

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 21 APRIL 2015**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

Present:

Duncam Moore, President, in the Chair; A Millar; G Sharp; J Burns; P Watson; R McKnight; S Kingston; B Duguid; and I Robin, Secretary.

Apologies:

N Wright and I McWhirter

Presidents Welcome:

The President welcomed the members to the Meeting on such a beautiful evening

Executive Meeting 10 March 2015

The Minutes were approved by Jim Burns, seconded by Alastair Millar

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary reported that the website continues to evolve. News items are continuously being added. A request had been made by Galloway Ladies County for a link to be put on the South website to their website. The Ladies are making a serious effort to revive the Ladies Galloway County and the membership has increased dramatically. This was agreed. Iain urged members to continue to visit the site and let him know of any errors or suggestions for improvements.

The SGU at their Special General Meeting on 30 March agreed unanimously to amalgamate with the SLGA. Scottish Golf Limited (SGL) will operate from 1 October 2015

The poster and letter were sent to all Clubs to advertise the Gillespie Classic. The poster is also available on the website. Please check when you are at your Clubs and visiting others that the poster is prominently displayed. As it was important to keep advertising the event The Secretary intimated he would send a report to the press 3 weeks before the competition.

The recent Course Rating of Portpatrick Golf Club Assessment by SGU was causing confusion as it did not agree remotely with the South assessors predictions. Past ratings seemed to be more valued than up-to-date assessments. Jim Burns reported that he had received a phone call to say that all the SSS figures were to remain the same. This contradicted the e-mail received from Kevin Weir at SGU. It would appear that there were issues between Kevin and Bill McLeod at SGU and these needed to be addressed. Normal procedures had not been followed and no explanation given for the SGU assessment and change of decision. This was demoralising for the Course Rating volunteers. The Secretary was asked to write to Kevin Weir for explanation and clarification. It was noted that Robert McKnight and Jim Arnott were to attend a seminar in Glasgow at beginning of May and they would speak to Bill.

Match reports for Borders v South and South v Cumbria were sent to the local press and to all Executive Members and posted on the website. Alastair Millar thanked the secretary for writing the press reports.

The Secretary was attempting to arrange a meeting with Dumfriesshire Ladies and Galloway Ladies to discuss the effects of amalgamation on the three bodies. It was also intended to invite Addi Shamash as she was a Member of the SLGA Council and a lawyer by profession. Alastair Millar suggested that this meeting be informal without a nominated Chairman.. It was agreed that the South representatives be Duncan Moore, Alastair Millar, Jim Burns and the Secretary

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer presented a Summary of Accounts up to 10 April 2015 as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/14	9,209.30	Sundries	642.31
IMT Booklets	1,298.00	Coaching	1,840.00
Sponsorship	200.00	Acc/meals	324.00
Subs	17524.50	NCF	691.36
SGU	1,750.00	Vouchers	1,039.99
Areas	804.45	Matches	39.50
Coaching	<u>360.00</u>	In Bank 10/4/15	<u>26,569.09</u>
	31,146.25		31,146.25

All Clubs in the Area had paid their affiliation fees and the sum accrued is £17,524.50 from 5007 members. In accordance with the decision at last year's AGM when the fees were raised to £3.50 per head, the Counties are to receive a sum equal to 50p per head and the Area the remainder. Consequently the Counties each receive £2,503.50 and the Area £10,014. Last year's figures were £2,574.50 and £7,723.50 respectively.

Amalgamation:

Jim Burns reported that since the unanimous vote on 30 March the process of transition to an Amalgamated body had begun. Board member Sandy Anderson had joined a working group of 4 (2SGUL and 2 SLGA) to advance issues of governance and implementation so that the tight timescale of 1 October could be achieved.

Prior to the vote eight of the sixteen Areas had met with the Chairman to address outstanding issues

Following Amalgamation the Areas and Counties require to drive the Forums, and as an early development, the Council has been charged with bringing ideas of how the Forums may best work within Scottish Golf. Ideas for consideration and discussion are required for the next Council meeting on 10 June.

D & G Golf Partnership

Duncan Moore reported that the meeting arranged for 2 April with Riddell Graham of VisitScotland had been cancelled as most of those wanting to attend were unable to do so. The next sub-group meeting was arranged for Thursday 23 April. It was expected that the Council representatives were going to withdraw and the South, under the chairmanship of Neville Wright, would take over. Alastair Millar suggested that there might be a fresh perspective if the Ladies got involved.

Convenor's Reports:

SGU DELEGATE

Jim Burns reported that Castle Park and Rutherford Castle had closed. At the latest Council Meeting it was reported that 80% of Clubs had paid the affiliation fee and numbers were down 0.6% on the previous year. The SGU had estimated a 3% drop in individual membership. The Awards Night in Edinburgh had been a great success with 620 attending. The World Handicapping System was again being discussed in Congu and some Unions wished to proceed with only reducing handicaps during the playing season and an Annual upward revision only. Consideration is also being given to the provision of handicapping software by the Union. 48,000 Membership cards had been issued. The coaching numbers for girls was getting very low. The Area Team Championships were to move to September next year. The SGU were looking at Junior competitions and numbers competing. The Development Manager, Kevin Cademy-Taylor had been suspended with a disciplinary process ongoing. A request to look at the Area Coaching Grant found support from Areas but as the new promised funding from the government was already earmarked for beginner golf and Club development an increase at the present time could not be given. An open invitation to look round the SGUL offices at the Dukes was offered.

Brian Duguid reported that any VAT issues should be reported to Andy Salmon. Some Clubs this year may not fall within the de minimus levels and have to pay all VAT. The SGU is to write to Clubs to tell them to their scenario before the end of the financial year.

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

Graeme Sharp reported that the Drennan Salver had taken place on Sunday 19 April. The result was a win for Wigtownshire with Dumfriesshire as runners-up.

COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that all the winter Performance Days had been completed. The last day focused on short game techniques and practice using the par 3 course at Brighthouse. The boys also participated in a nutrition and hydration seminar with David Broadfoot which everyone found informative. All four days went ahead and although the numbers attending dropped each time, those that had made the effort had definitely benefited from their time with Chris Robinson and David Broadfoot. The evaluation forms are in preparation and will be sent out soon

Pam was putting together a newsletter to circulate to all the Clubs to show what had been accomplished throughout the winter.

The Order of Merit information and posters will be sent out before the end of April.

Brian Duguid reported that Alex Long (New Galloway) had been recording some impressive scoring of late

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that a get-together had been held before the start of the season. Two friendly matches had been held against the Borders at Minto and Cumbria at Southernness. The Borders recorded their first victory for a few years by 8½ games to 6½ games. The South fared better in the second match with a win, the first for 10 years. The morning foursomes had to be cancelled due to the weather but the singles took place when the rain relented and the South team won by 7 games to 5. He thanked the Wigtownshire team members for travelling to both games.

Graeme had selected four of the six team members for the Area Team Championships, Scott Gibson (Southernness) and Greig Marchbank (Thornhill) had agreed to play, Martin McNae (Lochmaben) was injured at present but expected to fit in time and he had still to ask Mike Grunwell (Powfoot). He was going to ask two Juniors, Duncan McNeill (Powfoot) and Matthew McCulloch (Portpatrick) but after their poor showing in the Scottish Boys and the McEvoy Trophy he was having second thoughts. Graeme had also heard on the grapevine that SGU officials were disappointed with the boys' performances and were considering withdrawing their expenses to travel to the McEvoy.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

Iain Robin reported that the match against Ayrshire Youth/Juniors at Irvine on Sunday 29 March was comprehensively lost by 13 games to 3.

Of the thirteen boys who competed in the Scottish Boys Championship at Dunbar from 6 to 11 April only two got more than one game. Angus Bendall (Castle Douglas) got to the third round and Alex Chalk (Castle Douglas) was defeated in the fourth round.

William Squires (Kirkcudbright) and Cameron Gray (Kirkcudbright) were selected to play for the NCF Select against Yorkshire at Bedale on Tuesday 7 April. Both boys acquitted themselves well and enjoyed themselves.

Reports on these events were circulated to Members, sent to the local press for publication and posted on the website

A match against Clackmannanshire on Tuesday 14 April for a team of 6 boys was cancelled due to Clackmannanshire being unable to raise a team. As this is the venue for the Boys Area Team Championship this year it was decided to take the South boys for a practice round to give them valuable experience in playing the course. Seven boys made the journey

north and thoroughly enjoyed the course and agreed the experience should stand them in good stead. The 7 boys who travelled were Nathan Watson (Kirkcudbright), Ross Whyte (D&G), Rowan Marchbank (D&G), Angus Bendall (Castle Douglas), Alex Chalk (Castle Douglas), Fraser Hughes (Newton Stewart) and Grant Hannah (Thornhill). Matthew McCulloch (Portpatrick) has offered to play a practice round before the team is chosen in early May Iain is grateful to Neville, Duncan and Pam for their assistance with the travelling arrangements for all the events.

The first match for the Peat Shield took place on Thursday 16 April between Wigtownshire and Dumfriesshire and resulted in a win for Dumfriesshire by 7 games to 5

The next match for the boys is on Sunday 3 May at Powfoot against Cumbria. This is the first NCF match of the season and the boys are looking forward to representing the South..

COURSE RATING CONVENOR

Robert McKnight reported that he and Jim Arnott would attend a Course Rating seminar at Hilton Park Golf Club on 6 May.

The Clubs to be assessed this year were Moffat, Colvend, Newton Stewart and Dalbeattie.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

There was nothing to report

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Brian Duguid congratulated Angus Bendall and Alex Chalk on their achievements in reaching the 3rd and 4th rounds respectively in the Scottish Boys. He reported that the Development Centre Winter Coaching Programme was coming to an end. Clubs were starting to work together with Brighouse, Colvend and Kirkcudbright instigating reciprocal arrangements for members wishing to visit at reduced green fees. Castle Douglas had agreed to provide an area of ground at the bottom end of the practice area for a community garden. New Galloway had entered into ClubGolf and were helping with the local school.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported that Wigtownshire had played their first match in the Peat Shield at Newton Stewart and had been beaten 7 games to 5 by Dumfriesshire

AOCB

It was noted that the membership of Portpatrick Golf Club had reduced by 79 in the past year. It was suggested that a lot of their members came from outwith the area from Glasgow, Ayrshire etc and had holiday accommodation in the area and as Portpatrick did not have Country membership they had decided the fees were too high.

It was not known when the 50% of VAT from green fees would be returned to the Clubs

It was also not known when the Development Centre Reports would be issued.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 2 June 2015 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.