

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens & Environment Meeting Held in the Boardroom, Links House on Wednesday 9th February 2022

Present: K Daly (Greens Convenor), C Yule (Chairman), R Wardlaw, L Gordon, S Duncan (via zoom)

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

Meeting began at 1500 hours.

1. Apologies

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2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Introduction

The Greens Convenor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the table to Scott Duncan who is new to the board of trustees, this being his first committee meeting.

4. Links Superintendent Report

The Links Superintendent summarised his report. The Greens Convenor asked if the Frost Policy can be communicated to all season ticket holders again. This was listed as an action point.

The Links Superintendent advised that work has begun on the Seagreen cable route, and the area was being prepared for turf. The Deputy Links Superintendent mentioned that work is currently being concentrated on the 15th and 16th tees with irrigation being added before turfing will begin. All being well with the weather, it is anticipated turfing works will be complete within the next 3 weeks. The Greens Convenor enquired as to when the turf will be playable. The Deputy Links Superintendent is hopeful that play will resume from the turf in June, but in the meantime mandatory lift and drop will continue to be in play.

The Links Superintendent explained that it was an exciting time at Carnoustie with the release of the new Apprentice Scheme. He was hopeful this will result in recruiting two school leavers

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at the start of the season. The Links Superintendent explained the apprenticeship scheme will work in close connection with John Deere and enable the successful applicants to learn to the highest standard with opportunities to visit courses across Europe and the United States. Interviews for an additional four qualified Greenkeepers is now underway, as is a search for other various roles.

The Links Superintendent stated that the next Greens meeting will be held on the 10th of May, this will be in conjunction with Richard Windows from the R&A visiting. Dr Bob Taylor and Sophie Olejnik will also be on site to compile an R&A environmental management plan for future reference.

A trustee enquired what the current plan is for the Nestie course. The Links Superintendent replied that Astro tees will be used to replace the grass tees, which will aid maintenance greatly.

A trustee queried if, like one or two other courses, artificial turf faces on bunkers is something CGL would ever consider using. The Links Superintendent mentioned that there are environmental implications for this and being a patented design, they are quite expensive but there may be a way to incorporate this on practice bunkers. This is something to be considered in future.

5. Action Points

The previous action points were discussed.

6. Seagreen Update

The Links Superintendent confirmed that the offshore cable has still not been pulled ashore. There is currently no set date for this to be carried out. Additional Seagreen plans were discussed within the Links Superintendent report.

7. Martin Ebert Plans

The Links Superintendent asked the trustees to review the plans set out by Martin Ebert. Any comments are to be forwarded to the Greenkeeping Administrator for discussion at the next Greens & Environment meeting in May.

8. Any Other Competent Business

The Greens Convenor raised points communicated to him by a fellow trustee. The points discussed included;

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- The risk of trees at the 9th green & 10th tee falling, and if they should be added to the risk register – The Links Superintendent confirmed the trees are very close to the railway line and will be added to the Risk Register.
- The abundance of litter around the course – The Links Superintendent mentioned that there was a ‘Bring your Child to Work Day’ planned for Friday (10th February) where the children would take part in a litter picking activity. The Deputy Links Superintendent agreed that litter on the course was going to be made a priority for a member of staff when the team is back to full staffing levels.
- If 1st and 18th of the Buddon will be used as a practice area for the Boys & Girls Amateur Championship – The Links Superintendent confirmed this would be the case and communications will be sent out to season ticket holders on timings.

Pitch Marks

A trustee raised a query over the amount of pitch marks on the course. It was discussed that players need to take more time and effort to repair pitch marks. The Links Superintendent stated that this is down to poor golf etiquette and it is not just a problem at Carnoustie but other courses up and down the country. It was agreed to highlight this to STHs through the usual communication channels.

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