

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room at 20 Links Parade on Monday 16th November 2015

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convenor), P Sawers, L Gordon, A McArtney, G Paton, C Yule

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), A Reid (Links Superintendent), C Boath (Head Greenkeeper Championship)

Meeting began at 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

W Thompson, I Frier

2. Declaration of Interest

There was none.

3. Links Superintendent's Report

J Gilbert asked about overseeding over the winter which he was aware was being tried at other venues. A Reid said it may have been possible during the recent unseasonal mild spell but had decided against it due to the potential for disease. C Boath said that they would consider overseeding in the spring before the start of next season.

4. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

J Gilbert asked where the mound was that was being removed around the 13th green, 14th tee area. C Boath explained the location and the reasons for the work.

P Sawers asked when the Imlay bridges are scheduled. A Reid said it was imminent.

L Gordon asked why the ladies tees were so far forward. C Boath said this was to maintain a distance between the gents and ladies tees as the gents tees had been moved forward.

P Sawers asked about the positioning of the 16th tee. C Boath explained it was the same as last year with the tee being forward during the week and back at the weekends.

Burnside

J Gilbert asked about the bridge at the 4th fairway. A Reid confirmed the bridge was not being removed but it was being replaced with a wider bridge in the same location.

J Gilbert asked what was happening with the new 16th green. A Reid explained it was remaining in the same location but the slope on the green would now be from right to left as opposed to left to right.

P Sawers asked about the cleaning of the burn and whether it was specific areas that were being cleaned. A Reid explained that it was mainly the areas of the 3rd and 4th holes that were being worked on.

Buddon

J Gilbert asked about the turfing on the 12th green and whether it was now complete. A Reid said it was completed. J Gilbert asked that the staff involved be commended for the excellent work.

5. STRI Report Burnside

J Gilbert said once again this was a very positive report and he felt that the head greenkeeper K Stott had raised the bar since taking over. J Gilbert said that in particular work had been done on the rough and this was particularly noticeable between the 2nd and 4th holes.

6. Open Championship 2018 and Practice Ground Plans

J Gilbert covered the letter from Johnnie Cole-Hamilton from the R&A following the R&A's visit on the 29th October 2015. He proposed that with regard to course changes, the only changes to be considered would be those requested by the R&A. This was agreed by the sub-committee.

J Gilbert said he was not supportive of natural bunkers and asked for the views of the sub-committee. The sub-committee agreed that natural bunkers were not appropriate for the Carnoustie Championship course. A Reid confirmed that there was no particular support from the greenkeeping staff with regard to natural bunkers. J Gilbert asked G Duncan to revert to Johnnie Cole-Hamilton with the views of the sub-committee, but he asked that this not be done until he had the approval of the full board of Trustees.

J Gilbert explained the plans for the proposed Open Championship practice ground. The practice tee would be on the west side of the burn, the 18th green of the Buddon Links would be enlarged and a new bunker built on the front left of the green. He explained the tee would be aligned slightly left to limit the amount of golf balls ending up on the 2nd hole Championship.

G Paton questioned whether the proposed practice ground was long enough. J Gilbert said this was a matter for the R&A. He said that Dr Steve Otto of the R&A was preparing a scatter

diagram plotting the flight pattern that would occur.

C Yule asked about the wooden bridge to the right of the 1st tee Buddon Links and whether this was capable of taking the pedestrian traffic during the Open. A Reid said that all bridges including this one would be stress tested by the R&A prior to the event, but said that a replacement bridge would be a good option. He said however that due to the area to be crossed this would be a substantial project.

The sub-committee agreed to recommend the practice ground plans as shown.

C Yule asked about the plan for the short game green to the right of the 1st tee Buddon Links. A Reid said the plan was to flatten it out to provide a more suitable area for the R&A. It would be reconstructed as a practice green following the Open but would remain relatively flat.

7. Winter Safety Procedures

A Reid confirmed that all the necessary winter procedures were in place.

G Paton said that one of his club members had slipped on the boardwalk and asked if something could be done to make the surface less slippery. A Reid confirmed they would carry out this work and deal with any Astroturf areas that were worn and slippery.

8. Any Other Competent Business

Divots and Pitch Marks

G Paton mentioned about divot wear and pitch marks on the Championship course. C Boath explained that the Vertidrain had a tendency to pull out loose turf from existing divots, which gave the impression of a fresh divot. He said that pitch marks remained a problem and nothing which had been tried seemed to improve the situation.

Seniors Open 2016

C Yule asked about the use of mats prior to the Seniors Open. J Gilbert said it would be proposed to have protection areas similar to the 2015 Amateur Championship for the 3 weeks of July prior to the event. G Duncan said it had been discussed how to compensate visitors for any disruption, which he said would be slight. At the moment the intention is to provide a voucher for the Pro Shop which would be given to the visitor when they arrived. J Gilbert said a formal proposal would be brought to the Greens sub-committee in due course.

Burnside Pin Positions

A McArtney expressed concern about the difficulty of the pin positions at the weekend on the Burnside. A Reid explained that the setting of the winter pins, at the edge of the putting surfaces, was a policy that had been in place for a number of years. This was to protect the

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main pin locations. He said that one pin on the 4th green was probably too difficult as it was down wind, but otherwise the positions were appropriate for winter golf.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 1940 hours.