

Members Liaison Committee

Meeting 14th September 2019

7.00pm in the Clubhouse

1. Present

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

Apologies

Martin Andrews, Duncan Thomson, G. Smith

DS informed the group that Hector MacLean had decided to stand down from the MLC. DS thanked him for his time on the MLC especially for his time as Captain.

The Group welcomed Assistant Manager Jonathan Porteous to the MLC.

2. Course

DS said that the course had been performing well through the summer months and definition and condition were good. Feedback had been good from members, visitors and the Tour (players and officials). There were two points of interest, 1. Green speeds – DS said that there was now regular testing of the green speeds and there was a goal to try and keep speeds between 9-10 on the stimp meter. Speeds would have to slow down if the staff were applying a treatment to the greens and also as the course runs into the winter period. 2. Bunkers – DS confirmed the use of rollers on the surrounds of the bunkers to compact the sand, JP confirmed that there had been a number of positive comments from members about this new regime.

DS informed the group of a recent visit from our Course Agronomist, from the visit staff have been strongly advised to hollow core the greens in the coming weeks. DS handed over to JP to explain the details. Some of the greens (approx. 50%) have been hit with disease which has come from the surface layer retaining moisture and given the play on the course during wet conditions this has caused compaction and the water retention, thus in turn causing disease. Failure to carry out the coring would cause the disease to persist and mean more expensive treatments to keep the disease at bay. The plan is to apply a fertilizer in September then a Fungicide before coring. After the coring is finished staff would then topdress and oversee the greens filling in the holes. JP informed the group that this job had not been carried out for 5 years and the advice was clear. All felt that the work was necessary, the group asked for members to be suitably informed. DS said that members and visitors would be notified. The work is planned for the week commencing the 7th Oct.

I. Clark asked if the rough at the first hole was to be cut back especially just off the tee. JP confirmed that the rough was being cut back throughout the site.

E. Raistrick commented that the pathway onto the first fairway could be neater and asked if the ropes were being put back on the 5th and 8th. JP to have a look at the pathway at the first and also confirmed that the ropes were being put back (ropes had been removed for the Seniors event). DS reminded the group that in the coming weeks roped off areas would be introduced again to control traffic through the winter months. There was then a discussion about other areas that may benefit from permanent roping off e.g. left side of 14. JP to consider.

I. Clark asked if the blue bins would be replaced this year. DS confirmed that quotes had already been provided and bins would be replaced in the New Year.

3. Clubhouse

DS said there was a lot of general maintenance to carry out over the off season this included, Painting, carpet shampoo or replacing etc but also legal requirements, PAT testing, Hard Wire Testing, ventilation cleaning. In addition quotes are being considered to renew the toilet and shower areas of the club, DS to advise on work schedule and plan.

4. Events and Handicaps

DS confirmed that JP had produced a draft fixture list for 2020. Work would be done over the coming weeks to add in matches and also to ensure larger events do not clash with large external events e.g. Scottish Open. DS confirmed that the Championship Qualifying was now over 2 rounds and the handicap split between sections was 9 and under for A and 10 and over for B (this is based on the handicap before teeing off in the first round).

Scottish Seniors Open

DS said that he still did not have confirmation if the event was to return in 2020. Details on sponsorship of the event were still to be confirmed he will advise asap.

Shotgun Events

DS reported that entries to the last couple of shotgun events went well and there were no wait lists the advice is to keep the events as is just now and pro shop staff can monitor entries to events and can always add in more "B" holes if required. All agreed this was the best way forward.

World Handicapping

DS said there had been no real movement on the world handicapping. He was under the impression that software suppliers had a conference to attend soon so they could learn about the requirements of the new system to allow for new software to be written. It was thought that the system would not be rolled out until November 2020.

Inter Club Matches

G. McGill updated the group on a meeting held between himself and Kilspindie (a new member to the matches). There was concern over the original purpose of the events (a match made up of Captains and committee members) and the current position. GM had asked the other clubs for feedback with a general theme coming back stating a lack of numbers to compete on the days and times the matches are to be played. After a debate the group decided to stop the matches for next year and bring in the Captains Golf & Dinner annually (previously a biannual event). GM to contact the other clubs to inform of decision.

5. AOCB

Volunteers

DS thanked all the volunteers who had given up time to help at the US. Kids, Scottish Open, Ladies Scottish Open and Scottish Senior Open through 2019. He also thanked John Murdoch and Martin Souness for all their efforts through the year co-ordinating all of the Craighielaw volunteers.

Date of Next Meeting Saturday 9th November 1.00pm followed by AGM

Meeting closed.