

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 27 JUNE 2017**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

Present:

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

Apologies:

D. Moore and W Tyrrell

President's Welcome:

The President welcomed the members

Executive Meeting 30 May 2017

The Minutes were approved by Robert McKnight, seconded by Pam Watson after making the following three corrections: the date in the title should read 30 May and not 18 April; Executive Meeting 7 March 2017 should read Executive Meeting 18 April; and under Course Rating in line 10, 66.3 should read 63.3.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary apologised for forgetting to send out invitations to the three remaining Clubs who had not been invited to attend an Executive Meeting, Brighthouse Bay, Sanquhar and Castle Douglas. It was agreed that when this first tranche had been completed the process would be repeated.

Jackie Davidson, SGL Development Officer, had resigned her post and accepted a position with the R&A

Stuart Clayton, SGL Head of Performance, and Colin Bell, SGL Coaching Manager, met with the Association's Coaching personnel on Thursday 15 June regarding our coaching policy and that of SGL in regard to the coaching grant for next year. Pam Watson, and Chris Robinson also attended as well as Eileen Scott and Gladys McClymont of Dumfriesshire Ladies.

Pam Watson reported that the meeting was conducted in a friendly manner and they listened to our problems and seemed sympathetic. They had discarded the Development Centres and now only had Academies at Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3. It was pointed out that there was no Academy in Dumfries & Galloway and this was because the South had not followed the Pathway in their coaching delivery and did not charge the parents for coaching. The costs of £300 to £400 were prohibitive when it costs £50 for annual junior membership, travelling, meals etc. The roving Pro was a good idea but Chris had reservations with respect to his own Club. It had not yet been decided if the Coaching Grant, and at what level, would be continued next year. The question was asked if the 3 Counties could apply for a Coaching Grant as they carried out extensive coaching for the younger children. SGL were unable to confirm or deny. They also had no answer to the question "If the Gents and Ladies amalgamated would each County/Area still receive a Coaching Grant each?"

SGL held a consultation meeting with the Clubs on Tuesday 20 June at D&C Golf Club. Only five Clubs attended to hear Blane Dodds outline the draft strategic plan which was being formulated to ensure funding could be obtained from SportsScotland for the next 4 years. It was getting more difficult to increase revenue to provide funds to keep Scottish Golf at the forefront of golf throughout the world. Part of the proposed strategy was to introduce a Customer Relationship Management system (CRM) whereby the Club members and visitors help to increase funding for SGL which will then be used to support Clubs. SGL will run a national tee-time booking system into which it will be compulsory for all Clubs to enter. If a

Club does not enter it will not be permitted to administer handicaps. SGL will take a fee or percentage from the green fee and use the money to support the Clubs. The per capita affiliation fee will be increased to fund the initial costs. If the Board agrees this strategy in the autumn there will be a Special General Meeting in November to vote on this way forward.

A more detailed report had been forwarded to Executive members and is added to these Minutes as an Appendix.

It was agreed that the report and the draft strategy, as contained on the SGL website, be e-mailed to the Clubs and a paper copy sent to the Captain of each Club.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported that the Summary of Accounts up to 15 June 2017 was as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/16	9,632.09	Sundries	484.45
Comps	390.00	Coaching	3070.00
IMT	700.00	ATC	2010.87
Sponsor	300.00	NCF	1,871.16
Subs	16,450.00	Vouchers	2,345.00
Coaching Grant	<u>1250.00</u>	Matches	1,207.23
	28,722.09	Counties	513.00
		In bank 23/3/17	<u>17,220.38</u>
			28,722.09

Of the 23 Clubs, all have paid their subscriptions except Newton Stewart. A recent e-mail intimated the subscription was in the post but had not yet been received.

Ladies:

The Secretary reported that there had been no further correspondence with the Ladies' Counties. It was agreed that when the Secretary called the next Meeting the Ladies be asked to give some concrete suggestions on how they want to move forward

Convenors' Reports:

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

Graeme Sharp reported that The Gillespie Classic had been a moderate success with 50 playing. The response of Clubs had been pretty good and £520 had been raised for Junior development. He thanked Jim Dougal, who had put in a tremendous amount of work on the day and in getting so many to play, Alastair Millar for attending and presenting the prizes, Glenross for their Sponsorship, and the Gillespie family for their continued support.

COACHING CONVENOR

Pam Watson reported that she had sent out reminders for the feedback survey and received more responses. The survey was now closed. She will collate the results and discuss with Chris Robinson before making plans for next winter.

SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

Graeme Sharp had nothing to report.

JUNIOR TEAM MANAGER

Iain Robin reported that on Sunday 18 June four Kirkcudbrightshire boys Angus Bendall (Castle Douglas), Iain Rae (Dalbeattie), William Squires and Nathan Watson (both Kirkcudbright) represented South Area in the Scottish Boys Area Team Championship at Stranraer. Unfortunately William Squires signed for the wrong score at the 3rd hole in the foursomes and the team was disqualified. The bad luck was to continue in the afternoon singles when Angus Bendall could not find his ball on the eighteenth within the 5 minutes allowed when a four would have won him the individual title. To his credit he got a birdie

with his second ball but a five was only good enough for him to tie with two others on 69. He lost the title and trophy on countback.

There was a consensus of opinion who thought that William should not be selected to represent South in future events as he did not apologise to his team mates or officials or show any remorse for his error. His conduct had affected team morale and some did not want to play with him in the team. The final decision was left to the Team Manager.

On Sunday 25 June the team played against a strong Cumbria team at D&C in the Northern Counties League. South won the morning foursomes by 4 games to 0 and gave themselves a great platform for the afternoon singles. They then proceeded to lose the first four singles games but the tail came to the rescue with four wins. The match result was South 8 Cumbria 4 and a very good win for South.

Eleven boys had entered for the Scottish Boys Championship at Scotsraig and Drumoig starting on Friday 30 June. Two girls had entered the Scottish Girls Championship over the same venues.

COURSE RATING

Robert McKnight reported that the Brighthouse Bay course was rated on 15 June as planned. Malcolm and Eileen Scott were also present and completed the Ladies' Rating from the red tees. The figures would suggest a reduction of a stroke from 72 to 71; one of the factors causing the reduction was the 11th hole which was on the scorecard as 422 yards and was in fact only 337, an 85 yard reduction. We queried the difference with Jim Dougal and he agreed there was no other tee and the length on the card was a mistake.

He had been contacted by Adam Phillips to advise that SGL had received an appeal from Lochmaben regarding the one stroke reduction in their SSS, reasons given being a) CSS usually stayed at 70, b) 500 new trees had been planted and c) the course had been measured by a firm called Settle Land Surveys Ltd from Skipton, West Yorkshire. Settle Land Surveys total length was 5990, old card 5996, our measurement 5919 yards. Consequently the team is going back, before they rate Lockerbie on the 26 July to recheck some figures viz. a) hole yardages b) green speeds c) rough heights and d) lay-up at the new 15th green.

The next planned ratings are on 7 July at Gatehouse and Castle Douglas.

He had heard nothing further regarding Cally Palace.

D & G GOLF PARTNERSHIP

Jean Forrest reported that the Newsletter Update had been sent out to all the Clubs with a request for it to be printed and displayed in the clubhouse. She would like to be informed if any member of the Executive had seen the newsletter on display. One Club has requested further information about the 1-1 specialist support available from the council.

Discussions with P&O Ferries about advertising with them have been initiated but, as yet, nothing has been agreed.

The Facebook competition for the voucher for a 4BBB at Southernness should have been advertised on Scottish Club Golfer week starting 26 June but to-date there was no sign of it.

Wave Tyrrell is producing figures from the promotion on VisitScotland website which ran for 6 weeks from mid-April to mid-June.

WEBMASTER AND FIXTURES SECRETARY

In the absence of Wave Tyrrell there was no report.

CHILD PROTECTION

In the absence of Duncan Moore there was no report. The Secretary reported that Duncan was feeling depressed since the death of Doris and was finding it difficult to get enthusiasm. The Secretary agreed to take responsibility for Child Protection meantime and would contact Lee Skerritt at the Crichton to ask if he would accept being co-opted to the Executive to ensure all those requiring certification gained the necessary accreditation.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

Tony Clark congratulated Liam Johnston (D&C) on winning the Scottish Strokeplay Championship. He had also been selected to represent Scotland in the European Men's Team Championship

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE

Brian Duguid reported that Colin Heuchan won the Strokeplay Championship and Douglas Borland the Matchplay championship beating Colin Heuchan in the final at the first extra hole.

Keith Munn won the Solway Cup and Graham Findlay the Solway Bowl

Southernness won the Team Championship from Castle Douglas by 3 shots.

Brian had spoken to three Clubs who indicated increased visitor fee income this year.

Only two Clubs this year had so far taken up the offer of coaching assistance (New Galloway and Kirkcudbright)

WIGTOWNSHIRE

Stephen Kingston reported that Kyle McClung won both the Strokeplay and Matchplay Championships.

The last fixtures in the A League were scheduled for Thursday. Stranraer were currently on top, Portpatrick second and Newton Stewart third. All still had a chance.

In the B League Newton Stewart, Stranraer and Wigtownshire County were leading the way.

Newton Stewart won the Dalrymple Cup at Portpatrick beating Stranraer at the first extra hole.

The Junior coaching is organized for the school summer holidays but not started yet.

A.O.C.B.

There were no items for discussion.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

The next Meeting was arranged for 7.15pm on Tuesday 22 August at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.