

**Minute of Council Meeting
held on 26th June 2024 in the Trophy Room**

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

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

1. Welcome:

Captain DH welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the new look timed Agenda. AG circulated the Council guideline document in advance.

2. Minute of Council held on 29th May 2024

The minute of the Council meeting on 29th May 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 will continue to research a new trophy for the Alan Ross Salver.
- Work on the ditches will start week commencing 8th July. (AG circulated details)
- Scottish Water will be back on site to replace the manhole covers in the next few weeks.
- DH/AG to progress with Greens Convener appointment.
- It was agreed that GN will progress with purchasing team uniform for all scratch team events (Gents, Seniors, and Juniors) for 2025 season. Choice of colours and items to be finalised. All team uniform will be “wash and return”, however members have the option to purchase if they prefer.
- DH/JG/DP have approached Andersons of Inverurie for a second quote on Clubhouse Furniture. Two sample chairs have been in situ in the trophy room and have been very well received.
- Course Policy document has been updated and approved. AG to send DP final clean copy for the website.
- Following research it was agreed not to progress with a Water Bottle Fountain at 9th hole on Haughton.
- AG/NM are progressing with a business plan on purchasing more autonomous mowers to work on the rough on Haughton. Husqvarna will be on site on the 11th July to test the signal on Haughton.
- It was agreed that “post and wiring” for the boundary would be finalised after the course walk which will take place after the Council meeting. Signage also to be finalised.

- DH confirmed that external maintenance had been discussed with Seafield Property maintenance. They will come in and carry out a trial clean on the Driving Range roof. They will also coordinate with the painter and submit a cost. It was agreed that jet washing would not be used on the roofs.
- DH will forward details to Council on the various options for replacing the path at the 18th and towards the first on Blairs.
- After discussion it was agreed that NM would progress with the purchase of new style rakes for all the bunkers on Haughton.

4. Health and Safety

- A Risk Assessment was carried out on the path at the 15th tee and a short-term solution has been implemented. The path has been re-surfaced with quarry dust. A full Risk Assessment on both courses highlighting priority areas will be carried out with a sub-committee over the coming weeks. AG will create a sub-committee and produce a check list for a full overview of critical areas on the courses.
- DH updated Council on a meeting with Garden Design Scotland who have sourced alternative path material. NM to cost and trial new material on the steep slope at the 1st hole on Haughton.
- DH to arrange a meeting with some members to highlight the options on realigning the path up to the Clubhouse from the 18th green.
- Following on from several incidents involving damage to greens, theft, and intimidation by youths at the river and course boundary, DP has contacted the police to request regular evening foot patrols along the riverbank. The wider concern is youths drinking excessively and entering the water.
- It was agreed that signage and fencing will be added to the boundary. It was also agreed that once the work had been completed DH would contact the Community Council to highlight in their newsletter that the path had been cleared. DP/NM to investigate additional CCTV cameras around that area.

5. Convener Reports

Captain's Report

- DH thanked all the DGC teams, Pro Shop, Course, Front of House and Kitchen for their efforts in making Championship weekend such a great success.
- DH to arrange some more member forums around the end of August.
- Other highlights are covered in Capital projects.

Finance Report

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

- The net profit for the month was £22.3k which compares to a budget profit of £26.1k and a profit of £7k in May last year. As regards the budget the positive impact of the recoveries from Scottish Water (now paid) is offset by rates and insurance costs coming in May when they were budgeted in June as this is when they were incurred in 2023. The net profit YTD of £37k compares to a budgeted loss of £77.5k and a profit of £46.3k in the prior year. The main variances to budget are lower costs for course maintenance, clubhouse upkeep and administration. Compared to last year costs are up due to inflation for both salaries and other costs partially offset by the increase in subscriptions. The timing of the rates and insurance costs is also a large variance which should reverse in June.

- The net loss from **F&B** YTD of £52k is in line with budget but higher than prior year due to higher salary costs as there were lower staffing levels last year. The Gross Profit from catering at 60% YTD compared to a budget of 63% but is slightly better than last year.
- The net loss from **Golf Operations** YTD is a loss of £27k and the variance to budget is about £9k. While sales are in line with budget the lower margin is due to the sale of older stock at heavily discounted prices during the winter months with YTD margin at 29% v budget of 35%. Coaching and trackman income are ahead of both budget and prior year.
- **Bank Balances at 31 May 2024 – total of £1058k.** This represents a reduction in cash in the month of about £124k with payments for the clubhouse refurbishment and new course equipment.
- **Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations** – Based on budget, the requirement is £540k, leaving about £518k for working capital requirements and capital improvements.
- **Capital Expenditure** – There were significant amounts of capital expenditure in the month of May with the main items being the refurbishment of the locker rooms and the purchase of new robotic mowers.
- The profit for the year is projected to exceed the budget because of additional sources of other income including recoveries from Scottish Water, gain on sales of old equipment as well as other sundry and interest income. There will be some additional expenditure on the course that may somewhat offset the recoveries from Scottish Water.
- NM confirmed that the cherry picker is on weekly hire and can only be used in the morning before the golfers reach the areas being worked on.
- It was agreed that initiatives would be discussed to raise revenue from the Trackman facility as there will be a member benefit with no charge to members.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- June's focus has been on presenting the golf courses in top condition during the Club Championship period. Throughout the month, the greens have been verti-cut and top dressed, pencil tinning will follow. When weather permits all areas will be sprayed with weed killer. After the Opens, the sand injection machine will be used on some areas of the semi-rough, rough, and problem fairways.
- Sewage Management: Scottish Water has ordered the sealing plate for the top of the sewers, and it is anticipated they will be fitting them in July, working around our competition schedule.
- Bunker Construction: Winter bunker construction plan has been developed, however the plan may change due to weather conditions.
- The robotic mowers continue to perform well. The cutting areas have been expanded to include the rough on the Haughton Course.
- It was agreed to purchase five (in stock) Winter tee boxes and see how they perform.
- AG has contacted Ballater Golf Club. They are keen to meet to discuss flooding issues. AG to arrange a meeting in the coming weeks. It was agreed to include some members with professional experience in the meeting with Ballater.
- AG confirmed that the hydrologist has been in touch and will follow up to arrange a meeting.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Congratulations to all our winners. Ladies Champion (Scratch) Susie McLeod, H'Cap Diane Wilson and Thelma Beattie Trophy (+55) Susie McLeod. Unfortunately, for the second consecutive year, we had two players competing in two finals, therefore The Thelma Beattie Trophy final was played the day before Championship Day. The ladies section faces the issue of having a very small pool of ladies who are willing to participate. This limited availability places extra strain on the few who do compete, as evident by scheduling conflicts we experienced over the last 2 years. It is crucial for the ladies section to explore strategies to increase participation.
- Green Course - This month 33 Ladies participated in a Fun Tri-am event on the Green Course, which turned out to be a great success. One concern is the colour of the tee markers as they are a trip hazard in the middle of the fairway. Perhaps a different colour would be better.
- Competition Sign-Up Procedures; Following a communication and subsequent meetings, changes have been implemented to the way ladies sign up for competitions.
- JG/DH/DP have attended various meetings to progress with the refurbishment of the clubhouse.
- Ladies Lockers refurbishment is now completed, and the ladies are delighted.

Match & Handicap Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Deeside's team of Oli Blackadder, Ollie Robertson and Tom Rennie won the Journal Cup at Inverurie on Saturday 15th June. Oli Blackadder will compete in the Jaffrey Cup at Inverurie along with the other semi-finalists with a date to be confirmed.
- The Gent's Pennant Team round of their league matches with 2 wins and 2 defeats. This was good enough for Deeside to qualify for the Pennant Quarter Finals where we will play Royal Aberdeen in early July – RAGC to confirm 2 dates for Deeside to choose from.
- Knockout matches continue to progress and no extension requests have been received since the last Council meeting. The overriding principle that will continue to apply is to encourage parties to play the match in a maximum of 1 week and 2 days beyond the deadline.
- Finals Day: Protocol for competing in multiple competitions and look back at this year's competitions. DH followed up with a background to the issue of finalists playing on Championship Day. It was agreed that the expectation is all finalists play on Championship Day and stay for the presentation. This must be made clear at the outset when setting up the competitions.
- DH raised the question of qualification for the various finals. GN to look into the various formats and report back to DH.

Junior Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Congratulations to Ollie Robertson and Declan McCaul for winning the Angusfield Rosebowl and Littleway Trophy respectively.
- Flag Competitions - The final of the flag competition is on Saturday 29th June. Kudos to the Pro Shop Team for organising and supervising this highly successful series of events.

- Junior Pennant Team - Sunday 23rd June saw the Junior Pennant season conclude for Deeside, with a victory for Deeside One against an older Stonehaven team. Over the 10 matches, 19 Deeside juniors have participated with an overall record of 5 wins and 2 halved matches out of 10. Sadly, neither of the Deeside teams made the final this season.
- New Junior Members Meeting – GN/HC scheduled this meeting for Saturday 6th July.
- GolfNines - Scottish Golf is attempting to set up a new competition for juniors with a handicap between 18 and 36. I believe this will provide a good bridge between the flag events and the pennant team. HC to meet with a volunteer to discuss further

Pro Shop Report

A full report was circulated in advance, to summarise:

- Congratulations to Sam Kiloh & Kevin Duncan who have passed all their third-year exams. Both are on course to be fully qualified by the end of the year.
- Thank you to everyone that attended and participated in our Short Game & Long Game Experience weeks.
- The podium has gone down very well with members, with a lot of positive feedback.
- The members in advance initiative to allow bigger groups of members & their guests to book in advance to organise travel/food etc. Whilst this has had positive feedback from the small number of members that would be affected by the above scenario, it prevents big groups of members from booking in advance. It was agreed that GN/DH would review the initiative and report back to Council.
- DH/GN/DP had a meeting with Rob Wicks, Commercial Director of TECA, re the Professional Shop. Rob is going to look at the Clubs & Pro Shop strategy plans and revert back with feedback.
- GN spoken to Iain Hunter re Winter Fours. It was agreed they will look at numbers for Winter Fours end of August/start of September and agree the usual relevant slots & times.
- Our Regulations for Play document has been updated (and highlighted) to include four balls no more than three hours forty minutes and members restrictions on booking within 240 minutes.
- Zack from Trackman was on site at Deeside on Thursday 6th June. This was a productive meeting with various logistics agreed, including placement of screens, outfield arrangements and other electrical upgrades. It was agreed to order 3 trackman brackets, the others will be flat to the pole. It was also agreed to remove the water features and yardage markers. Install will be week commencing 19th August.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	798
Senior members	125
Associate 30 – 34	17
Associate 24 – 29	19
Young Adults	24
House/Non Playing	186
Senior VIP	11
House 5 Day	2
Country	16

Junior 12 – 18	103
Junior under 12	52
Non Resident	65
Life	15
Honorary	8

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

Full	Matthew Johnston	Phil Smart	David Dempsie
Full	Lynn Stevenson	Jodi Stevenson	Tim Stevenson
Full	Garry Lewis	Donald Love	Michael Cormack
Full	Andrew Harrow	Russell Anderson	Peter Mutch
Full	Gordon Cooper	Iain Hunter	Alastair Hunter
Full	William Hutchison	Gary Winpenny	Steve Pirie

- **Transfers from within the membership during May**

Harrison Codona from Resigned to Junior 12.-18

Athol Gordon – Resigned to Young Adult

Connor McCormack – Resigned to Junior 12-18

Emilie Parkinson – Resigned to Junior12 -18

Alexander Ramsayer – Resigned to Junior 12 – 18

Calum Ramsayer - Resigned to Junior 12 – 18

Sophie Robertson – Non-playing to Full

Neil Thomson – Full to Non Playing

Michael Wood – Resigned to House

- **Resignations**

Gary Leslie - Full

- **Deceased**

Colin Farquharson - House

- **New members**

Noah Hay – Junior 12-18

Oliver Henderson – Junior <12

Blake Innes – Junior <12

Casey Main – Junior 12 – 18

Harry Mawhinney – Junior <12

Harrison McIntosh – Junior <12

Ellen Youngson – Junior <12

- **Waiting List**

226 on Full waiting list

6 on Senior waiting list

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						

General Information/Actions/Requests etc. for discussion

- After discussion it was agreed that conveners will send results to DP to circulate to the members
- It was agreed that GN and DP will have the authority to make decisions on operational enquires.
- It was agreed to accept the invitation to join the “Clubs founded in 1903” reciprocal. DP to confirm details and add to member benefits.
- Jackie Skinner has delivered books which were bequest to the Club by Duncan. These are now located in the locker room on a “read and return” basis.

6. June Agenda Items

• Course Projects

AG circulated documents on clearing works on the Haughton Course. As reported under matters arising the subcontractor will be on site from Monday 8th July for approximately 4 weeks.

AG circulated a schedule of works for the bunker upgrade schedule, which will progress depending on the weather. AG/NM to progress and report back to Council. It is intended to display the bunker schedule on the Club notice board, together with the Architects latest bunker layout.

AG to send Course update communication to DP for circulation to members.

• Clubhouse Projects

DH to circulate the latest drawings on the Balcony Options before decision on progressing with Phase Three.

- DH now has the final calculations for full Clubhouse refurbishment including fees, replacing the air conditioning units, lighting, decoration and furniture. 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. DH to arrange member forums towards the end of August to update members on both course and clubhouse projects.

Marketing

- The website is still due to launch in July.

- It was agreed that CW would contact Mearns & Gill to set up a meeting regarding communications strategy.

6. AOCB

- Council requested to forward any Council Agenda items in advance of the meeting.

Next Meeting – 23rd July @ 5.30pm in the trophy room

Actions

DH	Source new trophy for Alan Ross Salver Forward Phase Three drawings on Balcony options to Council Arrange follow up member forums towards the end of August Arrange a meeting with some members regarding the 18th path. Contact the Bieldside Community Council once the boundary work has been completed to highlight the path has been cleared for dog walkers etc
DH/AG	Progress with the appointment of the Greens Convener.
DH/JG/DP	Progress with cost for soft furnishings from Andersons of Inverurie
DH/DP/GN	Progress with website design, Branding etc
DH/SH/DP	Meet to follow up on discussion points highlighted in SH report
DH/DP/GN	Progress with Rob Wicks on Marketing Strategy
AG	Forward final Course Policy document to DP for website. Send Course update communication to DP for circulation Create a sub-committee to carry out a full risk assessment on both courses, practice area and driving range. Arrange meeting with Ballater Golf Club to discuss flooding issues
AG/NM	Progress with Business Plan for the purchase of more autonomous mowers Follow up with hydrologist to arrange an onsite meeting Progress with the detail on bunker projects for winter 24-25
NM	Progress with signage for boundary. Purchase new style rakes for Haughton Course Cost and trial new material on the approach to the 1st tee on Haughton Progress with costs for fencing along the boundary. Purchase five winter tee boxes
GN	Progress with purchase of team uniform for all scratch teams in 2025. Report back to DH/SR on qualification criteria for Championship competitions.
DP/NM	Investigate more CCTV along the boundary line
HC	Meet with a volunteer to assist with the Golfnines competition at Lossiemouth

DP	Follow upon reciprocal for 1903 Clubs
CW	Contact Mearns & Gill to discuss the Club Comms policy.