

Minute of Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 in the Trophy Room

Present:

A. Gordon	(Captain)
B. Henderson	(Finance Convener)
J. Henderson	(Ladies Captain)
P. Reilly	(Greens Convener)
B. Youngson	(Junior Convener)
T. Rennie	(Match & H'Cap)

In Attendance:

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

Apologies:

C. Watson	(Vice Captain)
-----------	----------------

1. Welcome:

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minute of Council held on 26th May

The minute of the Council meeting held on 26 May was approved. PR queried the section of the minutes relating to the 14th/15th signage. Following discussion, it was agreed that the new signage agreed and ordered would be trialled and, if any issues remain, further signage options would be discussed and agreed upon. PR expressed disappointment at not being kept informed of the details regarding the signage. It was agreed that the actions for the following meeting will be summarised at the end of each meeting and circulated the following day, as well as documented as normal in the minute.

3. Matters arising from the previous Minute:

- The Junior Pennant team uniform has been delivered and has been well received by the Juniors, again thanks to Andrew Strachan from Norse for his contribution. The gent's pennant team uniform will be ordered and delivered in time for next season 2027. Again, thanks to Kevin Truscott KMS for his contribution.
- PR updated Council on CBEC project. Following feedback received from Alison at CBEC on the pre-planning submission, the proposed plans have now been submitted to Aberdeenshire council for consideration. They have suggested they will have an answer within 25 days.
- NM will have details on the Bunker winter project timeline for 2026-27 at the next meeting.
- NM has been in touch with Newton Dee regarding the blockages in the drains. Newton Dee has confirmed all the ditches will be cleared week commencing 22nd June.
- Various traffic signage around the course is working well.
- It was agreed that the proposed new bridge across from the 18th to the new path was not a priority, but a simple sleeper bridge would be installed before the winter.
- NM has been in touch with James from EDI. James is struggling for dates at the moment. It was agreed that AG/PR will offer more availability dates and NM will contact James.

- The handrail at the ladies' tee on the 1st on Haughton has been painted. The sleeper steps which have started to rot, will be replaced at the end of the season, in the meantime strips and caps will be added to the sleeper edges and ends.
- The proposed Sustainability Policy was circulated in advance. Any comments to be fed back to DP. Both CW and PR/NM to ensure the policy aligns with the Strategy Plan and the Course Policy. Once finalised the policy will be uploaded to the website.
- Following the first Winter Course meeting, NM has drawn up specific plans which will be discussed at the next Winter Course meeting before being circulated to Council for approval at the August Council meeting. At the moment the main suggestion from members is to split the 13th and take the 14th out of use for the winter. Worn areas will be better protected over the winter so they are ready for the start of the season.

4. Health and Safety

- Nothing to report

5. Convener Reports

Captain's Report

- AG updated Council on a proposal received from Sam Kiloh. Following initial discussions with GN/DP and Sam, and subsequent discussions with AG/CW/ BH, at Sam's request his contract of employment will be amended from August. Sam will be dedicating more time to coaching and reducing his hours within the shop. To support this change, GN/DP will recruit a full-time Golf Operations team member to cover his shop-based responsibilities. The saving in salary along with the increased percentage of coaching revenue to the Club will fund 90% of a new full-time person. After discussion it was agreed this was a positive step forward for both Sam and the Club. Council approved the proposal.

Finance Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The net profit for May was £4.7k which is better than the budgeted loss of £1.3k. Income was £11.5k better than budget and overheads were £6.1k higher than budget. For the YTD position the finances have moved into a slight profit for the period which is £141.2k better than budget and £21.5k better than the previous year. We are now in a position where we should achieve a fairly healthy surplus for the year.
- F&B broke even for the month of May and the net loss from F&B YTD is still £57.7k which is now £12.3k better than budgeted and £4.0k less of a loss than the loss for the same period last year. F&B sales are ahead of budget by about 16% and 17% ahead of the previous year. The gross profit margin for F&B is improving and is now only 1.7% below budget and is slightly above last year's level. We will continue to monitor this margin and the related F&B overheads levels going forward.
- The financial performance for Golf Operations continues to improve and the YTD loss has reduced to £16.1k which is £6.9k ahead of budget and better than budget and £4.7k ahead of the previous year.
- Bank Balances at 31 May 2026 – total of £753k. This represents an increase from the previous month of £30k.
- Cash Reserves Requirement for Operations – Based on budget the requirement is about £550k, we are comfortably above this level and should remain there for the remainder of the financial year.

- Capital Expenditure – In the month of May the only capital addition was £15k which was the cost for the septic at the greenkeeping sheds.

Greens Convener and Course Manager Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- June has seen a significant change in conditions, with growth now becoming very fast and, at times, difficult to keep up with across the course. This has been a welcome shift after the cooler spring weather, although it has presented its own challenges in maintaining presentation and consistency.
- Greens are currently being maintained at 3.75mm and are performing well despite the rapid growth rates experienced throughout the month. The greens have recently undergone pencil tinning to help maintain surface performance during this period of strong growth. Verti-cutting and a very light top dressing to further refine surface quality and improve consistency of ball roll has been applied. The team are now into the normal summer maintenance routine of pencil tinning and verti-cutting monthly. In addition, all playing areas will receive applications of wetting agent, fertiliser and selective weedkiller as part of our ongoing maintenance.
- At the beginning of June, NM started a trial of painting the edges of the holes white each time they are changed, which takes place three times per week. Most of the initial feedback has been positive, and the trial will continue throughout the summer.
- All worn pathways and bridge approaches that were returfed earlier in the spring have established well, and there is strong recovery in the overseeded areas throughout the course.
- The winter course debrief was held on 27th May, with another meeting planned for July, before the winter layout is presented to Council.
- AG requested an update on the path at the 15th. NM confirmed that George Burr from STS (Sports Turf Services) would be on site in the middle of July to look at options and submit a quote. Consideration to be given to managing the traffic flow around this area.
- NM reported that there had been SEPA inspection regarding the weir license. No issues have been reported.
- NM to investigate potential solutions for the grassy bunkers and arrange for James to assess them when he is on site. Ladies are reporting large divot areas within these areas.
- Driving Range - New driving range sails have been installed apart from the new one on the end of the bay seven which will be installed week commencing 29th June.
- At present the greens team are having to carry out two picks a day to keep the range supplied with balls. There is an issue at weekends, and NM is looking at different options to resolve this problem.

Ladies' Captain Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- The ladies are looking forward to our Open Tri-am on Thursday 25th June. Frank Coutts has kindly agreed to be the starter. JH hopes the visiting ladies support the Pro Shop.
- Referees have been arranged for finals day.
- The ladies friendly team enjoyed fine weather, good company and a win at Portlethen.
- The ladies have remarked on how both courses have greatly improved in the last month and appreciate the green keepers' hard work. There are still some issues with rake

positioning in the sand bunkers. Regarding certain grass bunkers the issue is that, unlike sand bunkers which can be raked, balls collect in a small area which often has deep un-repaired divots.

Match & Handicap Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- TR/GN will review the team kit at the end of the season with the aim to have a sponsorship deal in place with Kincardine Manufacturing Services (KMS) for the beginning of next season.
- Pennant League is off to a flying start, winning three (3) out of our first four (4) matches: Tuesday 26th May - 5-0 victory at home against Caledonian, Monday 1st June – 3.5 – 1.5 defeat away to Banchory, Tuesday 9th June – 5-0 victory at home against Stonehaven, Monday 15th June – 4-1 victory away to Stonehaven. The next match is the return tie against Caledonian (away to the Kings Links GC) on Thursday 25th June. A strong result against Caledonian will set up the final tie of the group stage against Banchory, at home on Tuesday 30th June. Although the team has already done enough to qualify to the knockout stage, a heavy victory against Caledonian and a win against Banchory could mean Deeside top the group and secure a home tie for the ¼ final (Sunday 19th July)
- TR to let DP know about accommodation for the Northern Counties in Tain. 18th – 20th September.

Junior Report

A full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- Junior Pennant League – Update:
League round competition now concluded with both Cruden Bay teams winning their Leagues and will compete the Final at Stonehaven GC on Sunday 28th June. Deeside fielded two teams in this seasons Junior Pennant League. 23 juniors represented the club in the tournament, with many making their Pennant League debuts. Both teams competed strongly, picking up several wins, finishing above mid-tables and pushing both eventual finalists Cruden Bay to the final green. Although Deeside missed out on a final spot, it should be noted the average age of the team is comparatively young at ~13.
- Junior Team Branded Apparel
Team apparel very well received and distributed to 2026 Pennant members. Thanks again to member Andrew Strachan (MD at Norse Ltd) who agreed to sponsor the new playing kit.
- Team Selection
BY proposed to Council that unless there are extenuating circumstances, juniors who are ‘home’ members of other local clubs should be encouraged to play for those clubs in team competitions, rather than Deeside GC. Many clubs are struggling to field teams, whilst Deeside have a large section of young emerging players. Extenuating circumstances may include talented golfers who may bring success to Deeside and represent the club well. After discussion this was agreed.

Pro Shop Report

The full report was circulated in advance. To summarise:

- GN reported that there are still some issues with Club Systems. This relates mostly to Multi Tee & General Play scores. Unfortunately, no timeline for a fix. As a result, the Gents on a Wednesday have been playing one tee. This has mostly been whites as it's

the happy medium between yellow & black. If the issue continues, GN will try and have a greater mix of yellow & white tees.

- The Professional Shop Team are preparing for Finals Day with schedule of matches released on Thursday. The team are also preparing for the four Opens at the end of the month/beginning of next. A very busy yet enjoyable couple weeks at the Club!
- As reported above, following various discussions, at Sam's request his contract of employment will be amended from August. He will be dedicating more time to coaching and reducing his hours within the shop. To support this change, GN/DP will recruit a full-time Golf Operations team member to cover his shop-based responsibilities.
- Trackman Data (19/5 – 19/6) -187 border breaches out of 175,000 shots (0.11%)
Busiest Day/Time on Range currently 13.00 on Saturdays.
- GN has had a request from some of the Gilbert Trophy (Senior Championship) players to move to White tees from 2027. Council have approved this. Out of courtesy David Rennie will be asked to contact Martin Gilbert and inform him of the change.
- GN reported that there has been some negative feedback about the painted holes. The issue is the paint transferring from the hole to hands and clothing. It was agreed to continue with the white hole cups for the next couple of months. NM will ensure the holes are not painted on rainy days.
- GN to post the Championship Day finals draws on the notice board and on the foyer table.

Club Manager Report

- Membership Numbers:

Full members	823
Senior members	116
Associate 30 – 34	17
Associate 24 – 29	22
Young Adults	34
House/Non Playing	165
Senior VIP	16
House 5 Day	2
Country	13
Junior 12 – 18	157
Junior under 12	67
Non Resident	60
Life	14
Honorary	5

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

Cat	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Full	Barry McDonald	Stuart Florance	Michael Pollock
Full	Thomas Philip	Geoff Clarke	Stewart Paterson
Full	Daniel Mclean	LOR Portlethen GC	LOR Portlethen GC
Full	Gregor Duncan	Doug Connell	Sally Connell
Full	Michael Swan	John Swan	Alison Swan
Full	David Hutcheon	William Laver	Tyler Buchan

Full	Geoffrey Aberdeen	Christopher Smith	Jeffrey Smith
Full	Samira Benzidan	Bruce Campbell	Colin Smith
Full	Nikki Fox	Anna O'Byrne	Ronan Fox
Junior	Lyle Cain	Ralph Davidson	David Rennie
Junior	Gregor Rennie	Michael Rennie	David Rennie
Junior	Edward Bretherton	Euan Duncan	Derek Grimmer
Junior	Caleb McDonald	Stuart Florance	Michael Pollock
House	Anne Kerr	Elaine Smith	Elizabeth Gibb
House	Pat Wood	Muriel Lornie	Elaine Smith

- Transfers from within the membership
Stephen Bullock Non Playing to Full
Grahame Mackenzie Non Resident to Full
Sandy McAllister Non Playing to Associate 30-34
- New members
Ysabella Fitzpatrick Junior 12 - 17
Svara Jaganathan Junior 12 - 17
Melissa Rae Junior 12 – 17
- Resigned
Peter Stewart Full
- Deceased
Sidney Wood House
Vivienne Harper Senior
- Waiting List

Analysis of annual applications approved by Council:

Total number of applications on the waiting list – 283 (May 26) 225 (May 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	9
May	1	8	15	2	10	14
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	39
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Annual	27	110	87	62	127	39

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	6867					

- Updated Members Standards Policy
Following on from one of the strategy plan initiatives in Club Operations, DP prepared a draft members' standards policy which mirrors the existing etiquette policy on the website. Council are requested to feedback any comments to DP in the next week. It will then be uploaded to the website.
- Waiting List Fee
Following discussion with AG/CW it was agreed to increase the waiting list fee to £60. This will take effect from July 2026.
- Club Championship Day
It has been agreed that a charge of £15.00 will apply for the barbecue for members, family, and friends who are not actively participating in the finals.

6. June Agenda Items

- The balcony refurbishment and installation of the ramp project was approved. DP to contact Brian Noble and ask him to proceed with Donview Contractors.
- There was a suggestion about installing a water tap down at the course toilets. This had been discussed in the past and after further discussion it was agreed not to proceed.
- PR suggested possibly replacing the chuckies on the marquee area. After discussion it was agreed not to proceed with this for now.
- Member correspondence
 - It was agreed that no sauce sachets will be served outside.
 - An email was received regarding the OB at the 14th. After discussion it was agreed that NM will look at the wall area and decide the best way forward to better define the OB along the wall.

7. AOCB

Nothing to report.

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

