

Minute of Council Meeting
held on the 19th August 2025 in the Trophy Room @ 5.30pm

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

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

Apologies:	M. Parkinson	(President)
	S. Hutchison	(Match & H'Cap)

1. Welcome:

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute of Council held on 22nd July 2025

The minute of the Council meeting on 22nd July was approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- Various member communications are ready to be circulated over the next few weeks with updates on the Driving Range, 9th path and roof clean works. DP/GN to schedule accordingly.
- Approval given to proceed with the gents locker room carpet. DP to request samples from General & Technical. The install date will be around February 2026.
- Driving Range – DP confirmed that the Driving Range refurbishment will be completed by the end of September. It was agreed to progress with frames for all the bay mats. Current mats will be retained with holes for tees reinforced. The curling of mats at corners will be monitored before decision on whether to retain or replace mats.
- Share point training has been arranged for 20th August.
- DP will have final costs for the office refurbishment next month.
- AG reported that AG/CW/DP/NM had a very successful meeting with Camphill/ Newton Dee. It was agreed to repeat this once a year to discuss any common issues.
- It was agreed to authorise architect Brian Noble to progress to the next stage with the Balcony/Ramp project. A cost should be available at the September Council meeting.
- Updated Course Policy document –PR/NM to circulate before the end of the month.
- CBEC – Finally an online meeting has been arranged on 25th August to progress with the report. After this has been completed the final report will be circulated and discussed at the September Council meeting. The options and next steps to then be discussed and agreed.
- PR had a meeting with Ian Clark who represents the CMBCC path group. They are fully supportive of the steps taken so far with the fence along the river. After the CBEC meeting PR will arrange a meeting with Ian and Peter Smith the chair of the path group to look at the next steps.
- Course architect James Edward will be on site during September to survey the next stage of the bunker project and other initiatives.

- NM to order a new text plate for two course signs advising golfers to wait clearing the 15th tee before teeing off from the 14th Tee. This is a safety issue with too many near misses. The current sign will be removed from the 15th tee and new signs on the 14th tees.
- NM confirmed that the 9th path start date is 22nd September. The contractor will also carry out work at the bund at the 4th hole on Haughton following discussions with CBEC.
- Having received a quote for flood lights in front of the Clubhouse to light up the 18th green, it was agreed to put this on hold for now.
- NM will update and circulate the hole by hole walk round on both Haughton and Blairs. before 22nd August.
- NM confirmed that the Robotic mowers have all been adjusted and will not operate at the riverside after 3.00pm. They will be removed from the courses around the middle of October.
- GN confirmed that the final costs for the Pro Shop refurbishment will be available at the September Council meeting. It is still on schedule for completion in January.
- Future Council positions are ongoing with discussions for Finance, Junior and Match & Handicap Conveners taking place.

4. Health and Safety

Annual H&S audit has been re-arranged for the 17th September.

DP to contact all the ride on buggy users to ensure they are having their lithium batteries checked on an annual basis. The buggy store will be checked on a regular basis and where it is evident buggies have not been used for significant time the power supply will be disconnected and the buggy owners will be advised by email. This is a fire safety issue.

NM confirmed that new steps and a handrail will be built on the first ladies tee on Haughton over the winter.

5. Convener Reports

Captain's Report

- AG again highlighted the Dress Code issues. Council is instructed to speak to members and guests and make them aware of the dress code if they feel the dress code is not being adhered to.
- AG has written to two Juniors who have broken Club rules and warned them on their future conduct.

Finance Report

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

- There was a net profit for the month of July of £20k which is lower than the budget for the month of £33k and lower than the prior year profit of £36k. The adverse variance to budget in the month was in part due to additional of course fertiliser which to replenish the stocks for next year (we do not adjust the monthly stock values) and clubhouse costs including higher utility bills and sundry items perhaps in part driven by the higher footfall since the reopening in March. It was noted during the meeting that the higher utility bills may be a result of high usage of the 3-phase power irrigation system this summer. NM to check electric meters on the irrigation system and report back to CW.
- The profit in July has now taken us into the black YTD with a profit for the 10 months of £8k compared to a budgeted loss YTD of £82k. The profit YTD is lower than the £95k last year but last year included several one-off credits and had no clubhouse closure. Key favourable variances to budget include improved contributions from F&B and Golf

Operations (see below), and lower course costs (primarily head count savings). There are some costs above budget including heat & light, cleaning and sundries as noted above perhaps driven by the new clubhouse some of which may be temporary.

- The net loss from **F&B** YTD is £61k which is £32k better than the budget due to busy periods leading up to the closure of the clubhouse and increased revenues after reopening. The Gross Profit from catering was 63.6% in the month and YTD is 61.7%. Staff costs are higher than last year but are in line with budget.
- The net loss from **Golf Operations** YTD was down to only £1k which is £15k better than budget and £26k 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. A strong finish to the year could see Golf Operations delivering a surplus for the first time!

Forecast for the year

- We expect the last two months of the year to continue to be profitable and so it is very 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. My current projection for the year is a surplus before taxation of around £30k. We aim to have a surplus that is at least as much as we are spending on course development which will be around £55k this year. We did anticipate a lower surplus this year because of the clubhouse closure. Over the past 3 years our net surplus will be close to the amount we have spent on course development.

Balance Sheet Review

- **Bank Balances at 30 July 2025 – total of £681k.** This represents a decrease in the total cash of £42k in the month with payments to suppliers and no direct debit subscription income in the month.
- **Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations** – Based on budget the requirement is £560k, leaving about £121k for capital improvements/emergency costs. Note that cash balances will further reduce in August when again there is no direct debit subscription income but thereafter should start to increase again.
- DP/NM to check electricity meters are reading correctly.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- All the greens have been verti-cut and pencil tined to improve turf quality and playing conditions. However, due to a combination of operational challenges and timing constraints, topdressing has not yet been completed. Wetting agent/fertiliser continue to be applied across all fine turf areas and selected walkways particularly those in high-traffic areas to support turf recovery and overall health.
- Sand injection work on the Haughton course has been postponed due to the current dry ground conditions and sustained levels of play. With rainfall, the surface will become more workable, enabling the work to proceed.
- Autumn maintenance for the Haughton course is planned for the week commencing 15th September, with the Blairs course maintenance scheduled for the following week. These works will include a combination of scarifying, sand injection, and nutrient application to prepare the courses for winter and ensure healthy spring growth.
- Robotic Mower Programme -The robotic mower programme continues to expand, providing improved efficiency and consistent cutting quality. For safety reasons, the timer settings have been adjusted so that no mowers operate near the river during evening

hours. There is an additional mower on loan, which will be on the far side of the Haughton course and charged from the toilet facility.

- Looking ahead, September and October will see a trial of a robotic mower on fairways. This test will compare its performance, particularly in managing worm casts, against the traditional cylinder mower.
- Riverside Issues - Since the new fencing was installed along the riverside, there has been a significant reduction in reported issues. There are some white posts to be painted along the 3rd hole on Blairs.
- EDI Project - Approval has been granted for design work on the 15th hole and the driving range.
- Septic tank issue - During a service inspection on Thursday it has been reported that the side of the septic tank at the greenkeepers shed has given way. The tank will need replacing. NM to discuss with HC.
- PR to send a members update on the bunker work schedule.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Since the last council meeting the ladies have had a full calendar. Of particular note were the Presidents Prize, Summer Meeting and County Open. There were many compliments about the course conditions and support from the Pro Shop. The ladies appreciate all the staff at Deeside.
- At the monthly ladies committee JH discussed a complaint about slow play. Both incidents had extenuating circumstances, and it was agreed the tee times are sufficient in the short term. JH also highlighted the message regarding dress code and etiquette.
- The ladies are looking forward to their Away Day with 45 Deeside Ladies going to Ballater on 5th September.

Match & Handicap Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Dalswinton Trophy at Deeside (Sunday 7th September) – A very low uptake so far and a reminder has been 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. The event is over-subscribed and Deeside will find out at the end of August if the second team are entered.
- End of Season Pennant Dinner – Dates released for the Annual end of season Pennant Dinner. 19th September and invitations out to the Pennant Squad.
- 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:

- Off the Tee Trophy - The qualifying round of the Off the Tee competition, against Murcar was cancelled following Murcar's late withdrawal. This saw Deeside progress straight through to the semi-final, on Sunday 24th August, when they will play Banchory. The other semi-final is between Portlethen and Inverurie. Should the boys progress, the final is also on the 24th.

- Junior Team Golf - The Junior Team Golf competition with qualifiers at Strathlene, Buckie and McDonald Golf Club, Ellon, are on 31st August and 14th September respectively. The 2 teams of 6 juniors each have been selected and the players notified.
- Spence Trophy - With Oli Blackadder now in the States, Ollie Robertson will represent Deeside in the Spence Trophy on Sunday 31st August. Ollie was unable to play last year, following his victory in the Angusfield Rosebowl, so it is fitting that he gets the opportunity in place of Oli.
- **Pro Shop Report**
A full report was circulated in advance, to summarise:
 - There has been two instances of thunder and lightning over the last month which is very unusual. The course closure policy has been updated to include thunder as well as lightening.
 - GN has made the decision to drop Wilson from the hardware products in 2026.
 - All clothing has been ordered for 2026 apart from one ladies brand.
 - The Stroke Play Championship will be reviewed on completion of the event this year.
 - There have been several issues where the etiquette and behaviour of members has fallen well below the expectations & standards of the club. Members are reminded to ensure they are fully aware of club etiquette and standards required of a Deeside member. Of note: Slow play, raking bunkers, deep divots at the chipping green, bag sharing, dress code (members and guests), family members using the Clubhouse when members not on site, members bringing guests after hours and not booking/paying.
 - The social media policy has been updated.
 - Fiona Young is currently gathering quotes & costings for Pro Shop refurbishment. These will be circulated at the September Council meeting. GN shared the plans with Council.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	808
Senior members	125
Associate 30 – 34	15
Associate 24 – 29	21
Young Adults	29
House/Non Playing	167
Senior VIP	13
House 5 Day	2
Country	16
Junior 12 – 18	150
Junior under 12	66
Non Resident	59
Life	14
Honorary	7

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

Cat	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Full	Gary Kelso	Philip Stratford	Paul Mercer
Full	David McHardy	John Caldwell	Alan Gibson
Full	Lesley McBride	Andrew Patterson	Doug Newlands

Full	Ryan Pirie	Craig Forsyth	Leslie Wilson
Full	Martin Forbes	Murray Burnett	Craig Forsyth
Full	Richard Beattie	Peter Kavanagh	Simon Roddy
Full	Neil Adamson	Robert Laing	Graham Robertson
Full	Rory Watson	Connor Bruce	Lisa Bruce
Full	Emily Neish	David Rennie	Simon Cruickshank
Junior	Thomas Shepherd	Graeme Milne	Alan MacPhee
Junior	Ellis Cardno	Martin Skinner	Andrew Strachan
Junior	Katy Hay	Douglas Davidson	Alastair Gove
Junior	Jake Harper	Andy Dornan	Colin Walker
Junior	Josh Beattie	Peter Kavanagh	Simon Roddy
Junior	Josh Misra	Paul Warwick	Frances Warwick
Junior	Nathan Sinclair	Brad Youngson	Neil Morton
Junior	Oscar Percival	Ewan McNeil	Brad Youngson
Junior	Lucas Van de Laar	Bart Van de Laar	Neil Morton
House	Alistair Mackenzie	Ian Aitchison	Debbie Pern
House	Kirsty Hay	Douglas Davidson	Alastair Gove

After discussion it was agreed that Emily Neish will be offered accelerated membership in March 2026.

- **Transfers from within the membership**

Name	From	To
John Lord	Full	Non Playing

- **New members**

Molly Simpson - Junior

- **Deceased**

James G Tennent - Full

- **Waiting List**

Analysis of annual applications approved at Council:

Total number of applications on the waiting list – July 274 (July 24 - 235)

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	19
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	89

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	6989			

General Information/Actions/Requests/Discussion etc.

- DP updated Council on various projects in and around the Clubhouse/Driving Range.
- Council approved the Gents locker Room carpet. This will be scheduled for Jan 2026.
- DP shared some details on potential outside furniture. DP to continue researching options.
- It was agreed to monitor the situation with Junior member parents accessing the Clubhouse while Juniors are on site.
- The issue of members and non members attending Championship day and Members day was discussed. A better system of complimentary catering to be researched for 2026.
- DP to speak to joiner and cut out the shelves in the new lockers.
- It was agreed to permit Associate members to propose and second membership applications.
- DP to arrange permanent signage for the driving range bays.

6. July Agenda Items

- Capital Projects:
 - All covered in reports.
- Other matters:
 - Council is requested to have a final read through of the Strategy plan document and feedback any comments to CW. The document will be uploaded to the members area on the website on 22nd September. Members will then be invited to the autumn “Meet the Captain” sessions on 30th October. to discuss the Strategy Plan and other Club/Course projects.

AOCB

- PR received an email from a member concerning various course issues. The suggestion was to have volunteer marshals on the course at various times during the day. After discussion it was agreed that this would not be approved. The view was that members must be encouraged to self-police, take personal responsibility for themselves and their guests, and follow the etiquette expected at Deeside.

Next Meeting – Monday 15th September @ 5.30pm in the Trophy Room

