

**Minute of Council Meeting**  
**held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 in the Trophy Room @ 5.30pm**

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

**1. Welcome:**

Captain SC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Minute of Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

The minute of the Council meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 was approved.

**3. Matters arising from the Minute:**

- NM to follow up with new sails on the Driving Range.
- Junior induction for new members will be arranged next month.

**4. Reports**

**Captain's Report**

- SC met with members to discuss various comments. SC to follow up with email replies.
- It was agreed that the executive summary of finance reporting in the minute is sufficient for the members.
- DP confirmed that rigorous procurement procedures are in place for all capital expenditure exceeding £5000. Depending on the project, contractors and estimated costs, two or three quotes are always required before a final decision is made.
- NM to meet with a member to discuss the Northern Perimeter Drain.
- It was agreed that the Club will continue to charge a reduced rate to members wishing to hire the conference room.
- SC thanked Laings for the additional work they carried out on the Gents toilet at no cost to the Club.
- Having received three quotes, the kitchen extractor fan was replaced, and a hatch created for easier access in future. SC thanked DP and Head Chef Mark for their quick response to the issue.
- DH confirmed that research is ongoing to both refurbishment of locker rooms and energy efficient systems within the Club. More details under Strategy Plan.
- SC was delighted to win the Captain v Vice Captain annual match. 94 players played and enjoyed Soup and Sandwiches after the game.

- Email received from a member requesting that dogs be allowed to accompany golfers on the Blairs Course only. This was approved with the following regulations:
  - Dogs to be kept on the lead at all times.
  - All liability is with the dog owner.

### **Finance Report**

- In GP's absence a brief Finance report was circulated in advance.
  - Early indications show that February Management accounts show a better than budget for the month by £5k. In particular, the results for F&B and Golf Ops are both much better than budget – F&B is £6k ahead and Golf Ops is £2k ahead.
  - At the April meeting management accounts for the 6 months to 31<sup>st</sup> March will be available. GP/DP will update Council on member numbers and the likely subscription income for the year.
  - GP/DP will provide a detailed look at the senior member category and report back at the April meeting.

### **Greens Convener and Course Manager Report**

- The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:
- The new bunkers along with the existing trial bunkers have been filled with a new type of sand which is being trialled this season.
- The new path between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> has been completed, with only some turfing around the edges to be completed.
- The greens have been verti-drained to open up the surfaces to allow air/water movement through the rootzone and reduce compaction. The greens will be scarified when weather allows.
- Maintenance on the worst affected fairways will commence as temperatures rise, this will include raking, overseeding and topdressing.
- Work on the sump area between holes 4,5 and 6 on Haughton will commence very shortly.
- Two new members of staff, one full time and one seasonal have been employed, replacing two who have moved on.
- A representative from one of the Club's suppliers Tacit will be on site week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> April to look at the Driving Range before finalising the design and cost for new sails.
- New white posts to line both sides of the driving range outfield have been ordered.
- Construction of the shed has been completed, now waiting for final completion certificate before moving the equipment across. Once this has been completed GS Robertson will commence with the re-cladding of the existing shed as planned.
- Quotes to be sought for tarring the path from the roadside to the Clubhouse/Marquee area. SC to give NM another contact for alternative quote.

### **Ladies' Captain Report**

- The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:
- The winter programme was completed with the Chris Wilson Quaich, an annual competition played on a winter-conditions course. The ladies were delighted to celebrate with Catriona Milne after her hole in one @ the 1st.
- Tuesday 28th March starts the season with our popular Pink Elephant fun competition on the Haughton & Blairs. Entry fee £3.00 which raised £212 for Breast Cancer.

- JG sought clarification on the Ladies' Captain position on Council. DP confirmed that the Ladies Captain has equal voting rights on any Council decisions.
- JG attended the new members night where a number of new ladies were present. JG to organize a Texas Scramble with supper for the new ladies. JG to encourage existing members to participate.
- Past ladies' Club Champion, Susie Mcleod has confirmed she will not be renewing her membership.
- JG confirmed the ladies are delighted with the new pathway leading to the 2nd hole.
- DP to arrange for the ladies' toilet seat in the course toilet to be replaced.

### **Match & Handicap Report**

- The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:
- Pennant Team - WhatsApp group created with 17 names including one new member.
- Northern Counties - held at Moray Golf Club. Two teams have been entered. Practice dates have been booked on 14<sup>th</sup> September. Four twin rooms have been reserved in the Eight Acres Hotel.
- Match v Junior Pennant team has been agreed and booked for Sunday 23rd of April.
- Pennant team uniform has been ordered.

### **Junior Report**

- Nothing to report.

### **Pro Shop Report**

- A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:
- GN attended the Winter Fours Lunch on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March. GN thanked Tom O'Rourke for all his hard work every Winter looking after the Winter Fours.
- GN attended the Winter Eclectic Lunch on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Sadly, another poorly attended event - 22 from 120 players. The following suggestions have been made to grow the lunch including individual payment instead of 'divvy up'; making jacket, shirt & tie non-compulsory & making the final round a shotgun start. There is an appetite from those who attended the lunch to keep the competition a relaxed format with a percentage of the winnings going towards the juniors (e.g. THISGIRLGOLFS). More thoughts & discussions required in plenty of time before next winter.
- All winter orders have been made from Glenmuir/Sunderland, Under Armour, FootJoy, Green Lamb & Pure Golf for 2023/24.
- The Pro Shop are currently looking for a very part time helper (last year of school/university student) to cover junior coaching sessions in the evening. This role may increase in the summer if our current part-timers have a summer placement elsewhere.
- The Child Safeguarding Policy was approved by Council.

### **Club Manager Report**

- Membership Numbers:
 

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Full members      | 802 |
| Senior members    | 129 |
| Associate 30 – 34 | 13  |
| Associate 24 – 29 | 24  |
| Young Adults      | 34  |
| House/Non Playing | 179 |

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Senior VIP      | 11 |
| House 5 Day     | 3  |
| Country         | 20 |
| Junior 12 – 18  | 81 |
| Junior under 12 | 24 |
| Non Resident    | 67 |
| Life            | 15 |

- Applications for membership – February

|        |                 |                   |                   |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Full   | Debbie Marshall | Carol Eddie       | Susanne Middleton |
| Junior | Jamie Findlay   | Atholl Taylor     | Brad Youngson     |
| Full   | Rod Phillips    | Gary Wood         | Cliff Grimmer     |
| Full   | Alan Brown      | Gary Wood         | Cliff Grimmer     |
| Full   | Aidan Combe     | Stuart Cumming    | Daniel Cumming    |
| Full   | Graham Wood     | Alastair Smith    | Colin Edward      |
| Full   | Graham Jones    | Martin Sinclair   | Robert Bain       |
| Full   | Craig McFarlane | Clark Neish       | Neil Warnock      |
| House  | Joan Harrow     | Elizabeth Thomson | David Thomson     |
| Full   | Liam Kerr       | Graeme Nisbet     | Simon Cruickshank |

- Transfers from within the membership – February

|                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Philip Adams        | Gent Associate to Full               |
| Elizabeth Benton    | 5 Day House to House                 |
| Derek Boyne         | Full to Senior                       |
| Jon Brown           | Associate 25-29 to Associate 30-34   |
| Alex Cameron        | Full to Senior                       |
| Adam Christie       | Junior 12-18 to Young Adult 19-24    |
| Donald Coutts       | Full to Senior                       |
| Alan Croll          | Full to Senior                       |
| Simon Cruickshank   | Associate 30-34 to Full              |
| Daniel Cumming      | Non-resident to Full                 |
| Lewis Forbes        | Junior 12 – 18 to Young Adult 19-24  |
| Matt Fraser         | Young Adult 19-24 to Associate 25-29 |
| Sam Fraser          | Associate 25-29 to Associate 30 – 34 |
| Douglas Gallacher   | Full to Senior                       |
| Elizabeth Gallacher | Full to Senior                       |
| Master CM Gove      | Junior 12 – 18 to Young Adult 19-24  |
| Mark Hamilton       | Country to Non-Resident              |
| Chris Handsley      | Junior 12 – 18 to Young Adult 19-24  |
| Andrew Hardie       | Associate 30-34 to Full              |
| James Jarvie        | Junior <12 to Junior 12 – 18         |
| Aditi Kavi          | Junior <12 to Junior 12 – 18         |
| Alex Kelly          | Junior <12 to Junior 12 – 18         |
| Sam Kelsey          | Young Adult 19-24 to Associate 25-29 |
| DIC Lakin           | Associate 30-34 to Full              |
| David Landsman      | Full to Senior                       |
| Raymond Massie      | Full to Senior                       |
| Austin McCaul       | Junior <12 to Junior 12 – 18         |
| Cameron McIntyre    | Junior 12 – 18 to Young Adult 19-24  |

|                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Joe Miller         | Junior 12 – 18 to Young Adult 19-24  |
| Kate Milne         | Full to Senior                       |
| Linda Moore        | Full to Senior                       |
| Turlough O’Riordan | Full to House                        |
| Charlie Parker     | Junior 12 – 18 to Young Adult 19-24  |
| Lewis Pirie        | Junior <12 – Junior 12 – 18          |
| Gary Queen         | House to Full                        |
| Fiona Reiss        | Non-Playing to Senior                |
| Kirsty Scott Brown | Junior <12 to Junior 12 – 18         |
| Ron Shand          | Full to Senior                       |
| Jenny Skene        | Full to Senior                       |
| Andrew Skinner     | Associate 25-29 to Associate 30-34   |
| Anna Skinner       | Young Adult 19-24 to Associate 25-29 |
| Jeff Smith         | Full to Senior                       |
| MEA Stephen        | Young Adult 19-24 to Associate 25-29 |
| June Stewart       | Full to Senior                       |
| Dave Stewart       | Full to Senior                       |
| Harry Strachan     | Junior <12 to Junior 12 – 18         |
| David Suttie       | Full to Senior                       |
| Robin Whyte        | Full to Senior                       |
| Gordon Williamson  | Senior to Senior VIP                 |
| Kevin Willox       | Associate 25 – 29 to Associate 30-34 |
| Calum Wood         | Junior <12 to Junior 12 – 18         |
| Fin Yeats          | Junior 12 – 18 to Young Adult 19-24  |

- **Resigned**

Mrs M Aitchison – House  
 Kevin Davidson – Non-Resident  
 Mark Fraser – Full  
 Yv Garta - Junior <12  
 Clara Gove – Young Adult 19-24  
 William Howarth – Junior <12  
 Laura Jarvie – Full  
 Rob McPherson – Full  
 Peter Masters – Full  
 Libby Milne – Full  
 Fred Nicol – Full  
 Gerald O’Kane – Full  
 Jean Paton – House  
 Brian Rodger - Full  
 GBP Smith – Full  
 Neil Smith - Full  
 Gavin Stephen – Full  
 Ron Still – House  
 Catriona warnoch - Full

- **New members – February**

Liam Bisset – Junior <12  
 Lyall Bisset – Junior <12  
 Mark Bruce – House

Phyllis Bruce – House  
 Nanette Davidson-Lamb – House  
 Rhys Davison – Junior <12  
 Charles Desmazes – Full  
 Irene Duncan – House  
 Karen Duncan – House  
 Meg Duncan – House  
 Stuart Duncan – House  
 Allister Dunlevy – House  
 Doris Edwards – House  
 Neil Galbraith – House  
 Kim Guthrie – House  
 Kenneth Marshall – House  
 Pamela McHaffe – House  
 Graeme McRobb – House  
 Muriel Reekie – House  
 Pat Reid – House  
 Paul Reid – Full  
 Phyllis Scott – House  
 Oliver Shand Junior <12  
 Archer Wallace – Junior <12  
 Caroline Wood – House

- Waiting List - adjusted in February  
 217 on Full waiting list  
 42 on deferred list  
 4 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 |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |

#### 5. Capital Projects

- The Green keeping shed has been completed.
- The path between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> has been completed.
- The steps at the 1<sup>st</sup> tee have been completed.
- The bunker project on holes 3,4 and 5 has been completed.

#### 6. Strategy Plan

- DH updated Council on progress with various SP initiatives.

- Two quotes have been received from consultants to carry out a full holistic energy saving audit, including solar panels.
- DH is in discussions with a fellow member looking at the refurbishment of the locker rooms, the lounge, restaurant and trophy room (due at the end of 2024) and a feasibility study on the external marquee area.

**8. Health and Safety**

- Nothing to report.

**9. AOCB**

- JG requested that Council re-visit the decision on buggies. After discussion it was agreed to purchase two golf buggies for members, guest and visitor use. DP/GN/NM to look at options and quotes.
- AG to consolidate all the information gathered on flood mitigation from the engineers report, the flood workshop and member input and prepare a communication to members highlighting the issues that suggest investment would be better spent addressing other areas within the Club.
- NM is investigating the smell at the first tee with Scottish Water.
- NM to remove the pole in pond at the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Meeting 5.30pm – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April.**