

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

Parade on 17th October 2016

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

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

Meeting began at 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

There were none

2. Declaration of Interest

There were none.

3. Links Superintendents Report

Referring to the summary on the report from A Reid, J Gilbert said he had very high praise for the condition of the Championship course during the Dunhill. He said, without being biased, he thought the Championship was the best of the 3 courses.

i) Geo Re-certification

J Gilbert said well done to A Reid for taking the time to do this and said that he and G Duncan had also met with the assessor. A Reid said that it is more difficult to get re-certified than it is to get certified. He explained that this is because continuous improvement is expected. J Gilbert said he thought the assessor was satisfied but it would be helpful if he could highlight areas to improve on.

ii) R&A Visit

J Gilbert asked if both he and B Taylor can get reports regarding gorse removal for comments. A Reid informed him that he has been in contact with B Taylor, who wanted to join the visit, but was unable. A Reid said that B Taylor is comfortable with what is being done. J Gilbert asked for this to be in writing.

A Reid said that the R&A have suggested that they are keen to have 2 tier terraces at the rear of the 12th, and left of the 14th instead of grandstands. This would allow for spectator movement. J Gilbert asked if I Frier could be involved in next visit.

4. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

Regarding the over seeding of the greens, A Reid said that it would be done by Vreedo and it would be the last of the year.

J Gilbert asked why the top dressing of fairways was not done in November when all of them could have been done at once, instead of one at a time. A Reid replied that it is just selective areas, and said that there will be a lot of aeration work done during the 2 weeks shut down when there are no golfers.

Burnside

With regards to the greens J Gilbert asked how the golfers would be affected by the 8 mm tines. A Reid said that it has very little effect, but, in any case, the work will not take place until November.

L Gordon asked if thinning out meant chopping down trees. J Gilbert said this was the case, but only within the approved tree policy.

5. STRI Report

J Gilbert said the report was very positive, as usual.

A Reid said they have experienced trouble progressing from germination within the overseeding program, but are seeing an improvement. J Gilbert asked if the green speeds could be retained if the mowing heights were raised. A Reid said this was the intention and there were a number of options available to the greens staff to maintain speed. S Mitchell said they have had exceptional results on the Buddon Links without reducing the mowing heights.

With regards to the Fairy Ring, A Reid said that has been good recovery on the Championship since May but there is now some on the Burnside. C Yule asked whether it was less invasive strain. A Reid replied it was superficial but it is unusually late in the season for it to occur.

Regarding Figure 4 on page 7, I Frier asked if the layers of clay were the same under all greens. A Reid said that it is unknown but likely to be under any greens that have not been rebuilt. He said that it was very deep under the surface and therefore there are not too many implications, but some aeration works might help.

A Reid informed the committee that instead of the usual STRI visits, next year due to the forthcoming Open, there will be 4 or 5 visits on the Championship.

6. 16th Burnside (new tee and new 17th tee)

A Reid said that the work is due to commence on 14th November. J Gilbert said that he has met with K Stott and A Reid, and said that it is an excellent development.

G Paton referred to the plans and asked A Reid for confirmation of proposed tee positions. A Reid showed him on the plans and explained that it was not going to be as far back as shown in the illustration. A Reid also explained that the hole will be losing 21 yards in length, with ladies losing 16 yards.

7. Any Other Competent Business

J Gilbert brought to attention the fact that we have had the first heavy rain since practice ground drainage was completed and said there are a few areas near the 100 yard marker that need attention. A Reid agreed and said they knew there would be pockets we might need to pick up, and said it will be looked into in the winter.

J Gilbert said that in reference to the preferred lies decision on the Buddon Links, he was disappointed that he had been required to mention this on a number of occasions before the necessary action took place. P Sawers said that this is when action logs would be helpful, so there was no confusion about who was responsible. J Gilbert agreed and said in future action logs will form part of the minutes.

J Gilbert said that the toilets and the tee hut were both closed on Saturday 15th October. Thankfully a Ranger was available to open the toilets. He said he felt that even in bad weather the facilities should be available when there are golfers.

G Paton asked that if we are contacting clubs regarding preferred lies, could we mention pitch mark damage. He said he had to repair numerous marks on the 4th Buddon Links. A Reid said we can tie in pitch marks with the Frost Policy. L Gordon said there would be no harm in continually repeating the message.

G Paton asked if there was a policy on hitting a green keeper or his vehicle with a golf ball. S Mitchell asked was it a near miss, as there was one reported to him. A Reid said he would expect all near misses to be reported to the appropriate Head Greenkeeper.

P Sawers asked if a report could be done showing the completed winter works which were submitted last year. The report should show what was completed and what was not, perhaps with a narrative. A Reid agreed.

The meeting closed at 1950 hours.

Action Points

- I Frier to be involved in next R&A visit** - **A Reid**
- Practice ground drainage to be assessed and remedial work carried out** - **A Reid**
- Report on outstanding winter works which have already been approved** - **A Reid**
- Report on gorse removal** - **A Reid**
- Better communication** - **G Duncan**
- Tea Hut opening hours** - **G Duncan**