

**Minutes of the Greens & Environment Sub-Committee Meeting Held in the Boardroom,  
Links House on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February  
2023**

**Present:** K Daly (Greens Convener), C Yule (Chairman), I Frier, A McArtney, R Wardlaw, S Duncan, E Kelly

**In Attendance:** M Wells (Chief Executive), K Stott (Links Superintendent), D Cairnie (Championship Course Manager), M Reynolds (Burnside & Buddon Course Manager), S Sutherland (Irrigation & Service Technician), K McNicoll (PGA Head Professional), Lee Bowen (HR Administrator)

**1. Apologies**

L Gordon

**2. Declaration of Interest**

None

**3. Introduction**

The Greens Convener welcomed new trustee Edna Kelly. Keir McNicoll (PGA Head Professional) was introduced to the committee as was Lee Bowen (HR admin) who was attending the Greens Meeting to observe.

**4. Links Superintendent Report**

The Links Superintendent summarised his report, focusing on the severity of the weather and floods at the end of 2022 and the impact this has had on the course. The Links Superintendent commented that the extent of the flooding in November and December (while not uncommon) has spurred investigation as to what CGL can do long term to mitigate the impact of future floods and noted that to do so effectively would require co-ordination of various landowners and agencies. Including SEPA and Angus Council. .

The Links Superintendent notified the committee of the recent promotions within the greens team. Duncan Cairnie and Mark Reynolds have been promoted to Course Managers, with Malcolm Kydd and Craig Kerr promoted to Deputy Course Managers. Steve Sutherland has also been promoted to the position of Irrigation & Services Technician.

The Links Superintendent was happy to report the tee boxes will be returning to the course for the start of the new season after a refurbishment by the maintenance department. The Links Superintendent has been working with the head of branding and marketing to create new signage for the course to improve consistency.

The Links Superintendent touched on the coastal erosion seen at the 18<sup>th</sup> Buddon and noted Angus Council have been notified and an appraisal will be carried out on the area soon.

The Links Superintendent confirmed communication with Network Rail has been exchanged regarding the trees at the 9<sup>th</sup> green/10<sup>th</sup> tee of the Championship Course. Further discussion with Scottish Woodlands will follow.

## **5. Course Manager Reports**

### **Championship**

The Championship Course Manager noted due to the irrigation work, there are still 15-20 bunkers to be built prior to season starting. The 6<sup>th</sup> Hogan Tee will tie in with work being done on the 17<sup>th</sup> Buddon as it is awaiting turf delivery.

The Championship Course Manager explained rough management is now complete, but some areas may require to be re-seeded.

Following a question from a trustee, the Championship Course Manager confirmed there is not a lot of play on the Championship course as of yet, but this is aiding in irrigation and course maintenance being completed before the start of season.

### **Buddon & Burnside**

The Buddon & Burnside Course Manager confirmed there has been 21 bunkers rebuilt on the Burnside and gorse burned/vandalised last year has now been cut back and/or removed. The Buddon & Burnside Course Manager also confirmed that 17 bunkers have been rebuilt on the Buddon course and the dust path at the 17<sup>th</sup> is now down.

A trustee enquired if the 3<sup>rd</sup> tee was raised would this aid with flooding. The Links Superintendent explained this had been previously explored but not executed, however with the frequency and extent of flooding, this is something that may need to be readdressed.

A trustee raised the question of gorse removal and what happens with the gorse taken from the course. The Buddon & Burnside Course Manager confirmed all materials are chipped on course and composted.

### **Irrigation**

The Irrigation and Service Technician gave a positive update on the irrigation project and mapped out the imminent plans of MJ Abbots including the installation of IT systems being installed the day of the meeting.

A trustee enquired if play will be impacted by turf scarring at the start of season. The Irrigation and Service Technician confirmed play will not be affected, scarring will be visible, but ground will be smooth. The trustee then asked to confirm when yardage markers will appear on the new sprinklers. Irrigation & Service Technician is hopeful they will be in place by May. The Links Superintendent confirmed communication will go out to all STH with the plans for this.

A trustee asked if a lift and drop rule will be enforced on the new turf at the start of season. Links Superintendent confirmed he will be working with PGA Head Professional to establish rules.

## **6. Golfing Facilities at Carnoustie Discussion**

The Chief Executive encouraged a general discussion centred around the current facilities at Carnoustie Golf Links, if they could be improved, and how.

It was agreed a one topic meeting will be held in April. Trustees are asked to bring a 'wish list' to this meeting to stimulate conversation with a view to agreeing a scope that can be assessed for feasibility and viability, prior to any future engagement with Season Ticket Holders and local clubs etc. .

6.

**7.Any Other Competent Business**

A trustee congratulated Carnoustie Golf Links and the Greens team with the recent win at the Scottish Golf Awards of best course and Best Pro Shop.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1515 hours