

Minute of Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 21st April 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)
D McEwen	(President)

1. Welcome:

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated GN on achieving his CCM.

2. Minute of Council held on 24th March

The minute of the Council meeting on 24th March was approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- AG issued a note to members on dress code. It was agreed that in the next Captains update AG will remind members to ensure their guests are adhering to the dress code on the course and in the clubhouse.
- AG/PR/NM held a meeting with Scottish Water on 3rd April. It was agreed that SW will replace the brick manhole beside the 6th green with a new concrete ring manhole. SW will also carry out a further survey on the main sewer over the next six months and provide updates to NM.
- NM to set up a meeting with CW/BH to discuss machinery plan for next few years.
- DP confirmed that tenders for the ramp project will be discussed at the May Council meeting.
- PR undated Council on progress with CBEC. Following the last Council meeting CBEC have approached SEPA, Aberdeen City and Shire Councils with their intentions. All parties are supportive of the initial CBEC proposals. Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils have requested a detailed flood risk assessment. PR/NM to meet with CBEC on Friday 1st May to progress with this project.
- PR to arrange a meeting with all greens team, week commencing week 4th May to talk through the Course Policy.
- NM to install a new wooden bridge across the Burn at the 18th to allow members to access the new path from Blairs 9th Green back to clubhouse. This will likely happen in the next couple of months.
- TR updated Council on RBC proposal of sponsorship. DGC submitted their proposal to RBC; however, it was more than RBC could authorise at local level. RBC suggested sponsorship of the driving range sails only plus a lump sum over 2 years. After discussion it was agreed that Council would reject this proposal. TR will discuss the option of sponsored apparel for the various teams with RBC as an alternative. DP/GN to work on costs of the various clothing options.
- The outdoor furniture has been very well received by members.

- DP circulated the member survey paper on suggestions for upgrading the outside area. After discussion it was agreed not to proceed with the survey, but ask members to feedback any suggestions on improving this area.

4. **Health and Safety**

- DP has organised a Defibrillator course for members on 23rd April.
- The bench on the 17th will be relocated.
- It was agreed to look at the 14th green/15th tee and introduce some measures including additional signage and ropes to assist the pace of play whilst maintaining the safety of players. This included directing members to stand on the RHS of the 14th tee away from the 13th Green area and moving the path from the LHS of 15th Tee to the RHS of the tee and encourage members to stand on RHS tee before teeing off, away from the 14th Green.
- It was agreed that the current sign requesting players not to tee off the 14th tee until 15th tee is clear unless players have been waved to play by group on 15th Tee would remain. Council believes that whilst there may be a delay at the 14th tee, the overall target time to complete a round safely is not significantly impacted.

5. **Convener Reports**

Captain's Report

- An email from a member with concerns on the course condition was discussed. AG to reply. It was agreed to try and take several weak areas out of play during the winter. NM to contact STRI and suggest they come earlier in the year for their annual inspection so we can act on their recommendations earlier.

Finance Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The net profit for March was £42.5k which is better than the budgeted profit of £20.4k. This is largely due to the pre-paid income adjustment for the year to 28 February 2026 of £18.9k and better than expected F&B income in March. The YTD loss of £32.1k, is now £96.4k better than budget, mainly due to better than expected revenues from subscriptions, F&B and golf operations. There is still some slippage in planned course expenditure although some catch-up was achieved in March. As a result, the YTD loss is now some £26k less than the loss for the same period last year.
- The net loss from **F&B** YTD is £61.3k which is about £7.8k worse than budgeted but less of a loss than the loss for the same period last year. Despite the poor weather at the start of the year, sales are ahead of budget by about 13% and 36% ahead of the previous year. The gross profit margin for F&B is still about 4% below budget. This will be monitored, along with the related F&B overheads levels going forward, but we anticipate it will get back on track in the summer months.
- March was a much better month for **Golf Operations**, and the YTD loss has stabilised at £24k which is £4.2k better than budget and in line with the previous year.

Balance Sheet Review

- **Bank Balances at 31 March 2026 – total of £736k.** This represents an increase of £116k in the month of March largely due to receipts for subscriptions during the month of March.

- **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 March the capital additions of £58.7k consisted of £24k on Course Development, £13.3k on clubhouse and pro shop refurbishment and £21.4k on outdoor furniture.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- April has been a difficult month for encouraging grass growth. Soil temperatures have remained below normal, and the cold winds have not helped, so growth has been slow and mowing has been kept to a minimum.
- The greens cutting heights has been reduced from 5.5mm to 5.0mm and NM is aiming to bring this down further to 4.5mm week beginning 27th April, conditions permitting.
- All bunkers are now back in play. The focus has moved onto worn pathways and bridge approaches, which are currently being prepared for turfing. This work is planned for the final week of the month and will include the last section of the Blairs 9th pathway.
- The fencing contractor is due on site within the next two weeks to carry out the required repairs.
- It was agreed to accept the quote from EDI to prepare the master bunker plan for the Blairs Course. NM to contact James Edwards (EDI) and arrange a site visit in May which will include a course walk round with members. Council members to suggest members to PR who may be interested in Course walk with EDI.
- Camphill are going to investigate the cause of the drainage blockage that is currently diverting water across the course. NM to contact the farmer for an update.
- A meeting was held with Scottish Water, attended by AG, PR and NM. They have agreed to repair the manhole by the 6th green and will also carry out survey and hydraulic modelling work on the sewer network to identify the root cause of the issues and look at the best way to resolve them.
- PR reported that some damage had occurred on the 10th green at the weekend, which the green staff had quickly repaired.
- JH asked about the Out of Bounds on the 3rd on Blairs. NM confirmed that the fence line is OB. NM to mark the tree stump at 7th/8th on Blairs as GUR.
- AG requested that the steps at the ladies tee on the 1st (Haughton) have some protection added to the top of each step, as the front edges are being damaged as they are in constant use.
- NM confirmed that the area around the Charging Station on Blairs will be tidied up. It will be turfed and 4/5 rhododendrons will be added.
- AG requested an update on the machinery. NM highlighted that the digger requires some money spent on it, so he is looking into replacing it a bit earlier than planned.

Ladies' Captain Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The first friendly match of the year v Peterculter on Easter Monday was a win for DGC. The sun shone and the Peterculter ladies were very appreciative of the course and hospitality.
- Shirley Blake has taken over from Linda McErlean as friendly convener. Linda has accepted the vice-captain position.
- On Tuesday 14th April the ladies committee hosted some new ladies to play nine and wine for new members. Five new ladies played.
- The ladies were delighted to hear of Graeme's well-deserved success in attaining Certified Club Manager Status.
- There has been some feedback about the ladies' tee times. This happens at the start of every season. GN/JH will monitor the situation.

Match & Handicap Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The Deeside/Banchory pre-season friendly match, held at Deeside on Sat 18th April. The weather was kind for the most part and Deeside managed to sneak the win on countback after a 3-3 result. The format, twice round the Blair's (first 9 fourball, second 9 foursomes) was well received, as was the trophy which will be played for annually in memory of Alan Ross. The trophy was funded by both Deeside and Banchory.
- The Senior Northern Counties will be held at Nairn Dunbar GC, from 13th – 15th May. Last year's finalists will be representing team 1 – Andy Powell, Cliff Alexander, Ian Jack and Iain McBain. Team 2 – Scott Kelman, Nick Henderson, Bill Mitchell and Ian McPherson.
- The Men's Maitland Shield will be held at Links GC, from 18th – 22nd May (Bon Accord are the home club this year). TR has selected the 2025 Dalswinton winning team – Jason Bruce, David Halliday, Kevin Truscott and Tom Rennie.

Junior Report

- Junior Pennant League - Competition planning is now well underway. League fixtures confirmed. 11 clubs participating, fielding a total of 14 teams in 2 Leagues, two teams from Deeside, Cruden Bay and Inverurie. Deeside have over 30 players registered to play this season and a team has been selected for Deeside 2 to compete in the opening league game at Home v's Stonehaven this Sunday, Noon tee off.
- 13 Juniors competed in the Houghton Stableford – good turnout and scoring which bodes well for the season ahead.
- Flag competition fixtures announced by Sam and 'Girls Days' dates also now available for booking.
- Junior knockout draws have been completed and shared for Littleway and Angusfield match plays.
- Informal team event held Sunday 19th April with Winter 4s Junior participants the winning team – well done Colin Balchin for arranging the 4s again this winter
- Off The Tee Trophy – Deeside to host section qualifier on 2nd August. The final is at Stonehaven GC.
- Spence Trophy – Deeside player O. Robertson is current champion.
- Golf Sixes / Nines – No plans to participate – limited gains for significant club planning and support.

Pro Shop Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- There has been a request for a net to go down the left side of the range to protect the new path. Having looked at Trackman it indicates at zero – no risk attached. No breaches on trackman, however it was agreed that GN/NM would look at a temporary option up to the first white post. If the temporary fence solution indicates that balls from the range are a risk to path users then a more permanent solution will be considered.
- GN confirmed that the Howdidido issues are out of the Pro Shops control. GN is still waiting on fixes to the majority of the issues which have been highlighted to howdidido on multiple occasions. Our local rep has apologised albeit totally out of his control too. It was agreed to request that the old app is retained until all the bugs have been fixed. There were unfortunately a couple people/teams who had entered club matchplay events this year who were not included in the draws. This has been highlighted to howdidido (no update yet), however if we get a withdrawal, this is currently the only way for us to include those who were unfortunately removed from the draw(s).
- There is currently an incredible volume of members utilising the facilities which is fantastic, however, this is resulting in issues obtaining tee times, space on the driving range, spaces in the car park & opportunities for lessons. Whilst GN and the team try their best, it's becoming increasingly challenging to look after and support this volume passing through the Professional Shop in amongst all our other responsibilities. GN has apologised if some members feel they are not getting the help/support that they require.
- Due to the demand for lessons GN and the team have made the decision to stop offering six for five packages at Deeside.
- Trackman data (16/3 to 13/4), 205 border breaches out of 140,000 (0.15%). Busiest day on the range is currently 12-1.00pm Fridays.
- GN thanked Council for their continued support of his Professional Development. GN is delighted to be the second CCM at Deeside.
- It was agreed that the local rules should be more prominent. GN/DP to look at options to highlight local rules.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	824
Senior members	118
Associate 30 – 34	16
Associate 24 – 29	22
Young Adults	34
House/Non Playing	166
Senior VIP	16
House 5 Day	2
Country	12
Junior 12 – 18	154
Junior under 12	66
Non Resident	61
Life	14
Honorary	5
- Applications for membership – March/April. All approved by membership sub-Committee.

Cat	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Full	David Glasgow	Keith McPherson	Andrew Bain
Full	David PB Watson	Peter Miller	Keith Miller
Full	Colin Shaw	Iain Landsman	Elaine Farquharson-Black
Full	Stephen Cochrane	Iain Gill	Murray Burnett
Full	Peter JW Adam	Colin Smith	Reeve Watt
Full	Patrick Costello	Andrew Dornan	Colin Walker
Full	Claire Loggie	Michael Loggie	Greig Ritchie
Full	Scott Fraser	Andrew Forbes	Stuart Herd
Full	Paul Allan	Neil Gilchrist	Peter Reily
Full	Sally Barrie	Anne Harper	Nicol Stephen
Full	Ron Evett	Ian Jack	Scott Kelman
Junior	Summer Shaw	Elaine Farquharson-Black	Iain Landsman
Junior	Alexander Fisher	Andrew Charles	Henri Charles
Junior	Ethan Perry	William Laver	Robert Duncan
Junior	Cohan Park	Kenneth Massie	Robert Porter
Junior	Alfie Paterson	Kevin Will	Callum Bruce
Junior	Lachlan Alleway	David Dalgarno	Andrew Alleway
Junior	Lyall Macmillan	Jamie Hutchinson	Sam Kiloh
Junior	Jessica Cheyne	Alastair Hutcheson	Derek Cuthbertson
House	Denise Walker	Colin Walker	Andy Dornan
House	Moyra Gibb	Ken Robertson	Paul Dumont
House	Carolyn Johnson	Alex Cameron	David Suttie

- **Transfers from within the membership**

Connor Forbes	Country to Non-Resident
Stuart Hay	Senior to Non-playing
Peter Kavanagh	Full to Country
Anne Kelman	Non-playing to Full
Turlough McGurran	Non-Resident to Full
John Rapach	Non-playing to Full
Dave Stewart	Senior to Non-playing
Neil Thomson	Full to Non-playing

- **New members**

Ivy Allison	Junior <12
Madison Herd	Junior <12
Sean Thomson	Junior 12-17

- **Resigned**

Angus Atkinson	Young Adult
Oli Blackadder	Junior 12 – 17
Amy Blackadder	Junior 12 – 17
Nilav Chetty	Young Adult
Daisy Cooper	Junior <12
Sophia Crayton	Junior 12 – 17
Diane Drummond	House
Stuart Forsyth	Non-playing
John Fraser	House

Evan Fulton	Young Adult
Athol Gordon	Young Adult
Allison Gray	House
Lewis Gray	House
Kit Jessiman	Junior 12 – 17
Fiona Lane	Full
David Lane	Full
Jeik Lee	Junior <12
Geroge Lyon	Full
Bridget Macklon	House
Fiona Macklon	House
James Marnoch	Junior 12 – 17
Graeme McRobb	House
Anne Page	House
Logan Petrie	Junior 12 – 17
Alexander Ramsayer	Young Adult
Michelle Shand	Full
Steven Smith	Non-Resident
Lynn Stevenson	House
David Tranmer	Full
TA Triplett	Country
Colin Welsh	House

- **Waiting List**

Analysis of annual applications approved at Council:

Total number of applications on the waiting list – 260 (March 26) 211 (March 25)

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	4
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	16

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	2563	2244	321	751	3854							

General Information/Actions/Requests/Discussion etc.

All covered in other reports

6. March Agenda Items

- All covered in other reports

7. AOCB

Nothing to report

8. Next Meeting – Tuesday 26th May @ 5.30pm in the Trophy Room

