

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 12 JANUARY 2016**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

**Present:**

Alastair Millar, President, in the Chair; D. Moore; G Sharp; J Burns; P Watson;; W Tyrrell; R McKnight; S Kingston; B Duguid: and I Robin, Secretary.

**Apologies:**

N Wright

**Presidents Welcome:**

The President welcomed the members to his first Executive Meeting in the Chair and wished everyone a Happy New Year and a fruitful one for golf in Dumfries & Galloway

**Executive Meeting 3 November 2015**

The Minutes were approved by Jim Burns, seconded by Stephen Kingston after the correction of Kirkcudbrightshire to Wigtonshire under the Wigtonshire Representative's Report.

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising

**Annual General Meeting 26 November 2015**

The draft minutes were approved

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising

**Secretary's Report:**

The Secretary reported that a synopsis of the newsletter sent to the Clubs by SGL on 8 December regarding the latest amalgamation news was posted on the website. He congratulated Jim Burns on his appointment as President-Elect for SGL and the President added that it was well deserved. He wished him all the best.

A Note of the Meeting with representatives of Dumfriesshire Ladies and Galloway Ladies on Tuesday 10 November was sent to all Executive members and posted on the website. Neville Wright had intimated that he was disappointed there had not been more mention of the D&G Golf Partnership at the meeting. He was assured it had been discussed but due to time limits was not discussed at length.

The SGL December Newsletter to the Clubs contained some interesting information regarding a further update on the ongoing VAT hearing and the implications for golf clubs which had been received from VAT (Scotland). Four regional seminars on the impact of the 72 page judgement handed down by the First tier tribunal will take place in January in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness. Brian Duguid added that due to demand there were now two in Glasgow. The ruling on appeal by HMRC was expected within two weeks. The effects of the VAT hearing would be different for all Clubs, for example, Castle Douglas would lose approx. £5,000 because they did not come within the de minimus. Revisions to the Handicapping System have been announced by CONGU, effective from 1 January. Changes include the 4BBB allowance and a new handicap.

The SGL is to hold a Conference at Gleneagles on Sunday 31 January to discuss the implications of regional and national forums. Each Area has been invited to send 3 delegates and the President, Secretary and one other will represent the South. A discussion ensued so that the delegates could put forward the Executive's concerns. These included a) Clubs to be represented to give them a voice b) problems defining Regions c) South Area to stay the same d) Langholm to decide whether they want to join South or stay in Borders [Gents are in Borders, Ladies in Dumfriesshire Ladies] e) with part of a Region with some bigger Areas with more Clubs our voice might not be heard when discussing strategic issues f) there was a

fear from the Ladies that paid officials could take over g) the Audit Committee should have professional people who are not involved with SGL h) it was noted that the Board of Directors all had impressive cv's and were better qualified than those previously with SGU. Jim Burns added that the previous Council had prepared a discussion document for the Board on the subject of Forums and had suggested there be 4 numeric equal Regions. The South were to be matched with Ayrshire, Lanarkshire and Argyll & Bute. Argyll & Bute had voiced concerns as they considered themselves more affiliated to the north. The Amalgamation Document stated that the SGL was to supply secretarial support but SGL opined that this could cause employment problems. Jim suggested this could be a job for the Development Officers. Our main objective will be to get the best deal for our Clubs.

The first AGM of Scottish Golf will take place on Sunday 6 March at a venue (probably Stirling Court Hotel) still to be decided.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer reported the Summary of Accounts up to 27 December 2015 were as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/15	11,322.55	Sundries	341.37
Comps	310.00	Coaching	700.00
IMT	330.00	Travelling	109.50
Sponsor	300.00	ATC	725.00
Subscriptions	1,323.00	NCF	203.76
		Matches	54.00
		Vouchers	1,335.00
		In bank 27/12/15	<u>10,116.92</u>
	<u>13,585.55</u>		13,585.55

Only 3 Clubs (Newton Stewart, Powfoot and Sanquhar) had paid their subscriptions up to 5 January. St Medan, D&G and New Galloway had paid in the last week. Gatehouse has been granted an extension till March and Crichton and Thornhill had overpaid. 10 Clubs had paid by this time last year. Seven Clubs had returned their IMT Monies (D&C, Stranraer, St Medan, Powfoot, New Galloway, Kirkcudbright and Castle Douglas). The President encouraged all members to spread the word about the value of the IMT booklets and make sure the posters were displayed in a conspicuous position in the clubhouse. It was agreed that the cost be retained at £10 per booklet. Jim Burns agreed to get the usual number printed.

**Convenor's Reports:**

**SGL DELEGATE**

Jim Burns reported that he accepted the invitation to be the first President of Scottish Golf Limited. He was proud and honoured to be invited and would do his utmost to be a good ambassador for Scottish Golf. He looked forward to the challenge and would be available to help the Executive as required. He was expecting a busy year with a heavy workload, as would his two Vice-Presidents. He intended to establish a role which would be relevant and suggested the South find someone else to represent them although this might depend on how the composition of the Forums panned out. It should be someone who is used to communicating with the Clubs or anyone in the Clubs who would fit the criteria and could be approached. If names could be given to the Secretary in the first instance. It would appear there was going to be more regional representation on some of the SGL Committees plus the Championship Committee will require help from local volunteers and Executive. There will be many SGL events held in this Area and an ambassador will be required. The President

wished him every success and reported that Duncan Moore had agreed to be his reserve at South events he could not attend this year.

#### CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

Graeme Sharp had nothing to report.

#### COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that two successful performance days had been held at Brighthouse Bay with Chris Robinson and David Broadfoot. Seventeen boys had attended one or both days.

Pam had sent out a Survey Monkey to the 17 boys to get their feedback on these sessions and had 6 responses (35%). The responses were all positive except one referring to the venue. She offered to send out the link to review the results if anyone was interested. There are 3 remaining sessions with the next one at the end of February.

She was presently sorting out the Order of Merit competitions for the coming season and will have this completed soon to send out to the Clubs.

Unfortunately she hadn't had time to phone Willie Lumsden regarding the Facebook page but would put it on her "to do" list.

#### SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that due to the weather no practice matches had been arranged. He hoped to have the competition posters and entry forms prepared for the next meeting.

#### JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

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

Dates and venues for all Junior matches and competitions had been arranged with only one match to be confirmed. It is going to be another busy summer.

Although there were some problems in arranging dates last year for the Peat Salver matches he would like to see the present format continued. He thought the boys enjoyed it. He also considered that (a) girls should be allowed to compete and (b) the U14 members should be allowed to play off their handicap. The latter should make it a more even contest. The matches this year would be Dumfriesshire v Wigtonshire; Kirkcudbrightshire v Dumfriesshire; Wigtonshire v Kirkcudbrightshire. This was agreed. He was asked to send an e-mail to the Counties telling them of the change in the rules and asking them to arrange the matches.

Similarly, for the 3 Counties (Fraser Shield) girls should be permitted to play (off the red tees) but the competition would remain a scratch event. This was also agreed and rule changes to be included in e-mail to Counties.

The 3 English Counties had attempted to alter the rules for the NCF Championships this year by reducing the number of team members from 8 to 6 but Iain objected on the basis that it was more important to give as many boys as possible the chance to represent their County than to win. Common sense had prevailed and the change has been overturned.

#### COURSE RATING CONVENOR

Robert McKnight reported that Kevin Weir had telephoned him in December regarding the outstanding certificates and the apparent disparity with Lochmaben's measurements. He confirmed that he would send a copy of the outstanding SSS RE-Rating Certificates to the Club, Area and himself. The Clubs are Portpatrick, Dumfries & Galloway, Moffat, Colvend, Dalbeattie and Newton Stewart

As far as Lochmaben is concerned it would be preferable if the club obtain a Certificate of Measurement of the course, but failing this the team could measure it using the Laser Glasses which are accurate to within a couple of yards. He would contact Michael

Dickie and discuss the options with him.

#### D & G GOLF PARTNERSHIP

In Neville's absence Pam Watson read his report. At a joint meeting of Borders, D&G and Ayrshire Golf Groups on 3 December Donald MacDonald and Neville met with John Darling (Borders) and Jamie Darling (Ayrshire) to look at opportunities to work together and raise the visitor uptake within the 3 areas. It was obvious from the start that Ayrshire was away ahead with Jamie being full time. We were some way behind with Borders still in the wilderness. Apart from building a relationship with the neighbouring areas, they also had a good look at the direction to take. Jamie gave an overview on what the DGGP website should look like and contain. The funding of the partnerships and golf club involvement was also discussed. It became very obvious that there had to be links to accommodation providers, tourism operators and other local visitor attractions. Clubs need to find and understand their USP and who they are.

The points to note from the Scottish Golf Tourism Meeting on 14 December 2015 were:-

#### *Golf Tourism Survey.*

- Replies received from:
  - 95 golf clubs
  - 67 Accommodation Providers
  - 13 Tour Operators
  - 15 others
- 50% of reply from Fife, East Lothian and Ayrshire; 4% from each of D&G, H&I and the Borders (12%)
- Main Issues
  - 61% saw an increase in business, 20% a decrease
  - 77% optimistic over next 3 years
- Barriers to growth included travel infrastructure (flights and rail networks), cost of golf against a poor economic background and cheaper US and European markets
- Small Clubs found it hard to attract visitors away from the premier Clubs (St Andrews, Gleneagles, Troon etc.)

#### *International Marketing Workshops 2016*

Three workshops are to be run across Scotland, each one over two separate days, and are meant for anyone in the golf tourism industry; tour operators, golf clubs and large accommodation providers. The workshop is free and supported by Scottish Enterprise. An invitation has been extended to members of the Golf Partnership with 5 to 10 places available on a first come basis. Dates for the workshop are 15 and 22 March in the Gailes Hotel, Irvine. Invites go out next week

#### *Website Development*

Neville hopes to have a small sub-group meeting on Friday 15 January to discuss the development of an outward visitor looking website and its contents.

Wave asked what the remit was for the photographers who took the still photographs of all the courses in the area as there was quite a discrepancy between the different Clubs. Some had no pictures and others only one. Brian offered to investigate.

#### WEBMASTER AND FIXTURE SECRETARY

Wave gave an update on the compilation of the fixture list. All clubs had now responded and he had sent each club a copy of the entries on the list for a final check. He had received 8 positive replies. There was still one clash between Thornhill and Lochmaben on 6 August. There was a problem in printing the fixture list from the website which he hoped to solve. Pam stated that the Ladies Wallace Rosebowl at Kirkcudbright was now definitely on Saturday 30 July.

## DUMFRIESSHIRE

There was nothing to report from Dumfriesshire

## KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Brian Duguid reported that Jeff Sutcliffe had produced a super booklet outlining the activities of the Association. It had been a huge amount of work and had been well received. A couple of the Development Squad coaching sessions had had to be cancelled due to adverse weather. The date for the Kirkcudbrightshire Team Championship had had to be changed as it clashed with an open competition at Southernness. The first meeting of the Executive for 2016 was scheduled for early February.

## WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported that he would be the President and Jimmy Caldwell the Vice-President of the Association. The coaching programme was progressing well. A new Gents Order of Merit was to be introduced this year. There would be scratch and handicap divisions to get more people to enter the local open competitions. A Junior Order of Merit would also be introduced. Kirkcudbrightshire were to introduce a Sportsman's Dinner at the end of the season to raise money for Junior development.

Stephen stated he would accept the position of Vice-President of SoSGA.

## **A.O.C.B.**

The Secretary asked for any other changes to the Who's Who for 2016 but none were forthcoming. He would send out the corrected version.

Jim Burns recommended the Scottish Golf Awards as a good night's entertainment.

The President thanked all members for their attendance

Jim Burns proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 8 March 2016 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.