

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens & Environment Meeting held in the Boardroom of Links House on Thursday 15th August 2019

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convener), P Sawers (Chairman), C Yule (Vice Chairman), L Gordon, I Wilson, I Frier, A McCartney

In Attendance: M Wells (Chief Executive), C Boath (Links Superintendent), K Stott (Championship Course Manager), S Mitchell (Buddon & Burnside Course Manager), A Simpson (Deputy Chief Executive)

Meeting began at 1400 hours.

1. Apologies

None

2. Declaration of Interest

C Yule declared a declaration of interest in any Seagreen discussions.

3. Links Superintendent Report

The Greens Convenor thanked the Greens department for the support they had provided to Portrush during the 148th The Open. Special thanks were afforded to Darren Simpson for representing CGL as part of the Open Support Team.

3.1 Projected Maintenance Reports

Championship

The Greens Convenor asked the Championship Course Manager to summarise the position with Fairy Ring on the course. The Championship Course Manager confirmed that he had administered a first round of fungicide treatment last week and would adopt a monitoring position before evaluating the requirement for any further fungicidal spray. He added that a more sustainable approach was required, including a deeper understanding of the issue. The Chief Executive asked what scientific data was available on the cause and effect of Fairy Ring. The sub-committee was advised by the Championship Course Manager that there has been a vast amount of research, but only a small amount is known about soil activity.

The Championship Course Manager said he was happy with the way fescue over seeding application had gone and using the Blec as a means of minimising disruption to golf.

Buddon & Burnside

No Comments

4. Action Points

Fescue Report

The Greens sub-committee considered a report on fescue, which had been produced by the Links Superintendent, focussing on the continued effort to introduce more fescue into the greens on the Championship course.

CCTV

The Trustees asked when installation of CCTV was likely to go ahead on the course. The Chief Executive confirmed that a quotation had been provided with assistance of the Links Superintendent, but had come back much more expensive than originally anticipated. He confirmed that as a result, the proposed installation of a golf course wide CCTV system would go through a full requirements evaluation and tender process.

LCA

The Chief Executive indicated that recommendations made within the Landscape Character Assessment were underway, with specific focus on improvements to the Barry Burn waterway being scoped with assistance from Abertay University. A further report will be made in due-course.

Bunkers

The Chairman proposed that a previous action point to review bunker heights on the Championship course be revitalised. It was agreed that the Championship head Greenkeeper would action this.

5. Proposed Winter Works 2019/20

The Links Superintendent highlighted that the ditch at the right-hand side of the 7th on the Burnside had been included within the winter works proposal, due to this area being raised as a concern after The Open for spectator and buggy movement.

The Links Superintendent explained the ditch at the practice tee was also included due to health and safety concerns. Trustee suggested erecting a fence around it, but Links Superintendent said this would just create a further health and safety implication.

The Chairman asked the reasoning behind the removal of the path on the 2nd of the Burnside, which the Buddon & Burnside Course Manager confirmed was mainly for aesthetic reasons, and was rarely used.

The Links Superintendent explained his reasoning for his proposals on how to treat the Buddon course during any Seagreen work, highlighting that if Seagreen were granted approval in September, they could begin work as early as November. The sub-committee recommended that the contingency proposals for The Buddon course be submitted to full-board for approval.

5.1 Proposed Championship Forward Tees by MacKenzie & Ebert

The Greens Sub-Committee discussed the recommendations for forward tee positions proposed by Martin Ebert. The discussion was accompanied by The Chief Executive summarising further thoughts of CGL staff and the greens convener.

The sub-committee agreed that additional forward tees on the Championship course would be a positive modernisation to compliment existing Green Tee positions, but that further consideration was required. It was agreed that a small working group would be established to consider the proposals further, including a particular focus on ramifications to shorter hitters on bunker positions etc. This working group will be co-ordinated by the Links Superintendent.

The notes below (per hole / forward tee) provide a guide as to discussions so far;

- 1 No change to existing tee.
- 2 Recommend proposal.
- 3 Reject proposal and reinstate old winter tee close to existing tee.
- 4 Reject proposal, pull back and create a new tee just to the left-hand side of the walkway.
- 5 Recommend proposal – requires further discussion.
- 6 Reject proposal, no change to existing tee.
- 7 Recommend proposal but pull it back slightly - Chairman feels would bring the bunkers more in play therefore creating a bigger hazard. Requires further discussion.
- 8 No change to existing tee – Greens Convenor said we had also discussed bringing in the fairways.
- 9 Recommend proposal.
- 10 No change to existing tee.

- 11 Agreed this needs to be pulled back closer to the Burn than recommended in the proposal, so changing from 267 to 280. – Chairman again feels this brings the bunkers hugely into play. Requires further discussion
- 12 Bring back 20 yards – Chairman wished to look at this one. Requires further discussion.
- 13 No change to existing tee.
- 14 Move green tee over to left-hand side, forward tee to play from Dunhill forward tee.
- 15 Recommend proposal.
- 16 Reject proposal, play from main 16th tee.
- 17 Reject proposal, play from green 17th tee.
- 18 Recommend proposal.

A further proposal will be made to the greens sub-committee in due course.

6. Irrigation Reports

The Links Superintendent confirmed receipt of three tender proposals and it was obvious from all three that a significant overhaul of our irrigation system would be required to modernise our current system. The Greens Convenor agreed, conveying the view that the requirement to prioritise courses or holes for watering is not satisfactory.

The Links Superintendent also highlighted the lack of water storage on the course and would like to take a fresh look into an irrigation pond, with the aim of providing better quality water than the current bore holes.

7. Winter Closures

The Greens Convenor stated that greens committee were happy for each course to close for two weeks during the winter season, so long as this was communicated to the clubs and season ticket holders.

Championship Course	4 th – 8 th Nov and 24 th – 28 th Feb
Burnside Course	11 th – 15 th Nov and 18 th – 22 nd Nov
Buddon Course	25 th – 29 th Nov and 2 nd – 6 th Dec

8. Local Winter Rules

The Greens Convenor said that the Buddon & Burnside Course Manager had asked in the past if the use of mats in the semi rough and off tees could be introduced during the winter season. The Greens committee agreed and asked the Greenkeeping Department to draw up a local rule and communicate this to the Season Ticket Holders and local clubs.

9. R&A and STRI Reports

9.1 Agronomy Championship (Richard Windows)

Championship Course Manager stated he was very happy with the report and that a follow up visit was due in September.

9.2 Agronomy Burnside & Buddon Links (Conor Nolan)

The Buddon & Burnside Course Manager expressed some disagreement with the agronomy recommendations made within the STRI report. It was agreed that this would be discussed between him and the executive team to consolidate a consistent management practice going forward.

The Greens Convenor commented that he had received several complaints with regards to the dryness on the greens but would revisit it in winter to see if there had been any improvement.

9.3 Ecological (Dr Bob Taylor)

The Links Superintendent stated that this was a post Open visit by Dr Taylor to make sure things were recovering following The Open with regards to spectator routes and traffic, and that Dr Taylor was very happy with the recovery process.

10. GEO Update

The Links Superintendent confirmed that we were on track for GEO recertification.

11. Seagreen Update

Dealt with under the Proposed Winter Works 2019/2020 section.

12. Any Other Competent Business

Practice Facilities

The Chief Executive recommended that the board start a review to consider improving practice facilities available at the Links and commented that it has been highlighted as a consistent request by season ticket holders. The Chairman said this would need to be discussed strategically by the whole board, which was agreed.

Policies

The Trustees enquired regarding the Lightning or Severe Rain and Haar Policy, which the Deputy Chief Executive confirmed were in place and had been approved by our insurance providers.

5th Burnside

The Trustees enquired as to what was happening with regards to the damage to the Burn on the 5th green of the Burnside. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that straight after this meeting he was due to meet with the insurance company and the following day with contractors to agree repair works.

Irrigation Sprinklers

A Trustee asked if the sprinkler heads on the Championship course within the rough could be trimmed as they can be quite difficult to see for yardage information. The Championship Course Manager said he would investigate this.

Flag 9th Green Burnside

A Trustee asked if we could possibly change the flag colour on the 9th Green of the Burnside as it is difficult to see the white of the flag against the white of the Hotel. The Links Superintendent said he would investigate this.

Ball Scoops

The Chairman had asked if there was anything we could do with regards to the perceived lack of scoops on the course. Links Superintendent said the problem was with people not returning them to their original place, however he was in discussions with Golf Services with regards to rectifying this.

The Links Superintendent wanted to highlight all the hard work the Greenkeeping Department had put in over the past few days with regards to getting the courses reopened, following flooding. He added that the team had also assisted with flooding and course preparation at Panmure Golf Course who were hosting the Girls Amateur Championship and wanted to thank them for their assistance. The Chief Executive confirmed that he had received a call from the Chairman of The R&A Championship Committee thanking Carnoustie for their assistance.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1600 hours.