

**Minute of Council Meeting
held on 28th November 2023 @ 5.30pm**

Present:	S. Cruickshank	(Captain)
	D. Halliday	(Vice-Captain)
	A. Gordon	(Greens Convener)
	G. Pryde	(Finance Convener)
	J. Gove	(Ladies Captain)
	C. McCaul	(Junior Convener)

Apologies	A. Ross	(Match & Handicap)
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In Attendance:	D.P. Pern	(Club Manager)
	G Nethercott	(Head Professional)
	N. McLoughlin	(Course Manager)
	C Watson	(By invitation)

1. Welcome:

SC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute of Council held on 31st October 2023

The minute of the Council meeting on 31st October was approved.

3. Matters arising from the Minute:

- After discussion it was agreed that the visitor rate for 2024 will be £100 rack rate and £80 rate for Scottish Golf Members.
- After review, it was agreed that the standard application for membership to the club will be completed by the proposer and not the applicant. DP to send updated membership application to Council for approval.
- DP to continue looking for suitable reciprocal golf with other Clubs.

4. Reports

Captain's Report

- SC enjoyed hosting the VIP Afternoon Tea. A lovely afternoon reminiscing on old times. SC/AG/NM walked around the Haughton Course. It was agreed that many trees need pruned back and some conifers will be removed around the 15th tee.
It was agreed that past Ladies Captains will be included in the rota for presidents in the future. DO/JG to discuss further.
Feedback on the bunker project has been positive. After discussion it was agreed that the bunker at the 8th hole on Haughton will not be reinstated. The bunker on the right of 11 will be grass and the one on the left will be sand.

Finance Report

- GP gave a verbal update on the final accounts for 2022 – 2023 which are close to finalisation. The profit before corporation tax is £59k.
- The proposed Budget for the year ended 30 September 2024, which was circulated in advance of the meeting, was approved with one or two minor amendments. After discussion the proposed subscription increases effective from 1 March 2024 were agreed.
- Based on feedback from members, it was agreed to raise the senior member cap from 115 to 130, combined with a reduction in the discount given on senior member subscriptions.
- The proposed Capex Budget for the year to 30 September 2024 was approved, the main items being the rebunkering program, the refurbishment of the clubhouse and the purchase/replacement of essential course and kitchen equipment. The proposed capex budget for 2025-2028 was also discussed and agreed in principle, subject to the finalisation of costs, and an ongoing review of funding and the maintenance of cash reserves.
- A full finance report will be circulated to Council at the end of the first quarter (Dec 23).

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- November has presented persistent challenges with heavy rainfall, significantly impacting play on both courses. Towards the end of the month, the Haughton Course was reopened.
- Unfortunately, there were challenges with sewage seepage from several manholes across the courses. Scottish Water will be on site on the 29th November for cleanup and repairs. Additionally, plans are in place for a sewer-jetting machine to be brought on-site, aiming to mitigate and resolve these issues effectively.
- Following the consultation period for the bunker programme, the bunker programme for 2023 – 24 has commenced with the construction of bunkers on the 5th hole is progressing, with completion expected by the end of next week, pending any unforeseen issues. Turfing and base installation will follow, with plans to move to the 11th hole thereafter.
- Ongoing aeration work and leaf clearance are planned for the coming weeks. Once leaf clearing is completed, our attention will shift to tree work, encompassing pruning and felling activities.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The Blairs Christmas Cross Country fun competition is on the 8th December. (weather permitting). The ladies tee times on the Haughton Course will be released.
- The fixture list for 2024 is now complete and the ladies committee have finalised all the ALCGA (County) matches, along with all Friendly matches home & away for 2024.
- JG passed on request from a member on Juniors playing in the Club Championship and comments on the winter course set up.
- Early in November JG was delighted to host a lunch for 17 Past Ladies Captains. Elaine Farquharson Black and DP also joined. It was a lovely afternoon with ladies

reminiscing on their tenure as Captains. A big thank you to Deeside GC as it was a very special afternoon for us all.

- Captain SC also invited me to the VIP members afternoon tea . Again a lovely afternoon.
- JG has attended meetings with DH, DP and Fiona Young, the architect appointed to oversee the refurbishment of the internal areas of the Clubhouse.
- The annual Ladies Prize-Giving will be held on the 16th December.

Match & Handicap Report

- Nothing to report

Junior Report

- The Junior Prizegiving was well attended. Thanks to the pro Shop team for all their organising. CM will discuss and appoint the Junior Captain in the next couple of months.

Pro Shop Report

- The 12 Days of Christmas Promotion commences on the 1st December where the team offer a promotion on a different part of the shop each day. This was very successful last year on the run up to Christmas.
- The Pro Shop are currently finalising the Gents, Ladies & Junior fixture lists for 2023 with a view for these to be input into Club V1 in January.
- GN is currently updating the Mens Competition Info Sheet to be uploaded to the website/Club V1 App.
- The Gents Cross Country & Christmas Lunch is scheduled for Saturday 23rd December. GN has relaxed the requested attire & not included drinks in the set price to try and encourage more members to attend the event.
- Ping, TaylorMade & Wilson are all releasing new equipment in February. GN has ordered the relevant fitting equipment & pre orders.
- Jason Bruce is the first member since Dick Willox in 1992 to win the Dunriach Cup, Beldornie & Stroke Play Championship all in the same year. Jason has also won the Duncan Skinner Quaich & Haughton Timepiece (Gents Open) giving him a clean sweep of scratch trophies. Would it be appropriate to commemorate this achievement by placing a picture on the wall in the trophy room as it is a historical achievement. After discussion, Council agreed that this may set a precedent, therefore whilst it was a good idea, it requires more thought.
- Following a request from a member and after Council discussion it was agreed that Junior members would be invited to play in the Gent's Club Championship by invitation only and they must also compete in the Junior Championship.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	793
Senior members	127
Associate 30 – 34	13
Associate 24 – 29	20
Young Adults	31
House/Non Playing	171

Senior VIP	11
House 5 Day	2
Country	18
Junior 12 – 18	98
Junior under 12	43
Non Resident	61
Life	15
Honorary	8

- Applications for membership – October/November

House	Graham Payne	William Jamieson	Ian Logan
Junior	Jack Henderson	Graham Henderson	Simon Billeau
Full	Jorg Kohnert	Paul Dumont	Ian Frizell
Junior	Harrison McIntosh	Paul Dumont	Graham Henderson
Full	Andrew McIntosh	Paul Dumont	Graham Henderson

- **Transfers from within the membership**
Mike Brown from Full to Non-playing
Duncan Glennie Country to Full
William Howarth Young Adult to Non-resident
John Hunter Full to Non-playing
Harry Webster Young Adult to Non-resident
- **Deceased**
Richard Allan - Full
- **Resigned**
Julie Stewart - House
- **New members**
Dylan Fiddes – Junior 12 - 18
Austin Hughes – Junior <12
James Marnoch – Junior 12 - 18
- **Waiting List**
287 on Full waiting list
5 on deferred list (2023)
19 on House list
- **Course Usage – H & B**

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept		
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	3869	809	0	0	2451	5930	5435	7156	6939	6244	5130	47836
2021													
2022	3659	2131	1843	2926	2250	3502	4501	5221	5548	5495	5362	5236	47674

2022													
2023	3179	1361	90	1245	2355	2220	4073	5548	5288	5684	6381	4880	42304
2023													
2024													

General Information/Actions/Requests etc

- Following on from last month's request on reciprocals request. Nairn West has declined, DP still waiting for an answer from Bruntsfield.
- Offers of membership have been sent out 50 applicants.
- The new application for membership process is progressing. DP to circulate to Council for review.
- DH and DP to meet with Kirsty Mclean to progress with 18th Bank etc.

5 Capital Projects

DH updated Council and will update members at the Information evening on 5th December. The timeline for the proposed refurbishment was discussed and approved. The Clubhouse projects will be split into internal and external phases. Fiona Young from Cummings & Co will coordinate the internal refurbishment and Chris Smith from Davidson Smith will coordinate the external project with DH overseeing both phases. The budget for both projects was discussed and agreed in principle and will be closely monitored, before and during the phases. The timeline will be:

Lower ground floor ladies and gent's locker rooms will be completed by May 2024.

Ground floor refurbishment will be completed by October 2024 with the bulk of the work taking place while the Clubhouse is quieter over the summer months. The internal work will be in three mini phases, trophy, lounge, restaurant. The proposed outdoor balcony will be completed by April 2025.

6 Marketing

GN & DP met with Liam from Platform77 to progress with the marketing strategy. DP circulated two documents received on the Digital Marketing Audit and the Overview of Club marketing and communications. DP to finalise the website brief and circulate to Council for review.

7 Information Evening

The presentation will be finalised and presented to members on 5th December.

8 Health & Safety

Nothing to report

9 AOCB

Nothing to report

Next Meeting Tuesday 30th January at 5.30pm in the trophy room

