

# CRAIGIELAW GOLF CLUB

## MEMBERS LIAISON COMMITTEE

MONDAY 12 June 2017

**Present:** Duncan Thomson, Derek Scott, Sylvia Mclean, Iain Clark, Iain Smith, and Hector MacLean

**Apologies:** Gordon Smith, Martin Andrews and Chris Lannin

### 1. Approval of the minutes:

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### 2. Club Update:

#### a) The Course:

- Derek reported that, in the main, comments regarding the course remained 'positive'.
- He stated that the months of April and May had been very dry and this had posed challenges to the greenstaff. However, there was 'good coverage' on the greens and surrounds. (Very heavy rain last week had led to the course being closed for 48 hours.)
- 'Course grooming' (eg fairway shapes, cutting back the rough, bunker faces, etc) was 'on-going'.
- Derek asked for any feedback on the course, from members or visitors, to be forwarded to himself or Jonathan.
- Weed control (clover and ragwort) was well under way. The fairways had been sprayed and the semi-rough had been cut in preparation for spraying (clover in these areas had been tipped). This treatment is very expensive so for maximum effect the greenstaff wait until they get close to ideal conditions for the spray to work. A better way of dealing with the clover (or its eradication) was being sought.
- Derek reported that the greens will be hand-cut and rolled more frequently during the summer to improve 'roll' and 'speed'.
- There were comments about the poor condition of the bunkers. This included: faces with too much grass; faces with uneven surfaces so balls get stuck; compacted sand; and, steps into the bunkers. Derek stated that a programme of regular cutting of and repair to bunker faces was in place.
- There was a general consensus that the condition of the course was far stronger now than 4 to 5 years ago and that work was on-going to maintain this and make yet more improvements.

#### b) The Clubhouse:

- Derek reported that Ann Burns had replaced John Cleary and that John Burns had replaced John Horsey.
- Changes were already in place with regards to menu alterations (taking into account members' views) and on the quality of the product offered (eg coffee). Indeed, any suggestions on menus, etc from members should be fed to Ann (or Derek).
- Derek stated that Clark Johnstone was leaving to take up employment in a field more akin to his university course. Clark had been a popular member of staff with members and visitors. The MLC passed on their thanks to Clark for his contribution. His replacement would be announced soon.

#### c) The Lodge:

- Shirley had taken on the responsibility for The Lodge.
- Reviews for The Lodge remain positive and the up-take of rooms remains strong.

### 3. Captains Invitational Event:

- Invites were ready to go out to: clubs who invite us to their dinner; clubs in the immediate area; clubs with whom we play matches (at all levels); LGC, HoCEG, Archerfield, The Renaissance; and, overseas clubs with whom we have reciprocal arrangements. Invites would go to the Captain (or their representative) and, where appropriate, the lady section captains of the clubs.
- 15 September was the agreed date.

- 1.30: Coffee; 2.00: Tee off and dinner to follow.

#### 4. CGC Appeal for Amendment to SSS Rating:

- Derek reported that the SSS rating for the front nine had been completed. White: 70\*, Blue 68\* and Red 70\*. (\* The rating assumes a level stableford score for remaining nine holes.)
- This means that shots would be allocated at different holes on the front nine when playing a nine-hole event and the course was now 'tougher' over the shorter event. Derek would look at producing a new scorecard, or amending the existing one, to reflect these changes.
- The 18-hole SSS remained unchanged.
- The feeling is that the SSS rating is a reflection of yardage played but does not take into account any 'design concepts' of the course (these include: run-offs, aprons, green topography, pin positions, bunkers, etc). Therefore it is the club's intention to appeal the rating.
- The club had control over some elements (eg pin positions) but any other changes (eg movement forward of tees) required permission/dispensation from SGU (if changes >300yds).
- Derek stated that the average net score year-on-year was fairly static (c81) since the course opened so average scores alone cannot be the sole basis of the appeal. Therefore, Derek was looking for members' views to add to his statistical evidence in the appeal.
- He stated that the club could alter bunkers and/or remove them (some had already been removed or made smaller around the course).
- He stated that if the appeal was unsuccessful then the club would look at other options (eg a new set of tees - a cost to the club - or, more likely, getting a rating that allowed a mixture of tees in a competition).

#### 5. Medal Sweeps:

- Member feedback was that sweep money should be maintained as it stands.
- There had been no feedback from the member who had raised the issue to Derek's measured reply after consultation with MLC.
- There was a discussion on trophies, entry fees, continuing the sweep, etc and it was decided that the Sweep should continue to operate as it does at the moment.
- Trophies could be allocated to events where it was thought to be appropriate or when they became available. Derek mentioned the possibility of a trophy in the memory of Jimmy Wishart and he said he would approach the Wemyss Estate for another one.
- It was decided that this would merit further discussion and would be added to the Action Log.

#### 6. AOCB:

- a) Derek reported that Scott Gillies was moving to take up an assistant's post at NBGC. This was a good opportunity for Scott and it would allow him to concentrate more on his playing career. The MLC passed on their thanks to Scott for his contribution to the club.
- b) Would the mid-week medal that was cancelled last week (course closed) be re-scheduled? Derek said he would look to see if that was possible.

#### 7. Date of the next meeting:

2pm on Saturday 2 September, 2017 at CGC.