

DEESIDE GOLF CLUB

Minute of Council Meeting held on 23rd June at 18.30

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) (Zoom In)
I. McPherson	(Junior Convener)

In Attendance:

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

- Welcome:** Captain welcomed everyone to the Council meeting which was held in accordance with social distancing requirements. Council noted the changes which have been introduced ahead of the Clubhouse re-opening to members, such as perspex screens on the bar. The final layout and capacities of the lounge, dining room and Trophy Lounge will not be determined until Scottish Government clarifies the relevant guidelines.
- Minute of Council held on 19th May 2020**
The minute of the Council meeting on 19th May was approved.
- Matters arising from the Minute**
 - After discussion it was agreed that the minutes of Council meetings will be communicated in a different format. All written reports will be attached as a PDF for members to read in full, with only relevant discussion and decisions reported in the minutes.
 - NHS charity day will be followed up at a later date.
 - SR/NM have forwarded to EFB a draft tender proposal paper for the appointment of a golf course architect to review the courses and practice facilities in accordance with the Strategic Plan. EFB to provide SR/NM with comments.
 - New members have been contacted offering a game of golf with existing members if necessary.
 - Council attended a demonstration of the Trackman golf range APP. A detailed quote has been requested. Operational details including booking, opening hours etc will be discussed.
 - The new trolley shed is progressing well. To date there are 34 names on the list of interested members. It is hoped to have the shed open towards the end of the month.
 - SR updated Council on progress on the proposed new Greenkeeping shed. It was agreed that the shed must house any ride on buggies the club may purchase in the future. After discussion it was agreed to progress with quotes for this project.
 - Club Championship – FC/DM/GM/IM to discuss dates for proposed Club Championships & Gents' Stroke Play Championship.
 - GP reported that the cash reserves will be split, to show a separate fund for Capital Improvements.

- The locker/toilet refurbishment project has been put on hold for now. It may be that there are layout changes required following Covid 19.
- Analysis on Competitions – FC/DM to continue monitoring.

4. Reports

Captain's Report

- Member complaints – complaints have been received relating to a House member playing regularly in contravention of House member rights. Having reviewed all of the circumstances, Council instructed the Captain to write to the member in question highlighting the breach and outlining the steps which would be required to address the position.
- Member comments – Council discussed the emails which have been received from members since the last meeting. Noting that many members were frustrated with the restrictions on play, while others found the restrictions provided more opportunity to play.
- Dress Code update - After discussion, and having regard to the fact that almost 90% of responses to the member survey favoured a relaxation, the new Dress Code policy was approved with one amendment. The updated Dress Code will be communicated to members and publicised on the website etc.
- Review of online booking – There has been a huge increase in members playing since lockdown restrictions were lifted. The numbers are up by almost 800 rounds on the same period last year (29th May – 22nd June). With around 1000 playing members, Deeside benefits from a strong membership, but has pressures on tee time availability which other clubs with fewer playing members do not have. Members have not been following the protocols on booking times and behaviours have been disappointing and divisive. A particular issue appears to be the release of tee times on a daily basis. After much discussion it was agreed to trial the release of one week's tee times in advance. This will require a temporary cessation of the current system. It was agreed that this would be introduced at the same time as competitions recommence. The changes will be communicated to members.
- FC to communicate the competition guidelines issued from Scottish Golf.

Finance Report

- The Finance Convener's report was noted.
 - NM confirmed that the course equipment lease deal will end in March 2021. NM has set up a meeting TORO to discuss new equipment.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Reports

- The Greens Convener and Course Manager's reports were noted.
 - It was agreed to move the tee sheet to a later start for one week on Haughton commencing 20th July and Blairs commencing 27th July.
 - It was agreed that Hollow Coring will go ahead as planned in September.
 - NM to use red/yellow spray for hazard areas, rather than posts when competitions restart, in line with the removal of on course furniture wherever possible.

Ladies' Captain Report

Nothing to report

Match & Handicap

- The Match & Handicap Convener's report was noted.

Junior Report

Nothing to report

Club Manager Report

- The Club Manager's report was noted.
 - DP to email waiting list and offer takeaway service to try to increase footfall.

5. Strategic Plan

- In addition to the points already noted in discussion, EFB updated Council on progress with other initiatives within the Strategic Plan and the timescales for implementation. A spreadsheet of all the initiatives will be circulated to Council ahead of the next meeting.
- In line with the proposal for increased member communication and transparency, EFB to write to members after each Council meeting/at least once a month to keep them informed of current matters.

6. Capital Projects

Covered in the reports.

7. Health and Safety

- Relevant Covid guidelines are in place for different operations within and at the Club. These will continue to be updated and reviewed as Scottish Government/Scottish Golf issue new guidelines.

8. AOCB

- SR enquired about opening the Range. It was noted that Scottish Golf still prohibit the re-opening of indoor/outdoor ranges, but it was agreed that the range will re-open as soon as the guidelines are relaxed.

Next Council meeting 21st July - time and location to be confirmed.