



# Portlethen Golf Club Management Committee Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019

## Minute

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

**In Attendance:** Dino Becci,

**Apologies:** Stephen Cook, Jack Douglas, Ian Elmslie

### 1. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 were accepted as a true record.

Minute was approved, proposed by Denise Robertson and seconded by Raymond Cowan.

### 2. Matters arising:

None

### 3. Finance and Admin

Tom presented the report.

The shortfall on overall target grew by a further £3,500 through July with Green fees down by £2,660 against the same period as last year being one of the biggest contributory factors.

We also lost one Corporate (Control Valve Solutions) who have relocated from next door and who also withdrew their sponsorship of the first hole. Reid for Speed also decided not to renew their sponsorship of the 7<sup>th</sup> tee.

On a positive note a new sponsor in Muehlhan Industrial Services have in the last day or so agreed to sponsor the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> tee as well as the information board cited on the first tee.

A decent month in house although Bar sales were considerably down on last year but a greatly improved margin negated that shortfall.

As previously reported there is no doubt that we will require some buffer to our cash position come January / February 2020 and we have had initial discussions with our bankers who will deliver a proposal in the next 2- 3 weeks.

Membership drives were discussed and it was agreed that a similar promotion to last years incentive scheme be launched offering 20% discounts.

A winter membership running from October to February will also be offered for £199.

### 4. House

We had a good couple of weekends with a wedding and a retirement

Both functions had over 100 attendees

the wedding was a particular success Margaret and her team put a lot of work in decorating the upstairs superbly

## **5. Finance and Admin**

Ian presented Neil's report.

There is really not much to report on this month, as all we seem to do is cut. I have never experienced such a high growth rate as we have had over the last month! Even the PGR is struggling to contain the growth. This is having an impact on all surfaces, the greens are running true but they are slightly slower than I would like.

Greens, they are getting cut every day. We have not managed to iron them as frequently as I would like to as most of our time is spent trying to keep on top of the growth levels.

We have continued to verticut and topdress them to help manage and control the build up of organic matter.

With the high amount of rainfall we have been experiencing it was necessary to aerate the greens, this was very necessary and beneficial to the greens. Even with the high volumes of rain we have not lost any golfing days.

The tees, approaches and fairways are getting cut at least twice a week.

For the first time since I have been at Portlethen we have had to cut the semi rough twice a week and sometimes you wouldn't even know we have cut it. We are brushing and blowing the rough to remove any grass clippings, to help keep the presentation levels at a high standard.

The second cut of rough is being cut every week unlike last year where we only had to cut it 3 times all summer. The rough has got quite dense at the bottom, the plan will be to rake it and thin it out later on when the growth goes back.

The long rough was meant to be cut and collected by now, but we just have had no time to do it. Hopefully we will get this done soon. As these areas are out of play I feel they are not as high priority as maintaining the finer turf playing surfaces.

Over the coming weeks we will be overseeding the greens. This will help increase the more desirable grasses in the green, which in turn will help the greens perform better for longer.

Ian added that prospective Winter works had been discussed with drainage works at 2, 3, 7 & 13 at the forefront. The 9<sup>th</sup> approach also but this would be a completely different exercise to the others.

The ageing of some of the machines should also be noted and as with any winter projects would be completely dependant on finances.

The layout and in particular teeing areas for the winter course has also been discussed.

Thanks extended to Tom Boyle for his assistance with cutting and the volunteers who gave up their time to assist with the divoting.

An alternative proposal for the range/members area/ 5 hole course was presented, discussed and agreed to. This proposal allowed retention of a members area.

## **6. Match & Handicap**

Terry presented his report.

All knockout competitions are up to date.

Results:

Stroke play Championship  
Scratch Lewis Shand  
Handicap Michael Edwards

Belmar S/Ford Ian Paterson

Galvin Shield Malcolm Thomson

Galvin Cup Malcolm Thomson

Up to date aggregate scores for Keith Tait now on notice board.

Information on computer capability to provide "temporary winter handicaps" now at hand  
To be discussed at next M/h meeting.

The Deeside League handicap knockout semi-final will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September at Ballater.

The fact that the Galvin Shield and Cup were both won by the same person this year resulted in a proposal to change the rules of such events where there is both a scratch and handicap event such as the Galvin Shield/Cup and Strokeplay Championship. The proposal that in these events the same member cannot win both, with the Scratch event being automatically awarded, was put to the vote and was carried by 6 votes to 3.

It was noted that this year's prize giving would be held on 9<sup>th</sup> November and NOT the 2<sup>nd</sup> as shown in the fixture list.

The format of the Muriel Mashie, which will be brought under the club's administration, to be discussed by M&H.

Scott reported that the junior team had reached the semi-finals of the Off The Tee Trophy at Murcar on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Club will host a 54 hole junior tour event in June 2020 as well as co-hosting the Scottish Amateur Championship qualifying rounds in late July.

A detailed proposal by David Pocock to use the Muriel Thomson Lounge as a putting studio was presented and discussed. There would be no cost to the club. The proposal was agreed to.

Options on re-siting the Champion Boards to be explored.

## **7. Other Business**

### **1) Letter**

A letter had been received from the husband of a recently deceased member asking for a refund of a proportion of subscription paid.

It was agreed that fees were non-refundable and the letter would be replied to appropriately.

### **2) APSN**

A complaint was received regarding the behaviour of one of the Corporate member's guests on the course, using abusive language as well as misuse of buggies.

The Managing Director had been informed and apologies received.

It was agreed that further sanctions toward the individual were necessary.

A proposal of a 30 day ban was made by Ian Cruickshank and seconded by Terry Kennedy. A counter proposal of a ban through to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 was tabled by Raymond Cowan and seconded by Steve Lawrie.

By a vote of 6 to 3 the individual to be banned to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

The Corporate member to be advised.

**Next meeting Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7.15pm.**