

Members Liaison Committee

Meeting 6th December 2021

7.00pm in the Clubhouse

1. Present

J. Murdoch, E. Raistrick, C. Lannin, R. French, D. Mennie, G. Dalziel, D. Scott, J. Porteous, M. Andrews

Apologies

I. Clark

J. Murdoch opened the meeting and welcomed everyone thanking those MLC members agreeing to stay on the committee and welcomed G. Dalziel as a new member. J. Murdoch explained that this was an extra meeting to the normal schedule to finalize a few points relating to events and to go over outstanding points from the AGM.

2. Course

J. Murdoch handed over to D. Scott to provide a brief update on the course. D. Scott said that work on the 11th and 17th holes had begun and confirmed the ponds to the right of the 11th hole and to the right of the 12th hole had been cleared which would allow for a better understanding of the drainage required in front of the 11th Green so that work could progress to fill in the ditch and create bunkering. D. Mennie asked if there was a sketch or plan to look at, D. Scott said he would circulate to the MLC and once final plans were in place the plans would be circulated to the wider membership. J. Porteous said that work had started to remove the trees at the back of the 17th green, there had been some delays with the high winds.

D. Scott confirmed that many of the winter maintenance jobs were also well underway, this included bunker refacing and base lifting, verti draining and some tees would be flattened out where mowing had caused uneven surfaces. It was noted that the suggestion to make some of the back tees larger was still being considered but would not be completed this year.

J. Porteous said that there are plans to increase the size of the short game green.

J. Murdoch asked about the use of the divot bags. J. Porteous confirmed that the bags were in the sheds and once the green staff had looked at suitable refilling stations around the course these would be trialed. D. Scott said that he would liaise with Paul Hay to work out how a volunteer divot seeding day could work and details would be circulated.

E. Raistrick asked about signage. J. Porteous said there was a full review around the site and orders for replacement and new signage would be made in the new year. There was a discussion about new bins to look after recycling. The new bins and logistics of dealing with recycled material being looked at as part of a wider environmental survey to hopefully attain a GEO certificate.

E. Raistrick asked about the local rules that were brought in with Covid-19. J. Porteous confirmed that these were still in place and would remain until the governing body requested they be removed. There was a suggestion to remind members that these are still in place.

3. Clubhouse

D. Scott informed the group that the Head Chef, John Burns had decided to leave. D. Scott noted his thanks for all his work over the last number of years. D. Scott confirmed that a recruitment process was underway to find a new Head Chef. D. Scott added that Nick Andrews one of the more senior clubhouse staff had decided to leave but confirmed there are enough members of staff to cover the winter period. D. Scott also reminded the group about the current problems with recruitment, but said there would be an increased effort to build the team up for the 2022 season.

D. Scott said that work was underway on some of the maintenance jobs within the clubhouse with some carpeting and paint jobs current. Quotes were being sought for furniture and other items in need of repair and replacement with details to follow.

D. Scott informed the group that further to comments made at the AGM regarding food costs he had asked V. Torquemada to look at ingredient costs and options to purchase the same for less cost or better for the same price then to look at menu choices and retail costs, especially related to hot morning rolls. D. Scott said he had looked at other venue costs and noted that the figure mentioned in the AGM (£4.25 for a morning roll) was not the members price it was £3.82. This cost was not the cheapest but was certainly not the most expensive. D. Scott also noted that many member clubs subsidize the F&B departments. New menu to be circulated in the new year.

4. Events and Handicaps

D. Scott had circulated the revised draft fixture list with all meetings now set as two rounds and the addition of one Sweep day (name may be changed) per month. It was decided to trial the Sweep days and the event would be a non-counting round for handicap, tees used would vary at each event and there would be Scratch & Handicap Sweeps. Members could decide to play in the sweep or not and a group could be made up of those competing and some not, fourballs are allowed. Anyone wishing to make the score count for handicap would simply register this prior to play. Email to be circulated to members providing final details of the event.

D. Scott informed the group that J. Burgess had spoken with himself and J. Porteous recently about an update on the tees to be used in the championship by male and female competitors. Advice has been sought from the R&A, with no advice available prior to the meeting the MLC would require advice before making any final decision.

5. Members Communication

E. Raistrick asked for an update on the integration of social media on the website. D. Scott confirmed he had spoken with the web developer and most of the plan was possible and it would be hoped he could implement early in the new year.

6. MLC

J. Murdoch informed the MLC that some meetings had taken place between himself, E. Raistrick, D. Scott and J. Porteous during Covid. Items from previous meetings, AGM and these smaller meetings had been entered into an MLC management schedule. It was J. Murdoch's plan to summarize the schedule and provide updates to the MLC periodically so that progress can be charted.

7. AOCB

E. Raistrick asked about the on course toilet beside the 4th Fairway, D. Scott said he was aware it needed repair work and would arrange this asap. E. Raistrick asked for the entrance to be roped off in the meantime. D. Scott noted that Craigiellaw are to assist in the repair work to the toilet facilities on Kilspindie at the 12th Tee. D. Scott also noted the comments made in the last members update

about players urinating close to the households around the course. Staff would look to deal with any issue raised and reiterated that this behavior would not be tolerated.

D. Scott circulated the 2022 subscription fees for information. D. Scott noted that most categories now had a wait list with the full membership being the longest wait of approx. 4 years, a joining fee was also being introduced for the main categories.

J. Murdoch closed the meeting.