



The Blairgowrie Golf Club

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE:	28 th June 2021
VENUE:	Club Meeting Room
MINUTES RECORDED BY:	Stuart Wilson, Managing Secretary

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

APOLOGIES:
Eric Lindsay - Committee Member

1. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:
The minutes of the meeting held on 27 th May 2021 were approved and will be published online.

2. MATTERS ARISING:
The Action Points list had been circulated and updates given.

- The footfall of the Pro Shop was discussed. Visitors are required to check in with the Shop and pay any balance due on their booking at that point.
- Non-competition tee times that have been booked during the competition times on this coming Wednesday are to be investigated and re-arranged if possible.
- The staff uniforms were discussed, and it was decided to differentiate between the waiting staff and bar staff. This will be done by providing the bar staff with blue coloured Club polo shirts.
- The role of Bar Manager is to be revisited as the current contract is due to end on 31st October.
- The current set up in the lounge of tables of 2 is to be extended to allow for permanent tables of 3 in line with social distancing guidelines.
- The Captain responded to a letter received by member Mr David Doig and is to meet with Mr Doig in person to talk over the points raised.



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- Other Matters arising for discussion were discussed under the relevant agenda items.

3. FINANCE REPORT:

The Finance Report was approved. Highlights include:

- Cash Position: The cash balances of the Club remain in a healthy position and above budget.
- Subscription Income continues to be positive with a forecast year end figure of approx. £920,000 against a budget of circa £850,000.

Profit and Loss Account:

- The Management Accounts to the end of May and forecast to the year end in September have been circulated separately and these continue to make good reading.
- The Year-to-Date Surplus is £299,986 and the full year forecast has increased to £189,094 against original forecast of £8,772.

Cash flow: -

- Expenses continue to be tightly controlled and while there will be increases in expenses over the coming months as the costs of new staff costs work through a significant element of these will be absorbed within the existing budget.
- Visitor bookings are looking satisfactory for the summer months we should exceed forecast with these, subject to no further restrictions being imposed.
- Several areas which will require some spend in the coming months have been identified and these will be discussed at Committee.

Budget:

- A drafted first run of a budget through to the end of March 2022 has been compiled and this will be extended to March 2023. This will be flexed to show the impact of various scenarios. The Managing Secretary and Finance Convener will be working on these with a view to having Budgets finalised for presentation at August's meeting when we shall have had the benefit of 11 months' income and expenditure.
- Membership numbers have risen since last year and these are to be considered in terms of caps and the structure of the reduced-price categories before attaining full membership.

4. MARKETING & STRATEGY REPORT

The Marketing & Strategy Report was approved. Highlights include:

- Since our last meeting, the club has run a Google ad as well as advertising in the local HUB magazine. Over this 4-week period 60 new members have been recruited, across all categories of membership. Pleasingly this includes 11 new juniors, 16 intermediates and 10 full gents.
- A Facebook campaign commenced 24 June, which includes an email to former members, advertising the 1/2-year subscriptions.



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- Members are to be reminded of the referral programme for referring new members in the next newsletter.
- Consideration to be given to advertise a tee time on Lansdowne for £200 on Tuesday and Thursday after 2pm. This offer could run throughout July.
- As a pathway to membership, there is the opportunity to engage with OpenPlay by holding an OpenPlay competition on a Thursday afternoon later in the summer.

5. GREENS REPORT

The greens report was delivered with the following highlights:

- The Rosemount course is closed for maintenance with the main focus being aeration using the Dryject machine. This is a trial, and it is anticipated that there will be less disruption to the surfaces whilst providing increased benefits to the soil composition and health.
- The courses have been receiving very favourable feedback of late with Lansdowne in particular being well received by the PGA and their competitors for their Championship held earlier in the month.
- The location of the tee markers on the Lansdowne 15th hole is to be considered in relation to the white and blue tee markers.
- The distance of some of the carries from the tee to the fairways is to be reduced and specific holes are to be identified for this to take place.
- The Pin Position Boards are to be reinstated as soon as possible.
- The 150-yard markers are to be reinstated as soon as possible on all courses.
- A debrief across all departments in relation of the PGA Professionals is to take place and feedback sought from the PGA also.
- Scottish Golf have recently provided an update on the guidance for flags, bunker rake and course furniture being put back in place. The guidance continues to remain the same that the flags should not be touched and bunker rakes etc should still be removed for the time being.
- Some of the newly laid turf for this season appears to be drying out and is requiring urgent attention.
- The flower beds at the front door and around the Clubhouse are requiring attention. The position of Maintenance Services to look after the Clubhouse and its surrounds has been advertised and interviews will take place shortly.
- The notice period for requesting volunteers is to be extended as much as possible and any volunteering roles incentivised with the offer of complimentary food and drink.
- A bench that is to be donated by the family of former member Jimmy Findlay is to be followed up on as soon as possible.
- The control of the crows and deer on the course was discussed. The Greenkeepers are to be consulted to find if there is any damage being caused that is adversely affecting the courses.

6. HOUSE REPORT

The House Report was approved. Highlights included:



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- The areas around the clubhouse are being kept in a tidy and clean condition. The starters help in keeping the weeds sprayed beside the clubhouse and picking up litter. The grass beside the car park is now regularly mowed and the area behind the white fence has been sprayed with weedkiller, courtesy of the green keepers.
- The tubs around the clubhouse have been planted with bedding plants and the daffodil leaves cut along with annuals being planted outside the dining room. The rockery has been weeded at the greenside of the clubhouse and also the bed in front of the Pro Shop exit.
- The smoking bins on the patio area are largely being ignored and cigarette butts are being strewn across the patio. Further receptacle for disposing of cigarette butts are to be put in place.
- There is a windowsill requiring replacement at the Ladies Locker Room window which the joiner will attend to at the same time as the Disabled Access Toilet.

7. MATCH & HANDICAP REPORT

The Match & Handicap report was approved, highlights included:

- The match play competitions are well underway. There have been two or three requests for extensions. The Managing Secretary and Competitions Convener have decided each one on the merits of the case. A one-day extension is the max allowed apart from one where a two-day extension was allowed due to the PGA championships being on and a tie was booked for the Friday evening.
- The Cally League and Club Friendly matches have resumed.
- The Club team of Malcolm Davidson and Craig Hay won the Stroyan Trophy at Comrie by 8 shots.
- The scratch league team have topped their section, unbeaten, and now have a home quarter final against Pitlochry on 9th July.
- Captain's Day will be held on the 14th August
 - This will be a 4-person scramble open to any combination of male, female and junior member, select own team. The office to assist in forming teams for those who need.
 - Start times on Rosemount from 8:00 till 2:00 with 10 minutes per start time. If possible, a barbeque will run from noon till 5pm.
- Fixtures for 2022. In order to prevent the problems which occurred this year the following timeline has been agreed.
 - Early September - meeting to discuss draft fixture list including member of green staff
 - Late October - meeting to finalise fixtures including member of green staff
 - November - revision of handicaps
 - December - fixture card to printer February- entries for match play comps open 20th
 - March entries close for match play 30th March draws published allows ties to be arranged on opening day.
- Finals Day -
 - Seniors Handicap – Jimmy Campbell defeated Peter Inglis 2up
 - Seniors Scratch – Iain Waddell defeated Stewart McIntosh 5&4
 - Ladies Division 2 – Hilary Inglis defeated Gill Tissell 4&2
 - Sophie Trophy – Claire Bidwell defeated Jacqui Doig 1up
 - John Watson Trophy – David Kerr defeated Barry Macgillivray 2&1
 - Ladies Club Championship – Megan Ashley defeated Jillian Milne 5&4



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- Gents Club Championship – Declan Gray defeated Brad Bannerman 2&1
- Club Championship leading Qualifier Declan Gray 71, 72 = 143
- John Watson leading qualifier Donald McDonald 70 70 = 140 handicap 6
- Thanks were expressed to all involved on Finals Day from the players to the referees and staff for making the day a success.
- Entries are available for Bank of Scotland 36 Hole event within the members online booking site.
- The Seniors Opens that have been scheduled to replace the 5 Day Open are now starting to attract entries.
- Member Ronnie Nisbett has won the Trump International Open; congratulations were extended to him.
- The WHS allowances were discussed and it was decided to remain with full allowance as it is the recommendation for running competitions.
- The time slots for Saturday ballots are to remain at 1-hour intervals with the draws continuing to be made on a random basis in relation to handicaps. The tee times were also discussed and are to remain at 9-minute intervals.
- The date for the Past Captains Day is to be altered from the 27th of July to a provisional date of the 4th of August subject to availability.

8. LADIES REPORT

- The Ladies Report was approved, highlights included: The Ladies Open Tri-Am competition held on 21st June was a very successful day for the Club and Blairgowrie are faring well in all the ladies' friendly matches. The Wee Course medals also continue to be well supported.
- The Lyle Quaich mixed held on Sunday 20th should have been a stroke play competition but was played as a stableford along with the Ping Qualifier. The winners of both competitions were Denise and Rob Ginley with 46 points. We wish them all success in getting to the final of the Ping competition which I believe is to be held this year at Gullane.
- The winners of the Coronation Foursomes played on 22nd June were Sheila Ritchie and Sheila Bruce. Both have elected to play the Area Final at Banchory on 26th July.
- Another round of the Annodata competition was played in the evening on Tuesday 22nd June against Dunkeld & Birnam Ladies. It was a very close call with the match being tied 2.5 to 2.5 resulting in Megan Ashley and Gwen Lambie playing the 19th hole – Megan had a birdie to win the match for Blairgowrie.
- The Ladies Championships are all up to date and the players going through to the finals on Sunday 27th June are -
 - Division 1 Megan Ashley v Jillian Milne - Referee Margaret Kerr
 - Division 2 Hilary Inglis v Gill Tissell – Referee Katie Chapman
 - Sophie's Trophy – Jacqui Doig v Claire Bidwell – Referee Jacqui Landsburgh
- Caddies are allowed but under Covid19 rules are not allowed to hand out clubs to the player or touch other people's equipment. There is to be a 2-course meal afterwards for players, caddies and referees, courtesy of the Club.
- We held the ladies' composite friendly match with teams of 6 each from St. Rule, Turnberry, Dunbracken and Blairgowrie starting at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, 24th June.



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- The minutes from the Ladies Meetings are requiring to be added to the website, this will be done when they are received.
- Gill Tissell has accepted the vacant role of Ladies Vice Captain for the remainder of the year and will take on the Captaincy next year.
- News articles are to be published to the website as well as on social media.

9. SENIORS REPORT

The Senior report was approved, highlights included:

- Matches continue in good playing conditions and all Seniors report a welcome return of these competitive fixtures, played in a friendly spirit with excellent hospitality. The continued absence of shower facilities is an annoyance.
- Results to date: W7, L4. Matches completed over two legs: one draw, one win.

10. JUNIOR REPORT

The Junior report was approved, highlights included:

Junior Championship:

- This has not happened this year, for two main reasons: Firstly, all our premier players are involved in national/ elite events at this time of year and cannot or choose not to enter due to time constraints. Secondly, there just aren't enough juniors playing week in week out on the 'big' courses. Declan has suggested we need to start pretty well from scratch with a group on the wee course doing 'medal' golf, and gradually work up to tackling 9 then maybe 12, on to 18 holes in stages. The Junior Convener is currently in discussion with Declan as to the feasibility of starting this this season, in terms of timing, and level of manning assistance required.

Junior coaching programme:

- On a positive note, the Junior club coaching continues to go well with levels of participation remaining high due in no small part because they enjoy it and are having fun in the process- an excellent recipe! A number of these youngsters have/ are taking up membership as a result.
- Declan's contribution to the Junior Coaching was noted and it was expressed that the Juniors are thoroughly enjoying the experience.

11. MANAGING SECRETARY'S REPORT



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Managing Secretary Report was approved; highlights include:

- **Staffing:** We have lost Anthony from the bar and have new starts of Carrie., Verity & Andrew helping on a temporary basis.
- Alan Reid was appointed as Reservations in early June but has now been recruited as the General Manager of Glenbervie Golf Club. We wish him well in his new role. We have an interview lined up for Sunday 27th for a replacement for Alan.
- There is an advert currently running for the part time role of Maintenance Services.
- Everyone is now starting to get to grips with their new roles with Sean & Marnie doing really well with competitions and memberships respectively. We are already planning to 2022 on how to make improvements going forward.
- **Marketing & Strategy** – As per the current report there have been several initiatives on membership marketing taking place targeting the 1st of July half year membership reduction with local, web and social media adverts running at different times. Membership numbers are 62 above the previous year and 209 beyond budget and we are still currently receiving applications.
- **Membership** – The membership joining process has been re-vamped with a new application form and welcome pack being devised. There are ‘roll up’ times booked in from the month of July going forward of a Thursday am and Tuesday pm slot.
- **Visitors & Events** – The overall projection for the year based on previous and advance bookings is now sitting £55k above budget at £311k. June is looking very good and projecting at £18k ahead of budget along with July being currently projected at £16k ahead.
- **PGA Professionals:** The PGA Professionals was a successful week with the weather, course and golf being of the highest standard. The feedback from the PGA and Players has been excellent. Thanks are expressed to all those who helped out on the week.
- **IT:** The Club’s server that holds all the information for the operation of the business is now coming to the end of its useful lifespan and is starting to show signs of failing. We are in discussions with 1Office looking at making the business Cloud based.
- The EPOS till system is also past its useful lifespan and is requiring replacement. We have a quote from intelligent Golf for upgrading the system.
- **Facilities Management:** As with the IT system there are a number of things requiring attention within the Clubhouse.:
 - The boiler had not been serviced for several years and is requiring remedial maintenance to bring it up to current legislative standards.
 - The Emergency Lighting within the Clubhouse is also requiring an overhaul and maintenance to be carried out.
 - There have been two leaks in the Gents Locker Room toilets that have led to the Disabled toilet downstairs being flooded and repairs are required.
 - The Honours Boards have been taken down and updated with 2020 but we will now wait for the 2021 winners to be added before replacement.
- **Covid Update:** Scottish Golf have released a statement on flags, bunker rake and course furniture being replaced. We will need to consider if this is something we would like to pursue.



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- Letters from Nicola Melville and Tristan Crew, both of the PGA, thanking the Club for hosting their 2021 Championship and congratulating us on the successful delivery of the event with the Lansdowne course being in excellent condition, the Clubhouse and catering looking after the players and officials and all the volunteers in their various roles.
- Email from Graeme Lundie notifying the Club of his mother's condition after a slip in the Ladies Toilets which resulted in a broken wrist. This has been handed on the Club's insurers to deal with.
- Email from member Hazel Moore highlighting that she witnessed the Captain approaching the bar to obtain drinks on Finals Day which is contrary to current guidelines for tables service. The Club Captain apologised to the Committee for this misdemeanour which was accepted.

13. A.O.C. B

- The WHS information on the courses in the member's area of the website is to be replicated on the public site.
- Sub Committees for all the relevant departments are to be convened going forward on a monthly basis.
- It was noted that the functionality of the tee time booking system to have a member's guest charging facility is not possible at this time.
- The Wee Course continues to be played without members checking in. Further solutions to this issue are to be explored.
- The Photo Presentation Frame for acknowledgement of Sir Willam Macpherson of Cluny's contribution to Club is to be progressed.
- A similar frame for Charles Dernie to mark his service to the Club is also to be arranged.
- The past Captains picture frame is to be updated along with the Committee Board in the entrance hall.
- The Title Deeds are to be collected from the previous solicitors and moved to the Club's new solicitors.
- An incident between a member and Committee member occurred on Saturday 26th June in relation to the one-way system within the Club. This is to be followed up to gain the member's version of events.
- The members that have resigned from the Club for this year have all been contacted via email and their responses are being collated. Any resigning member's email is to be removed from the system.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:	Monday 2 nd August	TIME:	18.00
CAPTAINS SIGNATURE:		DATE:	