

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 16 August 2016**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

Present:

Stephen Kingston, Vice-President, in the Chair; D. Moore; G Sharp; J Burns; R McKnight; J Sutcliffe and I Robin, Secretary.

Apologies:

Alastair Millar, President, P Watson, W Tyrrell, N Wright, and B Duguid

Vice-President's Welcome:

The Vice-President welcomed the members with a special welcome to Jeff Sutcliffe who was representing Kirkcudbrightshire in the absence of Brian Duguid

Executive Meeting 28 June 2016

The Minutes were approved by Jim Burns, seconded by Graeme Sharp.

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 these were eagerly awaited.

No representative from the Golf Clubs had been invited to attend this Committee Meeting due to summer holidays etc.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported the Summary of Accounts up to 26 July 2016 were as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/15	11,322.55	Sundries	643.05
Comps	380.00	Coaching	3,660.00
IMT	700.00	Travelling	109.50
Sponsor	300.00	ATC	1,292.15
Subscriptions	18,305.00	NCF	2,081.81
Coaching	<u>1,550.00</u>	Matches	1,540.97
		Vouchers	1,850.00
		Returned Subs	682.50
		D&C Partnership	230.85
		Areas	771.20
		In bank 25/2/16	<u>19,695.52</u>
	32,557.55		<u>32,557.55</u>

All Clubs had paid their subscriptions. Crichton, Thornhill, Wigtownshire County, Brighouse, Stranraer Lochmaben and Lockerbie had overpaid and the overpayment returned. Three Clubs, Newton Stewart, Wigtown & Bladnoch and Kirkcudbright had underpaid by a total of £105 and the Treasurer had decided not to chase the outstanding monies.

The Counties were paid their share of the subscriptions on 8 August so these figures are not included in the above summary.

The HandicapMaster annual subscription had been paid.

Concern was expressed that Wigtown & County had not paid their full allocation. The Treasurer thought it was the fee for a Life Member but would check.

Jim Burns noted that the total number of members had been 7708 in 2000 but were now 4945, a drop of 2763 or 36%

Convenor's Reports

SGL PRESIDENT

Jim Burns reported that the update on the Areas and Counties due at the end of August was to be postponed until the new Chief Executive had settled in. The undercurrents within Scottish Golf were still in evidence and affecting the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation. He had heard there was to be a meeting of Area Secretaries on the Friday evening at the ATC. Iain Robin intimated that he had not been invited.

Jim had been out and about around the country. He was pleased to see that Liam Johnston, Matthew McCulloch and Ian Brotherston had gained recognition for their commitment to golf in Scotland and been selected to play for Scotland in their respective categories in the Home Internationals. It was disappointing that no South players had progressed beyond the second round in the Scottish Amateur.

Blane Dodds took up his post as Chief Executive on Monday 15 August. Jim expected him to have his brief up and running very soon. The moral of the staff at the Dukes was not improving and he was concerned for the future. Volunteers were helping out where possible.

He had been unable to get any information on whether coaching grants would be continued next year.

That day he had had a meeting with Craig Chalmers and Jackie Davidson, Development Officers with Scottish Golf and two representatives from the Golf Club Managers' Association to determine what assistance they could give to Clubs and the Area. They recognised they had to provide the right information and guidance and what happens in the Central Belt is not necessarily pertinent to that in the whole country, particularly regarding membership and visitors. They have to find the best solutions to meet the needs in rural areas and also in different rural areas.

They suggested a pilot meeting, say two hour evening meeting, to find out the interests and challenges facing the Clubs. They also recognised that a broad business planning agenda was not the answer. Their first step was to improve their engagement with the Clubs but their initial challenge would be to break their apathy and get them involved with a willingness to recognise the issues.

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

Graeme Sharp reported that the South Senior Championship had been badly affected by horrendous weather and resulted in a tie on 82 after 18 holes. On the 6th extra hole Robin Shaw (Wigtownshire County) holed a monster 15 yard birdie putt from the front of the green to beat Neil Stott (Southernness). Kenny Clark (D&C) was third with a score of 83. The handicap winner was Aitken Walker (Powfoot) with a net 75. Graeme thanked Powfoot for the use of the course.

The South Championships were to be held at Southernness on Sunday 21 August. To date 57 entries had been received. No returns had been received from the Clubs and all entries had been submitted electronically or by telephone. Unfortunately the draw would not appear in the press due to a technical hitch. It was suggested that in future hard copies of the competition poster should be sent by surface mail as e-mails were not being printed off by the Clubs.

COACHING CONVENOR

In the absence of the Coaching Convenor the Secretary read out her report. She explained that she had thoroughly enjoyed the busy summer as Iain's assistant seeing some very positive results.

The Under 16 matches against Dumfries & County had been useful in identifying new talent for the squads.

Plans were being prepared for this winter's coaching.

The Junior Order of Merit had been updated and a report for the press will be submitted soon. Nominations had opened for Development Academies. She had no further information regarding facilities in South Area at this time.

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that he had used 12 names to find a team of 6 for the Area Team Championship. The team selected was Scott Gibson, Liam Johnston, Martin McNae, Clark Riddick, Chris Corbett and Michael Grunwell.

Details of the Senior ATC had been received and passed to Ian Brotherston who would pick the team.

Ian was congratulated on being runner-up in the Carnegie Shield at Dornoch the previous weekend.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

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

The South Junior Championships were held on Saturday 9 August at Kirkcudbright and the winner was Nathan Watson (Kirkcudbright) Runner-up was Cameron Gray (Kirkcudbright). The first four places were taken by Kirkcudbright members from an entry of 14.

The Junior Match Play Championships were held the following week. The four semi-finalists came from Kirkcudbright Golf Club. The final was between fifteen year old Cameron Gray and fourteen year old Callum McMillan and Cameron won at the 22nd.

Six NCF league matches had been played. South had won 4 and lost 2. Both games against Cumbria were lost 7½ games to 4½ and the boys beat Northumberland at Southernness by 7½ to 4½ and at Burgham Park by 8 games to 4. The first match against Durham was a win by 8 games to 4 and the return at Thornhill was won by 6½ games to 5½. During the Tour to play Northumberland and Durham away the boys enjoyed a conducted tour of Newcastle United Football Club.

The NCF Championships were held at Penrith on Monday 1 August. Some late call offs resulted in a weakened team, including one on the Saturday evening. South finished third but two boys, Angus Bendall (CD) and William Squires (Kbt) had the second lowest individual scores.

Two Under 16 matches had been held against Cumbria resulting in a loss by 6½ games to 5½ and 8½ games to 3½. The first match against Dumfries & County was used as a trial to give some of the younger boys experience in playing representative fixtures and was lost 6½ games to 5½. The return match took place on Monday 15 August at Kirkcudbright and the South boys reversed the result and won 8½ games to 3½.

The Fraser Shield (3 Counties) was won by Dumfriesshire
I am still awaiting notification of the dates for the Peat Salver matches.

My thanks to Pam, Neville and Duncan for all their help and support and to Alastair for attending most of the matches and all competitions and even acting as driver of the minibus to take us all to Seascale..

COURSE RATING CONVENOR

Robert McKnight reported that Lochmaben course re-rating was completed on 2 August. Unfortunately Eileen Scott was unable to attend. It turned out that the Club had not completed a course measurement so the team measured it from the Medal, Yellow and Red tees which resulted in a decrease of 77 yards from the Medal Tees (approx 0.35 of a stroke) The final outcome was 69.3 against the previous figure of 69.8. The figures have still to be ratified by the SGL. The previous rating also rated the green considerably faster than were found last year.

Dumfries & County is due to be re-rated the following day and Eileen will be in attendance but unfortunately her team members are unable to get time off work. Her husband, Malcolm, is coming to drive the buggy.

Moffat have complained that since the SSS was reduced they have lost members. The SSS increases regularly probably due to the rough being worse this year. Bill Mitchell was present at the re-rating.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY GOLF PARTNERSHIP

In the absence of Neville Wright and Wave Tyrrell the Secretary explained that there were issues to do with the way forward and it would be more prudent to defer this item until both were present. This was agreed.

WEBMASTER AND FIXTURES SECRETARY

It was suggested that the Secretary remind Wave Tyrrell that this was the time of year to issue letters to the Clubs to submit their fixture lists as soon as possible.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

There was no report from Dumfriesshire

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Jeff Sutcliffe, in the absence of Brian Duguid, reported that changes were taking place in entries for competitions. Numbers were up, mainly from home players.

The association had applied for a grant to produce a handbook which would be distributed to all members.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported that 40 teams had taken part in the Foursomes at Stranraer. Portpatrick Dunskey won the team event and also had the individual winners.

It was pleasing to note that all prize winners attended the prize giving for the Scratch League Trophy.

Portpatrick won the Junior League which was played over the Dinvin Course. There was a disappointing entry of only 3 Clubs.

He was sad to intimate the recent sudden death of Ian Thin, who was President of SOSGA in 2011.

Matthew McCulloch goes to USA to attend university in the near future and Fraser Hughes returns for his second year.

Two rounds had been played in the Senior League on Monday mornings.

AOCB

Graeme Sharp reported that John Thomson (Kirkcudbright) had had a heart attack but was recovering.

Jim Burns proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 20 September 2016 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.