



**Portlethen Golf Club  
Management Committee  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

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**Minute**

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

**Apologies:** Ian Cruickshank

**In Attendance:** Dino Becci.

**1. Minutes of previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were accepted as a true record.

Minute was approved, proposed by Raymond Cowan and seconded by Ian Elmslie.

**2. House**

No report this month.

The success of the eat out to help out scheme was highlighted and that some similar offering is being looked at to continue the momentum and habits of diners to encourage their ongoing use of our facilities.

**3. Greens**

In Ian's absence the report was circulated.

What a mixed bag we have had in the last 5 weeks. The weather has been very good for growing grass. But it has been a very soft and juicy growth. The plant has become very soft and weak. This is weather is not great for producing fast firm putting surfaces

Greens

I have now lifted the height of cut to 4mm, this has been done to protect the newly germinated bent seed. We have over seeded the front 9, but the weather has not been favourable to do the back 9.

We are continuing to cut the greens daily, and iron them 3 or 4 times a week.

Historically we have always been attacked by a disease called Anthracnose, which can kill of the Poa. This usually happens at the end of July to the start of August. This year however I sprayed a preventive fungicide which seems to have worked well.

Plan for the greens, to finish over seeding, to aerate them with the knife tines!

These tines are fantastic as they leave very little surface disruption but do a great job in opening up the profile. They are also good at pruning the roots which encourages them to develop further.

All other areas of the course are getting cut regularly, we have had to work hard on controlling and managing the rough. It seems to have shot up again. As with the greens it is a very soft and lush growth, which is why the balls have been disappearing to the bottom of it. We have cut and collected it now and it looks an awful lot better.

Once again I have to thank George Burr for putting in some of his staff to help with the strimming and the clearing up of debris from the torrential rain we had!

The reason we have fallen behind in some of our work was that we lost 3 days cutting after the morning of rain. Paths were washed away, bunkers were ruined and we must have lost about 5 tonnes of materials from the compound, which all ended up on the 1<sup>st</sup> fairway.

A variety of photographs showing the damage caused were displayed highlighting the hammering the course took in the space of a morning but the positive news from all of this that we were open for play the next day!

It was further reported that Brandon Simpson has joined the team as seasonal help.

The position of the bell at 15 was brought into question and discussed with no decision as to an alternative being agreed upon.

Wasps nests at 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> tees were also highlighted as requiring attention and would be followed up.

There was concern raised regarding the depositing of grass cuttings in the area left of 11 and also in the trees to the left of 13 being unsightly and also causing unpleasant odours this would also be investigated further.

#### **4.Match & Handicap**

Stephen presented his report

Unfortunately, after making good progress in catching up the season not only did we have poor weather leading to competition cancellations and matches being unable to play we were then hit with a local lockdown that led to losing another 2 weeks of fixtures.

Revised fixtures have been proposed and are to be sent out to the membership, again it is congested but this is to allow as many competitions to be played as possible.

The Club Championship Finals day has had to be delayed to the 27<sup>th</sup> Sept (from 13<sup>th</sup> Sept) to allow time for matches to be played. Prior to lockdown good progress was being made in the matches with no requirement for M&H intervention, hopefully this continues.....

We need to liaise with Neil Sadler to make him aware of the changes 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.

The proposed Opens we had identified did not go ahead, either due to Scottish Golf only allowing Open competitions recently or due to the local lockdown and uncertainty when it may be lifted leaving us no time to advertise to get a decent sized turnout. Hopefully the Texas Scramble open planned for 25<sup>th</sup> October will be able to go ahead.

The electronic scoring trial is still ongoing – unfortunately the novelty has worn off and David is finding less people inputting their scores in the app leaving it for him to input which is causing additional workload for him. An email is to be sent out to remind all members it is expected they sign in using the app BEFORE they tee off and to enter scores on completion of their round, asking those that are unable to let David know so it can be resolved. We cannot expect David to do competitors scoring admin. The Howdido development continues to make improvements to the app (without notifying us so there is always a nice surprise) with now signatures required and identifying the verifier.

There had still been errors in setting up the tee sheet on several occasions and needs to be addressed as well as more transparency in posting results especially sweeo and 2's payout details.

David confirmed that our system had now been "cleansed" in readiness for whs implementation.

A decision on winter handicap set up to be carried forward.

## **5. Finance and Admin**

Tom presented the report.

The detailed accounts now include £25,500 od Scottish Enterprise ( £25,000) and Scottish Golf (£500) grants as well as generous membership donations totalling £3,504.

We have also been advised that we have been successful in our application for another Scottish Golf grant of £5,000 which should be in our bank sometime in August. It should be noted that this grant was applied for and awarded for specific development projects ie the academy course.

The detailed Bar figures reported do look a little light in terms of margin %age and need to be checked. We are expecting some credits for Tennents with regard to out of date barrels but as yet this has still to be agreed. We have therefore run with actual numbers in the meantime and hopefully a positive adjustment will be evident in August.

The Bar and Restaurant benefitted by the reduction in VAT rate by £1,100 which makes the margin figure reported look all the more erroneous.

On the cost side :

Greens : As was always warned of when the revised projections were drafted we can't foresee all eventualities and some repairs are always likely. In July there was once again some reapiers required to the sprayer as well as the small ride-on tractor.

Under miscellaneous we had an £1100 cost of new hole cups. These however were sponsored and the costs covered under Corporate membership.

Clubhouse: The new kitchen door arrangement as well as replacement door at the back of the building came in at a total cost of £1,500, These monies however were donated by a member which are included in the "donations" income in the accounts.

Not a huge increase in memberships during July but a pretty decent start to August with 12 new playing members and 3 taking up the flexible membership option.

Of the 11, at least 6 were as a direct result of the flexible membership campaign resulting in enquirers opting for 5, 6 or 7 day membership instead.

The bank balance remains healthy although as reported last month we still have to pay £18,500 of our loan , now paid in August, with the same amount due again shortly although we have asked for another deferral which hopefully will take us to the start of 2021.

Although, not surprisingly, £10,000 of the £14,000 taken over the bar & restaurant during July was paid by members cards, top ups total almost £6,000 so the actual cash received was a bit more than we would have expected given the 4 months of lockdown.

The first Week of the governments "eat out to help out" scheme helped generate gross F & B sales of £ 5,625 leading to a discount claim of £2,253 which has already been remitted.

Week 2 looks like coming in a good bit short of that figure and would expect see comparable figures in the region of £3,000 and £1,200. Undoubtably due to the City lockdown.

Given the more positive outlook it was suggested that we start to drip feed the members with this sort of information and keep them informed. To be discussed further.

## 6. Other Business

**Dress Code on course:** A proposal to reword the dress code to permit the wearing of “collarless” golf shirts was agreed.

**Simulator room:** A formal opening was planned for sometime near the end of September.

**Finals Day:** It was agreed that the first 18 holes of the gents scratch event would be played in the morning and second 18 along with the other championship finals in the afternoon..

**Next meeting Thursday 17th September 2020**