

Minute of Council Meeting
held on the 15th April in the Conference Room @ 5.30pm

Present:	A. Gordon	(Captain)
	C. Watson	(Vice Captain/Finance Convener)
	P. Reilly	(Greens Convener)
	J. Henderson	(Ladies Captain)
	H. Craigie	(Junior Convener)
	M. Parkinson	(President)

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

Apologies:	S. Hutchison	(Match & H'Cap)
-------------------	--------------	-----------------

1. Welcome:

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute of Council held on 26th March 2025

The minute of the Council meeting on 26th March was approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- James Edwards from EDI will be on site on 6th May. Invited members will walk round the course with James and then have a Q&A in the trophy room afterwards. Council to feedback contacts to DP who will send out invites once details are confirmed. It is hoped that Struan Daglish will also meet with James to discuss the tree strategy.
- AG/NM will meet with two representatives from the Winter Fours on Wednesday 25th April to progress with options for 25/26 winter programme.
- DP to send drawings of the proposed external ramp to McLeod & Aitken for costing.
- NM circulated the updated course risk assessment to Council. PR to review the updated risks and monitor all risks going forward.
- PR/NM are working on the Course Policy document.
- CBEC report has been received. NM/PR to review and make recommendations before circulating to Council for discussion.
- CW circulated the draft strategy plan presentation to Council which was approved for further discussion with the Strategy sub-committee. CW will now send a communication to the members highlighting the progress made so far in the three core areas.
- PR will circulate a Greens update towards the end of the month. NM will continue to circulate monthly course updates.
- NM has spoken to Sport Aberdeen, however no further information was available on where their course signage came from.
- Plans for the path at the 18th and 9th on Blairs have been delayed. Hopefully these will be available for the next Council meeting. NM to follow up.
- AG spoke to David Halliday on the best option for the Driving Range exterior. David suggested that painting the exterior would be the best option.
- GN/DP to progress with Fiona Young and Cumming and Co., on the pro shop refurbishment,
- DP research Council document storage options.

- PR continue to communicate with the CMBCC on river path options.
- NM – Strim the area along the riverside boundary during April.

4. **Health and Safety**

- Course Safety – It was agreed to erect signage at the 2nd tee on Blairs “Be aware of golfers teeing off from the 17th tee” following a near miss.
- Following several incidents with youths at the riverbank involving both firefighters and police, it was agreed that PR will speak to someone in authority at police headquarters to arrange a meeting with Captain AG to try and resolve this issue. It was noted that the Club is extremely concerned with youths gathering at the riverside consuming alcohol, destroying the course and using threatening behaviour towards the members.
- It was agreed that the new fence is keeping bicycles and motor/electric bikes off the course to some extent, however more fencing is required. NM to request a quote.

5. **Convener Reports**

Captain’s Report

- It was agreed to display the artifacts in the display cabinet in the hall. DP to arrange it as agreed.
- AG updated Council on the topics which will be covered at the “Meet the Captain” meetings: Phase three of the clubhouse refurbishment, ramp options for outside area, clubhouse and driving range exterior, strategic plan, bunker programme update, paths from 18th and 9th on Blairs and CBEC update.

Finance Report

A full Finance report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- There was a net profit for the month of March of £4.4k with the opening of the clubhouse bringing in a contribution from F&B after two months of closure. The profit for the month is less than budgeted despite the higher levels of income with lower margins in both F&B and Golf Operations. This is due to stock movements from closing and re-opening the clubhouse and selling of old stock in the pro shop.
- The loss YTD of £73k compares to the budgeted loss of £136k with slightly higher gross profits and lower course costs (machinery maintenance, fuel and building materials all less than budget). The higher loss than at this point last year is due to the clubhouse closure and costs of trackman with increased income offsetting inflationary increases in costs.
- The net loss from **F&B** YTD Is £69.4k which is £8k better than the budget due to a very busy period leading up to the closure of the clubhouse but down on last year because of closure in Jan/Feb. The Gross Profit from catering is down to 58% YTD. This lower margin may be driven by stock movements.
- The net loss from **Golf Operations** YTD was £23.8k which is almost £4k better than budget and more than £7.5k better than last year driven by strong sales due to better weather and the new loyalty scheme. There were high purchases in February and March that has driven down the margins and we need to reconcile the stock balance to ensure this is being correctly accounted for.

Balance Sheet Review

- **Bank Balances at 31 March 2025 – total of £767k.** This represents an increase in the total cash of £23k in the month helped by the cash from members subscription and loyalty card payments offset by payments for the clubhouse refurbishment and increases in stock.

- **Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations** – Based on budget the requirement is £540k, leaving about £267k for capital improvements. Most payments for the clubhouse refurbishment should now have been made with the exception of any retentions.
- **Capital Expenditure on improvements** - During March £12k was spent on course development and £31k was incurred on the clubhouse refurbishment.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Both courses have started the season in a strong position. Warmer temperatures will further support turf recovery, encourage growth, and improve overall surface quality. Greens cutting heights have been lowered to 5mm, with plans to reduce this further to 4.5mm week beginning 21st April. In the coming weeks, cutting heights will be lowered on tees, approaches, and fairways to enhance definition across the course.
- Due to the unusually dry weather (only 108mm of rainfall so far this year), a wetting agent program has been initiated for all fine turf areas. This should help retain moisture and support consistent turf health during this dry spell.
- As soon as conditions allow, the regular fertilising and maintenance routines will resume, including monthly pencil tining, verti-cutting, and light topdressing. In response to the thatch buildup from last season's weather, there is also a plan to carry out one or two light scarification treatments on the greens. These will be scheduled to avoid disruption to major competitions and will be weather-dependent.
- Course Safety - The course risk assessment has been updated following last year's walkthrough. A copy has been circulated to Council for reference.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- It has been a smooth transition from the winter to summer season for the ladies.
- The first friendly was played away to Peterculter which the ladies won in glorious weather. The second match at Murcar on Monday 14th April, resulted in a win for Murcar.
- The Ladies committee are hosting a coffee/ 9 holes on Thursday 17th April for new members.
- GN has a fashion event organised to coincide with the Captain v Vice Captain Friday 18th April.
- A 'glitch' was reported on the ClubVI app. showing zones an hour earlier in the email confirmation. GN has this in hand.

Match & Handicap Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Nothing to Report

Junior Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Junior Pennant League – There has been a great response to the call for participants in this season's junior pennant league, with 30 throwing their hat in the ring for selection. The first matches are on 4th May. GN is sourcing a deal on uniforms, to be offered to participants (at their cost).

Off the Tee Trophy - The ADJGT is looking for volunteer clubs to host the qualifying rounds on Sunday 3rd August. This would consist of a small number of tee times around 8.30am and 1.30pm. DP discussed this offline with the pro shop and agreed that Sunday morning was busy with members tee times, also Deeside would not have a team in Off the Tee Trophy this year.

- Junior Captain - Last year the junior captain was Callum Bruce. Other than a couple of meetings to persuade him to accept the role, there was nothing for him to do. After discussion it was agreed not to appoint a Junior Captain for 2025-26, as there was no clear purpose/role for junior captain to fulfil. Appointing a captain for junior pennant team matches would be made on an ad-hoc basis

Pro Shop Report

A full report was circulated in advance, to summarise:

- With the lovely weather & start of season, there has been an unprecedented number of members utilising the facilities/Pro Shop over the last six weeks.
- The Haughton Course has been rendered on Trackman and is currently being tested by the Pro Shop team before the first draft of feedback & updates is sent over to Trackman. GN reported that it is fantastic with only a couple bunker changes to update. Hopefully it will be up and running for the start of the winter season.
- Pennant Team Uniform has arrived and will have the same policy as the ladies... collect, wash & return.
- Club matches have been drawn for the season ahead with the more stringent rules as agreed upon by Council at the end of last season.
- Trackman data - 150 border breaches out of 145,000 shots from 10th Mar – 10th Apr Occupancy per bay consistently at 70% Mon-Sun 10-4.
- Having carried out a quick analysis of balls hitting the green keeping shed, adjoining the range, to understand risk of green staff being hit by a ball... in the month of March, 25 balls hit the shed during work hours and 41 out with the core work hours.
- It was agreed to amend Course policy to reflect that range balls can be taken up to the chipping area providing they are returned.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	811
Senior members	126
Associate 30 – 34	15
Associate 24 – 29	21
Young Adults	30
House/Non Playing	169
Senior VIP	13
House 5 Day	2
Country	16
Junior 12 – 18	133
Junior under 12	52
Non Resident	61
Life	14
Honorary	7
- Applications for membership – March – April. All approved by membership sub-

Committee.

Cat	Name	Proposer	Second
Full	Theo Adams	Giani Brooke	Scott Connal
Full	James Lamont	Peter Macklin	David Macklin
Full	Jonathan Mitchell	Jonathan Strachan	Douglas Gallacher
Full	Gary Notman	Graeme Gran	Alex Robb
Junior	Alan Tong	Craig McCaul	Hugh Craigie
Junior	Logan Petrie	Michael Milne	Paul Handsley
Junior	Emily Cuthbertson	Derek Cuthbertson	James Strathdee
Junior	Jessica Cuthbertson	Derek Cuthbertson	James Strathdee
Junior	Logan Spark	Jennifer O'Hanlon	Alan O'Hanlon
Junior	Harper Lamont	Peter Macklin	David Macklin
House	Catherine Watson	Keith Watson	RA Davie
Full	Susan Logan	Grant Logan	Kevin Cooper

Transfers from within the membership

Name	From	To
Ryan Coffey	Non-resident	Associate 25-29
Stuart Forsyth	Full	Non-playing
Helene Rose	Non-playing	Full

Resignations

Gordon Angus – Non-resident
Edward Angus – Young Adult 18-24
Derek Boyne – Senior
Meg Ducan – House
Craig Gilchrist – Young Adult 18-24
Malcolm Gray – Non-resident
Jane Gray – Non-resident
John Harris – Country
Irving Innes – Junior 12 – 17
Connor McCormack – Junior 12-17
Taaneer Niazi – Young Adult 18-24
Matthew Pirie – Young Adult 18-24
Steve Roberts – House
Andrew Scott – Full
Ross Sinclair – Full
Lewis Stewart – Junior 12-17
A Talbott – House
Wade Williamson – Junior 12-17

New members

Lewis Duncan – Junior <12
Daniel Fox – Junior 12 – 17
Theo Maskall – Junior 12-17
Kyle Mackay – Junior 12-17

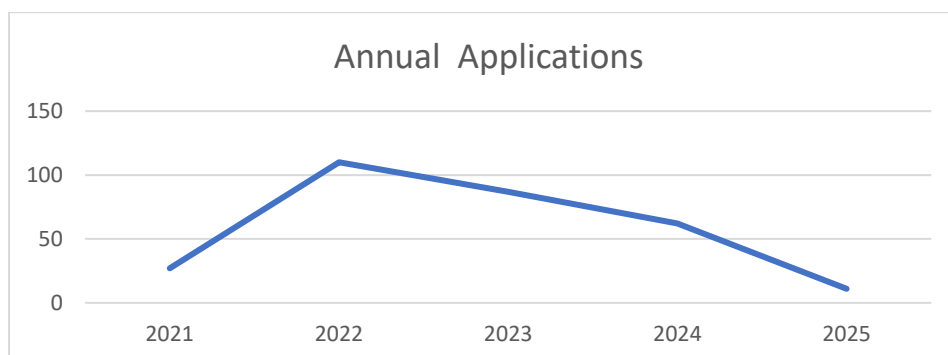
Harry Shand – Junior 12-17
Adam Smith – Junior 12-17
Dominic Smith – Junior <12
Hendrix Turner – Junior <12
Indie Turner - Junior <12
Bruce Urquhart – Junior 12 – 17
Spencer Watson – Junior 12-17

Waiting List

Analysis of annual applications approved at Council:

Full Member Waiting List

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	0	7	6	4	11
February	6	5	12	0	3
March	2	19	8	9	11
April	4	5	4	3	
May	1	8	15	2	
June	1	16	7	5	
July	2	3	7	10	
August	1	14	17	6	
September	4	19	6	12	
October	1	0	5	7	
November	5	14	0	4	
December	0	0	0	0	
Total	27	110	87	62	25



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
2024													
2025	3373	2494	1097	1520	4216								

General Information/Actions/Requests etc. for discussion

All covered in reports.

DP to add website analytic data to the report each month.

6. April Agenda Items

- Bunker Project - NM to circulate the updated bunker plan with a timeline to Council for discussion at the next meeting. It is hoped to start with the 17th fairway bunker in early September.
- 18th/9th Hole Pathway Development – covered in matters arising.
- The ramp to marquee – covered in matters arising.
- Driving Range exterior woodwork – covered in matters arising.
- Strategy Plan – it was agreed to add external clubhouse roof repairs and the 9th pond liner which is 30 years old to the strategy plan costs. NM to talk to James Edwards when he is up about reducing the risk, redesigning pond etc.

AOCB

- Autonomous mowers – NM circulated a business plan to invest in three more autonomous mowers. After discussion it was agreed to proceed. AG requested that the stations must blend into the course and look neat and tidy.
- DP reported that CW/AG approved the quote to upgrade the Club's Cyber security. This will be communicated to members once it is in place.
- Replace the bollard outside the kitchen area.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 27th May @ 5.30pm in the Trophy Room

