

**Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens & Environment Meeting Held in the Boardroom, Links House on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**Present:** C Yule (Chairman), I Frier, A McArtney, R Wardlaw, L Gordon

**In Attendance:** C Boath (Links Superintendent), K Stott (Courses Manager), Michael Wells (Chief Executive)

Meeting began at 1500 hours.

**1. Apologies**

K Daly, J McLeish

**2. Declaration of Interest**

None

**3. Introduction**

The Links Superintendent introduced new trustee Ralph Wardlaw to the Greens & Environment Sub-Committee and introduced Jodie Mathieson as new greenkeeping administrator/minute taker.

**4. Action Points**

The Links Superintendent reviewed the action points and discussed those that had been achieved. He stated that a review of the years Action Points would take place at the next meeting.

A trustee suggested that Dr Bob Taylor's reports be added to action points for future reference.

**5. Links Superintendent Report**

The Links Superintendent summarised his report, noting it has been a difficult year but was still wanting to remain focused on the positives. Fescue content on the Championship has increased thanks to previous years overseedings and with the help of resting the greens

through the winter period. A trustee noted that something similar was advised in Richard Windows R&A report for the Burnside. This was to be discussed later.

The Links Superintendent went on to say that The AIG Women's Open was very successful and well received globally. It was good for all staff to hear the great feedback.

The focus is now concentrated on winter work and in the hope of things going back to normal, a look at gaining more staff in the new year. The Chief Executive mentioned that there are a few projects to be put forward to full board, including an increase in staffing levels and an apprenticeship programme.

Irrigation was on hold due to financial uncertainty at this moment in time but will be looked at again at the end of March.

A trustee stated that he thinks all courses are in great condition, even with shortages to staff. The Courses Manager appreciated the comment and detailed that the team are highly motivated and eager to make sure the courses look and play to the best of their ability.

The Courses Manager also thanked the Greens Sub-Committee for their backing of resting the greens, this has made great strides in the fescue content of the Championship greens.

## **6. R&A Agronomy Report**

The Links Superintendent explained this was a good report for the Burnside and Buddon, especially after the last few seasons where nutritionally, areas on the courses have not had as much input. The ultimate aim is to have all 3 courses as consistent as possible. The Courses Manager said it would be ideal to have Buddon and Burnside playing the same as the Championship. The idea is to have all 3 courses to an R&A standard using smart objectives to achieve this in turf condition.

A trustee referred to the resting of greens that Richard Windows had stated as being beneficial to the Burnside due to the amount of play it receives each year. He asked the greens sub-committee if this was something that could be put to the full board as an action. The sub-committee agreed.

## **7. Seagreen Update**

The Links Superintendent gave an update on works at landfall; all timings are going to plan with the first offshore cable due to be pulled in on 25<sup>th</sup> December.

Work is near complete on the reinstatement of the mounds behind the 17<sup>th</sup> green.

Other works from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> will begin in due course.

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

A trustee asked why the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> holes on the Championship are split holes with regards to par.

He enquired if there was any scope to make the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> a par 5 instead of being par 4/5. The Links Superintendent confirmed he would consult with Keir McNicoll and the SGU and bring this point back for further consideration. This will be made into an action point.

The trustee then asked if there was any possibility for visitors to play the Hogan tees throughout the year. The Chief Executive said that this had been discussed before and could be looked at again, possibly as a STH event. It was agreed to give this point further consideration.

A trustee was very concerned on the amount of dog walkers and public using the courses that are not adhering to the code of conduct. The Chief Executive understood that this had been raised a few times and that additional education and improved wayfinding is going to be looked into.

The Chairman queried how many trees had fallen in the aftermath of Storm Arwen. The Links Superintendent stated that over 20 trees had blown down along with various limbs. He also stated the course was playable due to trees falling away from the fairways. The Courses Manager stated that the clear-up was underway but most of the trees that were out of the way would be cut up in frostier weather.

A trustee asked why the trees on the 6<sup>th</sup> of the Buddon were marked with paint. The Links Superintendent replied that these trees were potentially dead and are to be looked at. He confirmed that any trees that are to be taken out will go through the greens sub-committee first.

A trustee requested information from Richard Windows of The R&A on course utilisation on all 3 courses to provide guidance information for the STH review piece. This will be made an action point.

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