

**Minute of Council Meeting
held on 17th September 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)
	A Powell	(President)
	Peter Reilly	(Interim Greens Convener)

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

Apologies	D. Halliday	(Captain)
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1. Welcome:

Vice-Captain AG welcomed everyone to the meeting. AG introduced Peter Reilly to Council as Interim Greens Convener.

2. Minute of Council held on 20th August 2024

The minute of the Council meeting on 20th August was approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- It was agreed that there will be no slides for the member forums on 18th & 19th September. Content was discussed and agreed.
- CW updated Council on figures and progress with the Clubhouse refurbishment. Phase One has been completed. Phase Two is programmed for Jan/Feb 2025 and will include a full refurbishment of the Clubhouse including replacing the HVAC system, which was previously only budgeted as a repair to the existing system in the original costings. However, after site surveys it was agreed that the HVAC system urgently needed to be replaced and should be carried out during the overall club refurbishment. The approx. cost of the HVAC work is £125k, however significant annual operating savings will be made on heating and lighting. Phase Three (redcoration of the office and pro shop) will be postponed until at least winter 2025/2026. The proposed balcony has been put on hold, however staff access to the marquee area via the balcony will be investigated. AP asked about a replacement carpet in the gent's locker room. DP to look at the thread bare areas and ask General & Technical for options.
- Most of the existing furniture (carpet, tables and chairs) will be donated to Braemar Golf Club, in return all Deeside members will have free access to Braemar Golf Course for the 2025 season at specific times to be agreed.

- Meeting has been arranged with MacLeod & Aitken, Cumming and Co, AG/CW/JG/DP on Friday 20th September to progress with the programme, award of contracts and confirmation of start and finish dates.
- AG and DP will meet with the staff on Friday 20th September to discuss the closure of the bar, restaurant and trophy room and impact on them. The club is committed to looking after our loyal staff.
- AG and member Paul Birch arranged a meeting with Ballater Golf Club regarding flooding issues which affect both Clubs. The Head and Deputy greenkeepers from Ballater then attended a meeting with NM at Deeside to look at similar issues. It was agreed to engage the services of CBEC to carry out a survey of the whole riverbank area and submit a report to the Club. CBEC will also work with SEPA. Terms of reference to be set out for CBEC.
- DP/NM to meet with member Iain Clark who is part of the CMBCC Path Group to jointly progress with re-instating and improving the riverside path for walkers and potentially reduce the number of floods. It was agreed to work closely with the CMBCC Path Group, they may be able to source grants for material and Deeside could provide labour.
- NM has received the quotes for erecting a fence along the course side of the river path. 600 meters of fencing will be required. The first phase would be the 5th to the 11th tee on Haughton and will be completed as soon as possible. The second phase would be from the 12th to the 17th and will be completed in the spring once work to the foot path has been completed. The foot path will be completed in good time before the start of the season.
- The gate at the 5th will be replaced. NM to request pictures and final quote and seek input from Council on final design. NM to check timescale on installation.
- AG will finalise the Course Risk Assessment and circulate to Council for approval. AP and AG suggested the 17th tee is a priority, along with buggy path from 1st to 2nd hole on Haughton. NM to install some sort of barrier to ensure buggies do not end up in the ditch next to 2nd tee. NM to re-route the walkway off the 17th tee before the winter season
- Once the member forums have taken place an update with a Q&A will be created and circulated to members.
- AG/SH to set out terms of reference for sub-committees. It was agreed to have two temporary sub-committees to discuss the long-term sustainability of the courses and the 2025 – 2030 Club strategy plan.
- AG/CW updated Council on the Club refurbishment. The scope of works has changed significantly with the inclusion of a new HVAC system. AG to update members at the members forums on the 18th/19th September and follow up with a summary and Q&A which will be circulated to members.
- It was agreed to put the business plan for Autonomous Mowers on hold until March Council meeting.
- NM confirmed that the bunker project for 2024/2025 is on schedule.
- After discussion it was agreed that a dust path will be installed from the tarmac path to the black tee on the 1st hole Haughton. It will be on the right hand side of the hole. This will be completed before the start of the new season.
- Mearns & Gill discussions are on hold for now.
- NM confirmed the signage for boundaries has been ordered. Now waiting for delivery.
- NM confirmed that Scottish Water will be on site week commencing 23rd September to fit new sealing plates to the manholes on both courses. NM will work closely with SW to ensure there is minimal disruption. During the SW survey another issue has been

highlighted. The main non return valve to the course toilets is broken. Scottish Water to carry out a camera survey, in the meantime, NM to investigate the best way to fix the broken valve. HC to liaise with NM to find a solution.

- NM confirmed that the STRI report will be uploaded to the website as soon as it is received.
- GN confirmed that Frank Coutts has agreed to carry out ranger duties on a Wednesday morning if necessary.

4. Health and Safety

- The Clubs H&S advisor will be on site on 18th September to carry out a Fire Risk assessment inspection.

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 £18k which compares to a budget profit of £22K and profit of £9k in August 2024. The net profit YTD of £113k compares to a budgeted loss of £12k and a profit of £56k in the prior year. The main variances to budget in the month were higher course costs with the purchase of sand and fertiliser and costs of the new trackman bays in the range, offset by strong F&B sales and the capitalisation of professional expenses related to the clubhouse refurbishment. The YTD results significantly better than budget due to course recovery from Scottish Water, gains on sale of old equipment, improved F&B performance and lower administration and course costs. 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 another positive month, the net loss from **F&B** YTD is down to £29k which is £24k better than budget and £8k better than prior year. The Gross Profit from catering at 63.2% YTD is not far off budget of 64% and up 2.5% on last year. The net loss from **Golf Operations** YTD is a loss of £35k and the variance to budget is about £30k. About £8.5k of the variance relates to costs of Trackman. Sales continue to be lower than budget and prior year. Margins are impacted by trackman costs and the lower margin discounted sales in the winter months. We will split out trackman income and expenditure separately in future reports.
- Bank Balances at 31 August 2024 – total of £975k. This represents a reduction in cash in the month of about £112k as there are no subscription direct debits payments received in August.
- Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations – Based on budget, the requirement is £540k, leaving about £435k for working capital requirements and capital improvements. We anticipate going below this level for a temporary period in the next year or so while we incur additional costs on the clubhouse refurbishment as anticipated.
- Capital Expenditure – The main capital expenditure in the month of August were the costs from STS to clear up several areas of the course plus the capitalisation of Cummings & Co fees for the clubhouse refurbishment, which had previously been expensed.

- Financial Projections - There is a significant surplus projected for the current year some of which has been the result of some unexpected gains and one-off items. While we have still to review the first draft of the budget it is still anticipated we will still be able to hold subscriptions at the current level for one year.
- CW to arrange a meeting with DP/GN to discuss allocation of Trackman and “Opens” cost.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

Overview

- End-of-season maintenance across both courses has commenced with significant progress being made.
- Sports Turf Services has returned to work on the 7th hole, removing self-seeded willows and blending the area toward the hollow.
- Sewage Management - Scottish Water has scheduled the installation of sealing plates for September 25th, during which time the 4th hole will be closed for a few hours. NM and the team will handle the excavation and re-instatement work and invoice Scottish Water upon completion.
- NM has been in touch with the wizard rake company as there is some issues with the rakes sticking.
- Five winter tee mats have been delivered and will be positioned over the coming weeks.
- NM/JG to have a chat about the winter course lay out for the ladies.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The outing to Ballater Golf Club on 6th September was another wonderful event for your Ladies Section! A total of 45 ladies participated in the Ballater GC Tri Am, and the beautiful weather was an added bonus, making the day even more enjoyable. A big thank you goes to the Ladies Committee and DP for their hard work and assistance in ensuring the event was a great success. The golf season has been full of highlights, and this outing adds to the list of achievements and enjoyable moments!
- The Ladies Invitational Day held earlier was well supported and was a great success and showcased Deeside at its best. The weather was beautiful and members and their guests took full advantage of the outdoor area enjoying lunch and post golf chat.
- Unfortunately, the ladies friendly at Deeside against Aboyne had to be abandoned due to bad weather and subsequent course closure. There is one remaining match against Banchory later this month.
- Two Knockout matches remain and will be played by the end of the month.
- Ladies winter programme is now planned and will commence on the 18th October. JG has attended various meetings with AG/ CW/DP & Fiona Young of Cumming & Co regarding refurbishment plans for the clubhouse.
- Following a request from the ladies and after discussion it was agreed that rather than install posts at the ninth for a clearer point of entry, NM will clear the reeds in due course.
- Following a reminder from JG it was agreed that no plaque will be erected at any hole for a hole in one.

Match & Handicap Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Deeside 1 finished second, 5 shots behind RAGC in the Dalswinton Trophy on Sunday 1 September at Deeside GC.
- Both Deeside 1 and 2 lost out on the opening day of the Northern Counties at RAGC on Friday 13 September.
- Knockout matches continue to progress. Some delayed matches have now meant some finals will be played in early October.
- Detailed comments on the format of the Strokeplay Championship have been provided by Trevor McAllister and ongoing discussions are taking place between GN and SH.

Junior Report

Nothing to report.

Pro Shop Report

A full report was circulated in advance, to summarise:

- End of Year stock take will be complete by end of September.
- Winter Fixtures 24/25 complete and will be added to Club V1 before middle of September.
- 51 juniors played in the Flag series which was sponsored by TaylorMade. As a result of the coaching, flag & Thisgirlgolfs initiatives the Pro Shop have introduced 35 new juniors since start of March 2024.
- Adult Vs Junior Match & Prizegiving arranged for Saturday 9th November.
- The Professional Shop budget for 2025 has been completed.
- GN recently had a meeting with Scottish Golf, Active Schools Aberdeen & Club Sport Aberdeen about Deeside working with these groups on their Unleash Your Drive Junior Program. This would involve potentially attending a couple sessions at schools to assist teachers with coaching in the delivery of Unleash Your Drive within school. This would then potentially lead to those that have enjoyed these sessions to attend either Deeside's current junior coaching sessions or a separate 'Active Schools' coaching at Deeside (similar to Robert Gordons in the past). It may also involve attending an after schools fair. The schools that would be involved in this program are Peterculter, Milltimber & Cults Primary/Academy.
- Trackman Range was efficiently installed by Trackman. A member of the Pro Shop Team has been on the range Mon-Fri, 10-4 assisting members with the technology. The majority of members have found the system to be much more user friendly than expected. There have been 64 border breaches from 100,000 golf shots since Trackman Range installed. One member has been given a two week ban and two others a warning.
- After several discussions with pennant team and other members it was agreed that GN/SH to discuss and agree a format for the Stroke Play Championship.
- GN has been asked to make the Scratch OOM (sponsored by Frank Coutts) more of 'a thing'. Historically, the Pro Shop combine all the competitions throughout the season on Club V1 which would tally points and a winner would be identified at the end of season. From 2025, the Pro Shop will publicise the Scratch OOM monthly which will include Monthly & Wednesday Monthly + Club Champ Qual & Stroke Play as agreed with Frank. This is quite time consuming, and GN will be looking at ways to decrease/make our admin responsibilities more efficient in 2025, to allow us to focus on other elements of the Pro Shops responsibilities.

- After discussion it was agreed that from 2025 that sweep and twos money will rise to £5 at the request of the membership. Divisions will change to scratch prize, scratch – 9.4 hcap, 9.5 to 17.4 hcap and 17.5+ hcap.
- As Sam & Kevin are now fully qualified their teaching fees will increase to £25 junior & £30 adult. Graeme's fees will rise to £32 from October. Non member fees will increase to £35. The two lessons for Juniors included in their subscriptions will increase to £50.
GN has sourced a good deal with Oscar Jacobson for Pennant Team clothing in 2025. After discussion it was agreed the colour will be navy.
- After discussion it was agreed to source new mats for the Driving range in 2025. GN/NM to action.
- Possible new carpet for the Range and teaching Bay next season.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	797
Senior members	124
Associate 30 – 34	15
Associate 24 – 29	18
Young Adults	24
House/Non Playing	184
Senior VIP	11
House 5 Day	2
Country	16
Junior 12 – 18	111
Junior under 12	57
Non Resident	66
Life	15
Honorary	8
- Applications for membership – August. All approved by membership sub-Committee.

Cat	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Junior	Satheesh Jaganathan	David Macdonald	Robert Punton
Junior	Svara Jaganathan	David Macdonald	Robert Punton
Junior	Sanat Jaganathan	David Macdonald	Robert Punton
Full	Ramsay Keay	Russell Anderson	Brad Youngson
Full	Anne Wood	Gordon Smith	Yvonne Blackwood
Full	Samantah Robson	John Eagles	Fiona Windle
Full	Mary Smith	Elizabeth Gallacher	Douglas Gallacher
Full	David Stephenson	Neil Clark	John Martin
Full	Colin Milne	Gordon Smith	Bill Jamieson
Full	Barry Silver	Malcolm McKay	Murray McKay
Junior	Nathan Sandford	Alistair Wilkinson	John Prescott
Junior	Callum McKay	Andrew Jarvie	Ralph Davidson
House	Fergus Robertson	John Prescott	Alistair Wilkinson
Full	Thomas McNeil	Paul Young	Keith Ingram

Full	Scott Buchan	Paul Young	Keith Ingram
Full	Michael Wilson	Michael Milne	Iain Landsman
Full	Ramsay Wilson	Mihael Milne	Iain Landsman

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

Cameron Millar – resigned to Junior

John Verling – resigned to Full

- **Resignations**

Ron Finnie – Senior

Ojeda Diego – Junior

Hamish Thomson – Associate

Andrew Thomson - Full

- **New members**

Jack Bradley – Junior

David Collins – Junior

Heidi McDonald – Junior

Cameron Welsh – Junior

Owen Weston -Junior

Andrew Younger - Junior

- **Waiting List**

242 on Full waiting list

7 on Senior waiting list

23 on deferred list (2024)

15 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	5880	6211		

General Information/Actions/Requests etc. for discussion

- All covered in other reports

6. Sept Agenda Items

- Path Options at 18th – ongoing discussions

Marketing

- Platform77 and Morgan Spiers presented the new website to Council. After discussion it was agreed to make one or two changes, then circulate again to Council for final review.
- Strategy Plan – It was agreed that SH will form a small sub committee to drive this forward. Sustainability will form part of the strategy plan. DP to contact the R&A for some assistance on sustainability.

6. AOCB

- DP thanked Council for the recognition of 20 years at Deeside, particularly JG who was instrumental in organising the special day.

Next Meeting – 22nd October @ 5.30pm in the trophy room

