

**Minutes of the Greens & Environment Sub-Committee Meeting Held in the Boardroom,  
Links House on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Present:** K Daly (Greens Convener), C Yule (Chairman), L Gordon, R Wardlaw, P Goudie

**In Attendance:** M Wells (Chief Executive), K Stott (Links Superintendent), D Cairnie (Course Manager, Championship), M Reynolds (Course Manager, Burnside & Buddon), S Sutherland (Irrigation & Service Technician)

**1. Apologies**

I Frier, A McArtney

**2. Declaration of Interest**

None

**3. Links Superintendent Report**

The Links Superintendent briefly recapped his report and proposed exploring four areas of the report in more detail.

**Wet conditions**

The Links Superintendent highlighted the consequences faced on the estate due to wet conditions between Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024, particularly the increased frequency of flood events and their negative impact on playing surfaces due to residual silt deposits. However, discussions of weather ended on a positive note due to the recent dry spell providing a good opportunity of growth.

**Installation of Gabion Baskets**

The Links Superintendent gave a positive update on the installations of gabion baskets along the 18<sup>th</sup> white tee and 18<sup>th</sup> Hogan tee of The Carnoustie Championship Course. The Links Superintendent praised the installation work completed by Maccaferri and informed the Greens & Environment Sub-Committee that Maccaferri will be drawing a proposal together

of future work to the burn wall which will be presented at a future Greens & Environment Sub-Committee meeting.

A trustee enquired about the cost and lifespan of the gabion baskets. The Links Superintendent discussed the price compared to alternative options and was confident that baskets should provide a long-term solution, without wanting to confirm an exact lifespan given the nature of the project.

#### Bridge at 1<sup>st</sup> of Buddon

The Links Superintendent explained the concrete 'Lego-block' wall at the side of the bridge has failed, and local contractor, Geddes, would be on site w/c 20<sup>th</sup> May to begin the install of abutments to the bridge and also repair the concrete block wall at the same time. This has required a large amount of co-ordination with many stakeholders and works are likely to be authorised under emergency repair conditions. The schedule has been set to see the work completed the week before the Senior Open.

A trustee asked about the wooden bridge. The Links Superintendent confirmed the bridge is condemned, but due to its location cannot be easily removed. This may be explored in future, as a permit would be required. It's also noted that Carnoustie Golf Links engaged with the local community in order to gain a better understanding of the bridge's history, but very little information or insight was offered.

## **4. Course Manager Reports**

### **4.1 Championship**

The Championship Course Manager reported great progress of growth on the course and hopes this continues through the summer for a successful Senior Open.

A trustee asked if the level of sand in bunkers had been increased. The Championship Course Manager explained a routine amount has been added to some bunkers but due to the wet weather so far this year, the bunkers that sit close to the water table are still firmer than expected.

#### **4.2 Buddon & Burnside**

The Buddon & Burnside Course Manager discussed the work being done to reinstate areas that are G.U.R, especially the areas which have been under water for most of the winter but is hopeful that the turn in the weather will aid the recovery.

#### **4.3 Irrigation**

The Irrigation & Services Technician confirmed that ground was broken yesterday (15<sup>th</sup> May) for the newest bore hole. The schedule will see the drill go down 40m over the next three weeks.

The Irrigation & Services Technician also stated that MJ Abbotts is close to confirming an October start date for the installation of the Irrigation system to the Buddon course.

A trustee enquired if any future course changes would affect the irrigation system.

The Irrigation & Service Technician confirmed that any future plans have been taken into consideration and the irrigation route will aid itself to this with as little work as possible required in future.

#### **5. R&A Agronomy Report**

The Links Superintendent confirmed that the visit from Richard Windows went very well and hopes the Greens & Environment Sub-Committee will be able to join Richard as he will be in attendance for the meeting in November to review the season.

A trustee congratulated the greenkeeping team on the recognition of their hard work within the agronomy report.

#### **6. Course Development & Flood Mitigation Presentation (Working Document)**

This discussion is held in a confidential minute.

## **7. Action Points**

All action points were completed at the February meeting. No new actions points were raised.

## **8. Any Other Competent Business**

### Health and Safety at Practice Facilities

A trustee questioned who was liable if an accident occurred at the practice ground, as they had noticed an increased number of people using the facilities.

The Links Superintendent confirmed that a risk assessment has been created for this area but encourages all using the area to use common sense to ensure safety for all.

### Autonomous Mowers

A trustee questioned the likelihood of autonomous mowers being used on the course. The Links Superintendent confirmed that within our partnership with John Deere, we are looking to work with them on the R&D of this style of mower potentially being available to work on the courses in the future, although no timescale or plan was currently in place for this

With no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 1500 hours.