

THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION

NOTE OF MEETING WITH LADIES 10 NOVEMBER 2015

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

Present:

Representing

SOUTH

Duncan Moore

Alastair Millar

Jim Burns

Iain Robin

DUMFRIESSHIRE LADIES

Eileen Scott

Fiona MacGregor

Gladys McClymont

GALLOWAY LADIES

Linda Scott

Jean Bryson

Salley Huntley

Fiona Hunter

Pat Magill

Apologies:

There were no apologies

President's Welcome:

Duncan Moore welcomed the Ladies to this exploratory meeting to discuss the amalgamation of the three bodies. It reminded him of a Caucus, which in American politics in the mid-west was a discussion to find out the views of the different parties. He thought it important that if we wanted to amalgamate in the south-west we get ourselves organised with what we want to do so that we are not forced by the SGL at St Andrews to do otherwise. He asked Jim Burns to outline the present position.

Present Position

It is important that if we wish to progress that we work closely together using our common interests as the foundation. We are better together than as 3 separate entities. At the last meeting of the SGU Council a working group proposed a tier of engagement based on 4 areas with a large territorial spread. This would create sizeable groups with little common interest. This proposal will be discussed by the Board at their meeting on 25 November.

The Chairman, Eleanor Cannon and the eight Directors had been appointed.

Finance

Last year the Gents paid £11.25 to the SGU and £3.50 to South Area. The money was paid by the Clubs and based on the number of adult gentlemen playing members. The Ladies paid £14+ to SLGA. It was voluntary to join a Ladies Association and a subscription of £8 was charged. The Ladies Associations were concerned that if a compulsory affiliation fee of £3.50 was charged to join the combined local organisation there could be repercussions from the Clubs and the lady Club members. *(In fact as each lady member has only to pay £11.25 to SGL this year the increase in total subscriptions for a lady will only rise by £0.75. I don't think Clubs would object too strongly)*

Communication

It was agreed that more efficient and effective communication with Clubs in the Area was paramount. All Clubs now had a vote and it was important to support them and agree to speak with one voice. The Ladies were concerned that the Clubs were male dominated and the ladies would have no voice. Everyone has to be treated the same way.

It was important to get the Clubs involved and one way was to hold Forums to exchange views

Competitions

Although the Ladies accepted that they would still be able to run their own competitions they were concerned that South Area concentrated their competitions on the scratch or elite golfers within the area whereas the Ladies Associations held handicap events

which were open to everyone in the Association. They felt the ordinary male Club member was getting nothing for his compulsory membership.

The policy of the South Executive was to introduce youngsters into the game to develop them to fulfil their potential and grow the game itself. The Executive had a very robust coaching policy.

Coaching

The men get funding for coaching from SGL and the Ladies have to fund their own. It was thought that if all showed solidarity additional funding may be available from SGL to assist the ladies. Pam Watson, South Coaching Convenor, had offered places to girls at her Performance Coaching sessions this winter but Dumfriesshire had already set up a small Development squad and Galloway had no suitable candidates.

Course Rating

The men and the ladies had separate teams and at present were working together to carry out surveys of the local courses. Although the ladies had more catching up to do it was envisaged that this procedure would continue.

Conclusions

- There were opportunities and a willingness to work together. By working together with one voice there was more chance of our views being accepted and a fait accompli not being imposed.
- People looking for value for money
- We have to take the Clubs with us.

It was agreed to hold a further meeting after the SGL Board Meeting on 25 November early in 2016.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

21 November 2015

Iain Robin
Secretary
South of Scotland Golfers' Association