

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 18 AUGUST 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; N Wright; R McKnight; S Kingston; B Duguid; and I Robin, Secretary.

Apologies:

There were no apologies

Presidents Welcome:

The President welcomed the members to the Meeting and hoped the Junior officials had caught up on their sleep after their hectic weekend

Executive Meeting 2 June 2015

The Minutes were approved by Alastair Millar, seconded by Pam Watson

Matters Arising:

The President reported that the Secretary had received an e-mail from Ian McWhirter offering his resignation from the Executive. This was accepted.

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 me know of any errors or suggestions for improvements.

An e-mail had been received from Jeff Suttcliffe with a list of errors and suggestions for improvements. It was agreed that the Secretary would invite Wave Tyrrell to join the Executive so that he could get up-to-date information and act thereon.

A progress report on those who attended the Development Centres at Powfoot and Portpatrick during the winter was received at the end of July. This information had been passed to the Coaching Convenor

The SGU are presently conducting an information update survey on those who hold Adult and Child Protection certificates to ensure all who deal with children are protected. Jim Burns, the South Child Protection Officer, has organised this on behalf of the Association and the questionnaire has been returned to the SGU.

Regular updates of the Order of Merit are being posted on the website by Clark Riddick and a report submitted to the press for publication. Many thanks to Clark for this.

Greig Marchbank was congratulated for reaching the semi-finals of the Scottish Amateur Championship at Muirfield and being a member of the Scottish team who won the British Home International Championships.

The Secretary was still awaiting a suitable date from Addi Shamash for a meeting with Dumfriesshire Ladies and Galloway Ladies to discuss the effects of amalgamation on the three bodies. Now that the playing season is nearing an end he would contact the two Counties to arrange a meeting in early autumn. Alastair Millar stated there was no urgency but he wanted to start a dialog on the way forward.

A letter of condolence was sent to Borders Golfers' Association regarding the death of the wife of Dennis Little. A letter of apology was also sent to explain there would be no representative from South at the funeral.

Treasurer's Report

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

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/14	9,209.30	Sundries	676.27
IMT Booklets	1,298.00	Coaching	3,080.00
Sponsorship	200.00	Acc/meals	403.35
Subs	17,524.50	NCF	4,723.08
SGU	2,462.40	Vouchers	1,129.99
Areas	995.58	Matches	1,438.24
Sundries	100.00	ATC	1,593.25
Coaching	1060.00	Area	8,083.90
Competitions	<u>310.00</u>	In Bank 10/8/15	<u>12,031.70</u>
	33,159.78		33,159.78

The last day of the financial year is 31 August. The Treasurer asked if anyone had cheques to submit or redeem, or expenses sheets to submit could they please do so as soon as possible so all cheques can be cleared before the end of the month.

Amalgamation

Jim Burns reported that the amalgamation was still scheduled to take place on 1 October. Eleanor Cannon had been elected as the first Chairman of the new organization and would sit on the panel to select the Board of Directors. It was expected these would be announced soon. The next Board Meeting was on 28 August.

D & G Golf Partnership:

Neville Wright reported that that the Partnership had held Meetings on 22 July and 18 August. The official involvement of the Council had been brought to a conclusion. The emphasis was now to find a way forward with the Clubs and a Seminar had been arranged for Wednesday 23 September at Castle Douglas Golf Club. The Partnership had a new logo and this would be used on all correspondence, etc. There were 1000 images from Clubs in a "draw box" which could be accessed at any time for their own promotions. VisitScotland were stepping back to eventually stop organizing the Golf Pass.

The seminar would examine an on line booking system by BRS to replace the Golf Pass. This system would allow a customer to book any Club in the region at the one time and make up his own itinerary. An explanation of the Golf Partnership Business Plan would be given and Clubs asked what details they would require to set up their own Business Plan and seminars or workshops run to provide the information. He would use the Business Plan of Stranraer Golf club as an example. Claire Middleton and Craig Chalmers of SGU were disappointed they were not being permitted to give their presentation on Business Plans but would only give an overview of Club Services provided by SGU. Nicole Hill from the Council may be able to match funding for items in any Business Plan.

Alastair Millar commented that it might be difficult to get his message across as there were few business people on committees.

Duncan Moore was pleased to see progress was being made and thanked Neville for taking on the leadership.

Convenor's Reports:

SGU DELEGATE

Jim Burns reported that he required feedback on the consultative document on Golf Forums which had been circulated to all. So far only the Secretary had responded. This was a preliminary document to find out if Forums were relevant. If not the Areas and Clubs would have no voice in the management of SGL. It was important to get everyone's views on the way forward. He would welcome any comments.

The per capita fee after amalgamation was fixed at £11.25. This fee and the numbers of Gents and Ladies from this year were to be used in making budget proposals.

Sponsorship income for this year had not been attained.

CHAMPIONSHIP SECRETARY

Graeme Sharp reported that 31 couples had competed in the Gillespie Classic. The Secretary had circulated a report and it had been published in the local press.

A report on the South Senior Championships had also been circulated and appeared in the press. The Senior Champion for 2015 was Tony Clark (D&C)

The South Championship at Powfoot attracted 70 competitors of whom 13 were Juniors. The South Champion for 2015 is Danny McConnachie (D&C) and William Squires (Kirkcudbright) won the Junior prize. The qualifying score for the match play was 151. A report has been circulated and submitted to the press for publication.

COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that the Junior OOM was still on-going but was not up-to-date as she was struggling to get results from some of the Clubs. She was hopeful to have something published in the press and on the website soon.

She explained she was gathering names for the winter Performance Squads and hoped to agree dates with Chris Robinson soon.. David Broadfoot had attended the final league match at Powfoot to assess the team and find areas for improvement. These would form the basis of the winter coaching. Nominations for Development Squads had to be sent to the SGU by the end of the month. She agreed to forward Claire White's report to Brian Duguid.

Two boys had been recommended for coaching at the SGU Academy but neither was successful.

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that the Senior's Team of Ian Brotherston, Muir Townsley, David Dixon, Tony Clark, Ian Reid and himself would represent the South in the Scottish Senior Area Championships at Montrose on 23 September.

Ian Brotherston was congratulated on being selected to represent Scotland in the Senior Home International Championships and the Senior European Championships.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

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

At the Boys Area Team Championships at Tulliallan on Sunday 7 June the South team of Matthew McCulloch, Alex Chalk, Angus Bendall and Fraser Hughes were third and each were presented with a bronze medal. This was a marvelous achievement and the boys were overjoyed.

At the Northern Counties Championships on Sunday on Sunday 28 June at Wynyard, Durham, the team of Matthew McCulloch, Alex Chalk, Angus Bendall, Fraser Hughes, Graeme Hoodless, Grant Hannah, Nathan Watson and Dylan Cairnie were a creditable third. For once the lower handicap players failed to perform to their potential but most of the higher handicappers played to their handicaps over the two rounds. The course was a monster at just under 7,000 yards.

In the South Junior Championships at Lochmaben on Thursday 9 July Dylan Cairnie (D&C) beat Rowan Marchbank (D&G) by one stroke over 36 holes to become the Champion for 2015

The final of the Match Play Championship on Friday 17 July was a cracking match between Fraser Hughes (Newton Stewart) and Nathan Watson (Kirkcudbright) and went to the last green where Fraser won by one hole.

At the 3 Counties at Kirkcudbright on Thursday 23 July a delighted Kirkcudbrightshire team won the Fraser Shield for the first time for 10 years. A girl, Mirren Fraser (Powfoot), played for Dumfriesshire and acquitted herself well.

The Junior Team had played 5 matches in the Northern Counties League and won 4 and drawn 1. Against Northumberland at Dumfries & County on Sunday 12 July they got off to a great start and were victorious by 7½ games to 4½. In the return game at Linden Hall on Monday 27 July the score was 9½ games to 2½. Against Durham at Dumfries & Galloway on Wednesday 5 August they won a tight match 7 games to 5. The team travelled to Stony Holme, Carlisle on Thursday 13 August and beat Cumbria by 7 games to 5 and on Friday 14 August to Ryton, Durham for the return match against Durham. This match was cancelled due to heavy rain and flooded greens and declared a draw. The last match was the re-arranged fixture against Cumbria at Powfoot on Monday 17 August. The boys knew that if they won this one they would be crowned league champions. Unfortunately they got too hyped up and after losing the foursomes 4 – 0 they had left themselves with a mountain to climb. They fought hard and won the singles 4½ games to 3½ but lost the match 7½ games to 3½. Although they tied with Durham at 9 points each they lost the title on number of games won (44 to 41½). To say they were gutted is an understatement.

The U16 team played the return match against Cumbria U16 at Cockermouth on Tuesday 28 July. This was the first match for some of the boys and they all played well despite losing 8 games to 4.

Only one match has been played for the Peat Shield. He would like to see the other two games played as it gives a lot of the younger boys good match play experience. It was agreed that if Ian McWhirter could not offer a date and venue by the end of the month Kirkcudbrightshire would gain home advantage and if not played Dumfriesshire would forfeit the match.

Duncan Moore thanked Iain, Pam and Neville for all their hard work and a very successful season.

COURSE RATING

Robert McKnight reported that the re-rating of Moffat was completed as planned on 30 June with Bill Mitchell in attendance. Bill confirmed that he and Kevin Weir decided not to decrease the SSS of the Portpatrick course in accordance with his figures. When asked why they should override the survey figures without doing an on-course check no definitive answer was given although they agreed to reconsider if a further check on R & R, fairway widths and green speeds was resubmitted. The figures for Moffat were submitted on Friday 10 July by first class post and nothing had been heard since.

Bill Mitchell enquired if the Rating Team were willing to assist the Ladies and rate from the red boxes while doing the mens' tees. This was agreed and consequently it was also agreed that the new Ladies team would assist with the rating at Dalbeattie the following day and discuss plans for the future.

It would appear that the Ladies' Ratings are considerably behind schedule. St Medan has not been rated since 2003, Newton Stewart, Lockerbie, Lochmaben, Gatehouse and Southernness since 2004 and Dumfries & County, Thornhill, Wigtown & Bladnoch and Powfoot since 2005. Brighouse Bay has never been rated from the Ladies' tees. Ratings are not valid if more than 10 years old. It would appear that Langholm Ladies are in Dumfries County and the men in the Border's Area. This may cause confusion at amalgamation.

It is proposed to rate Newton Stewart later this year and if possible St Medan, Brighouse Bay, Lockerbie, Lochmaben, Gatehouse and Southernness.

Next years' schedule contains Dumfries & County and Thornhill, and Wigtown & Bladnoch and Powfoot could be added.

It was reported that Senior Men and Ladies at some Clubs were looking for a rating for 9 holes. This would also require a new stroke index for each of the nine holes. The solution was to set up the computer as a 9 hole competition and the computer will do the work. If the SGU is applied to for a nine hole course they will give the SSS.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

Graeme Sharp reported that Lochmaben had won the league and the top four play-off. Thornhill won the 2nd division play-off.

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Brian Duguid reported that Southernness had won the inter club competition at Brighouse. One Club was not represented.

D Neilson won the Seniors Championship

The Junior Championship was held at Kirkcudbright and won by N Watson (Kirkcudbright) and the handicap section by C Gray (Kirkcudbright)

The Fraser Shield was won by Kirkcudbrightshire

I McBeth (Castle Douglas) won the Solway Cup and A Bendall (Castle Douglas) the Solway Bowl

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported the following competition results:-

Wigtownshire Championship at Portpatrick – David Brodie (W&B)

Wigtownshire Match Play at Portpatrick – David Brodie (W&B)

Dalrymple Cup at Newton Stewart – Newton Stewart beat Portpatrick in the final

Wigtownshire Handicap (Ted & Jo Boyd Trophy) at Newton Stewart – James McClymont (NS)

Scratch League – Wigtown & Bladnoch

Handicap League – Newton Stewart after play-off against Stranraer

Wigtownshire 2 ball at St Medans

Individual winners – David Brodie & Mickey Bartle (W&B)

Team Winners – Wigtown & Bladnoch

Two rounds have been played in the Seniors League and there are three rounds to go

Wigtownshire Junior League at Portpatrick – Portpatrick

The Seniors Championship is at Portpatrick on Sunday 20 September

The Wigtownshire AGM is on Wednesday 11 November at Wigtownshire County

The Facebook page is up and running successfully.

He has been unable to find a Junior Vice President for the South but it is in hand.

A.O.C.B.

Jim Burns stated that two team captain's medals would be presented at the ATC.

Brian Duguid reported that when surfing the English Golf website he noticed that changes to CONGU were being introduced. Jim Burns was aware changes were being discussed but no recommendations had been agreed yet. He will check out.

Alastair Millar proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 3 November 2015 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.