

**Minute of Council Meeting
held on 30th January @ 5.30pm in the Trophy Room**

Present:	S. Cruickshank	(Captain)
	D. Halliday	(Vice-Captain)
	G. Pryde	(Finance Convener)
	J. Gove	(Ladies Captain)
	C. McCaul	(Junior Convener)
	A. Ross	(Match & Handicap)

Apologies	G Nethercott	(Head Professional)
	A. Gordon	(Greens Convener)

In Attendance:	D.P. Pern	(Club Manager)
	N. McLoughlin	(Course Manager)
	C Watson	(By invitation)

1. **Welcome:**
SC welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Minute of Council held on 28th November 2023**
The minute of the Council meeting on 28th November was approved.
3. **Matters arising from the Minute:**
 - New Application for membership form – following discussion it was agreed that an Associate member can propose and second new applications. DP to confirm with David Rennie and circulate updated form to Council for final approval.
 - It was agreed that Past Captains from the Ladies section will be considered in discussion and decision when appointing future Club presidents.
4. **Reports**
Captain's Report
 - As this was the last Council meeting for SC, he thanked Council, the staff and all their teams for their support during his captaincy. Quote *"It has been a pleasure to work with you for the last two years and I'm leaving knowing the Club is going to be in very safe hands"*
 - SC to reply to two members emails.
 - NM to ensure course status is updated as early as possible in the morning.

Finance Report

A full Finance report was circulated, to summaries:

- The profit & loss results for the quarter ended 31 December 2023 are set out below, along with a comparison to both the Budget and the quarter ended 31 December 2022.

	Actual £	Budget £	Prior year £
<i>Quarter ended 31 December 2023</i>			
Net Profit (Loss)	(7,009)	(88,198)	(28,044)

- The Club has made a positive start to the September 2024 year, with 47 confirmed new members (45 Full, including 2 transferring from House membership, 1 Associate (18-24) and 1 Non-Resident). 40 new members were budgeted, so for the year our entry fee income will be £10.5k higher than predicted. Also, a review of the historic VAT treatment of waiting list fees resulted in a VAT refund of over £5k. As the waiting list fee entitles the applicant to one round of golf per year, an element of the fee is exempt from VAT.
- For the quarter, the figures are £81k ahead of the Budget which includes additional entry fees and the VAT refund. Also, there are a number of overheads which are less than budgeted due to timing including course costs (£48k less than budgeted) and club expenses (£6k less). These costs are expected to come through later in the year. Irrecoverable VAT in the quarter is £6k less than the Budget. This figure will change following the finalisation of the December VAT return.
- Income from green fees from both members guests and visitors was £4k lower than budgeted, due to the course closures over the period.
- The net loss from **F&B** in the quarter was £22k, almost exactly as budgeted. The loss for the equivalent quarter in 2022 was £20k.
- The net loss from **Golf Operations** in the quarter was £15k. The Budget and the Prior Year both reflected a loss of £13k.

Balance Sheet Review

- Bank Balances at 31 December 2023 – total of £918k. Funds of £435k were held in the Virgin Money UK working accounts. There is a further £155k in instant access accounts and we have £328k invested in longer term deposit accounts.
- Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations – based on the Final Budget for the year to 30 September 2024, the cash reserves requirement is circa £540k.

- Members Loyalty Card Balances – on 31 December, the balance on members loyalty cards totalled £99k, including £16k of unspent B&C credits. This relates to the B&C credit of £100 added to members loyalty cards on 1 March 2023. Any amount of the B&C credit which has not been spent by 29 February 2024, will be reclaimed on 1 March 2024.
- Expenditure on equipment – during the quarter a deposit of £12k plus VAT was paid on the new Sand injection machine.
- Capital Expenditure on improvements and investment in the facilities of the Club – during the quarter, material costs for the new bunkers and paid EDI for the bunker master plan was £9k plus VAT.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- January has posed consistent challenges with adverse weather conditions, including heavy rain and snow, significantly impacting play on both courses.
- Sewage Management: Regrettably, ongoing issues with sewage seeping from multiple manholes have been encountered. As agreed with Scottish Water, the greens staff have stripped the affected turf areas, and the material has been appropriately removed and disposed of. Scottish Water is scheduled to conduct on-site inspections, utilizing cameras to assess potential blockages and damages within the sewer system. Once weather conditions permit, the affected areas will be returfed. The Club has confirmation that Scottish Water will reimburse all the costs for repair and reinstatement work.
- Bunker Construction: Unfavourable weather conditions have delayed the construction of bunkers, specifically impacting the 5th, 11th, and 14th holes. The decision to rebuild the first fairway bunker on the 11th, based on member feedback, reflects our commitment to enhancing the course based on user experience. Planning for spring activities includes identifying fairway bunkers for potential work, with the exclusion of the 8th fairway bunker as per member input.
- Haughton Course Development: The ongoing project involving the clearing of the area between the 4th, 5th, and 6th holes on the Haughton course, started last year, is planned for completion in the upcoming spring.
- Water Management: The team remain diligent in monitoring and clearing all burns post-floods to ensure efficient water drainage. Additionally, efforts are underway to improve access to the Northern Perimeter Drain, facilitating easier maintenance and cleaning procedures.
- Tee Marker Replacement: NM presented a sample of new tee marker. After discussion it was agreed to replace the tee markers on Haughton with a simple ball design, available in various colours.
- A comprehensive 5-year capital expenditure plan will be integrated into the Course Policy Document, which will be distributed before the next council meeting.

- A meeting with Fairhurst & partners is scheduled for 13th February to discuss strategies for improving drains and outflows, ensuring continued enhancement of our course facilities.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- JG was delighted to welcome 68 ladies to the Ladies prizegiving last month.
- The ladies Annual Business meeting (ABM) was held on the 20th January. GN joined to discuss the matter of Saturday bookings going forward. No issues were raised.
- Along with DP's help JG continues to streamline key documentation pertaining to the Ladies Section providing a single reference source.
- Entry forms sent for the "Champion of Champions 2024" competition to Ladies Champions. Carol Eddie, Club Champion. Fiona Lane, Handicap Champion & Anne Lawire, Senior Handicap Champion.
- JG met with the Secretary of Ballater Golf Club and booked 15 tee times for the Ladies Away Day 2024 on the 6th September.
- JG attended the Aberdeenshire Ladies County Golf Association business meeting . Fixtures for 2024 are now complete. The Deeside County Open will be held on the 18th July.
- JG attended meetings with DH, DP and Fiona Young Architect (Cummings & Co) to progress the refurbishment of the Ladies lockers and Clubhouse facilities.

Match & Handicap Report

Nothing to report.

Junior Report

- Junior Pennant League AGM – Sunday 28th January at Murcar GC update as follows:
 - New website is in process of being built.
 - Review of rules carried out to align with WHS changes and league win / draw points changed after both sections were tied in 2023.
 - Off the Tee handicap limit to be increased to 12.
 - Deeside and Cruden Bay are entering two teams in the 2024 league.
 - Kemnay and Peterhead are hopeful of returning to the league, fixtures are to be finalised by end of February.

Pro Shop Report

A full report was circulated in advance, to summarise:

- Most of the summer competition schedule has been set up on Club V1 in preparation for the start of the golfing season.
- All the club knockout competitions have been set up on Club V1 with the last date for entries 31st March. Draws will be made on Monday 1st April.
- All the Opens went live on Tuesday 9th January. Both the Senior Opens are almost full (80% & 91%).
- Despite targeting February for the 'winter stock take' this has been completed for January with minimal discrepancies.
- The pro shop is starting to receive all the custom fitting equipment for 2024 and expect a busy February / March. GN is excited to welcome Wilson to Deeside for the first

time which will give a lower price point option in the shop for hardware. The brand new TaylorMade Qi10 fitting equipment & Ping blueprint irons has been delivered.

- GN will CMAE MDP 3 in January (report to follow) with Sam & Kevin attending their 3rd Year PGA training at the Belfry in March. They will also be attending various training events with TaylorMade & Wilson in February.
- GN is delighted to welcome Dylan Boyce as a Part Time, Seasonal, Golf Operations Assistant commencing February. Dylan is a second-year student at Robert Gordon's.
- After discussion it was agreed to visit the Portlethen indoor studio which is proving very popular. GN to action.
- GN to follow up on possible Junior outing to St Andrews

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	833
Senior members	126
Associate 30 – 34	13
Associate 24 – 29	20
Young Adults	32
House/Non Playing	167
Senior VIP	11
House 5 Day	2
Country	19
Junior 12 – 18	98
Junior under 12	45
Non Resident	62D
Life	15
Honorary	8

- Applications for membership – December/January

House	Alastair McKinnon	Raymond Stirton	Margret Stirton
Full	Allan Smith	David Rennie	Frank Coutts
Full	Keith Lambert	Douglas Newlands	Lee Buck
Full	Ronald Keenon	Derek Rettie	Mark Milne
Full	Allan Michie	James Broadribb	Colin McKenzie
House	David Bruce	Forbes Shand	Michael Shand
Junior	Scott De'ath	TBC	TBC
House	Dorothy Williamson	Hugh Craigie	Alasdair Craigie
Full	Iain Brand	Alistair Smith	Scott Cormack
House	Margaret Yule	Graeme Yule	Colynn Gillespie

- **Transfers from within the membership**

Margaret Kelly – Full to House

Alastair Sinclair – Full to Country

- **Deceased**

Sandy Cameron – Full

Vivien Edward - Senior

- **Resigned**

Mary Broomfield – House
Bruce Bultitude – Full
Peter Howarth -House
Barbara Lumsden – House
David Richards - House

- **New members**

George Barrack – Full
Tyler Buchan – Full
Ross Christie – Young Adult
Carol Leslie – Full
Tim Lochhead – Full
Grant Logan – Full
Daniel Mcateer – Full
Lynn McGurran – Full
Gillian Miller – Full
Keith Miller – Full
Peter Miller – Full
Michael Morrice – Full
Mark Paton – Full
Kevin Reid – Full
Alistair Roy – Full
Ali Sikander – Non-resident
Neil Thomson – Full
Mandy Watson - Full

- **Waiting List**

287 on Full waiting list
12 on Senior waiting list
23 on deferred list (2024)

- **Seniors**

DP shared the list of Full members with 20 years or more continuous service requesting Senior members. The list was approved. Spaces will be offered based on longevity, continuous membership & service to the Club.
As previously agreed, 130 will be the maximum number in the Senior member category.

- DP shared the annual transfer list in all other categories (Juniors, Associates). This was approved.

- 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										

General Information/Actions/Requests etc

- It has been agreed to appoint Carbon Group (Colin Yule) to digitize all the Minutes & Deeside historical documents from 1959 – 2003.
- DP circulated the latest draft of the new application form. This will replace the current application form for Full/Associate members. It was agreed that Associate members will be permitted to propose and second an application. The House/Junior form is still in draft form. I will circulate that next month.

5 Capital Projects

- DH updated Council on progress. Phase one – the lower ground level will progress early Spring, with Phase two following in the summer. Display boards with plans etc to be displayed in the Clubhouse.
- DH met with Kirsty McLean from Design Scotland to progress with external landscaping around the Clubhouse. DH to now formalise the brief with Kirsty to progress.

6 Marketing

- Morgan Spiers has been appointed as the new website developer. It was agreed to continue with the existing Club crest. DP/GN to progress with Platform77.

7 Health & Safety

- Nothing to report.

8 AOCB

- DH thanked SC/GP/CM for their immense contribution on Council.
- After discussion it was agreed that the regulation relating to members over the age of 80 with 10 years membership, would cease to be an option for new members joining from March 2024.

Next Meeting Tuesday 20th February at 5.30pm in the trophy room

Actions

DP	Circulate final new application form and finalise Junior/House membership Application form
NM	Comprehensive five year cap ex to be integrated into Course policy and circulated to Council.
NM	Update on Fairhurst meeting
DP/GN	Progress with website design
DP	Follow up with Colin Yule on digitising documents
DH	Progress with M&E with Hutcheon Electrical
DP/DH/JG	Progress with internal refurbishment/display boards etc
DH	Prepare brief for Design Scotland to progress with external landscaping around 18th bank/9th path etc