

Minute of Council Meeting
held on 23rd August 2022 in the Trophy Room @ 5.30pm

Present:

S. Cruickshank	(Captain)
D. Halliday	(Vice-Captain)
G. Pryde	(Finance Convener)
S. Kelman	(President)
C McCaul	(Junior Convener)

Apologies:

F. Windle	(Ladies Captain)
D. Macklin	(Match & Handicap)
A. Gordon	(Greens Convener)

In Attendance:

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

- 1. Welcome:**
Captain SC welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Minute of Council held on 26th July 2022**
The minute of the Council meeting on 26th July 2022 was approved.
- 3. Matters arising from the Minute**
 - Cloakroom refurbishment will commence on 31st October and will be completed within 4 weeks.
 - Ronan Rafferty has been confirmed as the speaker for the gent's prize-giving dinner. SC to host a Q&A with Ronan.
 - Flooding workshop update – Both the Club and STRI are still waiting for SEPA to arrange a meeting to progress with options. As this has taken so long it was agreed that other workshops will be organised in the coming months. Details will be communicated to those members showing an interest in other areas of the master plan, namely 13th, 16th and 17th hole re-design and driving range/practice facilities.
 - Council continues to discuss the best options for the Practice Range. NM to source quotes for extended sails to the bays. NM to send topographical survey to DH who will investigate planning permission options for a fence to be erected at the end of the range.
 - The start date for the new shed is likely to be the 2nd /3rd week in October. The date will be confirmed in the coming week.
 - The path to the Black tees will be roped off during heavy rain. NM is waiting on prices of other options.
 - The SI's on the Course are based on the old Congu System and will require updating in the future. It was agreed to wait until the end of the season when GN will collate two years of WHS data and along with the SGL recommendations the Club will make changes to improve the SI's. Any changes will be discussed and communicated to the members in time for the start of the new season in March 2023.

4. Reports

Captain's Report

- Email received from a member regarding the practice range name/restrictions. As reported above everything is being done as quickly as possible to remove the Driver ban. DP to reply.
- Email received from member concerning Senior tee times on a Tuesday and Thursday, dress code and practice facilities. SC to meet for a coffee.
- Email received from a member with concerns on the changes to the Club Championship. After discussion it was agreed to go ahead with the new format in 2023 and review the format if necessary, in 2024. SC to reply.
- NM to send the Course Master Plan to DH. It was agreed that work to the bunkers on holes 2,3, and 4 will be prioritised this year with input from EDI as previously approved.
- Juniors playing in the Stroke play Championship. It was agreed that the Juniors playing in the Stroke play Championship was hugely successful and received very positively by juniors, parents, and fellow members. A discussion was held regarding Juniors playing in the Dunriach Club Championship. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at a later date.

Finance Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The profit for June 2022 was reduced to £17,415 (from the reported figure of £17,694) following the completion of the VAT return for the quarter ended 30 June 2022. The profit for the 9 months to 30 June was £56,071.

For July, the profit & loss results are set out below, along with a comparison to the Budget and last year.

	Actual £	Budget £	Prior year £
July 2022 - Net Profit (Loss)	(14,637)	28,286	32,220
Year to Date - Net Profit (Loss)	41,434	(36,444)	162,777

- The loss in the month of July arose mainly due to the timing of costs.
- In terms of income in the month, the main variance was green fees (members guests/visitors/outings).
- For expenditure, legal and professional costs included fees totalling £3k in connection with the new shed (Aberdeen City Council fees and noise assessment), which were not included in the Budget. These costs can be treated as capital costs and be included as part of the overall cost of the new shed. This will be considered at the year end, along with other potential reallocations and adjustments for the final accounts to 30 September 2022.

- The **Pro Shop** made a net profit of £5.5k in July (Budget £1.5k). For the 10 months to the end of July, the net loss for the Pro Shop was £6k (Budget - £13k loss). The gross profit from the retail sales for the 10 months was better than budgeted by £9k and from Open competitions, by £3k; and staff/other costs were £4k less than the budget. However, income from coaching and Trackman were less than expected by £4k and £5k, respectively.
- The net loss from **F&B** for the month was £4.5k; the Budget was for a loss of £1.5k. For the 10 months, F&B made a net loss of £68k (£29k loss before the loyalty discount) which is £25k worse than budgeted. The variance relates primarily to staff costs.
- Overall, although there was a loss for the month, the net profit for the year to date is still £77k better than the Budget.
- **Bank Balances** on 31 July 2022 – total of £1.315m. Funds of £838k were held in the Clydesdale Bank working accounts. There is a further £150k in instant access accounts and £327k in longer notice accounts.
- **Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations** – £506k being 5 months overheads at just over £101k per month.
- **Expenditure on equipment** – during the month of July, the balance of the cost of the new CCTV system was paid and the new door to the teaching bay was installed, at a total cost of £12k + VAT.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The courses have had some much need rain as both courses were becoming very dry. The bore hole was only providing half the amount of its normal water. Greens continue to perform well, and maintained the speed between 9-9.5 on the stimp meter. Sand has been added and moved around to those bunkers that required it. After the rain the bases of some greenside bunkers were rotovated to try and soften them up.
- Two new water targets have been installed on the range at roughly 40 yards.
- STRI completed their annual visit last week and will send a report in due course. This will go on the website.
- AG & NM have reviewed a proposal to further improve the Haughton Winter Course layout and some further minor changes will be made.
- Plastic mesh will be installed to some more winter tees, which was successfully trialled during last winter season, subject to supply/availability of mesh.
- As reported above there is still no update from SEPA
- Winter work will include looking at changing the bunkers on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The second hole will be reduced to 2 bunkers, with one of the fairway bunkers being removed and the other two bunkers being rebuilt. The third hole will continue to have 2 bunkers, but both will be rebuilt. The fourth hole will be reduced to 2 bunkers with the 2 fairway bunkers being removed and replaced with mounding and swales with the 2 greenside bunkers being rebuilt.
- The contract for the new shed has been signed and the deposit paid. As reported above start date likely to be middle of October.

Winter Maintenance Work

- The proposed maintenance and project work targeted for this winter:
 - Maintenance Shed; Greens team to complete all groundworks prior to Contractor starting on site.
 - Bunker work: Greens team will be carrying out proposed work on holes 2,3 and 4, with input from EDI.
 - Ongoing winter maintenance works by Greens team
 - Tree clearing
 - Returfing worn areas
 - Repairs to path at the 11th Tee
 - General drainage improvement works
 - Cleaning out ditch alongside the 4th and 5th holes by 3rd party contractor

Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

- AG & NM met with the TAG on the 6th July and minutes were issued. There are 3 key points that were highlighted and requested for Council discussion, reach a consensus on and provide direction, before any further work is undertaken by the TAG, as follows:
 - There was a discussion on the removal of the 9th Pond liner; this would be a major change and there are a considerable number of issues that would need to be managed if agreement was to move forward with this proposal.
 - Widening of burn at Blairs 1st, 9th and Haughton 14th, 15th and 18th holes; this would entail rebuilding all bridges and there will be an impact on drainage and other services in areas of the burn. A full survey would be required by a consultant to consider all factors, develop a scope of work and costings. However, this is all dependent on SEPA approval for increasing the size of the outflow pipe behind the 5th Green.
 - Clear out and expand existing sacrificial drainage areas on Haughton; RHS of 4th tee/5th Fairway. LHS of 7th Fairway and RHS of 13th Fairway. There are limitations on the volume of trees we can remove each year.
 - The TAG has proposed that this work commence this winter, however the current winter maintenance work by the Greens team, as highlighted above, would mean this work would require to be contracted out if a decision was made to support any one of these proposals for the work to commence this winter. After discussion it was agreed that work would not commence on any of the above proposals until SEPA/STRI/Council have come to an agreement.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The Ladies Open Greensomes was held on Thursday 28th July – very positive feedback and full field.
- This month's highlight was hosting R&A Coronation Foursomes Regional Final on Monday 8th August. A fantastic day and the Club received very positive feedback from entrants (100+). The Deeside representatives - Jayne Leith and Alison Graham – won the Regional Final and will now compete in the overall Final on Monday 19th September in St Andrews.
- Unfortunately, the popular Half Century Trophy was postponed due to poor weather – now rescheduled to Tuesday 27th September.
- Ladies outing to Downfield Golf Club on 23rd August for their Greensomes event.

- Friendly competition at home on 29th August against Craibstone.
- A team of four, including Sam Kiloh our Assistant Professional, will compete in Nairn ProAm on Saturday 3rd September. Thanks to DGC for sponsoring this event as part of Sam's development.
- On Friday 9th September the annual Ladies Invitational will take place with an additional 9-hole event on Blairs included this year.

Match & Handicap Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Congratulations to Callum Bruce on winning the Strokeplay Championship. Fantastic performance.
- Teams for Gents Northern Counties 2022 at Royal Dornoch have been picked. Awaiting feedback from competition organisers regarding status of 2nd team.
- Deeside Team for Dalswinton Trophy 2022 has been selected. David Macklin, Jamie Hall, Kevin Willox and Jason Bruce to represent the club in this one.

Junior Report

See report to summerise:

- Off The Tee Trophy, 7th August - Four players forming two teams to play 2 X 2 ball foursomes, semi-finals played at Stonehaven Golf Club. Jack Chambers, Oli Blackadder, Jake Kelly and Ben Smith represented Deeside. They won both morning matches against Portlethen. Lost to Stonehaven in the afternoon by 1 hole.
- Hector Dey and Murray Trophies. Thank you to Oli Blackadder and Ollie Robertson who represented Deeside on Sunday 24th July at Royal Aberdeen.
- Spence Trophy - Scratch competition between the Junior Champions of each club in the Aberdeen Junior Pennant League, Callum Bruce is representing Deeside. Qualifying to be played over 36 holes at Royal Aberdeen on August 28th. The top 4 will then go onto match play.
- Coaching - Thank you to the Pro Shop Team who have been fantastic with the juniors over the summer holidays. The numbers on the Blairs medals have been good, 11 last Saturday, hopefully there will be several progressing to Haughton next season.
- New coaching blocks to start after the summer holidays.

Pro Shop Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- GN continues to get comments about members not raking bunkers after use. Reminders will continue to be communicated semi frequently via the weekly updates.
- GN has contacted companies about stocking cards & gifts to expand the offering of the Professional Shop as per the Professional Shop Strategy Plan.
- The computer in the foyer is back up and running for those that wish to sign in & score entry utilising their membership cards for competitions.
- Members Day has a couple spaces remaining. Very little interest on the Blairs Course.
- Historically the Winter Eclectic involved throwing balls on 1st tee & was very relaxed. The last couple years casual booking has been used which has been hard to book due to the demand & entering potentially four names into the booking system. GN would like to introduce the same competition booking as summer for the eclectic however with very small zones (2 tee times / 8 people). This will allow people to book into a zone individually & have the potential to 'throw balls' on first tee (if desired) from their zone of 8. This was approved.

- Winter Putting – Sam has taken a big interest in putting lessons & has already had a lot of positive feedback from members & visitors who have had lessons. To continue this over winter, GN requested the purchase of a similar system to the Sam Putt used last year. After discussion it was agreed it would be beneficial to invest in something similar and providing it can be moved when required GN would go ahead and purchase a system that would work with the Trackman.

Club Manager Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise - numbers at 31st July

- **Membership**

Full	789
Senior	113
Associate 30-34	14
Associate 24 – 29	24
Young Adult 18 – 23	33
House/Non Play	169
House 5 Day	4
Country	22
Junior 12 – 18	80
Juniors <12	27
Non-Resident	62
Life	15
Senior VIP	11
Honorary	8

- Applications for membership – July/August

Full	Jim Wright	Michael Milne	David Leiper
House	Karen Duncan	Joan Mair	May Walker
Full	Kenny McKenna	Paul Handsley	David McGachy
Full	Neil Galbraith	Fiona Windle	Simon Cruickshank
Full	William Russell	Simon Cruickshank	TBC
Full	Andrew Dornan	William Miller	Duncan Davidson
House	Phyllis Scott	Jayne Leith	Carol McGregor
Junior	Nico Brooke	Gianni Brooke	TBC
Full	Michael Zanre	Michael Zanre	Arthur Gill
Full	Simon Roddy	Peter Kavanagh	Andrew Brocklebank
Full	Lisa Bruce	Stuart Cumming	Andy Bain
Full	Reiss Fraser	Simon Cruickshank	Colin Fraser
Full	Craig Angus	Simon Cruickshank	Colin Fraser
Full	Andrew Allevay	William Bathgate	Angus Swan
House	Stuart Duncan	Quintin Aitken	William McFarlane
House	Irene Duncan	Quintin Aitken	William McFarlane

Full	Neil Robertson	Stuart Wyness	Mike Morrice
Full	Kevin Walker	Robert Burnett	Iain McBain
Full	Stuart Walker	Robert Burnett	Iain McBain
Full	Iain Macpherson	David Rae	Mark Ross

- Transfers from within the membership – June
 - SG Innes from Young Adult 18-24 to Non-resident
 - DM Kay from Full to Non-playing
 - AD McKenzie from Non-playing to Full
 - JA Millar from Full to House
 - F Proud from Country to Non-resident
- Resigned
 - Ryan Longhurst – Junior 12-18
- Deceased
 - George Esson CBE
 - IGF Henderson
 - David Leslie
- Waiting List
 - 252 on Full waiting list
 - 27 on deferred list
 - 11 on House list
 - 51 on Junior List under 12

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			

General Information/Actions etc.

- The CCTV installation completed and working well.
- Having sought feedback from the members the Hogmanay Dinner will go ahead as planned, hopefully we will have a full house.
- Request from Maggie's Charity to host the Charity Day on 1st June 2023. They are requesting a Shot Gun start at 8.45am. This was approved.

6. Capital Projects

- Covered in reports

7. Strategy Plan

- It was agreed to investigate further options on the Practice Range to improve existing facilities to the best they can be. AG to come back with a plan for the workshops, hopefully when EDI are on site.

8. Health and Safety

- The annual H&S audit will take place week commencing 29th August. Due to the change in Insurance company, they will also carry out an audit in the coming weeks.

9. AOCB

- Nothing to report

Next Meeting 5.30pm – 27th September 2022.