

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 14 January 2014
Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm.

Present:

D Moore, Vice President, in the Chair; G. Sharp; J Burns; W Lumsden; R McKnight; B Duguid and I Robin, Secretary.

Apologies:

N. Wright, President; A Learmonth, and A Millar

President's Welcome:

The Vice President welcomed the seven members to the January Meeting and wished everyone a happy new year. He congratulated Jim Burns on his impending election to the position of Junior Vice President of the SGU

Executive Meeting 5 November 2013

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Duncan Moore and seconded by Robert McKnight

Executive Meeting 21 November 2013

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Duncan Moore and seconded by Brian Duguid

Annual General Meeting 21 November 2013

The draft Minutes were approved

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. The Revised Rules for the Order of Merit and the Fixture List for 2014 had been added. Thanks were expressed to Roger Bailey and Brian Duguid for all their efforts in compiling the list and checking dates with the Clubs.

A Meeting of the D & G Golf Group was held on Tuesday 7 January in the Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries. The main item on the agenda was the VisitScotland growth fund application for which it had been suggested that a separate bank account be established to keep the initiative separate from the day - to - day activities of the Association. This was agreed by the Executive. The application will be submitted through SoSGA but needs to be from a named individual. Donald MacDonald (D&C) has been proposed by the Group and approval for this appointment was given by the Executive.

Stuart Graham, the SGU Finance Manager, has left his post to pursue new career opportunities. The vacant post will be advertised soon.

As the President is unable to attend he has agreed that Jim Burns, Duncan Moore, Willie Lumsden and the Secretary will represent the Association at the SGU Conference/AGM on 25/26 January at Stirling University.

The 2014 Scottish Golf Awards will take place on Friday 28 February at the Hilton, Glasgow. Tickets are £65 per person or a table of 10 for £600.

The Pines has recently entered liquidation. All movable assets have been removed and the site is virtually closed although some members have recently been seen playing the course. It is not likely that a buyer will be found and members will have to find other courses to join. Jim Burns offered to contact the SGU verbally, in the first instance, to seek clarification and guidance with regard to its status as a Development Centre as concern was expressed that arrangements for coaching days would be in jeopardy and whether they could assist in finding alternative facilities in the Dumfries Area. It was reported that Joe Fergusson had offered Tower Wood but this would obviously come at a cost.

There are rumours that Lockerbie are also considering liquidation but recent intelligence suggests this is not imminent..

The SGU had issued the agenda for the Conference on 25/26 January. The themes for

discussion would be:-

- The future economic Model for Golf Clubs
- Supporting Clubs and sharing best practice - Education
- Supporting Clubs and sharing best practice - Business Planning
- SGU Strategy

It was agreed these were all relevant topics but care should be exercised when forming policy that Scottish Clubs were very diverse in size and constitutional make up. One size doesn't fit all circumstances.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the summary of accounts up to 30 December as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In Bank at 1/9/13	14,677.20	Vouchers	820.00
IMT	1,098.00	Acc/meals	359.80
Sponsorship	630.00	ATC	785.98
Areas	761.73	Travel	265.10
Subs	3,642.00	Sundries	190.00
		in Bank 30/12/13	<u>18,388.05</u>
	<u>20,808.93</u>		20,808.93

To date eight Clubs had paid their subscriptions, namely Dumfries and Galloway, Newton Stewart, Portpatrick, Powfoot. Sanquhar, Southernness, St Medan and Wigtown and Bladnoch.

Gatehouse had asked for an extension to 1 April to submit their subs. This had been granted.

Convenor's Reports

SGU DELEGATE

Jim Burns reported that Kevin Cademy-Taylor (Performance Development Manager) and Andy Salmon (Deputy CEO) gave presentations on current progress in the areas of development centres and club development respectively at the Council Meeting on 10 December 2013.

Area registrations on the CDH are ongoing and it was noted that Areas that do not use their own computer cannot register as such.

It was agreed to circulate the Council with details of the recently launched Get Into Golf programme. The programme is being promoted over winter for the new season.

The selection for a new Development Director highlighted the workload and it became apparent that splitting the role into two - Director of Participation (including ClubGolf) and Club Development - was the way forward. Two candidates are to be proposed to the AGM.

The Working Group towards Amalgamation were developing a proposal to be completed as soon as possible. The Working Together Group reported on their progress as follows:-

- Defined a role for the Council that involves a focus on major issues
- Propose meeting twice per annum but for a longer time to consider major issues
- Council members will be time bound along similar lines to Board members
- A Director/Senior staff member should attend each Area's AGM and annually to an Area Committee meeting
- All Areas undertake the business planning process and develop their own business plan

The proposals in detail will be circulated to Areas and discussed at the SGU Annual Conference

A proposal to hold a national Area dinner to support and award the workers and volunteers was to be examined.

The draft Minutes of the Council Meeting on 10 December 2013 are attached to this Minute as a reference.

It was agreed that the Secretary would attend the Council Meeting on 19 March as Jim Burns would be on holiday.

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

Graeme Sharp reported that he would send out entry forms to the Clubs for all the competitions in the near future. It was suggested that a generic entry form be posted on the website and which competitors could e-mail their entries. The Secretary agreed to contact Wave to see if

this could be done.

COACHING CONVENOR

Willie Lumsden reported that he had had a meeting with Kevin Cademy-Taylor (SGU Performance Manager), Ann Lang (South ClubGolf Regional Manager) and Colin Bell (SGU Development Manager) in East Kilbride on 14 November 2013 to discuss the South Coaching Policy. Support was given by all and if a date could be found all were willing to come down to discuss policy with parents, Club officials, Junior Convenors, etc.

Letters had been sent to parents of all invited boys regarding the Performance Days for U18 and U16 squads. A good response for attendance had been achieved.

The first Performance Day on Sunday 15 December had been cancelled due to adverse weather. This would not be rescheduled.

From the Fixture List a Junior Fixture List had been compiled and will be sent to all boys and Junior Convenors. The list contains all SGU events, NCF matches, South Junior events, Club Junior Opens and Order of Merit events. The Secretary agreed to have the Brighthouse Bay Junior Open posted on the website. It was agreed that it was unfortunate that there were a few problems with conflicting SGU/South matches/Club events on the same day but with such a busy schedule this was inevitable.

Willie explained his proposals for a new Junior Order of Merit competition. The two proposals produced a lively debate and it was agreed that the JOOM would be:-

- A scratch event
- There would be two classes ie U16 and U14
- All Club Junior Open events would act as qualifiers with the scratch winner in each section progressing to an Area final
- If a player won more than one qualifier then the second placed player would be the qualifier.
- The Area Final would be played at Southernness during the October school holidays (in 2014 the final will be Friday 17 October)
- A handicap competition may be run in conjunction with the Area Final

The South Coaching Policy was used as the basis for forming a South of Scotland Golf Academy. Willie explained his proposals of forming Academy squads of the elite players from various age groups over the summer months to produce a conveyor belt of talent to represent the South for years to come. This paper was not discussed and no decision taken.

The Facebook page contains South, SGU and ClubGolf news and information. If anyone has any other ideas or proposals they should contact Willie.

The papers South of Scotland Junior Order of Merit, South of Scotland Golf Academy and the South Area Junior Coaching Policy and the Coaching Convenor's Report are attached to this Minute as appendices.

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that no practice sessions had been arranged due to the weather. He hoped to have some at Southernness in the near future.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

Iain Robin had nothing to report

COURSE RATING

Robert McKnight reported that he had studied Robin Douglas's papers and would make up a rota for course surveys for the next few years. He was concerned that Portpatrick and Sanquhar were in urgent need of an update and these would be his priority for this year. Jim Arnott and Neville Wright (both Stranraer) and Wave Tyrrell (New Galloway) had all expressed a desire to become Course Raters. Jim Burns added that Kevin Fish of SGU had intimated that a Course Rater's course would be organised soon.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

Duncan Moore had nothing to report

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Brian Duguid reported that the Kirkcudbrightshire Development squad were having a

coaching session on Saturday 25 January. He hoped to be able to name the Junior Vice President in the near future.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Robert McKnight reported that at the AGM David Brodie had agreed to accept the Team Manager's job. The format of the scratch league would now be 6 singles instead of foursomes.

A. O. C. B.

Brian Duguid reported that the European Court of Justice had released its judgement in the case of HMRC v Bridport and West Dorset Golf Club - VAT Judgement. The case concerned the legality of charging VAT on visitors fees. The Court found in favour of the Golf Club. This information is posted on the SGU website and the Secretary was asked to advise all Clubs to take cognisance of the judgement and to read the link on the website.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15 pm on Thursday 6 March 2014 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.