



## Portlethen Golf Club Management Committee Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### Minute

**Present:** David Fleming, Terry Kennedy, Stephen Cook, Steve Lawrie, Denise Robertson, Jack Douglas, Tom Boyle, Raymond Cowan, Steven Jackson

**In Attendance:** Dino Becci,

**Apologies:** Scott Sinclair, Ian Elmslie, Ian Cruickshank

David welcomed Paul to his first meeting.

### 1. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 were accepted as a true record.

Minute was approved, proposed by Jack Douglas and seconded by Terry Kennedy.

### 2. Matters arising:

Marketing: Raymond advised that a line of communication between himself, Dino and David Pocock had been established and that plans were in place to produce a plan for going forward.

### 3. Finance and Admin.

Tom presented the management accounts to March.

We are still somewhat short of achieving targeted figures with membership numbers still short although renewals are still coming through albeit at a muted pace.

Current playing membership numbers were presented

The reported shortfall in membership income (£ 46,000) can be reduced to around £ 35,000 as we speak taking into consideration renewals made in April.

Defaulters in each category were presented and have all been contacted to make them aware of their situation, offering a payment plan option should their reasoning for non-renewal be of a financial nature. An exit questionnaire has also been included in their e-mail

Known resignations etc have also been sent a questionnaire.

We would need around 90% of these defaulters to renew in order to achieve our target membership income even though this would see an overall growth in playing membership numbers of around 10% the "cost" in terms of reduced income from the referral scheme and age-related discounts is around the £12,000 mark.

Resulting in 52 new members the referral scheme has certainly been successful in attracting both completely new members and also some returning past members.

On the cost side there are a few lines within the P & L that have slightly overrun within the month but these are mainly timing matters and should all come back in line with annual budget values.

The only exception to this is in the case of unplanned repairs and maintenance items within the clubhouse and in particular the kitchens that were previously reported. Specifically these were : Gas Leak repairs £ 925, Walk in Chiller £ 2,435, fryer repairs £ 552. We have also spent just under £500 to date on trying to solve the gas shut off problem but thankfully we now appear to have got a working solution after replacing the fan and some additional works pertaining to the ventilation system. A final bill of £750 has still to come through but this should now solve the issue and we will make a saving going forward on the gantry cleaning process as a result.

Website still to be updated with a few items including the last few Committee Minutes.

#### **4. Greens**

In Ian's absence Neil's report had been circulated and the contents discussed.

The greens are looking healthy with a good coverage of grass on them. Last years disease scars are nearly all filled in.

I am ready now to start the foliar programme. This is where we spray the greens every 3 weeks with a balanced nutritional programme. I am also going to apply a base fertiliser which will work away for 16-20 weeks, this fertiliser releases a small amount of feed when the conditions are favourable. This will ensure the greens stay healthy. The aim this year is to minimise the amount of disease we get and see if we can't combat the phantom ghost grass.

Another major factor in keeping the greens healthy is our aeration programme. We are aiming to solid tine the greens this coming Monday. We will use 13mm tines and to a depth of 175mm. This will allow vital gaseous exchange and will help the movement of water down through the profile.

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After this process we double iron the greens to aid recovery.

The approaches and tees have now all been scarified and the very weak areas have been hollow cored. They have also been dressed with sand. The next stage is to overseed the weak and bare areas.

Photos were displayed to show the sequence of events that have taken place. We will also be feeding the tees and approaches with a granular fertiliser.

Both these areas have also been solid tine using 19mm tines down to a depth of 100mm.

The fairways have been aerated with the rotoknife using the 3mm discs and down to a depth of 125mm.

All the fairways have been cut and Steve is getting round to divoting them all.

The long rough has been cut and collected and will be sprayed out with laser in the coming weeks. Laser is a chemical which will kill out the undesirable grass plants such as Yorkshire fog and rye grass and leave the more desirable grasses. The areas we are doing are generally out of play and are left long to help the definition of a hole and also it is part of our long term rough management programme.

On a finishing note it is very disappointing to see so many unrepaired pitchmarks on the greens and bunkers that have not been raked.

I am also concerned about the state of the holes, we recently purchased a new hole cutter which is doing a fantastic job, but with the new rules of golf where you can putt with the flag in a lot of golfers are pulling the flag out to remove there ball from the cup, this is damaging

the edge of the hole and leaving it in a damaged state, which makes the hole look like it has not been changed for quite sometime.

The question as to whether some of the approaches that are particularly bare should be treated as Ground Under Repair was tabled. This would be looked at but preferred lies were in play at the moment so the option was there for golfers.

It was asked how often fresh holes were cut and pin placement changed. A definite answer to be ascertained.

There was a request submitted by the lady Captain for a pathway to be cut through the grass from the 13<sup>th</sup> green to the ladies 14<sup>th</sup> tee. Again to be passed over to greens.

## **5. Match and Handicap**

Dissapointing entry for gents pairs competitions.

Congratulations to Donald Smith and Nick Mackie in their Daily Mail fours tie victory away at Murcar.

It was confirmed that all Sunday walk on medals would be mixed tee.

It was suggested and agreed that another rules night combined with some etiquette reminders be arranged.

## **6. House**

Steve advised that there was not a lot to report for house other than the fans are getting looked at now and the fridge is going to be sorted this week and the mothers day in the restaurant went fine.

It was suggested that we may have lost out on some Mother's day business given that our operating hours were curtailed to 5.45 and that some parties may have looking for an evening option rather than through the day. Duly noted.

Food options through weekdays are to be re-introduced from next week.

Discussions are on-going on the possibility of extending kitchen operating hours to 3pm through the week.

Notice going to be out up in junior locker room giving notice that any "abandoned" trollies will be removed.

## **7. Other Business**

David advised that a letter had been received from a member regarding pace of play and noting that the committee had been seen to do very little. This letter related to the first medal of the season and an appropriate response had been sent.

The question was raised as to whether the golf course should be "open" from first light and golfers not dictated to by the booking system. This would, as an example, allow shift workers to play very early in the morning. To be discussed further.

**Next meeting Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 7.15pm.**