

**Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room  
at 20 Links Parade on Monday 10 November 2014**

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convenor), P Sawers, W Thompson, L Gordon, A McArtney,  
G Paton , I Frier, C Yule

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

Meeting began 1900 hours.

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2. Links Superintendent's Report**

J Gilbert commented that the work done by the company employed to deal with the bullrushes in the lakes had been very impressive and that there had been no marks or damage done to the fairways.

J Gilbert also mentioned that the drainage work taking place on the practice ground has certainly made a difference with much less flooding being noticeable after the heavy rainfall.

J Gilbert referred to a conversation he had had with Kevin Stott, head greenkeeper of the Burnside, with regards to excessive pitch marks on some of the short par 4 holes on the Burnside.

After discussion it was agreed that the starters should remind all golfers about the repairing of pitch marks and that the rangers should enforce the policy if they saw any player not repairing their pitch marks.

**3. Winter Works Update**

J Gilbert asked C Boath to expand on the section in his report where he mentioned bunker sub-bases are to be raised.

C Boath explained that the bunkers were in many cases full of Tay sand which was of high quality and by raising the sub-base this allowed a stock pile of the Tay sand to be built up for use in other areas.

J Gilbert said the 13<sup>th</sup> green Championship was now looking very good with a number of new positions and he considered this to be an excellent job.

C Boath said the work on the 12<sup>th</sup> bunker run-in was now complete.

J Gilbert said during Fred Connacher's visit, which would be covered later in the agenda, they had discussed the removal of a tree on the left hand side of the 10<sup>th</sup> hole Championship which was causing an issue with regards to the development of the land in that area.

The directors agreed to recommend that this tree be removed.

J Gilbert said that the Buddon Links winter works were going well and that he had met with the Links Superintendent and Head Greenkeeper of the Buddon Links to review the 10<sup>th</sup> hole changes. A Reid said it would be at least a week before the area was ready for the committee to review prior to turfing.

I Frier said there was a low hanging branch to the left of the 6<sup>th</sup> hole on the Burnside which he felt was dangerous and should be removed. J Gilbert said a number of branches of this type had been identified during Fred Connacher's visit and they would be removed as soon as possible.

#### **4. STRI Agronomy Report – Buddon Links**

J Gilbert said this was once again an excellent report on the Buddon Links and that Richard Windows of STRI was extremely pleased with how the new holes were developing and especially the greens on these holes.

A Reid said during the winter there would be extra tining of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> holes as recommended in the report and some clumps of meadow grass would be removed.

J Gilbert concluded by saying this was an extremely good report and that the progress and development of the Buddon Links was very encouraging.

#### **5. Fred Connacher Visit**

J Gilbert explained that Fred Connacher was the tree officer of Angus Council who was responsible for drawing up Carnoustie Golf Links tree policy.

Once per year Fred visited to review the estate and make recommendations with regard to the trees on the Links.

J Gilbert said Fred was extremely pleased with the new plantations on the right hand side of the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole Burnside and the right hand side of the practice ground. He recommended the removal of the plastic socks but these trees would still be staked and therefore relief would be given to golfers under the rules of golf.

J Gilbert said discussions had taken place with regards to trees at the back of the 9<sup>th</sup> green Championship and these would fit in with The R & A requirements for spectator movement in that area. This would be discussed when The R & A visited on 14 November.

J Gilbert explained that there was a felling licence for the trees in the Burnside triangle and that Fred had marked the trees that would be removed under this licence. A Reid said it would be intended to remove these trees next week for health and safety reasons when the Burnside course was closed.

Fred had recommended some willow trees and alders to be planted on the left hand side of the 10<sup>th</sup> hole Championship. J Gilbert said Fred would send in a report of his visit which would be circulated to the directors in due course.

This report would then be discussed at the annual environmental meeting which he intended to have late in November.

#### **6. Proposed Buddon Links Stroke Index for 2015 Onwards**

J Gilbert said the stroke index had been reviewed by G Paton and A Reid and their recommendations were attached.

He felt this was a more accurate stroke index which had been developed using data provided by the Carnoustie and Dalhousie golf clubs.

The Committee agreed to recommend the stroke index should be applied for next year. In answer to a question from J Gilbert, P Sawers and L Gordon said the ladies had no complaints about the ladies stroke index and therefore it was agreed that this would remain the same.

J Gilbert asked that the new stroke index be emailed out to all the golf clubs and placed on the website for information.

#### **7. AOCB**

J Gilbert asked for a report from G Duncan on the firing at Barry Buddon which had taken place at the recent Dunhill Tournament. G Duncan said he was consulting with Dunhill to see what their formal position was before contacting the military at Barry Buddon. G Duncan said that with regard to next year's Amateur Championship, discussions would be held with The R & A at their next visit to see what, if any, influence they had with regards to this matter.

J Gilbert asked what the Committee's view was on opening the courses on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Following discussion it was agreed to recommend that the Championship remain closed but the Burnside and the Buddon would be open on these days. A box of mats would be left for the use of any member's guests who wished to play during those two days.

J Gilbert asked the Links Superintendent if there was any issue with the different types of mats which were used by individual golfers during the winter. A Reid said there was no problem for the greenkeeping staff as long as no divots were taken by players using mats.

J Gilbert asked A Reid if the normal safety work would be taking place during the winter to prevent any slipping on bridges and other walkways. A Reid said that in frosty weather there was a long established process in place where salt would be put down but he said at this time of year it was very difficult, with leaves being blown and wet surfaces, to ensure that everything was completely safe.

J Gilbert asked what the progress was on the solar panel research. A Reid said that he had an opportunity to get a further energy audit which would look at gas, bio-mass and or solar power and this would provide all information that was required.

He felt this would be a more independent report than that given by the solar panel suppliers who were obviously keen to sell their products.

W Thompson said he thought this was an excellent idea and asked if the energy audit company could give a summary of what they were reviewing prior to us making a formal request to them for the audit.

A McArtney said that the bins on the Burnside would appear to have not been emptied on Sunday and he asked if A Reid could investigate as to what happened. A Reid said it was possible that crows had removed articles and scattered them about but that he would find out if there had been any issues with the normal bin emptying procedures. A McArtney said that some of the mats were slippy and he asked that this be looked at. A Reid said there was a process in place to try and keep the surface as clean as possible but a lot of material is transferred from golfers' shoes at this time of year that made the mats slippy.

A McArtney commented on dog walkers and pedestrians on the golf course. In particular he referred to an incident where a ball had been picked up by a dog and also where pedestrians had walked in front of golfers without showing any consideration for the players. Further discussion took place and A Reid explained that more signs were being erected which would identify to the public their responsibilities.

A Reid also pointed out that he had locked the gate leading onto the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway of the Championship course after seeing a dog walker letting his dogs run wild over that area.

W Thompson explained for the benefit of the Committee, a new process with regards to the cancellation list which should make the system of allocating cancelled times fairer and more transparent to the season ticket holders.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 19.30 hours.