



The Blairgowrie Golf Club

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE:	25 th January 2020
VENUE:	Online via Skype
MINUTES RECORDED BY:	Stuart Wilson, Managing Secretary

ATTENDEES:	
James Macfarlane - Club Captain	Russell Martin – Match & Handicap
Margaret Kerr – Ladies Captain	Eric Lindsay - Committee Member
Colin Allison – Vice-Captain	Stuart Wilson – Managing Secretary
Alistair Batchen - Finance	
Mike Mullins – Marketing & Strategy	
Craig Hay - Greens	

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies received as the full Committee were present.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2020 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

The Action Points list from the previous meeting were reviewed and updates on progress were submitted.

Other Matters arising for discussion were:

- The matter of course closures was investigated with the insurers and H&S advisors. As a result, the Club policy on closing the course has now been updated to reflect this advice.
- Signage at the access points to the course is to be reviewed to ensure that it is sufficient and consistent with the Outdoor Access Code.
- The responsibility for the Woodlands Avenue access is to be clarified if it is Club or Meikleour Estate property.
- New scorecards are required due to the WHS slope rating and course rating information now requiring to be included. The current scorecard sponsorship arrangements are to be looked at for 2021.
- A familiarisation meeting for the PGA Professional Championship is to be held on Friday 29th January between the PGA and Club staff members.



4. FINANCE REPORT:

The Finance Report was approved; highlights include:

- To the end of November, the income is some £33,000 ahead of budget and expenditure is showing circa £50,000 below budget, due to lower spends on the course, clubhouse and admin costs. The accounts will be circulated once the queries are resolved.
- Memberships continue to be collected and once there is a clearer picture of the levels of renewals the budget will be reviewed to reflect the membership uptake.
- The Committee approved the application for a Government Bounce Back Loan on the basis that it can be repaid early if not required with no penalty or cost for the first 12 months. The lending rate after the initial 12 months is at favourable level also.
- The Club are currently receiving £3, 000 every 4 weeks from the Strategic Framework Business Fund in relation to the hospitality operations. It is hoped to receive similar for the retail operation of the Pro Shop.
- The bank is requiring the Club to change the type of loan currently held. This has to be done by the end of 2021 and AB is awaiting confirmation of the new terms to be provided for review.

5. MARKETING & STRATEGY REPORT

The Marketing & Strategy Report was approved; highlights include:

- MM had met with Mike Beale, the previous Strategy and Marketing convenor, who confirmed that the club's strategy was to sustain the quality of our 3 courses and maintain a cash reserve.
- A sub-committee is to be formed to work up a Strategic Plan covering the next few years including the collection and analysis of data in respect of recent membership trends, visitor's feedback, Mystery Shopper and a review of the social media platforms.
- The intention is for the Strategic Plan to be wide ranging and include, inter alia, an assessment of our green fee pricing structure, explore whether there is scope to make Lansdowne more appealing to members and visitors, and assess the feasibility of opening the clubhouse to non- members to generate additional income.
- It is widely accepted that our USP is the quality of our golf courses and one of our main challenges is to maximise visitor income whilst protecting members access to the courses. It should be recognised that our existing Marketing Budget of £8k, represents c. 0.6% of the club's annual income.

6. GREENS REPORT

There was no greens report submitted for review.

- CH confirmed that the winter work is progressing well and in-line with the schedule set out in September.
- The tree felling is going according to plan and with the way the weather is currently, and the courses closed it is an ideal time to carry out this work.
- The drainage works have now been completed.



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7. HOUSE REPORT

The House Report was approved; highlights included:

- The deep clean of the Clubhouse has started per the list written up by MK.
- There has been a new coffee station installed that is in keeping with the bar fixtures and furnishings.
- A new gate is to be fabricated for the rear entrance to the staff access and cellar.
- The wall at the first hole teeing area is to be considered for refurbishment. Quotes are to be sought.

8. MATCH & HANDICAP REPORT

The Match & Handicap report was approved, highlights included:

- The Information sheets are being reviewed to reflect the changes required now that we are under the World Handicap System.
- Country members will be allowed to compete in and win Club trophies.
- Saturday ballots will be in 1-hour time slots.
- A competitor in any competition may win only one prize with the scratch prizes taking precedence over the handicap prizes.
- If the Captain v Vice-Captain cannot go ahead in April a stableford will be scheduled for the traditional date and the Captain v Vice-Captain will be played on the Saturday between the Club Championship semi-finals and final. This event will be open to the Ladies Section also.
- It was agreed that Mementos will be given to all trophy winners and the runners up in the match play events.
- The fixture list is in the process of being compiled and will be available to view when finalised.
- Kilmacolm GC have been informed of our decision not to have a friendly match.
- Matchplay entries will be online this year with office back up for those how require it.
- The Bank of Scotland 36 Hole trophy will be reinstated this season and is to be played for on the 11th of July.
- The 5-day open will run this year with both male and female entries permitted. We can cancel if we do not receive enough entries.
- The possibility of creating a Club Match with the Glasgow golf Club is to be considered.

9. LADIES REPORT

The Ladies Report was approved, highlights included:

- Times had been allocated for ladies on a Tuesday from 10 to 10:30am on a turn up and play basis. However, with the change in covid rules, the Captain pointed out to me that the ladies could not just turn up and play on a Tuesday – they required to put their names in the booking sheet. Consequently, as requested by him I asked Joan to remove the block altogether.
- The beavers now inhabiting the Black loch are to be monitored on an on-going basis.
- A suggestion for photographs on progress with course works was put forward.
- Lady Captain MK is also to assume the role of House Convener (see report above)



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- The Ladies Winter League continues each Friday with a record number of players but on Friday 7th December the weather was so wet no-one played for the competition.
- Cards have been sent to Aileen Kean as she had been in hospital and to Doreen Johnston expressing our sadness on the recent loss of her husband.
- The Wee Course Ladies Fixtures for 2021 have had one or two alterations which will be incorporated into the fixture list.
- There are many ladies playing on Tuesdays that this is encouraging a much more friendly atmosphere at the Club and I do hope this goes from strength to strength in the future.
- The Ladies Information Sheets are currently being reviewed for 2021.
- The Ladies are intending on having their opening match on the first Friday in April at which time the flag will be raised and both Club Captain and Lady Captain will be in attendance.

10. SENIORS REPORT

The Senior report was approved, highlights included:

- There are 96 members of the Seniors Section, of whom 92 submitted applications for matches in 2021.
- The 2021 Season will comprise 30 matches, 14 Home fixtures and 16 Away.
- Applications have been processed, allocations made, and match schedules will be mailed to members before end January.

11. JUNIOR REPORT

There was no Junior Report submitted

- A meeting is to be scheduled with CA, SW and Neil Cameron to discuss the junior program for 2021.

12. MANAGING SECRETARY'S REPORT

Managing Secretary Report was approved; highlights include:

- Membership resignations and categories were provided. These appear to be in line with previous year's numbers.
- The Office Server had to be taken off site for repair which has led to a backlog of work for the staff. The server is now repaired and back on site which will allow the staff to begin to catch up.
- **CJRS** – All bar, shop and housekeeping staff are on part time furlough thereby allowing us to claim 80% of hours not worked back from the treasury. We are monitoring the work-load situation for greens & office staff and will use furlough when and where is necessary.
- **COVID-19** – whilst the courses are closed it made sense to shut down the Pro Shop and toilet facilities which in effect closed the whole Clubhouse. When the courses open again, we will be opening with an outside starting facility and we will re-open the toilets under the increased hygiene stipulation. 2 ball play from a maximum of 2 households will be the norm and the booking system is set up to reflect this.



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- **Legislation** – As part of getting up to speed I have been working on getting matters in order as far as named persons in particulars, bank signatories, insurances, fire and water safety regulations etc.
- **Newsletter** – The plan is to compile a monthly newsletter which will be out shortly. If any convener has anything they would like to contribute now or in the future, please feel free to let me know.
- **Visitor Database** - a data base of visitors to the Club for outings and events is being compiled as part of the Visitors Revenue Action Plan.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from member Mr I McLagan requesting that an additional practice net be installed. It was agreed that a review of the current practice net facilities would be undertaken with reference to condition of the existing net, requirement and cost of supplying a second net and the location of the practice net facility.
- Member emails requesting a period of suspension on membership. Replies will be given stating the current rules of the Club relating to resignation of membership. Under Rule 6.14.2 at the discretion of the Club Committee, members may be re-admitted to membership on payment of the subscription only if the member had attained 5 years of membership before their resignation.
- Letter from member Mr P Gardiner regarding the reimbursement of credit accrued in the Pro Shop under the tenure of Charles Dernie. Mr Gardiner has received a refund from Charles directly and a Committee response to the situation is to be provided.

14. A.O.C.B

- SW is to contact Robin Duncan regarding donations of memorabilia from Fiona Anderson relating to her successful golfing career.
- The Club Captain had visited Sir William Macpherson of Cluny to bestow upon him Honorary Membership of the Club. Sir William accepted this with great thanks and JM reported that although Sir William is frail, he is still very sharp and attentive. Dawn Tinker in the office was praised for the production of the presentation certificate.
- There are still two vacancies to be filled on the Committee.
- The possibility of creating an online catalogue for the Pro Shop is to be considered.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:	Monday 22 nd February	TIME:	18.00
CAPTAINS SIGNATURE:		DATE:	