



Portlethen Golf Club Management Committee Thursday 17th January 2019

Minute

Present: David Fleming, Dino Becci Terry Kennedy, Stephen Cook, Steve Lawrie, Tony Cammack, Scott Sinclair, Steven Jackson, Ian Elmslie, Ian Cruickshank

Apologies: Tom Boyle

1. Minutes of previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 10th December 2018 were accepted as a true record.

Minute was approved, proposed by Terry Kennedy and seconded by Tony Cammack.

2. Matters arising:

Facebook: Return to club control has now been actioned.

North East Open : Agreement to host has been communicated to the District.

3. Greens

Ian presented Neil's report.

As the weather continues to remain open and mild, we have been able to remain on the full course most of the winter so far. With only a handful of days where we have been on frost course. We are also still allowing the use of the clubs buggies, which is quite remarkable for January.

The greens are getting cut twice a week and are getting ironed in between cuts. The greens are performing well for the time of year. With the disease scars filling in nicely. They have received several light top dressings to help keep them firm and smooth.

The teeing areas have also been getting cut and are getting divoted regularly.

The other closely mown areas are also getting cut when required.

On the frosty mornings we have managed to get the terra rake out and continued our rough management programme.

We have also been cutting and collecting some of the longer areas of the uncut rough on the course.

Winter projects. We have installed 2 new drains, 1 between the flower beds at the clubhouse and the putting green, the other 1 on the walk off down to the 7th tee.

The 1st drain was required as there was a very wet area beside the flower beds, this turned out to be a soak a way from the clubhouse, we connected up the clubhouse drains to a drain we installed 2 years ago. This seems to be working well. The only puzzling thing with this job is why were the clubhouse drains running this way in the 1st place.

The 2nd drain we installed was an area to the left of the 6th fairway on the walk down to the bridge at the 7th tee. After a night of heavy rain, we noticed a jelly belly in this area. After relieving the pressure on this burst, the water just kept running, so we dug out where the jelly belly was and we came across a collapsed stone drain, this was causing the water to come

to the surface, creating a wet and muddy surface. We installed a 160mm drainage pipe down the from the collapsed stone drain down into the ditch, the water was getting away freely and the area seems to be drying up nicely. We installed the pipe in away that if we need to extend it further up towards the 6th fairway we can do so relatively simply.

On Monday the 21st of January we have a self drive digger and roller coming in on hire so we can install several new paths. The areas that earmarked to be done is the extension of the path by the 3rd tee, a path round the side of the 10th green joining up with the 11th path, and finally a path from the bridge at the 15th green up to the 16th tee.

On Monday the 28th of January we are getting in Greentech to carry out some drainage work on the short game area and the surrounding area. This will improve the drainage of the short game area and it will also help stop the movement of water down to the 1st fairway.

We have just taken delivery of bunker sand, which we will be topping up the bunkers which are low in sand, doing it now will allow the sand to settle before the start of the season.

On the note of bunkers, there is a lack of sand in the 17th bunker (the 2nd 1), which we need to top up with sand, but this is not just a case of dumping in a load of sand, but we need to re-shape the bunker and raise the height of the bunkers wall. This would involve lifting the turf around the bunker and rebuilding the bunker. The other option would be turning this bunker into a grass bunker.

This final matter was discussed in detail and it was agreed that the bunker could be filled in with a view to reinstating it in future when finances allowed.

Ian added that he had instructed Neil to review the tee winter tee position at 15th and to reinstate the distance marker on the 11th tee. A further request to look at the safety aspect at the 3rd was also noted.

It was asked if there were plans to open the short game area and it was advised that this would be discussed with the mats that were put in place re applied.

It was further noted that the new path around the 10th green should allow enough space to allow relief for balls coming to rest. This would also be discussed.

4. Match & Handicap

Nothing to report.

A request had been received from PGA Scotland to host a "sprint" event at Portlethen on Tuesday 20th August. All agreed that this be granted.

5. House

Steve presented his report.

The Hogmanay night saw the evening sold out with Savannah providing the entertainment

Once again the food and service was spot on well done to Margaret and her team

The diary for upcoming events is looking great with most Saturdays having an evening of some description with a few on Fridays too

We are in the process of organising the entertainment for the year with a few new acts coming to portlethen we are using a different booking agency from last year with quality being the objective

I have looked at changing a few things with Margaret and Martin but nothing solid as of yet

I asked Martin to look at the quality of sausage a few weeks ago and im delighted to say that the new sausage is far better than the last one!

6. Finance & Admin

Tony presented the management accounts to December.

As with month one of the new financial year, there is little that can be expanded on and comparisons can only really be made against 2017 figures.

The Clubhouse once again saw a drop in revenues against previous years with the majority of the shortfall coming directly from the first part night of the Christmas season which was 40% down in revenues from the corresponding event from last year.

The 2nd party night was better attended although slightly down in takings from last year and Hogmanay was more or less the same as 2017.

Bank position is as expected.

As a suggestion it was tabled that with the new professional soon to be in place that any coffee machine sited in the shop should come under the management of the club. To be discussed further.

A Welcome night for the new Professional was suggested but no definitive plans where discussed.

7. AGM

The format of the AGM was discussed and agreed.

It was agreed that in order to address some potential queries on the proposed budget an e-mail would be sent out to the membership explaining and highlighting the effect of depreciation charges and the priority of our cash position.

A "resolution" has been received by a member relating to the budget proposals submitted. There has been some communication with the member that has culminated in a final response from David which has yet to be relayed but was presented to this Committee for their comments and approval. Those present agreed the proposed resolution to be unviable and the response as presented be forwarded.

8. Other Business

Club Professional: David thanked the Committee members for their prompt responses to his e-mail regarding the recommended appointment of David Pocock.

Next meeting Thursday 21st February at 7.15pm.