

Minute of Council Meeting
Held on the 28th October 2025 in the trophy Room @ 5.30pm

Present:

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

In Attendance:

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

Apologies:

S. Hutchison	(Match & H'Cap)
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1. Welcome:

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute of Council held on 15th September 2025

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

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- The Driving Range upgrade has been completed. DP to follow up on carpet trim.
- The Office refurbishment is planned for 2nd/3rd week in January alongside the Pro Shop refurbishment which will start on the 5th January. All plans are progressing.
- The Outside furniture will be replaced in the Spring. DP is gathering options and costs and will update Council at the next meeting.
- AG will follow up on Strategy convener job description.
- The Course Policy document was circulated to Council. It was agreed that the policy will now be uploaded to the website. DP to action. PR /NM to amend the bunker section at a later date.
- Course Architect James Edwards has confirmed he will have the updated design proposal of the 15th & Driving Range before the next meeting. After discussion and justification for changes Council have approved the minor amendments to the 10th and 12th holes.
- The steps and handrail to the ladies tee on the 1st hole on Haughton will be replaced as part of the 2025/26 winter projects.
- NM has received two quotes for a replacement Septic tank. It was agreed to proceed.
- Convener replacements for 2026- 2027 are in progress.
- GN to remind members about repairing pitch marks and raking bunkers in his weekly update.

4. Health and Safety

Ropes are now in place around the course for the winter. Members are reminded to adhere to all temporary restrictions on the course.

5. Convener Reports

Captain's Report

- Email received from lady member requesting a change to the early tee times on a Tuesday and Friday. After discussion it was agreed to keep the two tee times in front to the ladies as three balls. There will also be no guests permitted before 10.30am. After further discussion it was agreed that guests will be permitted on a Monday and Thursday morning before 10.30am.
- DP to circulate the Council meeting dates for 2026.

Finance Report

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

- There was a net profit for the month of September of £13k which is lower than the budget for the month of £33k and close to the £12k last year. The main adverse variance to budget in the month were a lower contribution from F&B, higher course costs due to stock adjustments, and the depreciation annual true up.
- The profit for the year of just under £40k compares to a budgeted loss of £22k which assumed the adverse impact of the 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 in previous reports. The profit is lower than last year due to the clubhouse closure and the one-off benefits last year from the sale of equipment and recoveries from Scottish Water.
- The net loss from F&B YTD is £70k which is £23k better than the budget due to busy periods leading up to the closure of the clubhouse and increased revenues after reopening. However, the losses have increased in last month of the year. Gross Profit was down to 60.8% in the month and YTD is 62.2% which is slightly lower than budget and prior years. This is driven by a lower proportion of bar sales (which have higher margins) with catering sales increased. Staff costs are higher than last year due to inflation and more staff required.
- The net loss from Golf Operations YTD is £7k after a small loss in the month. This is £13k better than budget and £27k up on prior year driven by strong hardware sales from club fittings earlier in the year and increased coaching sales. Margins ended the year very similar to last year.

The overall surplus for the year is considered very satisfactory given the clubhouse closure and is sufficient to fund ongoing course developments.

- **Bank Balances at 30 Sep 2025 – total of £528k.** This represents a decrease in the total cash of £83k in the month with no direct debit subscription income in the month to offset monthly expenditure.
- **Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations** – Based on budget the requirement is £560k, leaving only £32k for capital improvements/emergency costs. However, we would expect the cash balance to start to increase again with direct debt payments starting.
- **Capital Expenditure in the month** – there was about £16k of capital expenditure in the month mainly related to the driving range refurbishment and some planning costs for the new ramp from the balcony.
- **Year-end and Budget**

- The budget for next year is being prepared and will be available for review at the next council meeting along with a final draft of the year end financials. While many of the year end entries have now been booked and are included in the figures above there will still be some final adjustments but these are not expected to be material.
- As part of the budget for next year we will consider the level of increases to subscriptions that will be proposed.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Following a successful maintenance period at the end of September, the team has made strong progress across both courses. During the two-week window, 29 greens were sand injected and scarified. This is a major task that relieves compaction, improves drainage, and encourages stronger root growth heading into autumn. In addition, all approaches and fairways were scarified to remove thatch build-up and enhance surface firmness and consistency.
- Since then, all the approaches, worn areas on fairways, tee banks, path ends, and walkways have been overseeded. The combination of overseeding and favourable growing conditions should ensure good recovery and improved turf density before winter. NM and the team will continue to monitor germination and growth closely, applying light topdressings and nutrients as required to promote strong establishment.
- Robotic Fairway Mower Trial - Over recent weeks, NM has been trialling a robotic fairway mower on selected holes on both courses. On the Haughton Course, the robots have been operating on the 13th, 15th, 17th, and 18th fairways, while on the Blairs Course, the 2nd and 5th fairways have been part of the trial. One of the key advantages observed is how effectively the robotic mowers handle worm casts compared to traditional fairway mowers fitted with front rollers. As the robots do not rely on heavy rollers to support the cutting units, they can achieve a cleaner cut even in softer conditions. The trial has provided valuable data on productivity, cut quality, and the potential for reducing fuel use and operator hours. NM will continue to assess performance through the autumn before deciding on next steps. It was agreed that NM would prepare a business case for purchasing more Robotic mowers.
- Riverside Area - Since the installation of the new boundary fence, incidents and issues in the Riverside area have significantly decreased.
- EDI Project - Work has begun on the 17th hole, with construction of the new fairway bunker now complete. The team is currently focusing on the left-hand side bunker by the green. During this work, the 17th hole is on a winter green, and the 2nd tees on the Blairs Course have been moved forward for safety reasons. The goal is to complete the 17th hole by the end of the month and returf the area, weather permitting.
- James Edwards visited the site on 16 September to review the bunkers on the 17th, 12th, 6th, and 10th holes. The driving range and 15th hole were also discussed. NM is currently awaiting drawings for these two areas.
- During the site visit, James proposed removing the back-right bunker on the 12th hole and reducing the 10th fairway to a single bunker. NM advised that these changes would require Council approval before any updates are made to the master plan. After discussion it was agreed to look at the revised drawings before a final decision is made.
- 9th Hole Pathway Development – Blairs Course - Construction of the 9th hole pathway has been delayed due to the need for additional materials. Test digs will be carried out to assess the suitability of on-site material. If unsuitable, NM will source alternative material to complete the path construction.

- STRI Inspection – STRI have submitted the annual report. NM to prepare a summary for next month's meeting.
- NM reported that Scottish Water will be on site on 4th November to lift and repair the tarmac in front of first tee on Haughton.
- It was agreed to proceed with replacing the rubber matting on the path up from the 18th. The surface will be plastic gridlock with gravel infill the same as the other paths on the courses.
- It was agreed that the practice putting green will be closed on frosty days.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The first 2 weeks of our winter programme have been very busy with around 40 ladies playing in Tuesday and Friday Haughton competitions. The Pro Shop have allocated an extra zone to accommodate the ladies which is much appreciated.
- Ladies have been enjoying the trackman facility when the weather has been bad.
- The Prize Giving and Christmas dinner is on Thursday 11th December.
- Margaret Parkinson would like to honour her dear friend Alison Graham by donating a trophy in her memory for the Ladies Strokeplay Championship which was played for the first time this year. Alison was an integral member of the Deeside Ladies Section, a past captain and represented the club competitively. JH/MP have sourced a suitable trophy and would like Council's approval for MP to donate it on the understanding that the Club have full autonomy for the format of the trophy in future years. This was approved.

Match & Handicap Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- SH is in discussion for a replacement M&H convener and will formally propose the individual in the next couple of weeks.

Junior Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Both Deeside teams progressed from their respective quarter-finals at Strathlene and McDonald Golf Clubs, qualifying them to play in the regional semi-final at Peterhead Golf Club. In the semi-final, the Deeside teams finished first and second out of the 5 participating teams, in turn qualifying them to play in the National Final, at Mortonhall Golf Club in Edinburgh. Unfortunately, their practice rounds on the Saturday were disrupted by poor weather, albeit some of the boys did brave the conditions. The tricky weather conditions continued into the Sunday, with the boys sadly unable to replicate their semi-final performances, with Deeside 2 finishing 4th and Deeside 1, 5th. Six teams participated in the final with Turnhouse Golf Club winning on the day.
- Spence Trophy - Ollie Robertson was back at McDonald Golf Club, on 5th October to play his semi-final match, which he won 4&3. He then beat Matthew Zanre from Peterhead 4&3 in the final, in the afternoon. Ollie is the first Deeside Champion since Mark Vass won in 2003.
- Junior Prizegiving and Adults vs. Juniors Match - These annual events have been scheduled for 15th November.
- Team Uniforms for Juniors representing Deeside. It was noted by some of the parents of kids participating the Junior Team Golf competition that Deeside was the only clubs that didn't have team kit for their juniors. It was agreed that those representing the club should be appropriately decked out in branded Deeside clothing but how this is facilitated is not straightforward. The numbers of juniors who play for Deeside is not small. This season

there were over 20 players who represented the club competitively. The squad of participants changes every year and kids grow! A shared kit bag could be created, either on a week-by-week basis or a season-by-season basis. This however would add an additional burden on the Junior Convener and/or his/her assistants. HC would not welcome this additional complication on a week-by-week basis. The juniors could purchase team kit, however, parents are understandably not going to rush into the pro shop to buy gear before they know their child is going to be picked to represent the club.

The issue does not need to be addressed in the short-term, seeing as the season is now over. HC will discuss with his successor before making a firm proposal to the Club.

Pro Shop Report

- There has been a few “holes in One” this season which historically receives the full two’s pot. With the sweep and two’s money rising this year it has been highlighted that to give the whole pot may be excessive. GN suggested it be fairer to half the pot so that the member(s) getting a hole in one get 50% and those that get a 2 get 50%. After discussion this was approved.
- Trophies have been engraved in preparation for both the Gents Prize Giving & Junior Prize Giving. Ladies trophies are currently getting engraved.
- The Pro Shop Team will start to compile the fixture list for the 2026 season in November with competitions set up on howdidido in February (after the new Club V1/howdidido App is released).
- Scottish Golf recently sent an e-mail to all those on their mailing list regarding Handicap Reviews by Clubs. GN explained that he usually gets c10-15 players flagged by Scottish Golf each season. At least half will be juniors; another section will be those returning a high number of competitive scores each season (more rounds played, the more flagged scores). It’s very rare that DGC reviews members handicaps as the guidance by Scottish Golf is to adjust handicaps by one, then by one more if said members is still getting flagged after a period. Only under exceptional circumstances (illness/injury) may GN move someone’s handicap by more than 2 shots.
- Pro Shop refurb approved and in budget with work due to commence Monday 6th January. Fiona Young is creating a timeline for the contractors. Pro Shop will continue to operate either via the foyer, office or trophy room (TBC).
- One of the Rental/Emergency Buggies is coming to the end of its life. After discussion it was agreed to purchase a new buggy in spring 2026.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	804
Senior members	122
Associate 30 – 34	15
Associate 24 – 29	21
Young Adults	28
House/Non Playing	170
Senior VIP	13
House 5 Day	2
Country	13
Junior 12 – 18	151
Junior under 12	67
Non Resident	60
Life	14

- **Membership**

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

Cat	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Full	Michelle Whyte	Denise Davies	James Davies
Full	Michael Cushine	Denise Davies	James Davies
Full	Robbie Mearns	Peter Bisset	Brad Youngson
Full	John Fowlie	Brad Youngson	Graham Cox
Full	Kirsty Fowlie	Brad Youngson	Graham Cox
Full	David Hatfield	Peter Miller	Donald Love
Full	Colin Williamson	Craig Drysdale	Eddie Quinn
Full	Alistair Nicol	Alison Nicol	Carol Eddie
Full	Fraser McIntyre	Ronald Macdougall	Douglas Gallacher
Full	Ian Sutherland	Robert Laing	Graham Robertson
Full	Ian Woodward-Nutt	Stuart Gove	Martin McIntyre
Full	Mark Farrell	Keith Thom	John Martin
Full	Kaz Yeats	Keith Thom	John Martin
Junior	Luca Van de Laar	Bart Van de Laar	Neil Morton
Junior	Thomas Hudson	Alexander Chalmers	James Wright
Junior	Josh Davidson	Andrew Walker	Jock Gardiner
Junior	Oliver Burnett	Murray Burnett	Les Wilson
Junior	Holly Fowlie	Brad Youngson	Graham Cox
Junior	Jack Fowlie	Brad Youngson	Graham Cox
Junior	Elliot Anderson	Mark Bruce	Lynn McGurran
Junior	Lewis Flett	Jonathan Flett	Brad Youngson
Junior	Quinn Cochrane	Grant Pennet	David Macklin
Junior	Sol Steven Cochrane	Grant Pennet	David Macklin
Junior	Michael Bruce	Callum Bruce	Paul Beattie
Junior	Joseph McNeil	Fraser Shand	Ronald Shand
Junior	Callum Spencer	Roger Cannon	Morty Denholm
Junior	Benjamin Spencer	Roger Cannon	Morty Denholm
Junior	Florence Buchan	Tyler Buchan	Tim Lochhead
Junior	Joshua Spearritt	Andrew Strachan	Bill Strachan
House	Morag Mordente	Ronald Keenan	Lesley Cruickshank

All applications approved by membership committee.

Transfers from within the membership

Mr DM Benton from Senior to House

Miss F Corry from Young Adult to Non Resident

Mr B Mitchell from Full to Non-playing

Mr P Thomson from Full to House

Resigned

Mr P Welding - Country

Waiting List

Analysis of annual applications approved at Council:

Total number of applications on the waiting list – Sept 294 (Sept 24 - 261)

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	12
October	1	0	5	7	13
November	5	14	0	4	
December	0	0	0		
Total	27	110	87	62	122

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	6815	4737	52903

The course usage is a recording breaking year – 33174 on Houghton and 19730 on Blairs.

General Information/Actions/Requests/Discussion etc.

- All costs for the Pro Shop and Office projects have now been finalized and remain within the approved budget. Alternative quotes were obtained for the electrical work to ensure best value. The project is scheduled to commence on January 5th, with completion expected by the end of January.
- The Driving Range project has been completed. The only outstanding issue is the carpet grips which G&T are looking into.
- The end of the financial year was 30th September. The annual stock take of all departments has been completed. The Auditors from AAB will be on site on Monday 3rd November with the final annual accounts completed by 19th December.

- All buggy Shed users have been notified about buggy maintenance, battery timers and general upkeep.
- All trolley shed users will be issued with a name tag for their trolley. This will help ensure that each trolley is easily identifiable, returned to the correct space and used only by the correct person.
- Research of outside furniture is continuing. Woodberry has come back with another option. More options are on the way. OIS (the company who provided the Clubhouse furniture) are also quoting.
- The gent's locker room carpet has been confirmed. The price quoted is for the same carpet as the rest of the Clubhouse. Date for installation to be confirmed but looking at January for installation.

6. July Agenda Items

Capital Projects:

- The Path 9th/18th – As reported earlier, this project has been held up for various reasons. A new quote should be forthcoming after the test holes have been made.
- Following the submission of the planning application for the balcony project, ACC have requested some clarification and changes. DP to speak to Architect Brian Noble with suggested changes.
- CBEC update - PR to meet with CBEC to request more information on the quotation received.
- Member correspondence – PR to reply on member correspondence.

7. AOCB

Nothing to report

8. Next Meeting – Tuesday 18th November @ 5.30pm in the Trophy Room

ACTIONS

DP	Follow up with GTS on Driving Range Carpet Trim Follow up with office/pro shop refurbishment. Continue with research on new outside furniture for Spring 2026. Upload Course Policy to website. Circulate Council dates.
AG	Follow up on Strategy Convener Job Description
DP/NM	Progress with Brian Noble on the Balcony/Ramp project.
PR/NM	Update Council on CBEC progress at next Council meeting
NM	Winter Projects including ladies handrail and steps at 1st tee Prepare a business case for purchase of new additional robotic mowers Follow up with test holes at the 9th tee (Blairs) Prepare a summary of the STRI report Follow up with James Edwards on new drawings for bunkers Purchase a new Septic tank
Council	Consider replacements for Match & Handicap, Junior and positions on Council – Feb 2026. Speak to members who are not adhering to Deeside expected standards of dress and etiquette.
JH/MP	Finalise new trophy for Ladies Stroke Play

