

Minute of Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 6th January 2026 via teams due to the weather conditions

Present:	A. Gordon	(Captain)
	S. Hutchison	(Match & H'Cap)
	C. Watson	(Vice Captain/Finance Convener)
	P. Reilly	(Greens Convener)
	J. Henderson	(Ladies Captain)
	H. Craigie	(Junior Convener)
	M. Parkinson	(President)
In Attendance:	D.P. Pern	(Club Manager)
	N. McLoughlin	(Course Manager)
	G. Nethercott	(Head Professional)
	B. Henderson	(Finance Convener nominee)
	T. Rennie	(Match & Handicap Convener nominee)
Apologies:	B. Youngson	(Junior Convener nominee)

1. Welcome:

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed Tom Rennie and Barton Henderson as Council nominees.

2. Minute of Council held on 18th November

The minute of the Council meeting on 18th November was approved. Amendment in the Course report, it should read 17th temporary green not 17th tee.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- PR updated Council on progress with CBEC. PR still waiting for a reply from CBEC to arrange a call/meeting to establish the next steps, terms of reference and assurances that SEPA are on board with any discussions and decisions.
- Council nominees are displayed on the notice boards.
- Pro Shop refurbishment. DP updated Council on progress. Despite a late start due to weather conditions, it is expected that all tradesmen will catch up and be back on schedule before the end of the week.
- Sample of new outside furniture will now be delivered on 20th Jan, having been postponed due to weather conditions.
- AG confirmed he had spoken with the new President for 2026, who was delighted to be nominated and has accepted.
- GN confirmed the speaker for the Gents Prize giving has been booked. GN will follow up with the guest speaker in the Spring.
- Signage on tees will be installed as soon as weather allows.

4. Health and Safety

- No Sledging signage is in place along with roped off areas.

5. Convener Reports

Captain's Report

- AG received a request for a heater in Bay 7 in the Driving range. NM explained that there may be a power supply issue, however he will speak to the electrician and report back to Council.
- AG requested clarification on the sand lines visible along some of the holes on the Haughton Course. NM explained that the sand bander machine creates a trench and injects sand to improve compaction. The trench is approximately 5–6 inches deep. NM will include further details to keep members informed in his next Course Update.
- Annual report has been sent to the printer with final proof read available by early next week.

Finance Report

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

- The net loss for the two-month period month of £33.7k is significantly less than budgeted loss of £119.7k. This is largely due to the timing of expenditure on the course, which is £49k less than budget and £18k of subscription and levies which were budgeted in November but will fall in December. There were some other costs savings including training and other admin costs.
- The net loss from **F&B** YTD Is £24.7k which is about £5k worse than the budget due to some higher salary costs in the month of November. The gross profit from F&B was 57%, which is down on budget but higher than the same period last year.
- The net loss from **Golf Operations** YTD was £3.4k which is £5.5k better than budget £2.5k better than last year. This is driven by continued strong sales due to the efforts of the team and a continued busy golf course which improves footfall in the pro-shop.

Balance Sheet Review

- **Bank Balances at 30 November 2025 – total of £503k.** This represents a reduction in the total cash of £25k in the first two months with the largest payments being further costs associated with the clubhouse refurbishment, costs associated with the ongoing bunker redesign and payment of the year end VAT liability.
- **Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations** – Based on budget, the requirement is about £550k. We are temporarily slightly below this level but forecast to return to around this level by year end.
- **Capital Expenditure on improvements** – In the first two months of the year £15k was spent on the bunker programme and £20k on various items in the clubhouse including costs for the pro-shop, the new swing door and replacement bar shutters.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- December was a productive month, with generally favourable weather conditions for the time of year. Greens continued to be mown on an almost weekly basis, with winter greens cut as required throughout the month.
- Path construction works have been completed at the 1st tee and the 18th green. New steps have been installed at the Red 1st tee on Haughton; installation of grip strips remains outstanding.
- Construction has commenced on the new shared tee for the 2nd and 9th holes on the Blairs Course. Completion of construction is anticipated by the end of January, allowing turfing to take place in early February, all dependent on weather conditions. Upon

completion of the tee, focus will then shift to the construction of the new pathway from the Blairs 9th green back to the clubhouse.

- As part of ongoing winter course management, teeing areas will be moved forward periodically during January to help manage wear on tees and walkways.
- The new septic tank is scheduled to be installed during the week commencing 12 January. This work is expected to be completed within a few days.

EDI Project (Bunker Works)

- Bunker refurbishment works on the 17th hole have now been completed, including the bunker lining. Significant progress has also been made on the 12th hole. Works have included the construction of three new bunkers, the removal of one bunker, and the conversion of another into a grass swale. Turfing of the 12th hole bunkers and surrounding areas was completed in December, except for lining two of the three bunkers. It is anticipated that this remaining work will be completed in January. Subject to the snow clearing, works on the 10th fairway bunkers will commence next. For safety reasons, the 6th and 10th holes will be shortened while these works are undertaken. PR highlighted that a draft plan for Blairs would follow the Haughton completion.
- PR will conduct a meeting with the staff to talk through the course policy and ensure it is enforced.
- Badgers have been damaging parts of the course – Unfortunately there is nothing we can do about the badgers. It is illegal to impede their movements.

Ladies' Captain Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The ladies continued to make the most of the favourable weather in December. A record number played in our Christmas Cross Country event and around 90 ladies attended our Prize Giving Dinner. The ABM is on Saturday 10th January at 2pm in the clubhouse. The later time is to accommodate ladies playing on Saturday morning.

Match & Handicap Report

Nothing to report

Junior Report

Nothing to report

Pro Shop Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- GN circulated a Pace of Play policy for discussion. This was approved.
- New scorecards will be ordered in January for both courses.
- The Deeside branded clothing has been very popular with over 100 pre orders and very limited stock left.
- The Pro Shop has been set up in the foyer while the refurbishment takes place.
- To keep the Callaway account open the Club must invest in a small amount of Shop stock (mostly putters, a couple drivers & balls). GN has also invested a small amount into fitting equipment (Drivers & Irons). This will allow us to fit for Ping, TaylorMade, Titleist & Callaway in 2026 & will hopefully fill any 'Ping Dropoffs'.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	805
Senior members	122
Associate 30 – 34	13
Associate 24 – 29	21
Young Adults	28
House/Non Playing	171
Senior VIP	13
House 5 Day	2
Country	13
Junior 12 – 18	151
Junior under 12	67
Non Resident	60
Life	14
Honorary	5

- Applications for membership – Nov/Dec. All approved by membership sub-Committee.

Cat	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Full	Deena Tissera	Willie Young	David Suttie
Full	Audrey Stewart	Fraser Stewart	Graham Pryde
Full	Kirsty McGinigal	Gillian Miller	Peter Miller
Full	Graeme Kelbie	Neil Clark	Colin Kennedy
Junior	James McGrath	Michael Willet	Sandy Hutchison
Junior	Lochlan Shand	Andy McDonald	Mathew Duncan
Junior	Max Desmazes	Charles Desmazes	Sam Killoh
Junior	Freddie Findlay	Scott Connal	John Sheran
Junior	Adam Morrice	Stephen Morrice	Alexander Morrice
Junior	Benjamin Leith	David Macklin	Richard Macklin
House	Janette Glass	Roy Roxburgh	William Laver
House	Guus Glass	Roy Roxburgh	William Laver
House	Duncan Edmonston	Alan Towns	Ian McPherson

All applications approved by membership committee.

- Transfers from within the membership**

Mr Sam Fraser from Gent Associate 30-34 to Non Resident

Mr Derek Veitch from Gent Full to Non-Playing

- New members**

N/A

- Deceased**

N/A

- Resigned**

N/A

- Waiting List**

Analysis of annual applications approved at Council:

Total number of applications on the waiting list – 312 (Nov 25) 277 (Nov 24)

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	5
December	0	0	0		
Annual	27	110	87	62	127

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
2025 -														
2026	3903	To follow												

General Information/Actions/Requests/Discussion etc.

Website Analytics & Digital Strategy - The quarterly website report has been circulated as a separate document for information. GN/DP will arrange a meeting with Wendy (Morgan Speirs) in January to review key findings from the report, including website traffic performance and opportunities for improvement. By January, a full year of website data will be available. Wendy has been instructed to produce an Annual Website Analytics & Growth Report based on 2025 data. This report will focus on how the website can continue to be optimised and updated to support the Club's wider objectives for 2026.

The report will provide strong strategic value by enabling Deeside to move from performance reporting to actively using data to guide growth and decision-making.

Pro Shop and Office Refurbishment - Refurbishment of the Pro Shop and Office has commenced on Monday 5 January and is scheduled for completion by 23 January. DP/GN met with all contractors in December.

Annual Report – Final proof will be sent to the printer on Monday 5th January.

Howdidido New App - The new Howdidido App will go live on 12 January. There will be no immediate switch-off of the existing apps. DP/GN will communicate the update to members in due course. The cost of the app will be included within the members' benefits package.

Balcony / Ramp Project - Planning permission and building warrant approval have now been granted for the balcony/ramp project. As discussed it was agreed that the timing of this project will be in the next financial year.

External Furniture - The sample of the new outside furniture is due to arrive on 20th January.

Braemar Golf Club – Annual Match and discounted green fees

Following a meeting with Gregor Dick, Captain of Braemar Golf Club, it is proposed that, following the success of last year's arrangement, Deeside members will again be welcomed at Braemar in 2026 at 50% of their normal standard green fee (£25). It was also proposed that a reciprocal annual match be introduced, with Deeside hosting the first match in 2026. The match would be open to both ladies and gents. Tom Rennie has agreed to co-ordinate this.

6. January Agenda Items

Capital Projects:

- The Blairs Path from 9th Green covered in reports
- 1st and 18th bunker project will commence in the Autumn 2026.
- It was agreed to propose a 5% subscription increase at the AGM. AG highlighted that the cost per member has risen to £110 per member, however Council have agreed to minimise the increase to £70 per full member. The main areas of increase are utilities, National Insurance, 2 years of staffing cost increases and trackman costs.
- It was agreed to have six monthly reports on the Strategic Plan progress.

7. AOCB

Nothing to report.

8. Next Meeting – Tuesday 17th February @ 5.30pm in the Trophy Room

