

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 20 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

Present:

Alastair Millar, President, in the Chair; S. Kingston; D. Moore; G Sharp; P Watson; W Tyrrell; N Wright; R McKnight; and I Robin, Secretary.

In Attendance: David Gordon, Governance Board Member and Vice-Captain, Dumfries & County Golf Club; Lindsay Kerr and Stephen Mellor, St Medan Golf Club

Apologies:

J Burns and B Duguid

Vice-President's Welcome:

The President welcomed the members with a special welcome to the representatives from Dumfries & County and St Medan Golf Clubs. He congratulated Pam Watson on winning the Ladies Championship at Kirkcudbright for the sixth consecutive time, her son Nathan for winning the Gents Club Championship and Pam for winning the Ladies Greensomes.

Executive Meeting 16 August 2016

The Minutes were approved by Graeme Sharp, seconded by Robert McKnight.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary reported that there had been very little information emanating from Scottish Golf in the last four months. The Board had always said that during August they would present their proposals for the way forward and to date no information had been forthcoming. While at the ATC at Dalmahoy he attended an informal meeting of the Areas to discuss the apparent lack of progress of the Board in setting up the new structure of Scottish Golf. A copy of his notes had been sent out for information. The notes of the meeting prepared by Chris Nash (Fife Area) had also been forwarded to members.

He also reported that the contract between Dumfries & Galloway and Joe Fergusson will be terminated in 3 months' time. He had written a letter to Joe thanking him for his commitment and support to the South over the past 30 years.

Dumfriesshire Ladies were congratulated on winning the Scottish Ladies Counties Championships at Aboyne at the weekend. It was believed that this was the first time Dumfriesshire Ladies had been victorious. The Secretary had written to Eileen Scott on behalf of the Association and received a reply.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported that the Draft Summary of the Annual Accounts up to 31 August 2016 were as follows:-

| Income | 2016 | 2015 |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Subscriptions from Clubs | 18,305.00 | |
| Returned subscriptions | <u>(997.50)</u> | |
| | 17,307.50 | 17,524.50 |
| SGL Coaching | 1,250.00 | 1,250.00 |
| ATC | | 1,212.40 |
| IMT Booklets | 700.00 | 1,298.00 |
| Competitions | 1,338.00 | 1,010.00 |
| Sponsorship | 1,050.00 | 950.00 |
| Sundry Income (note 2) | <u>1,081.21</u> | <u>2,537.84</u> |
| | <u>22,726.71</u> | <u>25,782.74</u> |

Expenditure

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Three Counties | 8,188.70 | 8,083.90 |
| Coaching | 3,660.00 | 3,080.00 |
| Travel | 340.35 | |
| Accommodation / Meals | | 443.35 |
| ATC | 987.25 | 1,593.25 |
| NCF | 5,771.35 | 6,170.49 |
| Vouchers | 2,185.00 | 1,249.99 |
| Match Expenditure | 1,916.97 | 1,516.14 |
| Sundries (Note 1) | <u>1,367.55</u> | <u>1,359.87</u> |
| | <u>24,417.17</u> | <u>23,496.99</u> |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Operating Surplus / (Deficit) | <u>(1,690.46)</u> | <u>2,285.75</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|

NOTE 1Sundries

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Honorarium | 750.00 | 750.00 |
| Engraving | | 10.00 |
| HPC MasterScoreboard Licence | 174.00 | 342.00 |
| Website | 91.20 | 92.37 |
| IMT Booklets | 138.00 | 138.00 |
| SGL AGM | | 200.00 |
| JOOM Trophies | 207.35 | |
| SGU Vouchers | 7.00 | |
| Misc – 2014 unrepresented cheque | | <u>(172.50)</u> |
| | <u>1,367.55</u> | <u>1,359.87</u> |

NOTE 2Sundry Income

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Counties contribution to Drennan Salver | | |
| Fraser Shield | 771.21 | 1,377.84 |
| Coaching | 300.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Donations | <u>10.00</u> | <u>100.00</u> |
| | <u>1,081.21</u> | <u>2,537.84</u> |

BALANCE SHEET

| | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| In Bank 1/9/15 | 11,322.55 | Expenditure | 24,417.17 |
| Income | <u>22,726.71</u> | In Bank 31/8/16 | <u>9,632.09</u> |
| | <u>34,049.26</u> | | <u>34,049.26</u> |

The Treasurer explained in detail all the entries, as contained in the Treasurer's Report which is attached to this Minute as an appendix. If Scottish Golf had paid the usual grants and not carried out their cost cutting exercise on events there would have been a small surplus.

Neville Wright reported that the Draft Summary of the Annual Accounts of D&G Golf Partnership up to 31 August 2016 were as follows:-

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|
| Income | | Expenditure | |
| Opening Balance | 13,680.83 | Website Costs | 287.75 |
| | | Advertising | 960.00 |
| | | Design & Artwork | 1,476.00 |

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | Visit S/West Scotland | 500.00 |
| | Postage | 13.03 |
| | Meeting Costs | 40.00 |
| ----- | Closing Balance | <u>10,404.05</u> |
| <u>13,680.83</u> | | <u>13,680.83</u> |

Convenor's Reports

SGL PRESIDENT

In the absence of the SGL President the Secretary read out an e-mail he had received from him.

There is to be a communication to Areas and Counties about the lack of communications out from the centre.

There continues to be a review of all business practices and operations and with the new CEO in situ it is anticipated that changes will happen very shortly. He is still finding his feet he is advised. However, he knows he has not yet met all the staff yet and that nothing much seems to have changed to date.

The Championship season is all more or less done and personally finished in fine style the day before at Aboyne with Dumfriesshire Ladies winning the Counties Finals for the first time in a very long time. They were ecstatic to say the least. It was also a privilege to watch them, they played great and were worthy and popular winners. Perhaps you could send a note from the Area congratulating them on their fantastic achievement.

On the Championship note too there was the Club Championship Finals at Stranraer also yesterday and good reports have been received from far and near about the place so obviously He is glad about that, just a pity that the weather was poor in the afternoon. Balmore GC were victors, Dumfries & County finished 9th with Alan Birdsall 7th individually on 148.

In company of the Director of Championships he did have a discussion about utilising Area Officials more as this is supposed to be one of the areas of development for working closer with locals to events. Watch this space.

He expects a review of Championships to be undertaken over the close season, and the talk of some event being altered still has to be ratified. Some changes may be phased in next year but no details are available yet.

The new CEO was in attendance at the Board meeting which he attended but as he was only two weeks into new role too early to form an opinion. Let's hope he does as has indicated and come out and meet the troops. He is to be at Glenbervie for the final of the Captains and Secretaries event later this month.

Your query on Course Rating information has hopefully been resolved now.

He had been on duty in Presidential duty on over 30 occasions to date with only a few dinners etc. to do before handing over to Don in March.

The coaching Convenor asked if there had been any further news on the Development Academies. The Secretary said he would chase it up.

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

Graeme Sharp reported that the South Match Play Championship had been played at Southernness on a dry and windy day which made conditions very tricky. The cut came at 159 and the competition was won by Neil Hamilton (Powfoot)

The Shamash is this weekend and to date there are 30 entries.

COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that The Performance Squad has been selected and letters e-mailed to 20 boys. Dates have been confirmed with Chris Robinson and Brighthouse Bay. Seven replies had been received to date accepting their places in the squad.

Kirkcudbrightshire are hoping to run a Development Centre as last year.

Dumfriesshire and Wigtownshire are still to confirm their winter coaching plans.

The Junior OOM will conclude at the jamboree at Southernness on 28 October
SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that the performance of the 6 man team in the Area Team Championships at Dalmahoy had been disappointing. The team selected was the best available and both courses were in great condition. After the morning round there was a chance of progressing to the knock-out stages but all players had difficulty scoring on the shorter West Course. It was a big step up for most of the boys and only Chris Corbett (D&G) played to his potential.

Liam Johnston (D&C) was 4th after the first round at Q School and progresses to the next round. He has been selected to go on the winter series with Scottish Golf.

Ian Brotherston (D&C) is presently representing Scotland in the Seniors Home Internationals and a team has been selected to represent South Area in the Scottish Seniors Area team Championships at Largs on Thursday.

The President asked that congratulations be passed to Ian.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

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

The first match in the Peat Salver was played on Wednesday 17 August at Colvend between Kirkcudbrightshire and Dumfriesshire and resulted in a win by Dumfriesshire by 7 games to 5. He was still awaiting notification of the dates for the other Peat Salver matches. If these cannot be played by the end of the October school holidays Dumfriesshire will be awarded the trophy.

In the Northern Counties League, South finished second with a record of Played 6; won 4 and lost 2. The league was won by Cumbria.

The Scottish Boys ATC is to be held at Stranraer next year and Pam and he proposed to use some of the weekends during the winter to take up to 6 boys to give them the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the course.

The Junior Jamboree is scheduled for Friday 28 October at Southernness. Posters and entry sheets have been sent to all Clubs.

Iain thanked Pam, Neville, Alastair and Duncan for all their help and support
COURSE RATING

Robert McKnight reported that he was now in possession of the outstanding SSS Certificates for the following courses; rated in 2014/2015, Dumfries & Galloway, Portpatrick, Newton Stewart, Dalbeattie, Colvend and Moffat. He thanked the Secretary and Jim Burns in chasing the relevant SGL Rating Department and gaining a positive result. The secretary had asked him to contact the above Clubs and ensure they had all received their copy. Colvend were the only Club who had not so he posted one off the next day. He contacted Dumfries & Galloway Secretary who was unaware as to whether or not the Club had received their copy and he was going to ask his Match Secretary to contact him.

As stated at the last meeting Dumfries & County were rated on 17 August, Thornhill on 1 September and arrangements had been made to rate Southernness the following day. If possible St Medan and Wigtown & Bladnoch would be rated on the one day before the end of the season if Eileen Scot is available.

The SGL have embarked on a recruiting drive for raters. If anyone is interested the details are on the SGL website.

D & G GOLF PARTNERSHIP

Neville Wright reported that he had attended a Scottish Golf Tourism Meeting on 30 August. The Visitor Survey was ongoing and the collected data would be discussed at the

next meeting of the group on 4 October. The Clubs in South Area which took part were Lochmaben, Portpatrick and Stranraer. The Golf Architecture and Design National Seminar had been put back to ½ March 2017. It had been agreed that Regional Reps. Would promote Scotrail Club 50 in their own area. The VisitScotland 2017 Promotional Campaign would be discussed at the next meeting.

E-mails had been sent to all partners regarding (a) Scotrail Club 50 partnership opportunity and (b) suggested subjects for a meeting in October including Caroline Robertson VisitScotland Club site training, DG Partnership website review and update, look at funding opportunities, offers and packages. Unfortunately he had not received any replies.

Other information and correspondence included (a) VisitScotland 2017 Advert (b) Scottish Golf and Club Managers Association Workshop dates (c) VisitScotland Database and Competition (d) D&G Tourism Strategy 2017 – Meeting on 4 October to agree content. He recommended that a link be made to DG Online.

Neville intimated that he intended to step down from his position as D&G Golf Partnership Co-Ordinator at the AGM in November. He intended to continue as a Course Rater and help with the Juniors. Alastair Millar thanked Neville for attending all the meetings on behalf of the Association and praised his work ethic in promoting the Partnership.

WEBMASTER AND FIXTURES SECRETARY

Wave Tyrrell reported that the SoSGA website was doing well with over 60,000 hits. He had prepared the Fixture List for 2017 and thought that by giving the dates based on the 2016 dates Clubs could either confirm or amend their fixtures. It was agreed that he send a reminder to the Clubs to submit their fixture list by the AGM. The Fixture List is presently on the website under administration. Firstly, he realises that as a newcomer he lacks the historic knowledge as to what has been discussed and this hampers him as to how the website progresses. The website was developed with a flourish and since then progress has been slow.

Progress made since last meeting is that he has changed the URL of the DGPP website from www.dggolf.com to <http://www.southofscotlandgolf.com/> and secured the domain name www.golfsouthofscotland.com that is pointed to www.southofscotlandgolf.com He had used the SoS Golf as a logo. This had not been a straightforward task. He added the Explore page and transferred the flyover and location map content to it in order that the Home page loads more quickly.

He saw the site as a goldmine of information for golf in the south and was keen to have a way forward mapped out. He saw two main issues for the site:-

- 1 The hotels/accommodation part is very weak in comparison to the Golf Clubs
- 2 The need for fresh content and how it is addressed

The Golf Club section of the site is near enough complete while the accommodation section needs more work and information. There should be a near equal balance between the golf courses and hotels. The main hotels would have a page similar to that given to the Clubs. Looking at the Club websites there are a lot of accommodation establishments with just names. Brief details for the minor ones, like the number of bedrooms could be given. Do they serve evening meals, single occupancy, cost of B&B in £ signs? Need to choose major hotels.

There is also a lack of coverage to golf facilities such as driving ranges and par 3 courses.

He was disappointed with the search engine rating achieved by dggolf.com being on the 11th page in a google search. There is a need to have regular fresh comment on the site to dive up search engine rankings. He is impressed with the SoSGA site where he believes the News page has driven its ranking right up. He put this down to a brilliant wordsmith/reporter who has a regular source of news read by a younger audience. He did not see this working for the visitor website even if there was a brilliant reporter. The source of content would be limited by comparison, special offers would tend to repeat themselves and the potential

audience is older. Perhaps there could be a comments/TripAdvisor style page.

Is it for him to go out and get the missing information for the website and can he speak direct to Michael Dickie and the proprietors of the Selkirk Arms and Kings Arms Hotels? It was agreed that he find out what information hotels and accommodation providers would want on their pages

Club Sites – Links to South Websites

| Golf Club | Links Page | Link to Sosga website | Link to visitor site | Comment |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Brighthouse Bay | No | - | - | |
| Cally Palace | yes | - | - | To a few major courses |
| Castle Douglas | no | - | - | |
| Colvend | no | - | - | |
| Crichton | no | - | - | Have the fixture list in a Word document |
| Dalbeattie | no | - | - | |
| Dumfries & County | no | - | - | |
| Dumfries & Galloway | no | - | - | |
| Gatehouse | no | yes | - | |
| Langholm | no | - | - | |
| Lochmaben | yes | - | - | |
| Lockerbie | no | yes | yes | Under Notices: link is to dggolf |
| Moffat | no | - | - | |
| New Galloway | yes | yes | yes | Brilliant |
| Newton Stewart | no | - | - | |
| Portpatrick | yes | yes | - | |
| Powfoot | yes | - | - | |
| Sanquhar | | | | No website |
| Southernness | no | - | - | |
| St Medan | yes | - | - | Link to Visit Scotland D&G site |
| Stranraer | no | | | Link to sosga on Fixtures page |
| Thornhill | no | - | - | |
| Wigtown & Bladnoch | | | | No website |
| Wigtownshire County | yes | - | - | |

It was noted that Krkcudbright was missing

DUMFRIESSHIRE

There was no report from Dumfriesshire

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

There was no report from Kirkcudbrightshire

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported that the last major competition of the season, the Seniors Championship, was held at Wigtownshire County. There were 86 competitors and the winner was Ian Johnston (Wigtownshire County), second was Mike Thomson (Stranraer) and Third Robin Shaw (Wigtownshire County). There were also handicap and over age prizes. The Senior League was won by Newton Stewart who pipped Stranraer on the last day. He was

waiting to hear from Chris Robinson for the dates of the Peat Salver.

CLUB REPRESENTATIVES

David Gordon enquired how it was recognised how many visitors the DGGP website attracted to play in the area. Neville Wright replied that at present it was not possible but if the BRS booking system had been adopted by the Clubs it would have been possible. It was possible when VisitScotland issued the Gateway to Golf Passes.

A.O.C.B.

Iain Robin reported on the Meeting of the Areas at Dalmahoy and the complaints on the lack of communication from Scottish Golf. Ten Areas attended and the complaints included:-

- A rumour suggested 8 Regions would replace the 16 Areas and 15 Counties
- Too much money was being spent on the “elite” golfers
- No Scrutiny Committee appointed and set up immediately
- Concerns regarding the financial management of SGL
- Cost cutting was being introduced without warning
- Possible removal of Coaching Grant
- Experienced Volunteers were being undervalued
- Failure of the Board to communicate their intentions in strategic terms
- Lack of progress in the new governance plans relating to committees, working groups and forums
- Board failing to embrace the guiding principle promised by Eleanor Cannon at the AGM in March, of openness and transparency, with every stakeholder actively engaged in the challenges which lie ahead.
- Failure of the Board to fulfil their amalgamation aims.

Reports of the Board being able to present draft proposals in the near future were prevalent and the Dalmahoy Meeting agreed to wait to see if anything positive transpires before end of October before expressing the above concerns.

Graeme Sharp proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 1 November 2016 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.