

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 7 MARCH 2017**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

Present:

Stephen Kingston, President, in the Chair; A Millar; T Clark; G Sharp; P Watson; W Tyrrell; R McKnight; J Forrest; D. Moore; and I Robin, Secretary.

Apologies:

B Duguid and representatives from Stranraer, Dalbeattie and Thornhill

President's Welcome:

The President welcomed the members

Executive Meeting 10 January 2017

The Minutes were approved by Robert McKnight, seconded by Duncan Moore with the correction of a spelling mistake on page 2, paragraph 2 under the Summary of Accounts, line 3 should read "Treasurer" and not "Treasured"

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report:

Iain Robin reported that representatives from Stranraer, Dalbeattie and Thornhill Golf Clubs had been invited to attend this Committee Meeting. Stranraer had declined as they have been kept up-to-date by Jim Burns. Thornhill and Dalbeattie also declined as the date was not suitable.

The Drennan Salver has been arranged for Sunday 23 April at Powfoot

Southernness has a new website

Scottish Golf has announced changes in the selection methods for its International teams. The winners of the Mens, Ladies, Boys and Girls Amateur Championships will get automatic selection for the Home Internationals.

Ruth Hughes, PA to Wayne Dodds, CEO, left Scottish Golf on 17 February. She will be sadly missed.

Dates and venues for Area Team Championships have been announced.

Boys Sunday 18 June at Stranraer

Gents Friday 8 – Sunday 10 September at Newmacher

Ladies Friday 15 – Sunday 17 September at Glenbervie

The AGM of Scottish Golf will be held at Fairmount, St Andrews on Saturday 11 March. The Area will be represented by Duncan Moore and the Secretary. So far 2 Clubs, New Galloway and D&C and Galloway Ladies have asked the Secretary to use their proxy votes. On the request of Jim Burns, the Secretary sent out a further e-mail asking Clubs not going to St Andrews to send their proxy votes to the Secretary so their vote would be recorded. The President had also contacted the Wigtownshire Clubs. It was suggested that the Secretary produce a blanket form to send to all Clubs asking for their proxy vote that takes place at future General Meetings. The Secretary could only use this if the club had not contacted him in writing before the meeting or turned up on the day.

Jackie Davidson, SGL Development Officer, has arranged a follow-up meeting on Thursday 9 March at Crichton GC for Clubs in Kirkcudbrightshire and Dumfriesshire. The date for the forum for the Wigtownshire Clubs is Tuesday 14 March at Wigtownshire County GC.

The Secretary handed out the IMT booklets for distribution to the Clubs

Treasurer's Report;

The Treasurer reported that the Summary of Accounts up to 28 February 2017 was as follows:

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/16	9,632.09	Sundries	161.48
Comps	390.00	Coaching	555.00
IMT	330.00	ATC	1,786.17
Sponsor	300.00	NCF	1,746.16
Subs	7843.50	Vouchers	2,195.00
Coaching Grant	<u>1250.00</u>	In bank 23/12/16	<u>13,301.78</u>
	19745.59		19,745.59

The Coaching grant for 2016/17 has been received.
Of the 23 Clubs, 11 have paid their subscriptions.

Meeting with Ladies 23 February 2017

It was reported that the meeting was not a bad meeting. There was plenty of open discussion but it was one step forward and then one back. Despite a considerable amount of preparation work done by the Secretary on topics for discussion there was no progress made. The Ladies appear to be worried about being outvoted in committee due to a lack of numbers as they are on Club committees and wanted everything agreed in detail, but also flexible. They also think it would be better if Scottish Golf outlined the rules and regulations for the amalgamation of the Areas and Counties. They have been asked to produce draft policies of what they want and submit a copy of their constitutions for the next meeting. It was agreed that Jean Forrest and Pam Watson would be invited to the next meeting so they can explain that they are not overwhelmed by the men at meetings. It was suggested that two policies for each activity be prepared, one for the ladies and one for the men, and then if there was agreement the two policies could be combined. It was agreed that the two Ladies Counties be invited to the next South Executive Meeting as eyewitnesses.

Scottish Golf AGM

Approx 140 pages of papers including a form for recording proxy votes had been issued by Scottish Golf Limited for the AGM on Saturday 11 March at St Andrews. These had been sent to all Clubs, Areas and Counties. Clubs, Areas and Counties could send as many delegates as they wanted but only one could vote. There were 12 resolutions but the last 4, concerning amendments to the Articles of Association, were withdrawn three days ago. Each resolution was discussed at length and a decision on how to vote agreed. If there were any other votes the delegates were given approval to follow the policies of the Association in making their choice.

Convenors' Reports

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Graeme Sharp reported that he had just run off hard copies of the posters and entry forms and he would send them out by surface mail as well as by e-mail to ensure every Club got at least one copy. It was agreed to increase the entry money for the Championship to £15 plus £2 sweep and for the Shamash Trophy to £12 plus £2 sweep.

COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that the final two performance days had been held at Brighthouse Bay Golf Club. 17 attended on the 18th February where they took part in putting, short game and full swing assessments along with some foursome practice over 10 holes. This gave Iain and I the chance to look at pairings for the on coming season. 12 attended the last day on 4th March. The day was made up of various games and challenges including one challenge of having to hit cones from 20 yards. This proved rather difficult for the boys as their distance accuracy was not very good. Out on the course they played a game where if they hit the fairway off the tee they picked up their ball and played their next shot from around the green. If they missed the fairway they had to play their second shot from a much harder position.

The aim of the game was to get as many birdies as possible. They finished off with a match play chipping competition against each other and the Pro's. Full reports of both performance days are on the website thanks to Iain.

Thanks also to Chris and David. We wished David good luck with his Police training and congratulated Chris on setting the date for his wedding in February 2018.

Pam will now assess the feedback from the boys and girls and look to making some alterations to the coaching programme for the winter of 2017/18.

One girl attended the coaching on 18 February and acquitted herself well. Dumfriesshire Ladies run a coaching session on the golf swing at Tower Wood on a Tuesday evening which is attended by about 8 girls. There are not sufficient girls elsewhere in the Counties to run separate sessions but some girls join the boys in Development Squads.

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that he had started selecting teams for the two friendly matches against Cumbria and Borders. He would select from last year's OOM and also ask Liam Johnston and Greig Marchbank and Scott Gibson who he had heard were back playing.

He was unable to attend the ATC at Newmacher in September as he would be on holiday. He was going to ask Clark Riddick to be Captain. He had checked out the cost of hotels in Aberdeen and it was going to be £1,500 for a Premier Inn for two nights accommodation plus fuel and meals.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

Iain Robin reported that all the dates and venues for the NCF league matches had been arranged. Once again, it is going to be a busy summer.

The first friendly match is against Ayrshire on Sunday 26 March at Troon Lochgreen.

COURSE RATING

Robert McKnight reported that Audrey Surgess, Director of Handicapping and Course Rating was coming off the Board and he awaits the appointment of a successor.

D & G GOLF PARTNERSHIP

Jean Forrest reported that she and Donald MacDonald had had a meeting with Keith Campbell of VisitScotland and he updated them on plans for a Spring Promotion aimed at driving visitors to the South of Scotland Website. Our site would open for visitors on the "Trails" page. Clubs have been informed by e-mail of this promotion and asked to take advantage of this opportunity by ensuring their websites include details of Open Competitions and any Special offers they have available. The funding for this promotion was part of VisitScotland's Advertising Budget for 2016-17. He did not have details on the delivery of this promotion but had instructed their Media Group to produce a programme using different communication methodologies. The Promotion is not yet active.

Also discussed was an Autumn Promotion with the same aim, which is expected to happen provided VisitScotland receives the Advertising Budget they expect from Dumfries and Galloway Council. In this promotion, visitors clicking on our website would open up the site on our "Packages" page. It had been agreed with Jackie Davidson of the SGL that Jean would inform the clubs at the Marketing Forum at the Crichton G.C. of this promotion and encourage clubs to engage with each other and accommodation providers, to build packages which can be added to our website before the Autumn Promotion. Club "webmasters" have also been informed by e-mail of this Forum.

There is a Dumfries and Galloway Marketing Interest Group meeting on the 22 March at which Donald will represent the Partnership, updating the group on our activities and hearing what other groups are actively involved in doing to promote their own interests.

Duncan Moore had decided that it was not the right time for him to embark on an Ambassadorial Role for the Partnership and Donald has agreed to fill the position of Partnership Ambassador for Dumfriesshire. He is currently negotiating this position with one

club, and moving slowly forward on his “journey”. One other person has been approached regarding an Ambassadorial Role, but he is not as yet committed, but is watching Donald’s progress.

The “See, do, stay and play” leaflets produced by Visit South West Scotland are currently being printed and will be distributed in March/April. The distribution is done by the firm Direct Distribution and the areas covered are Ayrshire, Borders and Northern England. They also advertise at the Northern Ireland ferry ports and on board Stena Line Ferries. The VSWS website has been altered so that when someone lands on a Golf Club Name, as well as a description there is also a link to the club website and also to SoSGA
WEBMASTER AND FIXTURES SECRETARY.

Wave Tyrrell reported that the IMT poster had been amended and was on the website for clubs to download. The fixture List was up-to-date.

The Partnership Ambassadors had taken over his role in going round the Clubs regarding packages with accommodation providers and he was redundant. Kirkcudbright Golf Club had put in links to other Clubs, SoSGA, etc. More co-operation between Clubs and structure of deals was required for the Partnership website.

CHILD PROTECTION

Duncan Moore reported that that there was not much in Jim Burn’s folder which he had passed on. Pam was of opinion Jim had filled in the paperwork but no certificates had been received. He had not yet spoken to Lee Skerritt but that was his top priority at present. Ian Fraser was also someone worth talking to as he had a good knowledge of the procedures.

DUMDRIESHIRE

Tony Clark had nothing to report

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Jean Forrest reported that arrangements had made to ensure all the Kirkcudbrightshire competitions would take place this year despite there being no Competition Secretary. Jordan Brown was taking coaching sessions for the Juniors.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported that junior coaching days had been held at Portpatrick.

A.O.C.B

Liam Johnston (D&C) was congratulated on winning the African Amateur Stroke Play Championship.

There was a request for water jugs and glasses to be supplied for the meetings.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

The next meeting was arranged for Tuesday 18 April in the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm