

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 20 JANUARY 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; B Duguid; S Kingston and I Robin, Secretary.

In Attendance:

D MacDonald, D & G Golf Partnership

Apologies:

N Wright and I McWhirter

Presidents Welcome:

The President wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed the members to his first Executive Meeting as Chairman and in particular to Stephen Kingston who was attending his first meeting as Wigtownshire representative.

D & G Golf Partnership:

The President welcomed Donald MacDonald to update the committee on the work of the Sub Group and detail his vision of the way forward. Donald explained that the Partnership had struggled over the past year through dealings with VisitScotland. To be sustainable the way forward had to be managed by a constituted body and SoSGA was the obvious choice. It was important to get the Clubs and the South to work together and move forward. He had prepared a paper which outlined his vision and this had been distributed to the members. Jim Burns congratulated Donald on the commendable work he had done to get the project to this position and agreed that the South was the best vehicle to take it forward. The President agreed and suggested that the people within the Partnership should start communicating with those in the Counties and find what they have to offer. He confirmed that VisitScotland had caused problems particularly with their website but these had recently been resolved.

Other members asked questions regarding the role of the accommodation providers and communications with them and the Clubs which were satisfactorily answered.

The Secretary proposed that:-

- The Club Development Coordinator within SoSGA will be Neville Wright who would report to the SoSGA Executive on a regular basis
- A Club Development Group would be put in place to manage delivery of the D & G Golf Partnership project and transition into a sustainable structure
- The Club Development Group to comprise
 - 1 Club Development Coordinator
 - 2 D & G Golf Partnership Chairman (Donald MacDonald)
 - 3 3 County representatives (to be appointed)
 - 4 3 Area Accommodation Coordinators (to be appointed)
 - 5 D & G Advisers (Mark Geddes and Liz MacPherson)
- Club Development Coordinator to chair main D & G Golf Partnership Meetings with support from existing Sub Group
- Existing D & G Golf Partnership Sub Group Workstreams to be maintained for the duration of the project.
- Sustainable Workstreams to be developed around Golf (Marketing), Club (Collaboration) and Communications

The proposal was seconded by Alastair Millar and approved unanimously.

Gateway to Golf Pass:

Donald MacDonald explained that Mark Murray of VisitScotland had been asked by the Main Group of D & G Golf Partnership to form a Sub Group to investigate the cost of the Golf Pass. The Sub Group had proposed reducing the percentage returned from VisitScotland to the Clubs from 75% of the green fees to 62.5% to reduce the deficit being experienced by the Tourist Board. This had started a wave of negative e-mails from Clubs and individuals. Brian Duguid was of opinion that VisitScotland did not understand the problem as any decrease in visitor fees for the Clubs from VisitScotland would affect have negated the ongoing battle between Bridgeport Golf Club and the Inland Revenue. VisitScotland had agreed not to implement their proposal.

The President thanked Donald for his contribution to the debate and Donald left the Meeting.

Executive Meeting 4 November 2014

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

Annual General Meeting 20 November 2014:

The draft Minutes were approved

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary apologised for the late delivery of the papers for this Meeting but he had had serious computer problems, including losing all his e-mails from before Xmas. He thanked Jim Burns for sending out the papers on his behalf.

The Secretary reported that the website continues to evolve. News items are continuously being added. Wave has been busy since his return from holiday in Ireland over the Christmas period. He is busy posting the D & G Golf Partnership video, fixture list and up-to date officials on the website. Please continue to visit the site and let me know of any errors or suggestions for improvements.

A letter had been received from Daniel Somerville, SGU Events Organiser asking for a nomination as the host venue for the Boys Area Team Championship on 11 June 2017. It was agreed that the nomination from the South should be Stranraer Golf Club. If for any reason this was unavailable or unsuitable the second choice of the Executive would be Dumfries & County followed by Southernness. All these Clubs complied with the requirements of the competition.

The recent death of Jim Briggs, Kirkcudbright was reported

E-mails had recently been forwarded attaching info on

- 1 ATC (Appendix 8)
- 2 SGU Information Directory
- 3 Amalgamation (Borders Golf Association)
- 4 Amalgamation (SGU Poll of Affiliated Clubs)
- 5 Amalgamation (SGU Meetings with Areas)
- 6 D & G Golf Partnership video links
- 7 Gateway to Golf Pass

An information sheet detailing the South of Scotland Executive for 2015 had been distributed

The IMT Booklets were given to members for distribution to the Clubs

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer presented a Summary of Accounts up to 19 December 2014

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/14	9,209.30	Sundries	201.94
IMT Booklets	1,210.00	Coaching	150.00
Sponsorship	200.00	Acc/meals	324.00
Subs	2,719.50	NCF	203.76
SGU	500.00	Vouchers	720.00
Areas	536.30	In Bank 19/12/14	<u>13,135.40</u>

Coaching	<u>360.00</u>	14,735.10
	14,735.10	

To date (18 January 2015) 10 Clubs have paid their subscriptions amounting to £7,685.50. The Bank Balance stands at £18,290.05.

Amalgamation:

Jim Burns reported that the Joint Working Group had completed their review of the comments and issues from the consultation with the Areas and Clubs and produced the final proposal for the Amalgamation of the SGU and SLGA. The document had been distributed to all Areas and Clubs. There was not much difference to the original although some of the issues had been addressed. He felt it was a fair and reasonable document to go forward. The Borders Area had been in an acrimonious discussion with the Chairman which they had e-mailed to all Areas. Jim had spoken to Jack Keeney, SGU Vice President and Borders SGU Representative, and he was vehemently against the proposal personally. It would appear that Stirlingshire, Glasgow and Fife also had issues. There were no other dissenting voices. It was agreed that regarding the correspondence from the Borders the South was not in a position to respond. He explained that the proposed Forums would discuss relevant and salient issues and ensure these were discussed at the Board Meetings, listened to and acted upon. The Clubs would set the Agenda, supported by the Areas.

The SGU Chairman, Tom Craig, had offered to meet with all the Areas to discuss any outstanding issues. (It should be remembered that the South voted against the proposals at a previous Council Meeting). To find out the views of the Clubs the SGU had set up an online voting system.. Although the members of the Executive were in favour of the revised proposals it was agreed that before determining how the Area would vote the Clubs should be consulted to find their views. The Secretary was instructed to contact the Clubs to ascertain if they had any comments on the final proposals and their voting intentions so the South could gain a consensus of opinion and vote accordingly.

Convenor's Reports:

SGU REPRESENTATIVE

Jim Burns had nothing further to report

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

Graeme Sharp reported that he would get the entry sheets for the South competitions out to the Clubs soon

The SGU was seeking the views of the Areas to change the date of the Area Team Championships from mid May to mid September. It was agreed that the South had no objections.

An hotel near Blairgowrie had been booked for this year's ATC

COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that the first of the Performance days was held on Saturday 22 November 2014 at Brighthouse Bay. Chris Robinson led the day with the focus being pre-tournament preparation. TPI trained fitness professional Russell Jones took the boys through their paces where all the boys were screened to assess the physical restrictions within their golf swing and to take them through warm up exercises and routines. The boys were encouraged to contact Russell directly to work on an individual programme. Dumfriesshire are running group classes with Russell which includes six of the performance squad. Only three other boys have contacted Russell since the performance day. There was a good atmosphere at the first day and all the boys appeared to be enjoying the various sessions that Chris put on. There is a good report of the day on the website courtesy of Chris and Iain.

The second day will take place on Saturday 31 January and the programme is:-

9.30 am	Arrival and registration
9.45 am	Re-cap of previous session (Body in Golf, Preparation, Practice

	Techniques
10.00 am – 12 noon	New Player Assessment which includes Short Course (3 x Par 3's), Full swing, Short Game and Putting Assessment.
12 noon -12.30 pm	lunch
12.30 pm – 1.15 pm	Putting seminar with Chris Robinson. Learn to read greens like the tour pro's
12.30 pm – 1.15 pm	Dial into Digits with David Broadfoot using GC2 Launch Monitor
1.15 pm – 2.00 pm	Short game masterclass with C Robinson. Learn how to spin it!
1.15 pm – 2.00 pm	Full Swing Analysis with D Broadfoot
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	On course session, Defence v Attack. Focus on course management, shot/club selection & team work
4.00 pm	Finish

Pam had considered alterations to the Junior Order of Merit by making it U18 and U15 scratch and introducing a handicap section. If there are no objections from the Ladies Counties a girls OOM could also be introduced.

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that the two friendly matches against Borders and Cumbria had been arranged for 5 April at Minto and 12 April at Southernness respectively.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

Iain Robin reported that the only matches and competitions still to be arranged were the matches for the Peat Shield. He urged the Counties to get together and fix dates and venues.

COURSE RATING

Robert McKnight reported that he was still awaiting the results from the surveys carried out last year. Jim Burns reported that he had been told that SSS for Dumfries & Galloway was to remain the same.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

There was nothing to report

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Brian Duguid reported that Jean Forrest had agreed to be the new Vice President. The Executive had been unable to find a Championship Secretary.

The scratch OOM had been extended to include Open competitions at all courses. In addition a new OOM (handicap) had been introduced.

Two Development Coaching Days had already taken place and the next one was on Saturday 24 January.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported that Wigtownshire had changed the format of the summer league to 2 singles and 2 foursomes as a trial for this summer.

A.O.C.B.

Alastair Millar thanked Brian Duguid for sorting the date for the Gillespie Classic.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.30pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 10 March 2015 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.