

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 3 NOVEMBER 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; N Wright; W Tyrrell; R McKnight; S Kingston; B Duguid; and I Robin, Secretary.

Apologies:

There were no apologies

Presidents Welcome:

The President welcomed the members to his final Executive Meeting in the Chair and in particular to Wave Tyrrell who was attending his first Meeting

Executive Meeting 18 August 2015

The Minutes were approved by Neville Wright, seconded by Robert McKnight.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising

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 Wave know of any errors or suggestions for improvements.

The amalgamation of the Scottish Golf Union and Scottish Ladies Golfing Association was achieved on 1 October with all the administrative procedures completed successfully. The Chairman, Eleanor Cannon and the eight Directors had been appointed.

The SGU Area Satisfaction Survey was completed and returned on time. Responses had been received from Robert McKnight and Neville Wright and these were included. The Secretary reported that Andy Salmon had e-mailed to say that the adverse comments and complaints had raised concerns and these would be investigated. That day Kevin Weir had phoned to discuss the results of his investigations. With regard to the Course Rating issues and the long time it was taking to reply to correspondence, difficulties had been experienced in reaching a conclusion with the surveys due to inconsistencies in the recordings of the men's and ladies teams. The sheets were presently being redesigned and hopefully the problems would be eradicated. He agreed that all correspondence should be acknowledged and this would be done in future. He agreed to contact Robert McKnight to discuss his concerns in detail. Kevin apologised for the actions of the Development Team in not attending the D&G Golf Partnership seminar and agreed that the team were there to support the Areas and Clubs. He was concerned that the Team were getting adverse comments as in the opinion of others they were doing a good job. Neville stated that he had met Andy Salmon recently and these concerns had been discussed. Neville had been assured the comments were being taken seriously and would be attended to.

Roger Bailey had intimated he did not wish to continue compiling the South fixture list due to wanting to reduce his workload. The Secretary had taken on this task in the meantime to ensure the fixture list was produced and had written to the Clubs to inform them of the change and asked all County Secretaries to send their fixtures to him. Wave Tyrrell had agreed to take on responsibility for compiling the fixture list as ultimately he would have to post it on the website. The Secretary agreed to send all Club fixture lists to him. The Secretary would like the list compiled by 1 January so it can be issued to Clubs to check any clash of dates.

A Meeting with representatives of Dumfriesshire Ladies and Galloway Ladies regarding amalgamation had been arranged for Tuesday 10 November at 7.15 pm in the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported that there was no financial summary for this meeting as there had not been sufficient transactions to make a report meaningful. However the audited accounts were presented and discussed. Concern was expressed at the increase in expenditure on the Juniors, and in particular on the NCF matches.

The accounts for the D&G Golf Partnership had been received from Brian Duguid and passed to the auditor.

Amalgamation:

Jim Burns reported that he had nothing substantial to add to the report by the Secretary. The new regime had taken over and senior staff were using their same titles although no staff appointments had been made. There had been one redundancy to date.

D & G Golf Partnership:

Neville Wright reported that he had been very active over the past two months attending meetings on behalf of the sub group. The first was the D&G Golf Partnership Meeting on 23 September at Castle Douglas Golf Club and the minutes are attached as an appendix The D&G Tourism Strategy Meeting on 30 September at the Douglas Arms Hotel, Castle Douglas was hosted by D&G Council to look at the 2016 -2020 Tourism Strategy. Golf was seen as one of the top 3 reasons to come to Dumfries and Galloway. However, most of the remainder of the meeting dealt with accommodation provider research and therefore we had little input. On 5 October he attended the D&G Business Week Launch at the Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries and heard an excellent key note speaker from James Ewart Racing (Racehorse Trainer, Langholm). Council Leader Ronnie Nicholson gave a Council commitment to small business enterprise and the tourism business. Neville made contact with D&G Life editor, who was interested in doing a follow up piece on the Golf Partnership. The following day it was to the Cally Palace Hotel, Gatehouse for the D&G Tourism Interest Group. There was an excellent presentation by Visit Scotland on visitor profiling and visitor wants and needs. We all gave a tourism sector presentation. Neville spoke on the Golf Partnership action plan, multi-course booking system and links with other activities in our area Golf was at the centre on a number of tourism strategies, VS have £10,000 to invest in Golf Tourism for the D&G area, however it is linked to packages and national themes His penultimate meeting was with Kevin Campbell (VS Brand Manager) on 29th October in the VS Office, Dumfries to discuss the £10,000 funding. VS will market and digitally advertise the new DG Golf site once available and launch the golfing itineraries on main site (some editing required as they currently talk about golf pass) The VS advertising contracts are out for tender at present so Kevin will get back to him in late December with the advertising strategy. The final meeting on 2nd November was with Scottish Golf Tourism Group at Murrayshall Golf Club. with representatives from similar bodies. A survey monkey is to be issued to determine what attracts visitors to D & G and 3 groups, possibly at Powfoot, Southernness and Stranraer, will interview visitors.

Future Meetings are planned for 4th November with ADGAP at Cally Palace – they are looking for D&G Golf Partnership to assist with funding the ‘see and do’ leaflets and on 3rd December with Ayrshire & Arran and Borders Golf Partnerships at D&G Golf Club, Dumfries

Neville had received a letter from Dumfries and County GC intimating they did not wish to participate in the Golf Partnership. He was advised to contact Ian Brotherston (D&C President) who might be able to help. There had been a poor response from some Clubs regarding the BRS Multi-Course booking system which was giving concern as to the future for this project. The Draft Business Plan was accepted by Clubs at the Partnership meeting. It was agreed that the 1000 photographs taken at all the Clubs could be stored in a Business

Drop Box at a cost to the Partnership of £11 per month. All Clubs would have access at any time free of charge.

AGM Thursday 26 November 2015

The Secretary led the discussion on the items to be included in the Agenda for the AGM. The approval of the D&G Golf Partnership accounts would have to be added and a Convenor's report from the D&G Golf Partnership representative. As the SGL had not advised how many delegates would attend the new Forums it was agreed that a SGL Representative would be elected in the meantime. Jim Burns agreed to contact other Areas to determine what they were doing.

As the Counties were having difficulty getting Vice Presidents and County Representatives for the Executive it was agreed to reinstate the office of Immediate Past President and not have a Junior Vice President. This would require a motion to the AGM to change the Constitution.

All the officials agreed to stand again.

Convenor's Reports:

SGU DELEGATE

Jim Burns reported that he had attended a talk by Kevin Weir regarding possible changes to the handicapping system. The system was not due to be revised officially till 2019 but some may be introduced before then once they are approved. The Budget, based on the outline Budget, was approved. However, the budget for events had been decreased and the attendance of the Red Cross and AA signage at events would be discontinued. Spencer Henderson had been reinstated as an SGL Coach. He had been saddened by the death of Ronnie McLelland.

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

Graeme Sharp reported that Shamash Trophy had been held at Brighthouse Bay on Sunday 20 September. Unfortunately there had been a much reduced entry. Brighthouse had received a bad press in its early days but a lot of work by Jim Dougal had improved its condition and presentation and it was now a very good test. Martin McNae (Lochmaben) and Iain Thomson (Powfoot) tied on 150 and Iain won the 3 hole play-off. Chris Corbett (D&G) was third on 151 and Ross Murray (Southernness) fourth with 152. Graeme expressed his thanks to the Vice President for presenting the prizes and Jim Dougal for his help and support

The James Erskine sponsored Order of Merit was won by Martin McNae (Lochmaben). David Brodie (Wigtown & Bladnoch), Chris Corbett (D&G) and Ross Murray (Southernness) were second, third and fourth respectively. Graeme thanked James Erskine for his sponsorship, and Clark Riddick and Iain Thomson for compiling the results after each competition and posting on the website. It had been a very successful competition and there could be some new names in the South teams next year.

COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that letters had been sent out inviting 26 Juniors along to our performance coaching programme for this Winter. 22 have replied and 14 attended the first day on Sunday 25th October. Chris Robinson is leading the programme assisted by David Broadfoot. The first session included; Objectives & expectations for winter 2015 and summer 2016: performance plan & goal setting: bunker play: ball striking, ball trajectory and shot shaping: on course session, defence v attack, course management, club/shot selection. Next session is Sunday 22nd November.

None of our three counties has a squad going through the official Development centres. Kirkcudbrightshire have planned 21 hours at Brighthouse with David Broadfoot. They are part funding this along with parents. Wigtownshire have three squads two development, one performance with Chris Robinson and are also part funding this with parents. Dumfriesshire have nothing organised. Although D & C have two squads working with

James Erskine and Jordan Brown. Joe Ferguson and Ross Murdoch have classes at Tower Wood.

It appears the changes to the Development Centres, the increase in price and hours have not been successful in our area. This will need to be looked into and assessed for next year. It may be necessary for the South to also take responsibility for development squads. The number of hours the boys have to attend and the price are causing concern with parents. Chris had spoken to Colin Bell at SGL and agreed a reduction in hours to 30.

Pam had also spoken to Dumfriesshire Ladies regarding having girls in the Performance Squad but they have a coaching programme for this year. They had no objection to a joint programme in future.

The 4 categories in the Order of Merit competition were decided at the Junior Jamboree at Southernness.

U18 scratch Nathan Watson (Kirkcudbright)

U15 scratch Cameron Gray (Kirkcudbright)

U18 handicap Lewis Cheetham (Lochmaben)

Girls U18 handicap Ellie Harkness (Lochmaben)

She apologised for not having an update published in the press after each competition but had failed due to a lack of cooperation from the Clubs in getting the results. The procedures would be reviewed for next year.

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp reported that the two matches against Borders at D & G and Cumbria at Eden had been arranged. The Cumbria match was on a Saturday for a change.

The Seniors team of Ian Brotherston, David Dixon, Tony Clark, Ian Reid, Ian Fraser and himself were congratulated on winning a bronze medal at the Seniors ATC at Montrose.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

Iain Robin reported that reports and photographs of all Junior competitions and matches had been sent to Executive members and the local press for publication. They had also been posted on the website.

The final match between Dumfriesshire and Kirkcudbrightshire in the Peat Salver was played at Dumfries & Galloway Golf Club on Sunday 11 October. Both Counties had already beaten Wigtownshire so the winners would be the team to take home the trophy.

Kirkcudbrightshire won the foursomes by 3 games to 1 and Dumfriesshire won the singles by 5 games to 3 resulting in a tied match at 6 games all. By virtue of winning more games in their two matches (15½ to 13) the Peat Salver was presented to a delighted Kirkcudbrightshire team for the first time in its 18 year history.

19 boys and one girl competed in the South Junior Jamboree at Southernness Golf Club on Friday 23 October. Twelve year old Ellie Harkness from Lochmaben had a marvellous round on her first visit to Southernness. A score of $114 - 35 = 79$ was a wonderful performance in the conditions and rightly won her the Girls Handicap Section. Her proudest boast was that she took 18 extra balls in her bag, never lost one, and brought all 18 back! Not many of the boys could equal that.

In the Boys Scratch Section, Callan Harkness, big brother of Ellie, had a round of 76. Rowan Marchbank (D&G) made a brave attempt to catch Callan but finished with 78. In third place was Cameron Gray (Kirkcudbright), with an 80.

The Boys Handicap Section was also very keenly contested. Mitchell Cowie (D&C) had a total of $79 - 5 = 74$. Daniel Irving (D&C) finished with $88 - 13 = 75$ and Alex Long (New Galloway), took third place with $82 - 6 = 76$. All the competitors thoroughly enjoyed their day at the coast and although they did not get a suntan they went home with many happy memories.

COURSE RATING CONVENOR

Robert McKnight reported that the team had surveyed Colvend and Dalbeattie on 19 August. Newton Stewart had been done on 10 September. Michael Dickie had contacted SGU to inform them of hole changes at Lockerbie. When the team arrived the holes were still being constructed and they will have to return in the spring.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

Duncan Moore reported that he was trying to instigate a Seniors inter-club competition within Dumfriesshire which hopefully could be extended to an inter-county championship in due course. This would be brought up at the Dumfriesshire AGM.

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Brian Duguid reported that the Kirkcudbrightshire AGM would be held at Castle Douglas on Thursday 5 November at 7.15 pm. There will be a Lady President for the first time and a full compliment on the Executive. Kirkcudbrightshire won the Peat Salver for the first time in its 18 year history. Brian Haining is still smiling! Jeff Sutcliffe has again produced an extensive championship report for season 2015. (Copy attached to this Minute) Jeff is also preparing a Kirkcudbrightshire Booklet in an effort to improve the profile of the Association. This will be circulated to Clubs within the Association. Consideration is being given to re-establishing a website for 2016. The Association is to purchase HandicapMaster software for use in its championships. It was pointed out that the South already has this software and the Secretary offered to send the present password to Brian. A Development Programme has been set up (to replace the ClubGolf Programme) at Brighthouse with 7 juniors receiving 21 hours of coaching from David Broadfoot. Cost to participants is £50 with the Association funding the remaining costs. The first session took place on Saturday 31 October. Ross Murray (Southernness) won both the scratch and handicap Orders of Merit.

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported that the Wigtownshire AGM was to be held on Wednesday 11 November at Wigtownshire County at 7.30 pm. The Seniors League was won by Wigtown & Bladnoch and the Seniors Championship played at Portpatrick was won by Ian Johnston. A.O.C.B.

Wave Tyrell reported that it was encouraging to see so many News Items on the website. It was important to populate the website as this helped to drive interest. If members had anything they wanted added they just had to let him know. Neville asked for a page for the D & G Golf Partnership and this was agreed.

The AGM will be held at Castle Douglas Golf Club on Thursday 26 November at 7.30 pm

The President thanked all members for their hard work and support during his term of office and wished them well for the future.

Alastair Millar proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 9.03 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 12 January 2016 at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.