

DEESIDE GOLF CLUB

Minute of Council Meeting held on 21st July 2020

Present:

E. Farquharson-Black	(Captain)
S. Cruickshank	(Vice-Captain)
G. Pryde	(Finance Convener)
S Ritchie	(Greens Convener)
D McEwen	(Match & Handicap)
G. Murray	(Ladies Captain)

In Attendance:

D.P. Pern	(Club Manager)
N. McLoughlin	(Course Manager)
F.J. Coutts	(Director of Golf)

Apologies

I. McPherson	(Junior Convener)
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1. **Welcome:** Captain welcomed everyone to the Council meeting which was held in accordance with social distancing requirements.

2. **Minute of Council held on 23rd June 2020**
The minute of the Council meeting on 23rd June was approved.

3. **Matters arising from the Minute**

- EFB has responded to several member emails.
- SR/NM have invited five recommended Golf Course Architects to tender for carrying out a review of the courses and practice facilities in accordance with the Strategic Plan.
- EFB will communicate an update to members following this Council meeting.
- DP to contact those on the waiting list and offer the Takeaway service.
- SR/NM updated Council on progress with the requirements for new green keeping shed.
- NM has held meetings with both Toro and John Deere who will be submitting quotes for new machinery due in March 2021.

4. **Reports**

Captain's Report

- EFB confirmed that the updated Dress Code will come in effect on 1st August. This will be communicated to members very shortly. It is hoped that the relaxations will increase usage of the lounge/restaurant, particularly for meals at weekends.
- After discussion and review of emails from members, Council agreed that the releasing tee times in a week block will continue for the next two weeks. EFB to send out a communication to members, encouraging them to follow protocols on booking for benefit of other members.

Finance Report

The Finance Convener's report was noted.

- DP to investigate the “Eat out to Help out” scheme and register if the Club is eligible.
- It was agreed to continue with the current F&B facilities until the end of the financial year and reduce staffing levels where we can.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Reports

The Greens Convener and Course Manager's reports were noted.

- NM has arranged a meeting on site with Architect Michael Urquhart who will look at drawing up plans for a new green-keeping shed. Once drawings and costs have been received, Council will discuss further.

Ladies' Captain Report

The Ladies' Captains' report was noted.

Match & Handicap

The Match & Handicap Convener's report was noted.

- It was agreed to cancel all the remaining Seniors matches for 2020. DP to contact Iain Hunter to advise.
- Two teams have been entered for both the Northern Counties and Senior Northern Counties' events.
- It was agreed to extend the playing season, with competitions running to the end of October. The Winter Eclectic will start in November.
- It was agreed that Deeside would enter two teams to a fundraiser at Ballater Golf Club on Friday 25th September.
- Ruairidh Fenwick has written to Council requesting to play in the Gents' Stroke Play Championship. This was approved.

Junior Report

The Junior Convener's report was noted.

Club Manager Report

The Club Manager's report was noted.

- Two additional applications for membership added to report, Alastair Chalmers and Carol Powell.

5. Strategic Plan

- EFB updated Council on the Master Gant Chart tracking progress against the initiatives.
- It was agreed to progress with the purchase of the Trackman technology. DP to research more detail on operation procedures, charges etc. It was agreed that a member will be approached to take on organising a winter league or similar using the trackman technology.
- GP circulated the most recent Capital Expenditure spreadsheet, which was discussed and will progress and be updated over the coming months.
- It was agreed that the refurbishment of the locker area, showers and toilets will be put on hold for now pending potential changes in legislation, technology etc which may be required as a result of Covid-19.
- In light of very positive feedback from members, it was agreed to look at options for a more permanent marquee area. DP/NM to look at costs for slabbing the area and new furniture.
- It was agreed that a Members Strategy Update Evening will be organised. If social distancing is still in place it will be a virtual meeting.
- SR/NM to organise a member awareness forum, possibly around the September hollow Coring.

- The Autumn newsletter will include a “Meet the team” section.

6. Capital Projects

Covered in the reports.

7. Health and Safety

- Both EHO and Trading Standards visited the clubhouse on the 8th July. They were pleased with the Covid procedures in place.
- Green keeper Adam Black had an accident on the bank by the path to the 1st tee on Blairs. Fortunately, Adam is recovering and should be back to work very soon. An internal investigation was carried out with operator error noted as the reason. Adam will undertake a refresher course prior to resuming duties.

8. AOCB

- SR highlighted that the abusive verbal and email communications from members was totally unacceptable.
- GM enquired about environmental projects around the course including wild flowers etc.
- FC had a request form the PGA to host the Northern Open. After discussion it was agreed that FC would discuss options with the PGA, but more likely to be a possibility of hosting this prestigious event in 2021 or 2022.
- DP has had a couple of visitor enquiries. It was agreed that visitors would now be permitted at quieter times on the course, on an ad hoc basis.

Next Meeting 5.30pm – 25th August 2020.

Reports

FINANCE REPORT REVIEW OF THE 9 MONTH PERIOD TO 30 JUNE 2020

Profit & Loss Review

The Net Profit for the current month and for the 9-month period to 30 June 2020 are set out below, along with the comparison to both the revised budget and the original budget.

	Actual £	Revised Budget £	Original Budget £
Current month	<u>(2,299)</u>	<u>4,693</u>	<u>14,148</u>
9 mths to 30/6/20	<u>117,307</u>	<u>101,409</u>	<u>(37,726)</u>

The Net Loss for the month of June was £2k due mainly to the F&B loss (see below), offset by certain overheads such as course costs and heat and light continuing to be behind budget.

F&B – June saw the partial opening of the clubhouse for the takeaway service and the return from furlough of Mark and Paul (kitchen) and Hayden and Matthew (front of house). Even with minimal staff and Debbie covering parts of shifts/helping out when busy, the takeaway service produced a loss of more than £6k for the month. While the marquee is now open and proving popular, unless there is a significant increase in Clubhouse footfall, the indications are that F&B will continue to be loss making for the remainder of the current financial year. The additional Covid requirements e.g. for a “Meet and Greet” person to be stationed in the marquee at all times and restrictions e.g. reduced capacity, all have a financial cost. The F&B position will continue to be closely monitored.

Job Retention Scheme - the Club continued to benefit from the scheme with certain members of Clubhouse staff remaining on furlough for the entire month. The grant received from HMRC for June was £8.5k.

Balance Sheet Review

Bank Balances at 30 June 2020 – funds of £604k were held in the Clydesdale Bank working accounts. There is a further £146k in an instant access account and we have £323k invested in longer term deposit accounts.

Cash Reserves Requirement – our policy is to retain cash reserves equivalent to 5 months of overheads as our Operational Funds, so £500k in total. At 30 June, the cash reserves requirement was fully satisfied from the funds available in the Clydesdale Bank working accounts.

Members Loyalty Card Balance – at 30 June, the balance on members loyalty cards totalled £155k which is significantly higher than would normally be expected. With the Clubhouse now open for inside and outside F&B as well as the takeaway service, the balance should reduce back to a normal level by the year end. The quicker the better as that means more members are using the F&B service!

Expenditure on replacement of course equipment –initial discussions have taken place with both Toro and John Deere for the replacement of 11 major items of course equipment. Both suppliers are expected to revert with proposals in the near future. With supplier price increases effective from November, the intention is to reach agreement prior to then with the equipment being delivered in March 2021.

Capital Expenditure on improvements and investment in the facilities of the Club – a Capital Expenditure Budget for the various capital improvements currently being discussed, is being prepared and will be available for next week’s meeting.

COURSE MANAGER/ GREENS CONVENER REPORT July 2020

Courses Overview

The courses continue to be in good condition and are standing up well to the increased volume of play now being experienced although we are starting to see some worn areas appearing which have been treated with fertiliser to try and help them recover.

Greens continue to perform well and have been at a very consistent speed during the month of July.

The Haughton greens have been pencil tined this week to allow air to enter the soil and to help with drainage.

Plans for work next week (Maintenance week)

Current plan is to scarify, verti-cut and topdress the Haughton greens next week with the agreed later first tee time of 9:00am.

Hopefully if the weather allows this will be carried out on Monday and Tuesday and we will be able to release the tee times for the rest of the week.

With topdressing on Tuesday, the ladies could be putting through sand on some greens during their medal. (Sorry ladies)

Equipment update

Neil has had a meeting with Toro and John Deere within the past two weeks regarding our requirement to renew the majority of our course equipment.

Both companies will both be submitting prices and bringing down demo machines over the next month for us to review and trial.

New Shed update

We have had a draft plan drawn up (FOC) which will allow us to get a good guide price for the likely cost of the proposed new shed. Hopefully we will have this within the next two weeks.

E mails have been sent to potential Architects for the project, some responses received, some still to be chased up.

Course Master plan

Our Invitation to Tender Document has been completed, reviewed and is now ready to be sent out to potential course architects. We are proposing to give them an eight week period in which to review and return proposals.

Adam Black accident

Adam had an accident while cutting the bank to the left of the path from the clubhouse to the first Tee on the Blairs course where he caused a machine to roll down the bank.

He was taken to hospital and was released the same day but has sustained heavy bruising to his ankles and has been signed off for 2 weeks.

The machine was quite badly damaged, and is at our mechanics (GWT) workshop where it has been stripped down and a detailed costing to repair it is being prepared.

In light of this incident we are now reviewing our cutting procedure of all slopes.

MATCH AND HANDICAP REPORT

Great to see competitive golf back at Deeside. I thought that the mood of our golf club has risen since the opening of the Marquee and lots of us going up point one being memorable moments. I am also pleased to see the reintroduction of four balls as this will ease pressure on tee times and perhaps slow down the feeding frenzy by some of our members.

We have two great squads for the Senior Northern Counties and Nairn Dunbar and the Northern Counties cup at Tain. Both events are in September and all of our team members are really up for their matches.

We have a request from Iain Hunter the Senior Match Organiser to see some Senior matches be played in August and September. I have relayed my feelings to our Captain which we can discuss during AOCB in our Council Meeting.

I have also had a request from former Captain Scott Kelman who has asked Council to consider extending the golf season to include the month of October. Not an unreasonable request considering we lost time at the start of the golf season due to the virus lockdown. We should also discuss and consider this request under AOCB.

A quote for Council "The future rewards those who press on. I don't have time to feel sorry for myself. I don't have time to complain. I'm just going to press on." Barack Obama.

Dave McEwen
Match and Handicap Convenor

JUNIOR REPORT

Competitions

Junior competitions commenced on 6th July and there have already been some tremendous scores with gross 64 and 65 from Ruaridh Fenwick and Jason Bruce from the Yellows and 68s from the Whites. Many Juniors have already reduced their Handicaps substantially in the two weeks of competition play, the highlight being Nilav Chetty from 45 to 32!

Entries for our Club Championships, Scratch and Handicap, close on 19th July and there will be the customary match-play draw. Juniors will only be permitted to enter the Scratch or Handicap this year, not both, and those with higher handicaps will play on Finals Day on Blairs as usual. Thanks to Graeme for his work on organising this.

The Junior Pennant League which was due to commence in May has been cancelled by the organisers, along with all related Junior events, such as the Off-the-tee Trophy. Deeside was the host club for all these events this year and therefore the bookings will be released. Plans for events originally scheduled for September/ October are being kept under review.

We have been invited to take part in the Junior Home Nations Team event again, the invitation having been extended to all clubs who have participated in the event in the last three years. There are Local, Regional and National rounds before the Finals held in February 2021, in Cornwall rather than Portugal this year. As the rounds are all within around an hour of Aberdeen (Aboyne, Banff and Montrose) and in the absence of any other team gold this year, we will participate. The first round is expected to be late August, with a team of six.

Ian McPherson
Junior Convener

LADIES CAPTAIN REPORT

The beginning of our truncated season has seen great take up of our tee time blocks with our opening competition being oversubscribed. Given the current pressure on tee times Frank has allocated us two extra tee times on Tuesday and Friday mornings and an additional four tee times in the afternoon on those days. This is great news for the ladies but we recognise it can cause problems if tee times go unused as they can't be released back for general booking without it impacting on the competition tee times.

Obviously our usage of tee times will be monitored and we will continue to encourage as many ladies as possible to keep playing and at least sign up for competitions even if they don't sign in to register a score.

The Ladies Committee met on the 15th to discuss the Club Championship and the remainder of our playing calendar. Given the shortage of time it was decided to reduce the number of qualifying rounds for the Club Championship to two and the Senior Club Championship to one. The Vintage Seniors Championship, which we agreed to trial this year, will be played as a nine hole competition on Blairs on Championship day. The options for playing the knock out rounds are: a) players organise their own tee times through casual booking; b) players are allocated a tee time within the ladies block tee times; or c) players take advantage of the times set aside on Wednesdays for the match play rounds. Whichever option is chosen we expect the semi-finals to be played 2nd September.

Gill Murray
Ladies Captain

CLUB MANAGER REPORT

Membership
Summary of membership as detailed below as at 30.06.20

Full	833
Senior	109
Honorary	7
Associate	22
Young Adult	23
House	142
House 5 Day	5
Country	28
Juniors 12-18	70
Juniors <12	23
Non Resident	80
Non Playing	30
Life Member	16
VIP's	7

Applications for membership

Full	John Macleod	Gordon Guthrie	Gregor Howe
Full	Keith Miller	Neil Maclean	Jock Gardiner
Full	Gordon Duncan	Andrew Mitchell	Colin Kennedy
Full	Freida Morrison	Helene Rose	Robert Rose
Full	Cameron Allan	Christ Moulton	Tom Rennie
Junior	Cameron Smith	Martin Sinclair	Craig McCaul
Full	Malcolm Smith	Craig McCaul	Martin Sinclair
Full	Claire Kelly	Helene Rose	Robert Rose
Full	Helen Davidson	Helene Rose	Robert Rose
Full	Andrew Patterson	Douglas Newlands	Alan Humphries
Full	Kia Valentine	Helene Rose	Denise Foreman
Full	Malcolm McKay	Murray McKay	Alastair Green
Full	Shona Roy	Andrew Davis	Audrey Davis
Full	Euan Imrie	Alastair Hutcheson	James Sorbie
Full	Colin Lumsden	Gordon Gibb	Arron Finnie
Full	Alan Lobban	Michael Duncan	Katherine Teow
Full	Richard Christie	Andrew Hardie	Jonathan Anderson
Junior	Adam Christie	Andrew Hardie	Jonathan Anderson
Full	Alastair Chalmers	Jane Johnstone	Alan MacPhee
Full	Carol Powell	Andy Powell	Doug Watson

Transfers from within the membership

Name	From	To	Comments
Samuel Buschini	Gent Full	Country	
David Gormley	County	Gent Full	
Sandy Inglis	Non Playing	Full	
Denise Murray	Non-Playing	Full	
Bob Porter	Non-Playing	Full	
Iso Watson	Lady Senior	Non-Playing	

Resigned

Benjamin Henderson – House

Deceased

TDS Mackenzie

Waiting List

Defer 2021	Full Members	Total Junior List	
33	152	146	

Online Booking Report

General Information/Actions etc.

Updated member emails circulated on a weekly basis.

Booking system continues to be a source of discussion.

The booking APP has been a great success with 950 signed up.

The Clubhouse has re-opened, however it has been desperately quiet over the last couple of days, with most members enjoying the marquee facility. We are now operating outside, inside and takeaway, so hopefully footfall will increase over the next few weeks.

Stewart, Hayden and I will meet on Monday to review and relax some of the guidelines where appropriate.

All Covid Risk Assessments updated as required.

Trading Standards and Environmental Health were very impressed with the set up we have outside and had no issues.

D PERN CCM
CLUB MANAGER