

## Members Management Group

### Meeting Minutes

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

In attendance: G. Dalziel, J. Murdoch, C. Lumsdaine, D. Scott, J. Porteous

Apologies:

#### 1. Course Update

D. Scott noted that the extremely wet weather over the last few weeks had increased wear on the course in many areas, it had also delayed the work to finish jobs on holes, 11, 12 & 15. It was confirmed that the slope to the back of the 15<sup>th</sup> green would not be worked this winter but would remain on the list of jobs to be completed at a later date. Bunker repair work had also been affected and there was a chance the planned number of bunkers to be repaired would not be met. D. Scott did confirm that the green staff had managed to treat the rough late Autumn which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> treatment of a 5 year programme to thin out the rough.

J. Porteous said that roped areas would continue to be monitored and moved and the priority at the moment was to protect vulnerable areas as much as possible. A local rule is in place to designate no play zones details of this rule are on the notice board and at the desk in the pro shop.

G. Dalziel pointed out that he had witnessed players taking trolleys between the roped area at the side of the 12<sup>th</sup> green and the green causing a bit of wear. J. Porteous to look at this and move ropes if necessary.

D. Scott said that work was currently underway to locate an old field drain that seemed to connect the area around the 11<sup>th</sup> green to the beach around the 4<sup>th</sup> green at Kilspindie. If found then drainage could be connected to this to improve the drainage in this area. A second pump was also to be bought for this area, D. Scott said greenstaff also now had a mobile pump which could be used temporarily in this area and also to drain bunkers around the course. There is also a plan to create a soakaway if the drainage line cannot be found.

J. Murdoch asked if there were any plans to put in plastic egg box paths which protect the ground but allow grass to grow through the material. J. Porteous said there would be an attempt to keep as much grass paths as possible with the right grass type some traffic management and an acceptance that some areas will need to be returfed regularly this should be possible.

J. Murdoch asked if there were any plans to add in more seating, there was a discussion on existing seating locations and it was noted that when replacing course furniture especially bins there was scope to purchase benches with bins attached and these could provide more seating around the site. Decision to be made on number and locations.

All felt that even with the very wet weather the course was in reasonable condition and it was noted that some of the group had played other courses recently and Craighelaw was drier than many other courses.

#### 2. Members Feedback Survey

D. Scott reported that there had been 18 replies to the request for feedback via the survey sent out in November 23. It was noted that whilst the number of responses was less than 3% of the total membership and perhaps was not reflective of the wider memberships thoughts, this was a higher rate of feedback than would have been found at the MLC AGM. All feedback has been collated onto one report and is included at the end of these minutes. D. Scott said that none of the comments were a surprise and all points would be added to the agenda for future MMG meetings.

G. Dalziel asked if future surveys would be online and would simply rate various areas of the club operation. D. Scott said this was up for debate but that this years survey was to replace the open floor at the MLC AGM, hence the format of the survey.

Bunkers – Bunkers were a common point raised in the survey highlighting condition, amount of sand etc. D. Scott said that a survey was to be done on every bunker on the course and information passed to green staff to address any issues – NOTE some actions would take longer than others to complete. The survey would be followed up with regular assessments and again passed to green staff. J. Porteous also noted that as repair work was being carried out to a bunker, work was also being carried out to shallow out the bunker making the bunker a little less difficult to play from.

G. Dalziel noted the rough on the course was also mentioned in the survey. J. Porteous said that as discussed in previous MLC meetings there is a programme underway to lighten out the rough, however the warm and wet weather of last summer did mean that some areas of rough were very lush and thick. Attempts would be made in these circumstances to “cut out” these areas or to widen out the fairway and semi rough widths if the weather dictated so.

D. Scott to summarise the survey into key discussion points for future meetings.

### 3. Booking System

D. Scott said that the club had been trialling new management software to take over from the existing system which was going to reach a point of not being supported in the near future. The existing software looks after all aspects of the club operation and a replacement would be needed to do the same. Such an all encompassing system would handle a lot of the operation but would inevitably not “specialise” in one part including bookings. D. Scott is enquiring if the booking diary format can be changed to provide more information to members but the ultimate decision to move would not be made solely on this but on how the system handles all parts of the operation.

### 4. 2024 Subscriptions

D. Scott noted that whilst the subscription rates had not been finalised but there was to be an increase to the membership rates to cover considerable increases in operating costs. D. Scott discussed some of the increases to costs including rates, energy and increases to the national minimum wage, some costs had risen 30-40% over the last year alone. D. Scott said every effort was being made to minimise or reduce these increases with reviews being undertaken on renewable energy installation and grants, appeals on rates and reviewing purchasing, energy contracts etc. but it was inevitable subscription rates would have to go up to cover the increases. D. Scott said that visitor green fee prices were also being increased to £150 at peak times.

D. Scott also noted that currently there were 212 full members and this number would likely rise to 225 for the upcoming season.

After the meeting the Subscription rates were finalised details below:

Full	£1,650
5 day	£1,050
Country	£820
Overseas	£620
Junior	£120
YA1	£660
YA2	£1,155
SLA	£289

#### 5. Fixture list 2024

The draft fixture list was circulated to the group and D. Scott asked for any issues or comments to be passed to him. D. Scott asked G. Dalziel for information on how to set up a calendar download so fixtures could be inputted into an online diary. G. Dalziel to provide details.

#### 6. MLC

Prior to the Christmas break there was to be a planned meeting of the MLC which would close down the MLC. Unfortunately due to illness within the group this meeting did not go ahead. Given the MMG was now having it's first meeting it was decided that hosting the MLC meeting was not necessary but there is to be an event, when the weather improves, where all past members of the MLC and possibly team managers are invited to play golf followed by a lunch/dinner. D. Scott to look at dates and circulate invites.

#### 7. AOCB

J. Porteous informed the group that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> April the way course handicaps are calculated would change. New tables for course handicap calculations would be circulated prior to this change and details of the change would be circulated to members.

G. Dalziel asked about the Food bank donations at the previous Turkey Trot events. D. Scott said that donations in the first year were good but the bulk of donations were made up from staff and the kitchen. Donations had dropped a lot in the last few Turkey trots. It was suggested that instead of food donations a small entrance fee for this event could be introduced and the money raised given to the EL foodbank. C. Lumsdaine said a small auction could also take place if appropriate items to auction could be found.

#### Dates of next meetings

It was agreed to meet on the last Friday of each month at 8.30am

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar  
26<sup>th</sup> Apr  
31<sup>st</sup> May  
28<sup>th</sup> Jun  
26<sup>th</sup> Jul

30<sup>th</sup> Aug  
27<sup>th</sup> Sep