

Members Liaison Committee

Meeting 3rd February 2020

7.00pm in the Clubhouse

1. Present

E. Raistrick, C. Lannin, I. Clark, D. Mennie, G. McGill, D. Scott, J. Porteous, J. Murdoch, R. French

Apologies

Martin Andrews, G. Smith

E. Raistrick opened the meeting and welcomed the two new members of the MLC R. French and J. Murdoch.

2. Course

J. Porteous provided a course update, confirming that work would continue on the bunker renovations. Bunkers at the 10th and 17th had been completed and would be put back in play once the bunker faces had settled and the greens staff had re-shaped the bases ready for sand to be added. J. Porteous then went on to say that staff had started to cut back the rough and that Tom McKenzie had suggested a selected herbicide to kill off the thicker grasses leaving the lighter thinner grasses. J. Porteous to look at options with Greens staff and apply this herbicide at the appropriate time.

J. Porteous added that selected areas on weaker fairways would be roped off and taken out of play. Work would be done to lighten the soil and promote better growth in these areas, if successful this would be applied to larger areas. C. Lannin mentioned that he had seen people move or go into the roped areas with trolleys etc. D. Scott said this was similar to comments made prior to the meeting by G. Smith saying that pitch marks and divots were not being repaired by people. There was a wide discussion about the issues. E. Raistrick said this was down to duty of care and all parties should do everything they could to improve the situation. D. Scott said that signage was being looked at and an info board on the 1st tee to inform of various issues might help raise awareness. J. Porteous & D. Scott to finalise plans to introduce divot bags in the coming weeks as per discussion at last years AGM.

R. French asked if the ropes at the 9th could be moved as areas were becoming muddy and worn. J. Porteous confirmed that the ropes had been moved and areas were being sanded but that he would look at this.

J. Porteous then informed the group that the coring work on the greens had worked well, however only 2 top dressings had been applied due to the fact an overseed was also applied and the weather conditions. The recent warm and wet weather has also created the need for the greens to be verti drained. J. Porteous confirmed that the verti drain would be set with no heave and so the work would be far less disruptive. A top dressing would be applied approx. 2 weeks after the work to level out the greens.

All felt that the course had performed well throughout the winter so far.

D. Scott gave a brief update on the awaited report by course architect Tom McKenzie, saying that as yet he had not had the report but general feedback had been Tom was looking for information from course raters to assess what could be done to "level" up the course rating in comparison to other courses.

There had been a query about the use of hole cutting boards, D. Scott confirmed that the units the staff used to cut holes had a steel plate on the base so there was no need for a board to be used. Comments were made that depressions were being made around the hole. D. Scott said that staff would try to be out cutting new holes long before play so that any depression would have gone. G. McGill said that it was possible given the softness of the greens just now that people leaning to pick up the ball from the hole would also create a depression, J. Porteous said this was very possible.

Pin Locator Flags – D. Scott said that previous attempts to use the flags resulted in some human errors, mis interpretation and the flags slipping due to wear. D. Scott to discuss with J. Porteous and decision made as to replacements.

3. Clubhouse

D. Scott said that he felt there had been improvements made since previous comments at the last MLC meeting about quality of breakfasts, D. Scott asked if the group felt this was the case. C. Lannin said he had noticed a number of members choosing to eat at the Filling Station (Longniddry) and felt this was reflective of a continuing issue. Others in the group said they had had breakfast rolls and said they were suitable and G. McGill said that the food served at the Larks Christmas dinner was very good. E. Raistrick suggested that the usage in the members lounge felt lower, D. Scott confirmed that he could produce a report to show the sales from members and the last time he had analysed this the usage remained steady. D. Scott to continue to monitor. D. Scott also confirmed he was due to meet with the key members of the clubhouse team and a number of items were to be discussed and finalised, including uniforms, courtyard furniture, upholstery, staff training etc.

D. Scott said he was in discussion with waste management companies to look at costs and options on dealing with waste and increasing the amount of recycling the club carries out. Details on what options are added to be circulated.

D. Scott confirmed that work to the new bedrooms was continuing well and that it was hoped the rooms would be ready at the end of May. Whilst certain jobs were being carried out upstairs we would try to use the same trades to complete work in the toilets/locker areas. The club will circulate details and dates as they are known. E. Raistrick asked if the proposed work to the shop and entrance would be carried out. D. Scott said that there were still decisions to be made on this area but it was hoped this work would be carried out in the coming weeks.

Pre Season members offers – These would be put out mid March/April to coincide with the start of the season when more members are at the club.

J. Murdoch asked if a bike stand could be installed to allow members to cycle to the club. D. Scott said he would look at options and install.

4. Events and Handicaps

Fixture list

D. Scott asked for comments on the circulated draft fixture list, after discussion it was decided that on medal days the tee would remain blocked until 12.00 (previously 13.30) this was due to a lower number of entrants. There would be no 9 hole medals due to a lack of interest. The par 3 competition would be kept as per previous years but with consideration given to perhaps more dates or a format change, all felt this was a good event. The medal winners day would have the presentation of prizes at the start of the event with a breakfast prior to tee off.

World Handicapping

D. Scott said there had been a few changes over the last few months mainly around how the club software is to deal with events and subsequently handicaps. E. Raistrick suggested a meeting prior to the roll out to go over points with members, D. Scott suggested that it would take more than this and that club staff would need to educate players for a number of weeks pre and post roll out.

Team Benefits

There was a general discussion on the various Club Team benefits, whilst there were discrepancies amongst the various teams all felt that we were reciprocating as required and there was no suggestion to change. R. French said that on behalf of the Summer and Winter league teams he thanked the club for the food and clothing provided it was much appreciated.

Winter Foursomes

After a brief discussion it was decided to change the Winter Foursomes to a Fourball.

5. AOCB

Signage

D. Scott and J. Porteous are reviewing signage on the course and around the clubhouse, new signage to be installed during first part of the season.

Online bookings

P. Whitmore had emailed about the procedure for online bookings and could the time this went live be the same as the shop opening. D. Scott confirmed that it would be hard to make the online system go live at the same time due to the demand locally at the club, on the phone and online. Issues were the system would potentially crash at weekends and there would definitely be clashes between pro shop bookings and online bookings. D. Scott said the best way forward was to keep the local booking first, then the phone and online would follow. J. Porteous said that anyone viewing the diary online and not seeing any available times should call the shop and the staff would do their best to fit the members in.

R. French suggested that with the Summer Knock out events there could be an entry fee, there was a feeling members entered these events then forgot about them, the entry fee may mean those that enter are more engaged with the event. D. Scott to action for this season.

Subscriptions 2020

D. Scott had circulated the subscription rates for the new season prior to the meeting, all but the junior and South Links Junior had seen increases. D. Scott said the changes were due to increased costs in a number of areas including National Minimum Wage, fuel, treatments and energy. D Mennie asked if an explanation of the increase could be included with the Sub run, D. Scott confirmed it would be.

Dates of next meetings:

Mon 4th May 7.00pm
Mon 24th Aug 7.00pm
Sat 7th Nov 2.00pm
AGM 7th Nov 3.00pm

Meeting closed.

