



The Blairgowrie Golf Club

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE:	27 th September 2021
VENUE:	Club Meeting Room
MINUTES RECORDED BY:	Stuart Wilson, Managing Secretary

ATTENDEES:

James Macfarlane - Club Captain	Jamie Watson – Committee Member
Margaret Kerr – Ladies Captain & House Convener	Stuart Wilson – Managing Secretary
Colin Allison – Vice-Captain	Gill Tissell – incoming Ladies Captain
Craig Hay – Greens	
Mike Mullins – Marketing & Strategy	
Eric Lindsay - Committee Member	

APOLOGIES:

Alistair Batchen - Finance

1. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th August were approved and will be published online.

2. MATTERS ARISING:

The Action Points had been updated and circulated.

- An audit is to be made of the course furniture including signage and benches. A list of pre-approved benches is to be compiled for circulation to those who wish to donate a bench or replace a bench.
- The Member's App that accompanies the Intelligent Golf EPOS system is to be rolled out to members.
- The Perth College has been approached regarding Personal License training; other providers are to be explored.
- Discussion took place on tee time availability in respect of members and visitors. It was noted that there has been an increase in new members this year by nearly 100 full playing members. These new members are very active with their membership and the membership as a whole has increased in their members' guest ticket utilisation.
- Further discussion took place on Visitor availability and numbers, Visitor income and green fee pricing. The Visitor price for a round of golf is to be set at £120 for Rosemount, £95 for Lansdowne and £175 for a day ticket for 2022. The Wee Course is to be set at £35 for 9 holes and £50 for 18



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holes. The Members Guest Ticket is the remain the same at £20 for Rosemount and Lansdowne and £7.50 for the Wee Course.

- A proposal for a reciprocal arrangement with Royal Wellington Golf Club in New Zealand was accepted.
- It has come to light that the Club had accepted an offer previously to be a host venue for final qualifying for the 2022 British Seniors Open to be played at Gleneagles. This has been added to the booking system for the period from 12 noon on 16th to 19th July on both courses.

3. FINANCE REPORT:

The Finance Report was approved. Highlights include:

Management Accounts

August management accounts are in course of preparation at the time of this report. They are anticipated to show another profitable month for the Club.

Cash flow: -

Cashflow remained strong through September and discussions will take place over the coming weeks, ahead of the AGM, on spending plans for 2022.

Annual Accounts

The accountants are lined up to start preparing the Accounts to 30th September in mid-October.

4. MARKETING & STRATEGY REPORT

The Marketing and Strategy Report was approved. Highlights include:

- Membership numbers to be advised at Committee Meeting - at present the office are now dealing with enquiries for 2022 membership.
- In October it is planned to put adverts out on social media to say that membership is available.
- A feature on Blairgowrie GC appears in the latest edition of Bunkered stating that golf is available from £95 per round. The article, which is very complimentary, opines that "after your round, make sure to check out the clubhouse - undoubtedly one of the finest of its kind in the UK".
- The Scottish Golf Tourism Week has been moved from November 2021 to 1-3 March 2022 and will be held at the Fairmont, St. Andrews. Consequently, this event will be used to make connections which will probably generate bookings mainly for 2023.
- Paul Lawrie's Tartan Tour will be held on 28 & 29 September and Gordon Bannerman will cover this event to generate positive publicity for the club.
- A familiarisation trip will be arranged for journalists and tour operators in October.
- Advanced bookings for 2022 are looking strong at 30% budget. The Red House are responsible for a number of repeat bookings.

5. GREENS REPORT



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A meeting of the Greens Sub Committee was held with the following highlights:

- Present:
James Macfarlane, Colin Allison, Craig Hay, Brian Scott, Craig Stewart, Ross Stewart
Apologies: Stuart Wilson

(Prior to this meeting, The Captain and Vice-Captain, made a tour of all 3 courses on the 14/09 with a view to having an up-to-date picture of the relative state of each of the courses, and also to help inform us of possible winter works to be carried out. Notes were taken and written up for distribution at the meeting. The Head Greenskeepers had also produced notes of works to be discussed on each of the three courses.)

The Captain thanked all for their attendance and it was generally agreed that this meeting was well timed and a welcome reinstatement of lines of communication between the greens staff and the Committee, and timed to inform the next full Committee meeting on Mon 27th Sept.

It should also be noted that much of the discussion referred to two recent visits to the Club from

- 1) The Scottish Woodland Trust on 24/08/21 (mainly tree management and heathland care)
- 2) The R and A on 08/ 09/ 21 (mainly greens, approaches, fairway rough management)

It was agreed for the purpose of the meeting that we would work through the notes prepared by the Vice-Captain as a basis for discussion and hopefully would cover most of the points in the other three submissions.

It was encouraging to note that there was a huge amount of agreement as to what requires to be done on each of the courses. The full content of all of these notes is being held by the Managing Secretary for reference.

It is hoped to produce a fairly comprehensive schedule of works to be carried out on and around the courses during this coming winter. It is also intended to make known to the membership:
*what is to be done,
*where, and most importantly,
*WHY, (taking on board where appropriate, the advice of outside organisations as well as the thinking and experience of our own greens staff and Committee.)

This will be drawn up by the Managing Secretary and the 3 Head Green keepers BEFORE any work commences.

- It was noted that Scottish Woodland work would not commence until November 2022. However, some thinning of trees around the playing surfaces would take place this winter along with a programme of planting trees.
- The R&A have compiled an agronomy report in preparation for the events that the Club are due to be hosting in 2022. This will be followed up with a further visit in the early part of next season. The current report will be published to the members' area of the website.
- Course architects Mackenzie & Ebert, who are the R&A preferred architects, will be engaged with to consider any possible future works on the courses.
- Winter mats will be in play from the fairways on all courses from the 4th of November.



6. HOUSE REPORT

The House Report was approved. Highlights included:

- The weeds around the Clubhouse have now been removed along and a membrane has been laid in the bed at the front of the Clubhouse and covered with bark in the hope that this will solve the problem, at least in the short term.
- The Car Park has been mechanically swept but due to the late start and the arrival of golfers this was not fully completed.
- The Club holds many photographs, paintings, prints and maps that either belong to the Club or are on loan. A small sub-group will examine what is available and decide on where to display any new ones or relocate existing ones..
- Some new items have been placed on the mantelpiece along with some flower vases in the windows to try and brighten up the lounge.
- The maintenance role has been filled and as such the return of the open fire in the lounge for the winter will resume upon the role starting.
- The tables are to be replaced in the lounge, and the chairs with the lighter fabric coverings will be re-upholstered. The remainder will be scheduled for cleaning along with the carpets prior to the start of next season.
- The agreed Staff uniforms are to be worn as of the 1st of November in line with the current staff uniform allocation.
- The crescent of turf outside of the dining room is to be extended to cover the flower bed. This will still allow for spring bulbs to come through.
- The replacement of the CCTV system has been budgeted for in the next financial years figures.

7. MATCH & HANDICAP REPORT

There was no Match and Handicap report this month and the following items were raised:

- The Club Competitions continue to be fulfilled without any major issues.
- The Club Match Play events are continuing into the later stages as we near the end of the season.
- The Fixture List for 2022 is well underway to being compiled.
- The 2020 Prize Giving will take place on November 19th and the 2021 Prize Giving will take place one week later on the 26th of November.
- Discussion took place on the selection criteria for Club matches, and in particular the Kingsbarns match. It was decided that Jamie Watson would have the final decision on such matters as the Club Match Convener.

8. LADIES REPORT

- Congratulations to the winners of The Strokeplay Championships for McPherson Quaich's (Scratch and Handicap) over the two courses, as follows: -



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- Scratch – Susan Arbuckle with a gross 166 and Handicap – Sue Waddell with a net 146
- The Ladies Captain's Day was cancelled at short notice due to heavy rain which continued until the middle of the morning. 56 ladies including the Wee course ladies were to have taken part in the competition and my sincere thanks go to them as that number would have meant an excellent day – nearly half came along to enjoy complimentary coffee and cakes and a chat. Three new ladies were welcomed on the day, Moira, Margaret and Marion – it was lovely to get a chance to speak with them and good to note they were already taking part in the Ladies' competitions.
- The Mary Patterson 4BBB Stableford winners were Liz Fertacz and Ron Dow winning with 47 points with better last 3 holes – Scott and Jacqui Landsburgh were runners up also with 47 points.
- The Dorothy Farquhar 4BBB winners were Elaine Smith and Jacqui Doig – net 68; runners up were Liz Fertacz and Lorraine MacGregor – net 69.
- The Wee Course continues to see good entries for their competitions. 16 ladies played in the medal on 13th August.
- The Centenary Medal was won by Brenda Clough with the best net score.
- The Mixed Karrinyup 4BBB stableford played on 15th August was won by Murray and Mary Miller (better last 6) with 42 points and runners up Peter and Hilary Inglis also with 42 points.
- The Ladies Past Captains' Day competition took place on 17th August, played over the Wee Course/Rosemount in fine weather. The ladies all enjoyed a buffet lunch after play with Jean Laeburn winning the competition on the Wee Course and Fiona Johnston on Rosemount; Fiona won the Claret Jug trophy.
- The Millennium Trophy was won by Denise Ginley with Jacqui Doig as runner up.
- Incoming Lady Captain Gillian Tissell will be invited to attend the September Committee meeting.
- The Ladies AGM Notice is to be emailed to all full Lady members.

9. SENIORS REPORT

The Senior report was approved, highlights included:

- Matches were played against Ladybank (A) (Lost 3.5:4.5), New Club St Andrews (H) (Won 5:3), Royal Burgess (H) (Won 5.5:2.5) and Western Gables (A) (Lost 5:3). This brings the season's totals to W13, L8, H2.
- The Season ending Dinner has been postponed.

10. JUNIOR REPORT

The Junior report was approved, highlights included:

- Graeme Leggat has been continuing with the Junior Coaching Programme through to the end of the season.

11. MANAGING SECRETARY'S REPORT



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Managing Secretary Report was approved; highlights include:

Staffing:

The Maintenance role has now been filled as of 20th October.

Part time bar staff have been advertised for and interviews will be taking place this week.

Applications for the Catering Franchise close on the 30th of September. There have been several notes of interest but no firm applications to date.

Membership –

There will be marketing to advertise that we still are accepting applications for the 2022 season.

Visitors & Events –

September has proven to be a busy month for visitors and events with October's projections. Exceeding the previous year by 10% at £23.5k.

Advance bookings for 2022 Visitor Income are currently sitting at 30% of budget.

As the SGTW was cancelled for November we are to attempt to run our own Familiarisation Trip inviting Golf Tour Operators, Accommodation providers and Journalists to the Club.

We are in the process of drafting the 2022 fixture card.

IT:

The server is out of warranty and a review of the current infrastructure is underway with a view to installing a dedicated broadband line to host our systems online rather than on a server. This was approved.

Facilities Management:

- Quotes have been requested but are still to be received for the boiler house works, control panel and sewage pump.
- We now have the majority of the mechanical air extraction working throughout the Clubhouse.
- The 'render mender' is to visit to look at resurfacing the wall at the 1st tee, around the pro shop area, the entrance pillars and the chimney stack.
- Club Crested welcome mats are now in place for the entrances.
- A skip is to be ordered for a thorough clear out of the boiler room, storage areas and the flat.
- New bath sheets have been purchased for the locker rooms.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

- There was no further correspondence requiring attention.

3. A.O.C. B



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- Grateful thanks were expressed to Margaret Kerr for her time on the Committee as Lady Captain. Margaret was then co-opted for the ensuing two months until the AGM as House Convener.
- The policy on buggy use at the Club is to be formulated and communicated to buggy users at the Club.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:	Monday 1 st November 2021	TIME:	18.00
CAPTAINS SIGNATURE:		DATE:	