

Niddry Castle Golf Club

Council meeting 9th March 2023

Present ; J Pritchard, J Finnigan, A Leslie, S Robertson ,McElroy, S Nicolson, M Binnie , M McAnulty , E Connolly

Apologies: J Forbes, B Anderson

Matters arising, EC to be added to the sederunt .

The Minutes of the February meeting were passed as a true and accurate record.

Prop JF, Sec AL

Finance Report – February 2023

February income was £8,960 which comprised of

£6,858 Annual subscriptions

£768 Green fees

£ 356 Donations

£427 Competitions

£525 Premier 100

Expenditure was £6,715 which includes.

£1020 Accountant

£246 Lothians Golf Association Membership

£140 Bank and interest charges

£257 Bounce back loan.

£702 Loan repayment

£101 Upkeep of property (incl. heat/light, rent, telephone, water)

£3559 Wages and pension costs

£29 Email Hosting

£152 Upkeep of equipment / oil

Net profit £2,245

Year to date loss -£8,649

JF thanked the Ladies section for the Lancôme evening and generous donation, and the boost to the 100 club organised by AL. There had been a few pay-outs but overall it was a

good month . Mike M asked to close the Ionis accounts and save money but keep those for Secretary , Match and Seniors.

Membership Report – March 2023

Current Position

There are currently 193 members (236 members same time last year). The Breakdown only includes Members who have paid in Full or paid a Deposit. Last year's figures in brackets. The figure on the right is the increase/decrease from last month.

- 58 Senior	(51)	+3
- 82 Full	(91)	+10
- 21 Life	(23)	+4
- 6 Junior	(37)	+2
- 1 Country	(1)	=
- 2 Weekday	(3)	=
- 4 Intermediate	(9)	+1
- 2 Student	(4)	+1
- 16 Winter	(12)	-1
- 0 honorary	(1)	=
- 2 social	(4)	=

Suspensions 4

Resignations 15now risen to 25 ,but people are re-joining and more are expected by April.

There had also been requests for membership and visits.

Discrepancies occurred between different lists of members on BRS, Handicap.

Matt Mc offered to go through the lists and produce an accurate list of members, and also solve the problems of the fixture list and JP/Matt M would sort out this issue.

Greens Report

February course report 24/2/2023

This month's weather has not been too kind with 171.6mm of rain falling on to an already saturated course. Ground conditions have remained wet either through rain, dew, or frost conditions with only a few dry days in between. This has made taking machinery out onto the course very difficult at times.

We did have a window of dry weather that gave us the opportunity to get the majority of the playing surfaces cut although some of the front fairways were left as it was deemed still too wet on the slopes for cutting without causing some damage in the form of wheel marks and spins.

A feed was put onto the putting surfaces to alleviate winter stress and hopefully carry us through to the spring, this was done early to coincide with our maintenance week in march giving the fertiliser time to act on the foliage.

We continued with our sand exchange programme on the bunkers, managing to get the rhs of the first and lhs of the tenth done. This leaves ten bunkers in total left to do when we get in more sand this year.

Raising of the tree crowns continues and we have now completed round to the 7th fairway, this will greatly increase the health of the trees as well as giving us better access to the bases of the trees with machinery.

The drainage at the 9th pond has proved to be difficult to complete due to the weather patterns, however we have discovered the original clay drainage from the pond and opened it up, and whilst it lets the water flow away it is very slow to drain. We also increased the size of the pond to the rear to accommodate more water in the pond and created a sump around the clay drainage pipe to allow future access and help prevent further blockages. The clay pipe itself would be further helped by jetting it out as I can do no more with it because it runs over into the farmers field. the drainage at the furthest point from the pond has been diverted and inserted into the large clay drain and sealed up. This leaves 2 lengths of pipe to connect up into the pond and will be done as soon as it is possible to do(should only take a day) then we can tidy up the whole area and seed with recovery to be expected by summer.

In the meantime we have started pathway maintenance and have completed a new surface on the 3rd pathway, this should make a great difference to the safety aspect of the path and more aesthetically pleasing. Stone chips have been laid to the small pathway on the 7th yellow tee and the 18th pathway has been cleaned up with the intentions of laying chips when time allows.

Painting of the tee markers has now been completed and ready to put out for the start of the new season.

A recycled slab has been put down as a drain cover for the cesspit to replace the broken one.

The 17th green will remain on a temporary green until maintenance works have been carried out i.e. deep solid tining and hollow-coring, reseeding and sanding with 70/30 rootzone.it would be my recommendation to remove the ash tree to the rear of the green to allow better air flow and reduce shading on this green as currently it gets approximately one hour of sunlight per day in the winter, removing the tree will greatly enhance this greens recovery rate.

Machinery repairs and routine maintenance continues; this month we have had fuel blockages, flat batteries, flat tires that have all been taken care of in-house. We are still awaiting prices for servicing our current machinery and prices for refurbishing our aging rough mower. Our air compressor has been serviced again after we discovered a blockage in the air tank drainage valve.

The greens have been cored and thanks offered to all those who helped and work on the hedges by 17th green would be done on Sunday 12th March.

Ladies Report

We have held our winter sweep alternatively Saturday and Sundays with numbers varying from five to ten.

We are expecting the four winter members to upgrade to full membership.

We held a Lancome evening when over 30 ladies attended. Kathleen Brockie did the presentation and also contributed very generously to a raffle donating expensive perfumes.

The sum of over £300 was raised which was donated to the club. This was the first of our functions to help raise money.

SR announced that a Spring Fair would be held soon.

Clubhouse report

A search for a Clubhouse Convener continues.

Anne Dobie continues to cater 4 days a week, Gavin caters on a Saturday.

To keep the approach to the Clubhouse clean, golfers have been advised to take trolleys around the back of the Club when exiting the course. The surround to the compressor has been paved although relocating has been considered.

Stuart had difficulty in finding a Chef. This was due to transport and availability but was still interested. AL agreed to contact the Job Centre to seek candidates.

Social Report.

The opening day will see a push for increased membership of the 100 club , headed by Anne Leslie and also a Quiz. Currently there are few entries for the quiz and more publicity possibly via BRS and Facebook is needed.

JP to add information on Face book and BRS . SN to cover the bar. EC to produce posters for local shops. The entry fee would be £5 and teams of up to 4.

Match Report.

Matt M produced an outline fixture list and will send to relevant parties. The Scott and Cannon Trophies will be put on the noticeboards .

He has also removed a lot of the accumulated problems surrounding the match committee and was producing a template that was up to date and relevant.

Extra assistance was needed to cover competitions when he was away and training would be given to volunteers. Matt M was thanked for his diligence and the club match committee would be in a strong place due to his efforts..

Juniors Report.

The first visit to Winchburgh Academy had taken place.

AOCB

- 1- The current menu would be reinstated on the web site**

- 2- EC and SR would do the honours board and agreed a date of Tuesday 14th March**
- 3- The Defibrillator was still ongoing and JP would investigate.**
- 4- There was to be an Oak and Cure evening at a future date .**
- 5- Wood had been obtained from WDC and was of good quality and an asset to the club.**
- 6- The insurance for the coming year had been purchased.**

Next meeting 13th April 2023

E Connolly Hon Sec