

Minute of Council Meeting
Held on the 15th September 2025 in the trophy Room @ 5.30pm

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

1. Welcome:

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute of Council held on 19th August 2025

The minute of the Council meeting on 19th August was approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- The Driving Range upgrade will be completed by the end of September including mirrors, signage and woodwork. The mats are in place. It was agreed that groundsman Shane Murray will be responsible for the daily upkeep of the driving range including turning the mats every month. DP to update Shane's job description accordingly.
- The Office refurbishment is still in the early stages. DP to progress with plans and cost.
- DP to continue researching outdoor furniture for Spring 2026.
- DP to arrange a joiner to remove the shelves in the new gents' lockers as requested.
- NM to check the irrigation usage to compare energy costs. DP to follow up on Clubhouse energy costs which are higher than budget.
- NM to circulate the Course Policy document to Council before Friday 19th October.
- The CBEC quote will be discussed at next month's Council meeting. It was agreed that SEPA will require hydraulic modelling before approving anything so this will be given priority during discussions. A meeting with CBEC will be arranged after next month's meeting. It was agreed not to proceed with the removal of the bund at the 5th hole until after discussions with CBEC.
- New Signage on the 14th tee to be installed advising players not to tee off until the 15th Tee is clear and communicated to members through the pro shop update.
- The steps and handrail at 1st Ladies tee on Haughton will be replaced as part of the 2025 winter projects.
- Course architect James Edward is planned to be on site by the end of October to survey the next stage of the bunker project and other initiatives.
- NM has received a quote for a replacement Septic tank. Another quote has been sought. The current septic tank wall has collapsed.
- Convener replacements for 2026- 2027 are in progress.

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 maintaining their buggies and in particular the lithium batteries on an annual basis. The buggy store will be checked regularly and where it is evident buggies have not been used for a significant time, the power supply will be disconnected, and buggy users will be advised. This is a fire safety issue.

5. **Convener Reports**

Captain's Report

- AG had a meeting with Past Captain G Nisbet to discuss various topics.
- It was agreed that from October 2025 members who are supporting new applications must have been a member for a minimum of two years.
- After discussion it was agreed that DP will create a Job Description for a new convener on Council who will focus on the Club's Strategy 2025 – 2030.

Finance Report

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

- There was a net profit for the month of August of £18k which is lower than the budget for the month of £27k but higher than the prior year profit of £8k. The adverse variance to budget in the month was in part due to lower contribution from golf operations with lower sales/higher costs than budgeted and no outing or open competition income booked in the month. Clubhouse costs continue to run above budget due to higher utility bills.
- The profit in August has increased the profit YTD up to £26k compared to a budgeted loss YTD of £55k. The profit YTD is lower than the £113k last year due to several one-off credits last year as well as the impact of the clubhouse closure this year. 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 in last month's report.
- The net loss from **F&B** YTD is £59k 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 67.7% in the month and YTD is 62.5% which is slightly lower than budget. Staff costs are higher than last year but are in line with budget.
- The net loss from **Golf Operations** YTD is £4k after a small loss in the month. This is £11k better than budget and £31k up on prior year driven by strong hardware sales from club fittings earlier in the year and increased coaching sales. Margins were strong in the month with sales driven by higher margin clothing sales and coaching.
- **Forecast for the year** - The last month of the year is set to continue to be profitable, and the Club expect to deliver a modest profit for the year despite the clubhouse closure in January and February and the increased national insurance costs since April. CW's current projection for the year is a surplus before taxation of around £30k. The

aim is to have a surplus that is at least as much as the spend on course development which will be around £55k this year. CW anticipated a lower surplus this year because of the clubhouse closure. Over the past 3 years the net surplus will be close to the amount spent on course development.

- **Balance Sheet Review - Bank Balances at 31 Aug 2025 – total of £611k.** This represents a decrease in the total cash of £71k 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. The expectation is the cash balance to pick up a bit in September with direct debt payments starting up again.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Autumn maintenance is scheduled to begin next week and if weather allows will run over a three-day period. The programme includes: Scarifying the greens and fairways to reduce thatch build-up and improve drainage. Sand injection on the greens to further aid root development and playing consistency. Overseeding the greens with a stronger, more resilient grass mix to improve sward density ahead of winter. If weather conditions remain favourable, it is expected to complete the work by Wednesday evening.
- Trials have commenced of the robotic fairway mowers. The first unit has been deployed on the 5th fairway of the Blairs Course and is performing well. A second machine will arrive next week, which will expand coverage to a further 4–5 fairways. These trials will provide valuable insight into efficiency, cut quality, and improved quality with reduce worm cast effects.
- Riverside Issues - Since the installation of the new boundary fence, incidents and issues in the Riverside area have significantly reduced.
- EDI Bunker Project - Progress continues with the bunker redevelopment project. James Edwards is scheduled to be on site next week to begin marking out the next phase of bunker construction. However, the updated drawings for the 15th hole and the driving range have been delayed.
- Staffing – There has been a small reshuffle within the greenkeeping team to strengthen the structure. An internal promotion from greenkeeper to 1st Assistant. A new greenkeeper will start at the end of October and one of the seasonals has joined permanently as a second apprentice. This reshuffle provides a clear pathway of progression within the team and ensures the Club are well-positioned for the busy winter schedule.
- CBEC Report - A Teams meeting with CBEC was held earlier this month. Key discussion points and agreed actions were circulated to Council.
- 9th Hole Pathway Development – Blairs Course. Construction on the 9th hole pathway has been delayed due to the need for additional material to be moved, which was not accounted for in the initial specification. NM is awaiting an updated quotation before work can recommence.
- STRI - The annual course inspection by STRI took place at the end of August. The initial feedback was very positive, particularly around turf health, presentation standards, and environmental practices. A full written report will be received within the

next week, which will provide recommendations for further improvement heading into 2026.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- JH reported that the ladies section was greatly saddened by the death of Past Captain Alison Graham.
- It has been another busy month and the ladies have enjoyed the great course conditions and weather. Thank you to Neil and his team.
- The Ladies Strokeplay was well supported once the format was understood. The ladies also held their Invitation and Away Days. Thanks to Debbie, Graeme and their teams for their help with these events.

Match & Handicap Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Dalswinton Trophy (Deeside Golf Club) –In windy conditions Deeside 1 Jason Bruce & David Halliday (74) and Tom Rennie & Kevin Truscott (72) played excellent golf winning by 6 shots from second placed team Royal Aberdeen 2.
- Murcar Jubilee Shield - Deeside made it two wins out of two on Sunday 7th September by winning this stableford competition by 2 points from the hosts. It was a great win for Gordon Allan, Malcolm Charles, Jake Kelly, Paul Reilly, Scott Robertson, Matthew Lynas, Neil Harper and Malcolm Allan. Well done to all the players.
- Northern Counties (Nairn 12-14 Sep) – Two Deeside teams were represented this year with Jason Bruce, Henri Charles and David Halliday, Grant Pennet playing for Deeside 1 and Kevin Willox, Ross Jaffray and Jamie Pryde and Chris Cruickshank playing for Deeside 2. It was agreed that in future only one team will play in the Northern Counties competition. DP to arrange accommodation.
- Simmers Trophy (21 September, Cruden Bay) – Shortlist of players chosen with squad to be announced next week.

- **Junior Report**

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Off the Tee Trophy - The boys beat Banchory in a closely fought semi-final. However, Inverurie who had knocked Westhill out on their way to the other semi-final, pulled out giving Portlethen a bye into the final. Although no fault of theirs, this gave Portlethen a massive advantage and our tired team struggled in the afternoon final. Portlethen adding the Off the Tee title to their Pennant league success.
- Junior Team Golf - The first of the two teams played in the Strathlene qualifier, finishing third out of four teams. However, as one of the top two teams came from the home club, Deeside has still qualified for the regional semi-final at Peterhead on 28th September. The second team play their qualifier at Ellon on Sunday 14th September. Hopefully, they too can qualify to play at Peterhead.
- Spence Trophy - Ollie Robertson represented Deeside in the Spence Trophy on Sunday 31st August. He had the best score of the 11 participants, across the 36 holes. This qualifies him for the match play semi-finals and hopefully, the final, which is again being held at McDonald Golf Club, on 5th October.

- **Pro Shop Report**

A full report was circulated in advance, to summarise:

- The Stroke Play Championship received a lot of positive feedback with 49 playing in the Final. Congratulations to Henri Charles and Jason Bruce who have both equalled Alan Ross's Course record of 65 during the Stroke Play Championship.
- Junior Flag – Flag Final on the 30th August was a great success – GN thanked all the parents, juniors and the membership for supporting the Flag series which has helped grow our junior section.
- Winter Fixtures for 2026 are almost complete and will be published before the end of the month.
- Gents & Junior trophies will go to Trophies Internationals at the start of October in time for the Gents and Junior Prize Givings on the 1st and 15th of November.
- The Podium arrived and was used for the Dalswinton Trophy.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	808
Senior members	124
Associate 30 – 34	15
Associate 24 – 29	21
Young Adults	29
House/Non Playing	167
Senior VIP	13
House 5 Day	2
Country	15
Junior 12 – 18	151
Junior under 12	66
Non Resident	59
Life	14
Honorary	6

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

Cat	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Full	Douglas Smith	Jamie Hutchison	Mathew Duncan
Full	Matthew Tillman	Graham Henderson	Dave Dalgarno
Full	John Gall	Andrew Strachan	Bill Strachan
Full	Jason Begg	Richard Christie	Graham Hardie
Full	Alan Freeland	Neil Dinnes	Mark Bruce
Full	Parijat Mukerji	Paul Dumont	Simon Billeau
Full	Stuart Petrie	Kieran Findlay	Ian Lumsden
Full	Emily Neish	David Rennie	Simon Cruickshank
Full	Kris Thomson	Craig Tennent	Stuart Herd
Full	Robin Adair	Mhairi Miller	Susan Lynch
Full	John Millar	Gill Pryde	Graeme Pryde
Full	Ross Easton	George Stevenson	Tim Stevenson
Full	Janine Bruce	Mark Bruce	Lynn McGurran
Junior	Annabelle Openshaw	Michael Willet	David Smith
Junior	Cooper Hendry	Daniel Wright	Arron Finnie
Junior	Thomas Shepherd	Graeme Milne	Alan MacPhee
Junior	Magnus Foy	Rob Wicks	Pete Macklin

Junior	Felicity Smith	David Smith	Dick Macklin
Junior	Oliver Murray	Denise Davies	James Davies
Junior	Eli Clark	Iain Clark	Ron Keenan
Junior	Ruaridh Phelan	Frank Bee	Ian Adam
Junior	Murray Balfour	Mark Bruce	Lynn McGurran
Junior	Zayden Rodriguez	Brad Youngson	Peter Bisset
Junior	Cameron Guthrie	Paul Lawrie Centre	LOR
Junior	Isla Evans	Alison Nicol	Pam Henderson

- **Transfers from within the membership**

N/A

- **New members**

Hannah Ounap - Junior

- **Deceased**

Ron Allison – Honorary

Alison Graham – Full

David Hays – Full

Kay King – House

Betty Rait – House

- **Resigned**

Sharon McGarrity – Country

Ian Smith - Senior

- **Waiting List**

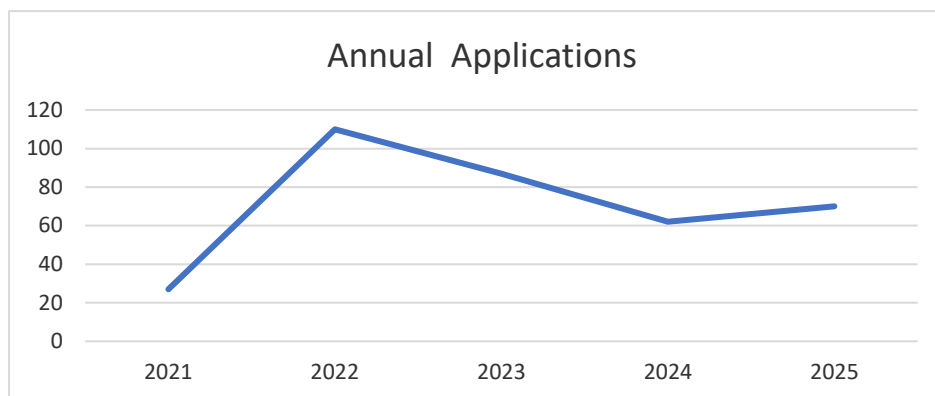
Analysis of annual applications approved at Council:

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	8
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	97



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.

- All projects are progressing well and covered in other reports
- Quarterly website statistics circulated to Council.

6. July Agenda Items

- Capital Projects:
 - The Path 9th/18th – This project has been held up for various reasons. The contractor has worked out the new required levels. A quote should be forthcoming shortly.
 - The balcony and ramp project planning application has been submitted to ACC Architect Brian Noble will submit a quote once planning has been approved.
 - Having received quotes for the Pro Shop upgrade, DP/GN will look at alternative quotes for some of the work.
 - Strategy Plan –The finalised Strategy Plan will be published in advance of the next “Meet the Captain” sessions, which will be held on 30th October in the Trophy Room.

AOCB

- DP/AG to submit nominations to the Scottish Golf Awards before the deadline 22nd September.
- GN/NM/DP to investigate a card system for the ball dispenser to replace the tokens

Next Meeting – Tuesday 21st October @ 5.30pm in the Trophy Room

