

**MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE DALHOUSIE GOLF CLUB HELD IN THE CARNOUSTIE
GOLF HOTEL ON TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2015 AT 8pm.**

Present: The Captain and 23 members.

1. The Captain welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Apologies. Apologies had been received from 21 members.

3. Minutes of the Half Yearly General Meeting of 30th September 2014.

The minutes were approved as a true record.

Proposed by N A Howie; seconded by A Baird.

4. Matters Arising.

There were no separate matters arising from the Minutes.

5. Captain's Report.

"I should like to begin by offering a warm welcome to all our members this evening, as we look forward to the beginning of another new season.

Once again the CGLMC has initiated a raft of winter works which promise to enhance our golfing experience this year. Significant improvements and modifications have been made to all three courses, particularly the Buddon, which is increasingly metamorphosing into Carnoustie's second course, and a very exciting challenge at that.

This season more of our members will be able to enjoy the experiences that our courses have to offer, as all Buddon ticket holders have been offered the opportunity to play on the Burnside as well, an initiative that is to be applauded.

Hopefully this will translate into more members entering and playing in competitions this year. Entry forms are currently available on the noticeboard outside and I would urge you to enter as many as you can.

This year our Match Secretary, Alan Baird, has launched an initiative to stream-line the process of competitions. Accordingly, he has extended the time available to play each round, but at the same time has made it clear that there will be rigid enforcement of the cut-off dates. This initiative has the full support of Council and has become an essential step. Could I remind members that while the challenger in ties is currently invested with responsibility for arranging play, competitions work best when both parties recognise that they have a duty to enter into a dialogue as soon as the previous tie is completed.

Could I now take the opportunity to thank Alan on behalf of the Club for all his unstinting work as Match Secretary in ensuring that our competitions run effectively, not least the Winter Eclectic, which now draws to a close.

In a similar vein could I also ask you to recognise the efforts of Derek Cavellini and Gair Forbes in assisting the Match Secretary, Graeme Paton for all his endeavours as Secretary, Aiden McColgan for managing our finances, John Mitchell for his meticulous organisation of Seniors golf and Mike Sinclair for all his endeavours in support of Council. Without the considerable commitment of these individuals there would be no Dalhousie Golf Club – and there is a constant need for new

blood. Consequently, if any members would like to serve for a spell on Council, then we would like to hear from them.

As we approach the 2015 season, Dalhousie Golf Club remains in robust good health. Despite falling interest rates, our financial situation is sound. And despite falling membership almost everywhere, ours continues to rise steadily. Numbers at our Club Dinner rose by 25% and I hope that this is the start of a trend.

And so, can I finish by saying this to our members: get involved! Enter competitions, play in Club Matches and attend our social gatherings – above all enjoy the amazing opportunities that Carnoustie and Dalhousie Golf Club have to offer!”

6. Annual Subscriptions.

The Treasurer reported that he anticipated a deficit of about £500 for the current financial year. This is almost entirely due to the low rate of interest on the Club’s capital, and was not likely to improve much in the immediate future.

He felt that a modest deficit was manageable provided the Club maintained its membership levels. He therefore recommended that subscriptions should remain at their current levels for 2015/16, that is, £55, £45, and £30 for Ordinary, Country and Ladies respectively.

This was approved.

7. Election of Office Bearers to serve from 1st April 2015.

All the current incumbents:

Captain: I E R Wilson; Vice Captain: M Sinclair; Secretary: G W Paton;

Treasurer: A McColgan; Match Secretary: A Baird,

had agreed to continue in office and their appointment was proposed by

G W Wilson and seconded by G J Adam

All were duly elected.

8. Election of Council Members to serve from 1st April 2014.

D Cavellini and J Mitchell were due to retire by rotation and both had agreed to continue. Their appointment was proposed by N A Howie, seconded by W F Ruark, and they were duly elected.

Vacancies still remained on Council and G Lumsdaine was proposed by G W Paton, seconded by N A Howie, and was duly elected.

There were no other nominations to fill the vacancies.

9. Report from CGLMC Ltd Representatives.

Accounts. The year-to-date figures were slightly ahead of budget. Income was ahead by c£160k, and Expenditure was under by c£18k, giving a projected surplus up by £180k to c£800k.

Course. 39 trees (dots on the north side) had been marked for felling at the 9th on the Championship. Work would start later this year on the new 16th green on the Burnside which will require the removal of some trees and undergrowth. Carnoustie had been runner-up in the Sports Turf Research Institute’s environmental awards.

Pro Shop. There had been an issue over the supply of clubs after a fitting. There was no intention by the Links to sell hardware (clubs), and it was felt that order fulfilment after a fitting was within the scope of this policy. However, some disagreed with this in principle so more research was being undertaken to quantify the impact.

Amateur Championship. This major event would take place between the 15th and 20th June. The Club had agreed to supply Recorders for the event and, although there was still 3 months to go, the Secretary would be pleased to have the names of volunteers now.

10. Any Other Business.

150th Anniversary. The Captain invited A Baird to update members on the progress being made to mark this event.

The current proposals were to mark the actual date (13/3/18) with a dinner and golf; this dinner might incorporate the 2017 Annual Dinner so that there was not a surfeit of dinners in the 12 months around the anniversary. A larger event with invited clubs from our long association in golf was planned for 20th August 2018; this would involve golf for 80 and would be followed by a dinner. It was intended that the occasion would be marked by a gift to the Links, either with a permanent fixture on the links or an appropriate trophy. The budget approved by Council is for £20k; it is expected that this will be enhanced or defrayed by sponsorship but it is too early to get committed funds. It is believed that the outline proposals will mark the occasion in an appropriate manner while keeping the costs within manageable limits.

Insurance. D Forman asked about the plans for providing season ticket holders with insurance. It was confirmed that cover would be provided from 1st April 2015 as part of the cost of a season ticket

Rakes. D Ford noted that replacement of rakes had become very haphazard and wondered if the notice could be re-instated. It was confirmed that the photo-instruction would be re-introduced.

Links Accounts. E J C Smith raised a number of queries regarding the accounts: The time taken to produce them – this was firstly a matter for the auditors who arranged their own schedule; this was confirmed by B Morton (a past Finance Convener) who also noted that there were 2 sets of accounts to be done, the Pro Shop being separate. And, secondly, the process of approval by the Board which had to fit round pre-scheduled meetings. Therefore, at best, the signed, audited and approved accounts could be no more than one month earlier, and that was entirely dependent on when the auditors started.

Payments to the Hotel from the Pro Shop – this was a result of the reversion of the original Pro Shop agreement to the Links. Previously, the Hotel had made payments to the Links; now the Links made payments to the Hotel based on the level of profit made. The payment was capped at £100k, and this year would amount to some £85k.

Due to the governance changes, were there to be any Executive Directors? Would the appointments of current directors be listed – there were no plans

to have any additional directors. There was no formal listing of current directors' backgrounds, and, although there were rough guidelines about the skills that a director might find it useful to have, appointment of directors was a club responsibility. D Ford noted that the Links should, and indeed did, seek professional opinion as and when necessary.

Computerised Ballot. A Sawers asked about the introduction of computerised ballot allocations. A system was being trialled. It was hoped that this would ensure that the ballot rules were applied evenly, particularly on Saturday and Sunday mornings. It would give starters more time to answer and deal with queries. It would also allow members to register a second choice option of a different time on a different course. At the same time, the website was being upgraded and, when it went live, members with direct access to the ballot saved on their computers would have to re-establish their log-in.

Past Captain A Arthur then invited members to record their thanks to The Captain and Council for their efforts on behalf of members.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Apologies

**A Coleman
I Forman
D L Hood
A McColgan
F Swan
R S Wilson**

**C Douglas
T Forrest
R M Kydd
J Mitchell
M T Swanston**

**G Ellis
R Fraser
J W Lindquist
G Murray
J R Wallace**

**C Ford
A Hay
M Lowe
P J Robb
B T Welch**