

Minute of Council Meeting
held on 26th September in the Conference Room @ 5.30pm

Present:

S. Cruickshank	(Captain)
D. Halliday	(Vice-Captain)
A. Gordon	(Greens Convener)
G. Pryde	(Finance Convener)
A. Ross	(Match & Handicap)
J. Gove	(Ladies Captain)

Apologies:

C. McCaul	(Junior Convener)
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In Attendance:

D.P. Pern	(Club Manager)
G Nethercott	(Head Professional)
N. McLoughlin	(Course Manager)

- 1. Welcome:**
SC welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Minute of Council held on 29th August 2023**
The minute of the Council meeting on 29th August 2023 was approved.
- 3. Matters arising from the Minute:**
 - It was agreed to postpone the survey, until after the Captain's update and Members' Information Evening.
 - AG to finalise Autumn update and circulate to members.
 - GP, DH, & DP met with David Rennie to progress with updating the Constitution. It was agreed that work would continue in the background and any changes would be brought to the members for approval at the Information evening in 2024. GP updated Council on the suggested changes to the Club regulations. After discussion these were approved. The regulations will be updated and available on the website in the coming weeks.
 - DP reported that Kirsty McLean from Garden Design Scotland will have options for the 18th bank available in time for next month's meeting.
 - Course closure policy has been updated and is available on the website.
 - NM confirmed that the scrub area by holes 4,5, and 6 on Haughton has not been completed, however work will continue when time allows.
 - The Course Policy document has been updated. AG to circulate to Council.
 - AG & NM have completed the course five-year capex programme and will circulate to Council.
 - DP to report a hole in the road at the bridge to the City Council.
- 4. Reports**
 - Captain's Report**
 - SC met with a member who was concerned about the amount of "No Shows" on the tee sheet. The Pro Shop are to monitor this over the coming weeks.
 - DP to add a picture of expected dress code to the notice boards.

- After discussion it was agreed that GN would research “Hedgehog” wheel covers for trollies which would allow trollies on Haughton during the winter months.
- It was agreed to cut back the rough on certain holes.
- It was agreed that the green fees for 2024 would be confirmed after discussion with Platform77.

Finance Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The profit & loss results for August 2023 and for the 11 months to date are set out below, along with a comparison to both the Budget and the position in August 2022.

	Actual £	Budget £	Prior year £
August 2023 - Net Profit (Loss)	8,660	18,575	7,390
Year to Date - Net Profit (Loss)	<u>55,907</u>	<u>(11,925)</u>	<u>48,804</u>

The net profit for the month of August was £10k less than budgeted; however, our net profit for the 11 months is £56k which is still comfortably ahead of the Budget. For the month, the main variances for income were green fees (members guests/visitors/outings) which were £2k less than budgeted. For expenditure:- legal and professional costs include fees of £3k in connection with the review of the external dining options and Clubhouse refurbishment; and £1k from EDI for flood discussions/workshop/walk; course sundries include £2k for new sails in the practice range and £1k for a new laptop. Also, irrecoverable VAT was £3k higher than budgeted for the month. These costs will be reconsidered at the year end, and any costs agreed to be of a capital nature will be treated as fixed assets in the final accounts for the year ending 30 September 2023.

- F&B had a profit of £5k for the month before loyalty discount of £6k, so a net loss of £1k overall. For the 11 months to date, the net loss is £37k, (profit of £11k prior to the loyalty discount of £48k). This position is significantly better than the Budget, due mainly to the improved gross profit contribution.
- Golf Operations had a net profit of £2k for the month, (£3k better than budget) and this brings the position for the 11 months to a loss of £11k, which is almost exactly as budgeted.
- Subscription income – the subs reconciliation was completed last week and subject to any category changes prior to 30 September, subscription income in the accounts for the year ending 30 September 2023 will be close to £1.261m (Budget is £1.257m). The adjustment required to subscription income will be made in the September accounts.

- **Balance Sheet Review**
Bank Balances on 31 August 2023 – total of £1.020m. Funds of £542k were held in the Virgin Money UK working accounts. There is a further £154k in instant access accounts and we have £324k invested in longer term deposit accounts.
- **Capital Expenditure and Cash Flow Planning** – we are very close to having the detailed costing from McLeod+Aitken for the Clubhouse refurbishment and external dining options. Once available, these estimated costs will be considered together with the draft course improvements and equipment capex plans. This will give Council a good overview of the Club's capital expenditure requirements for the next 5 years and these can be compared with expected cash flows. Consideration can then be given to prioritising capital projects over the period and funding.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Due to the persistent increase in thatch levels, extensive hollow coring has taken place on both courses. This is the first time in over two years that this crucial procedure has been completed. Most greens, had 10mm hollow cores, except for the 3rd, 17th, and 18th greens, where 13mm hollow cores were taken. This decision was prompted by the pronounced water retention the greens were experiencing, necessitating the infusion of more sand to enhance drainage channels. All 27 greens, were successfully topdressed with 80 tonnes of sand. After the topdressing, the greens were fertilised, with plans to initiate seeding as soon as weather conditions permit.
- While grass growth across the courses has gradually started to slow down, the morning dew during this season has compelled us to frequently adjust our mowing schedule. In addition, we've received a highly favourable report from STRI following their August visit, which has been promptly shared on the club's website.
- **Driving Range:** There has been a delay in the delivery of the new sails.
- **Bunker Project:** AG & NM met with EDI. It was agreed to focus on holes 5, 11, 14, 17 and 18. Details to be available to members in the coming weeks. Work will commence on the 5th hole shortly.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The Ladies Invitational Day held on the 1st September was well supported and was a great success. The weather was beautiful, and members and their guests took full advantage of the outdoor area enjoying lunch and post golf chat.
- All the knockout competitions have been completed, the Deeside ladies' section has had great success with various Club and external events.
- JG continues to have discussions with GN & DP regarding the ClubV1 booking system and what the changes will mean for the ladies' section.

Match & Handicap Report

- The pennant team were beaten in the final of the pennant league at Auchmill against a very strong Newmachar side. 3 1/2 to 1/2. Teams for northern counties , Dalswinton trophy and The Simmers trophy have all been entered. The pennant dinner will be at The Douglas Hotel Friday 29th September. Mathew Lynas has kindly offered to support the pennant team next year with uniform.

Junior Report

- Nothing to report

Pro Shop Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The September stock take is near completion.
- Only a couple Club matches still be to be played by the end of the season. Trophies will be engraved w/c Monday 2nd October.
- The Professional Shop has just recently had its till systems upgraded to a more cloud-based system. There will be a few teething problems, so everyone's patience will be appreciated.
- The winter calendar has been fully created and set up on Club V1 for Gents & Ladies.
- After discussion it was agreed that members wishing to host a mini golf outing with guests, will be able to book well in advance via the pro shop, provided they commit to booking a table for lunch/dinner on completion of their round. This will be available for groups of 8 or more where at least 50% of the group are guests. Guests would be at a cost of £25pp instead of £20. This allows members to organise mini outings/guests earlier than at present where booking is only 8 days in advance. The Club benefits from after round catering and an increased guest fee.
- GN shared a paper on suggested changes to all competition play from 2024. After discussion it was agreed to trial the changes. A communication will be sent out to members in due course.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	796
Senior members	128
Associate 30 – 34	13
Associate 24 – 29	20
Young Adults	34
House/Non Playing	169
Senior VIP	11
House 5 Day	2
Country	20
Junior 12 – 18	94
Junior under 12	3
Non Resident	59
Life	15
Honorary	8

- Applications for membership – July/August

Junior	Hendrix Turner	Craig Thomson	Simon Cruickshank
Junior	Indie Turner	Craig Thomson	Simon Cruickshank
Full	Martyn Leighton	Brigid Halliday	John Halliday
Full	Steven Watt	Trevor Mackie	Charles Florence
Full	David Forman	Alexander Robb	Ian Hogg
Full	Kenny Gilbert	Chris Ness	John Verling
Full	Andrew Birkenshaw	Mark Etherington	Bob Fennell
Full	Andrew Christie	Russell McNicol	Kenny Macleod
House	Robert Buckett	Quintin Aitken	TBC
House	Sandy Dunbar	Roy Burnett	Agnes Burnett
Junior	Alastair Thomson	High Craigie	Andrew Imrie

- Transfers from within the membership
Craig Nicholson from Gent Associate 25-29 to Non-resident
David DG Young from Gent Associate 25-29 to Non-resident
- New members
Alex Burnett Junior 12-18
Liam Coffey Junior <12
Emilie Parkinson Junior 12-18
Jay Peddie Junior 12-18
Alexander Ramseyer Junior 12-18
Calum Ramseyer Junior 12-18
- Waiting List – July/August
276 on Full waiting list
42 on deferred list
15 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.**
It was agreed to improve the application for membership process with the proposer and seconder taking a more active role in the application process.

- DP & GN continue to work with Platform77 on the future marketing strategy.

5. Capital Projects

DH updated Council on costs and scope of works for various projects. More details on preferred options will be shared with members at the information evening.

6. Strategy Update

Nothing to report

7. Health & Safety

DP reported that the annual H&S audit will be carried out Wednesday 27th September.

8. AOCB

Next Meeting Tuesday 31st October at 5.30pm in the trophy room