

## **Greens Committee Meeting Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 15.00 (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, Ladies' Vice Captain, Mike Sterry (MS) Chair of Handicaps and Competitions, Jill Brierly (JB), Bill Massey (BM), Mark Groves (MG),

Apologies: Ron Gordon (RG) Seniors Vice Captain, Jill Piner (JP), 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 previous meetings**

PM to discuss portable bridges further with SL re potential bridge types.	PM/SL	PMc offered to provide materials for bridges
Green staff to fill in any potholes between 6 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> fairways now.	SL	Ongoing
AD/SL will make contact with Norman Nimmo Smith	AD/SL	Ongoing
Make tree policy more explicit in relation to broader environmental matters.	AD/SL/PM	Ongoing
SL will review the 7 <sup>th</sup> 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

### **Actions from the last meeting**

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

### **3 Agenda**

#### **1. Irrigation Plan**

SL outlined the current position relating to the irrigation of the course and provided details of his plan for completion of the project.  
See the attached Irrigation upgrade plan.

MG asked why the project had not been completed earlier since the new irrigation system was installed 3 years ago. SL said that the irrigation of the tees had not been completed because there had not been any funds allocated in the past few years.

MG also asked if it was possible for the Board to commit to the completion of the project as a priority. SL replied that these plans and costing were being developed as an overall priority list for the Club as a whole.

*Action: This plan will be put forward to the Board at the May meeting for discussion and how we proceed.*

## **2. Drainage Plan**

SL outlined the current position relating to the drainage project.

SL explained that we have drained 6 greens in the past few years and that 3 other greens were drained when they were built in the past, so they do not need to be drained. This leaves 11 greens to be drained to give good consistency across all greens. Please see the attached Drainage Proposal to complete this project. There are also a couple of other areas that SL feel needed to be addressed if possible.

The Committee expressed support for the plans.

*Action: The plans will be put forward to the Board at the May meeting for discussion and how we proceed.*

## **3. Machinery Plan: 5-7 years**

SL provided an overview of the machinery and equipment plans for the next 5 to 7 years.

He outlined his priorities:

New tractor,  
New greens mower,  
Fairway brush,  
Fairway scarifier,  
Root pruner and a topdressing brush.

He explained that £22k per year for next 7 years has already been committed and it is hoped that we can acquire as many of the above machines for an additional cost of around £18k per year for the next 7 years.

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The Committee agreed that the rationale for the purchasing of machinery and equipment over the next 5 to 7 years needs to be articulated so that everyone has a clear understanding of the overall purpose and commitment.

*Action: Provide a rationale of the planning of the purchase of machinery and equipment for the next 5 years.*

## **4 Any other business**

### **1. Site visit of Greenkeepers' shed by Committee**

Following the earlier discussion about the machinery and equipment, AD suggested that the Committee arrange a 'site visit' for the Committee to establish a greater understanding of the facilities. There would also be an opportunity for the Committee to visit other areas of the course as a part of the ongoing course walk project.

The Committee agreed to meet as suggested.

**2. Email re area of scrub between 16<sup>th</sup> tee and 17<sup>th</sup> green (AD)**

The Business Manager received an email from a member expressing concern about the scrub between the 16<sup>th</sup> tee and the 17<sup>th</sup> green that hadn't been removed following the shrub and tree clearance project undertaken during lockdown.

SL explained that the removal of the scrub had been delayed because of a flat tyre on the tractor. The scrub has now been cleared.

AD commented that there was still need for a clear set of protocols in place for members to communicate their suggestions to the Committee. It was important to have one transparent channel and it was agreed that members should submit any communication regarding the course to the Business Manager who will then promptly pass it on to the Chair of Greens and the Course Manager for inclusion in the Committee's next agenda.

*Action: AD to discuss this recommendation with RP, who was on leave at the time of the meeting, at the next opportunity.*

**3. Agronomist's Report**

The report from the agronomist, Noel McKenzie, had been previously circulated to the Committee by email but there had been little time for members to digest the detail. It was agreed to discuss the report at the next meeting.

*Action: Agronomist's report to be on the agenda for next meeting.*

**4. Paths**

MS asked why the Committee agreed to keep the current paths rather than any other alternative. AD clarified that there was no permanent decision to keep the current paths but as the alternatives were so expensive compared with regular maintenance of the current paths, their priority was not considered as high as other items on the Club's priority list.

**5. Staffing**

SL explained to the Committee the current staffing situation.

Ken on furlough

Martin left

One staff member on holiday

He is looking to replace the summer hours with an apprentice, but the process of appointment is particularly slow. In the short-term, SL has identified a self-employed person who is going to work a couple of days per week to help keep on top of all the small jobs until we find the right apprentice.

**6. Spare Land**

MG asked whether it was possible to develop the spare land now that it is not going to be used for the building of houses. He suggested a feasibility study might help to understand

the need and costs for any development particularly in light of the current recruitment of new members and the pressure that puts on the course itself.

*Action: To seek approval from the Board for the Greens Committee to undertake a feasibility study relating to the use of the spare land as an extra golfing facility for the Club.*

## **7. Marker posts**

MS asked if there was a firm decision made about the maintaining of the 150 marker posts.

SL replied that the Committee needed to decide on the best way forward regarding the 150-marker post and whether to re-new them or do away with them. The options are:

1 Replace the 150 posts with something more solid as well as replacing the fairway marker discs.

2 Remove the posts and have 2 yellow discs at 150yards, one on each side of the fairway instead of the blue disc in the middle and the posts.

SL said the current concern is that posts keep getting moved and not put back in the right place. More importantly, when the green staff are mowing around the fairways, they have to stop 24 times to remove them and 24 time to replace them. As this happens twice a week, it has the effect of slowing down the golfers who are following the machines. The options above would keep the staff ahead of golf with less Interruption to members, especially as the course is now so busy.

The committee voted on the 2 options and decided to go with option 2.

## **5 Actions**

Irrigation plan will be put forward to the Board at the May meeting for discussion and how we proceed.	AD/SL	
The drainage plans will be put forward to the Board at the May meeting for discussion and how we proceed.	AD/SL	
Provide a rationale of the planning of the purchase of machinery and equipment for the next 5 years.	AD/SL	
AD to discuss communication protocol with RP at the next opportunity.	AD	
Agronomist's report on agenda of next meeting	AD	
To seek approval from the Board for the Greens Committee to undertake a feasibility study relating to the use of the spare land as an extra golfing facility for the Club.	AD	

**Date of next meeting:** May 14<sup>th</sup>, 14.00.

**Location:** Greenkeepers' shed