

**Minute of Council Meeting
held on 29th May 2024 in the Trophy Room**

Present:

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

In Attendance:

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

Apologies:

H. Craigie	(Junior Convener)
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1. Welcome:

Captain DH welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Sandy Hutchison as Match & Handicap Convener.

2. Minute of Council held on 28th April 2024

The minute of the Council meeting on 28th April was approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- The Alan Ross Salver for the lowest gross score of the year off any tee in a club competition was approved. DH to source and purchase the salver.
- It was agreed to source an alternative Hydrologist to survey the courses. DH has contacted Aberdeen University for further information.
- GN to contact Iain Hunter later in the season to discuss the Winter fours time & format.
- DH/DP met with a member to discuss the Junior section at Deeside. It was a positive meeting with no further action required other than all benefits to be added to the public area of the new website.
- Some additional content to be added to the Course policy document AG /DH/ NM to finalise and circulate for review.
- DH to attend the meeting with Trackman representative on 6th June to approve the positioning of the screens etc.
- DP to source a basket for the sunscreen.
- DP/NM waiting for quotes for a water fountain on the course. DP to arrange a water test to ensure the water will be drinkable.
- Ian Hogg has been asked to look at roof/guttering cleaning on both Driving Range and Clubhouse.

4. Health and Safety

- A Junior accidentally injured another Junior in the driving range by taking a practice swing while his partner entered the hitting area. During every session the usual safe zones are displayed and highlighted to the Juniors multiple times throughout the

sessions. The juniors are also asked to leave their clubs on the ground (face down) whilst in the safe zone and should not exit these zones whilst other children are hitting. Accident form completed, parents spoken to & we will continue to highlight H&S throughout the sessions.

- A member slipped leaving the 15th tee. NM to carry out a risk assessment and fence off any slip hazards. It was agreed that a review of hazards on both Haughton and Blairs would be carried out as soon as possible.
- There is an issue with young adults loitering around the riverbank in the summer evenings. DP has arranged for the Clubs security company to patrol the area three times during the evenings on a Friday & Saturday. Additional clear boundary signage will be on display. It was agreed to engage with the Cults, Bieldside Community Council to establish if there is anything the Club can do to help with clearing the path, erecting a fence, and better monitor the area. This would be included in the course policy. DH/AG/NM to meet and progress. NM to find out a cost for wire and fencing.

Captain's Report

- DH thanked RAGC for hosting the annual match on Saturday 26th May.
- DH held a meeting with a member to discuss various future course scientific plans, including the layers of clay underneath the surface. The suggestion is there are certain layers of clay still on the course from Storm Frank. It was suggested that trial pits would help to establish the extent of the problem. DH confirmed that more trials and testing would be arranged in the near future. DH to report back to the concerned member on findings once testing has been completed. AG confirmed that the ditch next to Camphill will be investigated. The areas at 4,5,6, on Haughton will be cleared. The areas at 7 and 8 will be tidied up. External contractors will be brought in to plan and cost this project.
- Main sewer – NM updated Council and confirmed that Scottish Water are coming on site to re-seal the manholes. They will also continue with camera work to establish the route cause of the problem. DH has spoken to professional colleague regarding Scottish Water who will intervene if necessary.
- New Lockers – the new locker rooms are now completed. DH met with a member who was concerned at the timing of the locker project.
- DH/AG to meet and discuss appointing a new Greens Convener for next year.

Finance Report

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

- The net profit for the month of £18.9k which compares to a budget loss of £2.9k and a loss in the April last year of £5.1k. The higher profit results from lower expenditure on the course and lower clubhouse upkeep costs. The net profit YTD of £14.7k compares to a budgeted loss of £103.6k and a profit of £39.3k 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 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 £31k and the variance to budget is about £8k. While sales are ahead of budget the lower margin is due to the sale of older stock at heavily discounted prices during the winter months with YTD margin at 27% v

budget of 34%. Coaching and trackman income are ahead of both budget and prior year.

Balance Sheet Review

- **Bank Balances at 30 April 2024 – total of £1182k.** This represents an increase in cash in the month of about £83k.
- **Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations** – Based on budget, the requirement is £540k, leaving about £642k for working capital requirements and capital improvements.
- **Clubhouse Refurbishment**
Council will continue to review the clubhouse refurbishment plan and cost estimates versus budget some of which are coming in above the budgeted amount.

Financial Projections

- The profit for the year is projected to exceed the budget. While subscription income levels will be with budget, other income including sundry and interest income will be ahead, and expenditure is projected to be lower than budget with lower clubhouse upkeep costs including lower utilities, slightly lower staff costs and an unbudgeted gain on sale of old equipment.

Financial Policies and Procedures Manual

- CW/DP are reviewing the financial policies and procedures manual that was last updated four years ago and will distribute a proposed draft for review at the next council meeting.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Grass growth has surged during May, leading to a period of extreme growth rates. At times, the team are struggling to keep up with the rough and semi-rough areas and have begun collecting clippings in the most affected areas using our winter leaf collection machine. Due to these conditions, all areas of the course require more frequent cutting. Tasks that were previously carried out every three weeks now need to be done every two weeks. For example, irrigation heads now require trimming every 10 days instead of every 21 days.
- This month, the team verti cut both sets of greens to remove Poa seed heads and refine the grass. Poa seeding occurs twice a year, in May and September, causing the greens to lose speed and the ball to bobble. We are also using a chemical treatment to help control the seeding.
- A cherry picker has been booked for next week to start trimming the overhanging branches on the 15th, 17th and 18th holes.
- The new bunkers on the 16th hole have been completed and will be in play next week.
- The path on the 11th hole has been re-turfed, marking the completion of all winter projects for now. Planning for next years winter projects have already commenced.
- The new full-time member of staff expected at the end of April did not join us, although the other three seasonal staff have. Finding qualified staff is becoming increasingly difficult, and although the positions have been advertised, the response has been very poor.

- The robotic mowers are performing well and managing the extremely rapid grass growth. The two larger mowers are currently averaging about 17 hours of cutting per day. DH requested that AG/NM put together a business case for increasing the level of autonomous mowers used on site.
- It was agreed to trial the three new rakes again. NM to source and cost the purchase of new rakes.
- AG/DH to introduce a regular operational meeting with NM.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The Championship Qualifiers are now complete. The best 4 scratch scores and the best 8 net scores will qualify for Scratch/handicap match play draws.
- The Senior Championship ,Thelma Beattie Trophy (age 55+) best 8 net scores. All will compete in knock out match play conditions.
- The Watt Duffus Trophy , an external competition, was played this year at Duffhouse Royal, Banff. Two Deeside ladies Teams (8 players) competed and team 1 finished 2nd in the handicap competition.
- The Friendly competition this month was at Aberdeen Ladies. Deeside beating AL 3-1
- On Friday 31st May the ladies will play in the R&A Coronation Foursomes qualifier.
- The ladies held their first fun competition on the Green Course where 24 Ladies played in a Texas scramble. JG gathered feedback from all the ladies, and it was overwhelmingly positive. JG has emailed DH/AG/NM/GN with comments.
- JG has attended meetings with DP & Fiona Young of Cumming and Co regarding refurbishment plans for ladies lockers and clubhouse facilities as per strategic plan.
- Following the Ladies Committee meeting last week, it has been agreed that all players are encouraged to enter the draw to be eligible to win trophy/silverware competitions before the draw has been completed. Ladies are requested to inform the ladies committee if you plan to play out with the specific zones for that day.

Junior Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Flag Competitions - The third flag event was successfully held on 11th May. Numbers have increased event after event, with 30 juniors participating most recently. The event has led to several new junior applications. Thanks to the Proshop Team for organising this and to Taylormade for sponsoring the series.
- Junior Pennant Team - The organisation of the junior pennant teams has proven to be more challenging than originally envisaged but 5 of the 10 matches have been completed. Deeside 1 have won 1 and lost 1, and Deeside 2 have won 1 and lost 2. The early matches were a struggle with several of the younger juniors having to play due to restricted player availability (mainly due to exams). All have done well however and enjoyed their experience thus far.
- New Junior Members Meeting - DP has suggested the Club hosts a new member meeting for the large influx of new junior members. HC supports this with help from the Pro Shop.

Pro Shop Report

A full report was circulated in advance, to summarise:

- Ben Smith (Golf Ops Assistant) and Morgan Beveridge (Retail Assistant) have both started work in the Professional Shop. The member's patience is much appreciated until they both get up to speed with all things Pro Shop & Deeside.
- A new event - The Stampede is taking place on Friday 21st June at 18.00. This kicks off our Finals Day weekend, Shotgun Start on the Blairs course. Foursomes format with up to 38 teams of two. Music & Refreshments during the round with food on completion of the event.
- Driving Range Tokens are now behind the counter with members given 1 each (unless requested otherwise). The Range balls are now picked twice a day/dispenser filled by shop in evening. This seems to have prevented running out of balls in the evening.
- The last week of May the team will host a Short Game Experience week. This will allow members to try putters & wedges, get expert advice on their short game and order/purchase accordingly.
- There is increasing frustration regarding slow play on Wednesdays. There has been two Wednesdays in May where members have walked off the course as a result. After discussion it was agreed that 4 balls would remain for the time being however members would be encouraged to keep up with the group in front and told that their round should taken no more than 3 hours 40 minutes. It was suggested that a Ranger is on duty on a Wednesday.
- As reported in the Junior report, there have been three Junior Flag events sponsored by TaylorMade with 17, 27 & 30 participants competing. As a result, six junior applications have been submitted plus parent interest in submitting applications. GN thanked Sam for organising and running these events, the feedback from all those attending has been extremely positive.

Flag Events:

Date	Numbers	Non Members	Parent/Guadian Member
13/4	17	2	6
27/4	27	2	9
11/5	30	5	13

- **Requests**
The Senior Northern Counties Team have requested that they are given team uniform for representing the Club. GN confirmed that most Clubs do not provide team uniform unless it is covered by a sponsor. It should be noted that GN has also had requests from Gents Pennant & Senior Friendly teams about uniform. After discussion it was agreed that GN would cost out uniform for team players representing the Club in official competitions from next year. All uniform would be sign out/sign in after use.
- **Trackman Updates** - DH/AG/NM had an initial meeting with Trackman regarding the scope of work. GN had a meeting again with Trackman and Your Golf Booking on their booking system This software will allow the pro shop to have various bays bookable at certain times, block the range for group coaching etc. There is also an opportunity to link their booking software with our ball dispenser machine in form of QR code etc. Very up to date system that can do a lot more than Range booking. The cost circa £502 per annum. It was agreed that GN would put a plan together. GN/NM/DP held meetings with John Roberston (electrics) & Roger O'Hallaron (IT). The electrical work will be completed by the end of July. It was agreed to have the one server room in the driving range, which would be insulated and heated appropriately.
- It was agreed that a member with Commercial retail experience will be approached to speak to GN regarding the Pro Shop.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	799
Senior members	125
Associate 30 – 34	17
Associate 24 – 29	19
Young Adults	23
House/Non Playing	186
Senior VIP	11
House 5 Day	2
Country	16
Junior 12 – 18	96
Junior under 12	47
Non Resident	65
Life	15
Honorary	8

- Applications for membership approved by Vice- Captain and Ladies Captain.

Full	Jason Ritchie	Patrick Ritchie	Scott Gilmour
Junior	David Collins	Alasdair Buchanan	Michael Willet
Full	Andrew Wiseman	Mark Etherington	Bob Fennell

- Transfers from within the membership**

Duncan Bickerton from Full to Non Resident

Ron Fowler from Country to House

John Rapach from Full to Non playing

- Resigned**

Findlay Baxter – House

Alex Burnett – Junior

Harrison Codona – Junior

Saskia Crighton – House

Edward Daley – Junior

Callum Davidson – Junior

Fraser Dobbie – House

Stuart Duncan – House

Mike Forbes – Non Resident

Athol Gordon – Young Adult

Scott Grant – Full

John Hunter – Non Playing

Connor McCormack – Junior

Pamela McHaffie – House

Cameron McIntyre – Young Adult

Chris Moulton – Non Resident

Emilie Parkinson – Junior
 Lucas Pilichos – Junior
 Alexander Ramseyer – Junior
 Calum Ramseyer – Junior
 Stuart Robb – Non Resident
 Anna Skinner – Associate
 Michael Wood – House
 Oliver Wright – Junior

- **Deceased**
 John King Snr – Non Playing
- **New members**
 Yvonne Blackwood – Full
 Dhruv Chopra – Junior Under 12
 Daniel Cox – Junior 12 – 18
 Sophia Crayton – Junior 12 – 18
 Elliot Cunningham – Junior Under 12
 Blake Lamb – Junior 12 – 18
 Michael Miller – Junior 12 – 18
 Kieran Milne – Junior 12 – 18
 Danny Pottinger – Junior 12 – 18
 Milo Roberts – Junior 12 – 18
 Lynn Stevenson – House
 Alistair Thomson – Junior 12 – 18
 Geroge Willet – Junior Under 12
- **Waiting List**
 224 on Full waiting list
 5 on Senior waiting list
 23 on deferred list
 9 on House List

• Course Usage – H & B

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
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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

- A request from a member for the Club to support UCAN on Members Day (24th August). It was agreed that the group can run some fundraising competitions, raffles etc on the day.
- Championship qualifying day Saturday 8th June – To encourage everyone taking part to stay for the draw, the Club will run a free barbecue (short menu) for all those competing who stay back for the draw.
- Championship Day 22nd June – the Club will provide a free barbecue from 4.00pm – 7.00pm as usual.
- The communications policy to be discussed and amended at a separate meeting.

5 Capital Projects

- Refurbishment – Phase one (locker rooms) was delivered on time and just over budget (due to additions made during the works). DH to contact McLeod & Aitken to progress with consultancy on Phase Two. The timing of Phase Two is likely to be January 2025. DH to circulate path drawings for review.

6 Marketing

- The website is due to launch in July. Work is continuing to streamline the Social Media Platforms, comms etc.

7 Strategic Plan

- The Strategy Plan will be reviewed and updated over the coming months.

8 AOCB

Next Meeting – 26th June @ 5.30pm in the trophy room

