



## Portlethen Golf Club Management Committee Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019

### Minute

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

**In Attendance:** Dino Becci, David Pocock

### Apologies:

David welcomed Raymond Cowan to his first meeting.

David Pocock was introduced to those present and gave a brief presentation as to his plans and objectives with regard to junior coaching.

Information provided included a timetable of proposed delivery of his programme beginning in May through to October and would be limited to a maximum number of 8-10 per hour long sessions.

David was thanked for his presentation and left the meeting.

### 1. Minutes of previous Meeting

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

Minute was approved, proposed by Ian Elmslie and seconded by Denise Robertson.

### 2. Matters arising:

“Country” Membership: After discussion it was agreed that this should be offered to anyone with a permanent address out with a 75 mile radius of the Club.

Access would be on a 7 day basis with booking rights reduced to 7 days in advance.

Cost of membership agreed at £ 275 subscription Plus the relevant Scottish Golf Affiliation fee. No Levy.

Disciplinary Meeting : The members in question have now been dealt with and appropriate action taken which are now on record.

### 3. House.

Steve presented his report.

Cupboard finished.

The strictly come dancing evening was a success with 30 people in attendance thanks to Phil and Linda Dear for their Patience we will look at another evening in the near future.

In addition there have been a number of issues in the last few weeks that have required urgent attention and action.

The Chiller problem that was previously reported has turned into a much greater issue that has resulted in additional parts and work being required that has more or less doubled the original estimated cost.

We had a gas leak from the mains supply into the clubhouse that resulted in the gas being shut off for over 24 hours. This had to be dealt with urgently and is now fixed. A further leak was detected from the meter box but was dealt with independently by SGN as this was their responsibility.

There are still ongoing issues with the kitchen fan resulting in the gas supply being shut off. Having brought in yet another team of “experts” we finally seem to have a plausible solution which will involve the replacement of the main extractor fan itself and also reversing the fan located in the centre of the kitchen which is currently trying to extract hot air. The reversal will result in cold air being blown into the kitchen.

There have also been some minor works required to both the central heating boiler and the water heater following their annual servicing.

It was asked if there was more we could do to market the clubhouse particularly to members who might not be aware, as has been the case that as part of their membership they have a benefit of free use for functions. It was agreed that this should be addressed.

It was also noted that the constant heating of the clubhouse needs to be addressed and information regarding a remote, tamperproof temperature controlling system, used by landlords, would be sourced and provided for further investigation.

There were a number of general housekeeping/ maintenance matters requiring attention ie the flush plate in the ladies toilets which has been broken for some time. These will be attended to.

#### **4. Match and Handicap**

Terry presented his report as minuted in the recent sub-committee meeting.

##### Westland Trophy

While aware that the winter has been exceptionally good it was felt that the changes to the competition should be continued next year with some minor adjustments including increasing the match play element to 16 teams.

It was confirmed that:

Winter handicap adjustment should be introduced next year. Dino to check how this can be computerised.

I Emslie to organise the Deeside League and D Fleming the Pennant team.

I. Emslie to provide Dino with memory stick of prize winners.

Muriel's Mashie to be run by the Club.

No action be taken to block off bookings for ladies for the Tuesday walk on medals or to introduce a waiting list on Wednesdays.

David Pocock felt he would be unable to run a Cappro Cup style competition in his first year but would be happy to organise Pro's Day.

I. Emslie agreed to discuss the possibility of a Captain v Vice Captain match to replace the Cappro Cup with both ladies and gents given the opportunity to participate.

A reminder that with effect from the first medal, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, “preferred Lies” will only be applicable to “shortly mown areas” to be issued to competitors

It was clarified that Opening Day was open to all members.

## 5. Greens

Before asking for the report David Fleming reported that the feedback from the recent Alliance event had been excellent.

Ian presented Neil's report.

Weather wise we have had a mixed month, with some nights the temperature dipping below freezing and other nights up at 8 degrees. We have had 30mm of rain collected in the rain gauge, but when the wind was blowing I believe there would have been more.

Greens: These are getting brushed and ironed regularly and are getting cut when required. We have also been keeping the surfaces open by sarrell rolling them. They are getting dressed very lightly on a weekly basis. This is done to help keep them firm and smooth.

The greens have now been fertilised as well

We have been brushing and cutting the fairways

Our winter construction is coming to its conclusion with paths being dusted, turf being laid and the ponds have been cleaned.

So in summary we have been dusting paths, cleaned out both ponds, have turfed the bunker at 17 and re-turfed the exit at the 9<sup>th</sup>.

The course is taking shape nicely for the coming season.

A couple of issues we have had is that there seems to be some kids on the course in the early evening and at weekends, they have been throwing markers, pins, rope, rakes and anything else they can get their hands on and throwing them into the ponds and bushes. Our other problem we have is our resident badger has been foraging for food, this causes a lot of unsightly digging on the course.

Plan of works in the coming weeks:

This includes the topping up of the bunkers on the back 9, the front 9 already having been done.

We will of course be continuing the ongoing processes of tidying tree compartments and general areas and with our seasonal recruit starting on 18<sup>th</sup> March we will have an extra pair of hands which will of huge benefit particularly as we start the full golfing season and routine tasks such as divoting need to be done.

We will also be tackling some of the approaches that were effectively burnt out during last summer's hot spell.

The process involves hollow coring, scarifying, deep tining and dressing the area followed by overseeding and a finished with a fine feed.

Other plans include the continued policy of regular scarification of tees and fairways.

Ian continued that the short game area will be fully opened next week, we are just waiting to get the protective netting up on the fence and can only be done when the tees are pulled forward to avoid risk of injury.

The re-siting of the marker signs on the range has been instructed.

The Committee Course walk has still to be arranged but needs to have a specific agenda and targeted areas to ensure validity with this exercise. To be discussed further.

Ian further added his disappointment that instructions issued to erect the distance signage on the 11<sup>th</sup> tee had not been carried out. There would also require to be a plan drawn up for next winter defining the course set up that the greens staff will have to adhere to.

We are now more or less at full capacity with available buggies thanks to the time and efforts of Tony Cammack in “saving” at least 3 battery packs. We have only had to replace one charger unit that has now been ordered and once installed all 6 buggies will be back up and running.

## **6. Finance & Admin**

Tom presented the P&L to February..

There is still very little of note to report with regard to February figures.

As in previous years the reporting of budgeted membership income with regard to renewals within the month of February has been re-stated in line with budgeted values as, as was reported last month, it's not until well into March that we get a true feel of where we might be in terms of overall membership numbers.

As can be seen in the Management accounts summary sheet we are some £27,000 short in membership income compared to last year but we have had a significant amount of renewals through at the beginning and indeed throughout March.

There will as usual be a number of non-renewals who will undoubtedly give no indication of their intentions but to date we have, again as usual, a number of category changes and a number of new members. Graphical and tabulated analysis presented in the report.

We are still somewhat short of our target numbers but in comparing the statistic on “default” members at this time last year to where we finished in terms of members we should still be reasonably optimistic of achieving the target figures. Graphical and tabulated analysis presented in the report

In addition to the above detailed , we have 13 “society” members coming through in March with the prospect of 5 or 6 more.

Juniors and beginners are currently at 23 renewals against a target of 37.

Social memberships are 136 against a target of 176.

Bank position is as expected

We still await Club Systems to update us with where we are with regard to the web-cam.

The question was tabled as to whether we should consider charging Deeside League participants a nominal amount to help cover the cost of food etc as some other clubs seem to. At the moment it was agreed to keep things as they are.

It was asked if the coffee service at the 10<sup>th</sup> tee was likely to continue this year. It was confirmed that it would not.

## **7. Other Business**

David advised that due to work commitments Steven Jackson had tendered his resignation from Committee.

Given the result of the vote at the AGM, Paul Singer will be invited to join the Committee in his place.

**Next meeting Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.15pm.**