

## Minutes of Committee Meeting Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Present** Jonathan Dobson, Paul Manson, Lynda Carnie, Norman Cox, Robert Davidson, Craig Scott, Jay Dobson

### Apologies

**Welcome** Jonathan welcomed everyone to the meeting and the first of 2022

Red inserts indicate comments and decisions made by the Committee.

### Club Manager Report

#### **GENERAL**

Welcome to 2022 and the first meeting of a new committee. We are hoping for a year when things will go well both on and off the golf course.

#### **FINANCE**

##### **Professional Shop**

The Gamola Golf partnership has worked very well this past season and we hope that this will continue to do so as we move into the 2022 season and potentially a lot more visitors from all over this time.

Through Graeme, we will be getting 2 Electric Hire Trolleys for 2022. These, we will hire out at £12.50 per time and then we would look to sell these to any interested members at the end of the season before acquiring other ones for the new season. This appears to be the way that these things work. I think that 2 will be sufficient for our needs, for starters anyway.

We will also, since we got rid of all the old sets during the last 2 covid years, acquire 2 sets of Titleist Clubs for hiring out. These will be the latest versions and will be heavily discounted and not payable until October time. By this time, we will have been hiring them out and would also look to sell these on at the end of the summer season.

If anyone has any questions on any of this then I can get answers where needed.

A question was asked about whether we needed more, but we can monitor it this season to see how it goes.

##### **Other Finance**

I am in the process of trying to acquire some sponsorship for our stroke savers. We were due to get these in 2020 and had a sponsor all lined up only for Covid to hit and the whole thing fell apart. I have revisited this company again, as well as a couple of others. With this being an item that would be predominantly bought by visitors I am looking for sponsors who would most likely benefit, e.g. Drinks Industry like Gin, Whiskey etc. I hope to have some more information once I get some commitment. I have a few interested parties and I hope to have some positive news soon.

Craig has a possible party that could be interested and he will explore this option.

## **Membership/Green Fees**

Membership fees have been coming in over the last month or so. Over the next couple of weeks I expect to see more people renewing and there will be those who are not but have not said as yet. I have put a reminder out today ref the membership fees being due in 2 weeks time. We have had a few new members join this week and I have word of a good few more in the coming weeks who are either related or friends of those who have joined already. By the time we get towards the end of February we should have a better idea of where we are at with members numbers.

I have had an enquiry from a member who has been accepted and is now on a waiting list at Royal Aberdeen. He does not know how long it will be before the door will open for him and with his membership here due to run out at the end of the month he is asking if there is anything we can do so that he can continue as a member here until he gets the call from Royal Aberdeen. I realise that this is a bit of an unusual one.

A proposal was agreed and will be put to the member.

## **STAFF MANAGEMENT**

The only staffing issue we have at present is ongoing and, in conjunction with our partnership with Citation this should get resolved fairly soon now.

Paul is moving this forward with the assistance of Citation HR

Everything else is fine on the staffing front.

## **Website/Newsletter**

The plan would be to do the next newsletter in February with a look ahead to the new season so I will be e-mailing round the contributors in the coming weeks to get their input. The website has been updated with the Green Fees for 2022 from April along with all the other services and charges. We continue to update the site with the Winter League results. At the AGM, I think it may have been out with the meeting itself, I was asked about Committee meeting minutes. We used to put these on the notice board for members to read at their leisure if they chose to. With us having the public coming through the building we stopped doing this. I wondered if there was a way to have a secure part of the Website where I could put meeting minutes and only members would have access.

## **COMPETITIONS/EVENTS/VISITORS**

The Fixture List for 2022 is almost ready. I am just awaiting the Seniors fixtures for 2022. We did have a small issue where the open competitions went live on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Apparently, there is a Buchan Seniors event on at Longside the same day as we had a Seniors Open on our calendar. We had been given no information on the Buchan seniors dates. I have moved the Senior Open to the following week and informed all those who have entered already that this has been done.

The Winter League is still as popular as ever, however there have been a few comments made regarding some of the handicaps with WHS now allowing handicaps beyond 28 for men. With this being Winter golf, we may need to come up with a different plan for next Winter.

This can be reviewed for next Winter.

Next Season's Opens are now live for booking and I think that the club should, as much as possible, make these days a good all round experience for visitors. I think that we should have volunteers on desk duty for our opens where the participants are welcomed to the club by those officiating. This would be a better way than having people check in to the shop. We have had a few issues with the opens in the last year or so due to inexperience and the shop assistants not having the knowledge. This may be something that someone in the committee may want to take forward as part of their committee role? I will help facilitate any correspondence etc.

**Lynda has agreed to be involved with getting volunteers for opens.**

I have today received the flyer for the charity event taking place on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The event is raising money for the Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity, this provides mental, physical, and financial wellbeing to the construction community and their families. The Charity have been given a preferential rate for golf of £25 per player. They are currently expecting 16 teams of 4.

As you may already know, Jonathan and Myself will be attending the Scottish Golf Tourism Week from March 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>. James is currently pulling together a small promotional brochure to hand to those tour operators that we will be meeting with at the time. On February 27<sup>th</sup> we will be visited, in conjunction with this, by a party of Tour Operators will visit for a Familiarisation trip to see the facilities. I will have more information on how many people this will involve in the coming weeks. We hope to generate a good bit of business from this trip and have Newburgh on the northeast circuit for a lot more operators moving forward.

**Paul will speak to Euan Duff regards the brochure before it goes to Eagle.**

## **CLUB COURSE MANAGEMENT**

A greens meeting took place on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, and the details of this will be relayed at the meeting via Norman and can be discussed further at that time of the meeting.

We have had an offer from KF Watson electrical to complete the electrical work in the new green keeping shed. They will do this work free of charge to the club. In return, they have asked if we would put an advertising board on the Putting green and also one on the 11<sup>th</sup> tee box. This is a fantastic offer. I assume that everyone would agree that this is definitely something that we go ahead with an would no further discussion.

**Everyone is in favor of this option and most grateful to Keith.**

## **CLUBHOUSE MANAGEMENT**

I sent the latest invoice to our Franchise for the Month from December 26<sup>th</sup> until January 25<sup>th</sup>. Jonathan and Myself then received an e-mail from Mark Graham which stated that he was looking for further reductions due to the restrictions, which he suggested were equivalent to the tier one restrictions. I went back to the time when we were in tier one and could not find any real similarities between this and the tier one position. We have not got back to him on this and the invoice still remains unpaid. I do not think that this is a relevant request and would suggest that no further reductions in license fee should be granted moving forward. I have attached a copy of the relevant e-mail.

**It was decided that no further reductions in License fee were valid and would not be applied.**

As was mentioned in my AGM report, there has been a suggestion that the current conference room could be used as an additional bar, with the conference room being moved to the old swing studio downstairs. In they this would sound like a good idea, however, the room downstairs has no windows and no possibility of

having any windows and therefore has no form of ventilation. With the current situation regarding Covid-19 I do not think that we can offer up a room without any ventilation to our corporate clients nor can we realistically have our monthly meetings in a non-ventilated room. I would like to know everyone's thoughts on this as we will need to have the upstairs conference room returned to how it was pre-Christmas grotto.

The Old swing studio was not seen as an appropriate meeting room in the current form. This is due to a lack of ventilation and the unattractive look. A question to the members for ideas of what we could do with this room was suggested.

## TREASURER REPORT

Norman's report and schedules had been submitted electronically prior to the meeting. Norman explained That once all the fees are in by the end of February we would be able to sit down and do a projection for the coming year. Knowing how much income there would be is difficult to gauge, however, we can use previous years as a base and starting point.

## GREENS REPORT

The Greens meeting had been held on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> with Dale Robertson, Paul Manson, Norman Cox and Jay Dobson present.

The latest work that had been completed was the bunker work, with all of the bunkers now having been tidied up. The gorse removal at the first tee has made a big improvement and the next stage is to turf that area to have a better approach to the first tee on arrival.

There will be a project plan put together for the area behind the 15<sup>th</sup> green. This will need to be completely cleared and the re would be marram Grass planted. No timescale has been put on this to date.

There will be work getting done on all the paths around the course with a view to changing these into grass paths. This will be done over time with and the re will be updates of the progress.

There has been a proposal made to change the Out of Bounds at the 16<sup>th</sup> to a penalty area with red stakes. This would mean that players could either play the ball as it lies, on the beach, or take a penalty drop to either a dropping zone (should that be the answer) or nearest point of relief.

On the finance side of the greens meeting, a budget will be put in place for general maintenance in the coming weeks.

The information surrounding the change in the stakes at the 16<sup>th</sup> would be published in the next newsletter.

## Social Media Report – Jan 22

Craig had not done a report as such. He explained, for the benefit of the new committee members, what social media platforms we are using to promote the club and how we do this. Some areas require some payments to be made to do it and others are just general. It was suggested that Matty may be able to post some pictures on Instagram from around the course, both for projects, improvements and work being done as well as general course pictures.

Paul will speak to Matty about this and pass the Instagram log in details onto him.

### AOB

A new she cleaner was spoken about as the old one has stopped working and we have no real way of getting this repaired.

This will be explored and we can see what is available.

There was a question regarding Rabbit control and if there were still shooters coming in.

It was confirmed that there are 3 sets of people coming in at different times shooting.

Jonathan mentioned that Ian Alexander had told him John Duncan would be sorting the road and bottom carpark FOC with left overs from a taring job they are doing. This will also include the pot hole at the top of the concrete road.

He also mentioned that Beach Road would be “blocked off” and “access only” when the beach car park is closed.

**Date of Next Meeting – 21.02.22**

**Close of Meeting** the meeting closed at 8.30pm.