

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 19 August 2014
Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm.

Present:

Neville Wright, President, in the Chair; D Moore, A Millar; G. Sharp; J Burns; P Watson : R McKnight; B Duguid and I Robin, Secretary.

Apologies:

A Learmonth and I McWhirter;

President's Welcome:

The President welcomed the members to the August Meeting

Executive Meeting 8 July 2014

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Robert McKnight and seconded by Brian Duguid. The President asked if the News Page on the website could be the first page instead of the Home Page. The Secretary agreed to investigate.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that the website continues to evolve. News items are continuously being added. Please continue to visit the site and let him know of any errors or suggestions for improvements.

Alastair Millar is thanked for overhauling the two computers belonging to the Association and incorporating HandicapMaster so that competition draws and results can be published on the Mastersscoreboard website. Wave Tyrrell has transferred the sosga website to sosga.uk from 10 August 2014 to include information from Mastersscoreboard and enable the draws and results from competitions to be posted.

The draft response to the Amalgamation document was sent to all Members. Comments and additions were added and the reply sent on 30 July.

The SGU has prepared a standard constitution document which they want all Areas to use. The SoSGA constitution, the SGU standard document and the draft amended SGU standard constitution were sent to all members.

As part of their golf marketing the Group have established a Golf Safari Prize whereby the winner gets one nights free accommodation for 2 and a round of golf at a nearby course at 4 or 5 different accommodation providers and golf courses. So far 2 accommodation providers have expressed an interest. Duncan Moore added that there had been a good response and two Safari's had been established, one based on courses and hotels in the eastern half of the region and one in the west.

Scott Gibson and Greig Marchbank are to be congratulated on being selected to represent Scotland in the Home Internationals.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the summary of accounts up to 25 July as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In Bank at 1/9/13	14,677.20	Vouchers	1,420.00
IMT	1,298.00	Acc/meals	837.71
Sponsorship	840.00	ATC	2,033.22
Areas	761.73	Travel	406.10
Subs	15,978.00	Sundries	934.84
Sundries	10.00	Coaching	2,068.90
D&G Partnership	7,500.00	NCF	2,101.70
Comps	<u>512.00</u>	Matches	996.50
		D&G Partnership	12,500.00
		Areas	7,989.00
		in Bank 25/7/14	<u>10,288.96</u>
	41,576.93		41,576.93

Armstrong Watson, have still not advised if they will sponsor the Area Team this year.

D & G Golf Partnership

Duncan Moore reported that the next Sub Group Meeting would be in two days time. Richard Thomson-Smith and Martin McNae had completed their assignments and Lorna Young was improving her efforts. Liz MacPherson had been co-opted to provide admin assistance and was proving to be a valuable asset. The aerial photography should be very good and give a different aspect to the layout of the golf courses. Invoices for publications and photography had been paid and the advertising push was going ahead. Everything was proceeding well and coming to fruition.

Neville Wright reported that he had noticed in the Minutes of the main group meetings that action was required by the Association to appoint a representative to take forward the Group in the future. He did not want all the work that had been put in this year to be wasted and the efforts to become a one year wonder. To get the maximum benefit the initiative had to continue for the next four or five years and it was up to the Association to provide leadership.

Duncan further explained that the D & G Golf Safari Prize had received a great response from partners. The hotels in the east of the region were Gretna Hall Hotel, Gretna, Cairndale, Dumfries, Kerr Cottage, Dalbeattie and Kings Arms, Castle Douglas and in the west Barend Holiday Village, Dalbeattie, Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright, Cally Palace, Gatehouse and North West Castle, Stranraer. The hotels are on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis and golf courses selected will be dependent on the ability of the winners.. Prize entry will be open and run up to 31 March 2015 with the prize being taken before 30 June 2015.

Convenor's Reports

SGU DELEGATE

Jim Burns reported the death of George McClymont, past Captain of Portpatrick Dunskey Golf Club and past President of Wigtownshire Golfers' Association. He had died in mid July.

Since the last meeting he had assisted at the Scottish Boys Strokeplay at Cruden Bay where Duncan McNeill (Powfoot), Chris Finnie (Lockerbie) and Alex Chalk (Castle Douglas) all made the cut, with Duncan leading after a superb first round effort. Sadly he could not compete with Ewan Ferguson in the second and final rounds.

He also assisted at the European International Open at St Andrews where again the South featured with Conor Syme, still a South player at heart, although he had entered from Drumoig. Ashley Chesters (England) retained the title - the first to do so. He also had the pleasure of meeting the owner of the Dukes, Mr Herb Kholer and his wife Natalie. A seriously wealthy but very pleasant couple and had the privilege of dining in the R & A's Forgan House which overlooks the 18th green.

Greig Marchbank and Scott Gibson represented Scotland at the recent Home Internationals in Wales. Matthew McCulloch took part in the European Masters in Germany although this denied him the opportunity to play at Cruden Bay which was not right. Ian Brotherston has again been selected for the Senior Home Internationals at North Berwick in September.

Due to the above activity he was unable to attend the recent Development Meeting but had learned that some subject matters were generated around club committee work and training for new committee members.

The next Board Meeting is on Wednesday 27 August in Edinburgh and he hopes to attend and the next Council Meeting will take place on Friday 3 October at Pumpherston Golf Club.

Robert McKnight was concerned that all the venues for the next SGU Club Seminars were in Central Scotland and there wasn't one in the South Area. Jim replied that these were the venues that attracted attendance from the most Clubs.

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

Graeme Sharp reported that the Seniors Championship at Kirkcudbright on Wednesday 6 August had been won by Donald Shamash.

There had been a good entry for the South Championships at Stranraer on Sunday 17 August but this had been reduced due to a number of late call offs. Martin McNae, with rounds of 77 and 76

was the Champion for 2014. Due to the adverse weather only 15 players qualified for the Matchplay on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 August.

A general discussion had taken place at the South Championships regarding the date of the Shamash Trophy. All the players were in agreement that it would be better to hold the Shamash in September when the courses would be in better condition and swap the date with the Drennan Salver. The Executive agreed to these changes of date for 2015. Brian Duguid offered to contact Jim Douglas at Brighthouse Bay re availability.

Ian Brotherston had selected the team to represent the South in the Scottish Seniors Championship at Dunbar. It was Ian Brotherston, Muir Townsley, Tony Clark, Alastair Harkness, Davie Dickson, Eric Henderson and Graeme Sharp. It was noted that Ian Reid was now eligible.

Graeme thanked Alastair Millar for updating the computers. The difference was fantastic.

COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that questionnaires had been circulated to the boys. 20 were handed out and 19 returned. 11 of those commented on what they would like included in the winter programme.

72% requested short game

11% swing coaching

11% long game

9% course management

11% events through winter

She had spoken to Kevin Cademy-Taylor who advised that use can be made of any coach of our choice to deliver the performance coaching. James Erskine will be too busy with SGU coaching to be involved. Chris Robinson, David Broadfoot and Ross Murdoch are all keen to get involved with the winter programme.

Brighthouse are happy to host an assessment day and any coaching days. They are considering her request for a residential weekend of coaching and will let her know soon.

She recognised the need to pin down coaches to plan the winter programme. This will be done as soon as possible.

The Junior Opens at Southernness and Wigtownshire County did not take place due to a lack of entries. Only 9 took part at Newton Stewart, 9 at Stranraer and 4 at Portpatrick.

She had contacted the Coaching Convenors at each of the Counties regarding nominations for the Development Centres over the winter and received no replies.

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp had nothing to report.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

Iain Robin reported that the South Boys Championships, four NCF matches, the Peat Salver, 3 Counties and a U15/U14 match against Cumbria had been held since the last Meeting. Reports on all competitions were e-mailed to Executive Members and posted on the website.

There was a poor entry for the South Junior Championship which was played on Thursday 16 July at Newton Stewart. The Championship was won by Robert Hughan (Newton Stewart) and Fraser Hughes (Newton Stewart) was runner-up. Robert also won the Matchplay title and Fraser was the losing finalist.

The match against Northumberland was played at Lochmaben on Monday 14 July and resulted in a win for the South by 7 games to 5. The South lost the morning foursomes by 3½ games to ½ but fought back to win the singles by 6½ games to 1½

The match against Durham was played at Boldon on Sunday 27 July and resulted in a crushing defeat by 9½ games to 2½

The following day the team travelled to Bellingham to play the return match against Northumberland and recovered well to win by 7 games to 5

The Peat Salver was this year played for at Portpatrick on Wednesday 14 July. Wigtownshire easily retained the trophy

Kirkcudbright again hosted the 3 Counties on Thursday 24 July which was won by

Dumfriesshire

A match against Cumbria U15/14 was arranged to give some of the younger boys who had been playing well in their Club medals all season a chance to show if they could handle a step up by playing for the South. 5 new boys were selected to join 3 who had played before. All boys acquitted themselves well and recorded a win by 8 matches to 4.

The return match against Durham took place on Friday 15 August at Southernness and resulted in another defeat by 8 games to 4

Iain stated he was indebted to the members of the Executive for their support and assistance at all the Boy's events. It was much appreciated.

COURSE RATING

Robert McKnight reported that Portpatrick had been surveyed on a wet day on Monday 14 July. The reports had been sent to Bill Mitchell at SGU but no response had been forthcoming or for the reports on Sanquhar. Jim Burns agreed to contact SGU. It was hoped to survey Dumfries & Galloway before the end of the season if a suitable date could be found.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

Duncan Moore had nothing to report

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Brian Duguid reported that Kirkcudbrightshire Seniors Championship had had to be cancelled due to a lack of entries as had the Senior/Junior. Kenny Murray is to investigate the large number of open competitions with a view to reducing them for next year.

Environmental Health Officers were inspecting Clubs to ensure all were complying with the new Food Hygiene Regulations. The new regulations were contradicting Health and Safety legislation.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Robert McKnight reported that Graeme Hoodless won the Wigtownshire Boys Championship with a 73. Fraser Hughes was runner-up with 75.

Only 3 teams took part in the Boys league which was won by Stranraer.

Matthew McCulloch had shot a 59 at St Medan

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15 pm on Tuesday 30 September 2014 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.