

**Minutes of the Greens & Environment Sub-Committee Meeting Held in the Boardroom,
Links House on 8th February 2024**

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

In Attendance: M Wells (Chief Executive), A Simpson (Finance Director), K Stott (Links Superintendent), D Cairnie (Course Manager, Championship), M Reynolds (Course Manager, Burnside & Buddon),

1. Apologies

L Gordon, A McArtney

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Action Points

Action Points discussed.

- 9th green trees
The Links Superintendent has met with Fred Conacher from Angus Council to assess the trees to the rear of the 9th green. Fred Conacher has confirmed one tree is at risk and should be felled (Tay Tree Surgery will assist with this). It has also been agreed that an annual audit of the trees at the 9th green will be conducted to identify any trees at risk or requiring attention. Any trees felled will be replaced with native Scots Pine, at locations to be agreed between CGLMC and Angus Council.
- Hybrid/Artificial bunkers
The Links Superintendent reported that he had conducted research on artificial greens by visiting Kingsbarns Golf Links. From discussions with Course and Facilities Manager, Innes Knight, the Links Superintendent relayed the preparation and maintenance that artificial bunkers require to the sub-committee. After discussion, it was agreed that while synthetic greens can be useful, it was agreed that any

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introduction at Carnoustie (at this current time) would be restricted to practice areas, and that the golf courses should continue to receive traditional bunker construction practices.

- Course Management Plan/Review of Martin Ebert Plans - Discussed within Point 6.

4. Links Superintendent Report

The Links Superintendent briefly touched on the weather impact to the course. A general discussion ensued regarding ditches on the course, and the future action which can be investigated to aid flooding mitigation and alleviation on certain areas. The Chief Executive intimated that this is being discussed on a wider basis and will be commented on in more detail at the next full board meeting report.

A trustee enquired about the water refill stations and what future opportunities there were around the courses. The Links Superintendent confirmed that a drinking water main had been installed around the Championship course (as part of the recent new irrigation system installation), which provided the ability to install a drinking water supply to every Hogan tee, which will provide the opportunity for future championships to attach water stations for events and more availability for CGL to add additional stations around the golf course.

The Links Superintendent also confirmed the exploration into new bore holes will commence soon, and a third-party opinion on the area will be investigated by a geologist to confirm the area best suited.

Following a question from a trustee the Links Superintendent confirmed that it was the intension to commence irrigation works on the Buddon in autumn/winter 2024, subject to funding being underwritten.

The Convener commended the Greenkeeping team on the success of the Barnoustie feedback in the latest copy of Fescue & Link.

5. Course Manager Reports

5.1 Championship

Following discussion, regarding the proposal to remove the gorse bush behind the white tee on the 9th, there were no issues raised by the sub-committee and it was agreed that the bush be removed.

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5.2 Buddon & Burnside

The Buddon & Burnside Course Manager explained the difficulties faced with silt accumulation following the periods of heavy rainfall/flooding. It was agreed by the sub-committee that a local rule may be put in place for the start of season.

6. This item is held within a confidential minute

7. Any Other Competent Business

Gratitude was shown from the trustees to the Links Superintendent, the Course Managers and the Greenkeeping team for the work they have done through a very difficult winter period.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1510 hours.