

**Minute of Council Meeting
held on 27th April in the Trophy Room @ 5.30pm**

Present:

E. Farquharson-Black	(Captain)
A. Gordon	(Greens Convener)
D Macklin	(Match & Handicap)
I. McPherson	(Junior Convener)

Apologies:

G. Pryde	(Finance Convener)
F. Windle	(Ladies Captain)
S. Cruickshank	(Vice-Captain)

In Attendance:

D.P. Pern	(Club Manager)
N. McLoughlin	(Course Manager)
R. McConnachie	(Head Professional)

1. **Welcome:** Captain welcomed everyone to the socially distanced Council meeting which held in the Trophy Room.

2. **Minute of Council held on 23rd March 2021**

The minute of the Council meeting on 23rd March 2021 was approved. DP to add Junior Captain/Vice Captain to Junior report.

3. **Matters arising from the Minute**

- NM/AG meeting with STRI on 7th May to assess and report on the recurring flood issues. STRI will work with EDI and other professionals on the master plan and ensure flooding on the courses is prioritised.
- DP will arrange a Council meeting with CCL around the end of August.
- QR Code has been installed with Checkin Scotland.
- AG/NM met with two members to discuss the winter course. AG/NM to review layout for Winter 2021/22. Final plans to be discussed at the July Council meeting. It was agreed that mats will be in place every winter.
- DP to progress with EV charging points.
- It was agreed that currently there are enough competitions and with the introduction of counting casual rounds there was no appetite to increase the number of competitions.

4. **Reports**

Captain's Report

- EFB reported that two emails had been received from members with concerns about the course condition, the restriction on two games per week and slow play.
- After much discussion it was agreed that the restriction will be relaxed to three bookable games per week along with the introduction of guests from Saturday 1st May with unlimited play on the Blairs. This update will allow flexibility to incorporate the "old" system of turn up and play on the day, whilst having a guaranteed tee time if you have invited guests etc. The arrangement will be kept under review.

- Slow play - Pro Shop to verbally remind members to keep up with the group in front, particularly on a Wednesday and Saturday.
- Condition of the course – All the prep work has been completed, however growth has been slow due to the low temperatures. As soon as there is some heat, conditions will improve.

Finance Report

- The Finance report was noted. No further questions.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Reports

- The Greens report was noted. AG has responded to some members explaining the balance NM and the team have to try to achieve particularly in watering the courses. The irrigation cannot be switched on overnight when there are freezing temperatures and watering during the day must be balanced with the temperatures of the water, which if it's too cold will stress the growth of the grass plant.

Ladies' Captain Report

- The Ladies report was noted. No further questions

Match & Handicap

- The Match & Handicap Report was noted. After discussion it was agreed that Greenkeepers are welcome to play in a medal competition, but cannot play in any trophy competitions.

Junior Report

- The Junior report was noted. It was agreed that more discussion is required on potential scholarship options. DP to check with other Clubs if they operate anything similar.

Pro Shop Report

- The Pro Shop report was noted. Multi-tee option caused confusion but RM will do some social media posts to educate the members.

Club Manager Report

- The Club Manager's report was noted. After discussion it was agreed not to make any changes to the student category of membership.

5. Strategic Plan

- DP to arrange a separate Council meeting on the Strategy plan update.

6. Capital Projects

- Covered in reports – Timeline to be established for Green keeping Shed approval etc

7. Health and Safety

- Nothing to report

8. AOCB

- It was agreed to revert back to the previous style of minute reporting.
- DP to arrange for handicap index to be available on the website.

Next Meeting 5.30pm – Tuesday 25th May 17.30

Finance Report

REVIEW - 6 MONTHS TO 31 MARCH 2021

Profit & Loss Review

- The results for the month of March 2021 and for the 6 months are set out in the table below, along with a comparison with both the Budget and with last year. These figures will change following the finalisation of the VAT return for the quarter ended 31 March 2021 and the annual partial exemption calculation for the year to 31 March 2021.

	Actual £	Budget £	Prior Year £
Month - March 2021	<u>(382)</u>	<u>(11,766)</u>	<u>1,357</u>
6 months to 31 March 2021	115,801		
Less: Gain on equipment	<u>(81,059)</u>		
Net Operating Profit (Loss)	<u>34,742</u>	<u>(93,884)</u>	<u>24,902</u>

- The Net operating profit, excluding the gain on sale of the Toro equipment, for the **6 months to 31 March 2021** was **£35k**, which is significantly better than the Budget (by **£128k**). This positive variance is primarily due to the following: -
 - Overheads are behind budget across most cost categories. In particular, the expenditure incurred to date on course costs, clubhouse repairs and upkeep and club expenses, is **£55k** less than originally budgeted. This is a matter of timing and costs are expected to catch up later in the year.
 - The running costs of the Clubhouse since it closed in late December, are in total **£15k** lower than budgeted.
 - The planned re-upholstering/refurbishment of the clubhouse furniture (at a cost of **£20k**) has been postponed and will be considered again next year. The focus for this year has been the outdoor seating area.
 - The net loss for Food & Beverage for the 6 months was **£19k** lower than budgeted (£18k actual loss, against a budgeted loss of £37k). This is partly due to F&B being busier than expected in October and November (£5k). The balance of £14k is a combination of lower salary costs of Clubhouse staff during the lock down period and these costs being subsidised by the furlough scheme grant, which together compensated for the loss of all F&B net income.

Balance Sheet Review

- **Bank Balances** on 31 March 2021 – the balances on the Clydesdale Bank working accounts totalled £698k. There is a further £147k in an instant access account and we have £324k invested in longer term deposit accounts.
- **Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations** – the cash reserves requirement of £475k was fully met from the funds available in the Clydesdale Bank accounts on 31 March.
- **Members Loyalty Card Balances** – on 31 March, the balance due to members totalled £207k. The balance reflects the payment by members during February and March of the 2021/22 Bar credit. The top ups to Members' Loyalty cards for last year's refund of subscriptions took place in April.
- **Expenditure on equipment etc** – during the month, there was capital expenditure on the following:-
 - New outdoor seating area electrics and heaters - £3k
 - Pro Shop furniture & refurb costs - £3k

Subscription Income for the year from 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022

- The Budget was prepared based on subscription income for the 2021/22 year of **£1.168m**.
- Based on the member numbers and categories as of 23rd April, the subscription income for the 2021/22 year would be **£1.159m**. There may be further category changes or resignations prior to 31 May which would impact on this figure. For changes/resignations after 31 May, no refunds are given.
- Given the circumstances and challenges of the last year, it's great to see member renewals at this level and a shortfall of only £9k is manageable.
- For the accounting year ended 30 September 2021 (which is based on 5/12ths of the subscriptions for the 2020/21 year and 7/12ths for the 2021/22 year), the projected subscription income is £1.173m, only £6k less than the Budget (£1.179m). There is a shortfall of £2.5k in new member entry fees as we only had 10 new full members (budget was 12).
- Subscription income will be reviewed again after 31 May and a further update provided. Also, at that time the refund of subscriptions for last year will be reconciled – we provided for refunds of almost £100k, however the final figure is likely to be less. Refunds were either given against the 2021/22 subscriptions or added to members loyalty cards. There was no cash refund option, so members resigning did not receive the refund.

Course Manager Report April 2021

Courses

The continued cold and dry weather through April has hindered recovery from the spring maintenance, winter damage and the flooding. Hopefully now that the temperatures are increasing, we should have some improvement in conditions, that will accelerate grass growth.

The freezing overnight temperatures that we have had for the last month has limited the amount of night-time watering we have been able to do. We have therefore been watering as much as possible during the day. Some members have questioned the state of the course and we have responded explaining the balance we have to achieve:

- due to the very low night-time temperatures we have not been able to water at night.

- we have been watering during the day and because of the temperature of the water we have not been able to apply that much in one go, because it will put stress on the grass plant which would reduce the soil temperature which will ultimately lead to a reduce in growth.

There are 4 greens that have sustained some ice damage after the winter, the worst being the 1st on the Blairs course. The other are the 3rd, 4th and the 17th on the Haughton. These have all been overseeded and we are now waiting for some heat to help the seed germinate. Once we start to get strong growth then this will help the damaged areas fill in. All renovation work has been completed on all areas of the Haughton course and we are waiting for the growth to kick in.

Staff

We are now are back to being fully staffed and currently we have 1 seasonal person working on the golf courses, 3 days a week.

New Greenkeeping Equipment Shed

The tender process is under way. The tenders have been issued to 5 companies and they have all indicated that they will provide a price. We expect tender responses to be returned by end of May.

Golf course Architect

We had a meeting with EDI to discuss the proposal they had submitted and to confirm some questions regarding the scope of the assessment of the site and cost of 2nd and 3rd phases. We have agreed to proceed with EDI as our architects and we are in the process of sorting out their appointment.

We are working with EDI to schedule their 2 day visit, Late May/early June, during which time we are planning for them to engage with members of the Council as part of the process in developing their course concepts for the Council and members to consider.

Ladies Report

DGC Council Meeting – 27th April 2021 – Ladies Section

Please accept my apologies for our first f2f meeting this year – as mentioned before I have dental operation on Tuesday 27th.

With the re-opening of both courses, it has been good to see so many ladies out playing, and whilst we had to cancel our start of the season Pink Elephant, instead we enjoyed our first Stableford on Good Friday with mini-Easter eggs for all!

We have had near record sign up for our Knockout Competitions, and matches are underway. We are monitoring Centenary Cup matches which are being played as Fourball rather than Foursomes this year, and I will reiterate ladies must avoid booking matches on Wednesdays and pick up to maintain steady pace of play.

Started a weekly newsletter to streamline communications and promote key information – positive feedback so far! Ladies also delighted to have their reserved time zones back on Tuesdays and Fridays, and will no doubt appreciate reinstatement of Saturday times at the beginning of May. There has been good uptake of various coaching sessions offered by Pro Staff.

Aberdeen Ladies County Golf Association (ALCGA) reached out to invite junior girls to join events being organized by Sammy Lesley their Junior Secretary. We engaged parents of 3 DGC girls – sisters Lottie and Alice Rhodes plus Ruby Watt – who are now all signed up.

Progressing Women in Golf Charter and will share when present in May's meeting.

One member question received this month - submitted to Debbie:

Jayne Leith – “we pay rent for our lockers which we have not been able to use. It is not costing the club money to maintain them, and I feel we should get refund or exception for next year”.

Upcoming activities:

Two teams being submitted for ALCGA (County) Watt Duffus competition on 17th May at Newburgh-on-Ythan.

Plan to reschedule new members coffee morning beginning May since the Club has now reopened.

Match & Handicap Report

April 2021

Adult vs Junior Pennant match arranged for Sunday 2nd May, 12:00.

Blairs Championship confirmed and e-mail circulated. Simon has kindly agreed to provide a trophy.

Club Matchplay competitions underway- will ask Debbie to circulate an email on my behalf with my email address and mobile number and polite reminder to ensure all matches are played by the deadline.

2 x 4 Man Teams for Senior Northern Counties selected and entered.

Jack Loggie has begun discussions with Graeme/Ross on getting orders in.

Maitland Shield starts on Monday 10th May, Pool of 6 players to be submitted no later than 3rd May.

With regard to increase in competitions, I believe decision was made to leave as is and encourage the use of the Casual Score entry.

David Macklin

Junior Report

Junior Golf 2021

Our match against the Men's Pennant team has been arranged for Sunday, 2nd May at midday.

Junior Membership, Golphin4Kids and Coaching

The briefing for parents and juniors took place on 7th April with a promising attendance and coaching sessions commenced the following week, with younger juniors aged 11 and under on Tuesdays and age 12-14 on Fridays. Both sessions are fully subscribed and the juniors are progressing through the Golphin4Kids levels. Our Captain, Michael Black is assisting Graeme on Fridays and Vice-Captain, Jack Chambers, on Tuesdays. Some additional coaching materials have been purchased, such as softer balls to enable the juniors to hit longer shots safely.

Competitive Golf

We have entered the Daily Telegraph Junior event again, with our qualifying competition being the Junior Open on Monday, 2nd August.

We declined the invitation of a wildcard entry to the Junior Home Nations event in which we reached the Scottish Final at Montrose last year. There will be two qualifiers for this event through this year's Junior Pennant League, the winners of each group, and I think it's appropriate to qualify for the event on merit rather than a wildcard entry each year.

The Junior Champion of Champions postponed from 2020 will be held at Deeside this year (as will the 2021 event). Thanks to Debbie for making the additional tee reservations.

Junior competitions have commenced on Haughton and Blairs, with encouraging numbers on Blairs, including a number of new members and those taking part in coaching.

We have a good squad of players for the Junior Pennant, with a healthy pipeline of younger juniors who it would be good to involve gradually once they are playing regularly on Haughton.

Ian McPherson
Junior Convener

25 April 2021

Pro Shop Report

- Another busy month with stock arriving, mainly golf clubs for custom fitting but also some more clothing and other shop items. There are still some delays and issues with receiving stock due to huge demand within the industry.
- Some minor joinery work taking place in the teaching bay to improve the storage space of the custom fitting kit.
- Click and collect sales and coaching has been good, considering the shop has been closed.
- A sun protection window vinyl has been added to window in the pro shop to stop items in the window becoming faded with exposure to the sun.
- RM/DP are sourcing paper carrier bags with the club logo but for now we have some foremost paper carrier bags.
- Members emailing to book matches is working nicely and members are gradually making progress with the sign in procedure for competitions as they become more familiar with the process. This is evident as the number of gents entering the sweeps and twos is increasing.

Club Manager Report

Club Manager Report Month 6

Membership

- Summary of membership as detailed below up to date 31st March 2021

Membership Changes By Category

Per Club
system

	30th Sept 2020	Resignations	Transfers	Deceased	New member	Total	Movement
Full members	824	-15	-20	-2	8	795	-29
Senior Members	114	-2	2	-1	0	113	-1
Associate 24 - 29	22	-1	1	0	0	22	0
Young Adult 18 - 23	24	-2	7	0	0	29	5
House/Non Playing	173	-13	14	-4	7	177	4
Senior VIP	7	0	4	0	0	11	4
House 5 day	5	0	0	0	0	5	0
Country	26	-2	1	0	0	25	-1
Junior 12 - 18	72	-5	-1	0	4	70	-2
Junior under 12	26	0	-12	0	5	19	-7
Non resident	76	-6	5	0	2	77	1
Honorary	7	0	0	0	0	7	0
Life	16	0	0	0	0	16	0
Staff	16	0	0		3	19	3
TOTAL	1,408	(46)	1	(7)	29	1,385	-23

- Applications for membership – March 2021

Full	Dave Macleod	Graeme Nisbet	Patrick Ritchie
Full	Simon Robertson	Clifford Alexander	Andrew Charles
Junior	Alexandra Smith	Martin Sinclair	Craig McCaul
Full	Ryan Coffey	Rod Coffey	James Sorbie
Junior	Mark McAllan **	Mark Garden	Frank Bee
Full	Gordon McAllan	Mark Garden	Frank Bee
Full	Euan Duthie	Ian Birnie	Peter Reilly
Associate	Jack Codona	Rod Coffey	James Sorbie
Full	Andrew Angus	Rod Coffey	James Sorbie
Full	Connor Bruce	Rod Coffey	James Sorbie
Full	Lynn McGurran	David Millar	Jennifer O'Hanlon
Full	Tim Varley	Richard Milne	Catriona Milne

** Mark - offer after approval

- Transfers from within the membership 1st March – 31st March

Name	From	To
Lloyd Alexander Brown	Young Adult	Non-Resident
Ashley Anderson	Non Resident	Associate
GJ Broadley	Non Resident	Full
Helen Burnett	Senior	House
WJC Crockett	Senior	Non Playing
Wendy Davidson	Senior	VIP
Bill Dawson	Senior	VIP
Ruaridh Fenwick	Young Adult	Non Resident
David Forrest	Senior	VIP
Ian Fowler	Non Playing	Full
Clara Gove	Junior	Young Adult
Gordon Hutcheon	Full	Senior
S Mair	Non-Playing	Senior
Lyall Nicolson	Full	Senior
Bill Stalker	Full	Senior
Ross Weathers	Junior 12 – 18	Junior <12
Sandi Youngson	Full	House

- Resignations

Matthew Alderson	Junior
Lewys Anderson	Non Resident
Jake Blackwood	Junior 12 – 18
Callum Burnett	Junior 12 – 18
Megan Clyne	Associate
Hugh Eadie	House
Cameron Gray	Young Adult
Elliot Hyland	Non Resident
Brian Milne	Non Playing
Catherine Roger	House
Angela Veitch	Non Resident

- Deceased
Michael Cunningham - Full
Judith Pearson – Full
R Scott-Brown – House

- Waiting List

Defer 2022	Full Members	Total Junior List	
0	223	42	

Course Usage

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							11002

- **General Information/Actions etc.**

- Request from a member to increase the amount of guest games per month for students studying out with Aberdeen during the summer or alternatively a cheaper “summer deal” on membership.
- Discussion and decision required on when we lift the restriction of two games per week and the introduction of guests.
- It was agreed to continue with monetary voucher for ladies and medals for gents.