

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Meeting held in the Committee Room at 20 Links

Parade on Monday 8th August 2016

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

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

Meeting began at 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

C Yule, A McArtney

2. Declaration of Interest

There were none.

3. Links Superintendents Report

A Reid had nothing to add to the report but did state that it was produced the week prior and that the Practice Range drainage work is now complete. The next heavy rainfall will test how effective it is against flooding.

L Gordon asked what surfactant is. A Reid explained it is a wetting agent but doesn't necessary retain water. It is designed to coat soil particles for water to go through and take water with it.

G Duncan asked if Fairy Ring has been caused by something we have done. A Reid replied perhaps the sand is making the surface more likely to dry out but there are a lot of unknowns. P Sawers said it can also be found at the local War Memorial.

4. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

Regarding the top dressing J Gilbert asked C Boath if it would be on all fairways. C Boath said yes, but only specific areas. C Boath said it would take place 4 weeks prior to the Tassie.

L Gordon asked when the next phase of Operation Pollinator will be taking place. C Boath said he would be in contact with the schools after the summer holidays.

Regarding the new position of the Ladies tees L Gordon asked where they would be. C Boath said some are going forward for the Dunhill, but there were no plans to move the ladies' tees permanently.

Burnside

J Gilbert asked A Reid what was the size of the tine to be used, A Reid replied $\frac{5}{8}$ " (15mm), and said this will happen after the Tassie. He assured the committee that the holes close quickly. He also said this was done last year over 3 weeks but will be done over 1 week weather permitting.

Approval was granted to proceed with this work.

J Gilbert said the tee positions will need to be looked at for the new 16th and asked A Reid to bring a plan to the next Greens meeting. A Reid agreed and said they will be in play for next season, definitely by 1st June 2017.

A Reid said the trees that are to come down on 7th hole are to allow winter sun and will come under our allowance of trees per quarter.

Buddon

G Paton asked if the tree that is to be removed on the 7th hole is dead. A Reid confirmed it is.

L Gordon said that the rough was quite severe. A Reid said the S Mitchell has been doing a lot of work on the rough grasses. J Gilbert agreed that it would take a little longer to get the Buddon Links roughs to the desired standard.

P Sawers said the pond maintenance was needed and wished for clarification and asked if it would be done in the Winter Programme.

5. STRI Report

A Reid said that R Windows was as enthusiastic as ever in his report and, as the visit was prior to the Seniors, the course was of tournament quality. He also said the firmness was perfect, even despite the rain.

P Sawers said it was a great effort from all the green staff and a huge thank you to go to all for their hard work during the Senior Open.

6. Frost Policy – Winter Greens

Referring to the attached report, A Reid explained that during the winter there are more and more instances of disease, due to traffic and damage that makes the grass more susceptible. Also the volume of players on the 3 courses during the winter has increased. This disease is currently being controlled chemically but A Reid is hopeful that a Frost Policy would reduce disease. He has also spoken to other course superintendents and we have the most relaxed winter policy. He informed the committee that St Andrews has a winter policy that they are closed until frost lifts. He would also like to relax fungicide as it is costly and bad for bacteria.

P Sawers said that questions may be asked, that if we are receiving excellent reports from STRI why should we need to do anything.

G Paton said if we want to continue to have good reports then, yes, we should have a winter policy.

A Reid said we would prefer more fescue in all the greens.

I Frier asked if this should go to the PR Committee. G Paton agreed and said that people should know.

A Reid said he is trying to find a happy medium, in order to keep golfers and clubs happy but also to protect greens.

J Gilbert said that if over seeding is to continue at the recommendation of STRI then we need a winter frost policy.

P Sawers asked A Reid to please liaise with L Gordon and bring information to the next full meeting, and asked A Reid to attend.

7. Environmental Matters

i) J Gilbert congratulated A Reid on commissioning the Energy Audit, and as a result saving 50,000kw of energy, approx. £6000. A Reid said there are savings to be made by using timers on buggy chargers etc. A Reid also said that we will need to see how these changes work within the Golf Centre. K Blair is currently looking into this.

ii) A Reid said that GEO is due to be revalidated in December 2016. This reassessment should be straight forward as the information is all to hand and N Cunningham is on top of this.

iii) A Reid said that B Taylor and S Vukelic are completing surveys for birds' habitat condition assessment for all courses. Pond management surveys will be carried out too. Contractors are all organised for the scheduled winter works.

8. R & A Update

A Reid and C Boath met with J Cole-Hamilton, M Wells and M Ebert to discuss plans for this winter, mainly 3rd fairway and practice tee/green. They would like the practice green/18th green Buddon Links bigger, half for chipping and bunker play and the other putting. A Reid feels we should do a

better job and rebuild the 18th green and make it 2 tier, allowing sea views. If approval is received he would do that this winter.

A Reid also said that the R&A don't want our short game green where it is, and would like to get rid of the bunker on the left. M Ebert is to draw up the plans for these. A Reid said he is unsure of who funds these works. G Duncan assured him he will liaise with the R&A regarding the costs.

A Reid said that the R&A don't want public access to the Greenkeeping sheds area. Instead, they would like a bridge added to the 17th hole Burnside. The R&A will be coming back with plans. P Sawers asked if planning permission will be required. A Reid said that all hard standing and concrete work will require planning permission. All will go in one application.

J Gilbert asked A Reid to do a report including all of the above to go the Board for full approval. A Reid said he will do so as soon as he hears from the R&A. P Sawers asked if G Duncan can speak to the R&A to speed up the process. A Reid said that J Cole-Hamilton would not like 2 new holes on the Buddon Links. J Gilbert asked if we can have this in writing from the R&A as it would affect the driving range project. C Boath also said that M Wells will be visiting soon.

9. British Seniors Open

J Gilberts said well done to all staff for the presentation of the course and thanked G Duncan and P Sawers for the Tournament organisation.

J Gilbert said to C Boath that he would like the water hazard changes made by the European Tour at the 6th ditch and 10th right-hand side burn to remain, as he felt that if it is good enough for the European Tour it is good enough for us.

J Gilbert quoted John Daly "Nothing changes, best greens in Scotland".

10. Any Other Competent Business

A Reid asked the board if the position of the practice nets prior to opening the new Golf Centre should be beside the temporary Pro Shop/Putting Green and said he would like approval by the October meeting.

P Sawers asked if planning permission was required and asked A Reid to liaise with Darron McKay of WJR Christie.

The meeting closed at 2005 hours.