

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Meeting held in the Boardroom of Links House on Thursday 21st June 2018

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

In Attendance: A Reid (Links Superintendent), C Boath (Head Greenkeeper Championship)

Meeting began at 1510 hours.

1. Apologies

L Gordon, M Wells (Chief Executive), K Stott (Head Greenkeeper Burnside), S Mitchell (Head Greenkeeper Buddon)

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Action Points

J Gilbert said that all action points from the last meeting had been dealt with and updated and he had no further questions. J Gilbert asked if any other members of the committee had any questions or comments. There were no further questions or comments from the committee.

4. Links Superintendents Report

J Gilbert stated that A Reid's report was once again short and concise and asked if A Reid wanted to expand on anything. A Reid said he did not.

J Gilbert asked if we were still watering bits of the rough. C Boath said that we had stopped but we would be watching over certain areas in case the temperature increases. A. Reid stated that we had recently received a generic letter from SEPA asking us to be conscious of our water usage, as we are in an area where the water levels are dropping. A Reid said that SEPA were not putting in restrictions at the moment, but if the good weather continues then they may impose constraints in the future. A Reid said that he felt that this letter only highlights that we should be discussing some sort of water storage area. J Gilbert said A Reid should produce a report.

5. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

J Gilbert asked C Boath if he was happy with the course. C Boath said he was happy.

C Boath said that most of his top dressing highlighted in his report had been completed.

Burnside

A Reid in K Stott's absence said that all was going well on the Burnside course.

J Gilbert said he thought that the 9 holes on the course had been a success, however he also felt that there appeared to be less play on the course at the moment.

G Paton highlighted that season ticket holders on the Burnside appeared to be crossing the 17th and 18th holes on the Championship to leave the course when finishing after the 10th or 14th. A Reid said they had tried their best with signage, but unfortunately you cannot stop everyone.

Buddon

J Gilbert said that it all appeared good on the Buddon. A Reid said that S Mitchell was trying a non-wetting agent program approach to the course to encourage the development of desirable, fine leaf grasses so there may be some signs of dry areas and that we will be monitoring progress but that performance has not been affected.

A Reid said that although Overseeding Bent Grass on the 11th and 12th Fairways is an expensive process it would give better colour and support the fescue in the turf.

A Reid highlighted that anchors for the practice nets are being installed on the 22nd June at the new practice tee. These anchors are in the ground and therefore will not be intrusive to play and the actual poles would not be installed until the Buddon Course is closed.

6. Open Championship 2018 Update

J Gilbert said that all information pertaining to The Open had been covered in the Championship Committee Meeting which had been held directly before the Greens Meeting and as everyone at the Greens Sub-Committee had all been party to that meeting he had nothing else to add.

7. STRI Report

J Gilbert said well done to another good report.

8. Any Other Competent Business

Winter Works

J Gilbert said before we know it we will be into winter and asked A Reid to produce a list of proposed Winter Works for next Greens meeting in case any areas require Full Committee approval. A Reid said he was planning on relaying the 5th green on the Burnside. C Yule asked how long ago it was since the last time this green had been relayed, as he felt that it wasn't that long ago. A Reid said it was approximately 16/17 years ago. A Reid said the grass on this green was not great due to the soil and this was the reason for the proposal. A Reid said his plan was to lift the turf, replace the soil and then relay the turf and to re-instate friendlier contours.

Review of Tees

J Gilbert said he feels there needs to be a review of the forward tees and there needs to be more consistency over all three courses. A Reid said that this is definitely an area we require to have a discussion about and goes hand in hand with the rebranding undertaking. I Frier said that when having this discussion, junior tees also require to be taken into consideration. P Sawers said this is something we should not rush into and take our time and make sure it is done properly. J Gilbert suggested that a discussion should be held with J Gilbert, M Wells, A Reid, C Boath and either C Sinclair or K McNicoll of the Pro Shop.

Scorecards

J Gilbert highlighted that the scorecards had changed and passed around a new and old scorecard for comparison and comments. The Committee felt the paper quality of the new card was not of as good quality, it no longer contained a list of the local rules which was felt to be desirable, emergency number only appears once and the whole thing was a bit boring. J Gilbert said this is maybe something that also falls under the rebranding umbrella and asked A Reid to take this to M Wells for discussion.

Dog Warden

A Reid said he had been in touch with the Dog Warden to discuss working in partnership to look at both dog behaviour and dog fouling on the courses. A Reid said that dog fouling no longer falls under the remit of the Dog Wardens and it was now under the control of Enforcement Officers. A Reid said the Dog Warden was to contact the Enforcement Officers to see if they can have a presence on the course and confirmed that he had seen them a couple of times around the course.

A Reid said further discussions were to be held with the Dog Warden, to clarify the best approach for staff to communicate with those members of the public abusing the Access Code. P Sawers said that she did not want staff putting themselves into situations where they would be open to abuse.

Rangers

J Gilbert said it was a welcome return to see a Ranger presence back on the course even if it was limited and he felt that it was helping with the pace of play. J Gilbert suggested that the Rangers keep an eye on play certainly from the beginning of the visitor tee times and chase up at 3rd or 4th tees rather than waiting until 13th or 14th holes by which time it's too late.

P Sawers thanked J Gilbert, A Reid and C Boath for all their hard work and effort in the run up to The Open.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1545 hours.