

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

Parade on Monday 28th August 2017

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

In Attendance: A Reid (Links Superintendent), C Boath (Head Greenkeeper Championship)

Meeting began at 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

L Gordon

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Action Points

J Gilbert said that all Action Points have been taken care of.

4. Links Superintendents Report

A Reid presented his report.

5. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

C Boath said he is looking to top dress fairways straight after the Dunhill and prior to the divots getting filled for the last time so to give them a better chance of recovery over the winter. J Gilbert agreed that we want the course in the best condition possible for The Open. P Sawers agreed with the proposal adding that it should be left to the experts. A Reid added fairway top-dressing usually takes place in March whilst mats are still in use but that by still having some growth in October there should be minimum effect to the golfers playing from fairways.

P Sawers asked if C Boath and A Reid can liaise with K Allardice with regards to adding information regarding the plans for overseeding and when it will be, into the next newsletter.

Burnside

J Gilbert asked if it was agreed to reduce bushes on the left of the 14th as they looked like they had been sprayed off. A Reid said yes and confirmed that they have been sprayed. J Gilbert asked if K Stott and C Boath can liaise to ensure that both the Burnside and the Championship are not overseeding at the same time. A Reid said C Boath plans to do it after the Dunhill and K Stott the week following the Tassie.

J Gilbert said he has played the Burnside course several times and said it is very well presented, a first class job.

Buddon

G Paton said regarding the new practice ground/tee could it be left to grow longer at the 18th hole green end. A Reid replied that it needs to be kept at that height during the Open. He said if it's not needed for the Championship they can perhaps come to an agreement but that it would always have to be restored to tight turf if required as a practice tee and that doing involves more than just cutting it shorter. J Gilbert added that in the run up to the Open we need to let the greens staff do what they need to do.

6. STRI Agronomy Report

Championship

J Gilbert asked if the Fairy Ring was a surprise. A Reid said rare to have it at this time of year, C Boath added it may be due to the torrential rain we have had. A Reid said that they have plans in place to minimise or hopefully even stop it from showing so bad next year.

P Sawers asked if we have a POGO moisture meter. C Boath said we have one on trial. C Yule asked how much it would be to purchase, C Boath said £2000 plus £1000 each year.

Burnside

J Gilbert asked did we have Quadrop. A Reid said we stopped using this year after a 3-year trial and explained that it is a product added to irrigation water with the intention of improving water quality, but that we can't just use it on the greens and it has to be used everywhere due to the hydraulic flow of our irrigation system. He said it helped release

nitrogen but said the staff found it difficult to manage turf. A Reid said we can live without it, J Gilbert said A Reid can decide.

Buddon

J Gilbert said he had noticed the 11th and 12th greens looked thinner than other greens. A Reid said S Mitchell had tried to manage the nutritional inputs carefully so to not encourage soft growth but that they had recently been fertilised.

7. Open Championship 2018 Update

A Reid said he still needs to have discussions with the R&A with regards to the timing and costing of the proposed road upgrades. He went through each area with the committee and showed diagrams.

8. Winter Works

J Gilbert said there was nothing untoward in the winter works and agreed with it all. A Reid said the diagram of the work at the LHS 10th on Championship Course is bigger than actually required. J Gilbert said he is keen to progress with pond maintenance. A Reid said as they now have their own digger he feels this is more of a maintenance issue now than a Winter Works project. J Gilbert said he can add to the Environmental agenda.

9. Any Other Competent Business

Public Putting Green

J Gilbert asked if a sign can be put up at the Public putting green informing people that it is not a chipping area, the sign was more for visitors only. A Reid said he will take care of that as an action point.

Risk Assessment

J Gilbert asked about the risk assessment for the 15th green and 16th tee on Burnside, A Reid said the assessment has been done procedures are in place.

Wedding Guests using 18th Green

A McArtney said that during a recent wedding held at the hotel guests were going onto the 18th green and questioned the health and safety of this. J Gilbert said it is disrespectful and asked G Duncan to speak to the Hotel Manager and explain that any damages will incur costs. P Sawers said St Andrews also experience similar problems.

Hazard on 3rd Buddon

C Yule said the right hand side of the 3rd on the Buddon immediately turns into a hazard and the red needs to move up fairway. A Reid asked if it was red all the way, what would the feedback be. P Sawers agreed. A Reid to look into as an Action Point.

Wooden Bins

I Frier asked about the wooden bins on the 11th, 12th tees (Championship) and 7th tee Burnside and asked whether a metal grill would help stop the seagulls from pulling litter from the bins. C Boath said they will still get in through the grill. A Reid to look into as an action point.

Rabbits

I Frier asked about the increase in the rabbit population. A Reid said it is in hand but will deal with as an action point.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2020 hours.