

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 3 MAY 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 with a special thanks to all who had prepared reports and discussion documents.

Executive Meeting 8 March 2016

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

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary reported that it was with regret he had to announce the death of Frank Woods on 17 March. He was an Honorary Member, Past Captain, Past Match Secretary and very loyal Member of Southernness Golf Club for over 50 years. He was also President of this Association in 1998. A letter of condolence was sent to his wife and a reply received.

Scottish Golf issued 6 copies of the CONGU Unified Handicapping System 2016 - 2018 to each Area. One of each was distributed to each County, the Championship Secretary, Coaching Convenor and the Secretary.

Castle Douglas Wigtown & Bladnoch, Powfoot, Stranraer, New Galloway and Kirkcudbright had been granted an extension of the "preferred lie" rule until Monday 16 May

A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 11 May in Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright with Dumfriesshire Ladies and Galloway Ladies to discuss the amalgamation of the three bodies. Notes had been prepared and distributed on some of the possible functions the new body might inherit. These were to be used as a discussion document and a collection of views would be used to form a way forward document. It was agreed that references to "he" also included the female gender. Some interesting views were expressed particularly in relation to the formation of the *Region* and the Counties within the Area. Wigtownshire and Kirkcudbrightshire could amalgamate to give 4 counties and make any division of affiliation fee monies to each County more equal. It was pointed out that there was some history in this suggestion as both at one time were amalgamated. The make-up of the Executive might cause problems as there were more positions for men than Ladies. It was noted that the affiliation fee charged to each Club was being investigated and the present method of a per capita fee might be changed by the Board of SGL. The finance of the new Association and its equitable distribution to the Counties would not be easy.

The Secretary thanked all who helped to distribute the IMT Booklets.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported the Summary of Accounts up to 22 April 2016 were as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/15	11,322.55	Sundries	570.57
Comps	310.00	Coaching	2,540.00
IMT	680.00	Travelling	109.50
Sponsor	300.00	ATC	880.05
Subscriptions	15,666.00	NCF	691.36

Coaching	1,250.00	Matches	638.50
		Vouchers	1,750.00
		Returned Subs	682.50
	<u>29,528.55</u>	In bank 25/2/16	<u>21,666.07</u>
			29,528.55

20 Clubs had paid their subscriptions. Only Colvend, Lochmaben and Moffat were still outstanding. A letter, enclosing the payment form, had been sent. Crichton, Thornhill, Wigtownshire County, Brighouse, Stranraer and Lockerbie had overpaid and the overpayment returned.

The form to claim the Coaching Grant from Scottish Golf had been completed and payment received.

The Treasurer explained that the present number of paid male members was 4,311 which was a reduction of 37 on last year. It was expected that the total this year would be approx.. 4,950 against 5,007 last year. The Ladies were standing at 844 and this was expected to rise to 950.

Convenor's Reports:

SGL PRESIDENT

Jim Burns reported that he had spent an enjoyable evening at Southernness Golf Club at a celebration dinner for the refurbishment of the clubhouse. He had attended the Scottish Women's Amateur Strokeplay Championship at Troon. Of the Ladies from this Area competing Katy Wright (Stranraer) produced scores under 80 for all her rounds. The next Scottish Golf Board Meeting is on 30/31 May. The highlight of his Presidency so far was his trip to Augusta for the "Masters". An unbelievable event superbly managed. It was interesting to see how the Chairman of SGL reacted in a different environment. Scottish Golf is to issue directions on "How to Run Competitions".

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

Graeme Sharp reported that all posters and entry forms for competitions had been sent out. The Drennan Salver would be played at Portpatrick on Sunday 14 May.

COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that the Survey Monkey questionnaire on the winter coaching was ongoing. The first competition in the Junior Order of Merit had been played at Dumfries & County. A report had been sent to the press and posted on the website.

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that, although he tried 26 players he could not get a team to play Cumbria at Brampton on Sunday 27 March; an understrength team of 10 lost heavily by 11½ games to 3½. It was a very disappointing day. He was considering changing the date to later in the season. The game against Borders, which was cancelled due to the weather, has still to be re-arranged.

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. The first match of the season was against Ayrshire at Southernness on Sunday 27 March. In terrible weather conditions the South boys were narrowly beaten by 10½ games to 7½. On Tuesday 29 March, Pam and he took 5 boys for a practice round at Grangemouth, the venue for the Boys ATC. This was a most useful exercise and the boys enjoyed their day out. Three boys, Finlay Copeland (D&G), Cameron Gray (Kirkcudbright) and Callum McMillan (Kirkcudbright) represented South Area in the annual match NCF Select v Yorkshire at Catterick on Friday 8 April and all performed admirably contributing 3½ points to the NCF Select total of 5. Twelve boys competed in the Scottish Boys Championship at Murcar during the first week of April with varying degrees of success. This was good experience for the South boys of whom eight are young enough to return next year. Eight of the boys reached

the second round, five the third, two the fourth and Chris Finnie was knocked out in the last 16. Additional Under 16 matches have been arranged against Dumfries & County to give the younger boys the opportunity to gain representative experience. These are on Sunday 12 June at Dumfries & County and on Monday 15 August at Kirkcudbright Attempts are being made to arrange Under 14 matches against Cumbria at Cockermonth and Kirkcudbright but there are difficulties in finding suitable dates in a very congested fixture list. The Secretary was still awaiting notification of the dates for the Peat Salver. The NCF League team play their first match of the season against Cumbria at Lochmaben on Saturday 21 May and the Under 16 team play the following Saturday at Lockerbie against Cumbria Under 16's

COURSE RATING

Robert McKnight had nothing to report. He was still awaiting notification of the date of the local Course Rating Seminar.

D & G GOLF PARTNERSHIP

In the absence of Neville Wright, Brian Duguid reported that Neville had given a presentation of the two South websites at the D & G Partnership Meeting. He explained the updates to the SoSGA website including the Fixture List, List of Match Secretaries, Club photographs and Club entries. In the second part he explained the concepts for the South visitor website. The conclusions were that: missing photographs; additional hotels that promote golf; information on non-club facilities; more visitor packages; a separate page for non-club facilities and Pro shops and adding a "What's On" page; keeping the site fresh were still required.

The topic of marketing the South to visitors highlighted the fact that many potential visitors would have no idea where Dumfries & Galloway was. It was far more likely that they would know where Scotland, the Home of Golf, was. It would therefore be necessary to rename the visitor site to one of the following suggestions:-

www.golfsouthscotland

www.golfsouthofscotland

www.southscotlandgolf

www.southofscotlandgolf

The cost of .com domain names is around £15 per year and £6 for.co.uk domain names.

On a show of hands www.southofscotlandgolf was chosen. It was agreed that this domain name would be taken to the Ladies at the Meeting on 11 May.

WEBMASTER & FIXTURES SECRETARY

Wave Tyrrell reported that he had prepared a spreadsheet for the Junior Order of Merit. The News/Fixtures pages were causing problems, they still work but are not very efficient. The Chairman thanked Wave for all his work, it was much appreciated.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

There was no report from Dumfriesshire.

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Brian Duguid reported that he had 30 entrants for the Kirkcudbrightshire Championship at Castle Douglas on Sunday 8 May. As the County had not spent money on coaching over the winter it had been agreed that individual Clubs could get professional assistance for the Juniors. Castle Douglas is to introduce footgolf.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported that the 9th, 10th and 11th holes at Portpatrick had been severely damaged by flooding over the winter. The 11th was still unplayable and would not be in use for the Drennan Salver on Sunday 14 May. The competition will be played over 17 holes. As some Clubs did not have a Junior Section no County coaching had taken place over the winter.

A.O.C.B.

Brian Duguid reported that New Galloway had restarted a Junior Section.

Jim Burns reported that he had thoroughly enjoyed his trip to America to see “The Masters” As these trips are funded by the individual he hoped to also go to the USA Open in June. The post of Chief Executive at Scottish Golf had been advertised and a short list was expected soon.

Iain Robin proposed that in an attempt to improve relations and avenues of communication with the Clubs a representative from 3 or 4 Clubs be invited to attend each Executive Meeting as observers. Throughout each year this would let each Club be represented at one Executive Meeting to learn of the issues affecting the Area and we could learn of their concerns and hopefully find a way to help. The Club representative would be permitted to take part in debates but not have a vote. This was agreed unanimously and the Secretary asked to invite 3 representatives to the next Meeting.

The President thanked all members for their attendance

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 28 June 2016 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.