

CRAIGIELAW GOLF CLUB

MEMBERS LIAISON COMMITTEE

SATURDAY 2 September 2017

Present: Duncan Thomson, Derek Scott, Sylvia Mclean, Chris Lannin and Hector MacLean.
Apologies: Gordon Smith, Martin Andrews, Iain Clark and Iain Smith.

1. Approval of the minutes:

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Club Update:

a) The Course:

- Derek said that comments about the course from members and visitors alike have remained very positive. The agronomist, in his recent visit, was pleased with the general condition of the course.
- The Agronomist's visit (1): A discussion on the 'clover issue' led to a change in the treatment methods. The current method (spraying) was not penetrating to the root system so the issue was simply checked for a time. A new treatment (to be used once per annum) was recommended and this treatment is more aggressive and should enter the root system too. This application would go down in the next couple of weeks (weather permitting) and would be followed by a programme of over-seeding as required. The clover issue may never be totally eradicated but should be controlled more effectively with this new treatment.
- The agronomist's visit (2): a programme of spiking and verti-draining would be carried out across the course and top dressing applied as required. The agronomist did not see the need for coring over the winter months. However, there were areas of 'weakness' on the course and these would become more evident as the course continues to improve. Once these local areas have been identified, there may be a programme of coring + soil exchange implemented in these areas. The micro-management of these areas is more effective and cheaper too.
- Bunkers: A programme of bunker work is underway and this includes: faces, shallowing and sand replacement.
- Irrigation system: One of the borehole pumps (alongside the 18th fairway) has failed. This will be removed and replaced with no impact on the 18th hole. However, an investigation on the second pump (on the 1st fairway) indicated that it too would need to be replaced. The removal and replacement of this pump will require mechanical assistance so there will be a few days where play will be disrupted on the 1st hole - it may be that, for a short time, it becomes a par 3. Members will be advised as and when there is any impact on the golf course.
- Machinery: A programme of servicing/maintenance will be carried out over the winter months.
- It was noted that the South Links (Par 3 Course) was in excellent condition although there had been an incident or two where vandalism had occurred. This had been dealt with promptly and effectively by the groundstaff.
- The putting green: There is a desire to re-sculpt and re-lay this area but this would involve a major outlay (cost). There are also 'environmental' issues (trees and water table) that make it a complex task. (If there are any works required after the appeal to SGU on the SSS and work is required on the reshaping of a green or two on the main course, then this might be the best time to do work on the practice putting green.)

b) The Clubhouse:

- There have been many changes in the front of house and kitchen staff over the Summer. Ann and John were working hard to ensure that the right staff were recruited to allow for the continuation of the excellent service provided to members and guests alike.
- Derek reiterated that the focus of the clubhouse would continue to be for the benefit of members and that Ann was working hard to ensure that the new staff all received the best of training in dealing with customers.

- MLC voiced the opinion that there have been a lot of positive comments about the changes/innovations introduced by Ann and John.

c) The Lodge:

- Derek said that the Lodge had been very busy over the Summer.
- Shirley was doing an excellent job in Reception and Derek said that there was a good team of housekeepers working in the Lodge.
- Some busy weekends coming up as wedding receptions were due to be held in the clubhouse plus guests using the Lodge facilities.

d) Catering:

- Derek stated that Ann and John intend to vary the menus in the clubhouse on a regular basis.
- He added that the Christmas Menu had been prepared.

3. Update on the 'discipline issue':

- Derek had spoken with Member A regarding two issues: the incorrect signing of a scorecard and the non-appearance for the Club Championships. Member A has accepted the club's sanctions for these two offences. Derek stated that some members had agreed to discuss these issues and wider concerns with Member A.
- Duncan thanked Derek for his efficient handling of this matter.
- The MLC unanimously asked Derek to contact those responsible for selection of teams for external matches and ask them not to select Member A in the meantime (issues such as team unity and the good reputation of the club were cited as reasons for this decision).

4. CGC Constitution:

- Duncan's proposed amendments to the CGC Constitution were accepted. Derek to review the proposed changes and check that there were no hidden issues in the changes.

5. SGU/CONGU Updates:

- Evidence/comments/opinions have been collected and submitted to SGU in support of the club's appeal of the SSS. We await a decision from SGU.
- Depending on the feedback from SGU, there may be a requirement for some course 'adjustments' (for example: lengthening the course, removal or addition of bunkers, the greens, etc).

6. Planned closure of course/clubhouse:

None were planned (see Item 3: Course - irrigation).

7. Captain's Invitational:

- 10 guests have confirmed their participation in this event.
- Some overseas clubs are exploring whether there is a member in the UK at that time and is available to play.
- Duncan will circulate MLC to get confirmation of their availability (or not).
- Format:
 - 1.30: Meet for coffee and 'team selection'
 - 2.00: Tee off
 - Post-golf: a meal in the clubhouse (informal attire)

8. Action Log Items:

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| a) | Library in Members' Lounge: | More books have been added to those donated by Lionel Freedman (from Derek Scott and the Estate). These would all be 'on display' for the World Hickory Championships being held on 1/10/17 at KGC (golf) and CGC (accommodation). |
| b) | The 'rogues' gallery in the ML: | A lot of photos have been donated/collected for this and Derek is taking this forward. |
| c) | The pond on the 13th hole: | A ladder option was being reviewed (to allow for certainty that a ball has entered the hazard). A final |

- decision on this was yet to be made.
- d) 11th Fairway: The ditch 'design' in front of the 11th green was still under review. Various options were being considered and a decision would be made soon.
- e) Junior tab on the website: This does exist and Derek was hopeful that ownership for updating and providing information for this area of the website could be resolved.
- f) Junior competitions on the website: This is on-going (see item 8d).
- g) Marker posts in the rough: Derek would discuss this issue with Jonathan and Brian and consideration would be given to which holes would benefit most from this addition and then acted on.
- h) The proposed post of Junior Convenor: Derek indicated that there would be a meeting at the end of the current season to examine the Junior programme as it exists and review areas of strength/weakness.
- i) The old starter's hut: This has been removed and is 'in storage' elsewhere on the Estate.
- j) Para Buggies: Gordon Smith has made a suggestion regarding creating a storage facility for these buggies. In the meantime, there is a continued discussion on items such as insurance and who is responsible for the maintenance of the machines, including making the adjustments necessary to suit different users. There was a suggestion that the machines might be used in other sports.
- k) News from the Lothian working party on junior golf: This is 'in progress'.
- l) The distribution of 'old' medals at forthcoming events: No action to be taken in this matter at the moment. (Costs involved in removing engravings already made.) There is to be further discussion on the format of the Medal Winners Day (AL #41 and #41a).
- m) Distribution of membership tags: Derek stated that there were no extra costs to postage if they were included in the 'large' envelop. Members to pick up their tags when they pay their subscriptions could be an option.
- n) Older gorse bushes are still staked: Jonathan and Brian will look at this and will remove all unnecessary stakes.
- o) Paths in weak/heavy use areas: This will be monitored but traffic management over the winter has reduced the areas where this might be considered.
- p) Consideration of the introduction of new trophies/prizes: Derek said that the Estate has agreed to put some money towards a trophy/prize (plus there is the Wishart legacy). A review of the proposed fixtures/competitions within the club would be available to MLC at the next meeting.
- q) New pitching area/practice ground: An area has been created on the range to allow for small numbers to practice but was not 'officially open' yet.
- r) A 'jar' at the bar to collect loose change for charity/junior section: There was a discussion on possibly rounding off bills to 0p or 5p and it was agreed that the possibility of collecting loose change be explored with Derek and Ann.
- s) TIP posts in general play: Jonathan would consult with Brian and the white tees would be placed as close to the medal posts as possible (some medal tees are small and would not take 'heavy use').
- t) Green speeds measured (and published): The greenstaff do measure green speeds (fortnightly or monthly according to the season). Derek would collect the information from the greenstaff and collate the readings for MLC (to be included in the Newsletter?).

- u) Items 'closed'/'completed' or dealt with as a separate item: #2, #14, #32, #63, #41, #41a, #78, #79, #84, #85 and #87.

9. AOCB:

- a) The clock on the first tee:

Derek is aware of the issue regarding the malfunction of the clock on the first tee and he stated that a new battery would be installed.

10. Date of next meeting:

Saturday 11 November at 12 noon (to be followed by the MLC AGM at 2pm).