

DEESIDE GOLF CLUB

Minute of Council Meeting held on 24th November 2020

Present:	E. Farquharson-Black (Captain)
	S. Cruickshank (Vice-Captain)
	G. Pryde (Finance Convener)
	D McEwen (Match & Handicap)
	G. Murray (Ladies Captain)
	I. McPherson (Junior Convener)
In Attendance:	D.P. Pern (Club Manager)
	N. McLoughlin (Course Manager)
	F.J. Coutts (Director of Golf)
	F. Windle (Ladies Vice Captain)

1. **Welcome:** Captain welcomed everyone to the Council meeting which was held in accordance with social distancing requirements. Captain also welcomed Fiona Windle Ladies Vice-Captain who will take over from Gill Murray in January.

2. **Minute of Council held on 24th October 2020**
The minute of the Council meeting on 24th October 2020 was approved. DP updated Council on the amendments.

4. **Matters arising from the Minute**
The appointment of the golf course architect will be carried forward till the next Council meeting.
The 2021 – 2022 budget will be covered in the Finance report.
The Adult v Junior match date will be confirmed in the New Year.
NM has ordered safety signage for various areas on both courses.
GP has spoken to FJC on Pro Shop detail, including shop stock, fixtures and fittings etc. It was agreed that the Club will purchase any stock left on the 28th February.
Fairway mats have been ordered and will arrive week commencing 7th December. It was agreed that these will be free of charge to members.
It was agreed to carry forward the Membership Subscriptions/Categories exercise to next year.

5. Reports

Captain's Report

- EFB thanked Stewart Ritchie for his time on Council.
- The virtual Information Evening was well received. A Q&A paper is being compiled and will be circulated to members in the near future.
- It was agreed that DP will include a reminder on Couse Etiquette in the weekly update.
- After discussion it was agreed that Quintin Aitken would be nominated as President for 2021 – 2022.

- After discussion it was agreed that two members will be approached to fill the vacant positions which are due for renewal at the AGM in February. Match & Handicap will be proposed by DM and seconded by SC. Greens Convener will be proposed by EFB and seconded by DM
- EFB updated Council on the latest detail on the appointment of the new Head Professional.

Finance Report

- Budget for 2021 - 2022 – After discussion the budget was approved.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Reports

- NM raised concern at the number of rounds being played on the Houghton Course and the impact on teeing areas and approaches to the tees. After discussion it was agreed the greens team will move the tees forward, using different tee positions on a rolling basis to protect the main teeing areas.

Ladies' Captain Report

- The Ladies' Captain's report was noted.
- Concern has been raised by two members as a result of the early ladies' tee time on a Saturday being withdrawn for the winter period. After discussion it was agreed that the reduced tee times will continue and the regular times will be reinstated at the beginning of the season.

Match & Handicap

- The match & handicap report was noted.

Junior Report

- The Junior Convener's report was noted.

Club Manager Report

- The Club Manager's report was noted.
 - One further application for membership was approved. Peter Michie, House member, nominated by David Bisset and seconded by Graeme Yule.

6. Strategic Plan

- NM circulated a drawing showing ramp access to the outside seating area as a possible solution to staff having to service the outside area via the front door. NM will request a quote based on the drawing.

7. Capital Projects

Nothing to report

8. Health and Safety

- The five year electrical testing has been completed. A report on the defects will be sent in due course, along with a quote for the repairs.

9. AOCB

- FJC expressed his disappointment that Graeme wasn't appointed as Head Professional.

Next Meeting 5.30pm – Tuesday 5th January 17.30

FINANCE REPORT REVIEW OF THE OCTOBER 2020

Profit & Loss Review

The Net Profit for October 2020 is set out below, along with the comparison to both the budget and October 2019.

	Actual	Budget	Prior Year
	£	£	£
October 2020	<u>6,702</u>	<u>(24,004)</u>	<u>9,248</u>

We had budgeted for a loss of £24k in October, however we returned a profit of close to £7k. The difference is largely down to the timing of expenditure; in particular course costs (delayed due to October being so wet) and repairs and upkeep (the work required following the electrical review falling into November/December). In addition, recoverable VAT continues to be calculated at the in-year agreed rate of 27%, however the rate is likely to be fall to 19% when the annual review is undertaken at 31 March 2021 and the revised % is applied retrospectively. The budget assumes a 19% rate.

The net loss from **F&B** was almost £6k which is identical (almost to the £1) to the loss in October 2019.

Balance Sheet Review

Bank Balances at 31 October 2020 - funds of £458k were held in the Clydesdale Bank working accounts. There is a further £147k in an instant access account and we have £324k invested in longer term deposit accounts.

Cash Reserves Requirement - the policy is to retain cash reserves equivalent to 5 months of overheads as our Operational Funds. For the year to 30 September 2021, overheads are estimated to be £90k per month based on the budget (overheads for this purpose exclude depreciation and F&B and golf ops salaries). On this basis there is a cash reserves requirement of £450k.

Members Loyalty Card Balances - at 31 October, the balance on members loyalty cards totalled £101k. Included in this balance is unspent Bar & Catering credits of £43k.

Expenditure on replacement of course equipment - the new finance lease with Hitachi has been signed and the new equipment will arrive over the next couple of months. The outstanding balance on the old finance agreement was settled last week and Neil will now start selling the old machines.

Capital Expenditure on improvements and investment in the facilities of the Club - we can discuss if there are any updates to the Capital Expenditure Budget for capital improvements at next week's meeting.

Budget for the year ended 30 September 2021 - we will discuss on Tuesday.

Course Manager and Greens Convenor Report November 2020

Courses

After one of the wettest Octobers on record and very high course usage, both are beginning to struggle with the volume of play. November 2019 we had 1033 rounds on the Haughton, so far this November we have had 3004 rounds.

We are continuing to control traffic away from wet areas as best we can, verti-draining and topdressing wet areas to try and help relieve wear and compaction.

Our grass tees are starting to wear badly and it won't be long until we have to move the tee markers onto rough / semi rough areas so we still have a reasonable playing surface on the tees come next spring. We might even have to look at having artificial tee mats on every hole.

Hopefully when the clubs artificial mats arrive members will start using them which will help relieve the divot problem on the fairways.

Some of the winter greens are not in good condition, particularly those on the 'old' side of the courses which was hit hardest by Storm Alex. We are trying hard to improve the condition of these but the results are not great.

We have started to create new run offs at the side of the 2nd and 6th greens on the Haughton similar to the one on the 8th.

Unfortunately we now have a very large badger set by the 1st tee on the Haughton course which has started to dig up around the black tee, we are looking at installing some chicken wire to discourage them from doing this.

We are planning to start work on the area where the marquee was in early December and the new practice tee on the range shortly after that.

Staff

We have been running slightly light with staff during the last month, with Simon being off, holidays and sickness, however now that we have nearly finished collecting leaves we can hopefully start to focus on the Winter projects we have to do.

Equipment

Toro equipment delivery is expected to start this week. In order to make space we have started the process of selling the old equipment.

New Greenkeeping Equipment Shed

We are progressing with planning permission for the new shed using Brian Noble as the architect. Hopefully the application will be submitted this week. We met him this week to get an update on progress.

Golf course Architect

Some detail and our recommendation for selection of the Golf Course Architect has been circulated for review and comment by Council and hopefully approval to proceed.

Member behaviour

We have had a few instances lately of members playing early in the morning before the first official tee time or starting on one course then switching over to the other.

Our Greens staff try to work to a route around the course in front of the morning golf to get essential work done, members ignoring tee times in this manner are interfering with these works, we need to address this before it gets any worse.

Ladies Report for Council Meeting – 24th November 2020

The Ladies Mini Prize Giving took place on 2nd November at 2.30pm and was Zoomed to the remainder of the section so they could see their friends receive their trophies. Those who attended both virtually and socially distanced in the Clubhouse thought it was a great success and a nice way to end the season. We have now sent the trophies off to be engraved ready for next year.

Sign up for the Ladies weekday Winter programme has been brisk this year. We're playing in fours, which makes for easier 'socialising' afterwards, and have a variety of competitions which are proving popular. Signing up to a draw is also making it easier with regard to partners as you don't need to rely on the same people for a game.

The Ladies Saturday reserved times are, unfortunately, not as popular and, given the numbers playing in the Winter Eclectic (and Winter Fours) there has been a request for us to release the early tee slots to other players. This was agreed with the proviso that the Saturday tee times are re-instated for the Summer Season. This has led to a complaint from a member which raises issues of gender equality that I feel need to be addressed at Council.

Work has started on next season's golfing fixtures with Fiona taking the lead this year.

Gill Murray

Match and Handicap Convenor

Report for Council Meeting Tuesday 24th November 2020

Our season has now ended where we sadly were not able to play golf for all of October due to the unexpected flooding which soaked the courses. The Winter Eclectic and Winter Fours are now in full swing and if the weather is kind, we might be able to play up to the end of December this year. I noticed that we once again have high numbers for the Eclectic which is good as we have healthy numbers. It is also bad as some members feel they cannot get a game on a Saturday on Haughton due to the high demand. Its very hard to predict when the current rush for tee times will slow down but hopefully members will keep trying to get tee times. There is always the Blairs Course which is very pleasant to play over.

We now have a new feature at Deeside which is the installation on Trackman in the Teaching Bay in the driving range. I viewed the setup this week and we now have a state-of-the-art golf simulator which the members can enjoy. Members will hear shortly from Stewart Ritchie concerning usage.

I have been fortunate to get a couple of games this week and although the Haughton course is in great condition may I remind everyone to replace divots and repair pitch marks they find the greens to help our Greens Team maintain high standards on our golf courses.

Dave McEwen

20 November 2020

Junior Report for Council Meeting

24 November 2020

Junior Golf 2021

The plans and dates for the 2020 season's Junior Pennant League and all competitions run by the Junior Pennant have simply been rolled forward a year into 2021, with League matches commencing on 16th May. Given that 2021 exam dates have been pushed back, this may impact teams for the first couple of matches.

Deeside had agreed to be the host club for the major Junior events in the calendar in 2020, including the Junior Pennant Final, Hector Dey Trophy (and Under-14 event), Off-the-Tee Trophy and Spence Trophy (the Junior Champion of Champions). We will now host all these events which were cancelled in 2020 in 2021 and therefore have provisional dates for the events, which are generally on Sundays, like the Junior Pennant. These will be built into our Calendar for next year when this is finalised.

We will kick off the 2021 Deeside season with an Adult/ Junior event, hopefully incorporating our postponed Prizegiving from this year.

Ian McPherson
Junior Convener

22 November 2020

Club Manager Council Report Month 1 – October 2020

Membership

- Summary of membership as detailed below at 30th October 2020

Full	819
Senior	114
Honorary	7
Associate	22
Young Adult	24
House	145
House 5 Day	5
Country	25
Juniors 12-18	71
Juniors <12	26
Non Resident	77
Non Playing	30
Life Member	16
VIP's	7

- Applications for membership

Full	Stephen Walker	LOI requested from Kintore GC	
House	Lesley Gauld	James Gauld	Pierre Fouin
Full	Michael Noble	Jamie Wilson	Phil Adams
House	Peter Michie	David Bisset	Graeme Yule

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

Name	From	To	Comments
GJ Broadley	Full	Non-resident	
Lesley Cruickshank	Full	Senior	
Anne Milne	Full	House	
Alf Petrie	Senior	House	

Resignations

- Sandy Inglis – Full
- June Johnstone – Full
- Rebecca Sinclair – Junior

Deceased

- Ian MacDonald - Senior

- Waiting List

Defer 2021	Full Members	Total Junior List	
33	204	152	

Course Usage

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												3873

The Course usage figures are the total figures for both Haughton and Blairs. I have requested from Club Systems that we create a “Checked In” report, rather than an “all player” bookings report.

General Information/Actions etc.

Offers of membership to those on the deferred from last year list have been posted out this week. I will keep Council updated on replies.

A small number of emails were received from members with various questions, comments etc following the information evening. They have all been circulated to Council for review. A Q&A will be created and available in the member’s area of the website, in due course.

D PERN CCM
CLUB MANAGER

