

**Minutes of the Greens & Environment Sub-Committee Meeting Held in the Boardroom,
Links House on 7th November 2024**

Present: K Daly (Greens Convenor), C Yule (Chairman), A McCartney, 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)

Meeting began at 1402 hours

1. Apologies

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2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Links Superintendent Report

The Links Superintendent summarised his report, to which there were no questions raised.

The Links Superintendent expressed satisfaction that the Greenkeeping team is currently ahead of the winter schedule, though he noted that progress remains weather dependent.

The Links Superintendent updated the Greens and Environment Sub-Committee on current staffing levels within the Greenkeeping team, announcing the appointment of a new apprentice—a local school leaver who has been involved with the Carnoustie Craws throughout his youth. Additionally, a qualified greenkeeper will be joining the team in December.

A trustee who played in the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship commended the Greenkeeping team for the exceptional condition of the course during the event. He noted

that playing three prestigious courses in quick succession underscored the high quality of golf available at Carnoustie.

4. Course Manager Report

4.1 Championship

Following a recap of the Championship report, a trustee enquired about the firmness of the greens. The trustee questioned if ensuring the greens are more firm would reduce quality elsewhere. Discussion ensued regarding overseeding and topdressing, it was established that weather conditions will also dictate the firmness of a green to a degree. The newly acquired VGR will assist with gaining a firmer green in the 2025 season.

4.2 Burnside & Buddon

The Burnside & Buddon Course Manager confirmed that winter work is underway, with the team assisting as needed with the irrigation installation. Due to the increased footfall and play on The Buddon Course, there will be an exploration of drainage improvements, with a focus on utilising old ditches.

4.3 Irrigation

The Irrigation and Services Technician confirmed the Buddon Irrigation installation is ongoing with great progress being made.

5. Richard Windows – Review of the Year

Richard Windows was unable to attend the meeting. The Links Superintendent will ensure the Greens and Environment Sub-Committee receive a copy of Richard's report in due course.

A trustee raised a question regarding the rough's length on the course this year, noting that some players found it nearly too long and thick. The Links Superintendent explained that, due to fluctuating weather conditions and the specific requirements for the Senior Open, the rough was managed differently this summer.

6. Action Points

There were no action points to discuss.

7. Any Other Competent Business

Flood Mitigation

A topographical survey has been conducted and will shortly be sent to Angus Council, identifying areas for potential flood retention. It has been explored that areas of Barry Burn may require to be re-routed in future.

Burn Wall

Discussions are ongoing with Maccaferri regarding future work on the burn wall, as the previously installed gabion baskets have proven to be an effective solution for its renovation it is expected they will be the method used going forward.

Chairman Stepping Down

The Chairman announced he will be stepping down from his position in the New Year. Reflecting on his tenure, he noted that he has served under the management of four Links Superintendents, each demonstrating unwavering dedication to the role and respect for Carnoustie Golf Links. He also expressed his gratitude to the Greenkeeping team for their exceptional work in maintaining the course and to the Greens and Environment Sub-committee for allowing him to gain so much insight and knowledge during his time serving.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 1451 hours.