

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 15 MAY 2018**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

**Present:**

Tony Clark, President, in the Chair; J Forrest; S Kingston; A Millar; G Sharp; D Moore; P Strain; R McKnight and I Robin, Secretary.

**Apologies:**

B Duguid: W. Tyrrell and P Watson

**In Attendance:**

D McCall (Southernness)

**President's Welcome:**

The President welcomed the members and in particular David McCall

**Executive Meeting 20 February 2018**

The Minutes were approved by Stephen Kingston, seconded by Jean Forrest

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Secretary's Report:**

Iain Robin reported that invitations had been sent to Southernness, Crichton, Dumfries and Galloway and Wigton and Bladnoch Golf Clubs to attend this Committee Meeting.

Dumfries and Galloway had sent their apologies

The Coaching Grant had been paid.

Scottish Golf AGM 10 March 2018

Following the attempt by North-East Area to garner support for an EGM to overturn the decision at the AGM to raise the Affiliation Fee, the support by Lothians and rejection by Fife nothing has been heard. Hopefully this will be the end of the issue.

Three Clubs, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright and Stranraer have been granted an extension to the "Preferred Lies" rule till Monday 14 May. Castle Douglas has been granted a further extension till 21 May

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer reported that the Summary of Accounts up to 24 April 2018 was as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/17	7,979.66	Matches	1,110.45
Comps	380.00	Vouchers	2,095.00
IMT	300.00	ATC	1,828.39
Sponsor	300.00	NCF	1,161.70
Sundries	24.00	Sundries	468.92
Subscriptions	15,596.25	Coaching	924.80
SGL	<u>1,250.00</u>	In bank	<u>18,240.65</u>
	25,829.91		25,829.91

Subscriptions have not been paid by Crichton, Gatehouse, Sanquhar and Wigton & Bladnoch. Moffat and Portpatrick have paid since 24 April following a reminder

**Disclosure Scotland**

On 25th April 2018 the Scottish Government and Disclosure Scotland launched a consultation document that will form the basis of the PVG scheme going forward. The replies to this consultation will form the basis of the fully amended PVG system that is anticipated to be launched in the next couple of years. It is vital that as many as possible organisations/groups/individuals provide responses to the consultation so that there is an understanding within the policy team of how the proposed changes will impact on those that use the disclosure system. Matters up for consultation are going to form the basis of the

disclosure checking system over the next decade. This consultation gives us a full opportunity to feedback our responses to the proposed amendments. The consultation document can be found at <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/disclosures-latest/pvg-have-your-say/>

The consultation will end on 18 July and covers the entirety of the disclosure process. It is split into seven sections, each section provides information and discusses policy options and then asks the respondent to answer questions on matters relating to possible options for change. Over the next 3 months you have the opportunity to feedback on issues such as,

The number of disclosure products that are available

Fee structure

Moving to a digital service

Replacing regulated work with a list of positions.

Definition of a protected adult

The duration of PVG scheme membership

Introducing a membership card

The definition of a qualifying voluntary organisation

Implementation of a fee for volunteer disclosure checks

Changes to the referral, barring and under consideration process.

The removal of information from a scheme record.

The PVG system will become mandatory and Scottish Ministers have decided that the consultation in this area will be about how and not whether a fully mandatory PVG Scheme is brought into existence. Matters up for consultation are going to form the basis of the disclosure checking system over the next decade.

It was agreed that all would read the consultation document and bring their comments to the next meeting. Thereafter the Secretary would compile a response on behalf of the Association.

### **Scottish Golf Regional Forums**

Jean Forrest reported that she had attended the second meeting of the Regional Forum Working Group at Dunblane New Golf Club on Monday 7 May. Course Rating was back on the Agenda as a Core item. The optimum timing of Forums in future years would be March, Jun, September with a National Forum in late November. The first venue for the South Regional Forum would be Dumfries & County GC. Thereafter it would be up to the delegates to determine the next venue.

A short advert would appear in the next Scottish Golf Club bulletin, due out on 11 or 12 May, to ask for applications for Club representatives and Club Manager representatives in each Region to be returned by 31 May. To ensure a wide spread of Clubs represented and depending on volume of applicants, a process to determine participation might be required but this would be devolved to each Regional Group to determine, with all applicants to be invited to first meeting. Date and time of first meeting to be determined by a doodle poll.

The core items will be:-

- Communication
- Membership retention and recruitment
- Club support services
- Sharing experiences/Case studies
- Championships
- Coaching
- Volunteers
- Course Rating

Additional consideration was given to Governance and Affiliation Fees, but it was agreed that provision of an Executive Summary from Scottish Golf, covering a brief financial overview and departmental updates with the Agenda would be an opportunity for these areas to be considered or discussed.

A Terms of Reference would be helpful in ensuring consistency and through provision of a framework and strict approach to timings that a controlled Agenda linked to strategic objectives should be the aim. Additional Agenda items or off topic discussions would be managed by the Chair depending on time available.

It was recognised that for the forums to be successful, there needs to be collective responsibility from participants that we are all Scottish Golf and that we should use the opportunity of the forums to enable not inhibit what is happening within the game in Scotland. Equally it was recognised that the forum process would evolve over the first few meetings, with learnings and adaptations made to ensure that it serving the purpose of a productive debate on the key strategic priorities to drive growth in golf in Scotland.

A dedicated section on the Scottish Golf website will be created to act as a central portal for minutes, case studies, best practise etc to ensure these are visible to any interested party to view. It was also suggested that the TOR consider an appropriate timeframe for publishing of such documentation post meeting.

It was agreed that there needs to be a collective responsibility to communication regarding the Regional Forums. Clubs should be encouraged to get messages out to golfers; Counties & Areas to encourage club and golfer engagement, with Scottish Golf using bulletins and social media opportunities to try and increase awareness and understanding amongst clubs and golfers. It is hoped that through a shared approach and with outputs being visible the profile of Regional Forums will increase as they become established events in the calendar.

Whilst too early to state how the Regional Forums will be evaluated given this is still the set-up phase, the aspiration is that through contribution from local community of golfers to issues impacting the game we will be able to draw positive outcomes that support the strategic ambitions for golf in Scotland.

Jean Forrest was the unanimous choice as the South Area representative for the first meeting. Pete Haslam (Gatehouse) was the unanimous choice to represent the Clubs so that the Area had support for the smaller Clubs. The Secretary was asked to check with the Ladies Counties to ensure all were not nominating the same people.

### **Lewis Cheetham**

The Secretary reported that correspondence with Craig Chalmers was ongoing. The latest e-mail from Craig explained that all information had been passed to the management team for a decision. The Secretary wrote to Karin Sharp outlining the problem and asked for a prompt response. To date none had been received. The Executive confirmed that they did not want to see Lewis suspended sine die but they thought he should be taught a salutary lesson with a lesser punishment..

### **CONVENOR'S REPORTS**

#### **Championships 2018**

Graeme Sharp reported that all entry forms had been distributed to the Clubs including the Gillespie Classic on 17 June.

#### **Coaching Convenor**

In the absence of Pam Watson there was nothing to report

#### **Senior Team Manager**

Graeme Sharp reported that the match against Borders had been cancelled as Borders could not raise a team. It was hoped to re-arrange for another date.

There had been a problem with one of the team members prior to the match against Cumbria at Eden which necessitated a few changes in personnel. On the day the course was in good condition but wet underfoot. The South competed well in the morning foursomes but were overwhelmed in the afternoon singles.

#### **Junior Team Manager**

Iain Robin reported that he and Pam took 6 boys for a practice round to Eastwood Golf Club for a practice round on Monday 9 April. This is a short very hilly moorland course where an accurate drive from the tee is paramount. This did not please the boys who like to hit driver off every tee but hopefully they have learned.

A 36 hole Scottish Junior Tour Event was held at Southernness on Saturday 14 April. Six boys and 3 girls from the South Area took part but none played to their potential. They all got off to a bad start in the first round and although they played better as the competition progressed they could not recover the lost shots.

The Junior team played their NCL first match against Cumbria at Southernness on Sunday 15 April and recorded a fine victory by 7½ games to 4½

Taylor Kerr (Thornhill) was the only player from the South of Scotland to compete in the inaugural Barrie Douglas Scottish Junior Masters at Blairgowrie over the par 72 Landsdowne Course from 27 to 29 April. A select field of 40 of the elite junior golfers in Scotland played in the 54 hole event. Taylor played very consistently over the three rounds only to lose by one shot after his final round of 72 moved him up to a tie for third place.

Iain had received a donation of £100 from the organisers of the Scottish Junior Tour Event towards junior development in the South. He intended to purchase new shirts for the ATC team.

### **Course Rating**

Robert McKnight reported that course rating for the season had not started yet.

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

Jean Forrest reported that Hetland Hall Hotel had moved closer to promoting Golf with the Golf page on their website created and showing the 8 clubs they are working with for 2018. A Golfers' Breakfast at the hotel was arranged for the end of April, but due to poor communication was not well attended. Those that were there saw the Golf web page and discussions took place regarding how golf would be supported by the hotel and the mechanics of the clubs working with the hotel.

Also in April, the Partnership was represented at the Dumfries and Galloway Marketing Interest Group. Fourteen other groups were present as well as VS personnel and the D&G Economic Development Officer, Shelley Bell. It was valuable to hear what others are doing and also to make contact with new people.

Also at the end of April the Partnership held a meeting for all clubs at Castle Douglas G.C. Notes from this meeting can be accessed on the SOSGA News Page. Only 6 clubs were represented at this meeting and all of them have now got a copy of the e-mails which were gathered at the Golf Show. In response to the notes of the meeting sent to all attendees and the clubs which had sent apologies, one further club has also got the database. Clubs wishing to access this information are required to download the Data Protection Form from the SOSGA website, sign it and return it to the Partnership Co-ordinator. Clubs obtaining the database become the Controllers of that data and are responsible for maintaining, and using it in line with the Data protection act.

As result of discussion at the CD meeting, Beth Collins, Thornhill G.C. secretary has made contact with Personnel at Dumfries College with a view to possibly forming a partnership with Media Students to market Golf in the region to the mutual advantage of clubs and students. This project is at an early stage of development. Also, Jeff Sutcliffe plans to set up Exhibitions at two venues in Kirkcudbrightshire promoting golf in the Region. He has also offered to put together a booklet advertising all clubs to be ready for use in 2019.

VisitScotland have again received funding from the local Council to promote golf in this Region. Wave and Jean met with Amy Robertson of VS and Shelley Bell of D&G Council to discuss the best way to utilise this expenditure for the forth coming promotion. Amy is researching various possibilities, including Influencers, Bloggs and Partnership Content. She is also requesting an audit of our website as Wave feels this free service could result in possible changes which could improve the site.

### **Dumfriesshire**

Tony Clark reported that the League had started although two weeks late due to Moffat and Lockerbie being unable to raise teams. A new fixture list had to be compiled.

### **Kirkcudbrightshire**

There was nothing to report.

**Wigtownshire**

Stephen Kingston reported that both the A and B leagues had started.

**Club Representative**

David McCall thanked the Executive for the invitation and warm welcome. He had found the meeting most interesting and educational.

**A O C B**

There was no other competent business

There being no further business the President thanked the members and visitor for their attendance. The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 26 June 2018 at 7.15 pm in the Selkirk Arms Hotel Kirkcudbright.