

**Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Meeting held in the Training Room of the Greenkeeping Sheds on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**Present:** J Gilbert (Greens Convener), P Sawers, I Frier, G Paton,

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

Meeting began at 1500 hours.

**1. Apologies**

L Gordon, C Yule

**2. Declaration of Interest**

None

**3. Action Points**

No Action Points from last Greens Meeting.

**4. Links Superintendents Report**

J Gilbert asked what was to happen at the 1<sup>st</sup> of the Burnside with regards to the road. A Reid said that O.B. stakes would be placed in the ground, the fence would be replaced but would probably be a few weeks before this happened.

J Gilbert asked if the date of 21<sup>st</sup> May for protection measures is flexible and was it likely they would be brought in before this date. A Reid said no and if anything he was thinking the date for introduction of protection might be later on one or two fairways.

J Gilbert had asked if the report produced by Dr B Taylor of STRI had been paid for by the R&A. A Reid confirmed it had.

A Reid said he had forgotten to add in his report that M Slumbers and G Moir had conducted a course set up walk recently. A Reid stated they were very pleased with the course and there was nothing to report.

## **5. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts**

### **Championship**

J Gilbert had said that the caddie meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March had gone really well and there was a lot of positive feedback. J Gilbert had suggested that what was mentioned at the meeting in regards to course protection measures should be made into some sort of notice to be displayed in the caddie office. A Reid agreed.

C Boath wanted to thank the Burnside and Buddon Courses for their help over the winter months and highlight what a massive help they had been.

### **Burnside**

J Gilbert said that he had noticed a lot of strimming of broom at the 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and appreciated that this is a thankless task. J Gilbert also stated that he felt that the greens over this winter had been the best they have been in years. I Frier agreed.

A Reid said he did not want to take away from the hard work carried out by the Burnside staff over the winter with regards to the greens, but he also felt the frost policy was a significant contributing factor. J Gilbert said that he had spoken to S Mitchell who had also said the frost policy was having a great impact on the Buddon.

A Reid said that from March the frost policy had been more relaxed as there is more time in the morning for the frost to lift before the first tee time.

C Boath said the fact the frost policy was now documented was a big help as members and visitors now know where they stand.

A Reid wanted to highlight that with regards to the Burnside Maintenance Mornings, in September they had changed the Monday to the Friday to help with preparations for the Senior Open. J Gilbert suggested that a list of the Maintenance dates be sent to the clubs.

### **Buddon**

J Gilbert said that he likes the fact that S Mitchell has planted wild seeds on the course and asked if this is something we could do on the other courses. K Stott said this is something he could do maybe at the 14<sup>th</sup>. C Boath said no point on Championship at the moment but maybe after The Open.

## **6. Environmental Update**

J Gilbert said he had received material on the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) to read. He felt that it does not deal enough with what we want on the course and was more about communication with the other land owners. He did suggest however that this is something we will deal with after The Open.

J Gilbert asked if a report had been received for the new Golf Centre to say that the building was BREEAM compliant. M Wells said that unfortunately the building was unable to be BREEAM compliant from early in the planning stages, but that the design allowed for a focus on energy efficiency and had been constructed with 50% higher energy efficiencies than current building standards. M Wells did say we are however 50% higher than new building compliant standards. M Wells confirmed that he had asked the architects for a BREEAM report and would chase this up. On receipt, this would be distributed to members of this sub-committee.

J Gilbert said the report would be good for helping to create the Environmental Policy Document.

J Gilbert asked if the car park at the practice ground could be enhanced in some way as it is a good spot to see wildlife.

M Wells congratulated the staff on the recent Environmental awards and suggested that this may be an opportunity to support the STRI's Environmental awards going forward given Carnoustie's pioneering work in this area. It was agreed that the executive would discuss this with STRI, to understand how Carnoustie Golf Links may become involved in supporting this event.

## **7. Open Championship 2018 Update**

P Sawers asked how we were looking to define the greens on The Open practice area. A Reid said the fairway will be cut at a higher height and the green shapes will be cut at a lower height to make them stand out.

M Wells said he had received an email stating that The R&A would like to survey all bridges on the course for weight and capacity. There would be a cost of £9,500 for the survey and The R&A had suggested that both The R&A and the Links pay 50% each. P Sawers said this would not require Full Committee approval as it would be an operational expense. Was suggested that M Wells should go back and offer £4,500.

## **8. Any Other Competent Business**

J Gilbert asked if by the start of the season Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March all GUR areas would be in play. C Boath said they would. A Reid said that he would like to keep those at the Buddon 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> green in until the end of April. A Reid said if we require a drop zone it will be addressed with white line and nearest point of relief.

J Gilbert said to keep the rough on the Burnside as GUR but suggested a note in the Burnside Starters box to highlight this.

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J Gilbert highlighted that again while out playing the Tea Hut was once again closed. I Frier said that if the course was open then so should the Tea Hut. M Wells agreed and said he would speak to the Tea Hut tenants and report back.

J Gilbert raised the fact that we no longer have rangers and felt that we require a presence on the course, especially coming into the Summer season. J Gilbert said that on a few occasions he had observed people sneak onto the course, who might not be as mindful of our environment or protection measures and we have no visible deterrent. M Wells said he would discuss this with C Sinclair.

G Paton said that he was unaware of what the Tee Rotations on the courses were. J Gilbert confirmed that these had been received by the Carnoustie Club but to check with C McLeod that these were sent out to all clubs.

G Paton wanted to clarify what restrictions apply to the general public (including dog walkers) when the course is closed. A Reid indicated that the Links cannot prevent the general public from walking over the courses, but that the Scottish Outdoor Access Code operates parameters around access which the public must abide by. This includes the prevention of damage to the course. A Reid also said that dog walking on the course in general was getting worse especially with regards to dog faeces. A Reid stated he was not keen to have the greenkeepers policing this, as it causes conflict and takes up valuable time. M Wells suggested that Angus Council, as our landlords, should be contacted to assess the problem and provide advice on how to manage this situation.

C Boath said the Championship closes from 12 noon on 30<sup>th</sup> June and asked permission if the Greenkeeping staff to play the course at this time. P Sawers and M Wells agreed.

A Reid said that it may be best to close the first hole of the Burnside once the building of the Patron's Pavilion starts to further improve the safety of the contractors building it but also the effect it would have in establishing a 9-hole CSS planned due to the effect The Open infrastructure is having on the Burnside. A Reid said that Keir McNicoll has been discussing the situation with Angus County with the intention of having the 9-hole CSS from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> and to do so golfers are not allowed to practise on the course before the first CSS rated hole.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1555 hours.