

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 14 NOVEMBER 2017**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

**Present:**

Stephen Kingston, President, in the Chair; T Clark; A Millar; G Sharp; D Moore; J Forrest; W Tyrrell; R McKnight; B Duguid and I Robin, Secretary.

**Apologies:**

P Watson

**In Attendance:**

Peter Barratt, Colvend and David Gordon, D & C. St Medan Golf Club sent their apologies

**President's Welcome:**

The President welcomed the members and in particular the Golf Club representatives to his last Executive Meeting as President.

**Executive Meeting 26 September 2017**

The Minutes were approved by Robert McKnight, seconded by Wave Tyrrell after one correction. Connor Syme had played in the Walker Cup and not Ryder Cup.

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Secretary's Report:**

Iain Robin reported that invitations had been sent to St Medan, Dumfries & County and Colvend Golf Clubs to send a representative to this meeting. St Medan sent their apologies.

SGL had announced the Affiliation Fee for 2018 will remain at £11.25 per head

Kirkcudbrightshire Golfers' Association had nominated Jean Forrest as the next Vice-President of this Association

The Secretary had not received any resignations from members of the Executive so assumed all will be standing again.

President Tony Clark

Vice-President Jean Forrest

Immediate Past President Stephen Kingston

Secretary Iain Robin

Championship Secretary Graeme Sharp

Coaching Convenor Pam Watson

Gents Team Manager Graeme Sharp

Boys Team Manager Iain Robin

Course Rating Convenor Robert McKnight

D&GGP Co-ordinator Jean Forrest

Fixtures Secretary & Webmaster Wave Tyrrell

Executive Member Duncan Moore

Alastair Millar

There were no additional concerns for the AGM.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer reported that the Summary of Draft Annual Accounts up to 31 August 2017 and the Summary of Draft Annual Accounts of the D&G Golf Partnership up to 31 August 2016 which were presented at the last Executive Meeting had been examined and signed by the Independent Examiner.

There was no Summary of Accounts presented at this Meeting as very few transactions had taken place.

**SGL Draft Strategy:**

The Secretary reported that all correspondence to do with the SGL Draft Strategy had been forwarded to the Executive and Clubs

The SGL Special General Meeting regarding the draft strategy to be held on Saturday 2 December at Stirling had been cancelled and a conference style debate substituted for the Board to determine the wishes of all stakeholders before a new strategy is prepared for the AGM in March. The venue for the National Conference had been changed to the International Conference Centre, Edinburgh and Clubs are permitted 5 delegates and Areas and Counties 2 each.

The Secretary read out a letter he had received at 6.00 pm that evening calling the President and Secretary to a meeting in Stirling the following week to discuss the agenda for the conference on 2 December and to consider possible changes to the Board and Articles of Association. This letter has since been forwarded to all Executive members.

The letter raises questions of governance. Those elected to the Board should have the necessary skills sets to be directors of the various departments. The Audit Committee requires to be set up urgently and the Board has to be accountable to it. The new strategy has to be built up stage by stage from a solid foundation including working within its means.

It was suggested that a draft list of requirements or wants be made for the meeting with the Clubs on 23 November. This would concentrate the minds of the Clubs and ensure a workable and achievable strategy was presented to the Board on 2 December.

- What do members want from Scottish Golf?
- Method of calculating the Affiliation Fee

Another method of calculating the affiliation fee was suggested whereby everyone paid a basic £10 say, plus a percentage of their Club subscription up to say, £3. This was not considered fair and equitable by those who were members of larger Clubs. Members do not want to even pay the present fee of £11.25 because they only get a handicap and course rating services. David Gordon (D&C) reported that of his 600 members only 160 played competitive golf and had a handicap. He suggested that everybody paid the basic £10 and those that wanted to play competitively pay extra. It was agreed that this was a much fairer method. All members were urged to contact the Secretary with their list of wants from Scottish Golf. These would then be circulated to the Clubs for the meeting on 23 November.

#### CONVENORS REPORTS

##### **Championships 2018**

Graeme Sharp reported that the OOM for 2017 was won by David Brodie (Newton Stewart) by 5 points from Michael Grunwell (D&G). David's injury to his back was getting worse and Graeme was asked to pass on best wishes for a good recovery to David.

The Championships for 2018 were due to be held at:-

South Championship	Powfoot	preferred date	19 Aug
South Match Play	Powfoot		25/26 Aug
Junior Championship	Lockerbie		12 July
Junior Match Play	Lockerbie		19/2-0 July
Senior Championship	Wigtownshire County		1 Aug
Shamash Trophy	Kirkcudbright		15 Sept

##### **Coaching Convenor**

In the absence of Pam Watson there was no coaching report.

##### **Senior Team Manager**

Graeme Sharp reported that the match against Cumbria in 2018 would be played at Eden. He was trying to arrange a date with Dumfries & County to hold the match against Borders.

##### **Junior Team Manager**

Iain Robin reported that a Development team of six boys, all under 16 years-of-age, went to Glenbervie on Sunday 24 September to compete in the inaugural Scottish Junior Team Competition. The South team was Taylor Kerr (Sanquhar), Jamie Marchbank (D&G), Sam Mitchell (Portpatrick), Callum McMillan (Kirkcudbright), Kaleb Johnston (Portpatrick) and Ollie Hogg (D&G). The team total, from the top five stableford scores was 157, which under the adverse conditions was very acceptable. The team finished 6<sup>th</sup> out of the thirteen

competing teams and Taylor Kerr finished in a three-way tie for best individual round with 38 points.

Nathan Watson, (Kirkcudbright) and Iain Rae (Dalbeattie) at university in Edinburgh and Angus Bendall (Castle Douglas) at college in Gloucester returned home to enjoy their last event as South juniors in the Junior Jamboree at Southernness on Friday 27 October. They had all represented South Juniors for the last 5 years, firstly as young naïve nervous youngsters, and latterly as fine upstanding young adults with a love and aptitude for the game of golf.

Eighteen boys and one girl came to Southernness for a day of fun to compete on a course in immaculate condition on a beautiful autumnal day with cloudless skies and no wind.

The winners were:-

Girls Handicap: 73 Ellie Harkness (Lochmaben) 91 - 18

Boys Handicap: 67 Charlie Maxwell (Lochmaben) 94 - 27

Boys scratch 72 Angus Bendall

### **Course Rating**

Robert McKnight reported that the SGL had notified him of the outcome of the recent ratings at Wigtown & Bladnoch and St Medan as follows; the SSS for Wigtown & Bladnoch would remain at 67 and that for St Medan be reduced from 64 to 63. There were still five results to come.

### **D&G Golf Partnership**

Jean Forrest reported that the VisitScotland advertising feature on Clubs in the South had been successful. The three week exposure had been sufficient. A further feature would appear early in 2018.

### **Webmaster & Fixtures Secretary**

Wave Tyrrell reported that with regard to next year's fixtures he had had responses from nine clubs leaving 13 clubs still to report. The present list in in spreadsheet form and he intends to publish it in the table format nearer to the AGM.

The Google analytics figures for the last 28 days were as follows.

Site	Users	Sessions	Bounce Rate %	Duration
New Galloway	146	290	47	2 min 3 Sec
Sosga	301	628	68	1 min 3 Sec
SoS Golf October	2200	2600	94	16 Sec
SoS Golf September	134	175	48	2 min 13 Sec

The Visit Scotland promotion in September generated a 15 fold increase in sessions over October. This would appear to be a tremendous increase but the average duration of 16 seconds for each visit can only be a cursory glance. It is welcomed that Visit Scotland promotes the website but the value may not be as great as was originally thought. Nonetheless the increase in sessions gives food for thought. In the past he had ignored offers to increase the website presence. He will look more closely at offers in future and do some research into methods of increasing web traffic.

Dumfries & County get 3% of bookings on line. Most of their visitors come from repeat business and own adverts in golfing magazines mainly in the north of England, This year visitor income is up 12%.

### **Child Protection**

Iain Robin reported that there had been no information forthcoming from Jim Burns and he was advised to contact SGL for the information.

### **Dumfriesshire**

Tony Clark reported that the Dumfriesshire prize giving had taken place the previous evening. At the AGM on Tuesday 21 November, Barry Scott will be the new President. Liam Johnston (D&C), who had recently turned professional, was congratulated on winning a competition in Germany and Nithsdale Sportsman of the Year.

### **Kirkcudbrightshire**

Brian Duguid reported that the Kirkcudbrightshire AGM would be held on Thursday

16 November when Willie Watson will be the new President. They are still seeking a Championship Secretary.

### **Wigtownshire**

Stephen Kingston reported that Wigtownshire had had their AGM. Peter Strain had been appointed President with David Gladstone as Vice-President. The 2-ball competition has been changed to a 4-ball better ball. There is no change to finals day or OOM.

### **Club Representatives**

Peter Barratt recognised that the SGL draft strategy was taking up a lot of time without an outcome in sight. Colvend had a good response to a meeting with its members to discuss the original draft strategy. There had only been one person present who was in favour. Visitor numbers were up for the year but membership was decreasing.

David had nothing further to add.

### **A O C B.**

Jean Forrest was thanked for her work in calculating the alternative method for the Affiliation Fee

It was noted that Dumfriesshire Ladies had written to all Clubs in Dumfriesshire to tell them that the South Association would collect the per capita fees on their behalf. There had been no similar gesture from Galloway Ladies despite several proddings.

Brian was disappointed that Blane Dodds had been recruited from Tennis Scotland and appointed CEO. Several articles in the national press and golfing magazines had expressed the view that the Board made the wrong appointment.

Stephen Kingston announced that he had enjoyed his year as President and thanked every one of the Executive for the honour and all their support throughout the past year and wished Tony every success for his term of office.

There being no further business the President thanked the members and Club representatives for their attendance. The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 16 January 2018 at 7.15 pm in the Selkirk Arms Hotel Kirkcudbright. *This date was later changed to Tuesday 23 January as the Meeting Room had already been booked for the 16<sup>th</sup>.*