



Portlethen Golf Club Management Committee Thursday 20th June 2019

Minute

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

In Attendance: Dino Becci,

Apologies: Steve Lawrie, Ian Cruickshank

1. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 16th May 2019 were accepted as a true record.

Minute was approved, proposed by Stephen Cook and seconded by Ian Elmslie.

2. Matters arising:

Course Opening: Despite what was agreed at last meeting concerns have been raised in the interim by greens. A number of points had been raised and were discussed. It was agreed that a 7am first tee time should be implemented for weekdays.

Sweep'n 2's: Now being displayed although it was noted that the notice is only remaining in situ for a few days before being removed. To be addressed, notice to remain in view for at least 4 weeks.

Club Championship Format: Carried Forward

Junior Pennant Catering: Requests fulfilled. Thanks from Junior members noted.

New Scorecards: Delivered and now in use. Positive feedback on the amended layout.

3. Match & Handicap

Terry presented his report.

Due to various match commitments the M/h meeting has been deferred.

Match play competitions are progressing very well with very few games not being played.

S.Cook will referee the quarterfinals of the club championships but a volunteer is required for the afternoon semi-finals.

The Galvin cup second round and the last round of the stroke play Championship will be played on Saturday Members and greens staff need to be informed.

The pennant team were recently defeated by Bon-Accord having won their first 2 matches. A win against Auchmill could still result in qualification for the semi-final depending on other results.

The Deeside League team had an excellent away win at Aboyne.

The Junior pennant team have won all 3 of their matches played.

The recent Senior gents open attracted a field of 80 while the upcoming gents open has so far seen 123 entrants.

4. House

In Steve's absence there was no report.

Concerns once again raised over cancellations for the recent entertainment night where no ticket monies had been collected. The practice of no cash/ no booking needs to be stressed again.

Drains in the ladies locker room to be addressed again as well as the broken flush plate in the ladies upstairs toilet.

The poor quality of food from the kitchen when a particular chef is not on shift was again raised and needs to be addressed.

5. Finance and Admin

Tom presented his report.

We continued to see new memberships and renewals through May and into June which helped eat into the brought forward deficit.

Green fee income however saw a dip against last year when we did enjoy an unprecedented number of outings that simply did not repeat this year.

6. Greens

In Ian's absence the greens report was discussed.

Data presented shows that we have had a very wet spell of weather. A total of 69mm. There has been a large variance in temperatures as well. On the 5th of June we actually had a grass frost. Last month I reported that we were needing some moisture now I am reporting that we don't need anymore! This wet warm weather certainly has an affect on the course. It is now quite soft and cutting up in places. With lots of soft growth.

GREENS

These have suffered from all the rain, with surface ponding and they are softer than I would like and that is very visible by the amount of pitch-marks. After a wet weekend we decided it was necessary to get some deep aeration done. We used 13mm tines down to a depth of 180mm. This was very successful and very little disturbance to the surfaces.

As you can see from the picture the seventh green is holding a lot of water, that's why it was necessary to aerate the greens

After a double roll the greens were good for play again. If this wet weather continues we will need to repeat the operation.

Saying that the greens are performing very well. We have been doing a lot of surface refinement, this has been done by weekly vert-cutting and brushing before we cut. We are also trying to give them a dust top dressing every week.

Tees

The investment we have made on the tees is really starting to pay off. By this I mean the hollow coring, scarifying and top dressing we did at the back end off last year. Then all the seed we pumped into them in the spring. In my opinion they have never looked so good.

They are very well presented and have a wonderful coverage of grass on them. We really need to keep this program of work going to make them better and be able to stand up to a busy season.

Approaches

The approaches like the tees have really benefited from last autumn renovations. It is imperative we keep this going.

For example the 8th approach looking very healthy and well presented.

We do still have a few problem approaches, which I feel that we need to address this coming winter. The worst approaches are the 2nd, 3rd and 7th on the front 9 and then the back of 10 and 13 on the back 9! The 9th approach is a different problem altogether. Which would cost thousands to fix.

Fairways

These on the whole are very good, and still firm even after all the rain. Last years scarifying has really beneficial. The fine grasses are really beginning to thrive in the new drier firmer environment. We will be continuing this at the back end of the year.

Semirough

This really benefitted from the early season feed I gave them and with the plentiful supply of moisture they really are growing.

The rough.

I have been working on the rough to remove the coarse grasses and leave the more desirable grasses. You will have noticed some orange/brown areas in the rough, this where I have sprayed a chemical which helps kill the coarse grasses. It leaves behind the grasses that we want.

The coarse grasses have been badly hurt and the fine fescues have been left unscathed. In time the fescue will start colonising all of the rough.

With the weather encouraging a lot of growth, we seem to be spending all our time keeping on top of the grass, this is not leaving us anytime for divotting the fairways, I propose that we hold a divot night morning or night where we ask members to help. This has been done at several other courses and been very successful.

I would also like to thank Tom Boyle for giving up 4 hours of his time and cutting the practice ground. This was a great help.

Plan on moving forward. We are waiting for a suitable weather window to continue with the weed killing.

To maintain the golf course to its current standard by keeping on top of all areas. As Mother Nature is in control she governs what we can and can't do, so hopefully we will get out of this rut and get some good settled weather.

To continue with the progress that we are making on the greens and to allow us to continue with this I would like to have a delayed start on a Monday morning. This would allow us to topdress, verticut, etc with out disturbing the golfers.

It was proposed to engage the members in assisting with some course work by holding a divotting evening. Agreed

7. Scott Candy

Although Mr Candy has been expelled from the club we are still obliged to make a decision to suspend his handicap and if so for what period.

Dave Fleming proposed a 12 month suspension, seconded by Raymond Cowan.

A counter proposal of 18 months was tabled by Ian Elmslie and seconded by Denise Robertson.

The 12 month proposal was carried by 6 votes to 4.

The District and Scottish Golf will be advised of this decision.

As a closing note to this unfortunate episode the fact that the details of Mr Candy's infractions became common knowledge and openly discussed, not only in the first place but so rapidly, cements the need for confidentiality to be upheld by those privileged with any information (including members of staff)

8. Marketing

A presentation of various documents / posters etc displaying the proposed branding was made with no objections tabled.

9. Other Business

Champion Boards: A proposal to resite the boards to the blank wall space on the stairwell was tabled. To be investigated further.

Junior Guests: A proposal to allow Junior members to sign on guests at the £15 rate was tabled. All in agreement.

Next meeting Thursday 18th July at 7.15pm.