

**Minute of Council Meeting
held on the 22nd July 2025 in the Trophy Room @ 5.30pm**

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

1. Welcome:

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute of Council held on 24th June 2025

The minute of the Council meeting on 24th June was approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- AG met with the Winter Fours organisers Colin Balchin, Ian Hunter, and Tom O'Rourke to discuss Senior members playing in the Winter Fours. Following the discussion, it was agreed that, effective from October 2025, Senior members will no longer be permitted to play on a Saturday, in line with the existing Senior member regulations. AG has communicated this decision, along with the rationale, to all Senior members who previously participated in Saturday matches.
- Driving Range Mirrors – It was agreed to replace three central mirrors with panoramic course photography. The chosen photos were approved by Council. The painting and deep clean will commence on the 4th August. The new carpet will be laid at the end of August. A sample mat frame has been ordered for testing.
- The course toilet block will be painted week commencing 4th August.
- The Clubhouse roof clean will start week commencing 15th September.
- AG to send member communication update around the end of August which will include updates on the Driving Range, 9th/18th path and clubhouse roof clean.
- Research on carpet tiles for the gent's locker room is ongoing.
- Access to a Council folder on Sharepoint has been given to Captain, Finance Convener and Greens Convener. PR requested a short tutorial on using this platform. DP to arrange.
- DP/NM met with architect Brian Noble and a representative from Millboard flooring to discuss the current condition of the balcony. Following the discussion, it was agreed that both the joists and the balcony flooring should be replaced. Additionally, it was suggested that the main railing be replaced to comply with updated building regulations. Brian Noble will liaise with the Planning Department to raise these issues. He will also send the updated drawings to a contractor he has previously worked with, for a cost comparison against the estimate received from McLeod & Aitken.

- Updated Course Policy will be circulated and approved at the August Council meeting.
- CBEC – PR updated Council on progress. AG provided a summary to be further discussed. Another meeting date to be arranged around end of August early September depending on availability.
- Riverside Path – PR/NM met with Ian Clark (representative from CBMCC) and shared the CBEC draft report. Once Council have decided on the best course of action CMBCC will seek grants to purchase materials for the path. In the meantime, NM to purchase a sign to encourage members of the public not to cut across the 5th on Haughton and stay on public footpath.
- NM received a quote from James Edwards to look at the trees on the 15th hole and options to improve the driving range outfield. It was agreed to progress with developing options for Council to consider. NM to set up a meeting with the arborist Struan and architect James.
- The path from the 9th green on Blairs will start week beginning 15th September. AG to circulate communication to members beforehand. The same contractor will remove the bund at the 5th hole on Haughton to allow flood water to escape. Material from Bund may be suitable for new path from Blairs 9th to clubhouse.
- NM has requested a quote for Flood Lights onto the 18th green.
- It was agreed that the pin flags will be replaced in 2026.
- NM to carry out a final course walk on Blairs before completing the Course Walk document.
- GN/DP to share updated Pro Shop plans at August Council meeting.
- It was agreed to add some new cupboards space in the general office when the refurb takes place. The Admin office refurb will likely commence after the Pro shop refurb has been completed.

4. Health and Safety

The annual H&S Audit will take place in August.

No safety incidents reported.

5. Convener Reports

Captain's Report

- Following AG's note to members on Dress Code. It was agreed that Council and Management will keep on top of it. Members are reminded again of the current dress code.
- AG requested that Council start thinking about replacements for Finance Convener and Match & Handicap convener for February 2026. It was agreed that Match & Handicap does not necessarily have to be a Council position.

Finance Report

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

- There was a net profit for the month of June of £9k which is slightly better than the budget for the month of £3k. There was a positive variance in the month due to the annual insurance costs being incurred in May, which were budgeted for June – this was offset by some higher course costs and higher F&B salaries in the month. The profit for the month is less than the prior year due to the additional course costs and a very strong F&B performance in June last year.

- The loss YTD of £12k compares to the budgeted loss of £116k, with higher gross profit of £53k and lower course costs of £48k offset by higher clubhouse costs of £17k due to 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, and one-off credits last year (Gain and sale and Scottish Water recoveries).
- The net loss from F&B YTD is £62k, which is £27k better than the budget due to very busy periods leading up to the closure of the clubhouse and after the reopening. The Gross Profit from catering was 63% in the month and YTD is 61.4% which is similar to last year.
- The net loss from Golf Operations YTD was down to £13k (after a profit of £7k in June) which is £13k better than budget and £11k up on prior year driven by strong hardware sales from club fittings earlier in the year and increased coaching sales. Margins were better in the month with sales driven by higher margin clothing sales and coaching.
- The last quarter of the year is usually the most profitable, and so it is more than 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 and 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 sales.
 - Improved VAT recovery because of higher catering and pro-shop sales

Balance Sheet Review

- Bank Balances at 30 June 2025 – total of £724k. This represents an increase in the total cash of £31k in the month with income from subscriptions and other cash inflows exceeding payments to suppliers.
- Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations – Based on budget the requirement is £560k, leaving about £164k for capital improvements. Note that cash balances will reduce in August and September when there is no direct debit subscription income.
- Capital Expenditure in the month – there was about £40k (inc irrecoverable VAT) spent on new autonomous mowers in June.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- In July, all greens were verti-cut and top-dressed. This will be repeated in the coming weeks, along with pencil tinning and a light scarification added to help control thatch levels. Weedkiller has been applied across the entire Blairs course and around the clubhouse and driveway. Spraying of the driving range and Haughton fairways is still pending. Wetting agents continue to be applied to all fine turf areas, and the team has begun spraying selected walkways with a fertiliser blend to help improve turf health in these high-traffic zones.
- This month, the sand injection machine will be used to treat targeted areas of semi-rough, rough, and high-wear fairways—building on the progress made last season. The only potential issue may be if the ground becomes too hard for effective treatment.
- The robotic mower programme continues to expand, with additional areas now included. It is hoped to incorporate more of the 3rd hole on the Haughton course soon.

AG requested that the mowers are pulled back from the riverside area of the course earlier in the day, to reduce opportunity for members of the public interfering with the autonomous mowers. NM to change the timing on timeclock.

- Following a request from a member, NM to install ball retrievers along the burn at the 13th, 15th and 18th holes.

Riverside Issues – The new fence has been installed extending from the side of the 12th hole to the rear of the 4th tee on the Blairs course.

Staffing - NM reported that Marc Lawrence has submitted his resignation, having accepted the position as Course Manager at Banchory Golf Club. The vacancy has been advertised on the BIGGA website, and NM is currently reviewing applications. NM also reported that sadly Cameron Riddell passed away peacefully.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The Ladies Section continues to be well supported. It was great to see so many ladies spectating on Finals Day. The Open Tri-am and County events were very popular and we had 26 ladies at our social nine and wine event on Thursday 10th July. Sam's golf classes are also providing the ladies with a healthy number of membership applications.

Match & Handicap Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Pennant Team (Sunday 13th July) – Sadly the Deeside team lost 1 v 4 against Banchory in the Pennant League Quarter Final. Thanks to all players who represented the club this year in the Pennant League.
- Murcar Jubilee Shield (Sunday 7th September) – Invitation sent to members to participate in this 8-man handicap team event.
- Dalswinton Trophy at Deeside (Sunday 7th September) – Invitation issued to all Aberdeen City Clubs to enter this scratch foursomes event.
- Northern Counties (Nairn 12-14 September)– Deeside will enter 2 teams for this event.
- Club Knock-out matches – Matches continue with the great majority of matches being played within the match schedule deadlines.

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 we 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 31st August and 14th 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 team received a lot of positive feedback regarding Finals Day which as always is one of the highlights of the Deeside calendar. It was agreed to purchase a podium to act as a starters box/Trophy stand etc for next year.
- Michael Paterson from Trackman was recently at Deeside. He advised that 8000 balls hit per bay per month would be considered a quiet range; 15,000 balls hit per bay would be considered a busy range. Deeside is currently 26,000 balls hit per bay which is the highest he has ever seen.
- 212 border breaches out of 162,000 shots (0.13%)
The busiest day/time on the range currently is Sundays at 1pm followed by 2pm

Actions

- GN/NM are still awaiting feedback from EDI regarding upgrades to the outfield of the range. However, based on the above Trackman data, it may be prudent of the Club to make plans with James to add another five bays (this would bring us back down to a 'busy range' based on Trackmans parameters). To keep costs down, this would possibly have to be outdoor bays. It was agreed to ask James about this option.
- GN/DP have had a couple meetings with architect Fiona Young regarding the Pro Shop refurb. Plans are progressing well. GN to update Council in August.
- After discussion it was agreed to update the Club's Social media policy. DP/GN to action.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	810
Senior members	125
Associate 30 – 34	15
Associate 24 – 29	21
Young Adults	29
House/Non Playing	166
Senior VIP	13
House 5 Day	2
Country	16
Junior 12 – 18	150
Junior under 12	65
Non Resident	59
Life	14
Honorary	7

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

Cat	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Full	Ryan Houghton	William Young	Alan Porter
Full	Daniel Lints	Henry Lints	Linda Lints
Full	Lennard Bester	Philip Adams	Ashley Adams
Full	Gordon Matson	Andrew Patterson	Doug Newlands
Full	Jonathan Hay	Jock Gardiner	Robert Bain
Full	David Allen	Roy Angus	To follow

Full	Alan Sherriffs	Iain Massie	Peter Bisset
Full	Archie Allan	Jayne Leith	David Halliday
Full	Michael Spencer	Roger Connon	Stewart Dawson
Full	Neil Robertson	Russell Anderson	Peter Mutch
Full	James Harper	Scott Harper	Sandy McAllister
Full	Henry Tawse	Derek Gray	Joan Webster
Full	Jonathan Tawse	Derek Gray	Joan Webster
Full	Christopher Munro	Robert Duthie	Alastair Chambers
Full	Gerben Kuipers	Mike Churchill	Ailsa Churchill
Full	Marc Dawson	Philip Sutherland	Kevin Willox
Full	Andrew Hall	Kenneth Brebner	Graeme Matthew
Full	Jane Kuipers	Clare Billeau	Simon Billeau
Full	Jacqui Lyons	Nicola Henderson	Lisa Bruce
Junior	Courtney Nethercott	Ian Nethercott	Graeme Nethercott
Junior	Callum MacBain	Murray Burnett	Craig Forsyth
Junior	Maxwell Duncan	Jonathan Harper	Lynn McGurran
Junior	Harry Allan	Jayne Leith	David Halliday
Junior	Nathan Grieve	Andrew Strachan	Bill Strachan
Junior	Amelie Brechin	Andy McDonald	To follow
Junior	Bryce Cochrane	Iain Gill	Chris Ness
Junior	Harvey Cochrane	Iain Gill	Chris Ness
Junior	Elliot Stewart	Andrew Forbes	Stuart Herd
Junior	Finlay Munro	Robert Duthie	Alistair Chambers

- **Transfers from within the membership**

Name	From	To
Donald Gormley	Full	Non Playing
Anne Kelman	Full	Non playing

- **Resignations**

Gregor Hughes – Non-Resident

- **New members**

Penelope Dalgarno – Junior <12

Arron Haxton – Junior 12 – 17

Ellis Heron – Junior <12

Harper Lamont – Junior <12

James Roberts – Junior <12

Oliver Sangster – Junior 12 – 17

Murray Shearer – Junior 12 – 17

Blair Stevenson – Junior <12

- **Waiting List**

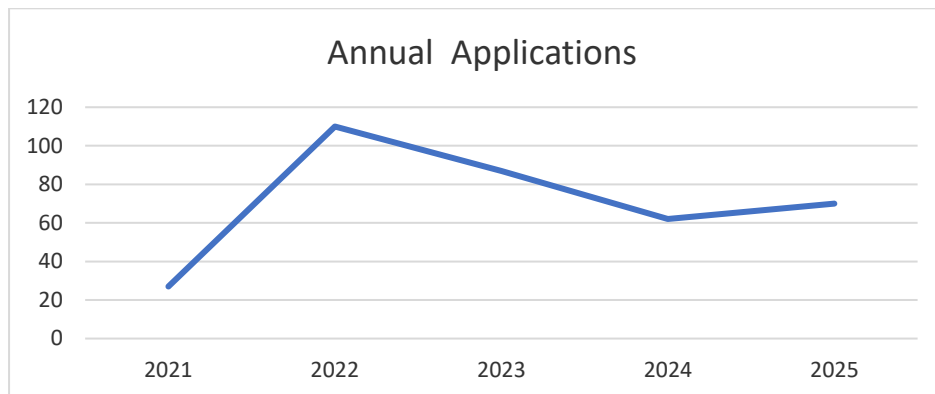
Analysis of annual applications approved at Council:

Total number of applications on the waiting list – June 259 (June 24 - 225)

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	10
June	1	16	7	5	30
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		

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Annual	27	110	87	62	70



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	6681				

General Information/Actions/Requests etc. for discussion

- On Saturday, 12th July, a major water pipe burst on Golf Road, prompting Scottish Water to close the road and implement a diversion through Newton Dee. Unfortunately, this diversion was arranged without prior consultation with either Deeside or Newton Dee, resulting in significant disruption. The increased traffic volume through Newton Dee caused considerable distress to local residents, many of whom are extremely vulnerable and unaccustomed to such levels of traffic within the village. Additionally, it has been reported that some members behaved disrespectfully towards residents during this period, which is deeply regrettable. In response, several Deeside members kindly volunteered their time to manage traffic flow at a key junction during peak hours, helping ease the situation for both Newton Dee and Club members. The road was fully re-opened on the morning of Friday, 18th July. I think once the dust settles it would be a good and neighbourly gesture to arrange a meeting with Camphill/Newton Dee to discuss any common issues we have. We have done this in the past.

6. June Agenda Items

- Capital Projects:
 - All covered in reports.
- Other matters:
 - CW updated Council on progress with the Strategy Plan. The SP committee met on Monday 21st July after which it was agreed to prepare a Q&A for each core area. CW to prepare draft and circulate to the SP committee. AG will arrange a Captains meeting in October to launch the new plan to members.

AOCB

- Nothing to report

Next Meeting – Tuesday 19th August @ 5.30pm in the Trophy Room

