

Minute of Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 24th March 2026 in the Trophy Room

Present:	A. Gordon	(Captain)
	C. Watson	(Vice Captain)
	B. Henderson	(Finance Convener)
	J. Henderson	(Ladies Captain)
	T. Rennie	(Match & H'Cap)
	P. Reilly	(Greens Convener)
	N. McLoughlin	(Course Manager)
	B. Youngson	(Junior Convener)

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

Apologies:	D McEwen	(President)
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1. Welcome:

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute of Council held on 17th February

The minute of the Council meeting on 17th February was approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- Captain issued a communication to members including a members etiquette document. Following some member feedback, this has now been revised and will be reissued.
- DP circulated drawings outlining potential ideas for the outside area previously discussed by Council in 2023. It was agreed that Council members would seek feedback from the wider membership on how best to progress.
- New members evening was well attended. DP to follow up with those who didn't attend.
- PR updated Council on the appointment of CBEC to progress with work along the riverbank. CBEC will engage with SEPA to ensure they are aligned before progressing further.
- NM has been in contact with James Edwards (EDI) regarding the bunker plan on Blairs. It was agreed that the plan will follow a similar approach as Haughton. James will submit his proposal in early April and will be on site in May to discuss the plan. A member course walk will be arranged during his visit.
- A meeting with Scottish Water is scheduled for Friday 3rd April to discuss ongoing issues with manhole covers on the courses. AG, NM, and PR will attend. NM will share updated manhole maps with AG and PR. It was agreed that no other external parties will be involved. BH noted that a fellow member has a contact at Scottish Water board level, which may help expedite the process.
- The fencing company will be on site next week to assess repairs along the new fence at the river. PR suggested they review the left-hand side of the 4th hole on Blairs during their visit.
- NM to contact Camphill to confirm any work being undertaken on their side of the boundary that could have impacted the flow of water in ditch that runs across Blairs 2nd, and next Haughton 18th Tee and Haughton 15th green.

- AG updated Council on discussions with RBC regarding potential sponsorship. DP/GN provided costs for apparel and driving range sail logos. GN to provide a cost breakdown the per team. AG/TR/GN/DP will meet to finalise a proposal ahead of further discussions with RBC again. In the meantime, TR will liaise with RBC to clarify their expectations.

4. Health and Safety

- DP to investigate the possibility of defibrillator training for members.
- DP confirmed that the Health & Safety buggy is always located at the Clubhouse. If it is not outside the front door it is in the service yard area.

5. Convener Reports

Captain's Report

- AG reported that the new path from the 9th green on Blairs has been well received by the members. NM will construct a new wooden bridge over the burn to allow members coming off the 18th green to access the new path.
- NM to check the matting on the bridge next to the 18th Tee.

Finance Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The net loss for February was £1.5k which is better than the budget loss of £17.6k. This is largely due to additional income taken in February relating to former members catering credits which were budgeted for in January and overheads being £11k under budget. The YTD loss of £75k is now £74k better than budget. This is mainly due to better than expected revenues from F&B and golf operations, and slippage in the timing of expenditure on the course. The YTD loss is now very similar to the loss for the same period last year.
- The net loss from F&B YTD Is £55.4k which is about £11k worse than budgeted. Despite a poor January due to bad weather, sales are ahead of revenue, but margins are lower and F&B overheads are above budget. After a disappointing January, it is good to see that the gross profit margin for F&B is now only 4% below budget. We will monitor this margin and the related overheads level going forward, but we anticipate it will get back on track in the summer months.
- The net loss from Golf Operations YTD was £23.3k which is £3.7k better than budget and marginally better than last year. The bad weather in January and February will have had an adverse impact as well as the pro-shop refurbishment. We expect an improved performance going forward.
- Balance Sheet Review - Bank Balances at 28 February 2026 – total of £650k. This represents an increase of £171k in the month of February.
- Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations – Based on budget the requirement is about £550k. We are now above this level and should remain there for the remainder of the financial year.
- Capital Expenditure on improvements – In the month of February some residual bills for the clubhouse were paid, amounting to just over £8k. There was no other capital expenditure incurred in February.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- March had improved weather conditions allowing the team to carry out a significant amount of preparatory work ahead of the upcoming season. All planned spring

maintenance on the greens has now been completed. This includes double scarification to remove organic matter, sand injection to improve soil structure and drainage, verti-draining to relieve compaction, and rolling across all 29 greens to ensure a smooth and consistent playing surface. These are intensive operations, and as such, the greens are now in a recovery phase. With continued favourable weather and appropriate aftercare, the expectation is to see steady improvement in both surface quality and playability over the coming weeks. In addition to the greens work, the team have completed scarification and topdressing of all tees, which will help to improve surface levels, turf density, and overall presentation. All fairways and rough areas have also been raked to remove debris and improve definition across the course. These tasks form an important part of the seasonal preparation and will contribute to improved aesthetics and playing conditions as playing rounds increase.

- The current focus is now on repairing all bunkers to ensure they are fully back in play before the start of the season. This includes edging, levelling, and redistributing sand where required. The two bunkers on the 12th hole, which require concrete lining are scheduled to be completed week commencing 30th March. Due to the volume of new sand recently installed in all the bunkers, these will require time to settle and compact, so there will be some plugging issues at the start of the season.
- The team have completed the construction of the new 2nd/9th tee on the Blairs course. The new pathway leading up from the 9th green on Blairs is nearing completion, with only a small amount of turfing remaining.
- Following recent flooding when part of the new fence was damaged, the fencing contractor will be on site in the coming weeks to carry out repairs and install concrete supports for strainer posts where required.
- Once bunker repairs are completed, the focus will shift towards improving walkways and bridge ends across the course. These high-traffic areas have deteriorated over the winter months and will be renovated through returfing and reinforcement of key access points.
- A quotation is being prepared for a bunker masterplan for the Blairs course by EDI. Initial discussions have been positive, with consideration being given to a more strategic and sustainable approach to bunker design. Potential options include reducing the number of bunkers or introducing grass bunkers as an alternative to traditional sand features. These ideas are at an early stage, and further direction from the club will be required before proposals are developed.
- Driving Range - New range dividers have been ordered and we await delivery.
- PR to arrange a greens staff briefing session on the Course Policy document.
- PR to arrange a debrief with NM on the winter course layout.
- Communication to be sent to members on Tuesday 31st March.
- NM/DP met with a landscaping company to potentially have an external company look after all the grounds surrounding the Clubhouse, including planting, pruning, flowers etc. DP to report back at next meeting.

Ladies' Captain Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The winter programme finished on Tuesday 24th March with the annual Pink Elephant charity event. £600 was raised and will be donated to Bowel Cancer UK in memory of Alison Graham. The winter golf prizes were distributed, and Graeme hosted a rules session.

- Vice Captain Fiona Lane and her husband David have relocated to Glasgow. JH appreciated Fiona's input to the ladies' section and wished her and David 'all the best' in Glasgow. Linda McErlean has taken over as vice-captain. JH is actively looking for a Friendly Convener to replace Linda.
- JH enjoyed meeting 8 out of the 9 new lady members at the New Members Evening. Some ladies already have handicaps and have already signed up to play in our competitions. The committee will hold a coffee/ 9 holes morning in April for all the new ladies.

Match & Handicap Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Meeting held with RBC Brewin Dolphin, Thursday 12th March, covered in matters arising.
- TR has spoken with Craig Lindsay, Banchory M&H, regarding organising the Deeside/Banchory (Men's Pennant Team) pre-season friendly match. Saturday 18th April has been agreed, twice round Blair's post Junior medal followed by food and quick presentation. This match is played in memory of Alan Ross due to his links with both clubs. TR/CL are looking into purchasing a small trophy to present each year.
- TR will be communicating the Men's Pennant schedule to the squad week commencing 23rd March, this will include the Pennant dinner date for their diaries.

Junior Report

- BY attended the Junior Pennant league AGM. It was agreed at the AGM that the rules of pennant league will stay as handicap for 2026. Deeside will enter two teams. There are a group of willing parents to help with transport etc. it was agreed not to support the Golf sixes this year.
- DP requested clarity on the Junior policy in terms of offering membership to new Junior members. After discussion it was agreed that a small number of offers will be sent out to Junior girls to boost the Girls section. DP will email all Juniors on this list to confirm there will be no further intake this year.

Pro Shop Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Unfortunately, we have been experiencing a number of issues with the new 'howdido' app. Both GN & DP have written to 'howdido' to express disappointment in their product and service.
- Golf Clubs are now being given the option to alter the playing handicap rules. Currently the rule is 95%, however this can be changed to 100% (if high handicappers are being disadvantaged) or to 90/85% (if low handicappers are being disadvantaged). It was agreed that Deeside will stay at 95% for the remainder of the season & review at the end of the season (all our competitions are already set up for 95%). For reference, our monthly medal winners in 2025 consisted of 3*Scr-9; 6* 10-17 & 5* 18+ handicappers as a small example.
- Data from xPos would suggest till sales are c3% down Oct-Feb 26 compared to previous year. Unfortunately, the high turnover items such as Drivers, Fairways, Irons & Electric Trolleys are considerably down, however this has been made up by Deeside branded clothing, strong junior sales & wedge/hybrid sales. Hopefully with the weather improving and more golfers at the club there will be an increase in the number of golfers wishing to upgrade hardware.

- There are almost 100 juniors on a waiting list for coaching and c15 ladies waiting for group coaching too. The lesson diary is about 14 days in advance. It's proving to be a very busy start to the season with many looking for lessons, groups & fittings. With the growth of lessons, it may be prudent to start making contingency plans for resources etc. next year so we can accommodate the demand. GN to present a business case later in the year.
- The Golf Courses will be re-rated this season between the months of May-September by Scottish Golf (date TBC).
- There were over 50 gents attending our Eclectic Lunch with c75 playing, the Karl Morris event is full with c75 attending on Friday 27th March and the Captain Vs Vice Captain season opener has a couple spaces left; The Masters Friday event on Friday 10th April is now also full!
- There were 120 border breaches out of 105,000 shots (0.11%), the busiest day/time on Range currently 9-11 on Saturdays.
- It was agreed that over the winter 26/27 mats will be used over the whole course. This will protect the course and avoid any disagreements between players where mats should and should not be used.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	829
Senior members	121
Associate 30 – 34	15
Associate 24 – 29	22
Young Adults	39
House/Non Playing	176
Senior VIP	16
House 5 Day	2
Country	13
Junior 12 – 18	159
Junior under 12	66
Non Resident	62
Life	14
Honorary	5

- Applications for membership – Feb/March. All approved by membership sub-Committee.

Cat	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Full	Derek Paterson	Gordon Gibb	Elizabeth Gibb
Full	Tracey Craig	Philip Stratford	Paul Mercer
Full	Steven Gillan	John Swan	Alison Swan
Full	Stuart Melvin	John Swan	Alison swan
Junior	Henry Durringer	Martin Thomson	Gordon Ronaldson
Junior	Thomas Durninger	Martin Thomson	Gordon Ronaldson
Junior	Kieran Ward	Andrew Bain	Keith McPherson
Junior	Mayson Slater	Ian Aitchison	Fiona Windle
Junior	Georgia Dalgarno	Alasdair Buchanan	Mike Willet
Junior	Yv Garza	Brad YToungson	Sam Kiloh
Junior	Veer Chopra	Gary Innes	Sam Kiloh

Junior	Jude Ritchie	Mark Wilson	Fraser Gordon
Junior	Samuel Pearson	Tim Lochhead	Neil Cordiner
House	Susan Jamieson	William Jamieson	Ian Logan

All applications approved by membership committee.

Transfers from within the membership

Angus Atkinson	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23
Stella Bain	Senior to House
Vincent Blease-Shepley	Junior <12 to 12 – 17
Jason Bruce	Associate 18-23 to Associate 24-29
Agnes Burnett	Senior to VIP
Nilav Chetty	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23
Dhruv Chopra	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Sandy Clark	Non-Playing to Senior
Liam Coffey	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Jacob Cowie	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23
Jack Craigie	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23
Anthony Dawson	Non-Playing to Senior
Lewis Duncan	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
AJ Ewen	Senior to House
Pam Forrest	Senior to VIP
Evan Fulton	Junior 12 – 17 to Associate 18-23
Derek Gilchrist	Full to Senior
John Gillespie	Full to Senior
Jamie Hall	Associate 24-29 to Associate 30-34
Adam Halliday	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23
Samuel Henderson	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Leo Heron	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Frederick Hutcihson	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Catriona Hyland	Senior to VIP
Charlie Imrie	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23
Graeme Innes	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Blake Innes	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
David Landsman	Senior to House
Michael Loggie	Associate 30-34 to Full
Matthew Lynas	Associate 18-23 to Associate 24-29
Lachlann MacAngus	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Kyle Mackay	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Grahame Mackenzie	Full to Non-Resident
Susie Macleod	Full to Non-Resident
Harry Mawhinney	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Turlough McGurran	Full to Non-Resident
Ian McLennan	Full to Senior
Fraser McNeil	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Norma Murphy	Full to Senior
Lesley Nicholson	Full to Country
Ian Nicol	Full to Non-Resident
Stuart Paterson	Full to Senior
Lewis Patterson	Senior to House
Dylan Pearson	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23

Finley Percival	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Alecander Ramseyer	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23
Felix Rennie	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Anna Scott Brown	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23
Dominic Smith	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Jacob Spearritt	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Max Standerwick	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23
Jacque Stephen	Full to Senior
AMM Stephen	Associate 24-29 to Associate 30-34
Grace Stevenson	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Archie Strachan	Junior <12 to Junior 12-17
Neil Thomson	Non-playing to Full
Alistair Thomson	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23
May Walker	Senior to Non-playing
Alex Weathers	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23
Jack Winton	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23
James Yates	Junior 12-17 to Associate 18-23

New members

Emily Neish	Associate 24-29
Lewis Bain	Junior 12-17
Mike Beveridge	Full
Michael Bruce	Junior 12-17
Florence Buchan	Junior <12
Oliver Burnett	Junior <12
Ellis Cardno	Junior 12-17
Eli Clark	Junior 12-17
Theo Cox	Junior <12
Henry Desmazes	Junior <12
Max Desmazes	Junior <12
John Foote	Full
Carter Forbes	Junior <12
Kirsty Forbes	Full
Lucas Forbes	Junior <12
Carolyn Hillier	House
Graham Jones	Full
Hazel Kennan	House
Ronald Keenon	House
Ewan Laird	Full
Scott Lynch	House
Alistair Mackenzie	House
Cameron Macklin	Junior <12
Josh Misra	Junior 12-17
Adam Morrice	Junior 12-17
Courtney Nethercott	Junior <12
Isla Nicol-Evans	Junior <12
Grahm Payne	House
Oscar Percival	Junior <12
Ruaridh Phelan	Junior <12
Theo Plant	Junior <12

Norma Robb	House
Felicity Smith	Junior <12
Leonie Smith	Full
Ian Soutar	House
Fraser Swan	Junior <12
Nicci Thomson	Full
Lucas Van de Laar	Junior <12
Anna Walker	Junior <12
John Warnock	House
Grahan Wood	Full
Elaine Youngson	Full

Deceased

Graham Hunter	House
Kevin Jackson	Non-Playing

Resigned

Graham Burnett	House
Alistair Findlater	Full
Ron Fowler	House
Jean Gillies	House
Mark Hmlton	Non-resident
Sophie Kelsey	Junior 12-17
Gavin McDonald	Full
Lyal Nicolson	Senior
Alice Rhodes	Junior 12-17
John Rutherford	Full
David Smith	House

Waiting List

Analysis of annual applications approved at Council:

Total number of applications on the waiting list – 256 (Feb 26) 301 (Feb 26)

Additions over the last five years

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	26
January	0	7	6	4	11	4
February	6	5	12	0	3	8
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	0	0	
TOTAL	27	110	87	62	127	
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026

Annual 27 110 87 62 127 12

Membership Report as at 16/03/26 (moves on a daily basis)

Full Membership

To date, we have 826 Full Members. There are four full members outstanding subscriptions.

Deferred List from 2025 to 2026

23 applicants who were offered membership have deferred to 2026.

General Information/Actions/Requests/Discussion etc. A full report was submitted to Council to summarise:

- **New Outside furniture**

The new furniture for the outside area and the balcony area will be delivered on Wednesday 25th March. If the weather is favourable, we will have soft opening on Saturday 28th March, although the official opening date is 1st April. New balcony furniture will also arrive on the 25th March.

6. February Agenda Items

Capital Projects:

- Path 9th – covered in matters arising.
- CBEC update – covered in greens report.
- CW circulated the progress on the Strategy plan. Council is invited to feedback any comment to DP/CW. CW/NM met to discuss the machinery replacement over the next few years. NM to update CW on progress,
- Member correspondence: AG covered some member correspondence received over the month. A request for a tap to clean clubs close to the shoe cleaner was discussed. It was agreed this would not go ahead.
- Outdoor area – It was agreed that a short survey may be circulated to members asking for concepts/ideas on improving the outside area. Council to feedback any comments/questions and DP to create a survey document for discussion.

7. AOCB

Nothing to report

8. Next Meeting – Tuesday 21st April @ 5.30pm in the Trophy Room

