

**Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Meeting held in the Boardroom of Links House on  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Present:** J Gilbert (Greens Convener), L Gordon, I Wilson, I Frier, A McArtney

**In Attendance:** M Wells (Chief Executive), C Boath (Links Superintendent), K Stott (Championship Course Manager)

Meeting began at 1500 hours.

**1. Apologies**

P Sawers (Chairman), C Yule (Vice Chairman)

**2. Declaration of Interest**

None

**3. Action Points**

**Visitor Experience**

The Chief Executive stated that work around the external area of Links House was due to start on Monday. The work scheduled would encompass the trench where the portacabins once stood, drop off area and additional parking at back of Links House. The Chief Executive apologised for the delay, but stressed certain issues had to be dealt with before work could start.

The Chief Executive indicated that an internal working group had been established to review the customer experience and facilities around the 1<sup>st</sup> tee and 18<sup>th</sup>. This would include re-instatement of a starters box. He indicated that the review would consider historical buildings for guidance and inspiration.

**GEO**

The Links Superintendent explained that there was a new online process for GEO and confirmed data recording was underway but was ongoing, as renewal was not until October.

### Pest Control

The Links Superintendent confirmed that he had been in contact with Grahams Pest Control and they would be onsite on Friday.

### LCA

The Chief Executive confirmed a meeting had taken place with Abertay University and was hoping that by the next Greens meeting things would be underway. J Gilbert asked if any costs were likely to be incurred. The Chief Executive explained that we were trying to avoid encountering any costs but if we had to there was a budget he could use.

### BREEM

The Chief Executive confirmed it had been decided, rather than constantly asking Ogilvies for the report to no avail, we would have an independent report carried out which Ogilvies/Wellwood Leslie would be asked to pay for.

### Rangers

The Chief Executive stated that the average round on the Championship at the moment was 4 hours 30 minutes and I Frier said this was a very good time but was concerned that the course had not been put under any real pressure yet. The sub-committee members discussed this point. It was concluded that a 4 hour 30 minute round was a good target taking all factors into consideration, but required continued monitoring and mitigating actions where possible.

### CCTV

The Links Superintendent explained that we were still in discussions.

## **4. Links Superintendent Report**

J Gilbert asked what issues were discussed at The Open forum in Portrush. The Links Superintendent explained it ranged from spectator routes, team support numbers, machinery to course disease. The Links Superintendent said Portrush was in great condition and the new holes fitted in well.

J Gilbert encouraged discussions regarding the continued effort to introduce more fescue into the greens on the Championship course. It was agreed that the Greens management team would produce a report on this matter in collaboration with R Windows and A Newton.

J Gilbert asked if Dr B Taylor (STRI) had produced a report following his ecological visit last week. The Links Superintendent confirmed that a report had not yet been received, but the visit was very encouraging.

The Links Superintendent said he had received greens data from the R&A on Portrush and he would email this out to the Greens Committee.

## **5. Projected Maintenance Forecasts**

### **Championship**

J Gilbert said that given the rough start we have had with weather and disease the course was looking good.

K Stott said he would talk to R Windows and A Newton on Thursday with regards to fairy ring. The Chief Executive asked if an overhaul of greens would help. J Gilbert said that the last greens to be overhauled appear to be the ones causing the problem. L Gordon said that it is not affecting play it just doesn't look very pleasant. The Chief Executive queried if irrigation had also played a part in the problem.

The Chief Executive provided the sub-committee with an update on the tender process. The Chief Executive said that the reports produced had flagged high levels of concerns and required further analysis. He suggested that if this is causing problems with the course then it really needs to be tackled and it would have to be a capital expenditure as it will be very expensive. J Gilbert said he was very disappointed with this news as he thought we were at the forefront when it came to irrigation and we had already invested heavily in it. J Gilbert asked when this would require to be addressed. The Chief Executive stated that we can address it when we want but we need to firstly recognise the knock-on effects this will have, as it will no doubt be a very costly process. The executive will keep the sub-committee apprised with any developments in this matter.

### **Burnside**

J Gilbert said he was concerned about the firmness of the greens, he had received several complaints and had also experienced it himself and asked if they were being watered.

K Stott confirmed that we are due to take delivery of a POGO in the next day or two which checks moisture on the greens and this should hopefully alleviate this concern.

J Gilbert said on the positive side the 5<sup>th</sup> green was excellent, and he was pleased to see in the report that work was due to be carried out on the rough areas on the course.

### **Buddon**

The Links Superintendent confirmed in S Mitchell's absence that there was nothing to report with regards to greens equipment and irrigation.

## **6. Seagreen Update**

The Chief Executive asked, before he explained the current position with Seagreen, was the committee all familiar with the past discussions, to which they all agreed. The Chief Executive explained that in the past month or so, Seagreen had become more aggressive to try and secure deals with various landowners. He explained that they had gone so far as to issue Heads of Terms, which included financial terms, which he felt was premature considering they had not yet been guaranteed the contract. The Chief Executive indicated that he had instructed Strutt & Parker to act on behalf of CGLMC, in the hope of securing the best solution. Strutt & Parker also represent a large majority of other landowners along the proposed cable routes. He stated that hopefully by showing a collective approach it would put the Links in a stronger negotiating position. The Chief Executive said that once a contractor had been appointed we could be looking at work beginning as soon as September/October.

The sub-committee discussed the cable route which had been discussed in prior years and the requirement to clarify preferred routes within the planning corridor. The Chief Executive commented that routes would only be agreed upon after robust consideration of CGLMC preferences and negotiations around the Head of Agreement. The Chief Executive stressed that while this subject has renewed appetite from Seagreen that no bid had yet been awarded to allow Seagreen to progress.

## **7. Any Other Competent Business**

### **Sprinklers**

A McArtney asked if the sprinklers on the 16<sup>th</sup> of the Championship could be looked at as the yardages appear to be missing.

The Links Superintendent said he would investigate this.

### **Bunkers**

L Gordon asked if we could investigate the height of the bunkers for accessibility, as a few of the lady golfers are finding them rather high.

### **Bridges**

The Chief Executive asked the sub-committee their thoughts on altering the bridges on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the Championship and replacing it with a bridge more in-keeping with the bridges at the 18<sup>th</sup>. The sub-committee agreed this would be a good idea and for the Chief Executive and the Links Superintendent to produce a report.

### **Summer Evening Golf**

The Chief Executive said he had received an email from the Pro Shop suggesting the introduction of Summer Evening Golf were STH would be joined on the course by our Pro's. This would take place on a Thursday evening between 4.45pm and 5.45pm and asked the sub-

33.

committee if this is something they would support if brought forward. The sub-committee agreed this would be a good idea.

Yardages

J Gilbert asked the Links Superintendent if he could check the yardages on the par 3 boxes on all courses.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1623 hours.