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**Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens & Environment Meeting held in the Boardroom and via Video Link on Wednesday 19th August 2020**

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

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

Meeting began at 1408 hours.

**1. Apologies**

P Sawers, C Yule

**2. Declaration of Interest**

None

**3. Action Points**

The Links Superintendent covered the list of action points and explained that the outstanding points such as cleaning of ponds and the Essence of Golf report were delayed due to the lack of manpower during the Covid-19 crisis.

The Links Superintendent stated that Dr Bob Taylor’s visit went well and that he’s identified some areas where gorse could be planted.

**4. Links Superintendent Report/Maintenance Report**

The Greens Convenor explained that the resting of the greens had been very successful last year and the sub-committee agreed that this should continue this winter.

Course Closures

The Links Superintendent explained that the normal course closures will be affected this year with the Seagreen project and the loss of the Buddon for a certain number of weeks.

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He explained that maintenance was essential and the safety of the staff during certain activities, therefore instead of closing fully for two weeks they proposed a compromise of closing the Championship course during the following times only.

Monday 2nd November – Friday 6th November closed from 11am

Monday 9th November – Friday 13th November closed from 11am

Closure at the end of February to be confirmed nearer the time, dependent on the Seagreen project. The Burnside would be open as normal.

The Greens Convenor had previously expressed his concern about closing the course at all during the winter, due to the Buddon closure. A discussion took place between the sub-committee and the greens team, confirming what exact works were required to be carried out and different options were discussed.

After discussion the Greens Convenor proposed the following:

Mon 2nd Nov, Wed 4th Nov, Fri 6th Nov closed from 11am

Tue 3rd Nov and Thu 5th Nov closed from 12noon

Mon 9th Nov, Wed 11th Nov, Fri 13th Nov closed from 11am

Tue 10th and Thu 12th Nov closed from 12noon

The sub-committee agreed to this proposal and the Deputy Links Superintendent agreed to work around these times and adapt accordingly.

The Greens Convenor also pointed out that if the essential works were not completed after these two weeks, then they could continue the closure over the 3rd and 4th week where necessary.

These recommendations will be taken to the full board for approval.

 Barry Burn Pollution

The Greens Convenor suggested that SEPA to be written to, to ask them, once their investigation is concluded, to provide CGL an explanation of how the burn became polluted, what action has been taken and how to stop this happening again. The Links Superintendent will write to SEPA in due course.

Irrigation

The Chief Executive confirmed that the irrigation costs were included within the capital expenditure program for 2020 and beyond as outlined in the Greens RFP, therefore works will go ahead in winter 2021/22 depending on cashflow.

Rough

Plans are being looked at and the rough will be cut back during October.

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Burn Clearing

The Links Superintendent explained that due to the warm weather there was more algae and round the 5th next to the tea hut was particularly bad. The plan for the clearing of the burns will commence from mid-September.

**5.** **The R&A Championship Report**

The Greens Convenor said that report was very good and congratulated the Links Superintendent, the Deputy Links Superintendent and their team. He noted that this had been the biggest fescue improvement in the last 10 years. The Deputy Links Superintendent added that the Championship team were improving the way they worked with the seed and how small changes in the normal activities had helped the fescue grow. The team were looking forward to the official count to see how well they had done.

The Deputy Links Superintendent pointed out that the flare up in Fairy Ring was mainly due to the irrigation system not working. He confirmed that Rainbird will be replacing the sprinkler heads during the winter which should help.

**6. Winter Improvements**

The Links Superintendent explained that most of the proposed works had been carried forward from last years plan, so these had already been approved. The only new points would be a few more new bunkers for the upcoming WBO.

The Deputy Links Superintendent pointed out that the rabbits had been decimating the rough. A pest control company have been on site over the last few weeks and will be returning again every 2nd week through to October.

**7. Seagreen**

The Links Superintendent had joined a course walk with Seagreen this week and confirmed that the mole ploughing maybe completed quicker than anticipated. He explained that the most restoration work would be behind the 17th green where pits will be created. Also some good news was that they may narrow the pipe line area from 10 metres to 5 metres.

A question was asked regarding the trees on the right-hand side of all of the holes involved. The Links Superintendent confirmed that they would all be cut down or relocated but there was potential for gorse to be planted in its place.

The Greens Convenor asked for M Ebert’s plans to be brought to the next greens sub-committee for discussion.

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The Links Superintendent agreed that course changes including temporary greens would be communicated to season ticket holders and golf clubs, especially as some had competitions in September. The Greens Convenor confirmed that these changes would not affect competitions as course is within 100 yards.

**8. Women’s Open**

The Links Superintendent said that he had visited Troon last week and they had landing areas on fairways a month prior to the WBO. There will be guidance on this from The R&A but he wanted it noted that this will be required to be considered.

**9.** **Any Other Competent Business**

Bins on Tees

Scottish Golf guidance is still not allowing bins on the tees. There is a lot of rubbish lying around but this could be from the general public.

Fountains

Some of the water fountains around the course have had the black bags over them ripped off. The Links Superintendent stated that they will now be left uncovered as some people do use them to refill their water bottles. He confirmed that some courses are leaving them out and some are removing them. The public and golfers should use their own initiative on using these.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1530 hours.

**Action Points:**

Write to SEPA for a conclusion – LS

Communicate to STH and Clubs with Buddon course changes - LS

Bring M Ebert’s plans for Buddon to next meeting - LS