

**Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens & Environment Meeting held as a Course Walk Monday  
16<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

**Present:** C Yule (Chairman), K Daly, A McArtney, L Gordon

**In Attendance:** C Boath (Links Superintendent), K Stott (Courses Manager), Michael Wells (Chief Executive), R Windows (R&A Agronomist)

Meeting began at 1325 hours.

**1. Apologies**

J McLeish, E Davie, I Frier

**2. Declaration of Interest**

None

**3. Introduction**

The Links Superintendent welcomed and introduced R Windows (R&A Agronomist) to the those of the Greens Sub-Committee that were not in attendance at May's Greens meeting.

The Links Superintendent then passed over to R Windows who explained that the R&A Agronomists role during the week of the Women's Open was to support the greens team. The main role of the Agronomist is to provide the Greenkeeping team with the necessary information to make crucial decisions in obtaining data which can then be used to gain optimum playing conditions for the week. This would be achieved by way of cutting and water application recommendations to help improve course speed, moisture, and firmness.

**4. Action Points**

No matters arising.

**5. Links Superintendent**

The Chairman suggested we hold a one topic greens meeting to have one final discussion with regards to potential future golf course projects, before any recommendations are taken to full board in September. The Links Superintendent agreed to organise a date.

## **6. Championship Course Walk**

R Windows explained that due to the dry summer and then the heavy rainfall in the last few weeks the green speeds are slow, but they are gradually increasing, and they should be perfect for the beginning of the tournament.

R Windows remarked that there was still fairy ring evident on the course but emphasised that it was controlled and was a direct impact of wet/dry spells of recent weeks. He maintained the best strategy to combat this was through moisture control and highlighted the importance of investing in a good irrigation system. R Windows stated a good system would not only increase the quality of the water and the accuracy of the application but also have a positive environmental impact. The Courses Manager highlighted some areas of the course that had consistently presented type 1 fairy ring, that resulted in more invasive damage, adding that he was looking to cut out certain areas like this as part of 2022/23 winter maintenance.

R Windows declared that Carnoustie were the first course ever during a major tournament to use hybrid mowers to cut greens rather than hand mowing. This method would not only reduce our carbon footprint but would also require fewer staff.

R Windows expressed his astonishment once again at the increase in fescue on the course in such a short period of time and said this was a testament to the hard work of the skilled greens staff. R Windows stressed the importance of recruitment and investment within greenkeeping industry and said that we should be mindful when making decisions. He had concerns with regards to attracting young and qualified greenkeepers and was conscious that due to the hours, working outdoors and pay rates compared with other professions, we are struggling to attract and retain individuals. He was pleased with Carnoustie's support of the apprentice programme and commitment to showcasing the work of the greenkeeper to new workforce markets.

## **7. Q & A with Richard Windows**

No matters arising.

## **8. Any Other Competent Business**

No matters arising.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1430 hours.