub-Committee Meeting Held in the Committee Room at 20 Links Parade on Monday 22nd June at 7pm.

Present: J Gilbert (Convenor), P Sawers, W Thompson, G Paton, A McCartney, L Gordon

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

Meeting began at 1855 hours.

1. Apologies

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2. Links Superintendent's Report

J Gilbert explained that the greenkeeping staff and material costs had been shown in the report as requested.

3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

J Gilbert agreed with the overseeding work but asked A Reid to ensure that only half a green at a time was carried out rather than two thirds of a green. J Gilbert asked what the uptake was on the last overseeding work. A Reid said it was limited due to low temperatures so far this year.

J Gilbert asked about gorse root removal and A Reid said this was left of the 15th Championship and on the left of the 2nd Championship on the Buddon Links side of the road.

Burnside

J Gilbert asked A Reid to ensure the overseeding was done as a single pass. J Gilbert asked how the maintenance window was working. A Reid said it had worked well so far. The greenkeepers had managed to pencil tine and roll all 19 greens (including practice green) and top dress, brush and cut all approaches and 6 tees prior to any players reaching them.

W Thompson said he felt the sign on the 1st tee was confusing and was not clear on the reasons why players should not cut across prior to 9am. J Gilbert said that he felt the sign was reasonable and that the starters should inform

the golfers of the reasons why and asked G Duncan to ensure that the starters were able to supply this information.

Buddon Links

S Mitchell said he would be unavailable for 2 weeks and that deputy greenkeeper A Begg would be in charge during that period. He also said that work was progressing to have the course in the best possible condition for the Crows Nest Tassie.

4. STRI Reports

Championship

J Gilbert said it was an excellent report yet again. The main theme was to continue the programme of increasing fescue population within the sward. J Gilbert asked about the comments with regard to slightly relaxing the maintenance programme. A Reid said that this was saying that we did not need to have the greens in tournament condition at all times. A slight relaxation of the maintenance routines would help to increase fine fescue and this would not be noticeable to the golfers. J Gilbert said he was supportive of this but he wanted to ensure that we continue to maintain a green speed target of 9. A Reid said that this was quite achievable. The speed had been slightly lower than 9 on the day of the report, but this was to make the course playable in the very strong winds.

J Gilbert asked for A Reid's opinion on clipping yield and whether this was worthwhile. A Reid said it was very expensive and time consuming for the benefits delivered and therefore on balance it was not something he would recommend.

J Gilbert said that the greenkeepers had met all their target ranges and the course was in great condition.

He said that the report was an advisory one and it was ultimately up to the greenkeeping staff and trustees whether to follow the recommendations.

Burnside

J Gilbert explained that the Burnside report was only carried out every 2nd year. The report recognised the continual improvement achieved and said that the course was in great condition.

J Gilbert asked about the readings of the 2nd green as he felt it was one of the better greens. A Reid explained that the 2nd green was the best of the first 5 greens, but it was not up to the standard of the other greens on the course.

J Gilbert asked about the introduction of sweet vernal grass into the rough. A Reid explained this was an excellent rough grass and very suitable for links courses, however it was very expensive and therefore would only be used in small quantities.

5. Proposed New 2nd Hole Burnside

Following discussion, W Thompson suggested the best way forward was to make the modifications to the existing 3rd hole that would deal with all the agronomy issues. A Reid said this was all achievable although the amount of materials required would make the work expensive. W Thompson said that the funds would be provided if this was the best solution. A Reid said that if this project was undertaken, the timeframe would be after the Open Championship 2018. The committee agreed that this was the best way forward.

6. Amateur Championship

J Gilbert asked about the rifle firing at Barry Buddon during the Championship and asked if an approach could be made to see if shooting could be stopped for the Seniors Open in 2016. G Paton said that bookings for the ranges would be taken shortly and an approach should be made as soon as possible.

J Gilbert asked A Reid if the course protection method of using mats had been successful. A Reid said it had worked very well and it would be his intention to use the same method next year before the Seniors Open. J Gilbert queried the decision which had been taken to play all competitions as non-counting during the period when the mats were in operation. G Paton said that a mat was simply a preferred lie and therefore there was no reason for the events to be non-counting. G Duncan said that permission had been obtained from Angus County Golf Association to use mats. However a complaint had been received from a match secretary who had referred to the CONGU manual. The manual stated that the use of mats was approved for counting competitions but only between October to April. G Paton said that if permission was received from Angus County Golf Association this overruled the manual and therefore counting competitions could take place. G Duncan then said he would speak to Angus County and get a final decision in time for next season.

J Gilbert said there had been a complaint with regard to the Pro Shop giving permission for visitors to play off the back tees on Sunday. His understanding was that this was for season ticket holders only and he asked G Duncan to look into this.

A Reid said that the event had been very successful but that the R&A had relied on the greenkeeping staff to carry out work that he felt was their responsibility. He reported that there had been damage to the public putting green but the R&A would pay for the repairs. W Thompson said this should be included in the set of formal reports that are being pulled together.

7. Environmental

Operation Pollinator

C Boath submitted an excellent report on the operation pollinator and bird ringing projects and J Gilbert commented that this was an excellent report. He asked to be informed the next time the bird ringer is on site so he could meet with him.

Environmental Booklet

J Gilbert said he had met with Bob Taylor and they had discussed the environmental booklet. J Gilbert said he had authorised the booklet to cover all 3 courses and this would be an additional cost of £3000. J Gilbert said that Bob Taylor was here next week and asked if L Gordon was available to meet with him to discuss the booklet. J Gilbert asked G Duncan to ask if the R&A can fund the printing of the booklet, as it will be available in the schools, library and the Angus Council stands at the Open Championship.

Beautiful Scotland

J Gilbert advised the committee of the work that was taking place in the garden at 20 Links Parade and suggested there were more areas on the golf course which could contribute to Carnoustie having a higher profile in the event.

Energy Report

J Gilbert asked G Duncan what the position was with regard to the energy report. G Duncan said we were still waiting on the gathering of information on the heating system in the Golf Centre but he would chase up the report.

8. Any Other Competent Business

18th Tee Championship

L Gordon asked if a sign could be placed beside the 17th green to indicate the position of the 18th tee as some visitors were going on to the Burnside course by mistake. W Thompson suggested that a sign could be placed adjacent to the 18th tee to thank the visitors and to encourage them to enjoy the last hole of their Championship round.

Out Of Bounds

G Paton mentioned that the out of bounds defined for the Amateur Championship was causing confusion for players playing the 17th Burnside. A Reid said he would correct this.

Water Fountains

G Paton questioned the water pressure on the new fountains. A Reid said they were environmentally friendly and delivered the optimum amount of water to ensure no wastage.

Pedestrian and Cyclists

A McArtney raised the matter of the behaviour of the pedestrians and cyclists on the course who were ignoring the golfers and generally behaving badly. J Gilbert said Angus Council had made every effort to provide core paths for the public to use but these efforts were mostly ignored. Discussions took place about additional signage but it was felt there were enough signs already. W Thompson suggested a template be made to put paint signage onto the roads and path surfaces as this was the method used by local councils.

CCTV

W Thompson said that CCTV should be considered for the outside the Golf Centre in order to deter young people using their scooters and skateboards which are doing damage to the building.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1950 hours.