



**Portlethen Golf Club
Management Committee
Thursday 19th December 2019**

Minute

Present:, David Fleming, Steve Lawrie, Ian Cruickshank, Tom Boyle, Stephen Cook, Raymond Cowan, Scott Sinclair, Denise Robertson, , Terry Kennedy, Jack Douglas, Paul Singer,

In Attendance: Dino Becci,

Apologies: Ian Elmslie, (Ian Cruickshank to be late)

1. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 21st November 2019 were accepted as a true record.

Minute was approved, proposed by Raymond Cowan and seconded by Stephen Cook.

2. Matters arising:

Lottery: Still waiting for bank to set up separate account.

House: Pipe cleaning issue raised at last meeting now addressed subsequent to receipt of a complaint of a repeat occurrence.

3. House

Steve presented his report report

We've had a reasonable period with 2 functions and along with 2 party nights 13th (50) and 14th (80) and hogmanay fully booked it's been ok hopefully the bar takings reflect !

Christmas lunches were also doing very well this year.

4. Match & Handicap

Terry presented his report.

Annual Handicap Review was considered and no further action was recommended.

The fixture list for the. new season was finalised subject to changes being acceptable to main Committee.

A request to move Ladies TeeTimes on a Saturday was not thought appropriate.

Changes proposed to Red Baron Championship

- a) players to be allowed to compete in both scratch and handicap championships.
- b) number of qualifiers for handicap championship to be increased to 32.
- c) Handicap Championship to be reduced to 18 holes.

Opening Day to be on 28/03/20 played as a shotgun Texas scramble and to include a Captain's drive off.

Closing Day of the season to be 24/10/20

Order of Merit to Run to 10/10/20

Red Baron Finals to be played on 30/08/20

Knockout Finals to be played by 27/09/20

Texas Open has been moved to 2/08/20

It is intended to run 4/5 fun evenings during the summer from 2.00pm on Fridays

All Sunday walk on medals will be "any tee"

To replace the Cattro Cup a challenge match between 4 teams captained by representative of the club departments will be organised on 12/09/20.

Proposal a) "players to be allowed to compete in both scratch and handicap championships"
A counter proposal was tabled by David Fleming, on the basis that a previous decision by this Committee was that no member could win the scratch and handicap versions of the same event. There was also the issue, should the same player win both, that the club could be without an entry for the District's "Champion of Champions" event.
M&H saw these as separate events.
Proposal was put to vote and was carried 8-2.

Ian Cruickshank joined the meeting at this juncture.

Proposal b) "number of qualifiers for handicap championship to be increased to 32"
No objections. Proposal carried.

Proposal c) "Handicap Championship Final to be reduced to 18 holes"
No objections. Proposal carried.

Terry added that he had attended the District AGM recently where a presentation of Scottish Golf's VMS system was given. More details of the system and its capabilities will be discussed in the New Year.

5. Greens

Ian presented Neil's report.

Overview

It has certainly been a mixed bag of weather lately, it has either been cold and dry or wet and warm

Data was presented illustrating how much rain we have had and how the temperatures have varied so much! This has caused us an a lot of issues with frost and flooding. Since the 1st of November the weather has closed the course on 17 occasions. There has been 11 days where we have been on frost course. This has had a big impact on our late season aeration and scarification programmes. When the course has dried out sufficiently it has performed well.

GREENS

When we got the chance to cut the greens they came up very well and our winter fertiliser that we put down earlier in November is working well. We have managed to hand cut and iron the greens on several occasions. The aeration we did earlier in November has been really beneficial, even with all the rain we have had the greens have remained puddle free and relatively firm. We took the chance last week to get more sand down on them, and hopefully we will get some more down by the end of the year.

Photographs were displayed showing some of the work that has taken place over the last few weeks. One picture showed all the surface water on the fairways and approaches but nothing on the greens.

Moving forward we will be trying to keep the green as healthy and as the plant as dry as possible. This will be done by cutting, ironing and dew removal. We will also try and apply more wetting agent and some nutrition. This will be done by the use of the tractor mounted sprayer.

TEES

Like the greens we have managed to get them cut, dressed and some more aeration. We are also trying to get some wetting agent down on them.

A photograph shows the 1st tee being cut.

APPROACHES

As with all the other fine turf areas on the golf course we have been trying to keep these as dry as possible. Some of the approaches have responded very well to the treatment we have given them, but other such as 2,7,9 and 13 remain very wet. It is becoming apparent that these areas need to be looked at with the view to strip them back to the bare bones and start again with them and get them done properly once and for all.

The plan for the approaches is to keep our aeration programme going as much as we can. The early winter fertiliser that we applied is ticking over nicely. We will get these cut when the weather allows us.

FAIRWAYS

We have been continuing with our scarification when we can, we have almost completed the front 9, but the weather has been very much against us. I am looking at completing the fairways in the spring as there is very little growth and recovery now. I am also waiting for a break in the weather to spray the fairways with iron and some calcium nitrate, which will help strengthen the fairways and allow them to stay strong and healthy.

SEMI ROUGH AND ROUGH AREAS

We have been continuing to terra rake these areas, this is only possible when the weather is correct. The best weather for doing this job is when it is frosty!

We will continue to do this operation as much as we possibly can through the winter months.

Points for discussion

There are a couple areas on the golf course that needs immediate attention. The path at the 11th tee needs to be widened and the bunker at the 11th green needs to be addressed. Photos presented showed the path along the 11th tee is just not wide enough for modern day golf buggies. Also, a second photo showed that the front right green side bunker is in desperate need of repair.

My proposals

There are several options available to us for both projects.

Firstly, make the path wider towards the tee and edge it with sleepers to create an edge, which will contain the tee and stop buggies and caddy cars encroaching on to the tee.

The second option would be to remove the large tree on the right-hand side of the path and extend the path out that way.

My preferred option would be the second one as the tree in question is not helping the tee, it casts a large shadow over the tee, thus in turn is weakening the plant making the tee weaker and susceptible to the grass plant thinning out and ultimately total grass loss. If you decide to remove the tree in question, I would strongly recommend removing some of the other

trees. One of the trees lost a limb many years ago and now is showing signs of rotting, this tree may come down at any time. I would then propose to plant the area out behind the 10th green with shrubs such as the ones by the 5th tee. This would give good early season colour and it would also stop the golfers straying of the path.

The bunker at the 11th is needing some repair (phot presented).

The options that are open to us are leave it as it is, remove the bunker completely make a new bunker further back up the fairway. When making your decision you have to be aware of the health and safety implications of leaving the bunker where it is, as most golfers are trying to fly the ball on to the green, the ball is thrown high into the air where the wind can affect the flight, and turn the ball over and take the 12th tee in to play, by removing the bunker and creating a shallow swail, this will give the golfer the option of running the ball up the slope and taking away the need to throw the ball high in the air. If we move the bunker further up the fairway it gives the opportunity to the land the ball over the bunker but short of the green, this also takes the health and safety aspects into account. I believe doing nothing to the bunker is not an option.

The sooner we can make a decision on both these projects the better.

Another project we have been working on is making the woodlands a better area for golfers and to allow more air to move through the trees, which will help with light issues and will assist in drying up certain areas. You will notice when you are out golfing that there is a lot of branches lying on the ground, these are being left until we get a woodchipper in so we can return the branches to the forest floor. By returning the wood clippings to the ground this will help as mulch and help inhibit weeds growing, which will save us money and time. It also saves us transporting all the branches back to the shed where we have burnt them in the past. We are trying to be more environmentally friendly and also save us money in the long run.

Photos were also presented as to how the course was on Friday morning after another night of very heavy rain.

The actual costings involved in turfing the 11th bunker and re-aligning the path to be ascertained as well as costs involved with tree removal.

It was also suggested that a definitive cost of the work major work required on the 9th approach be ascertained.

6. Finance and Admin

Tom presented the Finance report.

Given that November is month 1 of the financial year there was nothing of note to report.

The suggestion of reducing bar measures from 35mm to 25mm was tabled as something that needs serious consideration. This is something that has been discussed very recently in house and a report on this proposal would be prepared for further discussion.

7. AGM

It was confirmed that all those currently on Committee have agreed to continue in their current roles. In line with the constitution Stephen Cook and Scott Sinclair would be putting themselves up for re-election to create the 2 spaces required.

8. Swing Studio

Initial survey of the snooker room has been carried out. Due to the structure of the roof the original plan of using the snooker room in its entirety is not feasible. There is however still scope to site a facility in the snooker room with the possibility of also moving the putting studio into the same room resulting in a complete facility.

The snooker table could feasibly be moved into the current meeting room.

A structural engineer has looked at the roof area and we await calculations and drawings for the work required to increase the ceiling height to appropriate costings.

It was noted however that we need to ascertain whether the floor in the meeting room is strong enough to support the snooker table if this was an option to be taken further.

Next meeting Thursday 9th January 2020

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