

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 6 March 2014**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm.

Present:

Neville Wright, President, in the Chair; D Moore, G. Sharp; J Burns; W Lumsden; R McKnight; A Learmonth; I McWhirter; A Millar and I Robin, Secretary.

Apologies:

B Duguid and J Sutcliffe

President's Welcome:

The President welcomed the ten members to the March Meeting.

Executive Meeting 14 January 2014

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Jim Burns and seconded by William Lumsden

Matters arising: Jim Burns reported that he had advised Ruth Hughes that the Secretary would be representing the South at the SGU Council Meeting on 19 March due to his absence on holiday. He had not been able to contact Kevin Fish regarding the Course Rating course.

Executive Meeting 6 February 2014

The Minutes were approved, proposed by Jim Burns and seconded by Andy Learmonth

Matters arising: Jim Burns reported that there had been no further progress on the Junior Order of Merit proposals. The Secretary reported that he had contacted the Counties regarding estimated costs of returning the Peat Salver to its original format of home and away matches with 6 players per team. Wigtownshire, the only County to reply, estimated the costs at £780 for travel and meals. He also stated that without financial assistance from the Area this cost was not sustainable. The Secretary estimated the cost to each County for the one-day event was on average £300. If the competition was played as each County playing one home and one away fixture the cost would be approx £390 thus making it only £90 the Counties would have to find. It was agreed that for season 2015 the format would be one match between each County (ie one home and one away match) with teams of eight players all under 18 years of age with at least two under 16 and two under 14.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary reported that the website continues to evolve. Wave Tyrrell had spent some time lately updating competition entry forms, the fixture list and archive material. News items were continuously being added. The Secretary was informed that the Fixture List was still dated 2013. Members were urged to continue to visit the site and let him know of any errors or suggestions for improvements.

Jim Burns, Duncan Moore, Willie Lumsden and the Secretary represented the Association at the SGU Conference/AGM on 25/26 January at Stirling University. The issues discussed at the conference included The Future Economic Model for Golf Clubs, Supporting Clubs and Sharing Best Practice and Working Together. The future Economic Model was a presentation on current trends and relevant demographics in Scottish Golf. There were no surprises here as the data has been widely available in the public domain for a few years - membership is falling as are visitors and Clubs have had to tighten their belts. As to the future there was no magic formula to restore the successful days of a few years ago. It was important that Clubs thought outside the boxes and reduced their reliance on traditions and moved with modern trends. Supporting Clubs and Sharing Best Practice concentrated on education and business planning. The Education was a brainstorming workshop on volunteer training and on what volunteer training should focus. Business Planning was a lecture on the benefits of business planning for Clubs and for Areas so all were singing from the same hymn sheet. On the Sunday various senior members of the SGU staff outlined the SGU strategy on more golfers, winning golfers, outstanding championships, stronger clubs, more members, excellent governance and finance. At the AGM, Jim Burns was elected Junior Vice President of the SGU and the Association congratulate him and wish him all the best for the future.

D & G Golf Group. The next Meeting was scheduled for 10.00 am on Thursday 6 March in the Cally Hotel, Gatehouse. The main item on the agenda was the recent VisitScotland growth fund

application. Unfortunately neither, Jim Burns, Brian Duguid nor the Secretary were able to attend. The President reported that he had received a telephone call from Donald McDonald suggesting as the growth fund was under the jurisdiction of SoSGA the Association should have representation on the Group. It was agreed that as Jim Burns, Brian Duguid and the Secretary already attended the Meetings no further representation was required.

The President and Jim Burns attended the 2014 Scottish Golf Awards on Friday 28 February at the Hilton, Glasgow. The President reported that it was an excellent evening with the review of past Ryder Cups particularly amusing. The British Curling team presented one of the awards

Matthew McCulloch (Portpatrick) was congratulated on being selected for the Scotland U16 squad for the Quadrangular International in Holland from 13 to 16 April .

David McKinnon, Golf Sales Rep for Cally Palace Hotel , had contacted the Secretary to inform him that the golf course at the hotel was to be opened to non-residents. He wanted to form a Club, join the Association and host South events. He had contacted Kevin Fish at SGU and been given the requirements and would have a meeting with the Secretary in the near future once he had determined a strategy. Concern was expressed that if a Club was formed it may trigger the demise of Gatehouse Golf Club as they were already struggling for members.

A copy of the latest edition of the “Decisions on the Rules of Golf” had been sent to the Association by the SGU as had a copy of the LGU Yearbook. These would be held by the Secretary and be available for use by any member of the Executive.

Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer presented the summary of accounts up to 20 February as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In Bank at 1/9/13	14,677.20	Vouchers	920.00
IMT	1,108.00	Acc/meals	359.80
Sponsorship	730.00	ATC	785.98
Areas	761.73	Travel	406.10
Subs	11,748.00	Sundries	578.00
Sundries	<u>10.00</u>	Coaching	480.00
		NCF	200.00
		in Bank 20/2/14	<u>25,305.05</u>
	29,034.93		29,034.93

15 Clubs out of the 23 in the Association (I have discounted The Pines meantime) have submitted their affiliation fees for the year so far. The total number of individual members is presently down 229 of which Moffat have lost 76, Dumfries and County 76, Dumfries and Galloway 22 and Powfoot 26. On the plus side Lochmaben are up 22 and Southernness 18.

Graeme Sharp and the Secretary recently attended a meeting with Armstrong Watson regarding sponsorship for the ATC this year. They are hopeful to sponsor the team for £1,000, the same as last year.

Convenor’s Reports

SGU DELEGATE

Jim Burns reported that he had attended his first Board Meeting on 5 March.

Following a presentation from Andy Salmon, Deputy Chief Executive, it was agreed to fund the three Development Officers for an additional year (to 16 March 2015), additional costs being met from reserves. Scott Peddie, the ClubGolf PR and Media Executive had resigned and a review will be carried out before a decision is taken on a replacement. Ian Scott had been appointed as the Finance and IT Manager and will start on 17 March.

The Personal Identity Cards are in process of being produced and will be launched at the Golf Show at the end of March. All Clubs not signed up for CDH to be encouraged to do so as this is the basis from which the cards are to be distributed. At present there are 587 Clubs registered with only 4 missing from the South.

The Amalgamation consultation paper was presented to the Board for agreement to circulate for consideration by Areas, Counties and Clubs. It was emphasised by the Chair the importance of

this process and the desire to see it concluded. The Consultation paper will be distributed by 6 March and it is desirable that anyone and everyone is given the opportunity to comment on its content both positive and negative. It was also stressed that Areas should seek the views of their Clubs. If done positively we can all gain from improved partnerships. The paper included reasoning and should form the basis for an Executive Meeting dedicated to the content of the paper. A representative of the Working Group will be available to attend if desired by the Executive. The Working Group required responses by 31 July. It was agreed that the Executive hold a dedicated Meeting and then a Meeting with the Clubs

POST MEETING NOTE

Jim Burns is of opinion that as an Area some processes have been put in place with the production of the Coaching Policy towards the formation of a Business Plan. It may be worth looking at other of the main activities and committing them to print and build them into an overall Strategy Document.. These could include the BP Lite Governance, Championships and Coaching. Others could be added as required.

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

Graeme Sharp reported that 3 entries had been received for the Shamash Trophy.

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that there had been no word from Perth & Kinross regarding the annual fixture. No practice sessions had been arranged due to the bad weather but he hoped to have at least one outing before the start of the season.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

Iain Robin outlined the players he was going to invite to represent the South in the match against Ayrshire at Stranraer on Sunday 23 March. He reported that an U16's match against Cumbria was scheduled for the Pines on Sunday 25 May. It was explained that there was no likelihood of the Pines reopening this year and another venue should be found.

COACHING CONVENOR

The President reported that he had held an ad hoc Meeting with Jim Burns, Ian McWhirter, James Erskine, Willie Lumsden and the Secretary at the Performance Day on Sunday 23 September at Brighthouse Bay. All the issues in his Meeting Note (attached to this Minute as an Appendix) were discussed and agreed. One of the issues at the Meeting was the formation of a Coaching Committee. He presented a paper outlining proposals which were agreed. The paper is attached to this Minute as an Appendix.

Willie Lumsden reported on his proposals to form the South of Scotland Golf Academy 2014/2015. The Report which is attached to this Minute as an Appendix was approved subject to:-
1 a mechanism be put in place for any player who was unable financially to afford the entry fee. It was agreed that each case would require to be taken on its merits but no player with potential should be excluded.

2	It was agreed that potential funding would be restricted to	
	Sponsorship organised by Willie	£ 800
	SGU Coaching Grant	1,250
	Gillespie Classic	500
	Individuals (£75 per head)	<u>1,500</u>
		4,050

COURSE RATING

Robert McKnight had nothing to report

DUMFRIESSHIRE REPRESENTATIVE

There was nothing to report

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE REPRESENTATIVE

There was nothing to report

WIGTOWNSHIRE REPRESENTATIVE

There was nothing to report

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.40 pm
The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15 pm on Tuesday 22 April 2014 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel,
Kirkcudbright.