

**Minute of Council Meeting
held on 30th May 2023 in the Trophy Room @ 5.30pm**

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

Apologies:	D. Halliday	(Vice-Captain)
	A. Ross	(Match & Handicap)

In Attendance:	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 25th April 2023

The minute of the Council meeting on 25th April 2023 was approved.

3. Matters arising from the Minute:

- Currently, a single driving range sail is in production. Once it has been delivered and installed and Council are satisfied that the 'sail' is what is required then NM will proceed with ordering the remaining necessary items to complete the project.
- James Edwards from EDI was on site on 23rd May and met with NM and AG. James highlighted some problem bunkers for both staff and members. He will mark up a plan and circulate week commencing 5th June. Certain bunkers will be given priority on holes 1, 13, 14 and with more discussion possibly hole 18 over the winter. NM to prioritise holes for changes. In terms of cost, it will be around £9k for design work. The actual work will be completed in-house. More details in the Course Report.
- CM/GN confirmed that the Induction Day for Juniors was completed.
- It was agreed that the revision of the Rules and Regulations would be discussed with a well-respected lawyer who is a member of the Club.
- to contact a member to revisit the Rules and Regulations before contacting the Club's solicitors.
- Following the relaxation of the Dress Code, it was reported that no major issues have been reported.
- The path to Blairs/Marquee has been completed.
- Ladies competitions will include yellow tees from next season.
- DP, GP & JG to progress with the Club Survey and circulate the proposed questions before the next Council meeting.
- DP/GN -meet with Golf Genius – tournament software company.

4. Reports

Captain's Report

- SC reported that he had received an email from a member commenting that there was too much sand in some of the bunkers. NM explained that he cannot reduce the sand due to the capillary lined base. It was agreed to research a different type of rake for certain bunkers.

Finance Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The profit & loss results for the month of April 2023 and for the 7 months to date are set out below, along with a comparison to both the Budget and to the position in April 2022.

	Actual £	Budget £	Prior year £
April 2023 - Net Profit (Loss)	(5,090)	(8,692)	20,304
Year to Date - Net Profit (Loss)	39,314	(69,691)	24,105

- Overall, a satisfactory result for the month of April. It was a good trading month for both F&B and Golf Operations. Certain clubhouse costs were higher than budgeted for the month, but this is down to timing. The £20k net profit in April 2022 included over £14k of new member entry fees, whereas this year, most of the entry fees were paid prior to the end of March.
- Following Frankie Murray's resignation due to till irregularities, all outstanding coaching has been repaid to the Club. The internal investigation is ongoing and will be completed shortly.
- **F&B** returned a net profit for April of £1k, being a profit of £6.4k before the members' loyalty discount of £5.4k. This is the first monthly profit reported for F&B for some time! The Budget was for a loss of £6.4k for the month. All in all, a good month for F&B with increased sales, improved Gross Profit, and lower staff costs.
- The net profit from **Golf Operations** for the month was £2.3k (the Budget was for a loss of £300). Pro Shop sales were well ahead of budget again this month and the Gross Profit was 32%, which is good. Both coaching income and trackman income were also ahead of budget for the month.

Balance Sheet Review

- **Bank Balances at 30 April 2023 – total of £1,053k.** Funds of £577k were held in the Clydesdale Bank (Virgin Money UK) working accounts. There is a further £153k in instant access accounts and we have £323k invested in longer term deposit accounts.
- **Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations – £540k,** leaving circa £500k for capital improvements.
- **Members Loyalty Card Balances – £153k** at 30 April. All Bar & Catering credits have now been paid and added to members cards. This balance is likely to be at the highest point for the year.
- **Capital Expenditure** during the month included: the 2 new Golf Buggies at a cost of £18k + Vat and a further £7k + Vat for the fit out of the new greenkeeping shed.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- During the month of May, both courses have improved, particularly with the arrival of the warmer weather which has stimulated grass growth. To address weak areas, additional maintenance work was carried out which has helped recovery. Currently, there are protective hoops in specific locations to safeguard these areas.
- To maintain optimal conditions, the cutting height on the greens has been adjusted to 4mm, which is our designated summer cutting height. Additionally, the team consistently use the greens roller to enhance green speed. Occasionally, the greens are allowed to rest by skipping a day of cutting.
- Regrettably, the fountain in the 3rd pond is presently non-functional due to a power supply issue. After consulting with an electrician, NM has devised a solution by relocating the controls for the 3rd fountain to the same box that governs the 18th fountain, placing it above the flood plain. This work will be completed in the next few weeks.
- The team plan to excavate drainage sumps in the area between the 4th, 5th, 6th and the waste area in front of the 9th tees in the next couple of weeks which will hopefully improve the drainage in these areas.
- Maintenance Shed - Both sheds have now been successfully completed. The focus has now shifted towards organizing and tidying up the top compound area while ensuring efficient utilization of the available space in both sheds.
- Bunker Project - During a comprehensive walk of the course, each bunker was meticulously examined, deliberating on whether to rebuild, relocate or transform them into grass hollows, similar to what was accomplished on the 2nd hole. EDI will now draft a plan based on the discussions, providing Council with an opportunity to review and suggest any modifications before proceeding with the full plan. NM anticipates receiving the draft plan by early June which will be circulate to Council.

Ladies' Captain Report

- The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The Club Championship Qualifying competitions are complete and knockout draws are finalised.
- JG attended The Eden Course, St Andrews to support the ladies in the Coronation Foursomes Final. Jayne Leith & Alison Graham enjoyed the experience and made Deeside proud.
- JG met with Nicki Oxlade from the R&A and also spoke with Niall Farquharson, Chairman of the R&A board.
- DGC hosted the Aberdeenshire Ladies County Golf Association Watt Duffus Competition. Deeside entered two teams. The winner of three of the trophies was Murcar Links. Aberdeen Ladies won the Handicap Trophy.
- DGC hosted a friendly match with Aberdeen ladies. Deeside ladies had a resounding win (3 wins & 1 draw)

Match & Handicap Report

- Nothing to report.

Junior Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The new members induction was held on 20th May, attended by 3 families and 5 juniors.
- Junior Pennants - Deeside 1 – only one match played so far, 7-1 win over Westhill. Royal Aberdeen fixture cancelled as RA have withdrawn from league due to insufficient players. Deeside 2 – 8-0 win against Aboyne. 4-4 draw against Newmachar and 6-2 defeat against Cruden Bay.
- Junior Success - Scratch Junior Oli Blackadder won the Junior Tour Scotland event at Portpatrick with rounds of 72, 68 & 68.

Pro Shop Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- With the recent resignation of Frankie Murray, Sam Kiloh has been promoted to 1st Assistant Professional. Sam is only one year away from completing his traineeship and fully deserves the opportunity. GN and DP interviewing this week for a replacement training applicant/trainee assistant to fill the vacant role.
- GN had a recent meeting with Foremost Golf who explained that the industry average for Professional Shops in Scotland is down by 1.7% compared to last year, Deeside is currently (according to Foremost) 11.8% up.
- GN also had a meeting with Ping who explained that Deeside numbers are 98.2% up on last year. My thanks go to the team for their custom fitting element at Deeside and to the members for supporting the Professional Shop.
- Unfortunately, the Super Seniors event that was created for the Blairs Course has only encouraged 25 participants. Despite the feedback being very positive about the event & course condition the probability is event will not be run again next year; however, GN will look to add a Senior Stableford on Haughton later in the season due to the increased demands on our current Senior Open.
- GN and Sam are looking to re-start the Monday & Friday junior groups w/c 5th June. GN will also re-start ladies coaching on a Thursday however will need to combine groups or move participants to a Monday.
- GN has had a number of comments about the colour of the Blue flags, they are too dark. A request to order lighter blue.

- The pro shop team have been working together to try and improve the procedures in the Professional Shop. Whilst there is no watertight system, there is a new process in place for green fees and a tighter reconciliation for lessons/custom fits has been put in place.
- Club Matches – It was agreed at a previous council meeting for the Professional Shop to take a more proactive role in the matches at Deeside. After discussion with Alan Ross, it was agreed that certain decisions are better coming from the Match & handicap Convener. Moving forward, all decisions/disputes will be resolved with Match & handicap Convener.
- GN requested that for those injured, they could get a deal on buggy rental, perhaps a £100 for five rentals. After discussion it was agreed that this would not be approved, as the charge to members for buggy hire is already discounted.

Club Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	794
Senior members	128
Associate 30 – 34	13
Associate 24 – 29	22
Young Adults	32
House/Non Playing	172
Senior VIP	11
House 5 Day	2
Country	20
Junior 12 – 18	81
Junior under 12	27
Non Resident	59
Life	15

- Applications for membership – April

Junior	Daniel Cox	Andrew Imrie	Neil Gerrard
Full	Steven Cox	Andrew Imrie	Neil Gerrard
Full	Paul Mitchell	Andrew Imrie	Atholl Taylor
Full	Jed Mitchell	Andrew Imrie	Atholl Taylor
Full	Toby Mitchell	Andrew Imrie	Atholl Taylor
Full	Scott Frith	Simon Cruickshank	TBC
Full	Alan Skene	Alistair McDougall	Alan Gordon
Full	Ashley Singer	Gary Bryant	Jamie Hutchinson
Full	Russell Mair	Andrew Imrie	Neil Gerrard
Full	Euan Imrie	Neil Gerrard	Andrew Imrie
House	Raymond Gray	Roy Burnett	Agnes Burnett
House	Dianne Drummond	Ian McLeod	Michael Murray
Full	Neale Stewart	Gill Pryde	Graham Pryde
Full	Karen Stewart	Gill Pryde	Graham Pryde
Full	Tony Brady	Richard Sainsbury	Fraser Gordon
Full	Oliver Bretherton	Euan Duncan	Derek Grimmer
Full	Steven Hamilton	Craig McCaul	Jamie Hutchinson

House	Alison Anderson	Stella Black	Jayne Leith
House	Gordon Ewen	Roy Haites	David Hays
Full	Marie Philpot	Linda Dempsie	Jonathan Harper

- Transfers from within the membership – April

MG Forbes – Country to Non-Resident

Sarah Willis – Full to Country

- Resigned

Ava Airnes – Junior

Jamie Airnes – Full

Lloyd Alexander-Brown – Non-Resident

Adam Black – Non-Resident

Rose Brockie – House

JOS Bryce – Full

Neil Buchan – Non-Resident

Helen Burnett – House

Frank Connon – Non-Resident

Callum Davison – Junior

Govert Du Pon – House

Ralph Dutch – House

Ruaridh Fenwick – Non-Resident

Scott Grant – Full

Paul Harper – Non-Resident

C Imray – Non-Resident

Sam Kelsey – Associate 25 – 29

Derek Marsden – Full

Fiona McBain – House

Arthur McCourt – Five Day House

Taaneer Niazi – Junior

Susan Rhodes – House

Alexandra Smith – Junior

Max Standerwick – Junior

Oliver Stewart – Junior

JEF Thomson – Senior

- Deceased

Ian Henderson – Senior VIP

- New members

Fiona Macklon - House

- Waiting List - April

229 on Full waiting list

42 on deferred list

5 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						

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

- After discussion it was agreed not to accept an offer from a local hotel to offer 10% discount to members.
- The Members Day/ Charity Day 26th August. It was agreed that this will be a member's day only. There will be a raffle to support Camphill.
- After discussion it was agreed to look at alternative supplier for Past Captain's/Presidents pins.
- It was agreed that JG/GP/DP will progress with the proposed CCL member survey. Draft survey to be circulated to Council before the next meeting.

5. Capital Projects

- In DH's absence DP updated Council. DH held a meeting with Architect Davidson Smith, Macleod & Aitken, Ramsay & Chalmers and Hutcheon Electrical to progress with a feasibility study to look at various options to enhance the outside area and refurbish the Clubhouse. The various options will be discussed at Council and narrowed down to two or three which will be brought to the members for review. All suggestions received from members have been included in the options.

6. Strategy Plan

All covered in reports above.

7. Health and Safety

Nothing to report.

9. AOCB

- Next Council meeting will start at 5.00pm with a tour around the greenkeeping sheds.

Next Meeting 5.30pm – Tuesday 27th June

ACTIONS

NM	Progress with Driving range Sails
NM/AG	Progress with EDI on future bunker programme
GP	Contact member lawyer on Rules and Regs
DH	Progress with various Strategy Plan projects
DP/GP/JG	Progress with survey questions with CCL
NM	Prioritise holes for bunker changes