

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Meeting held in the Committee Room at 20 Links Parade on Monday 14th December 2015

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

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), A Reid (Links Superintendent), K Stott (Head Greenkeeper Burnside)

Meeting began at 1855 hours.

1. Apologies

There were none.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Links Superintendent's Report

There were no questions on the Links Superintendent's Report.

4. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

J Gilbert asked about top dressing on selected fairways. A Reid replied that all the fairways would be done but earlier than recent years. Although this would be weather dependent. J Gilbert said this would be beneficial if it could be achieved.

A Reid confirmed that gorse root removal was taking place at the left of the 2nd and 15th holes and the large bush at the 14th hole.

J Gilbert asked about the brown patches on the greens. A Reid said this was Fusarium which is a common disease. C Yule asked what the treatment was for this. A Reid said that fungi was always in the ground and appeared under certain weather conditions. A preventative fungicide could be applied but this was not always effective. However grass recovery was reasonably straight forward.

Burnside

J Gilbert asked about the marked trees. K Stott confirmed that they had been identified by Fred Conacher on his recent visit. A Reid said that the trees on the 5th hole would be topped during frosty weather. He said a cherry picker was required.

J Gilbert asked about the 16th green and A Reid confirmed that Martin Ebert would be visiting on the 16th December. K Stott said that the basic sand levels and shaping of the new green were now in place. A McCartney asked when it would be open. K Stott confirmed it should be available for play in the early part of the 2017 season.

Buddon

J Gilbert asked about the root removal. A Reid said this had already been completed on the 8th hole. J Gilbert asked about the work on the ponds. A Reid said that the contractors were on site just now and may complete the work but in any case it would be completed in the next month or two.

5. Winter Works Update

A Reid said the lack of frost had been very helpful in making progress. A lot of bunkers had been refurbished and all the major jobs were now open. He explained that the work on the 5th tee Championship had increased in size due to the fact that a large amount of high quality sand had been discovered in the original mound. The staff were taking the opportunity to take this sand and use it to improve significantly the area on the 14th to the right of the Specs bunkers. J Gilbert said this was excellent, as the area in question had always been an eyesore and required better turf for a long time.

A Reid said that the work on the Imlay bridges on the 18th hole Championship had been going very well, and the left hand bridge was almost complete. A McCartney said he thought that one of the two bridges had been earmarked for the 1st hole on the Championship, but the sub-committee confirmed that both bridges were always designed for the 18th hole. C Yule said that it might be appropriate to replace the bridge on the 1st with a flat bridge built from the same stone material.

J Gilbert asked if the works were still on budget and A Reid confirmed that this was the case.

6. Winter Course Closure

J Gilbert asked if the 2 week course closure for each course was still a requirement, as he felt it put pressure on the ballot at a time when daylight was short. A Reid said there were considerable advantages to having the closure. He said staff could work uninterrupted and therefore progress jobs much more quickly. He also said that it was very beneficial for staff safety because they could work on the bunkers that would normally be in play. Questions

were raised whether the closures could take place later in the winter, possibly March when there was more daylight. K Stott pointed out that doing the deep aeration work in November gave the fairways and greens the maximum time to recover prior to the start of the season.

The sub-committee agreed that the winter closures should be retained at 2 weeks for each course and should occur at the start of the winter period.

7. British Seniors

The sub-committee agreed to recommend course protection measures identified by A Reid in his Links Superintendent's report.

These would be using mats in demarcated areas on the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 11th and 15th fairways for just over a fortnight before the event.

A Reid almost mentioned that some protection may be beneficial on the battery on the 1st hole.

G Duncan confirmed that visiting golfers would be made aware of the course protection measures and would be compensated in an appropriate way for any disruption.

8. Any Other Competent Business

Christmas Day and New Year's Day

J Gilbert said the Championship course would be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's day and said there would be a notice on the tee and the pins would be removed. P Sawers asked that a message should be put on the website and also a letter to the golf clubs.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1917 hours.