

**Minute of Council Meeting
held on 25th July 2023 in the Trophy Room @ 5.30pm**

Present:	S. Cruickshank	(Captain)
	D. Halliday	(Vice-Captain)
	A. Gordon	(Greens Convener)
	J. Gove	(Ladies Captain)
	G. Pryde	(Finance Convener)
	A. Ross	(Match & Handicap)
Apologies:	C. McCaul	(Junior Convener)
In Attendance:	D.P. Pern	(Club Manager)
	G Nethercott	(Head Professional)
	N. McLoughlin	(Course Manager)

Council carried out a course walk on the Houghton Course, looking at the bunker project and proposed new short course. More details on both will be communicated when details are finalised.

- 1. Welcome:**
SC welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Minute of Council held on 27th June 2023**
The minute of the Council meeting on 27th June 2023 was approved.
- 3. Matters arising from the Minute:**
 - NM – the new sail on the driving range is not the quality or colour required. NM to arrange replacement black sails from existing supplier with the Deeside logo.
 - GP to progress with the Rules and Regulations update with assistance from David Rennie.
 - DH is progressing well with the redevelopment of the outside area and the refurbishment of the Clubhouse. All appointed professional advisors are working on the feasibility study for Council's consideration before presenting a short list of options to members later in the year.
 - GP/AG/JG/DP continue to progress with the proposed survey document. DP provided a summary which GP/AG/JG will feedback on, before circulating to Council.
 - A short course (green) will be introduced over the coming year to provide greater playability for member. Following the course walk round, the locations of the green tees were identified, some from the blue tees, others are new. Further work is required to establish ground conditions, health and safety, course length etc. The new short course would have a separate in-house score card for now.
 - NM explained the process of planting wildflowers on 18th bank. After discussion it was agreed this was not the best use for the bank. DP to contact Kirsty Mclean from Garden Design Scotland for other options. Kirsty completed all the existing planting.
 - NM confirmed that the white posts have been installed on the driving range and will be painted very soon. DH suggested that once the posts had been painted the driver ban

could be lifted in all the bays. After discussion it was agreed to introduce drivers in one more bay only.

- NM to continue scraping organic matter from the swale at holes 4,5&6 on Haughton when the water subsides.
- AG/NM to progress with a review of the Course Policy.
- AG/NM to progress with the Winter Course.
- AG/NM to progress with the five year capex year plan.
- NM confirmed that the blower is waiting for a new part before decision is made on trading it in. Currently there is a blower on loan on site. Cost of a new blower would be £9k.
- DP has confirmed live music for members/guest day.

4. Reports

Captain's Report

- SC congratulated the pennant on reaching the Semi-final of the Pennant League. It was agreed that AR would check if the team could have courtesy of Peterculter for a practice round beforehand.
- SC reported that there had been two emails from members concerned about slow play on a Wednesday. After much discussion it was agreed that there would be no change for now, but it would be closely monitored closely over the next few weeks.

Finance Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The profit & loss results for June 2023 and for the 9 months to date are set out below, along with a comparison to both the Budget and the position in June 2022. These include the final VAT adjustments for the quarter ended 30 June 2023 and the annual partial exemption calculation.

	Actual £	Budget £	Prior year £
June 2023 - Net Profit (Loss)	(14,007)	14,906	17,415
Year to Date - Net Profit (Loss)	32,279	(65,344)	56,071

- The net result for the month of June is £29k behind the Budget, however we remain well ahead (£97k) of the Budget for the 9 months to date. The adverse variance in the month arises mainly due to the timing of expenditure. The annual insurance renewal of £17.5k was in the budget for May but was only invoiced in June; and also in the month, course costs exceeded budget by £10k (but are still £15k less than budgeted for the year to date). In terms of income in the month, the main variances were green fees (members guests/visitors/outings) which were £4k less than budgeted.

- F&B had a profit of £5k for the month before loyalty discount of £6k, so a net loss of £1k overall. The Budget for June was for a loss of £3.5k. For the 9 months, F&B made a net loss of £37k, being a loss of £1k, less loyalty discount of £36k. This result is £22K better than the Budget, down to both an improved gross profit and lower staff costs.
- Golf Operations were breakeven for the month (Budget - £2k net profit). For the 9 months to the end of June, the net loss is £19k (Budget - £20.5k loss). The gross profit from retail sales for the 9 months was almost exactly as budgeted, income from coaching and Trackman was £1.5k less than expected and staff/other costs were lower by £3k.
- Subscription income – the subscription income in the Budget for the year ended 30 September 2023 is £1.257m. All subs for the 2022/23 playing season have now been collected (the final direct debit payments were taken at the start of July) and the initial calculations shows that subs income for the year will be close to the budget. A full reconciliation will be undertaken as of 31 July to confirm the final number as there are always differences caused by members changing categories, resignations etc.

Balance Sheet Review

- Bank Balances on 30 June 2023 – total of £1.072m. Funds of £595k were held in the Virgin Money UK working accounts. There is a further £154k in instant access accounts and we have £323k invested in longer term deposit accounts.
- Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations – £540k, leaving circa £530k for capital improvements.
- Capital Expenditure on improvements and investment in the facilities of the Club – the following quotes have been approved and will be invoiced on completion:
 - £15k for the review of external dining options, key systems & capacity, energy efficiency, drainage for 1st & 18th holes and the refurbishment of the clubhouse.
 - £9k for the bunker masterplan for the remaining 15 holes.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Courses:
The weather in July proved to be as challenging as the previous month, with an unusually high amount of rainfall, reaching over 90mm to date. To combat the excess water, the team undertook multiple pencil tining operations on the greens, ensuring they remained open and well-draining. Additionally, verticutting and topdressing were increased to manage thatch levels which could increase because of the rapid growth rates. The greens have responded positively to the extra care.
Efforts to clear the scrub area between the 4th, 5th, and 6th holes continued, but unfortunately, the standing water in the wetland posed some challenges, preventing digger use. At the end of June, there was a demonstration of autonomous mowers on the Blairs course. Following the positive response, the company will be returning to set

up the mowers for a week-long trial to evaluate their performance and potential benefits.

- **Staff:**
Adam Lindsey moved on to Banchory Golf Club take the Head Greenkeeper's position on the 14th of July. In discussion with both SC and AG it was agreed to restructure the team. David Middleton will take on the responsibility of Head Green Keeper for both Haughton and Blairs, with the rest of the team invited to apply for the newly created 1st Assistant position. Both positions will take effect on the 1st August.
- **Driving Range:**
The installation of a new sail has been completed, and due to design issues with the first one, the supplier will not be charging for it.
All new posts for the driving range have been successfully installed, and the final touch of painting them white is underway. Furthermore, the yardage signs have been realigned and the numbers replaced.
Red, white and blue pins will be added to the Driving Range.
- **Bunkers:**
In preparation for the winter season and in line with the bunker programme, a list of bunkers will be re-developed and others filled in. The decisions are based on factors such as maintenance, playability and flooding.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The ladies had a busy July fixture list which included The President's Prize, where JG was delighted to welcome President Frank Coutts and his wife Sheila to our soup & sandwich lunch. 50 ladies listened to Frank talk about his time at Deeside Golf Club. Frank then presented our winners Alison Graham (Division A) Marta Moody (Division B) Elaine Smith (Blairs 9 hole comp) with prizes.
- Craibstone Golf Club hosted 8 Deeside ladies as part of our Greensomes Friendly Fixture. Deeside won 3/1.
- SVLGA Northern Division (Vintage Vets) played at Alford Golf Club.
3 Deeside ladies were in the winning circle, (Division 1) 1st Alison Graham (Division 2) 2nd Fiona Gibb. June Stewart won the Tony Moffat Clock for best score.
- Deeside hosted ALCGA (County) competition with 70 ladies making up the field. Thanks to Graeme and his team for all their help making the day run smoothly. A special thank you also goes out to Nick Henderson, who acted as course starter.
- The away day to Turriff Golf Club Triam on Saturday was a great success. 40 ladies travelled by coach to Turriff. JG thanked her committee for their help.
The Deeside team comprising Natalie Murphy, Pam Snape & Angela Veitch won the main competition. Longest Drives went to Susie Mcleod (Silver Division) & Natalie Murphy (Bronze Division). The Deeside Competition was won by Team Natalie, Pam & Angela , Longest Drive Susie. Nearest the Pin Margaret Parkinson.

Match & Handicap Report

- Pennant team. For the first time in ten years Deeside pennant team have reached the semifinal of the pennant league. Home win against Bon Accord has set up a semifinal clash against Royal Aberdeen at Peterculter golf course on Sunday August 6th 12 pm tee off time.

Junior Report

Nothing to report.

Pro Shop Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Footfall through the shop has reduced first couple weeks of July, most probably due to inclement weather and holidays.

The Professional Shop is currently ordering stock for next season.

It has become apparent that 'online' have extreme levels of overstocking. The industry is expecting online discounting on the run up to the end of the season. The support of the membership during this period will be very much appreciated. We can source most brands & will always try our best to be competitive. Please speak to a member of the team before clicking online.

GN is absolutely delighted by the number of children attending our junior coaching sessions & camps (thanks to Sam & Kevin for pushing).

Kevin Duncan has settled in extremely well. Thank you to everyone for their patience whilst Kevin gets up to speed with the Deeside way.

There are still issues with Club Systems on a Saturday. The system will no longer allow us to have two competitions (Gents & Ladies) overlapping. Unfortunately, this means that Ladies will book casually until Club Systems find a fix for this issue.

New scorecards ordered & delivered with the new lighter blue flag colour. This will keep us going until the end of Winter.

Visitors – GN requested that the Club introduce a Scottish rate green fee circa 20% of the green fee to increase visitor income without having a detrimental effect on the membership. After discussion it was agreed to promote an offer of £200 for a four ball during the month of August as many members will be away on holiday and the tee is expected to be quiet. DP/GN to research external marketing companies to assist with marketing and promotion.

On the back of successful junior coaching camps, many parents are enquiring about membership. After discussion it was agreed that young Juniors aged 7 – 11 who have been coached by the Pro Shop team, would be offered membership with approval from both Pro team and Junior Convener.

Club Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	795
Senior members	128
Associate 30 – 34	13
Associate 24 – 29	22
Young Adults	34
House/Non Playing	169
Senior VIP	11

House 5 Day	2
Country	20
Junior 12 – 18	88
Junior under 12	32
Non Resident	57
Life	15
Honorary	8

- Applications for membership – June/July

Full	Inga Cottrill	Gary Innes	Andrew Jarvie
Full	Clark Yeats	Paul Mitchell	Frank Mitchell
Full	Cameron Welsh	Helene Rose	Robert Rose
Full	Barry Fraser	Gordon Gibb	Arron Finnie
Full	Michael Stott	Tom Rennie	David Rennie
Full	Iain Macdonald	Colin Hopkins	Martin Skinner
Full	Lewis Macdonald	Colin Hopkins	Martin Skinner

- Transfers from within the membership – June

Mike Brown – Non-playing to Full

Mike Kay – Non-playing to Full

Brody Hay – Junior <12 Junior 12 – 18

- Resigned

John Edmond Jnr – Full

Wilma McPherson - House

- Deceased

Irene Duncan - House

- New members

Jamie Findlay – Junior <12

Brody Hay – Junior 12 – 18

Freddie Horn – Junior <12

Connor McCormack – Junior 12 – 18

Findlay Nesbitt – Junior <12

Dylan Pearson – Junior 12 – 18

Harry Smith – Junior <12

- Waiting List - April

252 on Full waiting list

42 on deferred list

9 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				

- **General Information/Actions/Requests etc.**

JG, GP, AG met on 21st July to progress with the Club survey document.

Having discussed the break-in with the Insurance company it was agreed not to claim on the policy for such a small amount.

It was agreed to charge members £20 to enter the members guest day. The £20 will go directly to the charity (Camphill). It will include two mulligans, beat the pro and a raffle ticket.

Request from Befriend a Child Charity to host a golf day at Deeside in August 2024. Approved.

5. Capital Projects

Covered in matters arising.

6. Strategy Update

Covered in matters arising.

7. Health & Safety

Nothing to report

8. AOCB

Nothing to report

Next Meeting Tuesday 29th August at 5.30pm in the trophy room

