Minute of Council Meeting
held on 19th November 2024 in the Trophy Room

Present:	A. Gordon	(Vice Captain)
	C. Watson	(Finance Convener)
	J. Gove	(Ladies Captain)
	P. Reilly	(Interim Greens Convener)
	A Powell	(President)
In Attendance:	D.P. Pern	(Club Manager)
	N. McLoughlin	(Course Manager)
	S. Kiloh	(Assistant Professional)
Apologies	H. Craigie	(Junior Convener)
	S. Hutchison	(Match & H'Cap)
	G. Nethercott	(Head Professional)
	J Henderson	(In coming Ladies Captain)

1. **Welcome:**
   AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Minute of Council held on 22nd October 2024**
   The minute of the Council meeting on 22nd October was approved.

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

- AG/PR/NM met with CBEC on the 19th November to discuss flooding issues. Following a site survey and discussion it was agreed that CBEC will submit a proposal within the next two weeks which will include short, medium and long term strategy. CBEC are working closely with the River Dee Trust managing the tributaries upriver and feel confident that working together will improve the river flow from source to sea and lower the impact of flooding along the Deeside boundary. Various options were discussed which were very positive.
- AG has followed up with SH on revising the terms of reference for the formation of temporary sub-committees. This will be finalised and a Strategy Plan 2025 - 2030 sub-committee will be formed by the end of the year. As agreed, AG will seek volunteers to sit on Strategy sub-committee along with a Council member and Senior Management. Other sub-committees will be created in line with the objectives in the Strategy plan.
- AG/JG/DP/CW continue to progress with the Clubhouse refurbishment. They met with Macleod & Aitken and the main contractors to discuss the final programme and costs. The main contractor will be SIR joinery who will pull together the final timeline. SIR will work closely with Safety Scotland to ensure the health and safety is in place. The draft timeline is likely to extend into March, however the first three weeks will be critical in ensuring the project stays on schedule. Caber Coffee will supply a Coffee/Tea machine on loan which will be located downstairs by the water cooler. This will provide complementary coffee & tea to golfing members. DP to arrange some seating in both ladies and gent's locker room, which will be available for golfing members only.
- The new website went live on Thursday 14th November. There will be regular updates and tweaks, but the initial comments have been very positive. DP to add STRI reports 2023/24 and bunker programme to the documents section.

- NM/PR met with Kirsty McLean (Design Scotland) to discuss the alternative option of a new path at the 18th. Granite City Surveys now have the information and will provide details of best gradients to use. NM to progress with this project.
- It was agreed that replacing the carpet in the Gent's locker room would be a future project.
- A discussion on more Open Competitions concluded that more visitors was a better option.
- NM confirmed that the path has been repaired along the back of the 5th and 10th boundary line. PR to send an email to Iain Clark along with a photograph to include in the CMBCC newsletter. NM will complete more work before the fence is erected at the back of 13th tee.
- DP to contact Scottish Golf for assistance on course sustainability.
- NM to erect signage for walkers outside the clubhouse and down by the gate at the 5th tee. Also smaller footpath signs to be placed at various points.
- NM has sourced a machinery/pedestrian gate for the entrance at the 5th. It was agreed to proceed with this and arrange for an external contractor to install the gate.
- GN shared a document with proposals for a new Stroke play format. After discussion it was agreed to trial this format for 2025.
- AG has drafted some thoughts on a Strategy document. This will be shared with the sub committee when it is formed.

4. Health and Safety

- AG to review H&S policy and sign off as Captain.

5. Convener Reports

Captain's Report

- AG/DP met with David Halliday who has intimated his resignation as Captain. David's recovery has taken longer than expected and he feels he can't give 110% to the Club at this time. His business and family must have priority. On behalf of the members AG wished David well and hoped to see him back playing golf in the near future. As per the Rules AG, has taken over as Captain with immediate effect. Nominations for Council positions 2025 – 2027 will be posted on the notice board by 15th December in accordance with rule 5.12.

Finance Report

A full Finance report focussing on the 2024 – 2025 Budget was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The budget is showing a loss for the year of £16k, however the expectation is that this will turn into a profit over the year. The main reason for showing a loss is the closure of the Clubhouse for the refurbishment. After discussion the Budget was approved.
- The auditors have completed the annual audit and will submit final accounts for 2023 – 2024 by the end of the year for Council approval.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The team has been taking full advantage of the favourable weather and are on track with the planned bunker improvements. The greenside bunker on the 13th hole is now completed. The 14th bunkers have been turfed. The installation of the permeable linings to the new bunkers will be completed as soon as weather permits. The next focus will be on the 7th hole, beginning with the fairway bunker.

- Nearly all the first round of winter aeration work has been completed. Aeration work has also started on areas that caused issues last year to ensure better conditions next season. Additionally, some root pruning along some of the larger tree plantations will be carried out to improve their health and help manage course maintenance.
- New tee mats have been installed on all of the par 3s on the Haughton course, more will be installed on other holes as required.
- NM to purchase white flag pins as agreed.
- Sewage Management - The scheduled sewer work, initially planned for mid-October, was delayed. The work is now expected to take place the week of November 25th, followed by the final sealing of the last manhole.
- Non-Return Valve Inspection: The non-return valve between the course toilet and the main sewer will be inspected during Scottish Water's next visit, with camera work planned to assess the current condition. It is likely that the valve will need to be repaired or replaced.
- Bunker Construction - In late October, James Edwards from EDI visited for a couple of days to assist with bunker design for the 13th and 14th holes. Future plans for the Haughton 7th, 8th, and 9th holes were also discussed. James will be returning in early 2025 to continue design discussions and provide further guidance. Holes 2, 5 and 6 on Blairs will also to be discussed with James. It was agreed that the 7th green on Haughton will be available at the weekends during the reparation work. Holes 8 and 9 on Haughton will be completed after Christmas.
- Footpath Repair - The repair work on the public footpath behind the 10th green has been completed.
- STRI Report: The full report has been received. A summary has been prepared for review. The full report will be uploaded to the website in due course.
- NM to discuss with the Arborist Hamish Struan, the trees between 15 and 18. A managed plan to be implemented over the next few years. This will be included in the new Strategy plan.
- PR acknowledged the hard work by NM and his team in completing the bunker work to date. NM to convey thanks to all the team involved.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The winter fixture is in full swing with 43 ladies entering the eclectic. In addition ladies are participating in the winter fours on a Saturday and the Trackman league.
- JG approved the Strokeplay proposal on behalf of the Ladies section.
- JG attended the SVLGA prize giving and AGM. Later this month, JG will attend the ALCGA prize giving and AGM.
- JG attended various meetings with AG/CW/DP & Fiona Young of Cumming & Co regarding refurbishment plans for the clubhouse.
- Nomination of Mrs. Margaret Parkinson for Deeside President

  During JG’s first year as Ladies’ Captain, JG advocated for an inclusive and progressive approach to the selection of Presidents within the club. One of the key proposals was to include past Ladies’ Captains in the rotation for this honorary position, reflecting the contributions and dedication of women to our club’s history and ongoing success. This proposal was discussed and approved by Council at that

time. JG nominated Mrs. Margaret Parkinson for the honorary role of President. Margaret has a long-standing history with Deeside Golf Club and has shown exceptional commitment to the sport and our Ladies section over the years. Margaret has been an active member of Deeside Golf Club for 22 years and is a supporter of Deeside Girls Golf, led by assistant professional Sam Kiloh, this is an initiative to encourage young girls to get into the sport and grow the game. Margaret was Ladies' Captain in 2007 and 2008, and is a Past Captain for the Aberdeenshire Ladies County Golf Association (2014-2015) and also a Past Captain for the SVLGA underlining her ongoing commitment to golf at various levels Margaret's father, the late Mr.HD Gray was a former Captain of Deeside Golf Club (1998-2000) who sadly passed away while in office. Her brother, Malcolm, is also a former Council member of the club, further demonstrating the family's deep ties with Deeside. Given Margaret's extensive experience, commitment to the Club, and her influential roles within the golfing community, JG believes she is an ideal candidate for the honorary position of President. Her nomination would not only honour her individual contributions but also reflect the deep historical connection her family has with our club. The role of President should remain honorary, serving as a recognition of service and dedication to the club. Margaret embodies these values, making her an exemplary choice for this prestigious position.
This nomination was approved. AG/JG will meet with Margaret in the coming weeks.

Match & Handicap Report

- Nothing to report

Junior Report

- Nothing to report

Pro Shop Report

A full report was circulated in advance, to summarise:

- Winter Fixtures/Club V1 set up. November will see us compile the 2025 season fixtures.
- Sam Kiloh has been promoted to PGA Professional / Head of Junior Development after his excellent work in growing our Junior membership.
- Kevin Duncan has been promoted to PGA Professional / Head of Custom Fitting. A great opportunity for Kevin to have his own responsibility in an area that Deeside needs to continue its growth/focus.
- Unfortunately, the Pro Shop seem to be getting multiple (4-7) requests each week when making the draw for a Saturday. This completely goes against the culture of the club and is totally time consuming for the Pro Shop Team having to re draw a draw. Whilst a request to play first or last in a zone should be accepted… to play with friends each week will stop. This was approved by Council.
- GN circulated a new Strokeplay Championship format. Feedback and support from several members was sought for this proposal. The new format was approved by Council. GN will update members accordingly.
- A set of rules for Trackman has been sent out to membership. It was agreed that Trackman data should be included each month in the Pro Shop Report. Included in the data will be stats on how often the Driving Range is being used.
- Fours now allowed on a Wednesday in Winter. This was approved.
- Sam to email Trackman and see if the flags can be changed to blue.

- Request for more visible targets on the range.
- Score cards and pin colours to be changed at the same time.
- It was agreed to leave the green tee course set up for another season.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	793
Senior members	124
Associate 30 – 34	14
Associate 24 – 29	18
Young Adults	23
House/Non Playing	184
Senior VIP	11
House 5 Day	2
Country	16
Junior 12 – 18	112
Junior under 12	59
Non Resident	69
Life	15
Honorary	7

- Applications for membership – Oct. All approved by the membership sub-Committee.

Cat	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Full	Graeme Edward	Douglas Watson	Graeme Matthew
Full	Lesley Henderson	David Blackwood	Eric Adams
Full	David Mackie	Trevor Mackie	Kenny Riach
Junior	Angus Atkinson	Angus Donaldson	Michael Scott Brown
Junior	Harvey Buchan	Ralph Davidson	Andrew Jarvie
Junior	Hugo Buchan	Ralph Davidson	Andrew Jarvie
Junior	Hugo MacAngus	Tim Stevenson	Jodi Stevenson

- **Transfers from within the membership**
  Grace Morrison – Young Adult to Non Resident

- **Resignations**
  Charles Florence – Full
  Mark Garden – Full
  Lorraine Scorgie – Full

- **Deceased**

RH Willox – Honorary

- **New members**
  Ethan Bruce – Junior 12-18
  Brodie Duncan – Junior <12

- **Waiting List**

  Analysis of annual applications approved at Council:
  2021 27
  2022 110
  2023 87
  2024 58

- The 23 members approved last year, but deferred to this year will be offered membership ahead of main waiting list.

- The budget has allowed for 40 new members, this figure may change slightly depending on transfers and resignations between now and March.
  The first 100 names on the waiting list were approved by Council. Offers will be sent out in batches until all the vacancies are filled.

- 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	5684	6381	4880	**42304**
2023 2024	1078	1286	495	498	2078	2436	3689	5373	5041	5880	6211	4745	**38810**

General Information/Actions/Requests etc.

- The website has now gone live. The initial feedback has been very positive. DP will update the website on a regular basis.
- The AGM has been booked in the Cults hotel on Wednesday 12th February 2025.

6. November Agenda Items

- 18th Path Options – covered in Actions.
- Refurbishment Update – covered in Actions.
- AGM deadlines were all approved. Council reports for the annual report to be submitted by the end of the year. (Finance, Competitions & Course)
- President nomination - covered in JG's report.

AOCB

- Club Standards – AP highlighted two occasions when dress standards fell short of expectations. DP to add a notice to the notice board highlighting no golf shoes permitted in the Clubhouse.
- AG to arrange a meeting with a member on general golf club behaviour.
- Issues arising on a Saturday with the Winter Fours and the Eclectic will be addressed. Slow Play to be highlighted. AG to highlight that aggressive behaviour on the golf course and in the Clubhouse will not be tolerated.
- Cutting in from 15th to the 18th will not be permitted. It was agreed that the Winter Fours will play 14 holes. AG to meet with Winter Fours representative.
- AG to circulate a general note to members on slow play.
- Pro Shop to have a look at the impact of increasing the tee times from 7/8 minute to 8/9 minute on a Saturday.

Next Meeting – 21st January @ 5.30pm - location to be finalised.