



Portlethen Golf Club Management Committee Thursday 18th July 2019

Minute

Present: David Fleming, Terry Kennedy, Stephen Cook, Denise Robertson, Jack Douglas, ,, Raymond Cowan, Ian Elmslie, Steve Lawrie

In Attendance: Dino Becci,

Apologies: Scott Sinclair, Ian Cruickshank, Tom Boyle, Paul Singer

1. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 20th June 2019 were accepted as a true record.

Minute was approved, proposed by Raymond Cowan and seconded by Terry Kennedy.

2. Matters arising:

None

3. Greens

In Ian's absence the greens report had been presented in advance.

Overview :

The weather has been very mixed, with June becoming our wettest month of the year so far with 108mm. July has faired slightly better with only 14mm so far, but there has been some very heavy thundery showers. With the temperatures rising as well the growth rate has been very high. This really has dictated our work pattern, we are just trying to keep on top of the growth.

Greens:

we are continuing with our regular verti-cutting and topdressing. This is helping to keep the grass plant refined and the surface smooth and firm.

We are entering the time of year where disease pressures are very high and this weather pattern we are having at the moment is increasing this. We have applied a fungicide and increased the micro-nutrient we are delivering to the plant. This will hopefully help fight off any diseases.

The plan for the greens in the next month, is to aerate them and then we will be looking to over seed them. Once they have been over seeded we will have to ease of the verticutting and aggressive brushing we have been doing.

All other closely mown areas are getting cut regularly and fed with a foliar feed and an application of pgr is also included in the tank mix, this is keeping the growth in check.

We were very grateful for the team of volunteers that came out helped divot the fairways, this has been very successful with signs of new growth and germination showing up after a week.

The long rough we are looking to take delivery of a machine that can cut and collect the rough. This is part of our long term rough management programme. Once the rough has

been cut and collected we will be able to rake it out and spray some laser on it to help get rid of the unwanted grasses.

The areas that have been sprayed before have worked very well, and with the areas that are very thin on the ground with fescue we will be overseeding them very shortly.

Other areas on the course, the boys have been continuing to dead kill the tree compartments, around trees and along walls when the weather has permitted. Thundery weather is the worst possible for dead killing as you just don't when you will get a shower.

It is worth noting that our machine fleet is ageing very quickly, as you probably noticed we had our first oil leak from one of the 3250's. we were fortunate this happened on a tee and not a green. As we alternate the machines a lot. I have arranged for 2 of the machinery companies to put in demonstration machinery, so we can see what machines are best suited for us. As there has been quite a lot of developments and restrictions put on some of the bigger machines.

4. House

There was nothing of note to report.

5. Finance and Admin

In Tom's absence Dino presented the report.

The shortfall on overall target grew by a further £4,300 through June with the golf course income showing a £4,000 variance from this time last year £1,700 of which was made up from green fees predominately from members guest income being down but driving range (£875) also coming up significantly short and does need some investigating

Previously reported expected costs from kitchen repairs, this time the air conditioning, are now through pushing unplanned maintenance expenditure in the clubhouse this year to over £12,000.

On a positive note we are still getting new members as well as returning members through the door and the evidence that one of our target markets ie the under 30's is bearing fruit must give us a degree of optimism moving forward.

Despite the encouraging signs in terms of membership numbers the resultant age discounts and membership incentives have affected our cash position and the requirement for a facility from the bank come the beginning of 2020 is virtually unavoidable to see us through certainly the short term but also the medium term should we have plans to further improve the facilities in order to further grow and, just as importantly retain the membership numbers.

Some discussion was held regarding trying to push members to introduce more guests by possibly offering some incentive. Jack asked if he could have some data to look at.

6. Match & Handicap

Terry presented his report.

The Match Play championships have been completed .

Ben Murray defeated Lewis Shand to win the Scratch and Andrew Cordiner overcame James Cruickshank to win the handicap.

Our team of Ben Murray, Clark Brechin and Gary Lochhead won the Journals Cup at Kemnay with Clark qualifying for the semi- finals where he unfortunately lost out to the eventual winner.

Our junior team put up a fighting performance in the pennant league final at Murcar before going down to Cruden Bay .

The Supersixes squad continued their fine form coming second at Stonehaven and now lie one point behind the leaders with two games to go.

Concerns were raised that dress code was not being correctly monitored by shop personnel and that perhaps some training on this matter be instructed.

7. Other Business

The proposal for the 5 hole layout and practice area which had been circulated in advance of the meeting were discussed.

Stephen Cook offered an alternative to the current layout of the entire area whereby a zone could still be maintain for members to practice with their own balls.
He would submit his idea in graphical form to make it clearer.

Next meeting Thursday 15th August at 7.15pm.