

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 25 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

Present:

T Clark, President, in the Chair; Jean Forrest; S Kingston; G Sharp; D Moore; P Strain; R McKnight; B Duguid and I Robin, Secretary.

Apologies:

A Millar: W. Tyrrell and P Watson

In Attendance:

John Coates, Colvend.

Vice-President's Welcome:

The President welcomed the members and in particular the Club Representative

Executive Meeting 26 June 2018

The Minutes were approved by Graeme Sharp, seconded by Jean Forrest

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report:

Iain Robin reported that invitations had been sent to St Medan, Colvend and D & C Golf Clubs to attend this Committee Meeting. Colvend is represented by John Coates, Secretary, and St Medan and D & C sent their apologies.

All correspondence copied to the Executive since the last Executive Meeting has concerned a) the call by some Areas and Counties for a SGL Special General Meeting to have the per capita fee increased to £14.50; b) the Executive's Meeting with the chairman and CEO of Scottish Golf; and c) the next South Regional Forum meeting on 24 September. All these issues are separate items on the Agenda and will be discussed there.

The September Newsletter from Scottish Golf was distributed to the Executive and Clubs on 17 September. It announced that further cuts were being made to the costs of running the Area and County Championships. These costs will have to be borne by the Areas and Counties.

New dates for the Championships for 2019 have also been announced but venues have not been confirmed. The Scottish Club Team Championship will be discontinued in 2019 as will the Captains and Secretaries Championship although this will be replaced with a male medal finals event. Other dates and venues for competitions were announced.

Scottish Golf has arranged an Autumn Education Programme to deliver a series of workshops on three themes. These are Junior Membership Development; Human Resource Management and Save Money at your Club by becoming Resource Efficient.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported that there was no Summary of Accounts this month as the financial year started on 1 September and there have been only four transactions.

He was presently preparing the draft Annual Accounts for submission to the Auditor. Early indications show that Income was £25,000 and Expenditure £23,600 which would give a surplus of approx. £1,400.

Scottish Golf Regional Forums:

Jean Forrest reported that the second South Regional Forum had taken place the previous evening. The Meeting was chaired by Stewart Darling, Board member and Andrew McKinlay, CEO, Karin Sharp and Ann Lang were in attendance from Scottish Golf. Jeff Suttcliffe was there for the first time replacing Jim Burns, Iain Robin was substituting for Pete Haslam and there was one Borders representative. The Agenda was the same as for the first meeting.

In the SGL Update there was no new information and the meeting was not as productive as the first meeting.

Jean asked if Scottish Golf could carry out an exercise linking the Affiliation Fee to the annual subscriptions paid by the members to the Clubs. SGL were to distribute a letter informing of the National Conference on 1 December and a note could be added asking all Clubs to submit their current subscription rates. As SGL has stated that if increase in the Affiliation fee is passed at the SGM it would be frozen for four years it is doubtful if SGL would proceed with the exercise.

It was also obvious that Scottish Golf did not think the Articles of Association were fit for purpose and were restricting the efficiency and effectiveness of the Board. It was agreed that a resolution be put to the Association AGM to get the Board to investigate new Articles and then the resolution put to the SGL AGM in March.

Executive Meeting with Chair and CEO of SGL

The President thought that the meeting had been a success and he was impressed by the Chair and CEO and what they were trying to do. They answered all questions fairly and honestly. A differing view was that the meeting was well orchestrated. They had set answers to all questions, asked us what we wanted and answered questions by asking another. They never gave any indication that any of our suggestions would be addressed.

If the exercise to find an alternative per capita cost is carried out at least we can tell the clubs that we did try.

SGL Special General Meeting

The Secretary reported that the Special General Meeting to increase the Affiliation Fee to £14.50 would be held on Thursday 4 October at Stirling and only one delegate per Area, County or Club could be accommodated. As there were no volunteers the Secretary offered to represent the Association.

CONVENOR'S REPORTS

Championships 2018

Graeme Sharp reported that the Shamash Trophy at Kirkcudbright on Sunday 23 September was poorly attended with only 14 entries. The course was in good condition and Graham Guthrie, a native of Kirkcudbright, returned to his home town and took the silverware home to England with rounds of 68 and 69. David Brodie (Newton Stewart) was second on 138 and Andrew Kerr (Crichton) third on 142. Donald Shamash kindly consented to present the trophy. One possible reason for the poor turnout was that the competition was too late in the year and the players said they preferred it in early in the season. Graeme offered to look at alternative dates.

The Order of Merit 2018 was retained by David Brodie (Newton Stewart) by virtue of his second place in the Shamash Trophy. Douglas Borland (Southernness) was runner-up and Andrew Kerr (Crichton) and Michael Grunwell (D&G) were tied for third.

In the Men's Club Championship at Kinross D&C finished 6th out of 23 Clubs.

Coaching Convenor

In the absence of the Coaching Convenor, the Secretary reported that Pam was finding difficulty carrying out her duties due to her busy personal life and was considering resigning at the AGM. Members were asked if they could recommend a replacement if needed.

Senior Team Manager

Graeme Sharp reported that the Senior Area Team Championship was taking place at Stranraer on Friday

The Scottish Seniors won the Home Internationals at Southernness the previous week. The competition had to be curtailed as the weather conditions on Wednesday did not allow any play.

One of the South team thought that there may be sponsorship available from his company. Graeme offered to follow it up.

Junior Team Manager

Iain Robin reported that the Juniors had successfully completed their season except for the Jamboree at Southernness on Friday 26 October. Graeme Sharp kindly offered to send out the competition poster to all the Clubs

Iain had pleasure in reporting that Taylor Kerr (Thornhill) had been selected to play for Scottish Schools against English Schools at Lancaster on Monday 10 September. He lost his foursomes match in the morning 3 & 2 but had a marvelous singles game in the afternoon. Both he and his opponent had 10 birdies between them and each was a nominal 3 under par for their round. The game was halved.

Both Taylor and Mitchell Cowie (D&C) competed in the final Junior Tour Event at The Dukes on 15 September. Taylor finish tied second and Mitchell was fourth. Both these boys have had a wonderful season and have been a credit to themselves, their parents and South Area. It was agreed that the Secretary write to both of them to congratulate them.

Course Rating

Robert McKnight reported that Wigtownshire County was rated on Monday 10 September and Stranraer on Tuesday 18 September. The Ladies also rated both the courses on the same days.

The Crichton's previous SSS was 68.8 (69) and the new figure calculated was identical so Robert assumed it to be confirmed at SSS 69

Wigtownshire County's previous figure was 70.0. The new calculated figure was 69.6 so it will likely remain unchanged at SSS 70.

Stranraer's previous figure was 72.3 and the new figure calculated was 72.1 so it should remain unchanged at SSS 72.

The paperwork for Wigtownshire County and Stranraer is due to be despatched on Friday.

All figures require to be authorized by the Review Committee during the winter months.

The three courses to be rated next year are Kirkcudbright, New Galloway and Portpatrick.

D & G Golf Partnership

Jean Forrest reported that Peter Finch, Golf influencer, had now published ten videos on his YouTube channel. The first one, "Unexplored Land", is the longest and is aimed at promotion for the region as a golfing destination. The others, three for each course played, show nine holes of golf played in a challenge format against the local golfer from each of the courses. All the videos have been viewed, to date, by thousands of Peter's followers. Those videos that have been on his site for the longest time have had over thirty thousand viewings. There was disappointment that there was no advert for other courses as he was given additional information on other courses.

Jean is meeting with VisitScotland's representative in October to discuss the release of footage from these videos by VS in January 2019.

The Golf Brochure was making good progress and was given full support by the representatives from the six clubs who attended the meeting at Castle Douglas on 12 September. It was also agreed at the meeting, a) that each club's contribution to the cost of the brochure should be a summer rate greenfee for 18 holes of golf, b) two of the Region's golf trails should be re-named changing the tiger trail to the Sapphire and the challenge trail to the Emerald and there would be no change to the Little Gems Trail, c) that local golfers would be allowed to participate in the Competition, but could not submit scores from their own club, or a club with which there was a reciprocal arrangement. John Gibbs-Smith volunteered to construct the advertising pages for the brochure.

After the meeting at Castle Douglas all clubs were informed of the Brochure plans and agreements reached on behalf of all the clubs.

Jeff Sutcliffe has provided all the clubs with their page for the brochure and requested a return by the beginning of October. Nine Clubs had already replied. Jean had two quarter

page adverts confirmed and was in communication with several other potential clients as well as continuing to approach others. Wave had changed the Trail names on the website and is confident that he will be able to set up the website with the necessary additions for advertising the competition and the required registration form.

Craig Chalmers, Development Officer, did not attend the meeting but he did provide information to be given to those attending. Powfoot, New Galloway and Stranraer have signed up with the Buying Group though none of the club representatives knew anything about this. New Galloway, according to Craig, had made a saving of £300. Craig also provided figures of savings from various clubs across Scotland. There was no interest shown at the meeting regarding making an approach to the Buying Group although Castle Douglas had requested a meeting with Craig Chalmers 3 months ago and only had a response last week.

VS is holding the Dumfries and Galloway Annual Tourism Conference at the Easterbrook Hall on the 2 October. This is an all day event which I will attend in the hope of possibly finding some more advertisers!

Jean had been approached by the organisers of the Scottish golf show in relation to the 2019 Show. They have had a Sports Marketing Survey carried out for them and had sent her details of results from this survey relating to overnight stays from visitors who were at the 2018 show. Interesting to see these figures, but their relevance is greatly diminished as there is no indication of whether or not these visitors are returning golfers or new visitors. I have said that we will not be returning to the Show in 2019 as this was the decision taken by those clubs that attended the Partnership meeting.

Webmaster and Fixtures Secretary

In the absence of the Fixtures Secretary the Secretary reported that Wave had emailed Club & Fixtures Secretaries to start the process of gathering fixtures for the 2019 season. Year by year I have made gradual improvements and this year was no exception where I believe the system is pretty good. I expect to have most replies by our AGM.

The golf trail names had been updated on the website to Emerald, Sapphire and Little Gems

In the last month the Golfers website had 1363 sessions with 7455 pageviews and an average session duration of 2minutes 23 seconds. The visitor site had 326 sessions with 1345 pageviews and an average session duration of 1 minute 48 seconds. It would have been useful to have the figures for August for comparison.

Wave had looked into the claim by Scottish Golf that they had saved New Galloway Golf club £300. The club took advantage of their scheme for the supply of electricity. In the new scheme the club has made payments since April of £718.14. It would appear that the saving is based on the projected saving over a 3 year period and it is very doubtful that it will be achieved in view of necessary cut backs.

Child Protection

Duncan Moore reported that he had spoken to Ian Fraser at D&C and he suggested that he contact Vivien, the Club Administrator. He then contacted Cameron Forester at SGL and was sent information, including a Disclosure Form which he had completed ready to be sent off.

Dumfriesshire

Tony Clark offered his congratulations to Liam Johnston on his recent success on the Challenge Tour

He reported that the Dumfriesshire Champion of Champions would take place next weekend.

Lockerbie had been successful in getting a grant from the Community Council which would ease their financial worries and pay the rent.

Kirkcudbrightshire

Brian Duguid reported that Castle Douglas had tried to contact the Buying Group but would report on feed back to next meeting.

The D M Maxwell trophy had been held at Kirkcudbright

Brian was waiting for a response from Southernness as to their nomination for the next Vice-President of this Association.

The junior coaching was progressing well and the reciprocal arrangements between Castle Douglas and New Galloway had got off to a good start.

Major Clubs were suffering from leatherjackets. Powfoot, Southernness and Wigtownshire County were some of the worst affected. The original pesticide had been banned but in certain circumstances could still be used if complicated procedures were followed and a number of forms completed. It was difficult to comply with all the restrictions and was probably only the larger Clubs which could consider it.

Wigtownshire

Stephen Kingston reported that Newton Stewart won the Senior League.

The date and venue for the Drennan Salver had been arranged for Saturday 21 April 2019 at Stranraer.

Club Representative

John Coates reported that Colvend were going through a transition. The Steward had left and they were struggling to make ends meet although a new Steward had been engaged to start in March. Ten Members were leaving every year and new initiatives tried had all failed to increase interest. The Club was fortunate to be in a well visited tourist area with caravan parks contributing to visitor numbers and a concerted effort was being made to keep them coming. He had enjoyed his first visit to the Association and had found it interesting and educational.

AOCB

It was reported that Jim Burns had one of the junior kits.

It was confirmed that all members wished to put their name forward at the Association AGM to continue for another year.

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 6 November 2018 at 7.15 pm in the Selkirk Arms Hotel Kirkcudbright.