

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Meeting held in the Boardroom of Links House on Monday 15th October 2018

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

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

Meeting began at 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

M Wells (Chief Executive)

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Action Points

A Reid said work was still ongoing regarding compiling a report on using the big lake on the Buddon for storage of irrigation water.

J Gilbert mentioned he would like to see the local rules on all scorecards.

J Gilbert asked if the work on the Burnside 1st & 18th was communicated to the golf clubs and golfers and requested that a notice also be put on the Burnside Starter's Box window. It was confirmed that the clubs had been contacted by email and the links website was up to date.

J Gilbert said that he would like to see more detail in the Landscape Character Assessment outlining plans for habitats etc.

4. Links Superintendents Report

A Reid gave an overview of reasoning behind using the new lake on the Buddon as a source of irrigation water storage.

5. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

J Gilbert asked how long it would take for the Championship fairways to fully recover after the suffering they received due to the dry summer and hosting of The Open. A Reid and C Boath concurred that it would be well into next season before we could expect to see a full grass coverage.

C Boath explained the over-seeding processes being implemented on the Championship greens.

Burnside

J Gilbert asked how restitution was progressing on the 1st & 18th holes. K Stott gave a summary of the work completed and what was left outstanding.

K Stott mentioned that he would like to hollow core, overseed and top dress the 3rd green as it has suffered this summer. This was agreed by the committee.

Buddon

J Gilbert asked about plans for greens maintenance on the Buddon in 2019 given that they hadn't looked their normal self through 2018. A Reid said that S Mitchell was planning to use a one application, long lasting wetting agent on most of the greens next year to better understand the effects using a wetting agent has on grass composition, dry patch and fairy ring disorder.

6. Winter Works

Championship

J Gilbert suggested that to better understand the requirement for introducing new forward tees on the Championship Course that golf course architect, Martin Ebert, be employed to give a proposal and that the proposal for new forward tees on the 9th & 14th be shelved until such a review had taken place. A discussion on the needs, or not, of such tees along with course furniture issues ensued and it was agreed that this topic be addressed prior to the 2019-20 winter works.

The rest of the Championship Course proposals were unanimously agreed.

Burnside

K Stott and A Reid talked the committee through the reasons for and proposal to re-build the 5th green on the Burnside.

A Reid explained that the reasoning behind proposing the lowering of part of the mound to the right of the 10th hole on the Burnside was so that golfers on the 10th of Burnside could

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shout fore should they hit their ball towards the 16th tee on Championship as they would be able to see golfers on the tee. He continued that this would result in the unsightly fence, that only protects people standing at the very rear of the 16th tee, being removed. G Paton enquired as to how this move may be viewed by our insurers as they were informed at the time of the fence being installed. A Reid said that he was positive this would help improve safety in this area and will ensure that the relevant Risk Assessment be carried out.

It was agreed that potential fairway bunker additions be looked at by Martin Ebert and not be implemented this winter.

G Paton asked if work is scheduled to tidy the surrounding area of the new bridge at the right of the 17th fairway. K Stott confirmed that work will commence in the coming weeks.

All winter work other than bunker additions was agreed.

Buddon

J Gilbert asked which trees were being referred to for removal. A Reid confirmed it was poor specimens within areas of tree planting and that Fred Conacher from Angus Council had recommended this action.

Potential fairway bunkering on the 1st & 18th holes to be assessed by Martin Ebert.

All other winter work on the Buddon was agreed.

Miscellaneous

The re-routing of the Nestie, irrigation upgrades throughout the courses and the tarring of the road extension at the right of 1st on Burnside were all agreed.

7. STRI Reports

S Reid gave a summary of the recent STRI Agronomy Reports of the Burnside & Buddon.

8. Any Other Competent Business

J Gilbert would like to get feedback from golfers as to their thoughts on our practice facilities to gauge whether building a better outdoor practice facility would be merited. G Paton raised the point that Season Ticket Holders cannot access the simulators after 8am in the morning yet they were often not being used by visitors until after 8.30am. A Reid said that replacement practice nets are to be installed at the west side of Links House in the coming weeks.

J Gilbert asked if the gates into the links next to Barry Station are to be re-installed as people were taking vehicles on to our property through the gap currently there. A Reid confirmed they are in hand and should be in place by the end of October but will ensure that the barriers currently in place be secured better.

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I Frier asked if any progress has been made regarding installing on-course CCTV. A Reid replied that he had a brief discussion with the contractor the R&A use for their digital support services during The Open and that such a project is possible using the fibre network in the ground but that a specific site visit to discuss the matter would be required. G Paton reported that he knows that some people as far away as Falkirk think that they can come up to the Buddon and get a game as they know no-one is checking up on them at the 1st tee. A discussion followed on the use of course rangers with both J Gilbert and G Paton suggesting they would prefer to see them re-introduced.

G Paton enquired to the whereabouts of the Rolex clock that was on the putting green. A Reid explained that it had been taken away for refurbishment at the request of Rolex and that it was due to be reinstalled in the coming weeks.

G Paton explained that a left-handed golfer/s had been out on the Championship Course this morning and not raked at least 3 bunkers behind them and was hoping for the Pro Shop staff to assist find the culprit. A discussion then took place reading general etiquette on the courses and how we may better communicate expected standards.

J Gilbert congratulated A Reid on his pending move to St Andrews to take up the position of Director of Greenkeeping.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2020 hours.