

DEESIDE GOLF CLUB

Minute of Council Meeting held on 29th September 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)

- Welcome:** Captain welcomed everyone to the Council meeting which was held in accordance with social distancing requirements.
- Minute of Council held on 25th August 2020**
The minute of the Council meeting on 25th August was approved with one amendment in the Club Manager's report.
- Matters arising from the Minute**
SR/NM updated Council on the Golf Course Architect appointment. EFB requested that SR circulate a paper on the four options to Council for review and final approval.
SR/NM met with GS Robertson Shed Builders. They will come back with a proposal and final cost. SR to circulate document for consideration. SR confirmed that it will be around the £180k + vat estimate provided previously.
NM/GP have finalised the Toro Equipment deal. Payments will start in March 2021, with the equipment being delivered from 1st October 2020.
Two teams enjoyed their day at Ballater – a email of thanks from Bill Yule, the competition organiser is on the club notice board. A total of £20,000 was raised for Club funds, which will go along way to ease the burden that Covid has placed on the Club.
EFB confirmed that the annual Information evening will be held on Wednesday 4th November. It will be delivered virtually over Zoom. Questions will be invited in writing after the presentation evening.
In line with the strategy initiatives, SR/NM invited members to attend the hollow coring on the 18th green on Monday 14th September. Another forum will be organised at a later date.

4. Reports

Captain's Report

- The Bookings have settled down now with plenty of tee times available. After the initial flurry of bookings, many times become free in the coming days.
- EFB updated Council on the ongoing planning issues at Bielside Lodge. The Club had objected to an application for approval of the construction management plan related to the erection of a new dwelling in the grounds of Bielside Lodge, on the grounds that it

involves use of the Deeside Way and potential blockages of the access road to the Club. The Council refused the application. The Applicant appealed to the Scottish Ministers against the refusal and the Reporter appointed to determine the appeal has approved the construction management plan, but made it clear that a separate permission would be required to close the Deeside Way to allow construction traffic to use it. That consent would be issued by the Council and they may not grant consent given how well used the Deeside Way is by pedestrians and cyclists.

- A complaint has been received by a member after an incident on the course. After reading both accounts of the incident, Council agreed no further action will be taken. EFB to draft a reply to both parties.
- Council will convene a separate meeting on Friday 2nd October at 08.00 to discuss the options to replace FJC. CCL, who worked with the Club on the Strategic Plan, have been appointed to assist in the recruitment process.

Finance Report

- The Finance report was noted.
- Once the year-end figures are available, GP to draft a paper for the October Council meeting in respect of member reward for support during COVID.
- DP /GP to have draft budget ready for the November Council meeting.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Reports

- The Greens report was noted.
- The Winter Golf proposal from SR/NM was circulated in advance. After much discussion it was agreed that given the restrictions on playing which members have already experienced this year, it is important to try to maintain normally playing conditions as far as possible and weather depending. Winter maintenance will continue as previous winters, with more attention given to certain areas which may require to be temporarily roped off. Members will be encouraged to move to the side of the fairway to protect the main areas of play.
- SR will update members on suggested alternatives to protect the courses at the Information evening.
- Winter projects will be kept to a minimum this year with only minor disruption to the members. Pond work, bridge work, drainage work and tree pruning will be included.

Ladies' Captain Report

- The Ladies' Captain's report was noted.

Match & Handicap

- The Match & Handicap Convener's report was noted.
- A request to host an annual match with Ballater was received. This was approved in principle. DM to follow up.

Junior Report

- The Junior Convener's report was noted.
- EFB enquired about the annual Adult v Junior match. After discussion it was agreed that this will be organised at the start of the 2021 season.

Club Manager Report

- The Club Manager's report was noted.

- EFB requested confirmation of the playing figures for August compared to 2019. DP to check.
 - In line with government guidelines the rubbish bins on the course can now be used. NM to action.
 - DP to check with SGL about using the Shoe cleaner.
- 5. Strategic Plan**
- DP to send last year's Information PP to GP and SR.
 - Course Policy and up to date STRI report to go on the website once reviewed by SR and NM.
- 6. Capital Projects**
Covered in the reports.
- 7. Health and Safety**
- H&S audit carried out on Wednesday 23rd Sept.
 - NM to check loose slabs under the balcony.
 - NM confirmed that the tarmac destroyed by the recent rain fall will be repaired by Scottish Water. NM waiting for confirmation on date.
 - NM confirmed that the repair to the Driveway is in hand.
- 8. AOCB**
- DP to follow up on the repair of the buggy shed doors.
 - GM enquired about WWH (Worldwide Handicapping). More information will be circulated during October.

Next Meeting 5.30pm – Tuesday 27th October 17.30

Reports

FINANCE REPORT REVIEW OF THE 11 MONTH PERIOD TO 31 AUGUST 2020

Profit & Loss Review

The Net Profit for the current month and for the 11-month period to 31 August 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>14,310</u>	<u>11,260</u>	<u>18,814</u>
Year to 31 Aug 20	<u>149,241</u>	<u>129,921</u>	<u>(1,587)</u>

Another good month with a Net Profit of **£14k** which was better than expected given the local lockdown resulting in F&B being limited to only the takeaway service for almost 3 weeks.

However, F&B returned only a small loss (see below) in the month and once again we benefited from Members' inviting their guests onto the courses. Green fees from Members' guests totalled £10.5k for the month (£8k Haughton; £2.5k Blairs).

On the cost side, overall overheads continued to be broadly in line with the revised budget. Course costs and clubhouse upkeep costs were over budget for the month and the costs of the marquee were not in the budget, however the amounts involved are not significant.

F&B – The net loss from F&B for the month was **£1.8k**. This included the benefit of the flexi-furlough scheme (grant of £3k for August) and £2.5k is due from the government's Eat Out to Help Out Scheme. This scheme ran for 13 days in August however the Club was only able to benefit for 3 days due to the local lockdown. The reduction in the VAT rate on the sale of food and soft drinks consumed on site, boosted sales and the bottom line by £2.1k in the month. The reduction in the rate to 5% has been extended through until 31 March 2021.

Balance Sheet Review

Bank Balances at 31 August 2020 – funds of £533k were held in the Clydesdale Bank working accounts. There is a further £147k in an instant access account and we have £323k invested in longer term deposit accounts.

Cash Reserves Requirement – at 31 August, the cash reserves requirement of £500k (5 months of overheads) was fully satisfied from the funds available in the Clydesdale Bank working accounts.

Members Loyalty Card Balances – at 31 August, the balance on members loyalty cards totalled £123k. Included in this balance is unspent Bar & Catering credits of £60k which is significantly higher than would normally be expected at this time.

Expenditure on replacement of course equipment – agreement has been reached with Toro for the purchase of 16 new machines at a cost of £408k effective from March 2021. The RRP of these machines is over £690k, the price to the Club representing a discount from Toro of almost 41%. In addition, the Club will have the use of a second hybrid riding greens mower (RRP £57k) every year for 5 years (replaced annually).

There are 11 machines being traded in/sold - Toro has offered a guaranteed trade in price of £64k, however there is interest locally in the machines and Neil is hoping to achieve a total sales price in excess of £82k.

The balance, net of trade ins/sales, will be financed over 5 years through Hitachi, on a similar basis to the current agreement. The attached schedule shows the guaranteed position (with the Toro trade in price of £64k) - the balance to be financed is £344k and the monthly payment would be £7.7k including VAT. The actual payment will be lower depending on the final sales price achieved for the old machines. Our current monthly payment is £6.1k and the additional cost should be easily manageable from our operational cashflows (i.e. without reducing the amount available for capital improvement projects).

We currently have a tractor on loan from Toro (as part of the 2016 machine deal) which will require to be returned in March 2021 and replaced. Toro initially included a new tractor in their proposal; however, it was expensive (£70k + VAT) when compared to the John Deere tractor (£57k+VAT), which is preferred. It is not possible to include the John Deere tractor in the Hitachi finance agreement; however, we may be able to fund the cost from our operational cashflows. Alternatively, we can look at finance options. The decision on the financing of the new tractor will be considered once we have finalised the year end accounts and have agreed the 2021 budget. However, the order with John Deere will be placed now as there is a 4-6-month delivery time.

Capital Expenditure on improvements and investment in the facilities of the Club – we will discuss any updates to the Capital Expenditure Budget for capital improvements at next week's meeting.

Gill Pryde
Finance Convener

Course Manager and Greens Convenor Report September 2020

Courses

We were able to complete the majority of the Autumn Maintenance works on the 14th, 15th and 16th of September.

All 27 greens as well as a number of approaches were cored, scarified, verticut and top dressed. In addition we were able to scarify seven fairways, although the rain on Tuesday somewhat hindered these works. With this work completed, the turf is now in the best condition possible for the winter ahead.

This year we have been able to apply a total of 120 tons of sand to the greens which aligns well with last year's recommendations of the STRI who set us a target of 120 to 160 tons.

We had our annual visit from the STRI on 3rd September. They were very impressed with the condition of the courses especially considering the number of rounds being played. Their report should be available for review within the next two weeks.

With regard to Winter golf, we have prepared a proposal for Council review which will be circulated separately.

Our annual tree inspection will take place mid-October and the 18th pond is due to be cleaned out during the first week in November, this work was due to be done earlier this year..

Staff

Simon Hoy is going on paternity leave for the next 6 months from mid-October and Adam Black has been back at work since the beginning of September following his slight mishap.

Equipment

We met with Gill and Debbie following the strategy update meeting on 7th September to progress our course equipment renewal.

Gill is now in the process of going through the detail of the finance agreement with TORO with a view to having this in place by the end of September.

New Greenkeeping Equipment Shed

We obtained a quotation from another fabricator based on a complete design and build for comparison purposes.

We have also met with Ian Thomson who has provided some good advice on more accurate budget costs for the shed and the best way forward.

We are continuing to review our best options for progressing with the construction of the new shed and will report back when we have reached a decision on the best way forward.

Golf course Architect

Proposals were received on 15th September from four of the five companies we sent our tender invitations to. We have been reviewing these and a summary of the tenders is available and will be circulated once our review is complete and we have decided on our preferred architect.

Winter Projects

We are proposing that our Winter Project list for this year will be fairly limited. As the season has been extended through to the end of October, the courses have been played a significant number of times and we have quite a lot of staff holidays still to accommodate, we will not be taking on a lot of winter project work this winter.

Aside from the few projects we will be proposing, we will be concentrating on course maintenance work, hoping for good weather so that we can get things done in preparation for the 2021 season.

Stewart Ritchie
Greens Convener

Ladies Report

The first two weeks of September were dominated by our attempts to conclude this year's Club Championship. With all the changes to the timing of the competitions the Ladies Championship finals took place over three weekends which, though not ideal, meant we could complete the competition. Our Club Champions for 2020 are Susie Macleod, who retained the Championship title; Fiona Lane, a new name on the Handicap Trophy, on her third attempt; and Margaret Stirton who won the Thelma Beatty Cup in the Senior Section.

We have competitions planned throughout October and have decided to align with the men and start our Winter Eclectic in November when the World Handicapping System comes into effect.

Gill Murray
Ladies Captain

Match & Handicap Report

Report for Council Meeting Tuesday 29th September

The Northern Counties at Tain were last week and sadly both our teams were eliminated after the second round. I have thanked everyone for making the effort to represent our golf club throughout 2020. A gallant effort by both teams.

Nothing too much to report this month as it looks like our competitive golf is all going well. The decision to extend our golf season to the end of October has been received very well by the members. These past few weeks of good weather have seen the golf club busy with everyone in good spirits. The Marquee area has proved a worthwhile exercise, but the 2-family rule has curtailed some groups from sitting together after golf.

The finals day was a relative success with all matches being played in good spirits. Congratulations to all the competitors. It just a pity we could not have had more spectators walk around the course as usual but understandable.

Dave McEwen

26 September 2020

Junior Report

Competitions

Our Junior Champions were decided on the weekends of 5th and 12th September. On the first weekend, Alice Rhodes defended her Armstrong Cup on Blairs. Thanks to Craig McCaul and Simon Longhurst for their assistance in walking round with the groups and keeping our juniors right with the rules etc.

Callum Bruce is our Junior Champion, winning at the tender age of just 13 by defeating brother Jason in an exciting Final where he came back from 3 down with 4 to play to triumph at the 20th. Matthew Saunders took the Handicap crown by defeating Jake Kelly on the final hole. Two great matches and thanks to Craig McCaul for refereeing the Handicap Final. And to Graeme for setting everything up so efficiently.

Our Junior Team took part in the Junior Home Nations Regional Qualifier at Monifieth on 6th September and the scores were tied on the day. The scoring is a slightly complex and two days later, we were advised that we had triumphed on countback by a single shot once the sixth and final score (only counted in the event of a tie) was taken into account. So literally every shot counted on the day! That took us to the Semi-Final at Duff House last Sunday, 20th September where we qualified for the Scottish Final as runners-up to Cruden Bay. Five teams will compete this Sunday, 4th October at Montrose for two places at the UK Finals in Cornwall in February which are televised on Sky. So fingers crossed for next week! Thanks to John Robertson for keeping me in touch with everything on the day and taking team photographs when I couldn't be there. And well played to Jason and Callum Bruce, Jack Chambers, Matthew Saunders, Ollie Robertson and Jake Kelly who have represented us.

Ian McPherson

Junior Convener

27 September 2020

Club Manager Report

Membership

Summary of membership as detailed below as at 31.08.20

Full	829
Senior	112
Honorary	7
Associate	23
Young Adult	24
House	142
House 5 Day	5
Country	26
Juniors 12-18	71
Juniors <12	23
Non Resident	77
Non Playing	30
Life Member	16
VIP's	7

Applications for membership

Full	Tony Laing	Scott Kelman	Anne Kelman
Full	Susan Proctor	Alexander Clark	Alan MacPhee
Full	Curt Keenan	Alan MacPhee	David Barclay
Full	Archana Kavi	Fiona Windle	Lesley Cruickshank
Junior	Aditi Kavi	Fiona Windle	Lesley Cruickshank
Full	Vikram Kavi	Fiona Windle	Lesley Cruickshank
Full	Chris Evans	Scott Gilmour	Patrick Ritchie
Full	Richard Evans	Scott Gilmour	Patrick Ritchie
Full	Frieda Morrison	Helene Rose	Robbie Rose
Full	Graham Buchanan	Maureen Buchanan	Isabel Clarkson
Full	Linda Dempsie	David Dempsie	Catriona Warnock
Full	Jordan Cheyne	Alastair Hutcheson	Dave McEwen
Full	Grant Jamieson	Arron Finnie	Kieran Findlay
Full	Denise Davies	Duncan Christie	Alan Grant
House	George Smith	William Laver	Alastair Chambers
House	Fay Smith	William Laver	Alastair Chambers
Full	Ian Aitchison	Alistair McDougall	Alan Gibson

Transfers from within the membership

Name	From	To	Comments
Sheilagh Belford	Lady Full	Lady Senior	
Douglas Davidson	Gent Full	Non-Playing	
Lynda Hall	Country	Lady Full	
Dennis Inkson	Gent Full	Gent Senior	
Alan O'Hanlon	Country	Gent Full	
David Richards	Non Playing	Gent Senior	

James G Smith	Gent Full	Gent Senior	
Harry Webster	Non-resident	Young Adult	

Resigned

- William McKenzie

Deceased

- George Robb

Waiting List

Defer 2021	Full Members	Total Junior List	
33	184	150	

General Information/Actions etc.

The new seven day rolling booking system is working well with no complaints from members to date.

In the month of August 3352 principal booker bookings were processed over both courses (1852 on Haughton and 1500 on Blairs). I am checking with Club Systems on some of their reporting options as I'm not sure they are accurate. I will update Council on Tuesday if I have any further interesting player/playing figures.

The annual Health and Safety Audit took place on Wednesday 23rd September. Once the report has been received, the actions will be addressed. There were no major issues.

The Trackman is almost ready to go. The carpet will be re-laid on Tuesday 29th September. Roger from Cyberdyne is arranging a wall mounted locked box for the Laptop and a pedestal for the touch screen. Training will take place after that. Rules and Regulations for use to be finalized with the Pro Shop.

F&B has been fairly consistent since re-opening on 26th August. Still some members not keen to come inside, therefore the marquee is still popular. As long as the weather allows, we will keep it open for business.

Christmas bookings – All Christmas booking have been contacted, some have cancelled already, some will hold off and make a final decision nearer the time.

Decision required on the Hogmanay Dinner Dance.

The Direct Debit run for the first five months (Oct – Feb) went smoothly on 24th September. We have 852 members paying by DD.

D PERN CCM
CLUB MANAGER