



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

Minute

Present:, David Fleming, Stephen Cook, Scott Sinclair, Ian Elmslie, Tom Boyle, Jack Douglas, Denise Robertson, Ian Cruickshank, Paul Singer

Apologies: Steve Lawrie, Raymond Cowan

In Attendance: Dino Becci.

1. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 19th November 2020 were accepted as a true record.

Minute was approved, proposed by Ian Cruickshank and seconded by Ian Elmslie.

2. Matters Arising

A meeting had been held with by Davis Fleming and Dino Becci with Dylan Smith who had been accompanied by his Grandfather regarding his practice regime on the driving range. It appeared that Dylan understood the issues and that common sense should prevail. We will however continue to monitor.

2. House

In Steve's absence there was no report.

3. Finance & Admin

Tom presented his report

Being month one of the financial year there is little of note to report.

Bar and Restaurant figures for November were presented and showed overall a comparable result as last year despite the restricted operating hours. We still of course are benefitting from the reduced VAT rate also.

4. Match & Handicap

Stephen presented his report

The Winter league is progressing however been hampered by recent closures therefore the number of qualifying weeks will be adjusted to suit the number of weeks we manage to play. Tee time demand is at an all time high and the winter league (along with mid-week competitions) is very well supported.

Time cancellations have become more acceptable with the closing of the time sheet and Captains letter advising consistent late cancelations or no-shows will be dealt with accordingly, this has led to a lot less 2-3 balls on the course on a Saturday. The flip side of that is we are still finding ourselves with a waiting list of 10-15 people for the Saturday competition on a Friday night. I have received a number of suggestions which I have asked each individual to pass onto Dino or Dave for consideration – but each seems to bring their own issues and there seems to be no perfect solution.

I am still awaiting confirmation of the winners of the non-Howdidido results (Greensomes, Adult/Junior, Bill Lamb Memorial, etc.) however I would hope this list can be sent out ASAP. It would appear there is no resolution to calculate the winner of the Order of Merit and Most Improved awards and therefore unfortunately there will be no 2020 winner for these two trophies.

The final draft of the fixture list for 2021 has been completed and will be shared at the committee meeting. A lot of effort has gone into this and I'd like to thank Elaine Stoddart, Phil Dear and Scott Sinclair for providing their sections fixtures. On approval from the committee we will send this for fixture books to be made. One change for this 2021 fixture list is, as per M&H meeting and advised at October committee meeting, we are slightly changing Sunday competitions; Sunday's are to be structured for each month to have a Black Tee Sunday, White Tee Sunday, Yellow Tee Sunday and free Sunday (for Opens, Pairs events, non-medals), this has been done in the draft fixture list as best as possible. With the new WHS system players will be able to chose whichever tee they wish to play from as a supplementary score however it is hoped the we are providing competitions for all sections of the membership. Unfortunately, this will not do away with the issue of the 17th where there can be a log jam due to people playing off the yellow tees during a white or black tee medal and vice-versa. Support of each medal type will be monitored, and changes may be made to competitions if required.

An e-mail had been received from a member in relation to "civil" daylight and challenging for an earlier first tee time on Saturdays given the current demands. Given the widely acknowledged fact that in many instances frost may not begin to form until actual daylight the idea could not be practically implemented.

The agreement to host the Northern had been made by all prior to this meeting. Precise details including the format itself was still to be agreed, in main due to the fact that a sponsor for the event was still to be secured. The figure quoted to any potential supporter was in the region of £18,000.

The continuing issues of Saturday tee times were discussed at length. For the time being processes will remain as is. The Ladies section had, it turned out, discussed the matter within their section with a vote being taken as to whether to offer the club an "open" booking situation whereby the Ladies, like the gents, were responsible for reserving their own times. The second option of a status-quo attracted a higher proportion of votes.

5. Greens

Ian presented the report.

What a month this has been. We have had more rain in the first half of the month than the total for the last 4 Decembers. 139mm to 130. This has had a huge impact on the course. We have been closed for more days this month than the rest of the year. Most of the course is handling the rain very well. But some areas are not fairing so well. The areas that we can aerate regularly are generally ok, but the areas where we have not been able for one reason or another are really struggling.

We have undertaken a few small projects to help the drainage of certain areas.

We have opened up and exposed the drain to the left of the 1st green. When this drain was constructed, the heavy clay soil was returned to fill in the trench, this was done to save money, but this was a mistake, as we now have to replace the heavy soil with a free draining material.

We have also had to drain an area to the left of the 5th green. Which was getting wetter and wetter. This job was going well until we went through the irrigation pipe. We need to fix the pipe so we can finish of getting the drainage stone on to the site. We can't fix the pipe until the water has subsided a bit more.

One of the open drain coming down from the woods to the right of the first fairway, was not flowing freely. We have since found the outlet pipe that carried the water under the 5th path was running uphill! We have removed the pipe and we will replace that one with a larger pipe and 1 that flows in the right direction.

An area that I feel we need to drain now is an area to the right side of the 17th fairway down to an existing drain down at the maintenance area. It looks like an old stone drain that runs across the 3 fairways 17,14 & 13 is failing and the water is now running across the 14th and down to the 13th approach.

Moving forward we aim to continue with our aeration of all areas we can, this will help with the movement of water down through the profile and help the soil breathe!
I really hope we get a dry spell, so the course can dry out.

Work on the academy course should get underway in January.

Some of the issues uncovered recently highlight the need to accurately map the electrical supply for the irrigation system which was never done at the time it was installed. This can now be done retrospectively and is relatively inexpensive.

6. Budget

Working papers and presentations had been distributed in advance.

Tom briefly explained the assumptions used and how the budget was built up.

Revenues on membership numbers were based on the same number of members for 2021 as we had in 2021.

7. Other Business:

Social Media - Certain members seem to think its acceptable to voice their negative thoughts about their club on social media. All agreed that this is bringing the club into disrepute and action will be taken on those who act in this way.

Members letter – A current full member is looking for a deal as he is only able to play twice a week ie Thursdays and Sundays. He will be offered a 6 day membership.

Next meeting Thursday 21st January 2021