

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 4 NOVEMBER 2014**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

Present:

Neville Wright, President, in the Chair; D Moore; A Millar; G Sharp; J Burns; P Watson; R McKnight; B Duguid; I McWhirter and I Robin, Secretary.

Apologies:

There were no apologies

Presidents Welcome:

The President welcomed the members to his final Executive Meeting as Chairman. It had been a busy year for the Juniors and Gents. Everything had run seamlessly and he thanked everyone for their support.

Executive Meeting 30 September 2014

The dates of the two matches for next year under the Senior Team Manager's Report should be April and not March

The Minutes were approved with the minor amendments, proposed by Graeme Sharp and seconded by Jim Burns

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary reported that the website continues to evolve. News items are continuously being added. Please continue to visit the site and let him know of any errors or suggestions for improvements.

As Brighthouse Bay had been selected to host the Shamash next year the Secretary had amended the rota of Clubs to host South events for the next ten years. This was approved subject to Southernness replacing Stranraer in 2025 for the South Championships.

Roger Bailey had prepared a draft fixture list of all the open competitions in South Area and these were distributed. It did not include fixtures from Wigtownshire or most of the South events as these had not yet been received.

The Secretary distributed a list of all South events he had compiled. It was noted that;-
The NCF championships clashed with the Donaldson Cup at D&G – Ian McWhirter agreed to contact D&G

The 3 Counties at Kirkcudbright was not in Roger's list. Pam Watson offered to check date with Kirkcudbright

The Scottish U16 Championships were scheduled for the wrong date. It should be 1/3 July

The Wigtownshire Boys Championships were on 19 July at Portpatrick

The following events had still to be arranged:-

Gillespie Classic – Alastair Millar agreed to contact Jim Dougal at Brighthouse to select a convenient date. Suggestions to improve a better turnout included better advertising and more fun competitions including "beat the Pro"

South Juniors v Stirlingshire v Clackmannanshire at Tulliallan as practice for Boys Area Team Championship. Should be April/May

Peat Salver – the 3 Counties representatives to communicate to find 3 dates for 1 home and 1 away match

The Kirkcudbrightshire and Dumfriesshire Boys Championships

4 NCF matches (3 home and 1 away) Iain Robin to organise

U 16 match v Cumbria Hopefully at Lockerbie Iain Robin to organise

U 15/14 match v Cumbria Cumbria to organise

Match v Perth & Kinross Graeme Sharp to liaise with P&K

There had been a good response to the e-mail sent to Clubs re IMT monies although most have replied that none were sold this year. The total to date was £690 and it was hoped to eventually

get £1,200

To date there had been no response to the draft constitution sent to Clubs. There was some doubt if in fact the Clubs had received the document but this was not confirmed. It was suggested that in future the e-mail be classified “automatic response”

Treasurer’s Report;

As there had been very little financial activity in the present financial year there was no report submitted.

The grant towards expenses for the 2014 ATC of £500 had been received from the SGU.

The audited accounts from Alastair Innes had been received. Despite a reduction in Expenditure of £1,919.73 there was a deficit of £5,640.40 of which £5,000 was the Association’s contribution to the D & G Golf Partnership on behalf of the Clubs. There was also a reduction in income of £4, 051. 30. Sponsorship was down £1,760.64, IMT monies down by £222 and Subscriptions £714. Consequently Income had to be increased for the Association to fund its essential obligations, and it either had to come from the sale of IMT booklets and/or from subscriptions. Although IMT booklet sales had been decreasing over the past 3 years it was agreed to ask the AGM if they wished to continue with the IMT booklets and more actively promote them to Club members. It was agreed to recommend to the AGM to raise the per capita fee by 50p to £3.50 All of the 50p increase would be allocated to the South and the Counties would receive no increase in their allocation. The funds deposited in the bank at 31 August 2014 amounted to £9,036. 80. Alastair had now completed his agreed 3 year term and had given the Treasurer the name of Elizabeth Gray, CA, Bell Ogilvy, Castle Douglas as a possible replacement. She was contacted and agreed to be the Independent Examiner. This was approved and she will be proposed at the AGM. It was agreed to give a dozen golf balls and letter of thanks to Alastair in recognition of his help.

Convenor’s Reports:

SGU DELEGATE

Jim Burns reported that he had attended the Council Meeting in October which also coincided with the Cannes Trophy. Sadly the golf was cancelled due to inclement weather but the meeting was very informative and lengthy. The salient points of note were:-

- 1 Management Accounts: These were noted with an anticipated surplus of circa £20k. Membership numbers are down by approx. 3% (5,000 adult members). He again raised the issue of the per capita fee and had been assured that the methodology for determining membership subscriptions will be reviewed post the decision on amalgamation.
- 2 Annual Conference: This will be staged on same basis as last year with Areas being asked to pay a “small” cost of £200.
- 3 Championships: The Europeans were successful and the Junior Ryder Cup very successful.
- 4 Entry Fees for Scottish Amateur: These have been increased as a one-off to cover marquee hire costs given the limited space in the clubhouse at Muirfield.
- 5 Under 14’s: The Championship Committee was asked to look at the Conditions of Entry as too few Scots participated this year
- 6 Area Team Championships: The Championship Committee was asked to consider rotating the venue over a wider area as it currently is on inland courses in central Scotland.
- 7 Development Officers: a presentation on their work is to be given by Kevin Fish at the next Executive Meeting.
- 8 Directors: It was noted that Colin Wood was standing down having completed his 2 terms. There is no plan to replace him at present as his duties will be absorbed into the Club Development remit
- 9 Amalgamation: The Working Group had met on 3 further occasions and the final proposal was imminently awaited. T Craig outlined what he saw as the process going

forward with meetings with Club/Areas to be planned before a poll of intention is undertaken prior to a Special EGM. If however the meetings and poll suggest that there was a likelihood of failure to achieve there would be no EGM as this would only result in further poor press and media coverage, not to say future troubles for the SGUL. Tom Craig further elaborated on the issues of concern if no positive resolution was achieved.

- 10 Changes in Delegated Representatives: Attendees Iain Simpson (P&K) and Peter Lowe (Lothians) were standing down. J Scott (Fife) and J Weir (A&B) are also retiring from the Executive. R Burnett (Glasgow) had replaced David McCrae who stood down through ill health.

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

Graeme Sharp reported that now the dates had been agreed for the championships he would organize the posters to be sent to Clubs in the new year.

COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that the Assessment Day had been a success despite the weather being atrocious. All twelve boys turned up and played. After the competition, attended by Chris Robinson, Pam, the Secretary and Chris selected 18 boys to form the Performance Squads plus the 4 Scottish Academy players. Russell Jones, TPI Instructor has agreed to attend the first gathering. Letters have been sent out to all 22 asking for a commitment to attend at least two out of the four sessions. In return each boy will get 5 hours paid swing coaching from their personal coach. To date 12 of the 18 have agreed to attend on the first date. She is still awaiting a detailed programme from Chris Robinson to send to the boys. Ian McWhirter stated he had been impressed by Russell Jones and the boys would get their eyes opened.

Wigtownshire had nominated 2 Development Squads, Kirkcudbrightshire 1 Squad and Dumfriesshire 2 Squads for Development Coaching.

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp had nothing to report.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

Iain Robin reported that a final Jamboree competition took place at Southerness on Friday 17 October. There was a poor turnout with only 12 competitors. Angus Bendall (Castle Douglas) had a marvelous score of 70-2=68 to win from Andrew Kennedy (D&G) 76-7=69. Angus Bendall won the Under 16 Order of Merit and Cameron Gray (Kirkcudbright) the Under 14 title. Arrangements were presently being made for the NCF matches next year. He hoped to use Dumfries & Galloway, Dumfries and County and Powfoot for the home games.

COURSE RATING

Robert McKnight reported that he was still awaiting assessment results for Portpatrick and Dumfries & Galloway

DUMFRIESSHIRE

Ian McWhirter reported that Dumfriesshire had started junior coaching and Development Squads. It was agreed that the Secretary would attend the AGM on Thursday 13 November at Powfoot Golf Club

KIRKCUDBRIGHT

Brian Duguid reported that Kirkcudbrightshire were going to launch a Junior Handicap OOM using all singles events at all courses. The County was looking for a Championship Secretary. They had agreed to support the Coaching Convenor and had nominated a Development Squad.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Robert McKnight reported that the AGM was on 6 November and they were looking for a Secretary/Treasurer

D&G Golf Partnership

Duncan Moore reported that the Partnership was now running as a successful operation. The

£5,000 invested by the Association had attracted a further funding of £50,000 and had been well spent. It was now important for the Association to look forward, to continue the progress made and take the future of the Partnership under its umbrella. The Chairman added that Donald McDonald had been asked to speak at the AGM and to emphasize to the Clubs to carry on with support from the South. Neville's vision was for the sub-group to continue with the project with someone from this committee to report back. The South would assist as the vehicle to drive the project forward and ensure it is sustainable.

AGM Reports:

Neville Wright reviewed the draft reports submitted by the Convenors to ensure there was no duplication and expressed satisfaction with the results. He recommended that the Treasurer's Report needed to emphasize that it was essential the per capita fee was increased to ensure the Association had sufficient funds to develop Junior golf

A.O.C.B.

Pam Watson stated she would like to invigorate the Junior OOM by continuing with the Jamboree – get a trophy, more publicity and have a slogan along the lines of the "Race to Dubai"

The President read out a letter of resignation from Andy Learmonth due to family commitments.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15 pm on Tuesday 20 January 2015 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.