

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Meeting held in the Training Room of the Greenkeeping Sheds on Monday 5th February 2018

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convener), I Frier, G Paton, C Yule

In Attendance: M Wells (Chief Executive), A Reid (Links Superintendent), C Boath (Head Greenkeeper Championship), K Stott (Head Greenkeeper Burnside)

Meeting began at 1430 hours.

1. Apologies

P Sawers, L Gordon

2. Declaration of Interest

G Paton and C Yule declared a declaration of interest in the matches mentioned in the Comments Section of the Championship Maintenance Report.

3. Action Points

J Gilbert said all action points had been taken care of.

4. Links Superintendents Report

J Gilbert praised A Reid for his very detailed, straight to the point report.

J Gilbert asked how much work is involved with the landscaping around the New Golf Centre. A Reid said that the work planned would not be difficult, just more time consuming. A Reid could not specify exactly the number of men involved in the work but would be approximately 10 – 12 men.

J Gilbert asked if the installation of mains water was to be a huge job. A Reid said no, it would just be a narrow trench which would be carried out by the contractors and we would only be involved in repairing the more delicate areas on the course, which was minimal.

J Gilbert said that with regards the Patrons Hospitality area after The Open, he was happy for it to be under GUR as such time as A Reid feels necessary. J Gilbert said that the quality of the rough in this area was poor and suggested that we could maybe take this opportunity

to do a bit of work to improve the quality and asked K Stott his feelings. K Stott said it all depends on the damage but he felt rotavating was a bit extreme and suggested we may just want to scarify, put down a chemical spray and overseed with fescue.

C Yule asked if we had received dates as to when the Marquee was being constructed on the 18th of the Burnside. A Reid said as yet we have not received a build schedule but approximate timescales had been passed to C McLeod who has since passed this onto the clubs. M Wells said that it was likely to be sometime in Mid-May.

J Gilbert asked A Reid what his plans were for re-building the 1st Tee Starters box. A Reid said that he and C Sinclair had a brief discussion. It was thought that this time we may want to construct a less permanent structure and maybe position it half way between the Golf Centre entrance and the 1st Tee, but further discussions would be required.

5. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

J Gilbert asked what the tee extension was at the practice tee on the Buddon. C Boath said this was the SkyZone studio which includes a bunker.

J Gilbert asked if C Boath had a licence for total weed killing the ditches. C Boath clarified he had.

Burnside

J Gilbert asked K Stott how many bunkers were being built on the Burnside Course. K Stott said that he was building four and patching the rest.

J Gilbert asked how K Stott was getting on with managing the Broom. K Stott said it was a constant fight and was made all the harder with the heather as it also gets affected by the chemical control. A Reid said the best way to deal with it would be to let it grow into an adult and then pull it out so you can get the full root, but it can get quite large.

Buddon

J Gilbert asked if a Causeway was still planned at the 8th of the Buddon. A Reid confirmed that one has already been built.

6. Environmental Update

J Gilbert said that now there was no longer an Environmental Sub-Committee and therefore no meetings he would like to add it as a point on the Greens Agenda just in case anything needed to be discussed.

J Gilbert congratulated the Greenkeeping Team on winning the 2018 Environmental Award.

10.

J Gilbert asked when we are due to stop cutting gorse. A Reid said by the end of February mid-March, unless it is necessary for build needs.

J Gilbert said that any new Environmental Projects and the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) would not be discussed until after The Open.

7. Open Championship 2018 Update

M Wells said that the R&A are impressed with the condition of the course.

8. Any Other Competent Business

J Gilbert said the STRI report was good scientific evidence that we are firmer than other Open venues.

M Wells said that the STRI Report highlights that we are moving in the right direction but does it highlight any changes we need to make. A Reid said that STRI report is only a guideline and we have reached a point that both the R&A and we are happy with and at this moment in time we were looking to maintain this rather than improving.

C Yule highlighted that moisture had increased on all courses and wondered if this was something we had done. C Boath said this could just be down to the wet summer we had but also because we have changed wetting agent in the last two years. A Reid said moisture was a key area for us as it makes it easier for us to control the grass and give us consistent performance.

M Wells wanted to raise his concerns over source of sand and highlighted that sand from the West Coast is due to run out in 3 – 4 years. M Wells wondered if we need to put a contingency plan in place now rather than later when it is too late. I Frier said the shortage of sand was not just a West Coast problem but a worldwide problem. A Reid said that he had spoken to the Headmen about this problem and further discussion would be required, whether we find an alternative or stock pile the current sand. A Reid said a change in sand is something he would like to introduce to the courses on a gradual basis rather than an abrupt change.

A Reid said he had hoped to replace all the astro turf areas around the course during this winter period. However this had not been possible due to the amount of work they have had on.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1510 hours.