

PRESS RELEASE

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TITLE: MENIE GOLF LINKS ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY GROUP LAUNCHED

The Menie golf links environmental management advisory group (MEMAG) met for the first time on 7th December. Established as part of the planning consent granted by Scottish Ministers for the Trump International golf links, MEMAG is a wholly independent body which is responsible for providing impartial scientific advice to Aberdeenshire Council and the developer to help minimise the environmental impact of the development on the dune and links system.

Members of MEMAG include, representatives of Aberdeenshire Council the Belhelvie Community Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency as well as Trump International Golf Links, Scotland.

The independent Chairman of MEMAG, Professor William Ritchie, is an internationally recognised expert in coastal geomorphology and has had a long standing interest in the dune systems of Scotland and elsewhere.

The members of MEMAG are pleased with the outcomes of the first meeting which marks an important step forward in fulfilling its advisory remit. This remit is primarily concerned with commissioning a series of applied environmental research and monitoring projects, all of which will help guide the construction and operation of the golf course. The cost of the projects commissioned by MEMAG will be borne by Trump International Golf Links, Scotland.

MEMAG is also establishing a subcommittee with three independent scientists who will define, and subsequently assess the validity of, MEMAG's advice and its monitoring programmes. This committee will ensure that the work of MEMAG will be transparent, credible and impartial.

Further information on MEMAG can be found on the recently launched website: www.memag.org.uk. It is intended that in due course the records of MEMAG and the outputs from its work will be placed on the website and be publicly available.

END

NOTES TO EDITORS:

MEMAG is the Menie Environmental Management Advisory Group.

As set out in the conditions for planning consent, the remit of MEMAG is to provide advice to the developer; Trump International Golf Links, Scotland (TIGLS) and Aberdeenshire Council on:

- 'best practice' environmental management and operation;
- monitoring of (the dune and links) environment including ecology;
- the minimisation of unanticipated adverse changes in addition to those already recognised in the main Environmental Impact Assessment that accompanied the application for outline planning permission;
- full compliance with the relevant conditions attached to the outline planning permission and related reserved matters' approvals;

For the avoidance of doubt, MEMAG operates as an advisory body only and will not have the power to veto any proposal or action proposed by TIGLS or Aberdeenshire Council. The Council as planning authority will remain responsible for the statutory development of the site.