

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

Parade on Monday 17th April 2017

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

In Attendance, A Reid (Links Superintendent), K Stott, (Head Greenkeeper Burnside)

Meeting began at 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

G Paton, A McArtney

2. Declaration of Interest

There were none.

3. Action Points

J Gilbert explained that they had been dealt with at the Full Board Meeting held on 10th April 2017.

4. Links Superintendents Report

Fibre Optics

A Reid explained that the installation of the Fibre Optics Ducting should be completed around July this year. The tails for the leaderboards & grandstands will be installed later in the year.

5. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

As per report.

Burnside

The committee passed on good comments in relation to the condition of the Burnside greens.

K Stott explained that his forecast of overseeding the greens was meant to indicate that it will take place following the Tassie.

P Sawers asked to be updated on the plans for the seeded areas on the 8th & 14th carries. K Stott explained how the hydrophobic sand in these areas has made it difficult for the grass to utilise the water that has been applied and that natural rain water would be of benefit. He also explained that once temperatures increase the fertiliser that has been applied to these areas should further thicken up the sward along with some overseeding as necessary. He informed the meeting that next winter he intends to remove the astro-turf path on the right side of the 14th carry and create a new natural path.

Buddon Links

J Gilbert asked about the hollow coring of fairways mentioned. A Reid explained that it was due to be carried out in October and it was only included as he had suggested to the Head Greenkeepers that he wanted them to consider longer term forecasts so that much of their proposed work didn't have to be highlighted at the meeting immediately prior to them carrying out the work.

P Sawers asked as to why the Buddon Greens looked weaker than normal. A Reid explained that they had been applied with the graminicide "Rescue" in October to manage the courser grasses and that the fact the greens were thinner showed how successful the treatment had been. He then explained that recovery over the winter hadn't been as good as expected therefore they were overseeded in March and subsequently top-dressed twice to encourage new growth and smooth out the surfaces respectively. The meeting agreed that the greens look worse than they are actually performing and that as temperatures increase recovery should be quick.

6. STRI Agronomy Report

J Gilbert explained that it was another favourable report and highlighted that Richard Windows had noted he had seen the benefits to the early season sward on the greens because of our new Frost Policy.

P Sawers noted that the STRI have approved our fairway protection measures for the 2018 Open Championship. A Reid also told the committee that Grant Moir of the R&A is also happy with our plans.

7. Open Championship Update

P Sawers informed those present that Martin Slumbers and Grant Moir are coming for a course walk on 5th May.

A Reid informed the committee that Fairhurst had lodged the plans for the road improvements with Angus Council who had been back in touch to seek clarification in relation to a couple of minor points.

8. 16th & 17th Holes Burnside

J Gilbert explained that he had a look at the 17th tee position earlier in the day with A Reid and K Stott as some concerns had been raised in regards to the safety of the 6th tee/5th green from players playing from the new 17th tee.

A Reid explained that the reasoning for making the changes to the 16th & 17th holes in the first place were in relation to golfer safety and that whilst the new tee encourages golfers to aim further right from the tee and that using a protractor confirms this the golfers on the 6th tee seem more noticeable than from the old tee. He also noted that whilst the angle to the centre of the fairway should encourage golfers to aim further right the preferred line of tee shot is still on the left side of centre which then means the 6th tee is closer to play.

A Reid continued to say that after further discussing it with K Stott earlier in the day they both felt that the golfer will perhaps always feel that playing from the old tee provides the best view and angle to play the hole from therefore they are both happy to revert all play back to the old tee. To improve the safety from the original tee they hope next winter to extend the fairway to the right and soften some of the contours to try and encourage golfers to aim slightly further right with their tee shot.

9. Any Other Competent Business

J Gilbert read out the following points that G Paton had emailed to him earlier in the day.

1. Some of the astro-turf paths around the courses aren't in the best of condition and need replaced
2. Proposed new road across Burnside 17th fairway is too close to play
3. Brambles etc. at the LHS of the 16th green should be cut back as they are in play

It was agreed that Point 1 & 3 be action points to be reported back at the next Greens meeting.

In regards to Point 2, A Reid explained that the proposed route for the road isn't a landing or playing zone and that moving the road further up the fairway would be more in play. Furthermore moving the road to G Paton's suggested location wouldn't be possible from a

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practical point of view as the Main Irrigation Supply and feed from the two main Bore Holes are all underground at that area and cannot be moved or built on.

L Gordon asked if the wildflowers on the Public Putting Green are okay as there is no sign of anything showing yet. A Reid explained that he anticipates everything to be fine once we have warmer temperatures and some moisture.

P Sawers explained that we have stopped using the PinPoint pin placement software as it was operationally unsustainable and expensive to run. We have returned to the old system of the Burnside Starter and Caddy Master printing out the pin positions on paper.

A Reid reminded the committee that the pin positions will always be on the tee boxes for every golfer to see.

The meeting closed at 1935 hours.

ACTION POINTS

Report back on Astro-turf condition - A Reid

Report back on undergrowth in trees at LHS 16th Burnside - K Stott