

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 22 AUGUST 2017**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

A Millar; P Watson; W Tyrrel; Lee Sterritt and Sanquhar Golf Club

**In Attendance:**

Graeme Maxwell and Iain McBeth from Castle Douglas Golf Club

**President's Welcome:**

The President welcomed the members and in particular Graeme Maxwell and Iain McBeth from Castle Douglas Golf Club

**Executive Meeting 27 June 2017**

The Minutes were approved by Jean Forrest, seconded by Brian Duguid after making the following correction of a spelling mistake: it should be Lee Sterritt and not Lee Skerritt

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Secretary's Report:**

Iain Robin reported that he had dropped William Squires from the Junior team for the following two matches following his misdemeanor at the Scottish Boys Area Team Championships. He received an e-mail from him asking "why". He did not reinstate him and again he received another e-mail asking "why" and he replied that he did not think he had learned his lesson and the team was doing well without him and did not think anyone should make way for him. He received a further e-mail to say he was resigning from the team.

All other correspondence had been to do with the SGL Draft Strategy and had been forwarded to the Executive.

Invitations had been sent to Castle Douglas, Brighthouse Bay and Sanquhar Golf Clubs to send a representative to this Meeting. He had had a positive response from Castle Douglas, an apology from Sanquhar but no response from Brighthouse Bay.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer reported that the Summary of Accounts up to 14 August 2017 was as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/16	9,632.09	Sundries	494.45
Comps	869.00	Coaching	3205.00
IMT	700.00	ATC	2274.97
Sponsor	300.00	NCF	3254.69
Subs	16,719.50	Vouchers	2,485.00
Coaching	<u>1770.00</u>	Matches	1,207.23
	29,990.59	Counties	513.00
		Areas	5578.00
		In bank 23/3/17	<u>11,431.25</u>
			29,990.59

All 23 Clubs have paid their subscriptions.

The end of the financial year is 31 August

The income so far this year amounts to £20,358.50 and includes £520.00 from the Gillespie Classic

The expenditure this year amounts to £18,559.34. Of this approx. £1000.00 had to be spent on accommodation, meals and travelling for ATC which SGL used to pay for but have passed to the Areas. Not all invoices for accommodation and travelling have been received for the junior NCF matches. This will amount to approx. £1800.00. In addition Dumfriesshire have to cash their allocation from the subs amounting to £2388.50.

It is anticipated that the deficit will be approx. £2000.00 and the per capita fee will need to rise by 50p to £4.00

Approval was given for 5p per head to be given to D&GGP to help with finances from next year.

Concern was expressed at the possible deficit and methods to address savings would have to be investigated. A suggestion was to leave the Northern Counties Federation. The Junior team could play matches against each of the three counties men's teams to give the boys experience of team matches and competition. It was important not to cut back too severely and lose the benefits but to be realistic so that the team spirit and camaraderie could be maintained. One of the attractions to the boys was the away games which was good for team building. All the figures would have to be investigated for the AGM.

### **SGL Draft Strategy:**

The President thanked Jim Burns for his notes from the Meeting in Stirling on 10 August which were in the form of bullet points. It would appear that SGL was trying to take a softer approach but they still had not produced a budget of costs. They were polished in their presentation but without substance. It was unclear how Clubs could save over £5,000 on IT expenses when no Club in South Area spent anywhere near this amount.

The per capita fee in other countries was quoted but not the subscriptions so it was impossible to calculate any comparisons.

It is suggested there will be one Development Officer per Area but Areas do not have the same number of Clubs so the workload for each Officer will be massively different.

It was agreed that the Secretary write to each Board member expressing the Association's concerns as at the present time SoSGA had reservations to the draft strategy and were unable to make an informed decision particularly with respect to the need for facts and figures.

### **CONVENOR'S REPORTS**

#### **Championships 2017**

Graeme Sharp reported that 49 had competed in the Seniors Championship which had been won by Ian R Brotherston (Dumfries & County) with a score of 69.

The South Championship was held at Stranraer in beautiful weather. Colin Hamilton (Stranraer) led after the morning round with a level par round of 70. David Brodie (Newton Stewart) won the title with his afternoon round of 68 added to his first round of 72 for a total of 140. He thanked Stranraer Golf Club for hosting the event and the President and Secretary for their assistance. The first and second rounds of the Matchplay will take place at Stranraer on Sunday 27 August then the venues for semi-final and final will be decided. This has unfortunately occurred due to a clash with a mixed open event at Stranraer. Newton Stewart won the Team Championship with a score of 290. In second place were Dumfries & Galloway, Powfoot and Dumfries & County on 291.

#### **Coaching:**

In the absence of Pam Watson, the Secretary reported that the proposed plan, which still had to be agreed with Chris Robinson, was for the Performance Squad:-

- 1 full day at Brighouse
- 1 Full day at Portpatrick
- 1 full day at Powfoot

All these days would involve sessions on Coaching/short game/course management/practice techniques and preparation/fitness and nutrition.

The boys will also be involved more on course time, perhaps a mini winter league.

Due to a lack of progress with the establishment of Development Academies Pam proposes to have a minimum of two half day development/talent spotting days where the boys can show off their skills and commitment. Venues and dates have still to be decided.

Pam and the Junior Team Manager will finalise squads and players will be invited to attend. Clubs and Counties will be contacted to put forward names for the development days.

Both squads will be open to boys and girls.

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

Graeme Sharp reported that the Area Team Championship is at Newmacher on 6,7,8 and 9 September. He was struggling to get a team due to work commitments, start of university and the travelling distance involved. He had asked 20 players and 5 to-date had accepted, Mike Grunwell (D&G), Chris Corbett (D&G), Bob Graham (Stranraer) Allan Birdsall (D&C) and Andrew Kerr (Crichton). He hoped to have the last man in place that night. It is getting more expensive as Scottish Golf is not paying certain expenses that SGU did. To take 6 players and 2 officials will cost approx. £1,500.

The team to represent the Seniors at Forfar in the Scottish Area Senior Championship on Friday 22 September is Ian Brotherston, David Dickson, Jim Graham, Graham Sharp, Iain Reid and Muir Townsley.

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

Iain Robin reported that the Junior team had completed all their matches in the Northern Counties league. The final result is won 4 lost 2. Since the last meeting they have beaten Northumberland at Percy Wood by 9 games to 3 in atrocious weather conditions, Durham at Powfoot by 7½ games to 4½, lost to Northumberland at D&G by 8½ games to 3½ and beaten Durham at Consett by 7½ games to 4½. Overall the boys have been committed and dedicated and all have played well. They were most disappointed to lose their two matches.

In the Northern Counties Championship the team did not play well although two boys, Angus Bendall (Castle Douglas) and Jamie Marchbank (D&G) returned home with individual prizes. Angus had the best score over the 36 holes, Jamie was third and Jamie had the best score for the morning round. It is the South's turn to host this event next year.

The Fraser Shield (3 Counties) was easily won by Kirkcudbrightshire. All of their team are regular members of the Junior team and members of Kirkcudbright Golf Club. Three boys, Angus Bendall, Cameron Gray and Iain Rae all beat the par of 70.

The format of the Scottish Boys Championship changed this year to two qualifying rounds of strokeplay with the top 64 and ties then entering the matchplay. The event started on Friday 30 June with the two rounds of strokeplay played over Scotsraig and Drumoig on successive days. Of the 183 entrants, eleven boys from the South travelled up to Fife full of hope of putting in a performance to at least reach the matchplay stages but only two made it. Angus Bendall won his first round match but was beaten in the last 32. Jamie Marchbank reached the quarter-finals where he was unlucky to lose at the 20<sup>th</sup>

The South Junior Championship was held at Wigtownshire County and won by William Squires (Kirkcudbright). The final of the matchplay between Cameron Gray (Kirkcudbright) and Mitchell Cowie (D&C) was a marvellous match in the wind and rain which went to the 18<sup>th</sup> hole where Mitchell emerged victorious.

A South U 16 select played against D&C U16's at D&C and lost narrowly by 7 games to 5.

All these events have been reported to the Executive and a report published in the local press and on the website.

The U16 team played the return match with Cumbria U 16 on Friday 18 August at Lockerbie. They were narrowly beaten by 6½ games to 5½.

An invitation to a Scottish Junior Team Challenge at Glenbervie on Sunday 25 September has been received and accepted. This is a competition between the Club teams which have won the summer league in several Areas. Although South do not have a Junior league we have been allowed to compete as a development squad. The format is 18 holes stableford with the 5 best scores from a team of 6 to count. This will give some of next year's team valuable experience.

My thanks to Pam, Duncan and Neville for their company and support at all the events. My thanks also to Graeme who very kindly stepped into the kitchen and acted as caterer in the match at D&G. This was very much appreciated.

### **Course Rating;**

Robert McKnight reported that the proposed ratings at Castle Douglas and Gatehouse had to be postponed as Neville's car was giving problems. Eileen was only able to do castle Douglas then having to return early to visit her mother-in-law in hospital. A suitable date will be found to complete both.

Lockerbie was rated, however, on 27 July and the outcome would suggest the SSS stays at 67.

After completing Lockerbie the team travelled to Lochmaben to have another look at various items in response to their appeal against the proposed one stroke reduction in the SSS. Nothing much had changed since the last visit although they had planted 500 small trees in the Extreme Rough which will not be rated in the foreseeable future; the other point made re the CSS never being below the SSS of 70 and sometimes above has no bearing on the setting of the SSS. The CSS is mainly to take account of weather conditions on the day of the competition. Sometimes it can be affected by temporary conditions such as poor green surfaces due to Crane fly Larvae activity because of the withdrawal of the preventative insecticides. The appeal was not upheld, consequently the SSS was reduced from 70 to 69.

The team are going to Powfoot on Thursday 24 August to re-rate both Ladies and Gents tees.

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

Jean Forrest reported that Clubs had been e-mailed a report on the VisitScotland Spring Advertising Campaigns and information relating to the plans for future campaigns. The response from clubs in relation to this free advertising being offered through the Partnership continues to be disappointing. I have also asked the Chairman of Visit Southwest Scotland to pass on an information e-mail to all the accommodation providers. The next two campaigns will be landing on the Packages page of the website and that is where VS will be gathering their figures for analysis. VS would also like to obtain figures from the individual packages by placing tags on each of these sites. I have been approaching accommodation providers to see if they are willing to go with this and to date have received a positive response.

VS want to use our video in their next two campaigns but not in its present format as they think it is too long to be used as it is shown on our website. Andy Jardine, who made the video for us, is willing to release the raw footage to VS to adapt to a shorter version for use on Facebook.

During and since the Spring Campaign, Wave has been sending me weekly google analytic figures from our website. The figures show clearly the significant impact on the number of landings in April and again in May when the figures were about half of those in April. June showed a marked reduction in landings, but as we were not recording data in March, I do not know if this was back to our usual numbers or not. July and August have shown an improvement on June which may, or may not, be linked to the advertising that is

now happening in the Scottish Club Golfer Magazine. The second payment for this advertising is due to be paid in September bringing the total cost to £717.60. This amounts to just over £30 of advertising for each of the clubs in the Partnership.

P&O Ferries have not yet engaged in discussion re possible advertising in conjunction with us, but say they do intend to do so in the next two weeks! The Open at Portrush in 2018 could be our focus for an advertising campaign.

**Webmaster and Fixtures Secretary:**

The Secretary reported that Wave Tyrrell had nothing to report.

**Child Protection:**

Iain Robin reported that he had received the information from Duncan Moore but there were no facts about which members were accredited. He would contact Jim Burns to see if he had any further information.

**Dumfriesshire:**

Tony Clark reported that Dumfries & Galloway Golf Club and Joe Fergusson had parted company. American Golf was to take over the Pro Shop. Dumfries & Galloway won the Dumfriesshire League and Dumfries & County won the play-offs. Moffat won the B League

**Kirkcudbrightshire;**

Brian Duguid reported that in the Kirkcudbrightshire Junior Championship, played in conjunction with the Fraser Shield, Iain Rae (Dalbeattie) had beaten Cameron Gray (Kirkcudbright) at the second extra hole

The Senior Championship had been cancelled due to a lack of entries.

The Douglas Maxwell Trophy was at Kirkcudbright on Sunday 2 September.

Iain Rae leads the OOM by 1 point from Clark Riddick.

**Wigtownshire:**

Stephen Kingston reported that the Summer League was under way but had been badly affected by the weather.

The Junior Championship had attracted an entry of 34 at Newton Stewart. Kaleb Johnston (Portpatrick) won the scratch and Vanessa Hoe the handicap.

**Club Representatives:**

Iain McBeth reported that he and Brian Harper had won a qualifying competition which entitled them to a round of golf at Royal Birkdale just before the Open Championship. They also played Southport and Ainsdale and thoroughly enjoyed the experiences.

9 hole golf at Castle Douglas was proving a great success

He asked for feedback on how Castle Douglas could get the SSS up. Just set up the course as you want it but remember not to make the fairways too narrow or members and visitors will lose too many balls and not come back again.

Graeme Maxwell thanked the Association for the invitation. He had enjoyed the meeting and found it educational and informative.

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

Brian Duguid reported that visitor numbers were up in June but had fallen away over July and August.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.40 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 26 September at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.