



**Portlethen Golf Club  
Management Committee  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

**Minute**

**Present:**, David Fleming, Steve Lawrie, Ian Cruickshank, Tom Boyle, Stephen Cook, Ian Elmslie, Raymond Cowan, Scott Sinclair

**In Attendance:** Dino Becci,

**Apologies:** Denise Robertson, , Terry Kennedy, Jack Douglas, Paul Singer,

**1. Minutes of previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 were accepted as a true record.

Minute was approved, proposed by Tom Boyle and seconded by Ian Cruickshank.

**2. Matters arising:**

Match & Handicap: Texas Scramble Open held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October had an entry of 13 teams.

**3. Match & Handicap**

In Terry's absence there was no report

Fixture list for 2020 in hand and will be presented for final approval before next Committee meeting.

Suggestion that some of the trophies we have are pat their best and some refurbishments to be looked at.

Junior raffle held at prize giving raised £600

**4. Finance & Admin**

Tom presented the year end results which were in line with expectations.

Format of the figures distributed for the AGM is being looked at with a view to a change in style.

Lottery permit now approved, we have applied to the bank to open a dedicated account for this purpose.

**5. House**

Steve presented his report.

We have had a lot of bookings through the period between meetings  
Things we've had include:

Ladies bingo night 28th oct  
2 Wedding 19th oct and 25th oct  
2 funerals  
Engagement and birthday parties

2 prize nights junior and adult (junior night in particular had a high attendance)

The xmas party nights 13 th (50)and 14th(55) £28 a head

Hogmanay £30 (raffle to be held with a small prize and possibly £30 bar voucher)  
Margaret and I spoke about a possible race night which would be either February 7th or 8th TBA

We also spoke about possible other fund raising and decided that too much could be a bad thing but hopefully with the race night we can gauge what the membership is thinking.

A request was tabled that the cleaning of the beer lines should not be undertaken during bar opening hours. A recent occurrence of this practice was witnessed on a recent Saturday at 11.35 am while customers were waiting to be served. Will be investigated further.

## **6. Greens**

Ian presented Neil's report.

Rainfall data for the period since the last meeting were presented.

November has been our wettest month of the year so far. This has an impact on our work. With the ground conditions being very wet and almost unworkable at times. We have tried our best to keep the course open, but it has been impossible at times.

Greens

Photos presented showed a badly affected green with all the rain, and another one showing the deep aeration that had to do to keep the greens dry. We used larger tines than through the season and we also went deeper. We used 19mm tines and down to a depth of 200mm. This allows the water to pass through the profile and also gaseous exchange to take place. This process will also help relieve compaction. We left the greens a couple of days then we ironed them to help smooth them out. We would off liked to do this more often, but the ground conditions have not allowed us to do so.

The next planned activity for the greens is to apply a granular fertiliser, we are also hoping ground conditions are favourable to allow us to spray some wetting agent, seaweed and some turf hardeners.

I would also like to continue too top dress them to maintain their firmness and help keep the profile open.

## **TEES AND APPROACHES**

As I reported last month we continued to hollow core and scarify the tees and approaches. I am very happy with the way this task was done, and after all the recent rain they drying and firming up very nicely. The next planned task for these areas is to apply a winter fertiliser. This will help them stay strong and healthy over the winter months.

A photo was presented showing the excellent germination we got from all the seed we sowed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> approach.

## **FAIRWAYS**

We have continued our aeration programme on the fairways, we have completed the front 9, we used the old Sisis slitter and the Rotoknife. We are planning to tackle the back 9 very soon.

We have also started scarifying the fairways to remove the build up of organic matter

Over the next few weeks we are planning to do all the fairways.

## THE SEMIROUGH and ROUGH

When the weather has been frosty we have been working on the rough areas, by intensively raking it.

By working on the rough when it is frozen really hurts the coarser grasses and helps the finer species thrive.

### Other areas

We have also been working on other areas and have made a start to the paths. We have edged and topped up with dust.

Ian added that the constant maintenance of the current paths had been instilled onto the greens staff with existing ones requiring debris cleared from them, dust topped up and rolled in.

All tree compartments were being looked at also.

In order to maximise resources at this time of year and ensure a clear work path it was requested that alternative 9's of the course be closed on Monday's through the Winter to allow scarification etc. This was agreed.

Roped areas were also discussed with a suggestion of raising the height of certain areas to remove the temptation of stepping over them. To be looked at.

The right hand greenside bunker at 11 needs to be looked at and decision made. Cost is the main factor.

The question as to the benefit/purpose of holes stabilisers was raised. To be investigated and reported back.

## 7. Other Business

### Marketing

Club sign has now been installed on the A92 adjacent to 8<sup>th</sup> hole for South bound traffic.

A request to remove the "Committee Only" sign on the wall by the car park entrance was agreed to. The "No Entry" sign is felt to be particularly unwelcoming to visitors.

### Saturday Tee Times

As ladies only play a 9 hole event through the Winter it was suggested that the section could take a later block of times allowing gents playing after them more time to complete 15/18 holes in daylight. Although a member of the ladies section had indicated that this would be agreeable no formal decision was made and would be left for Match & Handicap to discuss.

### Scottish Amateur Championship

A first planning meeting had been held with Scottish Golf to discuss initial logistics etc. Courtesy and exclusive use of the course had been agreed for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> & Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July being practice days with Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Being Competition days.

There may be scope to open tee times for members on the Sunday.

### Murcar Invite

The Committee of Murcar Golf Club have extended a dinner invitation to our own Committee for Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August to mark the co-hosting of the amateur championship.

A further invite to play a match, perhaps in April, was accepted with a suggested date of Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>.

## Housing Development

Stewart Milne has submitted an application for an additional 175 houses to be built at Schoolhill including some on the site adjacent to the 3<sup>rd</sup> fairway.

We had lodged an objection along with 29 others but the local planning Committee which met on 19<sup>th</sup> November appear to have approved the application although final approval has been delegated to the head of planning and environmental services.

## Junior/ Beginner Structure 2020

Scott reported on a recent meeting held with David Pocock, Dino Becci, Terry Kennedy to lay down a foundation for moving forward and create a structured programme.

The outcome was positive and although requirements for volunteers would be a necessary ingredient in its success there was confidence that this would not be an issue.

One proposal that was tabled and accepted was the introduction of a 3<sup>rd</sup> "junior" membership category, restricted to the use of the academy course, as well as a slight reduction in fees for the existing categories. These would be Academy membership £30, Under 12 £ 60, Over 12 £120.

## Winter Rules

It was agreed that the current local rule of "Lift, rake and replace" in bunkers be revoked.

## Bench

Terry Taylor's widow has requested a bench to be erected in his memory on the golf course. Suitable sites and costs to be obtained.

## Flexible Memberships

The principles of how these work were discussed along with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party proposal that would remove the onus of managing and policing such a category from the club.

The presentation submitted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> party to be forwarded to all present for their thoughts.

## Swing studio

An offer to fund a facility has been received but will also be part funded by David Pocock who will finance the actual equipment.

With this in mind an external structure was explored but would in all likelihood prove too costly.

The possibility of converting the snooker room however is a more likely option although we would be faced with a loss in revenue generated from the table that would have to be addressed.

Agreement was therefore sought from those present to investigate this option further. Agreed.

Should the feasibility of such a facility be possible, do we present it as a proposal to the membership at the AGM. This was agreed by all to be an appropriate course of action.

**Next meeting Thursday 19th December at 7.15pm.**