

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Meeting held in the Committee Room at 20 Links

Parade on Monday 30th May 2016

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convener), P Sawers, L Gordon, A McCartney, I Frier, C Yule

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

Meeting began at 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

G Paton

2. Declaration of Interest

There were none.

3. Links Superintendents Report

J Gilbert asked if Health and Safety would be in all future Reports, A Reid confirmed that it would be.

J Gilbert said that Richard Windows visit would be covered in Item 6 of the Agenda of this meeting.

In response to J Gilbert asking if anyone at the meeting had any questions for A Reid or S Mitchell, L Gordon asked what was happening on 8th & 14th on Burnside. A Reid replied that these areas were seeded using grass seed in a mulch, the plan is to go over them again, also with wild seed.

J Gilbert asked if there was a plan to add some mounding on 14th, A Reid replied that we hope to add some mounds in the winter.

4. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

J Gilbert asked about no over seeding until after the Seniors. A Reid said that there would be a light overseeding using the Dyna-Seeders which wouldn't leave any visible signs of disruption, with which J Gilbert whole heartedly agreed and suggested the same principle

should be applied for the Tassie. He then asked if the top dressing of the fairways would be after the Seniors, A Reid replied yes.

Regarding the Environmental Section, J Gilbert said he was unaware of the pollinator planned near the golf centre and raised his concerns regarding the planned building work. A Reid assured him that it is out-with the scope of building work. P Sawers said she had not seen it but A Reid explained that as they were only planted last year it will be next year before the growth will be seen.

J Gilbert said the course is looking great and of tournament quality and asked if C Boath would be doing an intermediate cut. A Reid replied yes. J Gilbert asked S Mitchell if he could do an intermediate cut on holes which have narrow fairways. C Yule asked what that meant, A Reid explained that it was another band of higher cut rough beyond the semi-rough.

Burnside

Regarding the over seeding A Reid informed J Gilbert that K Stott will be doing one heavier one in August/September. J Gilbert said he would be interested to see how it looks.

P Sawers said the 16th looks fantastic, A Reid said the only concern is the weeds but that ~~comes~~ they had come from our soil-and the that the grass is too young for weed killer.

Buddon

J Gilbert expressed concerns regarding the burning of gorse, S Mitchell explained it was incorrect and it was meant to say heather, not gorse.

5. Health & Safety

A Reid said there were no incidents to report. Greens staff are currently undergoing training on machinery.

The Health & Safety Sub-Committee are due to meet on 9th June 2016.

J Gilbert asked what an ATV is, it was explained that it is an all-terrain vehicle.

6. Richard Windows Visits

Buddon

S Mitchell said the visit was very positive and everything was in the right place. They are cutting at 5mm permanently at present.

P Sawers said the Buddon is looking fantastic.

Championship Visit 19th April 2016

J Gilbert asked if 4mm doesn't affect putting. A Reid said the target is to not go below that unless necessary and that it was a positive thing that we were able to keep cutting heights up from previous years.

J Gilbert raised his concerns regarding using Rescue graminicide during Dunhill. A Reid said that there is nothing that will impact play, as it doesn't activate for a while. Similar has been done in previous years.

J Gilbert asked if Richard Windows was advocating course closures in winter. A Reid said explained how playing in white frost makes the grass more susceptible to disease. P Sawers asked if we should protect the Championship prior to the Open, A Reid said yes that it could do with extra protection but that going forward we need to be consistent in protecting all 3 three courses.

S Mitchell agreed and said that footprints in white frost are more damaging than on hard frost and suggested a policy would be a good idea.

A Reid and J Gilbert agreed and A Reid was asked to write up a policy regarding frost protection and bring it the Greens Committee for discussion and recommendations.

Championship Visit 25th May 2016

Regarding the Fairy Ring, A Reid said that fairy ring is not uncommon on links courses but the fairy ring on the Championship Course is Type 1, the worst kind. It usually shows in late June/July but is much earlier this year. There are no known treatments to prevent it but that wet/dry cycles are contributing factors. He said the Championship course is worse and that perhaps the extra sand applied to control organic matter in recent years may be a factor as well as the wetting agent that we have been using. The one we use is a top market one that helps to manage soil moisture in wet and dry conditions but may be keeping the soil too dry so we have changed to a retaining wetting agent.

P Sawers asked if it could be due to the mild winter we had. A Reid said it could be a factor and that not irrigating in February/March may also allow the soil to dry out too much.

C Yule said he was unaware there were different types of Fairy Ring and said other courses, for example Muirfield and St Andrews don't attempt to repair.

J Gilbert asked if A Reid was confident in the course for the Seniors, regarding the Fairy Ring. A Reid said he is as confident as he can be and there will be more bespoke watering to encourage recovery. He is still waiting on proper growth and if we are not seeing recovery they will we will put in plugs.

7. Environmental Booklet

J Gilbert said the Environmental Booklet has been published and said it is fantastic, L Gordon agreed. He proposed arranging a meeting with C Boath, L Gordon, P Sawers with himself to discuss the distribution.

8. Machinery Replacement

J Gilbert said he has every confidence in A Reid and that the only time this should be brought to the Greens Committee is when a request is rejected by CGLMC.

P Sawers said course is our main asset and anything to help maintain that is essential.

L Gordon asked why something we were leasing is now a purchase. A Reid explained that we bought a lot of machinery after leasing it for the first 3 years of its life.

9. Any Other Competent Business

Course Etiquette

J Gilbert said there was an incident of Burnside players feeling intimidated by Burnside greens staff on the 17th and asked if staff can be a bit more accommodating. A Reid said he will remind staff to consider players.

L Gordon said she had experienced shouting and the usage of mobile phones during play from golfers. P Sawers said someone had walked right through the bunker on the 13th Championship. A Reid said this is standard and the green staff see a lot of it. S Mitchell asked if information is sent out to new members regarding course etiquette. J Gilbert said this should be done perhaps when invoices are sent out for fees.

J Gilbert asked what was happening at the hard standing. A Reid explained he was constructing a fence on two sides of the standing to help contain the sand which is stock piled there. J Gilbert asked if planning permission was required. A Reid said it wasn't and that it would not have no effect on the car parking for the Open Championship.

Buggies

A McCartney saw two men from the European Tour using buggies on the Championship and the Burnside, and asked if they would have been informed where they can and cannot go. J Gilbert said yes C McLeod had told them. A McCartney also witnessed a photographer in a buggy on his own, and thought the rule was always a driver with a buggy. A Reid said all users are told, J Gilbert said it is something that will be raised with C McLeod.

Animals and Birds

S Mitchell raised concerns that a member of the public is feeding animals, including swans, every day with white bread. J Gilbert said he will speak to him and suggest he uses grain. There were concerns also raised regarding the divot squad feeding dogs and encouraging them to run on the course. A Reid said he will speak to them.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1945 hours.