

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 26 AUGUST 2018**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

Present:

Jean Forrest, Vice-President, in the Chair; S Kingston; G Sharp; D Moore; P Strain; R McKnight; A Millar: W. Tyrrell; B Duguid and I Robin, Secretary.

Apologies:

T Clark and P Watson

In Attendance:

P Haslam, Gatehouse and M Dickie, Lochmaben.

Vice-President's Welcome:

The President welcomed the members and in particular the two Club Representatives

Executive Meeting 26 June 2018

The Minutes were approved by Stephen Kingston, seconded by Robert McKnight

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report:

Iain Robin reported that invitations had been sent to Wigtownshire County, Gatehouse and Lochmaben Golf Clubs to attend this Committee Meeting. Gatehouse and Lochmaben replied in the affirmative but nothing had been heard from Wigtownshire County.

From discussions at the South Regional Forum other Areas had invited the Chairman and CEO to meet with them to discuss the way forward for Scottish Golf. Following an e-mail to all members of the Executive to find a consensus a letter was sent on 4 August to Eleanor Cannon, Chairman of SGL, inviting her and Andrew McKinlay, CEO, to a meeting with the South Area Executive and the Committees of Dumfriesshire Ladies and Galloway Ladies. A copy was forwarded to members of the Executive. A reply was received on 16 August suggesting Wednesday 28 August but this was not considered suitable and Tuesday 11 September has been agreed. For the meeting it was confirmed that there would be a loose agenda to allow open dialog between SGL and the Area Executive. Particular problems could include the financial position of the Clubs who felt isolated and not supported. It was suggested that an increase could be approved on the condition there was no further increase for four years. It was agreed that the President, Secretary and Secretaries from the Gents and Ladies Counties meet to prepare an agenda. Tuesday 4 September was agreed.

The HandicapMaster computer program has been renewed for another year. The secretary has a copy of the password for 2018 – 19 if anyone requires it.

Scottish Golf issued a list of Events with dates and venues for 2019 on 12 July. This was distributed to the Executive. There are still some of the events to be confirmed. The Area team Championships were to be played in September but this was the greenkeepers busiest time of the year and a busy month for visitors.

The Disclosure Scotland Questionnaire was duly completed and submitted.

Scottish Golf sent out a Newsletter to the Clubs on 3 August to inform them that Edgewood Consulting had been contracted to carry out a short Insight and Engagement Project during the next two months. The Company will be contacting each affiliated Club directly by phone to give each an opportunity to feedback on areas of club services support, governance, equality and finance. The feedback will give Scottish Golf an understanding of which services the clubs are accessing and how future provision can be tailored to best support clubs and assess the best use of the resources. Information will be confidential and will be held by Scottish Golf. Concern was expressed at how many Clubs the survey company had been able to contact in this area as not many Clubs had full-time staff.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported that the Summary of Accounts was as follows:-

up to	Estimate	last Year's
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	14 Aug 2018	31 Aug 2018	Accounts
Income			
Comps	1,200.00	1,800.00	1,514.00
IMT	890.00	890.00	700.00
Sponsor	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,300.00
Sundries	24.00	24.00	520.00
Subscriptions	18,660.00	18,660.00	16,719.50
SGL	1,525.00	1,525.00	1,250.00
Areas	<u>330.78</u>	<u>992.00</u>	<u>801.00</u>
	23,879.78	25,141.00	22,804.50
There was £7,979.66 in the bank on 1/9/17			
Expenditure			
Matches	1,259.29	1,260.00	2,397.13
Vouchers	2,355.00	2,655.00	2,555.00
ATC	2,426.09	2,426.00	2,989.97
NCF	1,199.70	4,000.00	4,671.88
Sundries	563.17	1,750.00	671.45
Coaching	1,124.80	2,000.00	3,205.00
Areas	<u>2,372.45</u>	<u>8,661.00</u>	<u>7,966.50</u>
	11,300.50	22,752.00	24,456.93

There was £20,558.94 in the bank on 14 August

As this financial year ends on 31 August 2018 three separate summaries of accounts were given so a comparison could be made. The first (up to 14 August 2018) is the present situation.

Comparing the projected end of year accounts with those of last year's audited accounts:-

Income is expected to rise by £2,337 from last year due to an increase in subscriptions and the collection of the affiliation fees for Dumfriesshire Ladies.

Expenditure is expected to fall due to savings made on the cost of running the junior activities of NCF matches, the Scottish Boys ATC and coaching.

The monies transferred from Subscriptions to Areas is made up as follows:-

DGGP (5p per member)	=	248.80
Areas (50p per member to each County)		
Dumfriesshire	=	2,272.50
Kirkcudbrightshire	=	2,272.50
Wigtownshire	=	2,272.50
Dumfriesshire Ladies (£3.70 per member)	=	<u>1,594.70</u>
		£8,661.00

Scottish Golf Regional Forums

Jean Forrest reported that the first meeting of the four Regional Forums had taken place and the Minutes from each had been distributed to the Executive and all Clubs. There was a great similarity in the four Minutes, which gave the impression that all Forums were in agreement. The South Meeting was a good start, open and honest, plenty of listening and talking and information on the SGL cost cutting exercise. Some Areas had expressed a willingness to help the poorer Areas. SGL admitted that they did not have enough information from the Clubs to be able to calculate percentage figures for a different method of producing the Affiliation Fee. This should be discussed at the other Forums to ascertain support. It was agreed that the minutes were a fair reflection of the meeting. The next meeting of the South Regional Forum is scheduled for 24 September at D & C.

SGL Special General Meeting

The Secretary reported that he had received an e-mail on behalf of Glasgow, Lothians, North East, Perth and Kinross and Renfrewshire Area Associations and Midlothian and Renfrewshire Ladies Counties who were minded to call for a Special General Meeting of

Scottish Golf to revisit the per capita issue. They produced a “Briefing Note” outlining their reasons for an increase of £2.80 per head which had also been sent to all Clubs and asked for feedback by Sunday 2 September. Gatehouse, Kirkcudbright and Southernness had responded rejecting the call for a Special General Meeting and the South Executive agreed to do likewise. The “Briefing Note” and all responses from South Area is included as an Appendix to this minute.

CONVENORS' REPORTS

Championships 2018

Graeme Sharp reported that forty-two played in the Senior Championship at Wigtownshire County on Wednesday 1 August in very bad weather. The result was a tie on 78 between Frank Grant (Wigtownshire County) and David Fulton (Southernness). As both had gone home it was impossible to hold a play-off so it was decided the Championship be awarded to Frank on the better inward half. The Executive agreed in future that the title be shared and the rules be changed. Graeme thanked Stephen Kingston and Peter Strain for running the competition in his absence.

The South Championships were played in glorious weather at Powfoot on Sunday 19 August. There was a disappointing entry of 34 and a 3 hole play-off was required to find a winner. After a wayward drive at the third extra hole Ben Irving (D&C) conceded to Gary Morrison (D&C). The Team Championship was won by Dumfries & County.

In the final of the Match Play Championship Douglas Borland (Southernness) beat Michael Grunwell (D&G) by 4 & 3.

The next competition is the Shamash Trophy at Kirkcudbright on Sunday 23 September. Graeme conceded that this was not the best time of year to hold this competition as it is the busiest time of year for the greenkeepers and agreed to look at a change of date for the AGM.

Coaching Convenor

In the absence of Pam Watson there was no report

Senior Team Manager

Graeme Sharp reported that the South team for the Area Team Championships at Cawder starting 7 September was

Neil Hamilton (Powfoot)	Clark Riddick (Southernness)
Colin Hamilton (Stranraer)	Andrew Kerr (Crichton)
Chris Corbett (D&G)	Gary Morrison (D&C)

Practice and accommodation had been arranged.

A team had been entered for the Scottish Senior ATC but he had no further information.

Junior Team Manager

Iain Robin reported that reports and photographs of all the junior activities have been sent to the Executive and posted on the website.

In the NCF league the South Juniors lost to Cumbria at Cockermouth on 24 June by 7 games to 5, lost to Northumberland at Bedlingtonshire on 25 July by 10 games to 2, lost to Durham at Tyneside on 27 July by 8 games to 4 but finished strongly with wins against Northumberland at Thornhill on 6 August by 6½ games to 5½ and Durham at Lochmaben on 9 July by 11 games to 1. This gave the boys Played 6, Won 3 and Lost 3.

The Junior Champion this year is Mitchell Cowie (D&G) with two marvellous rounds of 66, 64 (130) to win by 7 shots at Lockerbie on 17 July. The match play final was a magnificent game with victory going to Taylor Kerr (Thornhill) by one hole over Mitchell.

The Fraser Shield (3 Counties) was won by Dumfriesshire at Kirkcudbright

At Powfoot on 1 August the South boys with an inexperienced team in the NCF Championships were third. Durham were the winners.

Iain stated that he was very grateful to Pam and Duncan for their support and assistance during the season and to Graeme for his help at the NCF Championships. It is not a job which one can do on one's own and their advice and comradeship is most welcome.

Course Rating

Robert McKnight reported that Wigtown & Bladnoch and St. Medan had been rated from the Ladies' Tees on 5 July, with the Crichton rated on 21 August from the Gents Tees. All paperwork was submitted to SGL on Friday 24 August.

He was in the process of trying to arrange the re-rating of Stranraer and Wigtownshire County by the end of September

D & G Golf Partnership

Jean Forrest reported that the VisitScotland promotion for the Region has completed its first stage. Peter Finch, Golf Influencer, and his cameraman were in Dumfries and Galloway from 21st to 25th August and played and filmed on three courses. The Partnership's input to the promotion was through making arrangements with the Golf Clubs and arranging reduced rates accommodation to help with the funding for the second stage when VS will instigate paid media campaigns to promote the material gathered.

At Thornhill the Junior Captain, Taylor Kerr played with Peter who was very impressed by both Taylor himself, and his golf. Tuesday night was spent at Hetland Hall Hotel and on the Wednesday Peter played Southernness with James Erskine who continued Taylor's good work in impressing Peter with as much information as he could regarding all the different golfing opportunities the region has on offer. Accommodation on Wednesday and Thursday nights was at the Cally Palace Hotel. Katie Wright, Galloway Ladies Champion, was Peter's companion at Stranraer and she played some magnificent golf in her challenge match with him. Peter's comments already on Instagram show how much he has enjoyed his visit and how impressed he is with the area.

An average of 8 hours was spent at each course so there was a lot of filming as well as drone footage captured. This all has to be edited and final results overseen by VisitScotland under their contract agreement, before general release by Peter. It is hoped that this innovative approach will spread a knowledge of our golf to a new audience, but the reach of Peter's work will be amplified further by VS sharing shorter versions of the You-tube videos on their own channels and using them in digital media campaigns. In addition, videos and images will be available to all our clubs to add to their websites. The first video has been posted on U-tube with a link (Peter Finch Golf) from our website

P&O Ferries, on a smaller scale, are carrying out a similar project in the next few weeks. The Partnership has put them in touch with Dunskey and Wigtownshire County GCs which have agreed to a couple from Northern Ireland coming over by ferry for a one night stay and to play both courses. The Blogger is the wife, who is a beginner golfer, and her husband is a PGA professional. Arrangements are not yet finalised.

Partnership Brochure 2019

Jean hoped that the next venture to promote our clubs will be a 32 page A5 sized brochure advertising all of our golf clubs to be distributed in January 2019. Jeff Sutcliffe has volunteered to design a page for each club and submit it to each club for acceptance or alteration. The clubs will be entered in the brochure alphabetically. There will be a competition inside the brochure with a prize of accommodation and golf for 2 people. This, it is hoped, will encourage people to take the brochure and will also allow a certain amount of monitoring of the uptake of the brochure. Hetland Hall Hotel is providing the prize and 3 clubs will be approached to provide rounds of golf. The cost of printing the brochures by John Burns is £1,000 for 500 and 10,000 brochures will be printed for distribution.

Entry into the Competition will be by returning photographs of cards for 4 rounds of golf played in D&G, one from each of the 3 trails and a 4th from any of the trails. Card returns will be for rounds played between 1st April and 31st October 2019. The player returning the best total score of 4 Stableford cards will be the winner.

Distribution is planned to be:-

Strathclyde, Borders, Ayrshire, Northumbria and Cumbria via a distribution company. All Golf clubs in Dumfries and Galloway along with a considerable number of local outlets (member distribution)

P&O Ferry Terminals at Cairnryan and Larne

RAD Hotel Group

Scottish Golf Show (via “friendly stands”)

It is hoped to reduce the cost of this venture through sponsorship and advertising along with a small fee from each club.

TOTAL COST (before any of the above possible reductions) £2500

The Executive considered this a viable project and a meeting of all clubs will be called for early September to pass on, and expand, on this information.

If such a meeting happens Craig Chalmers, Development Officer, is keen to bring, or send along, someone from the Golf Buying Group to promote the group’s activities and benefits. I asked Craig in July, after the South Forum Meeting, for the names of the clubs in our Region that had taken up the offer of collaborating with the group. I am still waiting on this information

Further Marketing

Jeff Sutcliffe has also offered, and has started, to put together a tabletop display promoting golf in the area through graphics and print. The idea would be to move this around the region for short periods of display at appropriate venues. Kirkcudbright Market Group has already agreed to welcome the display at Kirkcudbright during the summer months when their footfall is in the thousands.

Webmaster and Fixtures Secretary

Wave Tyrrell reported that work on the website was progressing.

He had prepared the template for the Fixture List 2019 and proposed that when competitions had been completed the event would be removed

Child Protection

Duncan Moore reported that he was going to liaise with Ian Fraser (D&C) and had a meeting arranged for the following week.

Dumfriesshire

There was no report from Dumfriesshire

Kirkcudbrightshire

Brian Duguid reported that two coaching sessions had been completed at Castle Douglas and Kirkcudbright with two still to be done at New Galloway and Dalbeattie.

John Thomson (Kirkcudbright) won the Senior Championship at Kirkcudbright

Douglas Borland (Southernness) won the Match Play Championship at Dalbeattie

Fourball match play final will be played at Southernness on Saturday 1 September.

Douglas Maxwell Memorial will be played at Kirkcudbright on Sunday 2 September.

Callum McMillan won the Junior Championship

Wigtownshire

Stephen Kingston reported that Kaleb Johnston (Portpatrick) won the Junior Championship at Wigtownshire County

Sam Mitchell (Portpatrick) was the U16 champion

The Junior League was a tie between Portpatrick and Wigtown & Bladnoch

Thirty-six played in the 4BBB at Newton Stewart

Club Representatives

Michael Dickie thanked the Executive for the opportunity and had found the meeting educational and informative.

A.O.C.B.

There was no other competent business

There being no further business the Vice-President thanked the members and visitors for their attendance. The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 25 September 2018 at 7.15 pm in the Selkirk Arms Hotel Kirkcudbright.