

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 28 June 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; N Wright; R McKnight; S Kingston; J Forrest and I Robin, Secretary.

**Apologies:**

W Tyrrell and B Duguid

**Presidents Welcome:**

The President welcomed the members with a special welcome to Jean Forrest who was representing Kirkcudbrightshire in the absence of Brian Duguid

**Executive Meeting 3 May 2016**

The Minutes were approved by Robert McKnight, seconded by Stephen Kingston.

**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 two months. From informal discussions held with other Area secretaries at the BATC it would appear there is some unrest around the country at the direction Scottish Golf is taking with certain activities and the lack of communication with the Areas. It was noticeable that the Area Boys Team Championships were not run as efficiently as in previous years.

A meeting was held on Wednesday 11 May in Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright with Dumfriesshire Ladies and Galloway Ladies to discuss the amalgamation of the three bodies. The Ladies were in general agreement on most issues. Notes of the meeting were prepared and sent to all members. They were also posted on the website.

A representative from Wigtownshire County, Gatehouse and Lochmaben Golf Clubs had been invited to attend this Committee Meeting. The Secretary had issued the invitations and had had no further correspondence despite further e-mails. The Chairman offered to speak to a member of the Committee of Gatehouse Golf Club to ensure all correspondence had been received.

It was with regret that the Secretary had to record the recent death of Mrs Moira Bartlett, the wife of Tom Bartlett. It was Tom who instigated the present coaching policy and obtained sponsorship from Gillespie Leisure. Moira was a lovely lady and the power behind the throne. She was a great support in everything Tom did and will be sadly missed.

Scottish Golf Limited announced on 26 June that Blane Dodds, a Scotsman, was to be the new Chief Executive. He will take up his post on Monday 15 August.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer reported the Summary of Accounts up to 21 June 2016 were as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/15	11,322.55	Sundries	643.05
Comps	310.00	Coaching	3,660.00
IMT	700.00	Travelling	109.50
Sponsor	300.00	ATC	987.25
Subscriptions	18,305.00	NCF	1,171.36
Coaching	<u>1,250.00</u>	Matches	1,120.67
		Vouchers	1,850.00
		Returned Subs	682.50
		Areas	562.20
		In bank 25/2/16	<u>21,311.02</u>
	32,187.55		32,187.55

All Clubs had paid their subscriptions. Lochmaben had paid for an extra 103 male members from last year and this was being investigated as they did not return the membership form. Crichton, Thornhill, Wigtownshire County, Brighouse, Stranraer and Lockerbie had overpaid and the overpayment returned.

Concern was expressed that the Counties had not been paid their allocation from the Subscriptions. It was suggested that the Counties be paid a sum equal to their share of the Affiliation Fees less the possible overpayment by Lochmaben and less the sum owed by the Counties for the Drennan Salver and 3 Counties competitions. Any adjustment could be made at a later date.

## **Convenor's Reports**

### **SGL PRESIDENT**

Jim Burns reported that he had attended the Scottish Strokeplay Championships, Scottish Womens' Strokeplay Championships and the Curtis Cup. There had been reasonable performances from local golfers in the national events. He had also crossed the Atlantic and attended the US Open at Oakmount.

Scottish Golf was still experiencing serious staff issues. Andy Salmon was off sick and the Finance Department had lost members and was understaffed. Attempts had been made to resolve the Course Rating issues and new staff were presently being trained. He was disappointed by the late call off of the seminar at the Crichton, particularly as there was no opportunity to re-arrange another date.

He was also disappointed to learn that new Coaching initiatives had been sent out. Development Centres were to be called Development Academies and none were to be located in Dumfries & Galloway. 50 hours of coaching were to be provided at costs from £250 to £400 over the winter. Jim was asked to find out if the Coaching Grant was being discontinued.

### **CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016**

Graeme Sharp reported that The Drennan Salver had been held at Portpatrick and Dumfriesshire were the winners. The course was in good condition. He thanked Portpatrick Golf Club and Stephen and Iain for their help.

Thirty teams took part in the Gillespie Classic on 19 June. This was a poor turnout. The course was in good condition and was improving all the time. Jim Dougal was not overly pleased as there were no junior entries. The President was of opinion that as a committee we should actively encourage more to enter. Jim has some good ideas. £300 was donated from the entry money for the development of junior golf. Benross sponsored the prize money. He thanked Brighouse Bay, Benross and Alastair for his help.

### **COACHING CONVENOR**

Pam Watson reported that the match between the U16 South Select and D&C U16's had been a very useful exercise as she was able to assess some new boys and girls in a competitive environment. The Junior OOM was ongoing and the Junior Open at Colvend had been cancelled due to lack of entries. Rachel Walker had been appointed Non-Playing Captain for Scotland in the European Championships.

### **SENIOR TEAM MANAGER**

Graeme Sharp reported that he was still trying to re-arrange the match against the Borders. Nothing had been agreed as Denis was on holiday. He was considering moving it permanently to later in the year when weather and courses were more amenable. Jim Burns added that Scottish Golf were considering changing the formats of national championships and one possibility was that Clubs could hold more than one competition on the same day.

### **JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER**

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

Nathan Watson (Kirkcudbright), William Squires (Kirkcudbright), Angus Bendall (Castle Douglas) and Callan Harkness (Lochmaben) represented South Area in the Scottish Boys Area Team Championship on Sunday 5 June at Grangemouth. They all played well and finished a credible 6<sup>th</sup>.

Two Under 16 matches had been held each resulting in a loss by 6½ games to 5½. The first against Cumbria was very close with seven of the eight singles going to the last green. The second game against Dumfries & County was used as a trial to give some of the younger boys experience in playing representative fixtures. This was a great success and also resulted in a very close match.

The first NCF league match took place on Sunday 26 June at Kirkcudbright against Cumbria. This game had been re-arranged after Cumbria called off from the match on Saturday 21 May. Despite having a fairly strong team out, the boys were beaten by 7½ games to 4½.

No dates for the Peat Salver matches had been notified

Iain thanked Pam and Duncan for all their help and support and Alastair for attending the matches to lend support.

### **COURSE RATING**

Robert McKnight reported that along with Eileen Scott, Neville Wright and Jim Arnott he had

attended the Seminar at Dumfries & County on 3 June. Adam Phillips and Bill Mitchell from SGL were also present. New Rating books were issued plus a video explaining the changes in the rating of trees and the amount of roll off tee. After the presentation and lunch some practical work was undertaken on the course including the difficulty of some of the trees on the front nine.

Eileen was going to contact the lady raters Fiona and Linda regarding their availability over the summer months. Eileen will be available from mid-July so it is intended to complete Lochmaben and do a few more courses which are overdue.

#### D & G GOLF PARTNERSHIP

Neville Wright reported that since the last D&DGP meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April at Castle Douglas Golf Club, there had been two Scottish Golf Tourism Meetings and a number of developments around the golf tourism area.

#### Scottish Golf Tourism (SGT)

The Overseas Membership Scheme was now open and active to all Scottish Golf Limited affiliated Clubs. Once there are enough Clubs signed up to the scheme, VisitScotland will carry out an international advertising campaign. To get signed up go to: <https://www.scottishgolf.org/club-services/marketing/overseas-membership/>

There is a national visitor survey 2016 being undertaken and a number of courses in Dumfries and Galloway have been asked to take part. The courses nominated were the high visitor courses and geographically located to get a balanced view on the area. Unfortunately a number of the Clubs nominated to assist in the survey declined or withdrew from the project, which is a great shame. He thanked the other clubs which had stepped in to assist. There are 60 Clubs taking part across Scotland with 1,500 face to face visitor interviews and 6,000 visitor profile cards to be completed. This survey is the largest area specific survey undertaken within the golf industry in Scotland.

Digital Technology is the fastest expanding area for visitors experience and business. SGT through Business Gateway and Digital Tourism are offering individual and group workshops to support Golf Clubs in developing their digital technologies; web sites, pod casts, marketing, user created content etc. There is a minor cost to the workshops £30 per attendee/club. For further details contact Marta Eizaguirre (Scottish Enterprise) [marta.eizaguirre@scotent.co.uk](mailto:marta.eizaguirre@scotent.co.uk) 0131 313 6120. Digital Tourism will support and augment the new VisitScotland digital approach; [www.digitaltourismscotland.com](http://www.digitaltourismscotland.com)

Scottish Golf Tourism Week is to be held in November along with the Scottish Golf Tourism Awards. There have been over 150 businesses wishing to take part in the event, the event team will now select the best 60 businesses to be present. Each golf partnership area has the opportunity to pitch their business to these tour operators and golf businesses on a one-to-one basis during the week.

#### National Golf Events

- Scottish Open, Castle Stuart, 7-10 July
- The Open, Royal Troon, 14-17 July
- Seniors Open. Carnoustie, 21-24 July
- Scottish Ladies' Open, Dundonald Links, 22-24 July
- Paul Lawrie Matchplay, Archerfield, 4-7 August

#### Dumfries and Galloway Partnership

There were a few points arising from the April DGGP meeting:

The South of Scotland photo library is lacking photographs of the following courses; Southernness, Wigtown & Bladnoch, St Medan and Brighthouse Bay. Douglas Hunter offered to provide photos for Southernness, N Wright would arrange photos to be taken at the other courses.

The DGGP website would be advertised in Golf North with further advertising through VisitScotland to follow. VisitScotland will soon be running a golf competition for Dumfries and Galloway, this will drive visitor enquires to the DGGP web site and to the visitor areas of South golf clubs. Other advertising opportunities will be considered throughout the season.

Wave Tyrell gave a detailed presentation of the visitor website. There was a request for news and information to enable the site to remain fresh. The three main ways to keep a website on the front page of a search engine is; fresh content, numerous links to the site from other sites and Google+ optimisation. Please assist in developing the site. <http://dumfriesandgallowaygolf.com/>

The Dumfries and Galloway site is now linked to VisitScotland. <https://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/active/golf/>

DGGP is a corporate member of VSWS, with an annual fee funded through the South of Scotland Golfers Association, all the south Clubs are advertised and linked to the VSWS website. This will improve golf club visibility and gain more visitors through the local accommodation providers. The VSWS is also linked to many other activities in the Dumfries and Galloway area. 35,000 'see & do' maps have been distributed throughout the area, all the golf clubs are represented on the map/guide with contact details.  
<http://www.visitsouthwestscotland.com/attractions/?type%5B%5D=golf>

Craig Chalmers (Club Development Manager of Scottish Golf Limited) gave a presentation on services that are available to assist golf clubs and club secretaries. These services can be accessed directly through the SGL website or by contacting Craig directly (contact details on SGL site)

<https://www.scottishgolf.org/club-services/>

#### WEBMASTER AND FIXTURES SECRETARY

The Chairman read out an e-mail received from Wave Tyrrell regarding the name of the DGGP website. He understood Wave's concerns to change to <http://www.southofscotlandgolf.com> for commercial reasons and this was agreed. He agreed to inform the Ladies. The Secretary was asked to inform Wave.

#### DUMFRIESSHIRE

Graeme Sharp reported that Chris Corbett won the Dumfriesshire Strokeplay Championship and Mike Grunwell the Matchplay Championship. Duncan Moore added that the Dumfries & County Junior Champion was Helen Mirren. Dumfriesshire Ladies won the South Ladies Jamboree against Galloway Ladies and Border Ladies at Dumfries & County.

#### KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Jean Forrest reported that entries were up for the Solway Cup and Bowl held at Colvend in May. Colin Heuchan (Southernness) won the Solway Cup (68-1=67) from Charles Stewart (Colvend) (85-18=67) on the bih. The Solway Bowl was won by Mike Whalen (Southernness) with a 74. The Junior Championship at New Galloway on 18 June had only 9 entries. The winner was William Squires (Kirkcudbright) (69) and runner-up Nathan Watson (Kirkcudbright) (74). The handicap winner was Scott Jamieson (New Galloway) (77-9=68).

The final of the Matchplay championship is to be played Friday 1 July between Craig Smith (Dalbeattie) and Angus Bendall (Castle Douglas).

The Team Championship was held at Castle Douglas on Sunday 26 June. Only 5 teams competed and the winners were Castle Douglas and runners-up Dalbeattie. The scratch winner was Graeme Finlay (Castle Douglas) (68) and the runner-up Iain McBeth (Castle Douglas) (69). The handicap winner was Stephen Eccles (Kirkcudbright) (69-5=64)

The Senior Championships are on Friday 29 July at Dalbeattie and the Douglas Maxwell Championship at Kirkcudbright on Sunday 4 September. The 4BBB is now down to the last 8 pairs.

Iain McBeth (Castle Douglas) is presently leading the OOM.

#### WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported that David Brodie (Wigtown & Bladnoch) had won the Wigtownshire Strokeplay and Matchplay Championships at Wigtownshire County. The Handicap Champion was Bob Gordon (Stranraer) and the Keith Hardie Trophy was won by Frank Grant (Wigtownshire County).

In the leagues Stranraer had already won the handicap section with one week to go and Stranraer and Newton Stewart were fighting for the honours in the scratch section.

The Dalrymple Cup was played for at St Medan and won by Newton Stewart with Stranraer runners-up. The JAL Brown at Portpatrick was reduced to 18 holes and won by David Brodie (Wigtown & Bladnoch)

Junior coaching is taking place throughout the summer. All Clubs are getting 2 sessions from Chris Robinson. The Boys Championship is to be held on Saturday 2 July.

Wigtownshire is using Facebook to good effect with over 1,000 hits for the table for the last round of league matches.

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

Jim Burns reported that when he was in America for the US Open all the talk was about that the retention of Club members which is as relevant over there as over here. It was essential to provide additional value and get numbers through the front door. Everyone, it would seem, is in the same predicament.

The Secretary reported that he had been informed by Graeme Sharp that a Dumfries Company may be interested in sponsoring some of SoSGA's activities. He had not yet made contact but was concerned that

the Association had nothing to give in return but a little advertising attached to press reports. As the Association runs the Gillespie Classic would it be possible to ask the Sponsor to invite 4 fourballs to compete. The sponsor could also run his own competition within the Gillespie Classic. This was agreed.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 16 August 2016 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.