

**Minute of Council Meeting
held on 23rd July 2024 in the Trophy Room**

Present:	A. Gordon	(Vice Captain/Greens Convener)
	C. Watson	(Finance Convener)
	S. Hutchison	(Match & H'Cap)
	H. Craigie	(Junior Convener)
	J. Gove	(Ladies Captain)

In Attendance:	D.P. Pern	(Club Manager)
	N. McLoughlin	(Course Manager)
	G Nethercott	(Head Professional)

Apologies	D. Halliday	(Captain)
	A Powell	(President)

1. **Welcome:**
Vice-Captain AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Minute of Council held on 26th June 2024**
The minute of the Council meeting on 26th June was approved with one amendment. AP highlighted an action to replace the Stroke Index markers on the correct holes.
3. **Matters arising from the previous Minute:**
 - DH to progress with new trophy for the Alan Ross Salver. It was agreed there was no rush for this.
 - DP has arranged a meeting with the Bieldside Community Council to discuss the river path and boundary. In attendance will be AG/DP/NM representing Deeside. Peter Smith, Christine Taylor and Greig Taylor from CBM Community Council and Footpath Group. AG to chair the meeting on Friday 2nd August.
 - AG to continue with discussions on appointing a greens convener.
 - AG is trying to arrange a meeting with President Neil Duncan from Ballater Golf Club to discuss common flooding issues on both courses.
 - NM is meeting with Husqvarna week beginning 29th July to progress with creating a business plan to purchase more autonomous mowers for the Haughton Course.
 - NM to contact Fairhurst & Partners to progress with a Hydrologist survey.
 - AG/NM to update the master bunker plan and highlight the changes to bunkers scheduled for winter 2024 – 2025. These will be posted on the notice boards.
 - AG/NM/DH/AP carried out a course boundary walk, after the last Council meeting. It was agreed that new signage boards are necessary to guide and direct the public to the designated paths. Council to share any signage they see at other golf courses. NM waiting for a comparison cost on fencing and posts along certain areas of the boundary.
 - The new wizard bunker rakes will arrive week beginning 29th July. Once they are in situ NM will communicate to members with a video of how to use the rakes.

- Granite City Surveys will carry out a survey of the 1st tee area on Haughton. Once this has been completed NM to come back with costs for suitable material. The materials previously suggested are not suitable for gradients above 1:3.
- New metal winter tee boxes have been ordered. Five will be delivered next week with another five being delivered later in the year.
- GN has shared a document on updated criteria for Championship competitions. This was approved and will be available on the ClubV1 APP documents and the website. GN to upload to ClubV1.
- GN will order team uniform for next year as per last minute. Clothing will be ordered in December ready for the start of next season. Colours to be decided when the latest Glenmuir brochure is available.
- HC has entered a team for the new pilot Junior competition at Moray Golf Club. If it is successful, volunteers will be sought to help out.

4. Health and Safety

- AG has appointed and met with three teams (three members in each team) to carry out a full Risk Assessment of both courses highlighting priority areas for review. Each team will carry out a physical assessment on the holes they have been allocated in August with final details communicated to Council and approved at the September Council meeting.
- As above, Granite City Surveyors have been appointed to carry out a survey on the 1st tee area of Haughton to ensure any new material would be appropriate. NM has been in ongoing discussions with Kirsty Mclean regarding the path to the 1st tee.
- AG to arrange a meeting with some members before the member forums in September to highlight the options on realigning the path up to the Clubhouse from the 18th green.
- DP/NM met with the Club's Health and Safety advisor on the 11th July. It was agreed to move all risk assessments onto the online platform ground2control. Follow up training has been arranged for 30th July and 27th August.

5. Convener Reports

Vice-Captain's Report

- Nothing to report

Finance Report

A full Finance report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The net profit for the month was £21.5k which compares to a budget profit of £5.7k and a loss of £14k in June last year. As regards the budget there was a positive impact from the high level of F&B sales in the month helped by Finals day. Also, insurance costs were expensed in May but budgeted in June which is when they were expensed in 2023. The net profit YTD of £58.4k compares to a budgeted loss of £71.9k and a profit of £32.3k in the prior year. The main variances to budget are lower costs for course maintenance, clubhouse upkeep and administration as well as some unexpected recoveries from Scottish Water and gain on sale of equipment. Compared to last year costs are up due to inflation for both salaries and other costs offset by the increase in subscriptions and unexpected recoveries.
- After a very good result in June, the net loss from **F&B** YTD of £42k is now about £9k better than budget but slightly worse than prior year due to higher salary costs as there were lower staffing levels last year. The Gross Profit from catering at 62% YTD compared to a budget of 64% but is slightly better than last year.

- The net loss from **Golf Operations** YTD is a loss of £25k and the variance to budget is about £12k. Sales are lower than budget and couple with the lower margin from sales of older stock at heavily discounted prices during the winter months the YTD margin is 31% v budget of 36%. Coaching and trackman income are ahead of both budget and prior year.
- Poor weather may adversely impact the contribution from F&B and Golf operations in July.

Balance Sheet Review

- Bank Balances at 30 June 2024 – total of £1.1million. This represents an increase in cash in the month of about £44k with collection of debtors and cash from operations.
- Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations – Based on budget, the requirement is £540k, leaving about £562k for working capital requirements and capital improvements.
- Capital Expenditure – The main capital expenditure in the month of June were the final invoices for the refurbishment of the locker rooms.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

Overview

- July's primary focus has been on maintaining the standard of both courses throughout the remainder of the season. This month has seen routine in-season maintenance, including pencil tinning, verti-cutting, and applying a light top dress. Certain areas that were retaining water after heavy downpours were verti-drained to improve drainage in problem areas from the winter, the sand inject machine will be used on the 14th carry and sections of the 15th, 17th, and 18th fairways.
- Sports Turf Services have been on-site for the last two weeks, clearing the wetland areas. They will move on to other areas outlined in the scope of work over the next two weeks.

Sewage Management

- Scottish Water is still awaiting the delivery of the sealing plates, which have been delayed due to issues with the galvanizing of the steel.

Bunker Construction

- AG/NM are finalising a plan for winter bunker construction, including prioritising which bunkers to address and in what order. This preliminary plan may be adjusted depending on weather conditions.

Other News

- The robotic mowers continue to perform well. Husqvarna conducted a site survey to determine the number and size of robots needed to cut the Haughton rough. They have also installed a trial mower on the 18th bank to evaluate its performance on the hill. CW raised the question of the autonomous mowers going over a golf ball on Blairs. It was agreed that the mowers would only be used on Haughton during quieter times.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The Ladies Section had a busy July fixture list, highlighted by the President's Prize event. JG was delighted to welcome President Andy Powell and his wife Carol to the

lunch, where Andy presented the winners with prizes. Andy also shared an engaging presentation on their time and golfing experiences while living in Brunei.

- Deeside hosted the ALCGA event with 71 players registered and 68 participating. Special thanks to Carol McGregor, Deeside's County Representative, and to Nick Henderson, who served as the starter.
- The SVLGA Northern Division (Vintage Vets) played at Alford Golf Club, where Fiona Gibb won the Tony Moffat Clock for the best score. Email notification posted to all members as agreed by Council.
- DP/JG had a productive meeting with Anderson's of Inverurie and look forward to receiving the mood and provisional selection boards with selected fabrics and costs. There will be a meeting on Wednesday 24th with other council members and Cummings & Co to review the refurbishment progress.

Match & Handicap Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The Gents Pennant Team won against Royal Aberdeen (away) 3 v 2 and progress to the Semi-Final's to play Portlethen on Sunday 4th August at Banchory Golf Club. Team selected and practice rounds being scheduled. Supporters welcome.
- Team photo for the winning Journal Cup team has taken place.
- Knockout matches continue to progress. One issue highlighted since the last Council meeting where an opponent cancelled on the day of the agreed tie. No club rules apply for this and some of the communication style of the match opponents was regrettable. Pro Shop team dealt with this very well and a new date for the tie has been agreed. Consideration to be given to a club rule if ties are called off on the day of a tie. Reasonable caveats to such a rule make this difficult to apply in practice.

Junior Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- After some confusion and disagreement regarding the application and understanding of the rules, long-standing Administrator Jim Ramsay resigned his position. Ultimately, both Cruden Bay teams progressed to the final with Cruden Bay 2 succeeding. A permanent replacement for Jim has yet to be found but Donald from Cruden Bay has temporarily assumed the responsibilities of administrator.
- New Junior Members Meeting - The new junior members meeting, held on Saturday 6th July, went well with approximately 10 juniors and several of their parents in attendance.
- GolfNines - Four volunteer juniors have been appointed for the pilot event on 5th August at Moray Golf Club.
- Hector Dey and Murray Trophies - Deeside were represented by Freddie Freeland and Amy Blackadder in the above competitions respectively. Both competitions were kindly hosted by Portlethen Golf Club on Sunday 21st July. Sadly, neither of the Deeside entrants prevailed.

Pro Shop Report

A full report was circulated in advance, to summarise:

- The 'Open Season' (apart from Texas Scramble at end of season) has been completed.. Feedback was positive. Sadly, the Gents Open had to be cancelled towards the end of the day due to the course becoming unplayable with no chance of being able to reopen. All competitors refunded with scores returned counting for handicap.

- GN has commenced with Spring/Summer pre book with some suppliers. Sales data is taken from current year/previous years which will determine budget/spend with these companies.
- GN has compared Group performances from 2023 to 2024. Categories that are down the most are Clubs, Clothing & Shoes. Clubs are predominately down in the wood category (Ping G430 in 2nd year of cycle/TaylorMade Qi10 not as popular as Stealth 2 albeit we have the TaylorMade demo day end of month). The shop will run the usual Shoe Promotion in August albeit, this is a category that has been significantly down within industry throughout 2024. Categories that are up include Lessons, Balls (more corporate Titliest & increase with TaylorMade) & Second Hand from GolfClubs4Cash.

Actions

- GN has updated the Regulations for Play document to include the Club Championship. New scorecards will be ordered. GN is finalising two local rules with AG. After discussion it was agreed that a staked tree caged get relief. Changes approved.
- Trackman - Drone Footage has been completed of the Range & Haughton Course. GN has ordered the three 'moving' brackets as per instruction from council & recommendation from Trackman.

Trackman have moved the install forward to w/c 19th August. This will tie in with our 'members day' on Saturday 24th August for an 'official launch'.

It was agreed to progress with the trackman booking system. £10 per hour for visitors and guests.

Members Day on the 24th August will be the launch of Trackman - DP/GN to create text for communication, bookings and rules etc.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	797
Senior members	125
Associate 30 – 34	16
Associate 24 – 29	19
Young Adults	24
House/Non Playing	185
Senior VIP	11
House 5 Day	2
Country	16
Junior 12 – 18	104
Junior under 12	53
Non Resident	66
Life	15
Honorary	8

- Applications for membership – June – approved by membership sub-committee

Full	Errol Watson	Neil Gordon	Brian Yule
Full	David Boyle	Ross Stalker	Neil Dinnes
Full	Andrew Younger	Michael Milne	Ian Paterson
Full	Adam Giles	David Macklin	Grant Pennet
Full	Fraser Gordon	Susan Gordon	Graeme Gordon

Full	Duncan Booth	Craig Forsyth	Leslie Wilson
House	William Aitken	Quintin Aitken	Ernie Forrest
House	Pauline Petrie	Stewart Petrie	Diane Rose
Junior	Rory Walker	David Smith	Iain Landsman
House	Simone Maclean	Neil Maclean	Derek Rettie
Full	Ryan Bell	Brad Youngson	Graham Cox
Junior	Leo Wishart	Murray Burnett	Michael Pollock
House	Robert McKenzie	Derek Rettie	Mark Milne
Junior	Joseph McKnight	Iain Hunter	Alastair Hunter
Full	Deirdre de Leeuw	Janet Smith	Maureen Buchanan
Full	Graeme Cruden	David Clark	Andrew Laird
Full	Lili Hughes	Helen Davidson	Carol McGregor
Junior	Owen Weston	Philip Sutherland	Peter Mutch

- **Transfers from within the membership during June**
Chris Moulton from resigned to Non-resident

- **Resignations**

James Lawson – Associate

James Wilson - House

- **Deceased**

Euan Stewart - Full

- **New members**

Mark Broadribb – Junior 12 – 18

Leo Heron – Junior <12

- **Waiting List**

231 on Full waiting list

7 on Senior waiting list

23 on deferred list (2024)

9 on House List

Course Usage – H & B

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	
2018													
2019	1996	1558	909	1047	1489	2495	3606	3795	3999	4218	4038	2843	31993
2019													
2020	2184	1033	943	1704	1202	1928	0	773	7359	6823	7413	5374	36736
2020													
2021	3873	3869	809	0	0	2451	5930	5435	7156	6939	6244	5130	47836
2021													
2022	3659	2131	1843	2926	2250	3502	4501	5221	5548	5495	5362	5236	47674
2022 –													
2023	3179	1361	90	1245	2355	2220	4073	5548	5288	5684	6381	4880	42304
2023 –													
2024	1078	1286	495	498	2078	2436	3689	5373	5041				

- **General Information/Actions/Requests etc. for discussion**
- DP met with Mearns & Gill to discuss communications. DP then met with AG/CW to update on meeting and proposal sent through by M&G. It was agreed to progress with the “Discovery Session” which will be held on Wednesday 7th at 3.00pm. AG/CW/DP/GN to attend.
- JG/DP had a meeting with Andersons of Inverurie to progress with fabrics etc, Andersons to forward a cost/ mood board etc based on the existing plan provided by Cummings and Co.
- The Driving Range roof has been cleaned by Seafeld Maintenance.
- In David’s absence, I contacted M Hamilton painters to check on the progress of all the external works. No answer as yet.
- AG/CW/JG/DP/Cummings and Co are meeting on Wednesday 24th to discuss the refurb quotes and progress.

6. July Agenda Items

- **Course Projects**
STS are on site as planned; they will be finished in two weeks. Once the water has drained the mud will be mounded and turfed. The results are good and there should be an improvement when flooding happens.
More of the boundary has been strimmed, in particular the area from 17th tee up to the 4th tee on Blairs. Signage will encourage people not to walk through certain areas and keep the public on the footpath as much as possible.
- **Clubhouse Projects**
DH circulated the latest drawings on the Balcony Options for review. More discussion will follow, however this project is unlikely to happen any time soon.
- The final calculations for the full Clubhouse refurbishment including fees, replacing the air conditioning units, lighting, decoration and furniture options has been received and will be discussed with AG/CW/JG/DP and Fiona Young from Cumming and Co on 24th July. As discussed at last months Council meeting, the existing air conditioning units are 20 years old and no longer fit for purpose. Replacing with a modern system will reduce running costs and improve the Carbon footprint.
- AG will arrange member forums in September. The potential dates will be 18th and 19th with one in the afternoon and one in the evening. These forums will update members on both course and clubhouse projects.

Marketing

- The draft website design was circulated to Council for review. More imagery and text will be added, and an updated draft will be circulated before the next meeting. One comment on the main sign at the entrance received, stating Private members Club only.
- Final marketing video was shown to Council. The video will be used in various areas including the new website, new applicants to the waiting list and social media.
- Communications - Emphasis on the “What and Why” communications to be discussed with Mearns & Gill. Council to feed comments for discussion back to DP before the meeting on the 7th August.

6. AOCB

- Council discussed the option of introducing a Family membership. It was agreed that this was not necessary, however it was suggested that members spouses receive an addition guest pass per month. More discussion and research on potential uptake required.
- After discussion it was agreed that the Council Minutes distributed to members would remain as they are with the action list from each meeting forming the Council minute.
- More discussion with a smaller group to be arranged to discuss elevating the Spring Meeting Scratch competition format and potential honours board.
- After discussion on cancelling a tie at late notice it was agreed that the situation in question was as one off and no additional rules will be put in place.

Next Meeting – 20th August @ 5.30pm in the trophy room

