

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 10 MARCH 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; N Wright; S Kingston; P Barrett, Kirkcudbrightshire President; and I Robin, Secretary.

In Attendance:

J Dougal, Gillespie Leisure

Apologies:

B Duguid and I McWhirter

Presidents Welcome:

The President welcomed the members to the Meeting and in particular to Peter Barrett who was attending as the Kirkcudbrightshire representative.

Gillespie Classic

Duncan Moore introduced Jim Dougal from Brighthouse Bay who had some ideas to stimulate the Gillespie Classic. Jim explained he wanted to encourage a larger entry and accumulate more funds for the Juniors by making the event a fun competition for Gents, Ladies, boys, girls and families with prizes for each category. He suggested each member of the Executive get one sponsor and a raffle be held on the day. The event should be advertised as a fundraiser for Junior Golf so the local press and radio will help to promote the day and all Clubs used to provide support. A letter to be sent to all families of the Juniors so fathers and mothers are encouraged to compete as families.

Alastair Millar recounted the history of the competition. It had started as a Texas Scramble but this format was found to be open to abuse and was changed to a 4 Ball Better Ball. In the early days there was a substantial financial input from Gillespie Leisure and bacon rolls before play and a meal after. A problem he found in the past was getting the message out to the Clubs and he resorted to phoning each Club individually to get support. A sum of over £1,000 was raised each year. Advertising was the key. He suggested each Executive member get in touch with 2 or 3 Clubs and keep pushing the message.

Jim Dougal reported that he had been in touch with Ann Lang and she hoped to bring some Level 1 Coaching Certificate players. Each hole could be sponsored for £50

Suggestions for special prizes at every hole included:-

Nearest the hole (one for each category)

Longest Drive (one for each category)

Nearest pin in 2 at par 4 (one for each category)

It was agreed that the format would be 4 Ball Better Ball and the cost per head £15 to include, if possible, a filled roll and cup of coffee/tea before play

Jim Dougal agreed to organise and send the President the details of the competition, as discussed

Alastair Millar agreed to prepare a poster to be sent to Clubs, press, etc.

The Chairman thanked Jim Dougal for attending the meeting and his contribution and hoped the event would prove a great success.

Jim Dougal left the Meeting

Executive Meeting 20 January 2015

The Minutes were approved by Jim Burns, seconded by Stephen Kingston

Jim Burns reported that Stranraer Golf Club had agreed to host the Scottish Boys Area Team Championships in 2017.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary reported that the website continues to evolve. News items are continuously being added. Wave has been busy making additions and amendments to the Fixture list as Clubs finalise their own fixtures. Most of the changes should be completed now. Please continue to visit the site and let him know of any errors or suggestions for improvements.

A letter had been received from Daniel Somerville, SGU Events Organiser to say he would approach Stranraer Golf Club to be the host venue for the Boys Area Team Championship on 11 June 2017.

AGM and Conference. A report was circulated to members after the event. Unfortunately the Conference was overshadowed by sideshow meetings regarding amalgamation to encourage dissenting Areas to change their minds

Gateway to Golf Pass. VisitScotland had proposed to reduce the percentage of green fees returned to Clubs from 75% to 62.5% due to a loss in VisitScotland revenue for 2014. This was discounted as not being viable due to the VAT implications. The proposal was revised to increase the price of golf passes from 1 March and agreed by the Clubs

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer presented a Summary of Accounts up to 25 February 2015 as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/14	9,209.30	Sundries	549.94
IMT Booklets	1,240.00	Coaching	490.00
Sponsorship	200.00	Acc/meals	324.00
Subs	14,465.00	NCF	453.76
SGU	500.00	Vouchers	1,039.99
Areas	804.45	In Bank 19/12/14	<u>23,921.56</u>
Coaching	<u>360.00</u>		26,779.25
	26,779.25		

18 of the 23 Clubs in South Area had paid their affiliation fees for this year. Still to pay were Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie, Gatehouse, Stranraer and Wigtownshire County. Overall membership is down again by 146 so far. The major winners and losers are Thornhill (down 23), Colvend (down 26), D & G (down 51), Portpatrick (down 79), Moffat (up 27) and Crichton (up 61).

The Treasurer reported that since 25 February Stranraer, Dalbeattie and Castle Douglas had paid, The figures for these Clubs were intimated to be added to the Annual Subs list distributed previously. The annual coaching grant of £1.250 from SGU had been received.

Amalgamation:

A provisional date for the Area and Clubs to meet the Chairman had been arranged for Tuesday 24 April to discuss any outstanding issues. An e-mail was sent to Clubs asking for their voting intentions and any concerns they may have had. Only 8 out of the 23 Clubs in South Area replied. Dumfries & County, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway, Sanquhar, Powfoot, Portpatrick, Kirkcudbright and Castle Douglas all indicated they were in favour of amalgamation. Kirkcudbright, however, had concerns regarding some financial issues. These were passed to the Chairman for clarification and his reply forwarded to the Club. Brian Duguid and Jim Burns also gave advice which was sent to the Club. As there were no dissenting Clubs the Meeting with the Chairman was cancelled. The Secretary thanked all who contributed.

The SGU had commissioned an independent Poll of all clubs in Scotland on their support or otherwise and the Clubs were due to respond by Friday 27 February. These results

had been made available to all Area Associations and of the South Clubs 12 voted YES with one NO

Jim Burns reported that the Chairman had met with 8 Areas and the others considered a meeting was not necessary. There were some robust discussions which overall assisted in the process and the process advanced. It would appear that Glasgow, Borders, Fife and Dumbarton had reservations but only Fife and Dumbarton may vote against. Alastair Millar suggested that the outcome of the Poll did not reflect how the Areas had voted. The EGM would be on Monday 30 March at Stirling and the Council Meeting had been arranged for the same day to save the attendees travelling to Stirling twice in 5 days.

The Secretary suggested it may be wise to complete the Proxy Voting Form in case Jim Burns did not get back in time from his holiday in USA. This was agreed and Jim completed the form and would send it to SGU the next day.

The SLGA, at their AGM, unanimously had agreed to amalgamate with SGU.

D & G Golf Partnership:

Neville Wright reported that he had chaired his first Meeting of the Partnership on 19 February and gave a presentation on the Way Forward. A handout entitled "D & G Partnership – What is it?" had been produced and will be sent out to Clubs. There was concern that communications were not reaching Clubs and the Secretary was asked to provide details of up-to-date e-mail addresses etc. The £5,000 paid by SoSGA to the Partnership was to be repaid but ring fenced for future use of the Partnership. The future of the Partnership will be Club driven, South chairing and Council supporting. Mark Murray of VisitScotland is looking for feedback from the group on:-

- 1 What has VisitScotland done well
- 2 What does success look like
- 3 Strategic direction now needed from Group
- 4 How does the Group want to sell golf in the South Area

The accommodation providers had some issues with Club's fixture lists as on some weekends no golf was available for visitors/tourists. There was a presentation from Caroline (VisitScotland) on editing of the VisitScotland Club Home Pages. Each Club present was provided with a user manual. A number of Clubs still only displayed the basic information that was provided at the start of the project. A disk containing photography that was undertaken during the project was passed out to the Clubs. It was agreed to do a branding exercise for D & G Golf or Golf DG i.e. Logo colours etc. 15,000 Golf passes had been printed. VisitScotland had partnered with Golf Monthly and Today's Golfer and should provide a better distribution and profile.

Convenor's Reports:

SGU DELEGATE

Jim Burns reported that 2 further Clubs had closed; Castle Park and Rutherford Castle. There would be a presentation on the Customer Service Satisfaction Survey at the next Board Meeting and a Marketing Workshop on 2 April at Stirling. There was to be an update on the CONGU Handicapping System towards a World Handicapping System at the World Golf Forum and this would be reported to the May Board Meeting by Kevin Weir. RBS had withdrawn sponsorship but it was not known whether this was from the present day or end of season. Scots had done well in the South African Amateur Championship with Greig Marchbank winning the Stroke Play Qualifying event and D Young the Championship. Momies from Capital Expenditure were to be spent on providing a storage facility at the Dukes with a 33 month agreement. Lothians, Stirling and Borders had completed the Area Planning process. Addi Shamash had been elected on to the SLGA Board. There had been a very good feature of golf in D & G in a recent issue of Golf World including photographs etc from across the region.

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

Graeme Sharp reported that entry forms were presently being drawn up and these would be distributed to the Clubs soon

COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that 2 more Performance Day Coaching sessions had taken place at Brighthouse Bay. On a very cold day at the end of January 14 boys took part in a short game assessment which highlighted some poor chipping. Chris took some time addressing this while David worked with the boys on the range using flight scope technology. The boys finished off with some work on foursomes pairings.

On Saturday 7 March, on a rescheduled date due to the weather 10 boys enjoyed some quality time with the two professionals on the range learning how to shape the ball and control trajectory. This was followed by 18 holes on the course putting those lessons into practice. There is a good atmosphere at these days and the boys seem to be enjoying the time with the two professionals.

Pam was planning to have evaluation forms for the boys to fill out at the last session so she can assess their thoughts about the winter programme. She also plans to put together a newsletter about the performance coaching to be sent out to all the Clubs.

The Coaching Convenor attended the DGLGA AGM in February to discuss introducing a girls handicap Order of Merit to run alongside the boys. The ladies were all in favour and she will continue to communicate with them. For the boys Order of Merit she proposes to have two scratch competitions at Under 18 and Under 15 and a handicap Under 18. These will compete for over different Club Open Competitions to try to include a few more Clubs and also to avoid clashes in the busy summer season. She was happy to run these and will shout for help when needed.

Jim Burns suggest she use Survey Monkey for the questionnaire.

Pam added that she had taken several photographs at the Performance Days and it was agreed she put these on the website.

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that he had sent a letter by e-mail for the games against Borders and Cumbria to the top ten in last year's Order of Merit. Replies were slow to come in and he was considering reverting to a formal letter. He was hoping to have a practice match at Southernness on Sunday 22 March.

It had been suggested that an "Alliance" type competition be held over the winter months for the Men and Juniors. The Juniors appeared to welcome the idea and he would ask the Men at the practice match and friendly matches if they would support it.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

Iain Robin reported that a report on the second Performance Coaching day on Saturday 31 January 2015 was posted on the website and published in the press.

A match had been arranged against Clackmannanshire on Tuesday 14 April for a team of 6 boys. This is the venue for the Boys Area Team Championship this year and will give the boys valuable experience in playing the course. The team for the ATC will consist of 4 players, which will be chosen from the 6 attending the practice day, and give 2 reserves with knowledge of the course in case of late call-offs. Stirlingshire were also due to compete but have decided to have a practice at a later date. Clackmannanshire had also called off but the South will attend

The 6 boys selected were:-

Duncan McNeill (Powfoot)

Matthew McCulloch (Portpatrick)

Alex Chalk (Castle Douglas)

Chris Finnie (Lockerbie)

Angus Bendall (Castle Douglas)

Fraser Hughes (Newton Stewart)

Duncan McNeill has intimated that he is unavailable and has been replaced by Rowan Marchbank (D & G) Angus Bendall, Fraser Hughes and Rowan Marchbank have replied to say they are available.

William Squires (Kirkcudbright) and Cameron Gray (Kirkcudbright) have been selected to play for the NCF Select against Yorkshire at Bedale on Tuesday 7 April. This is during the week of the Scottish Boys Championship at Dunbar and the lower handicap boys were unavailable.

Most of the team of 12 Youths and Juniors to play against Ayrshire at Irvine on Sunday 29 March had accepted. He was only waiting on Greig Marchbank and Scott Gibson returning from South Africa. Irvine is the venue for the Scottish Youths Championships and they may want some extra practice.

Thirteen Juniors had entered for the Scottish Boys at Dunbar. Two of the favourites must be Duncan McNeill and Matthew McCulloch. We wish them all well.

COURSE RATING CONVENOR

Robert McKnight reported that despite sterling efforts by Jim Burns there was still no result of the Portpatrick survey.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

There was nothing to report

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Peter Barratt reported that the Development Squad had attended 4/5 sessions and had still 5/6 to come. The Peat Salver match against Wigtownshire had been arranged for Monday 6 July at Brighthouse. He was still seeking a Championship Secretary but was struggling He was asked to contact Brian Haining to chase Ian McWhirter for the date of the Peat Salver match against Dumfriesshire.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported that the Peat Salver match against Dumfriesshire had been arranged for Newton Stewart on Thursday 16 April. He was still seeking a Junior Vice-President for the South.

A.O.C.B.

Jim Burns reported that he attended the Scottish Seniors Golf Society dinner when Ian Brotherston had been presented with the Senior Order of Merit for 2014. He has been promised some photographs.

Jim also reported that as Vice President of SGU he would attend the Scottish Youths at Irvine, the Seniors at Deeside and be on duty at the Scottish Boys at Dunbar for the semi-finals and final.

Alastair Millar suggested that as the details of the Amalgamation of the SGU and SLGA had been "agreed" by the two parties it might be time to approach the Ladies in Galloway and Dumfriesshire to arrange a meeting to plan the way forward. This would be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive.

Neville Wright proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.20pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 21 April 2015 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.