

Minute of Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 in the Trophy Room

Present:

A. Gordon	(Captain)
C. Watson	(Vice Captain)
B. Henderson	(Finance Convener)
J. Henderson	(Ladies Captain)
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)

Apologies:

T. Rennie	(Match & H'Cap)
-----------	-----------------

1. Welcome:

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute of Council held on 21st April

The minute of the Council meeting on 21st April was approved.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- PR undated Council on progress with CBEC. The full report is included in the Greens Report. NM will contact CBEC with a detailed map of the area and CBEC will liaise with an engineering contractor who has previously carried out a site visit. PR will arrange a meeting with CMBC Path Group to update them on progress. It is hoped to start the project in summer 2027. Note: this work can only be carried out during spring and summer, therefore these works will need to be carefully planned to avoid/minimise disruption to play.
- PR/NM met with the greens team to present the updated Course Policy and discuss course presentation. It was agreed that future focus should be placed on presentation and attention to detail.
- CW suggested introducing additional traffic control signage and cordoning off worn areas more quickly. This was agreed by Council.
- PR/GN/NM will meet to discuss winter course 2026/27 on Wednesday 27th May. The proposed winter course layout will be presented at the August Council meeting for approval.
- NM contacted Newton Dee Head Office due to water in ditches no longer flowing into the Dee. Following discussions with the farmer they advised the ditch to the flapper valves on their land were blocked. NM to follow up to ensure maintenance work on the ditches and blockage removed has been completed.
- NM/CW/BH met to discuss the 10 year machinery replacement plan.
- Material has been ordered for new bridge at the 18th hole.
- STRI will be on site on 2nd June, with priority attention to be given to get recommendations on how best to address weaker areas of the courses.
- EDI will be on site in June with AG to confirm availability. James's visit will include a Course walk for members and a review of the Blairs bunkers masterplan.

- RBC will not proceed with sponsorship this year. KMS have agreed to sponsorship of the Gents Pennant team, while Norse has agreed to sponsor the Junior Pennant team.
- DP updated Council on the Ramp Project. One outstanding quotation is still awaited and is expected week commencing 1st June.
- It was agreed to add an additional sail in the driving range, which will be installed at the end bay to help protect the path leading to Blairs.
- Council have spoken to various members regarding ideas for the outside area. The overall feedback was that the area should remain unchanged.

4. **Health and Safety**

- Nothing to report

5. **Convener Reports**

Captain's Report

- AG reported that it's still disappointing that the bunkers are still not being raked. It was agreed to continue highlighting this issue through weekly updates.

Finance Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The net profit for April was £30.5k which is better than the budgeted loss of £11.5k. This is largely due to better than budgeted income from all income streams in April partially offset by a large expenditure on fertiliser in April (£15.5k). Fertiliser costs have more than doubled compared to last year. The YTD loss of £4.2k is now £135.8k better than budget. This is mainly due to better than expected revenues from all sources and reductions in course costs and admin costs. As a result, the YTD loss is now almost £31k less than the loss for the same period last year.
- The net loss from **F&B** YTD is £57.7k which is £6.1k better than budgeted and £9.3k less of a loss than the loss for the same period last year. F&B sales are ahead of budget by about 17% and 25% ahead of the previous year. The gross profit margin for F&B is improving to about 2.7% below budget and is slightly above last year's level.
- The financial performance for **Golf Operations** continues to improve and the YTD loss has reduced to £18.2k which is £7.2k better than budget and marginally ahead of the previous year.
- **Bank Balances at 30 April 2026 – total of £723k.** This represents a slight decrease from the previous month of £13k largely due to some significant payments in April for the shop refurbishment, Blairs path construction, fertiliser for the course and new stock for the pro shop.
- **Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations** – Based on budget the requirement is about £550k,
- **Capital Expenditure** – In the month of April the only capital addition was £9k which was the net cost for the new lithium battery powered club car.
- CW/BH met with NM to review the Machinery Renewal 10-year Plan.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

Course Overview

- May has continued with persistently low temperatures creating challenging growing conditions across the courses. Greens are currently being maintained at a 4mm cutting

height and will be reduced to 3.75mm on 1st June, where they are expected to remain throughout the main summer playing season. In addition, all playing areas will receive applications of wetting agent and selective weedkiller as part of our ongoing course conditioning programme.

- From the beginning of June, the team will be trialling painting the hole cups white each time holes are changed, which will take place three times per week.
- The greens have recently undergone pencil tinning to help open the surface ahead of our Championship month. Over the coming week the team will be verti-cutting and applying a very light top dressing to further refine surface quality and improve consistency of ball roll.
- All worn pathways and bridge approaches that were returfed earlier in the spring have established well, and there is also a strong recovery in the overseeded areas throughout the course. The area adjacent to the 1st tee on the Blairs course has now been levelled and seeded and is progressing positively.
- Unfortunately, the fencing contractor experienced delays due to illness, however works are now scheduled to resume soon with the intention of completing the outstanding repairs.

Projects

- Due to holidays and existing workload commitments, it was not possible to arrange the EDI visit during May. A revised date is currently being agreed. During his visit, James will undertake an assessment of the Blairs course bunkers as part of the proposed bunker masterplan work. He will also host a members' evening course walk, similar to last year's event, with a focus on the recently completed bunker works and broader course development opportunities.
- CBEC Riverbank & Flood Mitigation Project - Following a constructive meeting with representatives from CBEC, discussions have continued regarding the proposed riverbank stabilisation, and flood mitigation works adjacent to the course. The following actions have been agreed:
 - A pre-planning submission will be prepared and submitted to Aberdeenshire Council.
 - CRC Banchory will undertake a site visit and provide an initial broad estimate of the likely scope and cost of the proposed works.
 - Historical SEPA correspondence and documentation relating to the existing flapper valve behind the 11th tee are currently being reviewed.
 - Further engagement will continue with the Culter, Milltimber & Bielside Path Group, who have expressed support for the project and may also assist in identifying grant funding or material subsidies.
 - Once additional information has been gathered, a further update will be presented to the Council seeking agreement and direction on the preferred way forward.
 - Subject to Council approval, the Club would then work with CBEC to define and agree a formal scope of work, likely to include hydraulic modelling, site surveys and flood risk assessment studies.
 - Following the initial meeting, representatives from CRC visited Deeside and inspected the relevant riverbank areas alongside Club representatives. Discussions were positive and constructive, with CRC appearing closely aligned with the Club's objectives for the project. CRC will now review the site findings and provide further feedback and recommendations in due course.

Ladies' Captain Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The knockout rounds of the club championships have been drawn. Every year there are comments regarding the early start to the qualifying rounds when the course conditions are suboptimal. By spreading the qualifying rounds over the month of May we are giving all the ladies an opportunity to play.
- Our friendlies team enjoyed a win at Aberdeen Ladies. Linda MacErlean, Gill Summers and Shirley Blake have won in County Events.
- The first of our biannual Texas Scrambles with the Senior men is on Thursday with 16 ladies and 16 men playing. Many thanks to Colin Balchin for organising this very sociable event.
- We have finalised our Away Day to Duff House Royal on Friday 4 September. £85 for transport, food and green fees.
- NM to fix steps at the first tee on Haughton. Also paint the handrail and the ball holders on the 13th.

Match & Handicap Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The Senior Northern Counties was held at Nairn Dunbar GC, from 13th – 15th May. Team 1, consisting of Andy Powell, Cliff Alexander, Ian Jack and Iain McBain lost their 2nd round tie to Royal Dornoch at the 19th. Team 2, consisting of Scott Kelman, Nick Henderson, Bill Mitchell and Ian McPherson won their 1st round match against Nairn Dunbar 2 at the 19th and their 2nd round match against Cruden Bay at the 20th, however lost to Tain in the ¼ final – a valiant effort in cold/wet conditions for the most part! Royal Aberdeen were the eventual winners, beating Tain in the final.
- The Men's Maitland Shield was held at Links GC, from 18th – 22nd May. Unfortunately, the team consisting of Jason Bruce, David Halliday, David Macklin and Tom Rennie fell at the first hurdle, losing 6 down; again, in cold/wet conditions. Royal Aberdeen made the final, losing a high-quality match to Murcar by 4 holes.
- On the club sponsorship, RBC Brewin Dolphin has decided not to proceed with the revised proposal however requested that they be considered for any future opportunities.
- TR has approached Kevin Truscott, Kincardine Manufacturing Services Ltd, once again re sponsoring the Men's Pennant team.

Junior Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Junior Team Branded Apparel - thanks to member Andrew Strachan (MD at Norse Ltd) who has agreed to sponsor the Junior Deeside Team's new playing kit (30 x polo shirts and 30 x long sleeve tops). The order is now placed with Glenmuir with full cost covered by Norse Ltd (c.£2.5k). Andrew's son Harry plays in the squad.
- Junior Pennant League – The league is now at the midway point – both teams around mid-table – however all matches have been very close, with each match making it to the final group and final green. Deeside Team 1 beat Murcar 2-1 – Murcar Junior had 5 x birdies in the back 9 to win the top match on 18th. Eleven clubs participating, fielding a total of 14 teams in 2 x Leagues. Two teams from Deeside, Cruden Bay and Inverurie. There are over 30 players registered to play this season. The competition dates are as follows:

- Deeside - Medals / Competitions - Approx 12 x Juniors competing in the Haughton medal each Saturday – good turnout and scoring which bodes well.
Flag competition fixtures ‘Girls Days’ dates well supported.
Junior knockout draws completed and shared for Littleway and Angusfield match plays.
- Off The Tee Trophy - Deeside to host section qualifier on 2nd August. Final at Stonehaven GC.
- Hector Dey & Murray Trophies - Deeside to compete.
- Spence Trophy - Deeside to compete – Deeside player O. Robertson is current champion

Pro Shop Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Howdidido have stated that the old App will remain in situ until issues with the new App are fixed. GN will attend a meeting on behalf of the Club Management Association of Europe Scotland with Clubsystems on Friday 29th to highlight our disappointment with their service/app.
- Scottish Golf will be at Deeside on 18th May (Blairs) & 9th July (Haughton) to re rate our courses. GN does not envisage any huge changes to our ratings.
- Eagle will be at Deeside on Thursday 4th June to re measure our course which co-insides with Scottish Golfs visit. Both measurements & ratings are due every 10 years.
Trackman Data: 180 border breaches out of 164,000 shots (0.11%). The busiest Day/Time on Range currently 9-11 & 13.00 on Saturdays.
- A few comments about the new policy on the 14th tee for golfers’ safety on 15th tee. There sometimes appears to be a backlog of golfers waiting on the 14th tee. This has now become a safety issue at the 14th tee with those approaching the 13th green. It is worthwhile highlighting one member has almost been hit twice on the 15th tee despite the policy being in place. After discussion it was agreed to install new signage: On the 14th ‘**Be aware of players on the 15th tee**’, On the 15th tee ‘**Please give priority to players waiting on the 14th tee**’. Comms to be sent to members once the signs are in place.
- In the most recent meeting with Brian Doole, one of the most respected reps in Scotland who works for Ecco, Super Stroke, Pure Golf, Island Green amongst many other brands, has stated that Deeside “is by far the best private members golf club in Scotland”. GN stated that it is very nice to get such good feedback from someone within the industry that visits hundreds of clubs across Scotland every year.
- The first Senior Open Stableford was a great success with a huge number of compliments about the course & facilities.
- Club Championship Policy Update - “Where a match cannot be played due to genuine non-overlapping, availability, and no extension is permitted, the committee may determine the outcome by random draw”. Unfortunately, there was a Ladies Club Championship match that could not be played due to both players being away on holidays at different times. GN to add in a clause to toss a coin for Club Championship matches

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:
Full members 822

Senior members	117
Associate 30 – 34	16
Associate 24 – 29	22
Young Adults	34
House/Non Playing	168
Senior VIP	16
House 5 Day	2
Country	13
Junior 12 – 18	154
Junior under 12	67
Non Resident	61
Life	14
Honorary	5

- Applications for membership – April/May. All approved by membership sub-Committee.

Cat	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Full	Jeffrey Forsyth	Neil Gilchrist	Peter Reilly
Full	Aisling Halliday	Brigid Halliday	Shona Buyers
Full	Keirin McCaffrey	Craig Tennent	Mike Morrice
Full	Michael Anthony	James Broadribb	Graeme Cornwell
Full	Nicholas Mess	Graeme Smith	Colin Smith
Full	Ryan Dey	LOR from Banchory	
Full	Neil Tosh	Duncan Fail	Keith McPherson
Full	David Fisher	David Gillanders	John Martin
Full	Stephanie Fisher	David Gillanders	John Martin
Full	Alexander Mackenzie	Robert Laing	Graham Robertson
Full	Stephanie Craigie	Hugh Cragie	Jack Craigie
Full	Martin Smith	Alan Clark	Alan Reid
Full	Sarah Hay	Denise Davies	James Davies
Full	Gillian Williamson	Jenny Clark	Shirley Blake
Junior	Christian Leask	Martin Suttie	Michael Willett
Junior	Robbie Scrimgeour	Grant Pennet	Turlough McGurran
Junior	James Fisher	David Gillanders	John Martin
Junior	Mitchell Phelan	David Bloom	John Verling
Junior	Nathan Blain	Anne Harper	Neil Harper

- **Transfers from within the membership**
 Anne Kelman Non-playing to Full
 John Rapach Non-playing to Full
 Simon Roddy Full to Country
 Katherine Teow Full to Non-playing
- **New members**
 Liam Kerr Full
- **Resigned**
 Alan Bremner Full
 Kay Brown Full
 TA Triplett Country
 Arthur Youngson Senior

- **Waiting List**

Analysis of annual applications approved at Council:

Total number of applications on the waiting list – 269 (April 26) 215 (April 25)

- **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	5909						

6. May Agenda Items

- Strategy Plan – CW updated Council on the SP initiatives. Areas discussed and will be updated include:
 - Blairs/Haughton bunker plan. PR/NM to prepare schedule for bunkers for Winter 26/27.
 - Sustainability Policy – DP/NM/GN to meet and prepare a draft plan for discussion.
 - Members correspondence. AG has dealt with member correspondence.
7. **AOCB**
PR requested clarification on who responds to suggestions in the Suggestion Book. DP reported that she responds to all the signed comments and passes them on to the relevant departments
8. **Next Meeting – Tuesday 23rd June @ 5.30pm in the Trophy Room - Chris apologies**

ACTIONS

AG	Letters of thanks to KMS and Norse for sponsorship.
AG/PR/NM	Progress with actions on the CBEC project: NM send detailed map of the area. CBEC to liaise with engineering contactor, PR update the Path Group
PR/NM	Prepare a schedule for bunker project 2026-2027.
NM	Follow with Newton Dee on update on drainage solutions More Traffic control signage on worn areas and the 14 th /15 th hole. Install new wooden bridge at 18th Follow up with James at EDI regarding site visit and Blairs bunker programme. Paint handrail and fix steps at ladies' tee on the 1 st on Haughton.
DP/GN/NM	Work on a draft Sustainability Policy.
DP/NM	Follow up on two tenders for the ramp project.
PR/NM/GN	Feedback from the meeting on the winter course layout
Council	Speak to members who are not adhering to Deeside expected standards of dress and etiquette. This is an ongoing commitment by members of Council.

