

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 3 APRIL 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; P Watson; D Moore; P Strain; J Sutcliffe (KGA) and I Robin, Secretary.

**Apologies:**

B Duguid; W. Tyrrell; R McKnight and J Burns (Stranraer)

**In Attendance:**

Beth Collins (Thornhill) and N Wright (Stranraer)

**President's Welcome:**

The President welcomed the members and in particular Jeff Sutcliffe and the two Club representatives

**Executive Meeting 20 February 2018**

The Minutes were approved by Stephen Kingston, seconded by Alastair Millar

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Secretary's Report:**

Iain Robin reported that invitations had been sent to Stranraer, Dalbeattie and Thornhill Golf Clubs to attend this Committee Meeting. Dalbeattie had sent their apologies  
An application for a Coaching Grant has been completed and returned to Scottish Golf.

All correspondence to do with the SGL Draft Strategy and AGM had been forwarded to the Executive and Clubs. A Meeting was held with the Clubs on 22 February 2018 to determine the Area's response to the Resolutions to be proposed at the AGM. There were 21 delegates present representing 11 Clubs, Dumfriesshire Ladies, Galloway Ladies and South Association. It was agreed that **Resolutions 1 – 10**, regarding approval of Minutes of 2017 AGM, Accounts to 30 September 2017, re-appointment of Auditors, appointment of President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President and the appointment of 4 Directors be approved. **Resolution 11**, regarding an increase in the affiliation fee from £11.25 to £15, be opposed on the grounds that the Company had still not proved that they could efficiently and effectively manage the "day job". **Resolution 12**, regarding changes to certain Articles of Association, be opposed on the grounds that acceptance would remove the Audit and Governance Committee. **Resolution 13**, regarding other changes to certain Articles of Association, be opposed on the grounds that acceptance would reduce the Board to 7 members by 2020 of whom 3 would be the Chair, President and CEO. **Resolution 14**, regarding more changes to the Articles of Association and in particular agreeing that the CEO sit on the Board, did not reach a conclusive decision. Many of the delegates could not understand why this was advantageous as the CEO already attended Board meetings. On a show of hands only five delegates voted against and all others abstained.

**4 Scottish Golf AGM 10 March 2018**

The SGL AGM was to be held at Dalmahoy Golf and Country Club on Sunday 4 March at 1.00 pm but was adjourned due to adverse weather affecting the country. It took place on Saturday 10 March. South Area was represented by Jean Forrest, Vice-President and Iain Robin, Secretary. Also in attendance were Eileen Scott (Dumfriesshire Ladies), Fiona MacGregor (Dumfries & Galloway), Jon Gibbs-Smith (Kirkcudbright) and Jim Burns (Stranraer). The Secretary had the power to act as the proxy for the following Clubs and Ladies County:- Castle Douglas, Colvend, Crichton, Dumfries & County, Lochmaben, New Galloway, Powfoot, St Medan, Thornhill, Wigtownshire County and Galloway Ladies.

Resolutions 1 – 10 were agreed on a show of hands. Resolution 11, was defeated on a poll vote. The votes cast were as follows: For 235, Against 270 with 10 abstentions. Resolution 12, was passed on a poll vote. The votes cast were as follows: For 400, Against 105 with 5 Abstentions. Resolution 13 was passed on a poll vote. The votes cast were as follows: For 395, Against 119 with 5 Abstentions. Resolution 14. was defeated on a poll vote. The votes cast were: For 325, Against 181 with 1 Abstention. The poll votes were counted by members of the Board and resulted in votes cast for each resolution as Resolution 11 – 515, Resolution 12 – 510, Resolution 13 – 519 and Resolution 14 – 507. The Chair, Eleanor Cannon, expressed deep disappointment after the increase in Affiliation Fee was not approved and stated there would be major challenges ahead after this set back but that the Board would carry on to focus on the future of the game in Scotland.

5 A letter had been received from the President North-East Area regarding the Scottish AGM. His Area were unhappy that the increase to the Affiliation fee had not been approved and gave several possible reasons for this including permitting changes to be made to previously submitted proxy votes and additional information now being available which fully justified the proposed increase. He suggested that there was a possibility of the Vote being overturned if sufficient numbers make a request for an EGM to be held to reconsider the position. He asked all Clubs to review these presentations and give them an indication as to whether or not there would be support for the proposed increase to £15 in the Affiliation Fee. If sufficient support was forthcoming then they, as a District, would lend their support to the calling of an EGM.

The Executive agreed that this additional information should have been communicated to the Clubs months ago and North East Area were not taking into consideration the rural Clubs which were struggling to survive. The additional information still lacked detail. The subject of Affiliation Fees could be added to the core agenda to be discussed at the Regional Forums as other questions, to those already agreed, can be raised. The democratic process had duly been completed and should stand. Scottish Golf would need to come back next year but have to justify any proposed increase.

Scottish Golf has intimated that the law around Data Protection is changing and the new EU legislation comes into effect on 25 May 2018. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) replaces the UK Data Protection Act and is a really positive step towards an individual having more control over how personal data is used and how each individual is contacted. It will also better help to protect an individual's personal data. Scottish Golf will be a "controller" of all personal information provided to them.

The IMT Booklets had been received and distributed to the clubs.

The latest Newsletter had been received from Scottish Golf and distributed to the Executive.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer reported that the Summary of Accounts up to 28 March 2018 was as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/17	7,979.66	Matches	262.30
Comps	380.00	Vouchers	2,095.00
IMT	230.00	ATC	1,772.64
Sponsor	300.00	NCF	582.80
Sundries	24.00	Sundries	468.92
Subscriptions	<u>13,496.25</u>	Coaching	444.80
	22,479.91	in bank 28/3/18	<u>16,853.45</u>

Subscriptions have been paid by Powfoot, D & G, Castle Douglas, Brighthouse Bay, Kirkcudbright, Lockerbie, Southernness, Lochmaben, New Galloway, Thornhill, Wigtownshire County, Newton Stewart, Dumfries and County and St Medan. Stranraer have also paid. This leaves 8 Clubs to pay.

### **Coaching Investment 2018 – 19**

Scottish Golf is to introduce Coaching investment from October 2018 to replace the Coaching Grants issued to Areas and Counties. The resultant investment will be awarded on a tiered basis so Scottish Golf can better understand the delivery of coaching across all aspects of developing and growing the game.

They aim to gather more robust data and annually track what coaching is being invested in, when, where and whom it is delivered by to allow Scottish Golf to evidence the impact of the investment. This will evidence that there is positive support to the player pathway through Club, local and regional level.

### **Principles**

- Scottish Golf Ltd is responsible for the financial investment we make into all areas of coaching.
- To build a world leading quality coaching system, we must be more professional and effective in our financial investment into coaching.
- Scottish Golf has a simple core principle within Area & County coaching investment - We want to work in closer collaboration with each Area and County organisation. We want to understand your aims, challenges and where we can, we want to add value to the work you are doing.
- Scottish Golf will continue to offer the Development Academy and Performance Academy programmes, with both offering high quality coaching, at suitable facilities for players wishing to develop, delivered by quality assured coaches. Scottish Golf is keen to work with any Area or County wishing to access this level of programme.

We fully recognise that Areas and Counties have differing priorities, not only within coaching but within other areas of work too, Scottish Golf want to build closer working partnerships with all organisations that we invest in financially. We do not believe that a one size fits all approach is the only option.

Setting criteria for investment in this area is in line with Scottish Golf having criteria for other areas of investment (e.g. Club Development Fund, Roving Pro Fund).

### **Scottish Golf Ltd will endeavour to...**

- ...be transparent in how coaching investment is offered
- ...work to ensure investment is used effectively
- ...share examples of quality coaching delivery
- ...provide the necessary support to Areas and Counties for agreed use of coaching investment

### **Scottish Golf Ltd encourages all Areas and Counties to...**

- ...communicate regularly with coaching and performance staff at SGL and be transparent in how coaching investment is spent
- ...work to ensure investment is used effectively
- ...strive to provide and support locally, the development of quality coaching ...access the support available to Areas and Counties for use of coaching investment (some areas listed below within Criteria)

### **Coaching Investment Criteria**

There are 3 separate investment tiers, each with their own criteria.

Before applying for coaching investment, we encourage Areas & Counties to consider the following key questions:

- **WHAT** are your aims within coaching and do you have a basic plan or strategy for how to achieve them?
- **HOW** will you deliver coaching that will meet these aims?

- **WHO** will help you to deliver these coaching aims? Provide basic key data on players, coaches and facilities.
- What has been the **IMPACT** of the previous Coaching Investment you received? End of Year report essential.

The Executive discussed this new policy at length and agreed that it would now be more difficult to get a grant towards Area coaching unless the Area complied totally with the new criteria. There are no coaching facilities in the area which comply the criteria laid down by Scottish Golf for Development Academies, Performance Academies or wet weather areas.

The boys are not signing up to attend one of the academies as the cost is too great, for the travelling to Glasgow and the fees involved. The fees are £400 to £500 per annum for 50 hours. It was agreed that the policy should be more flexible as one size does not fit all and concern was expressed that a more documented and evidenced policy is unlikely to improve golf in this area.

Clubs and individual volunteers are spending money on coaching coaches but once qualified they leave soon after.

### **Scottish Golf Regional Forums**

Jean Forest reported on the Forum Working Group Meeting that she attended on Wednesday 28 March in Edinburgh. It was agreed that 4 Regional Forums was the optional model, using the existing North, South, East and West structure that exists within the county framework. The Area and Counties in South area had been placed along with those in Borders in the smallest forum. Although Jean queried this it was not thought relevant as it would give the smaller Clubs a voice and may carry some weight. The Regional Forums would meet twice in 2018, the first in late May/early June and second in late September/early October to ensure there have been two meetings before a National Forum which is currently anticipated to be held in November.

The Regional Forum attendees would be:-

- 1 x County representative from each Association in the Region
- 1 x Area representative from each Association in the Region
- 2 x Club Manager/Secretaries from the Region
- 2 x Club representatives from the Region
- Chair of Forum – from within the Presidential team at Scottish Golf
- 1 x representative from Board or Audit and Governance from Scottish Golf
- 1 x Secretariat – staff member of Scottish Golf and where possible same at all 4 Regional events
- 1 x Regional Club Development Officer from Scottish Golf
- Other Scottish Golf staff as agenda items dictate specific expertise (to be determined on case by case basis)

Substitutes would be allowed if the elected representative could not attend a meeting.

It was suggested by the Executive that the Club to represent the South be a Club that is struggling so Scottish Golf can get their point of view.

A point to be avoided is that more than one representative from a Club could be elected.

The Core Agenda items would be:-

- Communication
- Membership retention and recruitment
- Club support services
- Sharing experiences/case studies
- Championships
- Coaching

Other Agenda items to be invited ahead of each Forum, with the most common recurring items or those aligned to strategic priorities taking preference, in ensuring that the Agenda has a manageable number of topics to cover.

The Championship topic, is particularly aimed at discussion regarding the existing Area Team Championships {Men & Boys) and County Finals format, to determine whether there is a different or fresh approach which could be considered.

Course Rating had been removed from an earlier list and some members of the Working Group thought it should be re-instated.

Ahead of each Forum, all Counties, Areas, Clubs, Board and Staff of Scottish Golf to be given opportunity to suggest potential topics for inclusion in the Agenda.

Feedback on these proposals to be provided to Scottish Golf by 27 April to allow next Stewart Darling, provided a brief summary of the 3 strategic objectives outlined at the AGM and requested feedback on these being the right priorities. Consensus was these were the right ones. Communication was agreed is a key area where things need to improve. Investment in the game is key. The attraction of junior golfers to the game and ways of converting them into club membership was vitally important.

It was suggested at the meeting that the location of the Forum meetings move round Golf Clubs in the Region. The next Meeting of the Working Group would be held at Dunblane Golf Club.

### **Lewis Cheetham**

The Secretary reported that as a fourteen year old Lewis Cheetham (dob 19/11/02) joined Thornhill Golf Club and soon got his handicap down to 4. He was suspected of cheating but left and joined Lochmaben Golf Club and in 2017 moved to Dumfries & County Golf Club where he was witnessed cheating in a medal competition. The Club's disciplinary procedures were followed and both he and his father were advised that they had been removed as members of the Club. They were also advised they could appeal but chose not to do so. On 18/7/17 Dumfries and County advised Scottish Golf and South Association of the termination of both Lewis and his father, David's membership of Dumfries & County Golf Club. South Association took the view that it did not want to be seen as condoning cheating and agreed not to accept any entries from him for competitions.

It would appear that Lewis joined Carlisle Golf Club because when applying to rejoin Thornhill recently he enclosed a Handicap Certificate of 4 from Carlisle Golf Club. Dumfries & County Golf Club has had no request for transfer of Handicap from Carlisle or any other Club. Thornhill has decided not to accept his application for membership but are concerned there may be repercussions.

Recent correspondence between Thornhill Golf Club, South Association and Scottish Golf is added as an appendix to this Minute.

The Executive agreed that for a boy of fifteen to be suspended sine die was particularly hard and excessive as he could through time learn the errors of his ways, It was suggested that a penalty of suspension until the age of 18 be imposed but it was pointed out that the Area had no jurisdiction in this respect as Scottish Golf were responsible for Category 1 handicap players. The Secretary was asked to write to Scottish Golf and get a formal reply.

### **CONVENOR'S REPORTS**

#### **Championships 2018**

Graeme Sharp reported that all the entry forms had been completed and passed to Wave for inclusion on the website.

Sunday 17 June was selected as the date for the Gillespie Classic. Graeme would contact Jim Dougal to ensure this date was suitable.

#### **Coaching Convenor**

Pam Watson reported that she and Iain had had a meeting with Chris Robinson to discuss the winter coaching arrangements for next year and the new Coaching Investment policy recently issued by Scottish Golf. Another meeting would be required to determine the detail in the plan. One worrying problem was the lack of sufficient juniors in the Clubs and a rebuilding policy was required.

#### **Senior Team Manager**

Graeme Sharp reported that the two teams for the matches against Borders and Cumbria had been selected using the final placings in last year's OOM as the basis for selection. The match against Borders was to be at D&G this Sunday (8 April) and that against Cumbria at Eden on 15 April. An e-mail from Cumbria detailed all the possible health and safety issues that might be encountered including the duties of the Health & Safety Officer and location for a helicopter pad.

James Erskine had donated shirts for the 6-man team in the Area Team Championships. He was thanked for his generous donation.

### **Junior Team Manager**

Iain Robin reported that Eastwood Golf Club is to host the Scottish Boys ATC on Sunday 3 June. The hotel in Kilmarnock has been booked. B & B and evening meal are to cost £420.00. SGL are to give £275 to each Area. Travelling costs and a meal after play have still to be added. A practice round has been booked for Monday 9 April when Pam and Iain will take 6 boys up to Eastwood.

All dates and venues for the NCF league matches and have been finalized.

The 12 man Youths team had a good start to the season when they beat Ayrshire at Portpatrick on Sunday 25 March by 9.5 games to 8.5.

The Peat Salver was not played last year so Pam and Iain have agreed to change the format to 18 holes singles and miss out the morning foursomes, The top four in each team will play each other off scratch and the other four off handicap. The competition will be held at Castle Douglas on Saturday 16 June.

### **Course Rating**

In the absence of Robert McKnight, the Secretary reported that there was nothing to report other than the final two results received from last year's ratings.

Lockerbie: White 67 (same), Yellow 66 (reduced by 1), Red 70 (increased by 1)

Powfoot: White 71, Yellow 70, Red 72 (all remain unchanged)

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

Jean Forrest reported that Hetland Hall were back in the game. In mid-March she met at Hetland Hall with May Phillips, Acting Head of Sales and Marketing, for the RAD Hotel group. She was shown the renovated bedrooms which have been upgraded to an attractive and high standard. She was talked through how golf has been promoted at the Charlton Hotel in Prestwick and said this was how it was intended golf promotion would be offered at Hetland and on the Golf Page of their new website being launched in April.

- Hetland would not offer golf packages, but would, in the hotel and on the website, promote the clubs that the hotel would recommend and provide information regarding booking tee times.
- Hetland would offer attractive accommodation rates for golfers e.g. B&B £49 pp, 3 nts DB&B £189
- Hetland would offer "1 in 8 go free" as an option
- Hetland wants to work in Partnership with the Clubs being promoted and will sponsor events/activities at these clubs as part of their advertising.
- As well as working directly with clubs, Hetland management want to continue a link with D&G Golf Partnership.

From the list of clubs which had expressed interest, Powfoot, Colvend, Kirkcudbright, Lockerbie, Southernness and Lochmaben were the clubs Hetland wanted to work with. May Phillips wanted also to include Dumfries and County and Dumfries and Galloway and was going to approach them herself. Newton Stewart and Gatehouse had also expressed interest and although not included at present, they were not ruled out from a possible inclusion in 2019 when the Open at Portrush will be a factor to be taken into consideration.

There is an inaugural Club Breakfast and Presentation being planned by Hetland for the 30th April to which the clubs and the Partnership will be invited. The RAD hotel group is

taking a stand at Carnoustie in October and it is hoped to be able to have representation of the Partnership at this event , but in what capacity has not yet been discussed.

The Partnership stand at the Scottish Golf Show on 23-25 March was successful in promoting golf in D&G and in increasing awareness of what we have to offer in the South of Scotland. The visitors on the Friday tended to be of the older generation with a younger crowd who were not as interested in what we had to offer at the weekend.

The number of e-mails gathered was more than double those taken last year by the Cairndale Hotel. 8 clubs had representatives on the stand as well as representation from the Cairndale. 16 clubs provided leaflets for the stand and there were also leaflets from the Cairndale, Visit South West Scotland and the Partnership. Feedback, so far, from those who took part, was that this was a successful exercise on the days, but whether or not it produces an increase in visitor numbers remains to be seen.

She intends to call a meeting of all clubs in the near future to discuss the Show and what can now be done to build on the promotion that has been provided for clubs. The visitor database will be available for use after this meeting.

The Partnership was now in possession of a detailed map of the region and a location for its safe keeping was required

It was agreed not to take out advertising in the North Golf Partnership this year.

#### **Fixtures Secretary and Webmaster**

In the absence of Wave Tyrrell the Secretary reported that the Fixture List was up-to-date.

Wave was due to receive a 1000 more DL leaflets with a slightly better layout using up the available credit.

In the past month the Association website had 637 sessions with 3038 page views. The visitor site had 205 sessions with 788 page views.

#### **Child Protection**

There was nothing to report

#### **Dumfriesshire**

Tony Clark had nothing to report

#### **Kirkcudbrightshire**

Jeff Sutcliffe reported that Kirkcudbrightshire had received sponsorship of £200

#### **Wigtownshire**

Stephen Kingston reported that Clubs were now starting their Open Competitions with the hope that the weather would improve.

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

There was no other competent business

There being no further business the President thanked the members and visitors for their attendance. The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 15 May 2018 at 7.15 pm in the Selkirk Arms Hotel Kirkcudbright.