

MGC AGM 10/12/2018

Good evening

The year got off to a very wintry start, with snow cover giving the course a well earned rest. Thankfully no damage was caused except the thaw led to very wet conditions under foot. Spring as in other years was cold and growth slow especially on greens. Planned maintenance had to be postponed due to conditions, many courses were caught out by this as a lack of growth due to cold and wet gave way to hot and dry.

Summer hit with a vengeance very hot and dry but we managed to keep our greens alive and in decent condition. Early Autumn gave us some much needed rain softening ground enough to allow hollow coring, top dressing and overseeding to take place. I have often over many years tried to start and finish construction work before the onset of wet winter conditions and this year succeeded with a new bunker at the ninth and a releveling of the sixth tee. Both were accomplished within a period of fourteen days, and I must thank Graeme Hannah, Jim Fleming and Douglas for their efforts in making this possible. As winter has settled in so has the rain and the course has become muddier over the last few weeks. There are still a couple of jobs outstanding but they require drier or frosty conditions.

Generally on the course the focus has been on scrub clearance and the efforts around the fifth have been well received. Next project whins at the third next spring.

After the worrying balance sheet last year it was imperative to make savings. As you will see this was achieved without a major impact on standards. It may not be possible to be as prudent in future as certain purchases were either put on hold or in the case of breakdowns we had a lucky year. On the subject of machinery, the replacement of equipment is becoming more difficult. To be able to buy a decent, low hours machine has almost doubled in price. Our roughcutter cost £8500 in 2011 now a similar standard machine is commanding £15-20000 a figure we just can't afford, and with new roughcutters starting at £50000 there aren't many large clubs buying new so the second hand market has become very buoyant.

Fast greens, this subject comes up every year and the answer is simple, you need the right equipment. Unfortunately this specialist kit comes at a price £9000 the last time I enquired. I have arranged in the spring for a demo of this kit and would appreciate as many people as possible to attend. Before this, have a look at what this stuff does on the internet, look up GreenTek Thatchaway. If as I think this will improve the greens then we can look at funding it.

I would like to thank all those who have given of their time freely to enable us to present the best conditions possible.

A special mention has to go to Graeme Hannah who since starting his new job has been in one or two days a week to help out there's only one problem he may be RSM at Dundee but at Melrose Golf Club I'm the RSM (regular special mower). Thanks to Douglas for his help and keeping the purse strings tight but not closed.

Finally if I've missed anything or anyone I apologise and I wish our new captain and Committee continued success.

I am standing down as Greens Convenor and Gary Craig has agreed to take on the post, so all mumps and moans from now on to him.

