



**Portlethen Golf Club
Management Committee
Thursday 17th September 2020**

Minute

Present:, David Fleming, Stephen Cook, Scott Sinclair, Denise Robertson, Paul Singer, Ian Elmslie, Steve Lawrie, Raymond Cowan, Ian Cruickshank

Apologies: Tom Boyle, Jack Douglas

In Attendance: Dino Becci.

1. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 17th August 2020 were accepted as a true record.

Minute was approved, proposed by Raymond Cowan and seconded by Paul Singer.

2. House

No report this month.

3. Greens

Ian presented Neil's report.

The last month has been a lot drier and warmer. This in turn has allowed the course to dry out and play well. The course is still very busy and some areas are showing signs of wear. With the par 3 tees being the worst affected.

It has been relatively dry since the last meeting and in general the whole year has been relatively dry apart from a few days.

Greens

Since the weather has turned drier and windier, the greens are probably performing as good as they have all season.

We have now overseeded them twice with bent grass seed. We are giving them some additional water to help speed up germination.

As we move through the calendar year we will be slowly lifting the height of cut up and we will be increasing the amount of dressing going down. We are still cutting the greens daily at height of 4mm, they are also getting ironed 2-3 times a week. We have managed to keep the worst of the disease away so far, and this will be one of the main aims over the next few months. With the height of cut increasing this will allow us to incorporate some more sand down into the sward, which will help dilute any thatch and keep the surface firm and help to keep the air spaces open in the profile.

Tees

As the course has had so much play since the end of lockdown the tees are really suffering, we will be applying an additional fertiliser to strengthen them up and encourage some recovery. We need to try and get more grass on the tees before we head in to winter, where there is very little recovery.

All the tees have now been double scarified, to remove all the dead and decaying plant material.

We removed all the loose material before we overseeded them. We have used a very fine leafed rye grass, which has very good wear tolerance and great recovery.

The rest of the areas on the course approaches, fairways and rough areas are just getting cut as normal. We have plans to hollow core the approaches in October and scarify the fairways as well. I will also be looking to cut all the rough back to first cut height and start raking it.

We have also been very fortunate to have had more help from George Burr's workforce, who have been in helping strimming. The areas they have been targeting are areas we do not usually get too. So this has helped keep the course looking tidier.

Ian added that we'd be going onto mats on all par 3's in order to offer some form of protection to these tees in particular.

It was requested that some additional bins be placed on the course. This would be attended to.

A member had offered a donation to tidy up the garden area between the two car park levels.

4.Match & Handicap

Stephen presented his report

Competitions are making good progress and both Scratch and Handicap matches are being played in a timely manor with the finals 27th September. Scratch final is over 36 holes and Handicap Final is 18 holes. I am looking for volunteers to referee these matches.....David Fleming and Iain Elmslie agreed to officiate.

We have now completed the 'big' trophies – Strokeplay, Galvin Cup/Shield, Belmar etc. One small change we may have to make is the Keith Tait trophy over 2 rounds instead of 3 as we are struggling to fit in a 3rd round without having it beyond normal season.

There is however an issue with the Cordiner Trophy that has come to my attention recently – matches have not been played as per dates advised and this has had a knock-on effect that at this moment in time there is still one round of 16 to play and 3 quarter finals matches – these are all due to be played over the next few days but it is still likely we will have to move the final date as a few of the remaining players work fulltime and daylight hours mean that evening golf is no longer an option. I suggest a new date of the 4th Oct – however this can be discussed with all parties once the finalists are known. This delay is not due to any fault of the remaining players and I would like to thank them for having to change their plans to accommodate matches and delays through no fault of their own.

The revised fixture list discussed last meeting still needs to be sent out to the membership so that everyone is aware of what was played and when as Howdidido results don't always show all competitions in play that day.

Confirmation required that Neil is aware of revised finals day to allow him to reschedule any works he may have planned to ensure we present the course in the best possible condition for the final's day. Also, discussion required with him to see how long we can keep medals played for.

Advertising needs to start now for the Texas Scramble Open in October to ensure a good turnout.

There is a M&H meeting arranged for Monday 28th September to discuss winter competitions, prizegiving and new WHS. Minutes from this meeting shall be distributed to

committee for information post-meeting. Regarding Winter golf, confirmation is required whether or not winter handicaps is possible prior to our meeting on the 28th September.

The new WHS is due to start 2nd November and myself, Dino and David are getting up to speed – emails and booklets and information will be distributed to the membership over the next month to give them insight into the new system.

5. Finance and Admin

In Tom's absence there were no questions raised from the presented report.

6. Other Business

Proshop: Concern was raised that the shop being staffed on Sunday's by youngsters who may have to deal with difficult situations with both members and visitors an example being those who may simply decide not to check in before starting their round. This would be looked into.

Winter Membership: The marketing and "deal" of this would be left to Raymond and Dino to work on something suitable

Junior Prizegiving: To go ahead on 1st Friday in November as originally scheduled.

Next meeting Thursday 15th October 2020