

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

Present:	E. Farquharson-Black (Captain)	
	A. Gordon	(Greens Convener)
	D Macklin	(Match & Handicap)
	I. McPherson	(Junior Convener)
	G. Pryde	(Finance Convener)
	F. Windle	(Ladies Captain)
Apologies:	S. Cruickshank	(Vice-Captain)
In Attendance:	D.P. Pern	(Club Manager)
	N. McLoughlin	(Course Manager)
	R. McConnachie	(Head Professional)

- 1. Welcome:**
 - EFB/AG welcomed James Edward and Stuart Gillett from Edwards Design International, the Club's appointed Golf Course Architects. James and Stuart are spending two days at the Club, surveying all the facilities. The four areas they will focus on are flooding, tweaks to Haughton and Blairs, improvements to practice facilities and an overview of the whole facility. They will prepare a proposal and present this to Council and then members around August/Sept.
- 2. Minute of Council held on 27th April 2021**
 - The minute of the Council meeting on 27th April 2021 was approved.
- 3. Matters arising from the Minute**
 - AG updated Council on the progress with the proposed greenkeeping shed. Three of the five tenders were returned to McLeod & Aitken who have confirmed that due to the increased costs of concrete, steel and cladding the cost has risen to £300k+, with the quotes only valid for 30 days. It was agreed that AG/NM would discuss an alternative option with McLeod & Aitken. It was also highlighted, after discussion with EDI, that the shed location may have to be revised. NM confirmed that all the equipment is used on a regular basis, albeit some pieces of equipment are used more regularly in the winter and some others in the summer. It was agreed to review all equipment and look at alternative storage options, possibly off site.
 - AG/NM met with two members to discuss suggestion on preparing the winter course layout. A final winter course layout will be circulated for discussion at the July Council meeting.
 - A separate Council meeting with CCL has been arranged on Wednesday 18th August. This is a review of the Strategic Plan.
 - DP to progress with alternative option on EV charging point.
 - Junior Scholarships – IM to think about potential options for scholarships.

4. Reports

Captain's Report

- After discussion it was agreed that from Saturday 12th June, the playing format on a Saturday will revert back to three ball matches.
- After discussion it was agreed to continue with the same handicap format within each zone.
- The procedure for course closures was discussed at length. NM explained the difficulty in making early decisions when the weather is inclement. NM/AG to prepare a paper for display on the website and in the clubhouse detailing the timeline and procedure in carrying out early morning course inspections. It was agreed that the Pro Shop will make the decision on opening the course later in the day if conditions allow. AG to give the Pro Shop criteria on opening the courses.
- The issue with members not signing in before their tee time was discussed. RM is confident that all winnings are checked against sign in time.
- AG/NM to meet with two members to discuss the flooding.

Finance Report

- The full finance report was circulated in advance. To summarise:
 - The net operating loss for April was (£19.5k) against a budget of £6.5k. The April loss reflects the catch up in costs from earlier in the year. The operating profit for the year to date is £104k ahead of budget.
 - The bank balances on 30th April 2021 are as follows: Working accounts £733k, instant access account £147k and long-term investments £324k. Members Loyalty Card Balances due to members totalled £253k. This balance is at its highest level following the addition of the 2021/22 Bar & Catering Credits and loyalty refunds for last year of £52k.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Reports

- The full greens report was circulated in advance. To summarise:
 - May has been a cold and wet month, with temperatures constantly 2-3 degrees below normal for the time of year. Finally, some warmer weather appears to have kick started the growth on both courses and members can see better definition around the site. Recovery from the flood and ice damage has started with the two worst areas still being the 17th green on Haughton and the 1st green on Blairs. These areas have been overseeded again and recovery will continue over the next few weeks.
 - A new seasonal member of staff started in May.
 - NM/AG met with representatives from STRI to look at ways to reduce the amount of debris left on site after a flood. STRI will work with EDI to progress with options.

Ladies' Captain Report

- The full ladies report was circulated in advance: To summarise:
 - Ladies have good uptake of the reserved tee-times on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. FW is monitoring the situation weekly and working with Pro Shop team to release any unused tee times.
 - The Knock-out Competitions are progressing well. The Centenary Cup matches are being played as Fourball rather than Foursomes this year.

- The Club Championship qualifying competitions are completed (Scratch, Handicap and Seniors) and subsequent knockout draws are being finalised. As per previous years there has been relatively low sign-up for the Club Championship qualifiers, despite offering maximum flexibility. There seems to be a reluctance from some to play on Finals Day, and whilst this could be changed, FW is reluctant to take the opportunity away from those who do wish to play on Finals Day.
- The Club entered two teams to the ALCGA (County) Watt Duffus competition on 17th May at Newburgh-on-Ythan. Team 1 – Susie MacLead, Anne Harper, Susanne Middleton and Thelma Beattie – won the Handicap event. Team 2 also had a creditable score.
- There was an excellent turnout for the May Mixed Texas Scramble with the senior gents, and additional tee times for September event will be required.
- DGC will host the friendly match against Aboyne on Monday 24th since their course conditions are not up to scratch.
- 9 & Dine event on 3rd June will replace new members coffee morning and the 4 new ladies will be invited to participate.

Match & Handicap

- The full Match & Handicap report was circulated in advance: To summarise:
 - The Gents' team had a superb run in the Maitland Shield, making it to the final and narrowly losing out to Murcar. Mark, Jason, Kevin & Tom represented the club brilliantly all week.
 - The Blairs Club Championship is underway. DM has received some good positive comments as well as some constructive criticism on how to improve it. The final will now be played on Friday 4th June. EFB/DP met with Chris Carry of Jamieson & Carry, Jackie and Anna Skinner. It was agreed that Andy Skinner will come and present The Skinner Quaich to the winner on Saturday 26th June. The Quaich will be purchased by the Club.
 - The Club Matchplay competitions are underway. DM has received a few requests for extensions, which have been granted.
 - The Senior Northern Counties at Duff House Royal has been postponed until August due to COVID restrictions impacting teams from the Moray area. The same team will represent the club in August.
 - The Gents' Pennant kicks off on Tuesday 1st June. Home match vs Stonehaven. Team to be finalised imminently.
 - Discussions had with Pro Team regarding Club Championship Qualifying day, sign up for that is now open.
 - Received feedback from many category 1 golfers that improvements to the Strokeplay Championship would be well received. Will arrange time with RM & Graeme to discuss this further.

Junior Report

- The full Junior report was circulated in advance: To summarise:
 - The match against the Men's Pennant team took place on Sunday 2nd May and was an excellent warm-up for the season. A good test against some of the club's best players, who narrowly beat the juniors.
 - Coaching continues to be well attended and the juniors are progressing through the skill levels. It is also encouraging to see so many of those in coaching playing the Blairs' competitions on Saturdays.

- The first Pennant match against Westhill took place on 16th May. A little disappointing to come away with a draw when one match was conceded as Westhill couldn't field a full team.

Pro Shop Report

- The full Pro Shop report was circulated in advance: To summarise:
 - The shop has been extremely busy since restrictions have been lifted. Sales are doing well, however stock purchases remain a problem with delays in hardware hampering the custom fits etc.
 - Ongoing issues with technology particularly with Open competition entries and Ladies sign in for competitions. Club Systems will be on site on Thursday 27th May to try and solve the issues.
 - Gents' Pennant team kit has been finalised and an invoice sent to Saltire Energy.
 - Gents' Senior jumpers will be ordered. This is self funded.

Club Manager Report

- The full Club Manager report was circulated in advance. To summarise:
- Membership breakdown

○ Full	792
Senior	115
Associate	22
Young Adult	28
House/Non Playing	168
Senior VIP	11
House 5 Day	5
Country	24
Junior 12 – 18	74
Junior <12	26
Non Resident	73
Honorary	7
Life	15
Staff	19
 TOTAL	 1379

- Applications for membership

Junior	Lewis Bain	Andy Bain	TBA
Junior	Henry Desmazes	Gordon Buchan	Donald Coutts
Junior	Max Desmazes	Gordon Buchan	Donald Coutts
Full	Claire Desmazes	Gordon Buchan	Donald Coutts
Full	Susan Ruzska	Anna O'Byrne	Paul Birch
Full	Steve Phimister	Ian McRobbie	Gillian Summers
Full	Esther Hutchison	Sandy Hutchison	Michael Willett
Full	Paul Mercer	Philip Stratford	Ross Sinclair
Full	Michael Tough	Philip Stratford	Ross Sinclair
Full	Robert Ross	Elaine Rae	William Rae
Full	Greg McDonald	Duncan Fraser	Gregor Howe

- Transfers from within the membership 1st April – 30th April

Name	From	To
Gary Duff	Full	Non-playing
Harry Forbes	Young Adult	Non-Resident
Cameron Millar	Junior 12-18	Junior <12
A Scott	Young Adult	Non-Resident
Ian Thomson	Full	Senior
WA Welsh	Country	Non-Playing

- Resignations

James Barclay	House
AW Bathgate	Non Resident
E Corry	Non-Resident
EM Geddes	House
K Gouck	Non-Resident
Gillian Grigor	House
Susan Ion	House
Bryan Keith	House
Cameron McIntyre	Junior 12 - 18
Doranne Murray	House
I O'Carroll	House
Matthew Riddell	Junior 12 – 18
Alison Rowson	Full
A Scott	Non-Resident
Ali Shah	Non-Resident
Colin Shand	Non-Playing
J Smith	House
C Thomson	Non-Resident
A Thomson	House

- Deceased

- Helen Clarke – House
- Neil Kerr – House
- Duncan Skinner – Life member

- Waiting List

Defer 2022	Full Members	Total Junior List	
0	233	42	

- **General Information/Actions etc.**

- EV Charger – work in progress.
- SC and DP met and have agreed that Frank's retirement day will be on Saturday 28th August. More details will evolve over the coming weeks.
- Wifi access has been installed in the marquee to allow for a tablet till to operate. This will replace the current radio system.
- DP to arrange a meeting with new members, proposers and seconders.

5. Strategic Plan

- Council will meet on Sunday 13th June at 2.30pm to discuss progress.
- 6. Capital Projects**
- Covered in reports
- 7. Health and Safety**
- DP to arrange First Aid defibrillator training for the members.
- 8. AOCB**
- Nothing to report

Next Meeting 5.30pm – Tuesday 29th June 17.30