

**Minute of Council Meeting
held on the 26th May 2025 in the Conference Room @ 5.30pm**

Present:	A. Gordon	(Captain)
	C. Watson	(Vice Captain/Finance Convener)
	J. Henderson	(Ladies Captain)
	S. Hutchison	(Match & H'Cap)
	H. Craigie	(Junior Convener)

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

Apologies:	P. Reilly	(Greens Convener)
	M. Parkinson	(President)

1. Welcome:

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute of Council held on 15th April 2025

The minute of the Council meeting on 15th April was approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- Captain AG hosted two “Meet the Captain” sessions. Although these were not very well attended those who did attend had the opportunity to ask questions on various projects.
- Several members were invited to walk the Haughton Course with the Course Architect. This was very successful, with positive feedback. Those in attendance covered a wide range of member sections, ages and abilities and they all engaged well with the Course architect.
- The artifacts in the front hall display unit has been completed. DP to add one final picture which is currently being framed up.
- DP to progress with email address for Greens Convener and Finance Convener.
- The website report is included in DP’s report; however, a better report will be produced monthly by Morgan Speirs.
- Cyber Mulligan along with Cyberdyne have installed the new firewall to protect the Club from any potential Cybercrime.
- NM and PR are working on further updates to the Course Policy document, it will be ready for circulation and discussion at the August Council meeting.
- PR is in contact with Iain Clark regarding the river path project.
- AG circulated a notification to members regarding youths on the course down by the river. AG will draft a response to the police detailing what we have done to raise awareness to members.
- CBEC update - covered in course report.
- NM confirmed that the boundary at the riverbank had been trimmed in April. It will be completed again in the coming weeks.
- Safety signage for the 2nd on Blairs has been ordered and will be erected once it has been delivered.

- NM to seek a second quote for fencing along the riverside from the 4th on Blairs to the 11th on Haughton. Decision to be made at next meeting.
- NM circulated the updated bunker plan.
- It was agreed to commission the course architect James Edwards and Arborist Struan Daglish to draft a design plan for the tree lined holes, including a 10 year plan for the trees.
- Driving range policy to be included in Course Policy.
- The Pro Shop refurb is progressing with Fiona Young from Cummings and Co designing the layout.

4. **Health and Safety**

- EHO (Environmental Health Officer) carried out an ad hoc inspection of the kitchen on Monday 19th May. A Pass was issued with only a couple of minor recommendations.

5. **Convener Reports**

Captain's Report

- After discussion it was agreed to highlight "Ready Golf" to the members with a leaflet handed out for the next couple of weeks. Pace of play on a Wednesday continues to be an issue.
- Council was very disappointed to report that bunkers on both courses are consistently not being raked by members. This was particularly evident on a Wednesday.

Finance Report

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

- There was a net profit for the month of April of £23.5k with positive contributions from both F&B and Golf Operations. The profit for the month is more than £20k above budget with positive variances from Course Costs (£15k), F&B (£12k) and Golf Ops (£3k) offset by lower sundry income where there was a deferral of the reclaim of unspent loyalty card balances. The results were also an improvement on the prior year actuals largely driven by F&B and Pro-shop sales.
- The loss YTD of £50k compares to the budgeted loss of £133k 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 impact of the clubhouse closure, costs of trackman and the delays of reclaim of unspent loyalty balances.
- The net loss from **F&B** YTD is £67k which is £20k better than the budget due to a very busy periods leading up to the closure of the clubhouse and after the reopening with a profit in the month of April resulting in the shortfall on last year being reduced significantly. The Gross Profit from catering is back up to 60% YTD after the lower % reported in March.
- The net loss from **Golf Operations** YTD was down to £20.5k (after a profit in April) which is £8k better than budget and more than £11k better than last year driven by strong hardware sales from club fittings. The sale of clubs, bags and trolleys tends to be lower % margin and that has driven the margin % below budget, but overall trading is very positive.

- If both F&B and Golf Ops can maintain the positive trend and control overheads at overall current levels, the club should hope to deliver a small surplus for the year.
- **Bank Balances at 30 April 2025 – total of £752k.** This represents a decrease in the total cash of £15k in the month. There are still refurbishment costs to be paid, and the new autonomous mowers that are on order.
- **Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations** – Based on budget the requirement is £560k, leaving about £192k for capital improvements which includes the remaining amounts due for the clubhouse refurbishment and equipment on order.
- **Capital Expenditure on improvements** - During April £9k was spent on course development and £48k was incurred on the clubhouse refurbishment.
- AG thanked DP, GN and NM for their efforts over the last few months.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Both courses remain in strong condition, with noticeable recovery in previously weaker areas. However, progress has been slightly hindered by an extended period of dry weather. Green cutting heights have been lowered to 4mm, with plans to reduce further to 3.8mm once weather conditions allow.
- The unusually dry conditions have persisted throughout May, with no rainfall for over a month. To date, there has been only 119mm of rain this year. In response, the team has continued the wetting agent programme across all fine turf areas and have extended it to additional sections of the course to aid moisture retention and promote consistent turf health during the ongoing dry spell.
- The irrigation system continues to perform well and is currently in operation most nights, supplemented by daytime hand-watering as needed. The borehole output has decreased slightly to approximately 30m³ per hour but is currently holding steady. Due to an increased water scarcity level issued by SEPA, the weirs have been removed at Allan Park, meaning water is no longer being diverted to the 9th pond (note: as the flow of water has been so low it meant no water actually was reaching the 9th pond).
- Riverside Issues - No fencing issues have been reported. However, there is still an issue with some tee markers going missing.
- Bunker Project - James was on site on the 6th and 7th of May. A follow-up visit is planned for late August or early September.
- CBEC Engineering Update - CBEC carried out their site visit in February and in April forwarded their report to the Club. On reviewing the report there were some areas requiring correction and clarification which have been passed to CBEC. NM/PR have requested a conference call with CBEC to discuss the report and next steps. Hopefully the updated plan will be available before the next Council meeting.
- Risk Register - Following April's Council Meeting, NM has updated the risk register "overall risk" scores taking account of the mitigation now in place. NM has also added the risk identified at the April Council meeting in relation to golfers on the 17th green being struck by a ball driven from the 2nd tee on the Blair's. This risk is one of two risks still in the "high" category with impact scores of 6 (where a score of 9 is very high and 1 is low). At April Council meeting it was agreed to place a sign on the 2nd tee (yellow) warning players of the risk to those on 17th green, however the risk will still exist. On discussing with members, the Greenkeeping Team and the Professional Team it has been proposed that the yellow 2nd tee could be moved to share with the 9th tee on the Blairs. This would significantly reduce (potentially remove) the likelihood of a drive

going near the 17th green on two counts. Firstly, players are looking straight down the fairway and not towards the 17th green and secondly there is a tree positioned between the 17th green and the 9th tee offering significant protection. The length of the hole may be reduced by approximately 15 yards. This proposal will be implemented temporarily and reviewed monthly.

- 18th /9th Blairs Pathway Development – NM has received a comprehensive plan from Kirsty (Design Scotland) and Alex (Granite City Surveys) for the new path leading up from the 9th on the Blairs course, which also includes a pathway from the 18th green. The submission includes detailed information on material volumes and elevation levels required for construction. These plans were circulated to Council in advance. It was agreed that NM would progress with getting quotes for the path from the Blairs 9th green. It was agreed that we would not proceed at this stage with a new path from Haughton 18th green as the reduction in gradient on proposed path v's existing path was marginal.
- NM reported that the sewer to the right of the Driving range blew on Saturday resulting in sewage pouring into the marquee area and the driving range. The tarmac in front of the 1st tee also popped. Scottish water is sending Rentokil in to sanitise the marquee area. An external contractor will come and fix the tarmac at Scottish Water's expense.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- May has been a busy competitive month at both club and county level.
- The draws for the knockout rounds of the Club Championships (Scratch, Handicap and Senior) will be completed after the final round of qualifying (Friday 23rd May)
- The May friendly was at home to Aberdeen Ladies. Deeside won 31/2 to 1/2.
- There was some light relief from competitive golf last week when the pro shop organised a Texas Scramble on both courses. The feedback was very positive.
- Colin Balchin from the Senior Section has resurrected the biannual Ladies/Seniors Texas Scramble. The first event was held on 22nd May. It was a very sociable event with 38 players. The trophy was presented by President Margaret Parkinson to Boyd Wright, Lynne Mc Gurran and Katie Elder.
- Several ladies have commented on the excellent condition of both courses.

Match & Handicap Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The Match and Handicap Report includes one proposal as worked with the Pro Shop for Council approval in relation to protocol for Knock out matches to reduce the amount of "noise" that is generated primarily in April and May every year.
 - The challenger (top player) MUST make contact with the opponent 14 days prior to the deadline. Failure to do so may result in the opponent receiving a bye if the if a date cannot be organised by the deadline &/or extension.
 - Under no circumstances will extensions be permitted more than 7 days after the deadline.
 - If you are injured and cannot play within the deadline &/or extension, please give your opponent a walkover.
 - If you are on holiday and cannot play within the deadline &/or extension, please give your opponent a walkover.
 - In a scenario where one player/group is on holiday & the other player/group is injured... if both players/teams cannot come to an amicable agreement, both players/teams will be removed from the competition.

After discussion, these rules were approved. The rules will take effect on 2nd April 2026.

- Maitland Shield – Team Selected (Jason Bruce, Henri Charles, Oli Blackadder and Ollie Robertson) won through to the final, but were unfortunately narrowly beaten by Murcar in the final.
- Journal Cup – Deeside are the defending champions. The event (on Sat 14th June at Buckpool) unfortunately clashes with the Club Championship qualifying and so team selection is proving very difficult. A further request will be issued to all members in the Pro Shop weekly report next week.
- Pennant League – The team has been selected for first league match against Auchmill at Deeside – Tuesday 27th May – 5:15pm (first tee off).
- Club Knockout matches – Matches continue with great majority of matches being played within the match schedule deadlines.
- Members are requested to ensure their contact details are up to date on ClubV1.

Junior Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Junior Pennant League - Deeside 1 has won two and halved one of their opening three matches, giving them a healthy chance of qualifying for the final. However, Deeside 2 has had a tougher time of it with two defeats and a single win to show for their three matches. Both have two matches remaining.
- GN has organised a discounted clothing offering for the participants, which many have taken advantage of.

Pro Shop Report

A full report was circulated in advance, to summarise:

- Pace of Play continues to be an issue on a Wednesday. After discussion it was agreed to promote Ready Golf through the Pro Shop. Fourballs will remain in place for now.
- Unfortunately, there have been a handful of instances where bunkers have not been raked/raked appropriately to the standards expected at Deeside. Members will be reminded of this.
- The recent Senior Open Stableford received some fantastic feedback from those that played, complimenting the facilities & condition of course.
- The Trackman has been in place for more than six months; however the booking system is not working as well as hoped. The software does not allow members to see what is booked, what is not booked and often requires some awkward conversations for members in the range if they have booked a bay and someone is using it. It was agreed that only Bay Seven will be bookable in future.
- Congratulations to Kevin Duncan who shot an incredible 57 off the white tees whilst submitting a general play. It was agreed that a frame with his scorecard/picture will be displayed in the Clubhouse.
- GN & NM met with James (Course Architect) to discuss ways of enhancing the outfield of the driving range. It was agreed that GN/NM will come up with a brief for James before progressing.
- A request from a member to make the draw based on handicap for monthly medals & meetings whilst the rest of the competitions are random. After discussion it was agreed to keep the same format for now.
- Trackman Data – 211 border breaches out of 174,000 shots (0.12%)

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	811
Senior members	125
Associate 30 – 34	15
Associate 24 – 29	21
Young Adults	30
House/Non Playing	166
Senior VIP	13
House 5 Day	2
Country	16
Junior 12 – 18	136
Junior under 12	57
Non Resident	60
Life	14
Honorary	7
- Applications for membership – April/May All approved by membership sub-Committee

Cat	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Full	Craig Guthrie	Philip Adams	Ashley Adams
Full	Martin Dunn	Ian Birnie	Gordon Gibson
Full	Caroline Stevenson	Susan Gordon	Graham Gordon
Full	Neil Corrigan	Brian Cuthill	Gary Hance
Full	Thomas Mullan	James Bruce	Lisa Bruce
Full	Genevieve Combe	James Bruce	Lisa Bruce
Full	Graham Blair	Alan Gibson	Alistair McDougal
Full	William Summers	Gill Summers	Charles Dingwall
Full	Thomas Craig	Guy Craig	Jill Craig
Full	Jamie Craig	Guy Craig	Jill Craig
Junior	Penelope Dalgarno	Jodi Stevenson	Tim Stevenson
Junior	James Roberts	Keith Thom	John Martin
Junior	Theo Buchan	Tyler Buchan	Sam Kiloh
Junior	Finlay Smith-White	Martin Skinner	Ronald Keenan
Junior	Ben Corrigan	Brian Cuthill	Gary Hance
Junior	Theo Watson	Pro Shop	Pro Shop
Junior	Oliver Sangster	Andrew Strachan	Bill Strachan

Junior	Aaron Haxton	Andrew Strachan	Bill Strachan
Junior	Archie Cardno	Martin Skinner	Ronald Keenan
Junior	Kian Teow	Katherine Teow	Michael Duncan
Junior	Ellis Heron	Tim Stevenson	Jodi Stevenson
Junior	Harry Guyan	Spence Alsop	Andrew Strachan
Junior	Murray Shearer	James Broadribb	Ronald Keenan
Junior	Cole Innes	Ross Jaffray	Pamela Henderson
Junior	Alan Tang	Graeme Matthew	Scott Martin
Junior	Blair Stevenson	George Stevenson	Lorraine Stevenson
House	J. Martin Jeffrey	Ian McLeod	James Gauld
House	Maureen Buchan	Ken Anderson	Elaine Anderson
House	Karen Reilly	Alison Swan	John Swan

There are 15 Junior applications (including the above) hoping to be offered membership this year. DP and GN have discussed and propose that after these offers are approved, we close the Junior section for 2025 unless there are exceptional circumstances. This was approved

- **Transfers from within the membership**
Sandy Clark – from senior to non-playing
- **Resignations**
Robert Buckett House
Gordon Ewen House
Terry Henderson House
Callum McKnight Non-resident
Judy Millar House
- **New members**
Michelle Blease – Shepley Junior <12
Sophia Collin Junior <12
Daisy Cooper Junior <12
Hugo McAngus Junior 12 – 17
Logan Petrie Junior 12 – 17
Dylan Plant Junior 12 – 17
Bridget Stevenson Junior <12
Alfie Thomson Junior <12

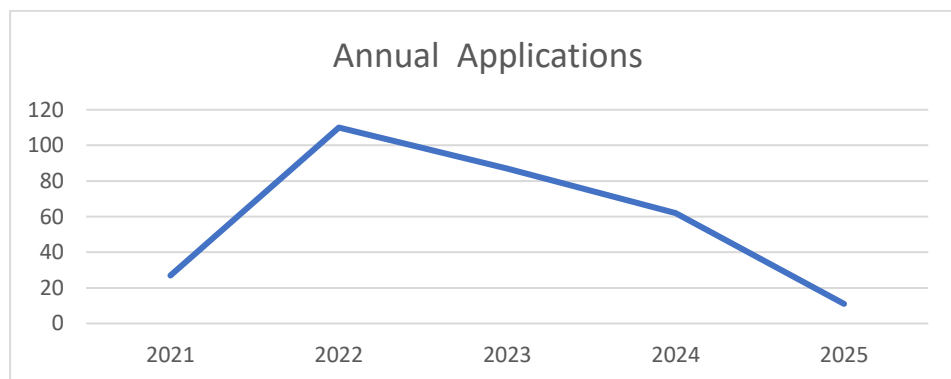
- **Waiting List**

Analysis of annual applications approved at Council:

Total number of applications on the waiting list – April 25 - 219

Additions over the last five years:

	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	5
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	
Annual	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	1983	1097	1520	4216	6010						

Website Data:

Comparison to last month			
April	Hits	Up	Down
Total Views	7800	16%	
Main pages			
DGC Homepage	1800	11.00%	
Webcam	1000	1.00%	
Members Hub	510		16.00%
Members Login	607	25.00%	
Clubhouse	285		22.00%
Visitors	333	11.00%	
Become a member	348	63.00%	
Country			
UK	1280	22%	
USA	24	85%	
Canada	2		

Netherlands	19	35%	
Norway	15	50%	
France	5	67%	
New Zealand	4		
Turkey	4	300%	

General Information/Actions/Requests etc. for discussion

- Email received from a member requesting that playing members submit three cards per year for handicap. After discussion it was agreed that this would not be recommended. It is contrary to the Scottish Golf handicap policy, who control the handicaps, it is a backward step and doesn't give the players the flexibility of submitting cards home and away. DP to reply.

6. May Agenda Items

- Capital Project:
 - Bunkers project – covered in reports
 - Path options – covered in reports
 - Options and Cost for ramp – DP follow up with Brian Noble who did original ramp design and then follow up with McLeod & Aitken re cost estimate for this work.
 - Driving range – exterior woodwork – covered in reports
- Other matters:
 - Strategy – CW updated Council on the latest SP meeting on 21st May. PR to circulate comments back to CW from his peer group. CW to prepare an analysis of the Expenditure on Course/Clubhouse/pro Shop.
 - Course layout and feedback from course walk – The course walk was very successful with some great ideas including varying the par 3's, moving the yellow tee on 18 to this side of the burn. It was agreed to move the 2nd tee on Blairs to share the 9th tee on Blairs after the Duncan Skinner Quaich final on Friday 30th May.
 - Junior access to the Driving Range on a Saturday - It was agreed that Juniors will be asked to step aside in the Driving Range if full members are looking to warm up, particularly on a Saturday. Junior will also be limited to one token at certain times of the day. They will be encouraged to practice up at the chipping area.
 - F&B Issues – It was reported that orders from the outside marquee area are not being followed through. DP to speak to FOH team. DP has ordered a two-way bell to help.
 - It was agreed to look at the cost of replacing the balcony decking and handrail. DP to action.
 - Painter Mike Hamilton tested a section of the Driving Range entrance. After discussion and a site visit, it was agreed to progress with painting the door area only at this stage.
 - Quote from NEREC for Clubhouse roof cleaning seems reasonable. DP to follow up with clarity on HSE risk assessments, references, and details on how work will be executed i.e. working at height etc.
 - Following a suggestion from the Strategy committee to erect a TV by the bar on the wall, it was agreed not to progress with this at the moment.

AOCB

- DP to look at application for Scottish Golf Awards for work the Pro Team has done in developing the Junior section.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 24th June @ 5.30pm in the Trophy Room

