

**Minute of Council Meeting  
held on the 24<sup>th</sup> June in the Trophy Room @ 5.30pm**

|                       |               |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Present:</b>       | A. Gordon     | (Captain)                       |
|                       | C. Watson     | (Vice Captain/Finance Convener) |
|                       | H. Craigie    | (Junior Convener)               |
|                       | P. Reilly     | (Greens Convener)               |
|                       | M. Parkinson  | (President)                     |
| <b>In Attendance:</b> | D.P. Pern     | (Club Manager)                  |
|                       | N. McLoughlin | (Course Manager)                |
|                       | G. Nethercott | (Head Professional)             |
| <b>Apologies:</b>     | S. Hutchison  | (Match & H'Cap)                 |
|                       | J. Henderson  | (Ladies Captain)                |

**1. Welcome:**

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Minute of Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

The minute of the Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May was approved.

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

- AG sent a response to Police Scotland regarding the issues at the river with Youths. The police thanked us for the action taken and requested more information on the exact location of the issues experienced. Some issues were experienced again on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Both DP and GN contacted the police, but no response was received. It was noted that RAGC are having the same problems with fires etc. on the course.
- Ramp project is covered below under Capital Projects.
- It was agreed to appoint NEREC to clean the Clubhouse roof. This will happen mid-September if weather allows.
- The Driving Range doors have been painted; the painters will now go ahead and finish facias in same colour. It was agreed to paint the internal area in a lighter colour and the bay area of the driving range will have a deep clean on the walls and bay dividers. The mirrors will be taken down. Two new edged mirrors will be erected in Bay 1. DP to investigate digital course photographs to erect on the walls. The carpet will be replaced in September. Following an email from a member regarding the bay mats, NM to check all the mats and speak to the company about replacements. It was agreed that they have had heavy use since trackman has been installed.
- Course policy document is on schedule for circulation at the August Council meeting.
- CBEC project is covered below under Capital projects. This includes the riverside path discussions with the CMBC riverside path group.
- NM to send out updated Risk Register by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June.
- DP/GN met again with Fiona Young (Cummings & Co) to finalise pro shop design. Once it has been received, it will be circulated to Council.
- GN/NM are working on the project brief for the driving range outfield development.

#### 4. **Health and Safety**

Member slipped on wet floor in Ladies locker room. DP to ensure the cleaners display the “wet floor” sign more prominently.

#### 5. **Convener Reports**

##### **Captain's Report**

- AG/PR/NM carried out a course walk, details are covered in the Course report.
- The recent PGA event at Deeside had some great feedback on the course condition and the Clubhouse facilities.
- Arrangements are in place for Club Championship Day on Saturday.
- Members Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> July. CW will carry out the presentations. Entries for the day will go live on 2nd July.

##### **Finance Report**

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

- There was a net profit for the month of May of £14k which was close to the budget for the month with positive contributions from both F&B and Golf Operations. The clubhouse costs were high in the month due to the annual insurance premium which was budgeted to come in June, and we should see the reversal of this variance next month. The profit for the month is less than the prior year where there were recoveries from Scottish Water and a gain on equipment sales.
- The loss YTD of £21k compares to the budgeted loss of £118k with higher gross profit of £45k and lower course costs of £65k. This was offset by higher clubhouse costs of £35k of which £20k relates to insurance premiums, noted above, and the balance is higher gas/electric and cleaning costs. The higher loss than at this point last year is due to the impact of the clubhouse closure, costs of trackman, delay recognising the reclaim of unspent loyalty balances and one-off credits last year (Gain and sale, and Scottish Water recoveries).
- The net loss from **F&B** YTD is £60k, which is £29k better than budget due to a very busy period leading up to the closure of the clubhouse and after the reopening, with a profit in the month of May resulting in the variance to last year being further reduced. The Gross Profit from catering was 64% in the month and YTD is 61% which is similar to last year.
- The net loss from **Golf Operations** YTD was down to £15k (after a profit of £9k in May), which is £12k better than budget and prior 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 sales are up almost 50%.
- With four usually more profitable months of the year remaining it looks likely that we will be able to deliver a profit for the year despite the clubhouse closure in January and February and the increased national insurance costs since April. The improved performance over budget can be summarised as follows:
  - Course salary savings with leavers not being replaced.
  - automation helping to reduce the manpower requirements.
  - as well as savings in course materials.
  - Improved footfall for the restaurant both prior to closure and following the completion of the refurb.
  - Increased pro-shop hardware sales.
  - Improved VAT recovery because of higher catering and pro-shop sales.

- Bank Balances at 31 May 2025: total of £691k. This represents a decrease in the total cash of £60k in the month with payment of suppliers for the clubhouse refurbishment and pro-shop suppliers. The new autonomous mowers have still to be paid for at the end of May.
- Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations: Based on budget the requirement is £560k, leaving about £130k for capital improvements. Note that cash balances will reduce in July and August when there is no direct debit subscription income.
- Capital Expenditure on improvements: During May, £26k was spent on the clubhouse refurbishment relating to the bill from Hutcheon Services.

### **Greens Convener and Course Manager Report**

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The main priority this month has been presenting the golf courses in top condition ahead of the Club Championship period. The rainfall at the end of May was a welcome relief, easing drought concerns and replenishing the 9th pond.
- All greens were verti-cut and topdressed. The plan is to repeat this process in the coming weeks, alongside pencil tinning. Weedkiller has been applied to all tees, semi-rough, and rough on the Haughton course. The next phase will focus on spraying the fairways, driving range, driveway and the Blairs course, weather permitting.
- Following a course walk with NM/PR/AG, a few areas were identified for improvement. NM and the team are currently progressing through this list. While some tasks are manageable in the short term, others are more substantial and will be scheduled as part of our winter works programme. Following discussions at the Strategy Meeting, the main objective was to establish how do we take the course to the next level. NM circulated the hole-by-hole document to Council for review. NM to cover the holes that were not walked round and add that to the document. Target dates and priorities to be set to deliver all outstanding issues and establish a matrix so these issues can continue to be monitored. Topics include course presentation and playable for members, improving turf around the approaches and greens and general tidy up of scruffy areas.
- After the Opens, it is intended to use the sand injection machine to treat targeted areas of semi-rough, rough, and high-wear fairways, continuing the progress made last season.
- The extra three robotic mowers have now been installed and are working away on the Haughton courses. More areas will be added over the next few weeks until they have reached their maximum cutting area.
- Riverside Issues: Ian (Fence installer) has been instructed to install fencing from the 13th tee to the 4th hole on the Blairs course. Still awaiting confirmation of the installation date.
- EDI Project: NM has reached out to James to obtain costings for future design options for the 15th hole, in relation to proposed tree removals. Once the price for approximately three alternatives has been received Council will review and present them to Struan Dalglish (Arborist) for feedback.
- CBEC update: PR had a constructive call with CBEC representative Alison this week. PR received the amended CBEC report on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June and shared it with AG/NM. AG to send a summary of low, medium and high priorities to PR for review, then PR to update report with recommendations which will be circulated to Council for discussion/review. Hamish (CBEC) will be in the Aberdeen area during July, and it is hoped to schedule a site visit, or at a minimum, a zoom call before then to discuss next possible next steps.

- Request a quote for the installation of floodlights in the flowerbed to illuminate the 18th green during hours of darkness.
- The flag colours will change next year to red, yellow and white. NM to order new flags and coordinate with GN on when the new score cards are delivered.
- Following the course walk with James Edwards from EDI, it was agreed that AG will form a small sub-committee to review the par three's and other possible changes to some of the holes. This will be a project for 2026.

### **Ladies' Captain Report**

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- June has been a busy month for the Ladies' section with both fun and competitive golf being enjoyed, thanks to the weather and good course conditions.
- A few ladies have commented that the sand in the base of the bunkers is still too compacted.
- The Ladies friendly against Portlethen was a win for Deeside, however the Golfview League ladies team lost to Kemnay at Kemnay.
- The ladies are looking forward to the Deeside Ladies Open Tri-am on the 26<sup>th</sup> June.
- All the arrangements for finals day are in place for the Ladies Senior, Handicap and Scratch matches.

### **Match & Handicap Report**

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Pennant Team: Good progress made with 3 wins from 3 so far with the team beating Auchmill and Peterculter (both at home) and Newmacher away. The last league match is against Hazlehead on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June (away). Confirmation to follow but results so far would suggest the team have already qualified for the Quarter Finals.
- Northern Counties (Nairn 12-14 September): Deeside will enter 2 teams for this event.
- Senior Stableford (RAGC): Thanks to Andy Powell who is going to co-ordinate the team selection for this event.
- Club Knock: out matches: Matches continue with the great majority of matches being played within the match schedule deadlines.
- Panmure Seniors: Positive Feedback from the Panmure senior team who played at Deeside. The course was in fantastic condition and the course changes impressed the Panmure team. In addition, the fantastic hospitality and lunch was commented as being first class and so credit to everyone involved. Some exceptional feedback which is great to hear.

### **Junior Report**

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Junior Pennant League: Deeside 1 - won 3, halved 1 and lost 1 of their 5 pennant matches. Despite this strong performance they finished third in the section behind winners Portlethen and second placed Cruden Bay 1. Deeside 2 - won 3 of their 5 matches and will likely also finish third in their group (one match remains to be played). Peterhead won this section, with Cruden Bay 2 likely second.  
Both teams did incredibly well and there was little separating the top teams. It is noticeable that Deeside have a young squad of golfers compared to the other clubs, so this should bode well for future years.

- Junior Team Golf - Deeside has entered 2 teams into this competition, with one participating in the Strathlene qualifier and the other in the Ellon qualifier, on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> September respectively. Each team will have 6 participants.
- Knockouts: Both junior knockout competitions are on track and at the semi-final stage.

### **Pro Shop Report**

A full report was circulated in advance, to summarise:

- The Duncan Skinner Quaich was poorly attended with only 11 playing in the final round. GN proposed that from 2026 there be a Handicap section of the Duncan Skinner Quaich. This was approved.
- Deeside Golf Club will be available within the trackman range to play from July. GN thanked Trackman for being so efficient and a couple months ahead of schedule.
- January to May: the number of rounds played is up circa 58% compared to 2024, whilst shop sales are up circa 64% over same period showing a close correlation between course usage & shop sales.
- Pro Shop will have its busiest period between now & first week of July with Club Championship Qualifiers, Stampede, Finals Day plus Ladies, Mixed, Senior & Gents Opens. Members support during this busy period is much appreciated.
- Deeside Pro Shop finished third in TaylorMades Race to Gleneagles over an eight-week period (linked to club sales). Auchterlonies, St. Andrews & Noah's Arc Perth finished ahead which is quite impressive considering Ping is our top selling hardware. GN thanked the membership for their support of the Pro Shop.
- GN has received feedback regarding out of bounds on 5 & our stroke indexes. GN confirmed that the Club cannot make a local rule regarding free drops from a boundary (against rules of golf). Changing our stroke indexes is not as straightforward to simply assign SI 1 to the hardest hole (e.g. 18th). The rules of golf have a very complex set of rules to follow when determining stroke indexes (e.g. the hardest holes on both front & back nine should be within the middle 3rd of each 9). Deeside is due to get re-rated in 2027 which will then determine if the stroke indexes need changed. Scottish Golf to determine our stroke indexes. GN to compare the difficulty of the holes from year to year at the end of the season.
- New scorecards will be ordered (slightly different design). This will incorporate change of flag colours representing front, middle, back, plus emergency guidance.
- There have been a couple of requests to move the Paddy Phillips back to the Haughton Course on a different day to Finals Day. This year there are currently 14 groups signed up which is very impressive. It was agreed to discuss this further before 2026.
- 257 border breaches out of 180,500 shots (0.14%). Busiest Day/Time on Range currently Sundays at 11am.
- Posters updated on Range to encourage users of range to keep balls within white posts, return baskets & only members have free use of range.
- Ready Golf initiative on Wednesdays was promoted with mixed success.
- Knock out protocols will be updated in time for 2026.
- YourGolfBooking: Only Bay 7 can be booked at all times.
- All juniors updated on new Saturday policies (first Saturday near perfect) i.e. use of driving range and putting Green.

## Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Full members      | 812 |
| Senior members    | 125 |
| Associate 30 – 34 | 15  |
| Associate 24 – 29 | 21  |

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Young Adults      | 30  |
| House/Non Playing | 165 |
| Senior VIP        | 13  |
| House 5 Day       | 2   |
| Country           | 16  |
| Junior 12 – 18    | 145 |
| Junior under 12   | 57  |
| Non Resident      | 61  |
| Life              | 14  |
| Honorary          | 7   |

- Applications for membership – May/June All approved by membership sub-Committee.

| Cat  | Name              | Proposer          | Seconder          |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Full | Alex Barclay      | John Robertson    | Andrew Jarvie     |
| Full | David Main        | Neil Morton       | Martin Skinner    |
| Full | John Sim          | Colin Leach       | Allan McCulloch   |
| Full | Jonathan Spence   | Alan Standerwick  | Jamie Cooper      |
| Full | Derek Young Park  | LOR               | LOR               |
| Full | Elaine Howe       | Gregor Howe       | Gillian Summers   |
| Full | Pamela Macdougall | Ron MacDougall    |                   |
| Full | John Macdougall   | Ron Macdougall    |                   |
| Full | Ryan Scatterty    | Alan O Hanlon     | Jennifer O Hanlon |
| Full | Corinne Scatterty | Jennifer O Hanlon | Alan O Hanlon     |
| Full | Richard Smith     | Turlough McGurran | Lynn McGurran     |
| Full | Laura Nicol       | Alison Nicol      | Elizabeth Gibb    |
| Full | Carol Keith       | Alison Nicol      | Elizabeth Gibb    |
| Full | Ryan Broadhurst   | Christopher Herd  | Graeme Herd       |
| Full | Ashley Herd       | Christopher Herd  | Graeme Herd       |
| Full | Melanie Herd      | Christopher Herd  | Graeme Herd       |
| Full | Stephen Glennie   | Duncan Glennie    | David Cassie      |
| Full | Ross Sangster     | Andrew Strachan   | Bill Strachan     |
| Full | Sebastian Plant   | Peter Bisset      | Mike Pollock      |
| Full | Bruce Craig       | Martin Sinclair   | Roger Connon      |
| Full | Hayden Duff       | Ashley Adams      | Eric Adams        |
| Full | Paul Coutts       | Ashley Adams      | Eric Adams        |
| Full | Paul Duff         | Eric Adams        | Ashley Adams      |
| Full | Carey Veitch      | Mathew Duncan     | Andy McDonald     |
| Full | Martin Guyan      | Ronan Fox         | Mathew Duncan     |
| Full | Dave Guyan        | Ronan Fox         | Craig McCaul      |
| Full | Gary Selbie       | Paul Mercer       | Kevin Reid        |
| Full | Jonathan Nesbitt  | Graeme Nisbet     | David Macleod     |

|        |                  |                  |                   |
|--------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Full   | Graeme Murray    | Jamie Cooper     |                   |
| Junior | Aaron Farrell    | Sandy Hutchison  | Michael Willet    |
| Junior | Noah Smith       | Alastair Smith   | Colin Edward      |
| Junior | Murray Lynch     | Lee Buck         | Mark Grant        |
| Junior | Alastair Herd    | Christopher Herd | Graeme Herd       |
| Junior | Madison Herd     | Christopher Herd | Graeme Herd       |
| Junior | Daniel Milne     | Michael Milne    | Alex MacDonald    |
| Junior | Theo Plant       | Peter Bisset     | Mike Pollock      |
| Junior | Alex Trifyllis   | Richard Nicol    | Simon Cruickshank |
| Junior | Toby Nesbitt     | Graeme Nisbit    | David Macleod     |
| Junior | Jackson Heskeith | Gianni Brooke    | Andrew Strachan   |
| Junior | Hannah Ounap **  | LOR              |                   |

\*\* Hannah has just moved to Cults and doesn't know any full members. She is 16 and currently plays on the Scottish Golf Girls team (HI +2.6) GN/DP recommend that we offer Hannah membership even if it's just for a couple of years. This was approved.

- Transfers from within the membership**

| Name            | From        | To    |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| Finlay Sinclair | Young Adult | Staff |
| Mark Garden     | Resigned    | Full  |

- Resignations**

Lee Brandie      Full  
Callum Coffey    Junior 12 – 17  
Scott D'Ath      Junior 12 – 17

- Deceased**

G Innes - House

- New members**

Aria Alipour      Junior 12 – 17  
Baxter Allan      Junior 12 – 17  
Lewis Allan      Junior 12 – 17  
Tyler Buchan      Junior <12  
Archie Cardno    Junior 12 – 17  
Ben Corrigan Junior 12 – 17  
Emily Cuthbertson      Junior <12  
Jessica Cuthbertson Junior <12  
Stuart Florance – Full  
Harry Guyan Junior 12 – 17  
Andrew Halliday Junior 12 – 17  
Cole Innes Junior 12 – 17  
Sean Ness Junior <12  
Nathan Sandford Junior 12 – 17  
Finlay Smithwhite Junior 12 – 17  
Theo Watson Junior 12 - 17

- **Waiting List**

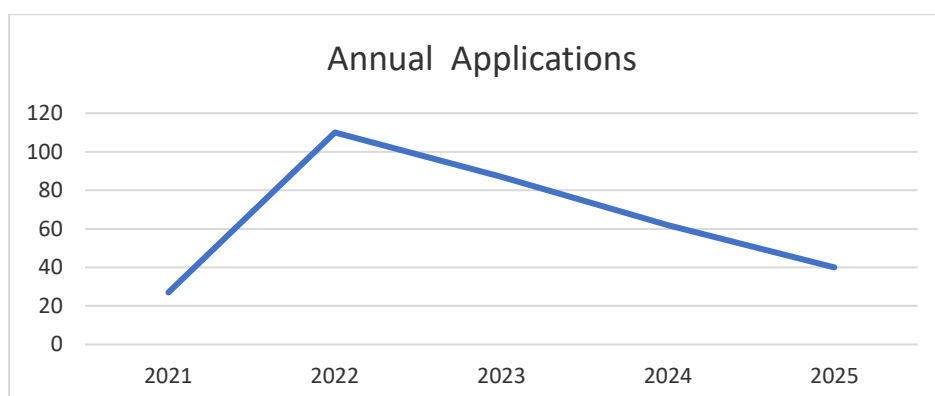
Analysis of annual applications approved at Council:

Total number of applications on the waiting list – May 25 - 229

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    |
|           |      |      |      |      | 10   |
| 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        40**



## 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 | 6988 |      |      |      |      |       |

- Website Data: - quarterly report circulated to Council.
- **General Information/Actions/Requests etc. for discussion**
  - Following on from the issues at the riverbank with youths, DP has a quote from a security company to patrol the river. DP's recommendation for now is to continue to work with the police unless there is a continuing problem over the coming weeks, then Council can make a decision on additional security. The danger is that with additional security it may antagonise the situation and create more problems.
  - DP received more information from NEREC on the Clubhouse roof cleaning. They will use quick stage aluminium scaffolding. They will use scraper heads attached to telescopic poles. The job should take 2/3 days including clean-up and biocide. It was agreed to proceed.
  - The Past Captains/Presidents lunch was a great success. Those in attendance enjoyed being given the opportunity to feedback comments to the Captain.
  - DP to look at carpet tiles as an alternative for the gent's locker room area.

## 6. June Agenda Items

- Capital Projects:
  - Bunker project is progressing well, no further update at this time
  - 9th Hole Pathway Development (Blairs Course) – the quote has been received for all the groundwork relating to the new path from the 9th green on the Blairs course up to the Clubhouse. It includes excavation and preparation, after which, the greens team will install the hardcore base, grid system, gravel, and complete the area with either turf or seed. The project is expected to take approximately 10 days and will start in September.
  - DP contacted architect Brian Noble to advise Cameron & Ross, to update the drawings on the ramp at the side of the Clubhouse. After communication with Brian, it was agreed to progress with the structural engineer cost to update the ramp proposals and provide the relevant SER certification and drawings/information to

support a Building Warrant application. It was also agreed to proceed with the planning application which is required. It was also agreed to go with composite decking on the new ramp and balcony.

- Other matters:
  - Strategy Plan: CW updated Council on progress. After discussion it was agreed that CW will discuss with the Strategy Team the possibility of inserting a Q&A to the document. It was also agreed to include details of F&B pricing. DP/AG agree date for “Meet the Captain” meeting to communicate the final Strategy Plan. Probably around October.
  - It was agreed to review the Club policies annually.
  - DP to look at adding another login private page on the website for Council members only. Council documents would be stored in here.
  - Winter Fours: AG updated Council on various discussions with various groups of members. After discussion it was agreed that the Club will revoke Seniors being permitted to play in the Winter Fours as per the regulation on Seniors not permitted to play on a Saturday/Sunday before 4.00pm. AG to write to the nine seniors involved and suggest they move back to full membership if they want to play in the Winter Fours. As Juniors have no choice of membership, they will be permitted to play in the Winter Fours as they are the future of the Club. Maximum handicap index for Juniors will be 18 and teams will be restricted. This will come into effect in October 2025. AG to meet with Colin Balchin & Iain Hunter to update them on this decision. GN to give AG a list of Senior members who play in Winter fours. DP to revise the regulations.

#### **AOCB**

- PR raised the issue of offering full playing membership to employees who leave the Club. After discussion it was agreed that ex-employees could apply for membership in the normal way. It would be up to Council of the day to decide if accelerated membership was appropriate.

**Next Meeting – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July @ 5.30pm in the Trophy Room**



