

Members Liaison Committee

Meeting 8th May 2023
7.00pm in the Clubhouse

1. Present

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

Apologies

M. Andrews

J. Murdoch opened the meeting.

2. Course

J. Porteous gave an update on the course. It was noted that the areas worked on at the 11th and 14th were now complete, however both areas now required some growth.

J. Porteous went on to say that fertiliser had been applied to the site and an overseed to the greens had also been carried out. All commented that the grass coverage on the course was very good and far better than in previous years. J. Porteous confirmed that cutting heights had now been lowered which should now start to create some definition but heights were still not at summer levels.

C. Lannin said he had had comments from some members saying that balls had been caught in the faces of bunkers. J. Porteous said that the green staff were in the process of mowing the faces of the bunkers and also there would be a regular regime of distributing the sand evenly in the bunkers.

C. Lannin said he felt the green speeds had slowed down recently. J. Porteous said that feed had been applied to the greens and with warmer temperatures growth had increased and staff would respond with more regular cutting and rolling.

D. Mennie raised four points passed on by members, the bench at the 8th hole was in need of painting. D. Scott said this would be painted and was on a list of work to be completed by our painter. Secondly would there be steps into the deeper bunkers, J. Porteous said that the objective would be to shallow out the bunker depths when work was being carried out on the faces but if this was not possible steps would be considered. The third point was if there were any plans to increase the number of ball washers on the course. D. Scott said he would look at the spread of the current washers and consider if more are required. Lastly D. Mennie asked if there was merit in making Ground Under Repair area to the left of the 11th hole a bunker. J. Porteous would monitor the area and if the area did not grow in as intended then consideration would be given to make it a bunker.

E. Raistrick said that on some holes the colour of the flags were hard to see. J. Porteous said he would look at the colours but there was a need to avoid the same colours that Kilspindie use.

I. Clark asked if there could be a system for using different colours to indicate the position the hole is in on the green e.g. front, middle or back. J. Porteous said this would be difficult for the green staff to deal with but he would ask Paul Hay if there was merit in adding small indicator flags to the flagstick.

E. Raistrick also asked for a sign to show where the 1st tee was prior to the larger planned signage. D. Scott to order from signage company.

D. Mennie asked if the course would be monitored for slow play. J. Porteous said the pro shop team do currently track round and 9 hole times and would respond to anyone calling from the course, J. Porteous confirmed that a seasonal marshall had been employed and there would be a more active presence on the course.

E. Raistrick asked if the plans to improve the toilets at the 11th hole had been decided on by Kilspindie. D. Scott said that Craighelaw were still happy to contribute to the cost of improving the facilities but he had had no indication of timescales to carry out the work. It was also noted that a defibrillator which was co funded by Craighelaw and Kilspindie had now been installed at the toilet block.

D. Mennie asked about definition between the fairway and 1st cut of rough. J. Porteous said this would come in as growth increased. On the subject of definition E. Raistrick commented that the run off areas on the greens were looking good and a welcome addition.

3. Clubhouse

D. Scott said that the clubhouse and kitchen departments had a suitable amount of staff at the moment, but it was still proving difficult to recruit staff for other positions.

E. Raistrick asked for the wearing of name badges to be considered again. D. Scott to ask V. Torquemada and if staff agree then badges to be ordered.

D. Scott confirmed that the refurbishment of the gents locker area was to be completed w/c 15th May there had been some delays on the delivery of materials. Other toilets are to be completed when business allows. The new flooring in the members lounge and restaurant was welcomed, D. Scott said that the rooms were not finished yet with lighting and furniture to follow but with costs rising of products and materials there would be a delay in completing these areas.

4. Events and Handicaps

Competition Winners Event – there was a wide discussion on this event. It was decided that the event should go ahead as per previous years with the arrival breakfast and presentation to be given more emphasis.

US Kids European Championship – D. Scott reported that all was in place for the event. Final tee times etc were pending which would allow final rotas for volunteers to be created and sent out.

Scottish Open Volunteers – I. Clark updated the group on progress on Craighelaw volunteers at the Scottish Open. I. Clark had been in communication with A. Culverwell at Renaissance re shift patterns there was some hope that those members that could only do a few shifts might be allowed to take part. Final details to follow once all interested members had registered.

I. Clark asked if the club had seen handicaps rise through WHS especially with new members gaining first handicaps. J. Porteous said that it seemed to be the opposite with those attaining a handicap for the first time actually being given a handicap 2 shots better than the scores handed in. D. Scott confirmed that he had not seen anything untoward but would monitor the situation.

Senior Championship – D. Mennie had been asked by a member to raise the subject of the Senior Championship again. There was a wide discussion on the merits of the event and whether it fitted in with the original ethos of the club. C. Lannin pointed out that we already had sections in the Summer knock outs. D. Scott said it would be difficult to add this into the current Championship

event this year. Decision to be made at the next MLC meeting. MLC members to discuss the event with other members and feedback.

E. Raistrick asked if any progress had been made in the ability for the club to email out the fixture list so that events went straight into individual online and phone diaries. D. Scott said that events were now on How Did I Do, G. Dalziel said there was a way to do this and he would liaise with D. Scott to explain.

Outstanding Points from previous meetings

Honours board to be created and displayed in clubhouse.

Mens Team Trophies to be placed on display in members Lounge

Display Cabinet to be considered for main lounge with trophies and artefacts from Wemyss & March Estate.

Link to video or images on how best to repair pitch marks to be added to members update.

5. Members Communication

D. Scott said that he was not able to put up and merge the Social Media accounts on the members information page of the web site. D. Scott confirmed that the bulk emails were still the best way to communicate with members and this would continue through members updates.

D. Scott said that a review of the web site was underway and some changes would be made. E. Raistrick asked for the Covid banner to be removed and the main news page. D. Scott to add this to the list of changes/amendments.

6. MLC

Constitution amendments

D. Scott had previously circulated additional amendments to the current constitution including an additional clause relating to the formation of groups at Craighielaw. D. Scott thanked D. Mennie for his time to date reviewing the constitution and asked the group to look through the documents again and pass any comments or issues to D. Scott for final consideration. D. Mennie highlighted points relating to the appointment of MLC members and the role of the MLC as key points to focus on.

7. AOCB

I. Clark commented that the tee sheets ahead seemed to still have bookings in place in the mornings, he asked if these were visitor bookings and if so why they were there. D. Scott said that the bookings were unlikely to be visitors but would be organised groups of members block booking slots in the diary. There was a discussion on the merits of this. D. Scott said that the new section of the constitution on groups was to clarify the booking rights of groups and how individual members can attain a tee time. D. Scott also noted that groups that play at the weekend in more sought after times simply booked tee times 7 days in advance and they had not found any issues in getting the times albeit with the pro shop team helping with additional times occasionally.

E. Raistrick asked if an exit sign could be placed in the car park at the exit and a no exit sign placed to stop people leaving the wrong way. D. Scott to arrange.

J. Murdoch closed the meeting.

Future meeting dates

Mon Aug 28th 7.00pm

Sat Nov 4th 1.00pm

Sat Nov 4th 2.00pm AGM