

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 22 APRIL 2014
Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm.

Present:

Neville Wright, President, in the Chair; D Moore, G. Sharp; R McKnight; A Millar; B Duguid and I Robin, Secretary.

Apologies:

J Burns; W Lumsden; A Learmonth and I McWhirter;

President's Welcome:

The President welcomed the seven members to the April Meeting and explained that he had cut the Agenda short so more time could be spent on the amalgamation issue

Executive Meeting 6 April 2014

Brian Duguid explained that he was unaware that the format of the Peat Salver had been changed and he would have to take the changes to the Kirkcudbrightshire Golfers' Association for approval.

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Robert McKnight and seconded by Graeme Sharp

D & G Golf Partnership

The President explained that he had circulated a Note of the last Meeting he had had with the Sub Group.. Donald McDonald had sent out contract documents for photocopying, initial imaging, etc and tenders have been returned. There was to be a meeting on 23 April to discuss the tenders. As the Partnership was under the umbrella of SoSGA it was agreed to set up a separate Bank Account in the name of South of Scotland Golfers' Association - Dumfries and Galloway Golf Partnership with signatories Donald McDonald, Brian Duguid and Neville Wright. The President intended to report to every Executive Meeting and explain any contentious issues. The Secretary reported that the £5,000 from D & G Council had been deposited in the Association's bank account. The President thanked Donald McDonald and Mark Geddes of D & G Council in achieving the £50,000 funding for marketing the Clubs in the Area.

Senior Team Manager

Graeme Sharp reported that the Gents team had played two matches. The match against Cumbria at the Eden GC on Sunday 6 April resulting in a resounding defeat by 14½ games to 3½. The team managed to turn the result around in the match against the Borders on Sunday 13 April at Dumfries and Galloway winning by 10½ games to 4½.

There were 51 entries for the Shamash Trophy on Sunday 20 April at Powfoot. Craig Hill beat David Brodie in a play off to win the trophy for the first time.

He reported that he had seven names in mind for the six man team to represent the South in the Area Team Championships. He would contact them all to find who was available and then make his selection. The seven were Scott Gibson, David Brodie, Connor Syme, Kyle McClung, Mike Grunwell, Greig Marchbank and Craig Hill.

Junior Team Manager

Iain Robin reported that the Juniors had played two matches. The first against Ayrshire at Stranraer on Sunday 23 March resulted in a win by 11 games to 7. The second was an Under 16 fixture against Cumbria at the Eden on Thursday 17 April and resulted in a narrow defeat by 6½ games to 5½. After the morning foursomes the boys were losing by 3½ games to ½ but recovered in the afternoon to win the singles by 5 games to 3. Three boys, Chris Finnie, Nathan Watson and Finlay Copeland were selected to represent the Northern Counties in the annual match against Yorkshire at Catterick on Tuesday 15 April and contributed in a rare winning score of 10½ games to 7½.

Sixteen boys took part in the Scottish Boys Championship and all acquitted themselves well. Duncan McNeill reached the last 32 and Rory Brunton the quarter finals. The Secretary was asked to write a letter of congratulations to Rory.

The Team manager asked for help with transport for matches on Saturday 10 May and

Sunday 18 May both at Carlisle. He also asked for assistance in running the Northern Counties Championships at Dumfries and County on Sunday 29 June.

Amalgamation

The President led the debate on the Consultation Document issued by the Joint Working Group of the SGU and SLGA. He focussed on the contents of the document taking each proposal in turn. Most of the clauses were accepted with “no comment” but those that generated discussion were:-

Clause 4 Areas and Counties

It was noted that it would be desirable for Areas and Counties to amalgamate in the future. If they did would the new organisation get the amalgamated votes from the Areas and Counties that are combined ie, Dumfries and Galloway have the South Area, Galloway and Dumfriesshire Counties (10 =20 =30) votes at General Meetings?

Clause 4.3 The composition of those attending Scottish Golf Forums is to include representatives from the Areas and Counties. It was agreed that a number of Clubs should also be invited - probably on a rotational basis at the regional focus group - with the national group for Area and County delegates only. This would ensure more discussion and involvement with Clubs on national issues.

Clarity was required as to whether the same representative from the Area should attend all Forums. It was felt this was desirable so the representative was aware of previous issues.

Clause 5.12 Board

It is proposed that there should be a minimum of three directors of each gender. This sounds almost impossible to attain and an explanation is required. How do you keep the gender balance and still appoint the best person for the post?

Clause 6 Board Committees - Reasoning and Commentary

Why have two Finance Committees? Clarification required.

Clause 7 Audit and Governance Committee

It was noted that the role of the President would be ambassadorial. Could he not chair this committee or at least sit as an observer?

Clause 7.3 As most contentious issues are usually financial it would be better to have at least 2 people on the committee with relevant experience so they can have an intelligent discussion.

Clause 8 Scottish Golf Forums

It is considered advisable to also have Club representation at these forums probably on a rotational basis (see above Clause 4.3 comments)

Clause 10 Nominations Panel

This needs clarification as the process is unclear. There seems to be duplication between the ‘Appointments Committee’ and the Nominations Committee’

Clause 12 Finances

From a quick check of the proposed subscriptions and affiliation fees the sums do not add up and Clubs (members) will have to pay more to the governing body to maintain a handicap. Where does the compulsion come from for men to be members of Area and pay Area subs? Do Ladies have to pay County subs to maintain handicap.

Q & A Members Vote

Should specifically state that Juniors are not included. However this is probably included in the non voting statement.

Area and County Mandatory Subscription

There were concerns over the future funding of Areas via local per capita contribution. It was noted that Counties were funded by voluntary membership. There is a requirement for Area and County per capita funding to ensure that both the Areas and Counties will continue to function.

The Secretary was asked to e-mail the Clubs to remind them of the Meeting at Castle Douglas Golf Club on Wednesday 7 May and find out how many Clubs would be represented.

A.O.C.B,

Brian Duguid reported that Alastair Millar was the Kirkcudbrightshire nomination for the

post of Junior Vice President. Alastair was warmly congratulated.

Brian Duguid also reported that Brian Haining had expressed concern regarding communications in cancelling coaching sessions at Brighthouse Bay.

Duncan Moore reported that he had attended a meeting with Ian McWhirter and others at Powfoot that day regarding Powfoot carrying out improvements to their practice area to become a SGU Development Centre. Ian was trying to get sufficient funds to pay for the improvements.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15 pm on Tuesday 20 May 2014 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.