



Portlethen Golf Club Management Committee Thursday 21st February 2019

Minute

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

In Attendance: Dino Becci

Apologies: Raymond Cowan, Steven Jackson

Before opening the meeting David welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year and in particular Denise Robertson and Jack Douglas. All present were reminded that all matters discussed should remain confidential until the minute is approved.

1. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 17th January 2019 were accepted as a true record.

Minute was approved, proposed by Ian Cruickshank and seconded by Steve Lawrie.

2. Matters arising:

Greens: Neil to be reminded about the distance sign at 11. Short game area will open imminently.

3. Finance and Admin.

Tom presented the P&L to January.

There is still very little to report within the month as we enter the critical period of renewals. Bar and Restaurant had a decent enough month clawing back a small fraction of the cumulative shortfall with a number of private functions being the difference.

There are also small additional spends in greens within the month but these are simply timing differences and should fall back into line with annualised budgets as the year unfold.

As we enter the renewal period it is still too early to get a true feel of where we might be come late March. A comparison of renewals against the same period is illustrated in the Committee report provided.

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.

Bank position is as expected.

We are set to have an additional 28 5 day members by means of a Taxi Owners Society. There were conditions that we were required to meet in order to win the group over one of which was to guarantee an hours slot on Tuesday's and Thursday's. The benefit of somewhere in the region of £6,500 of membership income could not be ignored as was agreed by all present.

Although this won't be seen in the accounts until February, the unused bar levy figure for this year was £ 3,600 against last year's £ 4,600.

There had been a slight inconsistency in the ticket sales figure reported in the December accounts that still has to be investigated.

Given that there were a number of golfers from other parts of the country who work Monday to Friday in Aberdeen and return home for the weekend would it be beneficial to offer some form of Country membership . This would be investigated further.

4. Greens

Ian presented Neil's report.

We have just come out the coldest spell of the winter, with temperatures dropping to -6 on several occasions. As there was a slight covering of snow the course had to be closed for the 2 week period. Once the snow had melted away we then had to wait for the frost to come out of the ground. The frost penetrated down to about 9 inches, so this took a while for the ground to totally defrost. Whilst the air temperatures were rising the ground temperatures remained below freezing. So that is why the course remained closed. When the frost is coming out of the ground this is when the most damage is done, when the surface is soft and the underlying soil is still frozen.

As I reported reported last month, we taking delivery of a small excavator to dig out some new paths. These have been done and filled up with 50mm and type 1 sub-base, they were then compacted in using a heavy roller. As the season draws closer we will get in the crusher dust and dress the new paths and any of the old paths that require a top up.

We also have had greentech into do some drainage work on the short game area and surrounding area.

Part of the job was that we had to insert an inspection chamber. This was necessary because the old pipe that ran along the existing ditch didn't actually go anywhere. So we had to dig up the road and connect the new pipe to the existing one. This discovery added an extra day on to our job, but this was totally necessary as the water was not getting away before but now it has a clear run all the way down to the 6th ditch.

Whilst the frost was coming out of the ground I stopped all vehicles running across the course as not to cause unnecessary damage. So during this period we were working on some tree compartments round the perimeter of the course.

Now the weather has warmed up we have been back out on the course, we have done several light dressings and we have also cut the greens and ironed them several times. We have managed to top up the front 9 bunkers with fresh sand. This has been done early to allow the new sand to settle in before the start of the season. We also managed to get an application of iron, some magnesium and some sulphate of ammonia.

Moving forward we will be cleaning out the ponds this week with a 6 tonne excavator. If the weather stays mild and settled I am hoping to get some nutrition into the plant, especially the greens.

Ian added that due to added complications to the drainage work undertaken around the short game area that only came to light once the work was started there would be a slight overspend on the winter programme. We plan to make up this shortfall from within the existing budget.

It was asked what the costing of reshaping the 17th bunker would have been instead of filling in. A precise costing wasn't available but it was going to evidently add a significant amount to our spend which the budgeted spend could not at the time stretch to accommodate.

Bunkers on front 9 have been topped up but are now extremely soft. This will settle.

Some tree compartments have a fair bit of debris from broken branches etc but are being attended to.

We will have an extra pair of hands from mid-March when ex- employee Steve Allan joins us on a seasonal basis.

5. House

Steve presented his report.

Work is well on the way with the store in the snooker room

The entertainment programme has had 3 dates and acts confirmed as follows:

Saturday 27th April Alan walker as George Michael & Robbie Williams

Saturday 8th June Motown Brothers

Saturday 24th August Jersey notes

We still have another 2 dates to fill (9th March and 5th October) and currently working hard to get these dates filled

We have a strictly come dancing evening arranged with Phil Dear and his wife doing the business as they are fully qualified dance teachers it's an informal (and free of charge) evening hopefully we can encourage 40 or so members to attend

I have asked Paul Singer to join me to assist in upcoming events ie a quiz and a possible bingo evening

I have spoke to Margaret and Martin about a change in menu the meeting went well with a lot of good ideas so watch this space for a new looking shorter menu in the near future.

It was further reported that we have had a significant fault with the walk in chiller in the kitchen with an initial repair estimate of £1200. We have no option but to proceed.

We await a further report and recommendations regarding the ongoing gas/fan issues in the kitchen.

The car park line marking has been scheduled for the 4th & 5th of March.

The ladies locker room are being given a fresh lick of paint by the lady members. We have arranged a tidy up of the sink area.

Brewers have advised a 2% increase from March which we will have to pass onto customers.

Entertainment tickets would remain at £5 per head.

6. Match & Handicap

Terry had nothing to report.

Volunteers for Match & Handicap sub-Committee were being sought. Denise agreed to assist.

Details of the junior coaching programme to be released.

David Pocock to be invited along to a future meeting to update the Committee on his visions, including junior coaching and present an update as to his overall progress.

It was agreed that all sweep money winnings would now be credited to members shop accounts. Transfers to bar levy accounts would be permitted at a minimum amount of £25.

Continued participation in the Press & Journal "Golf for £15" annual promotion was agreed to.

Some members have enquired about the possibility of a "9 hole" membership due to health reasons. This would require further discussion.

7. Other Business

Match & Handicap- It was asked if there was scope to include the Ladies in the "Cappro Cup". It was advised that this event had been arranged and staged by Stuart Wilson and may or may not be continued by David.

Greens – It was asked if the Course walk around which had been minuted in October had been done. Nothing as yet had been arranged.

It was proposed that the van used by the greens staff be liveried with the club logo as additional advertising. Agreed

Sub-Committees – The suggestion of returning to sub-Committees under each department was muted particularly as we are now a full Committee.

8. Letter of Complaint

A letter had been submitted by a member of staff in complaint against his treatment by two members.

A disciplinary sub- Committee led by Ian Elmslie with Ian Cruickshank and Stephen Cook was appointed to investigate the matter further.

Next meeting Thursday 21st March at 7.15pm.