

Minute of Council Meeting
held on 27th September 2022 in the Trophy Room @ 5.30pm

Present:	S. Cruickshank	(Captain)
	D. Halliday	(Vice-Captain)
	G. Pryde	(Finance Convener)
	F. Windle	(Ladies Captain)
	D. Macklin	(Match & Handicap)
	A. Gordon	(Greens Convener)
	C McCaul	(Junior Convener)

Apologies:	S. Kelman	(President)
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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 23rd August 2022**
The minute of the Council meeting on 23rd August 2022 was approved.
- 3. Matters arising from the Minute**
 - NM investigated increasing the sails in the Driving Range, however unfortunately this option is not going to work for various reasons.
 - AG/NM met with SEPA & EPG (flood defence specialists). It was agreed that after the report has been received from EPG, the Club will deal directly with SEPA on any proposals. The proposals will include short, medium and long-term actions. AG/NM to follow up.
 - The new putting system has been installed in the conference room.
 - Options to replace the path leading to the 1st hole black tee, is still in progress. After discussion it was agreed to look at the right-hand side of the path as an alternative access.
 - DP to speak to DH about solar panels.
 - Following on from last month's decision on Seniors playing at the weekend. It was noted that the number of seniors likely to play in this year's Winter Fours competition is only [4]. As such, it was agreed that Seniors will be permitted to play in the Winter Fours competition for the 2022/23 winter season. The position will be reviewed annually. Senior members will not be permitted to play in the Winter Eclectic competition.
- 4. Reports**
 - Captain's Report**
 - SC congratulated the teams who represented the Club in the Northern Counties Championship held at Royal Dornoch.

- After feedback from members, it was agreed to prepare a new tee on the 6th hole Haughton nearer the ditch.
- NM to cut back the bushes at the 9th hole.
- After discussion with Blairs Head Greenkeeper, Adam Lindsay, NM to follow up on a suggestion to enhance the 7th hole on Blairs.

Finance Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The profit & loss result for August 2022 and for the 11 months to date are set out below, along with a comparison to both the Budget and the position in August 2021.

	Actual	Budget	Prior year
	£	£	£
Aug 2022 - Net Profit (Loss)	7,351	19,630	26,251
Year to Date - Net Profit (Loss)	48,765	(16,814)	191,357

- The net profit for the month of August was £12k less than budgeted; however, our net profit for the 11 months is still comfortably ahead of Budget (by £65k).
- In terms of income in the month, the main variance was green fees (members guests/visitors/outings) which were £2k less than budgeted. For expenditure, legal and professional costs included fees totalling £2.5k in connection with the new shed and planning permission for the marquee, (which were not included in the Budget) and there were variances in a few cost categories including: maintenance contracts £1.3k; credit card charges £1.4k and irrecoverable VAT £5.8k. There is scope to treat the irrecoverable VAT relating to fixed assets, as part of the cost of the asset. This will be considered at the year end, along with other potential adjustments for the final accounts to 30 September 2022.
- The **Pro Shop** made a net profit of £0.5k in August (Budget was loss of £1.1k). For the 11 months to the end of August, the net loss for the Pro Shop was £5.5k (Budget - £14k loss).
- The net profit from **F&B** for the month was £3.3k (Budget was for a profit of £1.6k). For the 11 months, F&B incurred a net loss of £65k. The net loss before the loyalty discount was £20k (budget - £2.5k loss). The variance relates primarily to staff costs.
- **Subscription income** – the reconciliation of subscription income has been completed (not an easy task!). Based on the membership numbers and categories at 31 August, the subscriptions income for the year ended 30 September 2022 is likely to be £1,190k,

which is £4k less than the budget. The main reasons for this are the lower number of full members (budget was for 800, currently 787), offset by higher numbers in other categories.

Balance Sheet Review

- Bank Balances on 31 August 2022 – total of £1.189m. Funds of £712k 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 August, expenditure was incurred on the safety nets for the new shed, the deposit for the new shed and the new putting lab. Total cost - £35k.
- Capital Expenditure on improvements and investment in the facilities of the Club – the agreed projects are the new shed and refurbishment of the upstairs toilets. Projects under discussion are flood alleviation measures and potential changes to the driving range.
- After discussion it was agreed to pay a one off “cost of living” payment of £300 to each salaried member of staff.
- After discussion it was agreed to increase the entry fee to £1500.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Autumn maintenance completed on both courses. Over the next month both courses will be verti-drained. Over the winter months if the weather allows work will continue to be carried out on the greens to help keep the thatch levels under control during the season.
- EDI will be on site on the 3rd October to meet with NM/AG and mark out the new bunkers. EDI will be back on-site week beginning 7th November for final shaping.
- AG/NM held a zoom meeting with EPG and SEPA on the 16/9. Copy of the report is expected in the next week or two. It is hoped to hold a workshop in early November.
- Maintenance Shed – The site is cleared and levelled ready for construction, which should start in the next couple of weeks. Work now needs to be done on the bank at the back of the shed to regrade it into a more manageable slope. During construction there will have to be some restrictions put in place on the driving range.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- **Competitions**
A successful outing to Downfield Golf Club on 23rd August for their Ladies Greensomes event. Deeside came away with first and second place.
- The Summer Fixture List is nearing completion with only one competition remaining, and 2 finals to be played in our Knockout competitions.
- Ladies Invitational on Friday 9th September was postponed due to bad weather. New date is Friday 14th October.
- The R&A Coronation Foursomes Final, in which 2 of our ladies were competing, was also cancelled due to Her Majesty's funeral, and will now take place on 2nd May 2023.
- Further success this month for our DGC ladies with a win in our friendly match against Craibstone; first place (Div A & B) in Peterculter County Open; first place in Turriff TriAm; and first and second places in SVLGA (Vet's) @ Forfar. The ladies team

secured second place (Handicap) in the Ladies ProAm @ Nairn West Golf Club. (A big shout out to Assistant Pro Sam Kiloh for guiding us round the course, and to the Club for sponsoring our participation in this event).

- The Ladies Section were well represented on Member's Day. – They most definitely led the way with a wide array of fancy dress outfits.
- Upcoming Events - Our popular Half Century Trophy is scheduled for Friday 30th September, and will close the summer season.
- October offers both qualifying and fun competitions and will see the start of our Winter programme.
- General - On behalf of the Ladies Section I have submitted some feedback to Graeme with regards to ongoing review of Haughton Stroke Indexes.
- FW is currently consolidating 2022 prize-winners list and anticipate sending Ladies trophies for engraving in early October.

Match & Handicap Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- It was agreed that DM would feedback to the Pennant League at the next AGM some comments on the Dinner.

Junior Report

See report to summarise:

- Spence Trophy - Scratch competition between the Junior Champions of each club in the Aberdeen Junior Pennant League. Callum Bruce progressed to the semi-final after qualifying rounds of 63 and 70 at Royal Aberdeen's Silverburn and Balgownie courses. The Semi Final and Final will be played on Sunday 2nd October at Balgownie.
- This Girl Golfs - Returning on the 2nd October with coaching, 4 holes and lunch. Open to members and non-members.
- Coaching - 4 sessions being run for 6 weeks with good numbers attending.
- Junior Prizegiving – CM will look to organise an Adult vs Junior Blairs match and prizegiving for Sunday 30th October.

Pro Shop Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Pro Shop Budget finalised & agreed with Finance Convener.
- Unfortunately, the Dalswinton Trophy was cancelled with only a couple holes remaining due to the course becoming unplayable. Decision made to cancel due to limited Sundays remaining on Deeside & NE Calendar.
- GN is finalising the Prize Winner lists for 2022 & will get all the trophies engraved w/c 10th October.
- September Stock Take has been completed.
- All the Winter Pre Orders have now arrived in stock apart from a few remaining pieces from UnderArmour.
- 10000 scorecards have been ordered. This will give more time to discuss the proposed Stroke Index changes. If the Club are to make changes to the Stroke Indexes this would be done last week of March 2023 (cards would need to be ordered end of January).
- Wednesdays are still proving to be somewhat difficult. After discussion it was agreed that the policy for 2022-2023 winter season would be no four balls after 11.00am. This

will be reviewed in March and extended if the policy is successful. It was reminded that no guests are permitted to play on a Wednesday.

Club Manager Report

- Membership as at 31st Aug

	30th Sept 2021	Resignations	Transfers	Deceased	New members	Total	Movement
Full members	793	-18	-23	-3	38	787	-6
Senior Members	111	-2	8	-3	0	114	3
Associate 30 - 34	0	0	14		0	14	14
Associate 24 - 29	20	0	-1	0	5	24	4
Young Adult 18 - 23	27	-3	3	0	5	32	5
House/Non Playing	168	-11	10	-6	8	169	1
Senior VIP	11	0	1	-1	0	11	0
House 5 day	4	0	0	0	0	4	0
Country	25	-1	-2	0	0	22	-3
Junior 12 - 18	79	-13	0	0	15	81	2
Junior under 12	29	-1	-9	0	8	27	-2
Non resident	73	-14	4	0	0	63	-10
Honorary	7	0	1	0	0	8	1
Life	15	0	0	0	0	15	0
Staff	19	-2	0	0	4	21	2
TOTAL	1,381	(65)	6	(13)	83	1,392	11

Applications for membership – July/August

Full	Daniel Grant	Clark Neish	Neil Warnock
Full	David Laing	Scott Kelman	Ann Kelman
Full	Ning Zhang	David Suttie	Irene Deboth
Full	Charlie Watt	Stuart Hay	Stuart Forsyth
Full	Alan Bruce	David Smith	Grant Pennet
Full	Stuart McLeod	Richard Sainsbury	Raymond Massie
Full	Graeme Chapman	Michelle Newcombe	Gunther Newcombe
Full	Lyndsey Chapman	Michelle Newcombe	Gunther Newcombe
Junior	Erin Chapman	Michelle Newcombe	Gunther Newcombe
Full	David Ogilvie	Simon Kelsey	Margaret Kelsey
Full	Kathleen Welsh	Audrey Davis	Alistair Dornan
Full	Ryan Hardie	Grant Veitch	Angela Veitch
Full	David Robertson	William Reid	Paul Reid
Full	Jordan Robertson	William Reid	Paul Reid
Full	Jorg Kohnert	Fiona Windle	Letter of Introduction
Full	Leonie Smith	Charles Smith	Allan Porter
Full	Cameron Leggett	Alastair Smith	Gordon Ronaldson
Full	Lee Stewart	Stewart Ritchie	Greig Ritchie
Full	Graham Clayton	Stewart Ritchie	Greig Ritchie
Junior	Robbie Thomson	Brad Youngson	Ryan Clark
Full	Robert Thomson	Brad Youngson	Ryan Clark
Full	Ellie Ross	Mark Ross	David Rae
Junior	Isaac Cameron-Mowat	Richard Davidson Lamb	Ron Finnie
Full	Iain McPherson	David Rae	Mark Ross

- Transfers from within the membership – August
 - Frank Cannon from Young Adult to Non Resident
 - J Alan Grant from Non-Playing to Gent Senior
 - Louise Macklin from Full to Senior
 - Alan Waite from Full to Non Playing
- Resigned
 - Ryan Longhurst – Junior 12-18
- Deceased
 - Audrey Clark
- Waiting List
 - 267 on Full waiting list
 - 27 on deferred list
 - 16 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	5362		

General Information/Actions/Requests etc.

- Rotary of Aberdeen Deeside have approached the Club to host their weekly Wednesday meetings roughly 45 weeks per year for around 15 – 25 people. They require a one course meal & tea/coffee, served at 6.45 and are finished around 10.00pm. Cost would be £15 per head. They are also looking at the Bielside Inn as an alternative. This was approved if the Rotary decide on Deeside.
- Past Captain George Esson's widow Rita has enquired about leaving a legacy at the Club in George's memory. After discussion it was agreed to give this some more thought.
- ALGCA – request to host the Watt Dufus Competition on the 22nd May 2023.

6. Capital Projects

- Covered in reports

7. Strategy Plan

- DH presented a power point presentation on some further options for the Driving Range. After discussion it was agreed that DH will progress with more drawings and information before presenting the option to the members.

8. Health and Safety

- Nothing to report

9. AOCB

- Nothing to report

Next Meeting 5.30pm – Tuesday 1st November.

