

**Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room  
at 20 Links Parade on Monday 8 December 2014**

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

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), A Reid (Links Superintendent), S Mitchell (Head Greenkeeper, Buddon Links Course)

Meeting began 1900 hours.

**1. Apologies**

C Yule

**2. Links Superintendent's Report**

P Sawers asked about the rainfall in November and A Reid replied it had been the wettest and also warmest November since the greens staff had been keeping records.

P Sawers also asked how the flood prevention work was progressing. A Reid said that the work not related to the Barry Burn such as raising bunker floors was progressing well.

J Gilbert commented that the work so far that had been done on the practice ground had been very effective. He understood there would be more to do but so far the progress had been very good.

W Thompson commented that the greens which were being provided were outstanding for the time of year, particularly the pace that was being produced.

**3. Winter Works Update**

J Gilbert asked for confirmation that the new tee on the 12<sup>th</sup> Championship would not result in the hole being any longer. A Reid confirmed that this was the case.

J Gilbert asked about the sand in the bunkers on the Championship course. A Reid said this was a continuing challenge to find sand which was not too firm but equally would not result in plugged golf balls. A Reid said that as bunkers were being worked on the Tay sand was being removed and remixed before being replaced in the bunkers.

G Paton asked about the bunkers at the 10<sup>th</sup> hole Championship and suggested that the bunkers should point more towards the green rather than towards the tea hut where they seem to be directed at the moment.

A Reid said that the furthest right bunker will be pulled back slightly but not pointed in a different direction. The one on the left had always pointed towards the green and this would become clearer when the work was completed. J Gilbert asked A Reid to confirm that the back of the bunker would be replaced with tight turf and A Reid agreed this was the case.

A Reid said that they were hoping for a cold spell so they could continue with some of the planned work on the Burnside. This would make it easier for vehicles to move over the ground without

damaging it. J Gilbert commented the new bridge at the 18<sup>th</sup> Burnside was looking very impressive. I Frier asked about the height of the bridge and how this would be fitted in with the ground heading towards the Championship course. A Reid explained what would be done to marry in all the various landforms.

P Sawers asked about the bridge on the 4<sup>th</sup> hole Burnside which had caused some concern due to loose blocks. A Reid said that Kevin Stott had re-opened the bridge immediately in-line with the tee.

J Gilbert asked about cleaning out of the ditch alongside of the railway and whether this would assist with the drainage of the practice ground. A Reid said this ditch had been cleared out a couple of years ago but it would do no harm to carry out the exercise again.

L Gordon asked about the renovation work on the Nestie and S Mitchell replied it would be normal aeration work on the greens in the spring.

L Gordon also commented on the mats which were now in place on The Nestie and how much of an improvement this was over the winter. It was agreed that the mats were only in place for the winter and that we would go back to turf tees in the summer months.

S Mitchell said that he would like to compliment all the staff but Derek Murray in particular for the work done on the re-contouring of the 10<sup>th</sup> green Buddon Links. He said this had been a wonderful effort by the whole team and he was extremely pleased with the end result. J Gilbert agreed that the work had resulted in a very significant improvement to the green.

#### **4. Energy Consultant (Terms of Reference)**

A proposal from Orchard Energy was presented to the greens committee. A Reid explained that all areas of the business were to be reviewed but the main focus would be on the golf centre where most of the anomalies and concerns were happening.

A Reid said that all indications were that it was a very good system in the golf centre but that closer management of the system was required. P Sawers asked if water was being featured as part of the review. A Reid said he did not think so because use of mains water by the Links was minimal.

J Gilbert asked if the committee were happy to go ahead with the review at the price of £1,350 which was quoted. The sub-committee were unanimous that they wished to go ahead with this and under the authority granted to individual conveners it was agreed to approve this spend.

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

J Gilbert said this would be dealt with at the environmental meeting due very shortly.

#### **6. Bins/Collection of Course Litter**

J Gilbert said he had spoke to A Reid on this matter and the solution they had agreed on was to put lids on all the boxes which were out during the winter. This would hopefully prevent crows from going into the boxes and spreading litter all over the course.

A Reid explained the litter collecting procedures which happened over the winter.

7. **AOCB**

A McArtney asked about the water fountains on the course and what the situation was with regards to improving them. J Gilbert said that the full board had agreed that new fountains should be installed and that A Reid was in the process of identifying the most suitable high quality fountain for use on the Links. J Gilbert said it had to be understood that access was required to these fountains for maintenance so that influenced the type of material that could be used.

J Gilbert said he would like to say well done to all the greenkeeping staff for a superb effort in 2014. He considered the courses to be better now than they had ever been and he complimented the staff on their hard work and commitment in producing such excellent courses.

J Gilbert also thanked the Greens sub-committee for their hard work and efforts during 2014.

Meeting closed 19.45