

Greens Committee Meeting Friday 26th March 2021, 14.30 (by Zoom)

Present

Allan Davies (AD) Chair, Steve Lloyd (SL) Course Manager, Andrew Longley (AL) Club Captain, Julie Saunders (JS) Ladies' Captain, Patrick McIlroy (PM) Club Vice Captain, Jill Piner (JP), Ladies' Vice Captain, Mike Sterry (MS) Chair of Handicaps and Competitions, Jill Brierly (JB), Bill Massey (BM), Mark Groves (MG), Ron Gordon (RG), Paul Barker (PB) Professional, Business Manager, Ryan Parfett (RP)

1 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the previous meeting.

2 Actions from the previous meetings

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| PM to discuss portable bridges further with SL re potential bridge types. | PM/SL | Report submitted |
| Pathways: SL, MG and PM to investigate further materials, costings and recommendations to be presented at the next meeting for agreement and forward to the Board for approval. | SL/MG/PM | Completed |
| SL to set up a trial using 2 white 150 discs instead of the blue posts and share a video of what it looks like to the committee on the what's app group for their opinion. | SL | Ongoing |
| SL to build new bunker on the chipping green. | SL | Completed |
| Green staff to fill in any potholes between 6 th and 9 th fairways now. | SL | Ongoing |
| AD/SL will make contact with Norman Nimmo Smith | AD/SL | To do following end of lockdown |
| AD/SL/PM to outline process for machinery policy development. | SL/AD/PM | Meeting to be held post lockdown |
| SL to arrange with RG a similar course walk for the seniors in the near future. | SL/RG | Completed |
| SL to provide course walk update | SL | Completed |
| Make tree policy more explicit in relation to broader environmental matters. | AD/SL/PM | On agenda |
| AL to propose an on-line communications process via the website for responding to members' queries and suggestions, along with the 'rules of engagement' and other protocols. | AL | On agenda |
| SL will review the 7 th fairway wet area problems with the Club's agronomist, Noel Mackenzie, in early Spring with the intention of outlining a plan of action for discussion by the Committee. | SL/MG | SL to report meeting with NM |
| Committee members are asked to make use of the Greens' WhatsApp to report any issues they feel the Course Manager needs to be aware of. SL will report back to the Committee on the effectiveness of the approach. | Committee /SL | Established |
| Irrigation and drainage on next agenda.SL to provide overview of the current position | AD | On agenda |

3 Agenda

1. Course walk update

AD reported that the 'course walk' initiative undertaken during the winter period was now complete and an update will be presented at the next Board meeting. The remaining items identified are longer term matters but will remain on the list, monitored by the Committee and added to the next course walk if needs be.

2. Irrigation

SL provided the Committee with an outline of the current position of the irrigation development plan, so far. He explained that we have so far installed irrigation into 8 tees with approximately 46 more to be done. All of the work can be undertaken by the greens' staff. Prior to installing the irrigation, a number of tees need to be levelled or re-shaped. The first priority is all of the Par 3 tees and the 18th tees.

Action: SL to provide plans and costings for the continuation of the project for the next meeting.

3. Drainage

SL provided the Committee with an outline of the current position of the drainage project, so far. He explained that, over the past 6 years, we have drained the following greens: 1st, 5th, 6th, 7th, 14th and 18th. There are also 3 greens that were re-built in the past, so they already have drainage systems, these are: the putting green, the chipping green and the 15th.

Again, all greens drainage can be undertaken by the greens staff and would cost around £1500 per green.

Action: SL to provide plans and costings for the continuation of the drainage project for the next meeting.

4. Environmental Policy

SL and AD had had discussions in relation to the further development of the tree policy within a broader environmental policy. Their conclusion was that the policy would benefit from further expertise from professionals in golf club environmental strategies and a forum should be organised membership to broaden understanding of the issues and help develop the policy. SL has already made contact with BIGGAs James Hutchinson regarding a visit to look at the course and the environment and to produce a report for the club and the way forward.

Action: SL/AD to identify expertise and arrange forum.

5. Communication with the membership

As requested from the previous meeting, AL reported that he had taken the matter of communication from and to members to the Board. In particular, the suggestion at our last meeting that 'you asked, we answered', was raised and the Board were both aware and

supportive of the need to look at this matter. Progress had been made and Ryan Parfett's (RP) role in the process needed consideration.

In essence, the outline plan below sums up the process to be implemented in due course, as part of a wider attempt to set the desired ethos throughout the Club.

1. The Club wants to strongly encourage a culture where members freely communicate with the various bodies and staff, but also establish a culture of polite and constructive two-way communication.

2. If the above works, the vast majority of correspondence can be along the lines of you asked politely and we answered politely.

3. If problematic or inappropriate communication occurs it will be passed to Ryan Parfett who will contact the member directly to discuss their communication and how they would like to proceed with their grievance. It will be made clear that they can adapt their comments and that if they choose to proceed, it must be confirmed they agree to the visibility of the correspondence and their name, as the item will be published for members to read, as well as the Club's response.

Action: Provide good practice guide for communications with Greens.

4 Course Presentation

MS asked why it is not possible to always present the fairways as a diagonal cut. He made the point that the course presentation is now very attractive and this approach to cutting the fairways would enhance the course even more.

SL replied that cutting fairways can look attractive at the time they are cut, but they very quickly look shabby once golf buggies and trolleys have left their traces all over. The wheel lines take away from the mowing stripes.

SL said his personal view was that fewer stripes on the fairways actually helps to set off the hand-mown tees and approaches.

He pointed out that when he introduced the striped fairways as a 3-month trial in 2019, he found that it took, on average, 12 hours per week longer than cutting the fairways half and half. The added benefit of cutting half and half with 2 mowers is that we can start mowing at 6 am in the morning when the grass is damp and use a blower behind the second mower to remove any grass cutting debris at the same time. To get the same clean finish when striping we have to wait until the morning dew has gone which is normally around 10am. This then means we have to cut fairways through the day's golf which is then significantly slower than cutting at 6am in front of the play.

One final benefit of cutting fairways half and half is that the mowers only have to lift and lower the units 4 or 5 times per fairway in order to make a turn. When we stripe fairways, the units are lifted and lowered 50 to 60 times per fairway. This is obviously a lot more wear on the machines and comes at a cost in the long term. Following 2 sets of stripes also means that the mowers are turning on the same areas at the end of each strip every time they are cut, this also creates a lot of extra wear when the ground is wet or even when it's very dry.

AD noted the general agreement amongst the Committee that SL's rationale was convincing and that the status quo should be maintained.

5 Any other business

1. Citation (AD)

SL outlined the positive contribution that Citation has already so far made in supporting his staff and explained the value of their on-line materials, which can be accessed by the club, going forward.

2. Bunker edges (PM)

PM asked about the bunker edges. SL confirmed that most if not all of the weak areas around the bunkers had been dug out and turfied during the November lockdown, so they should be much better from now on.

3. Maintenance of turf in new ditches (MS)

MS asked about the ongoing support for the turf in the new ditches. SL informed the Committee that the turf on the 1st ditch would be watered if and when needed.

4. Penalty area on 6th hole (JP)

JP asked about the future plans for the penalty area on the right-hand side of the 6th hole. SL explained that this area will be looked at as we consider the wet area on the 7th hole.

5. Leylandii (JP)

JP asked about the plans for the leylandii on the left of the 3rd hole. SL explained that they will be trimmed back later in the year. He pointed out that the height is becoming an issue as well as the old stone wall on the car park side of the trees. This particular matter needs looking at as a H&S priority.

Action SL and RP to investigate issues with the stone wall behind the buggy shed.

6. Practice ground (PB)

PB asked about the practice ground being prepared, post lockdown. SL reassured him it will be ready and available for all members on their return.

7. Practice nets

SL confirmed that the nets will be operational from the first week of the return to golf.

6 Actions

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| Provide plans and costings for the continuation of the project for the next meeting. | SL | |
| Provide plans and costings for the continuation of the drainage project for the next meeting. | SL | |
| Identify expertise and arrange forum on environmental policy | AD/SL | |
| Provide good practice guide for communications with Greens | AL | |
| SL and RP to investigate issues with the stone wall behind the buggy shed. | SL/RP | |

Date of next meeting: To be confirmed