

Minutes of CGLMC Ltd Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room at 20 Links Parade on Monday 19th October 2015.

Present: J Gilbert (Convenor), G Paton, L Gordon, A McArtney, I Frier, C Yule,

In Attendance: A Reid (Links Superintendent), S Mitchell (Head Greenkeeper Buddon Links)

Meeting began at 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

P Sawers, W Thompson

2. Links Superintendent's Report

J Gilbert said the report was straight forward and there were no questions for the Links Superintendent. A Reid said the weather had been particularly helpful although the heavy dew had put disease pressure on the turf.

Burnside Maintenance Window

A Reid asked if the Burnside maintenance window could be continued next season. J Gilbert said that this season had been a trial period but he thought it had worked well. G Duncan said there had been no issues raised by season ticket holders.

The sub-committee agreed to recommend this to the full board.

3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Buddon Links

S Mitchell said that the 3 days at the Dunhill had been perfect for overseeding.

G Paton asked if one of the planks on the walkway could be replaced as it was broken.

S Mitchell confirmed that he would deal with this.

G Duncan asked about the positioning of the causeway. S Mitchell confirmed where the causeway would be built. J Gilbert said that it would be under water.

Championship

A Reid said the gorse root removal still remained to be completed from the previous month.

J Gilbert asked if the stump grinding was taking place on the 9th hole. A Reid confirmed it was but there was also gorse root stumps on other parts of the course.

G Paton said that the 2nd green was looking yellow. A Reid said it was due to the application of the Rescue product which was used to control grass growth.

L Gordon asked if the lifting of the decking and steel beams on the 18th was in preparation for the construction of the Imlay Bridges. A Reid said that the proprietary work was being done and that construction was due to start in the 2nd week of November.

Burnside

J Gilbert said the raising of the back section of the 15th green was approved but not the work to extend it until the new 16th hole was completed.

J Gilbert asked for clarification of the effect of 12mm tines. A Reid said that 12mm tine created quite a large hole but because there was no sand being applied the hole would close really quickly.

4. STRI Report

J Gilbert said the report from R Windows was excellent as usual with the only comment being a slight concern regarding the overseeding work being relaxed during August. J Gilbert said the greens sub-committee always had to balance course maintenance and playability and he felt on this occasion they had got the balance correct. A Reid said that he and C Boath had possibly come up with a compromise proposal to allow some overseeding work which would not have impacted upon play. A Reid said he would make proposals for next August as this was the best month of the year for overseeding.

J Gilbert asked about the overseeding programme. He said this had been in place for the 14 years he had been Greens Convenor and there had been progress made followed by regression on a regular basis. A Reid said that the Greenkeeping staff were dealing with very fine margins and once very high quality greens were established often work was required just to stand still. A Reid said that perseverance was the key to long term success. A Reid said that S Mitchell had visited Portrush last week and that he had reported that their greens were pure fescue. A Reid said that this had probably been achieved due to correct Greenkeeping practices over many decades whereas Carnoustie had only been a place of excellent Greenkeeping for the last 30 years. J Gilbert asked about the introduction of bent grass so that a bent/fescue mix could be achieved. A Reid said this would also produce a wonderful putting surface but that pure fescue remained to be the ultimate ambition.

J Gilbert said he felt the overseeding always had an impact although in most cases this was minimal.

STRI Burnside Report

A Reid said the report was due at the end of the week. J Gilbert said this would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Local Winter Rules

J Gilbert said he had asked for local winter rules to be prepared and the sub-committee had copies of the draft. J Gilbert asked G Paton if he was comfortable with the wording and G Paton agreed that everything was appropriate.

J Gilbert said he had one minor adjustment to allow a preferred lie when using a putter.

J Gilbert asked A Reid to ensure that if a GUR was in place and the nearest point of relief was a bush then a dropping zone be created. A Reid confirmed this would be done.

G Paton asked about pitch marks and whether anything could be done over the winter. G Duncan said that A Reid had new signs but ultimately the only sanction which worked was to take the green out of play and introduce a temporary green. G Paton mentioned pitch marks on the fringe of a green which he said a player was unable to repair prior to playing their shot. J Gilbert said they would review this issue for next season as it was not a problem during the winter.

J Gilbert said he had spoken to the Golf Services Manager about officially notifying the golf clubs about the winter closures.

L Gordon asked for confirmation where mats are to be used. A Reid said fairways only or more accurately closely-mown areas.

J Gilbert said that the bollards at the 1st tee had worked really well for separating players and spectators at the Dunhill.

J Gilbert asked about the large amount of branches that had been accumulated following the tree removal and how it was intended to dispose of these. A Reid said that a controlled fire one evening was the best method since this would not impact on any golfers. J Gilbert said that as much material as possible should be provided for the annual bonfire. A Reid said they would do this but the material can only be delivered on the day of the bonfire itself.

The sub-committee agreed to the disposal of the material via a controlled fire.

A Reid asked about a creation of a hard standing recycling area. J Gilbert said this had been talked about in the past and he was under the impression that there had been concerns about the suitability of an area. A Reid said this could fit in with the R&A's plans to develop an area.

6. Any Other Competent Business

Christmas and New Year Opening

J Gilbert said the Buddon Links and Burnside had been open on Christmas Day and New Year's Day but the Championship had been closed. J Gilbert said this had worked well and the sub-committee agreed to the same system this year.

Lost Property

J Gilbert asked if the lost property register was underway. I Frier said this would be on the agenda for the next Pro Shop meeting in November.

Environmental Booklet

J Gilbert asked what the progress was with the Environmental booklet. A Reid said Dr Bob Taylor was still working on it. J Gilbert asked if information from Peter Ellis could be supplied to Bob Taylor for inclusion in the booklet. G Duncan said he had contacted Steve Isaac of the R&A with regard to the possible sponsorship of the booklet.

Proposed Golf Centre Development

A Reid said he was disappointed that the Trustees had not asked for the opinion of senior staff members with regard to the proposed Golf Centre extension. G Paton said that the overall design had still to be discussed by the Trustees and that the senior staff would be involved.

British Legion

G Duncan said that a short commemorative service would be held at the VC Memorial on Remembrance Sunday and that the tee would be managed appropriately.

Buddon Links

G Duncan asked for confirmation if the Buddon Links would be 18 holes over the winter. J Gilbert confirmed that 18 holes would be in play but it was under the control of the Buddon Links Head Greenkeeper if and when temporary greens were to be used on the new holes.

Course Closures

G Duncan asked about the situation for season ticket holders when courses were closed for winter maintenance.

After discussion it was agreed to continue with the same system as last year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1935 hours.