

Members Liaison Committee

Annual General Meeting
2.00pm Saturday 5th Nov 2022

Apologies – M. Andrews

1. Captains Report

J. Murdoch opened the 18th AGM of the MLC and welcomed all attendees. J. Murdoch then went over details from his Captain's Report noting that even in these extraordinary times as we deal with the recovery from the pandemic, war in Ukraine, rising costs and staff shortages he felt the course and club were in very good shape. He thanked J. Porteous, P. Hay and the green staff for all their efforts through a very dry summer and for all the work they are currently carrying out on the course.

J. Murdoch informed the meeting that at the end of his report was an appendix detailing progress on all the work and suggestions that had been discussed at MLC meetings. He asked the meeting to get in touch with any member of the MLC if they had suggestions that they wished to be considered for future discussion and possible implementation.

J. Murdoch then thanked all of the members of the MLC for their support and efforts through the year especially thanking E. Raistrick who had provided great support in his first year as Captain. J. Murdoch also wished to thank all the team managers especially G. Smith for his hard work with the juniors and noted their successes.

J. Murdoch went over the numerous victories from the teams and individual members during the 2022 season congratulating them all on a great year.

2. Changes to MLC

J. Murdoch informed the group that due to the lack of meetings through the pandemic a decision was taken to offer the existing members of the MLC, who were due to stand down a chance to stay on the committee for another year. J. Murdoch confirmed all were happy to stay on.

J. Murdoch then informed the group that E. Raistrick was stepping down as Past Captain and that Guy Dalziel had been asked to take on the role of Vice-Captain which he had accepted.

3. Open Floor

K. MacDonald asked about suggested works to the first tee. D. Scott said there are plans to remove part of the wall at the first tee and extend the size of the tee and at the same time level the practice green. Work to this area is part of a larger amount of work to the first hole and a final decision on the placement of the tee needs to be decided on so that it works with any changes further down the hole.

B. Sinclair asked if the grass hollows to the left of the 15th Green could be reinstated as bunkers. J. Porteous said this was being considered but it may be that only one bunker is reinstated along with a re shaping of the apron around the 15th to help with balls rolling off the green.

B. Sinclair said that the rough to the left of the 9th hole slowed down play and perhaps an idea would be to mow this area but introduce a bunker in the mound currently in the rough. J. Porteous said work was ongoing to thin out the rough but this would be considered.

A. Whitelaw asked about the purpose of the back right bunker that had been introduced at the 11th hole. J. Porteous said this was to provide a visual deterrent for longer hitters back on the fairway and to tighten up the area for any player looking to bail out right on this hole. D. Scott said this bunker was in place when the course opened and was part of the initial design of the hole.

C. Higgins asked about possible work to the 12th & 14th Holes. J. Porteous said that work to the positioning of the bunkers on the right of 14 was being looked at which would allow balls to be rolled up onto the green. The 12th hole was a bigger job with consideration being given to the mound at the front of the green, as well as the bunker and gather point front and left. D. Scott said that in Tom McKenzie's 20 year report there was a suggestion to lay a new green to the left of the existing green but the cost to lay a new green was very expensive and logistically difficult to work on without closing or shortening the hole.

C. Higgins said that golfers were gathering around the wall at the first tee and it felt dangerous and was off putting when teeing off. J. Porteous said he hoped this would be resolved with the new plans for the 1st tee area. There was then a discussion on people driving the 1st hole. Suggestion was made for signage to be put in place in addition to current planned signage for the area and the possibility of a call up hole to be implemented.

E. Raistrick said that whilst there were plans for the 1st tee area including a sign it is important that some information is displayed at the first tee currently and temporary signage should be considered.

C. Higgins & C. Lannin asked if there were any plans to control the 1st tee as there had been occasions they felt under pressure from groups waiting to tee off. D. Scott said there had been plans to recruit someone to provide some assistance to the pro team to allow them to go out on the course and marshal recruitment had proven difficult and a suitable candidate had not been found. J. Porteous said that most of the time the pro staff went out with visitors to show them the course and let them know when they were to tee off.

B. Sinclair said he felt there were still issues with bunker sand consistency. J Porteous said that the greens team would be regularly spreading sand evenly in the bunker and the renovation work would shape the bunker to allow for more consistency it was noted that players always rake from front to back but should actually try to spread the sand evenly around the area they are in. J. Porteous said that he would ask P. Hay to create information on raking properly and would look at a way circulate to members, e.g. short video, images on an update etc.

B. Sinclair said there was some concern over visitor behaviour especially some groups that were drunk. D. Scott said that there were a small number of incidents but a number of things were being implemented for the 2023 season, including a marshal on the course at busy times, new terms and conditions which were being sent out with all bookings stating that alcohol was not permitted on the course and any alcohol related behaviour would result in the player or group being asked to leave the premises also staff training which will include alcohol sales including when to stop selling. D. Scott also confirmed that the incidents that had happened were related to groups staying for one night on a package, one night packages were not being sold for the 2023 season.

A. Whitelaw said that on a few occasions he had walked off due to slow play with visitors and the group would not let him through. He suggested that the booking diary should have information on it as to who is playing so members could judge when to play. There was then a discussion about when visitors play and timings including on medal days. D. Scott said he was aware more information could be displayed on the booking system but needed to find out exactly what information is available. D. Scott also noted that bookings this year were extremely busy due to a backlog from the pandemic

and member play was up 70% at certain points through the year, but said that it is already noticeable that member play had dropped and visitor demand had also dropped for next year so the course should move more freely, he also said that if there was a marshal out on the course this would also help the course move at a good pace. Visitor play would normally be after 9.30 weekdays and 11.00am weekends. On medal days the blocked times had already been moved earlier to 11.30am at weekends and with declining numbers taking part in medals thought was required as to how to accommodate members looking to play in competitions and also look after general member play.

4. AOCB

There was no AOCB.

J. Murdoch closed the meeting.