

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 1 NOVEMBER 2016**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

**Present:**

Alastair Millar, President, in the Chair; S. Kingston; J Burns; G Sharp; P Watson; W Tyrrell; R McKnight; J Forrest (representing Kirkcudbrightshire) and I Robin, Secretary.

**Apologies:**

D. Moore; N Wright and B Duguid

**President's Welcome:**

The President welcomed the members. He had been saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Doris McQueen, Duncan's partner, and expressed the view of all that his thoughts were with him. He thanked Wave and the Secretary for circulating the funeral arrangements.

**Executive Meeting 20 September 2016**

The Minutes were approved by Wave Tyrrell, seconded by Stephen Kingston..

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Secretary's Report:**

The Secretary reported that during the last month some information in the form of the Newsletters to the Clubs has emanated from Scottish Golf. There are pen pictures of the Staff with job titles on the website. Andy Salmon, the Deputy CEO and Development Director, is leaving the organization by mutual agreement. There are no plans to replace the role of Deputy CEO. The Coaching Grant of £1,250 will be paid this winter. The Board has still not presented its proposals for the way forward. Some dates and venues for their national competitions have been announced. A change has been made to the format of some of the national competitions. All these changes had been sent to the Executive.

Jim Burns reported that a meeting had been arranged with the CEO on Friday 11 November and there was to be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday 3 November. The Board Meeting was to discuss the restructuring of the remaining staff, a look at the draft budget and the disposal of the pool cars. There was a desire to have one HQ, one office and not two as at present with one in St Andrews and the other in Edinburgh. The Chairman was presently in China with the possibility of procuring funding for an office in the Home of Golf. The CEO is looking at the staff structure and reporting arrangements, with regard to financial arrangements and a smaller, more efficient unit. Jim had e-mailed the Championship Director, David MacDonald, regarding the agreement to hold the Boys ATC at Stranraer next year as the dates offered had been offered to the Stephen Gallacher Foundation Order of Merit competition. The CEO had e-mailed to say he was in favour of retaining the ATC's and County Championships.

The Chairman added that communication is the most important factor in good governance. There had been a problem since amalgamation with nothing coming down from the top and what goes up disappears. They should be running the organization through the Areas and Counties with their responsibility to pass the information on.

Jim continued by reporting that at present the Board was not going to do away with the Areas and Counties and there was no pressure for them to amalgamate.

The Secretary reported that Representatives from Powfoot, Newton Stewart and New Galloway Golf Clubs had been invited to attend this Committee Meeting. The Vice Captain of Powfoot had e-mailed to say he had been delegated to attend but due to a previous engagement was unable so to do and sent his apologies. There had been no communications back from Newton Stewart or New Galloway although papers for the Meeting had been sent to the three Clubs.

The Minutes of Executive Meetings have been posted on the website for years 2016, 2015 and 2014

David Broadfoot has applied to join the Police and been accepted for initial training at Tulliallan starting in January. He will be applying for re-instatement as an amateur.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer reported that the Summary of Draft Annual Accounts up to 31 August 2016 which was presented at the last Executive Meeting had been examined and signed by the Independent Examiner. There is one minor amendment.

The Summary of Draft Annual Accounts of the D&G Golf Partnership up to 31 August 2016 which was presented at the last Executive Meeting had been examined and signed by the Independent Examiner.

There is no Summary of Accounts to be presented at this Meeting as very few transactions have taken place.

#### **AGM 22 November 2016**

The Agenda was approved. The Secretary was asked to contact Neville Wright and ask him to provide a half page synopsis of the workings of the D&G Golf Partnership over the past year. This would then be added to Neville's comments in a recent e-mail to the Secretary regarding his views on the way forward for the partnership. It was agreed that Wave should give an account of the compilation of the Fixture List and what was required by the Clubs to ensure it could be produced before Christmas. All the present Office-Bearers agreed their names be put forward for re-selection except Jim Burns and Neville Wright. Jim thought it was time to retire after over 25 years' service and Neville had intimated he would do likewise at the previous Meeting. It was agreed that the office of SGL Delegate be discontinued meantime, or until SGL required a representative from the Area to attend Meetings, and despite a trawl round the members no volunteer to take on the role of the D&G Golf Partnership Convenor could be found.

The Secretary asked for all Office-Bearers to submit their AGM reports by Sunday 6 November to ensure there would be no duplication with those of the President and Secretary. A suggestion, to improve the engagement between the SGL Development Officer and Clubs and South Area, that the Development Officer be invited to attend was discussed. As there would be a number of Club representatives at the AGM the new Development Officer could meet them, explain the purpose of her job and role and what the SGL could do for the clubs.

Jim Burns pointed out that this position was under review at the Board Meeting on Thursday and he offered to inform the Secretary of the outcome on Friday.

#### **Convenors' Reports**

##### **SGL PRESIDENT**

Jim Burns reported that he had met with Craig Chalmers and Jacquie Davidson and the discussion centred on the best way for the Development Officers to get their message across to the Clubs. The formation of "clusters" of Clubs throughout the area at local centralised venues to sort out local issues and have a cross fertilisation of ideas seemed the best method. Kirkcudbright and Dalbeattie had requested meetings.

As President he was to attend dinners Stirling, Lothians and Lothians Past Captains and Leven as well as the Board Meeting on Thursday.

##### **CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Graeme Sharp reported that the Shamash at Portpatrick had been very successful and scoring had been good despite the challenging weather conditions. The winner was Mike Grunwell (D&G) with 140, second was Kyle McClung (Wigtownshire County) on 141 and third Chris Corbett (D&G) with 143 bh. He thanked the Vice-President and Secretary for their help and Jim Burns for presenting the prizes. The President thanked the team.

The Order of Merit was won by David Brodie (Newton Stewart), second was Michael

Grunwell (D&G), third Chris Corbett (D&G) and fourth Neil Hamilton (Powfoot).

It was agreed that next year, to ensure posters for competitions reached the right people for display on club notice boards, paper copies would be sent to each Club.

There is a clash of dates with Stranraer for the South Championships 2017. Graeme and Jim Burns agreed to confer to find suitable dates.

#### COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that the Performance Coaching had started at Brighthouse Bay. 14 boys took part in the first session. Chris Robinson had sent a coaches report of the day which was very useful. The Secretary had circulated a full report of the day. The second of four coaching days will be on 12 November. Chris is developing a programme which will allow each individual to work on their weaknesses and areas they wish to develop. Pam will send out a survey monkey after the second session to get feedback from the Juniors.

The Junior Order of Merit concluded at Southernness recently. The results were as follows:-

Under 18 Scratch: 1<sup>st</sup> Nathan Watson (Kbt), 2<sup>nd</sup> Cameron Gray (Kbt), 3<sup>rd</sup> William Squires (Kbt), 4<sup>th</sup> Mitchell Cowie (D&C)

Under 15 Scratch: 1<sup>st</sup> Lewis Cheetham (D&C), 2<sup>nd</sup> Callum McMillan (Kbt), 3<sup>rd</sup> David Sharp (D&C), 4<sup>th</sup> Glen Irvine (D&G)

Boys Handicap: 1<sup>st</sup> Lewis Cheetham (D&C), 2<sup>nd</sup> Ciaran Howat (D&C), 3<sup>rd</sup> Fraser McFadyen (D&G)

Girls: Ellie Harkness (Loch)

It was suggested that when girls attend the Performance Days representatives from Dumfriesshire Ladies and Galloway Ladies be invited.

#### SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that the match against Cumbria had been provisionally arranged for Powfoot on Sunday 9 April.

The Seniors ATC had been held at Largs and the South team did not play to its potential due to a weakened team and lack of a practice round.

Ian Brotherston had been elected Captain of the Scottish Seniors. The Secretary was asked to write and congratulate him.

#### JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

Iain Robin reported that reports and photographs of all Junior matches and competitions had been sent to Executive members and the local press for publication. These had also been posted on the website.

The match in the Peat Salver between Wigtownshire and Dumfriesshire was cancelled as Wigtownshire could not raise a team. The points are therefore attributed to Dumfriesshire who are awarded the trophy. He urged the Junior Convenors to get these matches arranged early so a positive outcome can be achieved next year. They are good experience for all the boys and a pointer to the South officials of possible future stars.

The Scottish Boys ATC is to be held at Stranraer next year and Pam, Duncan and he took four boys to Stranraer on Tuesday 25 October for their first practice round. Neville very kindly came along to give the boys his expertise and experience of playing the course over many years. Jim was on hand to ensure everything went like clockwork and the boys thoroughly enjoyed their day out.

Nathan Watson (Kbt) and Cameron Gray (Kbt) played in the Scottish Boys Champion of Champions competition at the Dukes, St Andrews on Saturday 22 October and although both enjoyed the experience their scores did not reflect how well they played and they were not among the prize winners.

The Junior Jamboree was held on Friday 28 October at Southernness. There were only 14 entries due to a large number of boys being on holiday. Lewis Cheetham (D&C) won

the scratch, Fraser McFadyen (D&G) the handicap and Ellie Harkness (Loch) was the girls' winner.

Iain thanked to Pam, Neville, Alastair and Duncan for all their help and support.

#### COURSE RATING

Robert McKnight reported that Southernness was rated on 21 September. It had been intended to rate St Medan and Wigtown before the end of the season but unfortunately the Ladies were unavailable so they will be completed in May 2017. The paperwork for Lochmaben and Dumfries and County were submitted at the end of August with Thornhill and Southernness at the end of September. He had had no indication as to the outcomes to date.

The schedule for next year is shown below and, once completed, will bring the Ladies Ratings up to date; thereafter Joint Ratings will follow from 2018 onwards.

#### COURSE RATING – ADVANCE SCHEDULE

- 2017 Brighthouse Bay (2010); *St Medan / Wigtown & Bladnoch* (2009); Lockerbie (2010); Powfoot (2010); *Castle Douglas / Gatehouse* (2011)
- 2018 Stranraer (2009); Wigtownshire County (2009); Crichton (2009)
- 2019 Kirkcudbright (2010); New Galloway (2011); Portpatrick (2014)
- 2020 Sanquhar (2014); Dumfries & Galloway (2014); Newton Stewart (2015)
- 2021 Colvend (2015); Dalbeattie (2015); Moffat (2015)
- 2022 Dumfries & County ( 2016); Lochmaben (2016); Southernness (2016)
- 2023 *St Medan / Wigtown & Bladnoch* (2017); Powfoot (2017); Thornhill (2016)
- 2024 Brighthouse Bay (2017); Lockerbie (2017); *Castle Douglas / Gatehouse* (2017)
- 2025 and thereafter schedule repeated wef 2018

Clubs in italics will be rated on the same day

#### FIXTURES SECRETARY AND WEBMASTER

Wave Tryrrell reported that he had sent an e-mail to all the Clubs advising them to submit their new fixture list by completing the form on the website by the AGM on 22 November. New Galloway, Kirkcudbright, Wigtownshire County, Portpatrick and Castle Douglas had already submitted their fixture Lists for 2017.

It was agreed as he had changed the rules for submitting the lists he should again give an explanation at the AGM.

#### D&G GOLF PARTNERSHIP

In the absence of Neville Wright, the Secretary reported that the next Meeting of GTDG was on 3 November at Rabbie Trail Burners, 6 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh and if anyone wanted to go he had the papers.

Neville had sent an e-mail to all members of the Partnership in which he advised them he had resigned from the position of Partnership Co-Ordinator on the Executive of SoSGA and thanked them for their support over the past few years. He included his thoughts for the way forward for the organisation for consideration.

(a) Clubs need stronger links with SGL Development Officers to ensure the club development tools and club services are used to greater benefit of each club. SGL can provide information on project funding streams.

(b) Clubs and partners should ensure their VisitScotland listings are up to date. These should be updated every year with pictures, club and visitor information

© More engagement with accommodation providers. Currently all clubs are listed on the Visit South West Scotland web pages along with many of the D&G accommodation providers.

(d) Clubs should ensure that reciprocal links are on the web pages of those they advertise and support. (this is not always the case)

(e) Clubs that struggle for visitors/members could consider promotional golf weeks to

create interest and showcase their club.

(f) Clubs and businesses should consider signing up with DG Online which is the free advertising web page and is at the top of the Google listings for Dumfries & Galloway.

(g) Further development of the South of Scotland website with more user generated content and reciprocated web links (currently only a couple of sites have link to South of Scotland visitor site.

(h) develop a tourist strategy to attract visitors to the D&G area during the Open at Portrush in 2019, more than 50,000 tourists will be attending the Open each day with the majority travelling through Dumfries & Galloway. The strategy should ensure that visitors to the Open stay and play golf in D&G either on their way to the Open or on their return.

(i) Consider adopting an ambassadorial approach to representation and support in each of the three Counties. This could achieve closer working with Clubs and partners in each of the three Counties.

(j) Neville felt that the D&G Partnership is important to Golf Clubs and partners in the South of Scotland and needs their support to ensure it goes from strength to strength. Currently the Partnership is fully engaged with VisitScotland, D&G Tourism Group, Scottish Golf Tourism Group, Scottish Enterprise, D&G Accommodation Providers (through Visit South West Scotland) and D&G Council. The Partnership has an input in the golf tourism strategy for Scotland and for Dumfries & Galloway.

(k) He asked that these links be maintained and urged the members to support the Partnership. Clubs can air their views at the South AGM.

The Secretary passed on Neville's thanks to the Executive for their support over the past 5 years and his best wishes to Stephen in his future Presidency.

#### DUMFRIESSHIRE

There was no report from Dumfriesshire

#### KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

In the absence of Brian Duguid, Jean Forrest reported that New Galloway and Castle Douglas had received and accepted a free offer to drone film the course. Photos of Dalbeattie had been taken by a Club member at no cost. They still had to be posted on the website.

The AGM is on Thursday 10 November at Castle Douglas Golf Club. Jeff Sutcliffe is resigning as Championship Secretary and Brian Duguid will do one more year as Secretary.

Jeff Sutcliffe has again produced an excellent booklet on the year's activities of the Association.

#### WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported that the Wigtownshire AGM had been held the previous week and some of the competition rules had been amended to meet modern trends. The Scratch League was to remain the same; The Seniors League to revert to 4 teams from each Club might St. Medan might need some lee-way; Foursomes to remain the same except 3 out of 4 nominated teams to count towards the team score; Champions Day to remain the same; Try Wigtownshire Order of Merit again; Boys Championship to change to Junior Championship and purchase a girls' trophy; Outline agreement between most Clubs for a reciprocal arrangement for Wigtownshire Club members to play other courses for £10. This needs to be discussed at Club committee first.

The Courtesy Scheme, OOM table and Fixture List are attached as appendices.

The Office Bearers for 2017 are as follows:-

President Jimmy Caldwell (Wigtownshire County)

Vice President Newton Stewart to nominate

Secretary Stephen Kingston

Junior Convenor Chris Robinson

Treasurer Vacant

## **A O C B**

Jim Burns reported that, Balmore, the winners of the Scottish Club Championship at Stranraer finished second in the European event.

Gillian Paton won the Women's Champion of Champions.

The President noted that a thank you letter had been received from David Gordon, Vice-Captain, Dumfries & County for the invitation to attend the last Meeting.

Jim Burns proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

The AGM is 7.30 pm on Tuesday 22 November 2016 at Castle Douglas Golf Club, Abercrombie Road, Castle Douglas

The next Executive Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 10 January 2017 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.