

**Minutes of the Greens & Environment Sub-Committee Meeting Held in the Training Room,
Greenkeeping Sheds on Wednesday 23rd November 2022**

Present: K Daly (Greens Convener), C Yule (Chairman), I Frier, L Gordon, R Wardlaw

In Attendance: M Wells (Chief Executive), K Stott (Links Superintendent), D Cairnie (Deputy Course Manager - Championship), M Reynolds (Deputy Course Manager – Buddon & Burnside), S Sutherland (Irrigation Engineer)

Meeting began at 1400 hours

1. Apologies

A McCartney, S Duncan, K Braes

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Introduction

Introductions were given around the table to welcome new attendees - D. Cairnie, M. Reynolds & S. Sutherland, to the Greens & Environment sub-committee members.

4. Action Points

A review of each action point was discussed, amendments/updates were made where required.

5. Links Superintendent Report

The Links Superintendent noted how honoured he was to have taken over the position and intends to draw on his 23 years of experience, and working under 3 previous Links Superintendents, to continue the hard work on the course.

The Links Superintendent confirmed the two greenkeeping vacancies have now been filled, with two very enthusiastic and knowledgeable greenkeepers joining the team.

The Links Superintendent raised the issue of bunker sand and explained that bunker levels are being re-evaluated, he confirmed there is a plan to audit all 112 bunkers on the course prior to the season starting. A trustee enquired if the new irrigation system will aid with reducing sand blow, the Links Superintendent confirmed this would be the case.

The Links Superintendent touched on the future plans for sourcing indigenous sand, this is currently being investigated by the new Head of Sustainability.

6. Course Manager Reports

i) Championship

There were no matters arising from Championship report.

ii) Burnside & Buddon

A trustee enquired about the rough between 1st and 18th on the Burnside. The Deputy Course Manager explained this land will be cut, combed, fertilised and overseeded.

A trustee enquired the feasibility of raising the 3rd green. The Links Superintendent discussed the scope of doing so and confirmed this may be explored more in future with all options taken into consideration.

A trustee enquired about the ponds on the Buddon regarding the water to vegetation ratio, finding the ponds are now heavy on the vegetation side. The Links Superintendent explained this would be an issue to be discussed with the Head of Sustainability however a long-term plan is being discussed to clear the ponds on a rotational schedule with the help of external contractors.

7. The R&A Championship Agronomy Report

There was a short discussion around the occurrence of fairy rings and whether this would be affected by the wet weather. The Links Superintendent went over the background to fairy rings and noted that they were a natural phenomenon but had been much less prevalent this year due to a more specific greens moisture management. The wet weather this winter should not be a factor.

The committee unanimously noted the excellent standard of the course all year and particularly around the end of the season.

8. Irrigation Update

The Irrigation Engineer confirmed the work was proceeding according to schedule, regardless of recent weather.

9. Any Other Competent Business

There was none.

10. Course Walk

The trustees joined the Links Superintendent, Deputy Course Managers and Irrigation Engineer on a course walk to look at the irrigation project, the trees at 9th Championship hole and damage sustained on the course after the recent flooding.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1540 hours