

**Minutes of the Greens & Environment Sub-Committee Meeting Held in the Boardroom,
Links House on 22nd August 2024**

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

In Attendance: A Simpson (Deputy Chief Executive), K Stott (Links Superintendent), D Cairnie (Course Manager, Championship), M Reynolds (Course Manager, Burnside & Buddon), S Sutherland (Irrigation & Services Technician)

Meeting began at 1359 hours

1. Apologies

I Frier, A McCartney, L Gordon

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Links Superintendent Report

Ecology Monitoring Report

The Links Superintendent issued a recap of the Annual Ecology Monitoring Report submitted by Dr Bob Taylor following his visit to the course on June 30th.

General discussion ensued regarding the following matters.

- Gorse: areas will be trimmed back as recommended.
- Trees at 9th Green: Fred Conacher will complete another audit of the trees in the Autumn period. Discussion with the R&A is required prior to future development of the area.

4. Course Manager Report

4.1 Championship

No matters arising.

4.2 Burnside and Buddon

No matters arising.

4.3 Irrigation

Following a question from a trustee, the Links Superintendent confirmed that the imminent install of the new irrigation system on the Buddon Course has been adapted to accommodate future course developments.

5. Decision Paper – Winter Course Closures 2025/26

The trustees had no comments and recommended the Course Closures 2025/26 to the Full Board for approval.

6. Any Other Competent Business

Winter Works - 17th Tee

The Greens Convenor suggested the 17th tee be raised a little to provide players a better view of the fairway and burn hazards. The Links Superintendent stated that this was a reasonable idea to have a view of the fairway and is something that may be looked at in the future, but there was no scope to include it into this year's winter works.

Bunkers

Several trustees raised concerns regarding the standard bunkers are left in by players. It was agreed that the best course of action would be to communicate with Caddie Master about best way forward.

Boreholes

The Links Superintendent and Irrigation & Services Technician discussed the current progress of the borehole drilling. There is ongoing discussion regarding utilising the old boreholes situated on the Burnside.

Burn Wall

The Links Superintendent discussed the current state of the burn wall and highlighted areas that pose a worry in the coming winter months. Discussions are ongoing with Maccaferri for a long-term plan of how the wall can be reinforced with the use of gabion baskets.

Richard Windows

The Links Superintendent confirmed Richard Windows from The R&A will attend the next Greens meeting in November. Trustees proposed a course walk to take place prior to the meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1442 hours.