

DEESIDE GOLF CLUB

Minute of Council Meeting held on 27th October 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)
	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. **Presentation by Architect Chris Smith**

Chris presented some options and ideas for a more permanent outside seating area. After discussion it was agreed that for 2021, new outdoor furniture will be purchased, some drainage work will be carried out to the area where the marquee was located to help the grass and that the popularity of the external area will be tested for a further season while more discussion will take place to look at the long term strategy. If a marquee is erected, it will be to the north of the path to the Driving Range in order to maximise views.

3. **Minute of Council held on 29th September 2020**

The minute of the Council meeting on 29th September was approved.

4. **Matters arising from the Minute**

SR/NM will circulate the plans this week from the preferred golf course architect.

DM/DP to progress with the reciprocal match against Ballater. It will be on the same principle as the Balmoral match, one year home, next year away.

IM to progress with Adult v Junior match in the Spring.

DP confirmed that the shoe cleaning air machine is still out of use due to Covid restrictions. Both the slabs under balcony and the buggy shed door have been repaired.

5. **Reports**

Captain's Report

- EFB to reply to two emails received.
- Following a complaint from a member of the public, EFB to include a reminder to members about the public having access to all areas of the course other than the greens.
- NM to source and erect additional signage at various locations around the course.

- The Trackman studio is almost ready to open. Final protocol to be determined having regard to COVID restrictions applying at the time. Possibility for a winter league to be set up.
- The Information Evening on the 4th November will be a virtual zoom webinar. Members will be invited to register through Eventbrite. There is a maximum of 100 able to log in, however the presentation will be available on the website afterwards. Any questions to be fed back to DP, thereafter a Q&A will be prepared and circulated to all members.
- EFB updated Council on progress with the Pro Shop. The transition team met on the 12th October to finalise the competencies for the new appointment. Closing dates for applications is Friday 6th November with interviews taking place in week commencing 16th November.

Finance Report

- Report noted
 - After discussion it was agreed that members will receive one month's subscription refund when the subs notice is sent out in February. The D/D members will have the refund split over four months April – July.
 - The aim is that there will be no increase in subscription for 2021 – 2022. However this will be dependent on there being 800 full members. If numbers fall below this level, it's likely that subscriptions will have to be increased.
 - There was a discussion on the optimum number of full playing members which may be reduced to 800. Only those deferred from 2020 members to be offered membership in 2021. GP to circulate a paper at next Council meet with various scenarios.
 - It was agreed that the Guest fee would increase to £20 seven days a week (April – October) with no reduction for 2nd, 3rd and 4th player. The winter rate (November – March) will increase to £15 seven days a week. Blairs will increase to £15 in the summer and £10 in the winter.
 - DP to look at F&B prices and increase where appropriate.
 - The visitor rate will remain at £100 with a special deal for a four ball £400 including a two course lunch.
 - GP to speak to FC and Sheila on various financial details in the Pro Shop.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Reports

- Report noted
- After discussion it was agreed to go ahead with an application for planning permission for the greenkeeping shed. Any consent will last for 3 years from the date of grant. SR confirmed that the cost of professional fees will be in the region of £10k, with the build cost around £183k. More information will be given to members as part of the Information Evening.
- NM explained in detail the need to protect the courses during the winter months. It was agreed that mats will be available in the pro shop for use on a voluntary basis. Members to be encouraged to use a mat or move the ball to the rough on the fairways. Members to be encouraged to use Carry Bags wherever possible.

Ladies' Captain Report

- The Ladies' Captain's report was noted.

Match & Handicap

- The Match & Handicap Convener's report was noted.
- It was agreed that all competition golf will be open for bookings seven days in advance.

- The competition season will extend into October every year.
- The Captain of Portlethen GC, Dave Fleming, has canvassed local clubs on starting a Senior Pennant team league. DM confirmed that Deeside would be interested.

Junior Report

- The Junior Convener's report was noted.

Club Manager Report

- The Club Manager's report was noted.
 - Maggies Charity Day 6th May 2021 was approved.
 - Marquee to come down on Monday 2nd November.

6. Strategic Plan

- Update will be covered at the Information Evening.

7. Capital Projects

Covered in the reports. It was agreed to investigate new carpet tiles and mirrors in the Driving Bay.

8. Health and Safety

- Following a fall, the bridge the area from the 14th green to 15th tee has had new matting and new ropes put in place.

9. AOCB

- EFB to come back to Council with a proposal on Council positions in particular the Match and Handicap position.

Next Meeting 5.30pm – Tuesday 24th November 17.30

FINANCE REPORT

REVIEW OF THE 12 MONTH PERIOD TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Profit & Loss Review

The Net Profit for the current month and for the year ended 30 September 2020, based on the first draft of the year end accounts, 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>(23,538)</u>	<u>12,355</u>	<u>10,311</u>
Year to 30 Sept 20	<u>125,703</u>	<u>142,276</u>	<u>8,724</u>

There are some final accounting adjustments which have still to be made to the year-end numbers for normal prepayments and accruals and once we decide on the level of recompense to members, this will also be reflected in the annual accounts to 30 September 2020.

The net profit for the year reflects the government's support initiatives for Covid including the Furlough scheme grants (£68k); the exemption for business rates (£27k); the reduction in the VAT rate for F&B (£8.5k) and the Eat Out to Help Out scheme (£2.5k) - a total of £106k. In addition, we received a refund of affiliation fees of £3.5k from Scottish Golf. All of these, combined with reduced overheads during lockdown, has contributed to an exceptional profit for the year!

The net loss from **F&B** for the year was £19k which was better than the original budget of an overall loss of £24k. Our financial policy for F&B is to make a profit before the deduction of members discount, which we did with a £10k net profit (members discount was £29k). However, little can be drawn from this as it has not been a normal year for F&B. The results for the year include the benefit of the government support schemes but also reflect reduced sales and additional costs due to Covid restrictions and requirements.

Balance Sheet Review

Bank Balances at 30 September 2020 - funds of £451k 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 - our policy is to retain cash reserves equivalent to 5 months of overheads as our Operational Funds. For the year to 30 September 2020, we estimated overheads of £100k per month based on the original budget, giving a cash reserves requirement of £500k. For most of the year this requirement was met from the funds available in the Clydesdale Bank working accounts.

Members Loyalty Card Balances - at 30 September, the balance on members loyalty cards totalled £109k. Included in this balance is unspent Bar & Catering credits of £51k.

Expenditure on replacement of course equipment - earlier this week, Hitachi confirmed that they had received credit committee approval to provide finance to the Club for the purchase of 16 new Toro machines at a cost of £408k + VAT. The only outstanding matters now are with us to confirm: -

- 1) the amount of the lump sum payment (deposit) we will make against the new equipment. Toro have guaranteed us a trade in price of £64k, however there is interest locally in the machines and Neil is hoping to achieve a total sales price of around £80k.
- 2) whether the new agreement will be a Finance Lease (as we have at present) or a Hire Purchase contract.

My initial view on 2) above was to proceed with a Hire Purchase contract which guarantees the Club ownership of the equipment once all payments are made. With a Finance Lease, the Club never gains outright ownership of the equipment, but the agreement with Hitachi does allow us to keep 100% of the sale proceeds when the equipment is sold. However, I am still considering the VAT recovery position before a final decision is made.

With an HP contract we are charged VAT on the full purchase price (£408k) on signing; with the Finance Lease, there is no upfront VAT cost, instead VAT is added to the monthly payments. In a normal year, the Club can recover 27% of the VAT which it pays. However, for this year (and unfortunately our VAT year runs to 31 March), the recovery % is likely to be significantly lower due to the reduction in F&B income (which is our main source of taxable income). The VAT on the purchase price is £82k, so if our normal VAT recovery % is halved this year we lose £11k. Also, our VAT recovery % should increase in future with taking the Pro-shop inhouse.

The finance lease option is approximately £8k more expensive than the HP contract.

The new John Deere tractor (£57k+VAT) has been ordered. The decision on the financing of the new tractor will be considered once we have finalised the year end accounts and the 2021 budget.

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.

Course Manager and Greens Convenor Report October 2020

Courses

Both courses flooded during storm Alex at the beginning of the month following 99mm of rainfall in a 24-hour period. At its peak, we estimate the water depth around the 8th green would have been somewhere in the region of 6 - 7 feet

Although the flood water left the courses quite quickly via the flapper valves when the river level dropped, all areas of the courses were badly affected with a fine layer of silt which is now causing us problems.

Most of the greens had to be washed clean of the silt while the 16th green had a 5-6 inch layer of sand across it which had to be manually removed.

The fairways and rough areas are now causing us the most problems, with the continued wet spell after the flooding the silt has just smeared leaving footprints and trolley lines everywhere. We have raked the fairways to try and break up the silt, but we need a dry spell for this to be really effective.

Winter tee mats are now out on all the par 3 tees and we are continually adding more traffic control measures as required as areas see the effects of continued golf and the wet conditions.

We have started to verti-draining fairways to help relieve compaction and improve drainage however with the water table and river levels as high as they are, and continued wet weather everywhere is extremely wet.

Previously prepared winter greens have also suffered and at present are not up to their normal standard and will be attended to when conditions allow.

Staff

Simon Hoy is now on paternity leave for the next 6 months and with staff now taking the remainder of their annual leave, our daily numbers are down slightly, not ideal when we have floods and ongoing course damage to deal with.

All staff will have their yearly appraisals carried out over the next month.

Equipment

Our new Toro equipment has been ordered and delivery is expected to start sometime in the next 4 weeks. 1st payment for this will be required in March 2021.

Many thanks to our Finance guru Gill Pryde for her assistance in sorting out the finance agreement with Hitachi.

New Greenkeeping Equipment Shed

During the month we have been dealing with GS Robertson who have given us a quote of £183K for building the shed.

This quote includes us doing a lot of the ground work and drainage for the building to reduce the costs.

In order to progress the works, following receipt of four proposals, we have decided to proceed with submitting an application for planning approval using the services of Brian Noble as the architect.

Should this application be successful we can then obtain further competitive prices for the shed construction and submit this for necessary approval within the Club before proceeding further.

Golf course Architect

Due to the recent flooding and wet weather, work on this has had to take a back seat and has been delayed.

Out of the 5 firms we approached we had 4 proposal back. Prices of the proposals ranged from approximately £7k up to £13k all cover a varying degree of detail.

We are currently in discussions with our preferred choice to sort out a few details with them before putting a proposal together giving Council all the details from the firms, which one we would like to use and why.

Hopefully we will be able to have this ready within the next couple of weeks.

2021 Budget

The 2021 budget for the courses has been prepared and a review with Gill to finalise this is scheduled for Monday 25th October.

Ladies Report for Council Meeting – 27th October 2020

Unfortunately, since our last meeting the weather has been against us. Rather than the lovely October we'd been hoping for we've had quite a few rainy days, bit of an understatement I know. Putting all that behind us we're now looking forward to our Winter Programme.

This year we're planning to play a mixture of competitions including the usual Winter Eclectic, with a Foursomes competition and fun stuff. Our Christmas Cross Country will be held on 11th December on Blairs. Fingers crossed for some dry weather.

Despite lockdown and disruption to our playing calendar we still managed to play six trophy competitions as well as the Club Championships. The Ladies Committee has decided to invite the winners to a socially distanced mini Prize Giving to celebrate. This will be held in the Trophy Room on 2nd November at 2.30pm. It's planned to Zoom the actual Prize Giving if possible.

Gill Murray

Ladies Captain

Match and Handicap Convenor

Report for Council Meeting Tuesday 27th October

Sadly, our extended golf season has ended due to the recent flood which was not expected and took us all by surprise. The extension in October was something many of our members were looking forward to as they missed out on golf earlier in the season. However, this has not dampened the spirit of our members as our (damp) golf courses remain as busy as ever. I would like to suggest that we continue our golf season to include October each year.

On the 1st of November we enter a new phase concerning golf which is the introduction of the new World Handicapping System (WHS). There have been several podcasts and webinars by Scottish Golf to clarify what is behind this global change. Each member will shortly be issued with new Course and Playing handicaps which will be taken from their last 8 from 20 scores entered into the computer system Club V1. I make no excuse that my knowledge of the system is still somewhat blurred, but this has not been an easy to follow. However, looking at the last 2 presentations by Scottish Golf a little more clarity has emerged. If members care to look at the Scottish Golf website, they will find information on the how this change will affect them. <http://www.scottishgolf.org/>

There has been an enquiry from the Captain of Portlethen Golf Club asking if Deeside would be interested in joining a Senior Pennant League. Like most golf clubs they have members who are good golfers but cannot secure a place in the normal pennant team. The details have not been worked thus far but a 6, 8 or 10-member teams is one suggestion. The age would be for those over 55 which is when members can play in Senior Opens.

As this is my last year on Council, I have been lobbying some of the members who represent Deeside in the Pennant and other team events. I have three who have shown interest which is rather good as we need to encourage our younger members to join Council. However, one of them is still an Associate Member and cannot stand for Council under our current constitution. This brings up the point which was discussed some time back about affording our Associate Members the same rights as full members. This way we can allow Associates to join Council thus helping them learn about how the golf club operates.

Dave McEwen

22 October 2020

Junior Report for Council Meeting

27 October 2020

Competitions

On the Storm Alex weekend of 3rd/4th October at Montrose, five clubs contested the Scottish Final for two places at the UK Finals of the Junior Home Nations Team Championship. And I'm afraid that we missed out to Loretto and Haggs Castle who took the top two places, Loretto with an outstanding total of 350 for their five scores, 10 strokes below the CSS for the day. Our team of Roo Fenwick, Jason and Callum Bruce, Matthew Saunders, Ollie Robertson and Jake Kelly all put in good performances in testing conditions over the weekend. Credit to everyone who travelled to Montrose on Saturday in appalling conditions, matched only by those on the course for the practice round! And then returned the following day for the Final. And thanks to all the parents who drove through those appalling conditions to Montrose both days and for their good company over the weekend.

There was some terrific golf played in a good spirit and all Conveners received the following note from the organisers:

"Personally, once we knew the Final was able to be played, I thought it to be one of the best we have had in recent years, in no small part due to the Juniors, they are all a credit to their respective Clubs and I hope they all had a positive experience on the day."

So whilst a little disappointed not to win, that's surely what the game's all about.

At a "local" level, we're all just sorry that the weather conditions brought a premature end to the season's competitive golf, itself shortened, but also encouraging to see the progress made by some of our juniors, their good conduct and the number of juniors playing regularly when at the club over the summer.

Ian McPherson
Junior Convener

23 October 2020

Membership

- Summary of membership as detailed below as at 30.09.20

Full	824
Senior	114
Honorary	7
Associate	22

Young Adult	24
House	143
House 5 Day	5
Country	25
Juniors 12-18	72
Juniors <12	26
Non Resident	76
Non Playing	30
Life Member	16
VIP's	7

- Applications for membership

Full	Andrew Park	John Park	Gavin Cooper
Full	Graham Cox	Neil Morton	Brad Youngson
Full	Robert Graham	Allan McCulloch	Kenny Steele
Full	Mhairi Miller	Shona Buyers	Brigid Halliday
Full	Louie Hartnett	Frank Hartnett	Pierre Fouin
Full	Andrew Yule	Jane MacCallum	Anna O'Byrne
Full	Christopher Ness	John Verling	David Bloom
Junior	Finn Yeats	Craig Yeats	Tom Cummings

- Transfers from within the membership

Name	From	To	Comments
Sheila Coutts	Full	House	
David Gillanders	Full	Senior	
Pam Henderson	Full	Senior	
Mike Stephen	Full	Senior	

Resigned

- Lynda Hall – Full
Nicol Langlands – Non Resident
Craig Lawrie – Associate
George Milne - Senior

- Waiting List

Defer 2021	Full Members	Total Junior List	
33	198	151	

General Information/Actions etc.

The Maggies Charity day had to be cancelled on Thursday 22nd Oct for the third time due to weather. Request from Maggies to reschedule for Thursday 6th May 2021, with first tee time around 10.30am. I would be happy to support this request. Approval required.

The marquee is due to close on Saturday 31st October. I have had a discussion with the team on keeping it open for a few more weeks, however based on various issues mainly surrounding health and safety, I would recommend we close it as planned. We will move three tables back on to the balcony for any member who wishes to remain outside.

D PERN CCM
CLUB MANAGER