

## **Niddry Castle Golf Club**

**Minutes of the Council meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Present :J Pritchard, J Finnigan, S Robertson, A Leslie, A Webster, M McElroy, S Nicolson, B Anderson , E Connolly**

**Apologies: J Forbes**

**The minutes of the December Meeting were passed as a true and accurate record and there were no matters arising.**

**Prop: JF Sec: SN**

**Convenors Reports**

**Treasurers Report.**

**December income was £22,490 which comprised of**

**£21,285      Annual subscriptions – a lot of payments for the full year this month**

**£1,009      Green fees**

**£ 20        Donations**

**£180        Competitions**

**Expenditure was £10,501 which includes.**

**£105        Bank and interest charges**

**£257        Bounce back loan.**

**£83         Catering**

**£1029.16    Course maintenance/fuel**

**£570        Matches - vouchers**

**£702        Loan repayment**

**£196        Upkeep of property (incl. heat/light, rent, telephone, water)**

**£4000      Wages and pension costs**

**£29         Email Hosting**

**Net profit    £11,989**

**Year to date loss -£9,409**

**Money was coming in steadily and a further update would be available at the next meeting.**

**BA enquired about the Water meter and informed the council that he was not aware of one on the course.**

### **Membership Report – January 2023**

#### **Current Position**

**There are currently 139 members (190 members same time last year). The Breakdown only includes Members who have paid in Full or paid a Deposit. Some have asked for an extension to pay but have given their intention. Some have continued to pay their Direct Debit but have not acknowledged the new prices.**

- 47 Senior (51)**
- 55 Full (85)**
- 12 Life (27)**
- 2 Junior (3)**
- 1 Country (1)**
- 2 Weekday (3)**
- 2 Intermediate (7)**
- 1 Student (3)**
- 15 Winter (12)**
- 0 honorary (1)**
- 2 social (4)**

**The numbers recorded show only those who have paid and so will be constantly updated.**

**The life membership was again reduced and there were still contributions to be added.**

#### **DECEMBER COURSE REPORT.**

**December has seen some strange weather patterns being thrown at us from unseasonably warm temperatures to below freezing, dry spells and heavy rain, frosts and snow and continuous saturation of the course. All these extreme conditions have had us close the course for 9 days this month.**

Holidays and the festive period have seen us down to 1 person being on shift limiting the amount of work being carried out but with the weather this may have been a blessing in disguise. We have had 126.8mm of rain this month with 80mm falling in the last week.

Winter greens were set up as well as winter tees, kids course greens were all cut. Irrigation hoses were brought in to prevent frost damage.

Trimming of some lower branches of the trees has started and the last irrigation pipe box changes were completed.

Turf was laid over the fairways at 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> over the new drainage line, we will have to wait and see how this turns out for levels as the turf was laid when the ground was still saturated so there will be some settlement, we will use sand as a top dressing to level out when we get some growth.

Our main job this month has been to put in an overflow pipe from the 9<sup>th</sup> pond to the new sump, weather conditions have severely hampered this work with flooding happening before the drain line was completed. I do not hold much faith in this drain being successful at this point in time and we are working on further solutions.

The shipping containers that we use proved to be an issue during the freeze as the doors were frozen shut on a number of days, prising them open with crow bars only to find that the machinery inside was also frozen solid and unable to move (pedals frozen solid).

Plans for January include drainage at the 9<sup>th</sup> pond, tree branch removal and sand exchange in selected bunkers.

EC raised the access road and discussion took place. WDC were suggested as a way forward but JF arranged a meeting with P Finnigan to advise on the problem. Peter Keogh was to meet with JP and AW on Saturday morning to discuss the drainage of the course and solutions for draining the 9<sup>th</sup> were being explored.

### **Ladies Report**

We had our annual dinner and presentation at the Boathouse, South Queensferry, followed the next day by the Deer Trophy, which raised £220 for the Winchburgh Food bank.

The Ladies were to hold a Lancôme night and a Swishing evening.

AL informed the council that the 100 club was on hold until the opening day.

### **Match Secretary Report for Meeting 12 Jan 2023**

Having only recently taken on the role, I am unsure what is expected in terms of reporting to the committee but would submit the following as a general update. Being off-season regular fixtures have been the Winter League and Seniors Sweep competitions. Five Winter Leagues were played up to 31 Dec 2022 with a further six scheduled before the new season starts in April 2023. Results will be announced upon completion of the series. A

**total of eleven Seniors Sweeps were played up to 31 Dec and as most will know these are 'unofficial' in that they are managed separately. However, these sweeps are well attended by a regular group of players who obviously enjoy the challenge of competing in all conditions! The table below shows the Seniors Sweep results for matches played in 2022. They will continue until the new season start and I'll update further results. Player Sweeps Played No of Wins Total Points Average Points Top 4 match**

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**MM was thanked for the detail of his report. MM informed the council that he was working through the software which was a new task and difficult. AL pointed out the problems with new scores and cards and agreed that the Scottish Golf website was a problem.**

**She arranged to meet with MM to make progress and mentioned Nick Perkins as a useful contact.**

**M Binnie the seniors convenor was struggling as the lists were out of date and it was decided to use the BRS list to sort out those eligible.**

**Clubhouse.**

**JP reported that Anne Dobie was currently running the catering but he daughter was ill and this restricted her availability. Weekends had been covered by Kathleen and Kevin Kelly.**

**The clubhouse needs painting and a change of colour was suggested.**

**SNAP had given details of possible sponsorship with a coffee machine and JP would consider prices and details.**

**Angela had surplus stock which the club would purchase.**

**S Gowans had been interested in taking over the catering but he had not replied to several calls and so his involvement was questionable.**

**Juniors, Seniors, no reports submitted.**

**AOCB.**

**1-EC offered a Quiz night on 1<sup>st</sup> April at 1930 at £15 per team of 3 .There would also be a raffle , prizes and bar . The question of snacks was discussed.**

**2- JP proposed the Bunkered magazine be used to advertise for groups and societies. The cost was £400 and it was agree do proceed.**

- 3-AW reported that the containers offered in Cleveland had not been a genuine off and the search was ongoing.**
- 4- JP would contact M Binnie about his role .**
- 5- The suggested Open day was ongoing, and details would be available soon.**
- 6- AW would update the boards on Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Jan after his meeting.**
- 7- JP was to investigate the purchase of a buggy for the club and would meet with J Wardrop regarding this .**
- 8- A Dunlevie would sort out brackets and fixings for the new club signs.**
- 9- MM suggested raising the entry fee for competitions to £4 but the majority were not in favour .**
- 10- The course overview would soon be on the website .**
- 11- SN enquired about a footpath to Castle road but the club did not own that land and possible motorbike use was feared.**
- 12- The gate had been rammed but was now repaired.**

**It was decided that meetings would take place on the second Thursday of the month at 1930.**

**The next meeting would be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February.**

**E Connolly Hon Sec**