

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Meeting held in the Committee Room at 20 Links Parade on Monday 18th April 2016

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convener), P Sawers, C Yule, L Gordon, G Paton, A McCartney, I Frier

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), A Reid (Links Superintendent), C Boath (Head Greenkeeper Championship)

Meeting began at 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

There were none.

2. Declaration of Interest

There were none.

3. Links Superintendents Report

J Gilbert referred the committee to the section in the Links Superintendent's report on the standard and etiquette of season ticket holders. He said he agreed completely with the Links Superintendent particularly with regard to the failure to replacing pitchmarks and replacing divots. A Reid said he was concerned about the lack of respect shown to the greenkeeping staff. He said the greenkeeping staff would often speak to the season ticket holders politely but would either be ignored or receive an aggressive response. G Paton said he agreed completely with the concerns raised. J Gilbert asked that the matter should be discussed in order that some proposals could be brought forward in order to improve the situation. There was general agreement within the sub-committee that there had been a decline in standards and the matter was serious enough to take some positive steps. J Gilbert proposed that the matter be referred to the Golf Services Manager and that he be asked to come forward with a formal set of recommendations.

J Gilbert said that he had never seen the golf course in better condition at the start of the season. The sub-committee agreed whole heartedly with that assessment. J Gilbert asked A Reid to pass on the congratulations of the sub-committee to all the staff for their outstanding work over the winter months.

4. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

C Boath confirmed that the gorse root removal was to take place on the 15th hole.

Buddon Links

J Gilbert asked why the work of raising the greenside sprinklers had not been done during the winter months. A Reid said it was better to do this work when the irrigation system was operational in order that the surrounding turf could be easily watered.

Burnside

A Reid said that hydro seeding would be taking place on the 8th and 14th holes. He said that work would continue on the 14th hole to reconfigure the large area of sand between the tee and the green.

5. Health and Safety Matters

J Gilbert explained that he, A Reid and G Duncan had had an initial Health and Safety meeting with T Healey where a number of matters had been raised. Further meetings had been planned. He asked A Reid if the Head Greenkeepers were now reminding their staff about the health and safety requirements prior to undertaking specific jobs. A Reid said they had been delivering health and safety reminders on a regular, although not daily, basis and are looking at ways of further improving on this.

6. Flood Report

J Gilbert said that the flood report from A Reid was very comprehensive. He suggested that the sub-committee could ask questions at this meeting but they should study the report in detail in order to discuss it more fully at the next Greens meeting. P Sawers said there appeared to be less water coming down the burn than in previous years. She asked if this was due to work undertaken by Angus Council further upstream. J Gilbert said he regularly walked the length of the Barry Burn and was not aware of any significant works that had taken place.

J Gilbert highlighted the suggestion by A Reid that a contractor be employed to install drains in the practice ground. He said he had visited the practice ground after recent heavy rainfall and it would not have been possible to park cars on that area. He felt that this was a critical area to the Open Championship and that everything possible should be done to improve the ground conditions. He said that the drainage work carried out by A Reid and his staff was successful but further significant improvement work was required. He said this work should take place this winter and he asked A Reid for an estimated cost for employing a contractor. A Reid said he anticipated that the work would cost an estimated £20,000 but this

represented a significant saving on a previous estimate of £112,000. P Sawers asked if employing the contractor at £20,000 would be adequate as it seemed a considerable saving on the previous estimate. A Reid said that the £20,000 covered specific areas only, rather than draining the whole practice ground. He said that it should happen this summer and a similar exercise would probably be required next summer, prior to the Open Championship. J Gilbert said there may be a possibility of the R&A contributing to the cost of this work.

7. Open Championship 2018

J Gilbert asked when the assessment of the load bearing capacity of the bridges was to take place. A Reid said Fairhurst were due to visit in preparation for the Seniors Open and he would arrange an assessment visit with them.

J Gilbert said that the work to the 3rd hole of the Championship course to put fairway to the right of the bunkers had been approved and Martin Ebert should be asked to prepare plans for this work. He said that the work required to the 4th hole was minor and the greens staff were well able to deal with that. He asked about the work involved in modifying the existing Open Championship practice ground and suggested that environmental surveys and landlords consent would be required. He said that Martin Ebert should be contacted to ask how he was progressing with the preparation of plans.

J Gilbert said that G Duncan should contact Ian Furneaux of the R&A to discuss the preparation of spectator walkways.

A Reid said he was concerned about the installation of the fibre optic cables by the R&A. He said that Carnoustie was by far the most complicated of the Open venues for this work to be done due to the extensive cabling and irrigation piping already in place on the 3 courses as well as having to cross the Barry Burn on many occasions.

8. Any Other Competent Business

Environmental Standards

J Gilbert said that he had reviewed the BREEAM rating system and that there were 5 categories which were pass, good, very good, excellent and outstanding. He said that we should aim for the best rating we could achieve for the new building.

Strokesavers

J Gilbert asked I Frier if he had spoken to the Head Professional with regard to strokesavers. I Frier said he had done so, but J Gilbert said they were still being issued by the Tee Head Starter contrary to what had been agreed. I Frier said he would speak again to the Head Professional.

Ladies Tees

P Sawers pointed out that the proposed new ladies tees had not been asked for by the local lady golfers. After discussion it was agreed that P Sawers and L Gordon should consult with the local lady players to see if there was support or not for new ladies tees on the Championship course.

Links Superintendent

A Reid said he was on holiday for the next 2 greens meetings. J Gilbert said he would try to find an alternative date so that A Reid could attend at least one of those meetings.

Green Waste Disposal

G Duncan said that Councillor Boyd had been in touch with the local press to suggest that the golf course may be able to offer a facility for the public to bring their green waste for disposal. A Reid said this would be impossible due to environmental and health and safety issues involving the public.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2000 hours.