33.

**Draft Minutes of the Greens & Environment Sub-Committee Meeting Held in the Boardroom, Links House on Tuesday 2nd August 2022**

**Present:** K Daly (Greens Convener), I Frier, L Gordon, A McArtney, R Wardlaw.

**In Attendance:** M Wells (Chief Executive), C Boath (Links Superintendent), K Stott (Courses Manager), Dr Bob Taylor (Ecologist)

**1. Apologies**

C Yule, S Duncan

**2. Declaration of Interest**

None

**3. Introduction**

The Greens Convener welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Dr Bob Taylor to the trustees. Dr Taylor is a consulting Ecologist who has been working with CGL since the early 90s.

**4. Dr Bob Taylor Report**

Dr Taylor gave a brief explanation to the trustees regarding his work with CGL. As an Ecologist he is mainly looking at the condition of the rough and the outer play areas on the course and how they can be improved, not only to increase the quality of the course but also how we can increase biodiversity within the land as well. The R&A would like to quantify how golf is beneficial for wildlife, this will involve Dr Taylor’s colleague Sophie Olejnik tracking the wildlife on the course to create habitat mapping.

Dr Taylor touched on climate change and how this currently impacts golf courses and how it will impact further in future.

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A trustee raised a question regarding the safety of the trees at the back of 9th green on Championship course with regards to falling on the railway line. The trustee stated that if they were to be removed and replaced with mounding and hawthorns instead, it would also be beneficial for spectators at future championships. The trustee enquired as to how this could be done without disturbing the environment of the course. Dr Taylor had a few suggestions as to how this could be achieved. The Chief Executive confirmed these changes

were included in recent plans provided to the greens sub-committee and this work should be re-visited for final confirmation, approval and costing.

The Chief Executive praised the report and recommended to the Greens committee, that going forward, a harmonised management plan be produced to strengthen the courses playability whilst also ensuring we ensure best practice ecological and environmental sustainability.

Dr Taylor ended his discussion by inviting the trustees on a course walk in future to discuss plans further.

**5. Links Superintendent Report**

The Courses Manager commented on the dry summer conditions and appraised the trustees of the additional work required to maintain fairway conditions while experiencing high evaporation rates. The installation of the new irrigation system will be a welcome addition providing more control and response, especially if recent weather trends normalise in the coming years.

The Links Superintendent discussed recent fires on the course, noting the damage sustained on the Buddon course. The police are currently handling this matter.

The Links Superintendent noted the success of the recent Pinehurst/CGL exchange which saw Carnoustie apprentice Ross Crosbie travel to Pinehurst, North Carolina for a month. Ross had a very enjoyable trip, making a good impression whilst at Pinehurst and successfully represented Carnoustie Golf Links. Kevin Robinson then travelled from Pinehurst to Carnoustie for 3 weeks in July, this was also successful, and Kevin thoroughly enjoyed visiting many courses across the country. Thanks were given to the Greens Convener for spending time with Kevin, inviting him to golf on his free time.

35.

The Links Superintendent touched on recent training undertaken in the department, including our Irrigation Engineer having the opportunity to complete training at Leicester City FC’s training ground, which had been a fantastic experience to learn from a leader in irrigation systems.

A trustee enquired about the current situation with Seagreen and if there was a time scale for when the work would be completed. The Links Superintendent confirmed that they are still awaiting installation of the final cable, but the workspace Seagreen take up is gradually reducing. The Chief Executive commented that expectations should be managed and did not anticipate the work would be fully completed until early next year.

**6. Decision Papers**

**6.1 Course Closures 2023/24**

The trustees had no comments and recommended the Course Closures 2023-24 to the Full Board for approval.

**6.2 Winter Improvements 2022/23**

The trustees had no comments and recommended the Winter Improvements for 2022/23 to the Full Board for approval.

**7. Any Other Competent Business:**

Irrigation Plan

The Links Superintendent issued the trustees with an information pamphlet on the upcoming irrigation plan. The trustees noted that communications are due to be sent to STH’s and local clubs advising of irrigation plans and potential disruptions.

Proposed Course Changes

A trustee enquired about the proposed course changes which were previously discussed at the start of the year. The Links Superintendent confirmed that Course Architect, Martin Ebert, will be available the following week to discuss the plans further. He proposed that the committee meet after this to discuss the possible changes.

36.

Bunkers

A trustee raised a concern over bunker conditions, including not being raked appropriately. The Courses Manager discussed this matter with the trustees, noting that the dry weather does not help the conditions of sand in the bunker. It was agreed that a reminder of course etiquette would be sent to STHs, and Caddies.

Health & Safety

A trustee raised a health and safety query regarding stray balls from the 17th tee coming over onto the Burnside 6th tee. The Links Superintendent would like to raise this as an action point to try and combat this becoming an issue.

Tea Hut Toilets

A trustee raised an issue with the general untidiness of the toilets at the Tea Hut. The Links Superintendent confirmed this will be looked into and communicated to the Head of Estates and Maintenance.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1650 hours.