

**SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 26 FEBRUARY 2019**

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

Present:

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

Apologies:

W Tyrrell and, P Watson

In Attendance:

There were no Club representatives in attendance

President's Welcome:

The President welcomed the members. She reported that she had attended a meeting of Dumfriesshire Ladies County Association Executive at the beginning of the month to speak about possibly trying again to amalgamate the ladies counties and the area. There was little suggestion that the Dumfriesshire Executive was interested in pursuing this as they could not see how it would be advantageous to them. They did say that if this was to go forward it would have to first be taken to their AGM at the end of the 2019 season. She has not yet met with the Galloway Ladies Executive.

Executive Meeting 15 January 2019

The Minutes were approved by Alastair Millar, seconded by Robert McKnight

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary reported that he had invited representatives from Stranraer, Dalbeattie and Thornhill Golf Clubs to attend this Committee Meeting. Stranraer and Dalbeattie declined and Thornhill asked if they could come to the next meeting as they would have more to contribute. This was granted.

It was with regret that the Secretary announced the sudden death of Iain McBeath at an early age. Iain was a stalwart of Castle Douglas Golf Club and served on the committee for many years. The President represented the Association at the funeral.

The two meetings with Ann Lang at Newton Stewart and Dumfries & Galloway to hear the advantages of using the digital platform were well attended by the Clubs. Slides of the supporting acts had been sent to the Clubs but no information had been received regarding the digital platform. Concern was expressed that for the Clubs there could be cost savings but a lot of work transferring handicap, membership etc details. It was anticipated that there was less advantage for the smaller Clubs except possibly with the booking system. Some concern was expressed about nomadic golfers being able to acquire a SG handicap for as low as £60 per annum as this could mean some golfers could no longer see the need to be a member of a golf club. Generally the Digital Platform was welcomed as a way forward but many felt they would wish to wait and see how it developed before making a judgement.

The questions had been asked of SGL (a) if they had carried out due diligence on the company and (b) did they put the concept out to tender. The response was that they are a national company.

James Pocock, Vice Captain of Moffat, and who has a background in IT, had offered to have a meeting with the Clubs once the trial period was over to explain the workings of the digital platform and answer questions. Pete Haslam, who also has a background in IT was also willing to help Clubs with his technical knowledge.

At one of the Meetings with the Clubs last year, prior to a vote on the increase of the Affiliation Fee by SGL, Gatehouse, who were thinking of resigning, suggested that it would be helpful if the other Clubs in the Association would admit their members to play in local competition with handicaps set by the Club but based on the CONGU system. There was no dissent at the time. Gatehouse has asked if this "agreement" would still stand if they decided to resign from SGL this time. It was agreed that this was not possible as all Clubs in the Association had to ensure that all players in their competitions had to have a handicap that complies with the current CONGU SSS & Handicapping Scheme.

No representative from the Association attended the Specific Area and County Forum on Saturday 26 January at Stirling to discuss the future format of the Championships (particularly team events), Coaching Pathway, Grant Funding, Governance and Volunteering. Results from the Forum

have not yet been received from SGL

The AGM of SGL will be held at Stirling on Sunday 3 March. There are 9 Ordinary Resolutions. The first 8 deal with approval of minutes and accounts, and appointment of auditor, President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, re-appointment of Chairman and Stewart Darling as a Director. The final resolution is for the Affiliation Fee to remain at £14.50. Proxies to be submitted 48 hours before AGM. It was agreed that the Association would not be represented as there was nothing contentious or of relevance being discussed. A proxy vote to be sent agreeing to all resolutions.

Ross Plant (Stranraer) was congratulated on being elected to serve on Scottish Golf Young Persons' Golf Panel. It was agreed that he be invited to a future Executive Meeting to report on his experiences.

SGL are to hold a Junior Forum on 2 April at Castle Douglas to discuss coaching policy. All those interested and Clubs wishing to attend should complete the application form.

The IMT Booklets were given to the Executive Members for onward distribution to the Clubs.

The latest Club Newsletter from SGL had arrived. It contained an update on the digital platform and information on the forthcoming AGM, Regional Junior Forums and how to apply for the HSBC Golf Roots Project Fund.

All the information from SGL had been forwarded to members of the Executive.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer presented a Summary of Accounts up to 12 February 2019 as follows:-

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/17	9,383.81	Sundries	787.52
Comps	230.00	Vouchers	1,210.00
IMT	100.00	ATC	1,246.59
Subs	<u>2,118.75</u>	In bank 27/12/17	<u>8,588.45</u>
	11,832.56		11,832.56

The Sundries item under Expenditure included £753.32 for the cost of reinstating the websites. Half of this would be recovered from the D&GGP account.

CONVENORS REPORTS

Championships 2019

Graeme Sharp reported that he was unable to officiate at the Shamash Trophy at Stranraer on 27 April. Robert McKnight agreed to substitute. Because of a visiting party at 11.00 am all competitors had to be off the first tee by then.

Graeme announced he had a new e-mail address.

Coaching Convenor

It was agreed that despite several attempts to contact Pam, to which she had not replied, she be sent a letter informing her that if she did not respond by a certain date it would be assumed she had resigned and another candidate would be found.

It was agreed that the Clubs be written to ask them to nominate all juniors with single handicaps and worthy of playing for the league team so that a squad get-together could be organized. It was suggested this Squad Day be 17 March at Brighthouse. The Secretary to make all the arrangements.

Senior Team Manager

Graeme Sharp reported that the match against Cumbria had been arranged for Sunday 31 March at Southernness

An unofficial match had also been arranged at Southernness on Sunday 21 April against Northumberland. It would be a 12 man team and Southernness members would sign on the visitors to cut down costs

Junior Team Manager

Iain Robin thanked Alastair Millar for making the arrangements for all the NCF matches this year. The list was to be sent to Wave Tyrrell to put on the fixture list.

Course Rating

Robert McKnight reported that he was still waiting for the stickers for the book

D&GGP Convenor

Jean Forrest reported that Neville, when he was Partnership Convenor, was involved with the Scottish Golf Tourism Development Group which had representation from Scottish Enterprise, VisitScotland, Scottish Golf, PGA Scotland, Scottish incoming Golf Tour Operators Association and Regional Project Managers but since he gave up this roll there has been no input to the group. The Group will be meeting next towards the end of March and Jean has asked to be included representing

the South.

In July 2018 a subgroup of the Tourism Development Group was formed by 7 of the Regions involved and adopted the name "VisitScotlandGolf". This was an expansion of a prior group of 5 regions known as "East of Scotland Golf" by the addition of Ayrshire Golf and Golf Highland. Each Region contributes £2000 annually to a Marketing Budget. In 2018 this money was used to run a competition "Best Job in Golf" which was won by Erik Anders Lang, who is an Influencer like Peter Finch. Erik Lang played golf in the regions of the group and presently, on a weekly basis, 20 youtube videos are being released by him during February and March. The purpose of a combined budget is to undertake activities which would be too costly for regions to undertake on their own, such as:-

Marketing to European Audiences

Attending golf consumers shows in Germany and Scandinavia

Hosting media and tour operator trips

The programme for 2019 to be undertaken by VisitScotlandGolf is to engage 9 Bloggers to work in 3 groups of 3 with each group golfing in 2 Regions initially undertaking a variety of activities, both golf and tourist related. After that all 9 would take part in final activities in the 7th region. This is still very much in the planning stages and nothing is finalised. The cost is expected to be £7000 plus money from VisitScotland. Other activities are to be drone footage in all the regions and interviews with "characters" in all regions. To obtain this information she met with Allan Minto who is Project Manager for GolfPerthshire and is also the person in VisitScotlandGolf who is responsible for replying to enquiries.

Jean had also communicated with Shelley Bell, Economic Development Officer for D&G Council regarding the possibility of acquiring £2000 to become part of the VisitScotlandGolf group. She alerted her to the certainty that the budget to promote golf in the region for 2019-20 will definitely be reduced, but is optimistic that the £2000 could be secured for this purpose. Council Budget decisions will be taken on 12 March. She thought it would be beneficial to become part of this group and requested the support of the Executive to take this forward.

For the last 3 years £10,000 has been allocated from the D&G Council Golf Tourism Budget for golf tourism promotion and VS have had control of this money along with other money to promote other areas of tourism. In her discussions with the Council Economic Development Officer it has become clear that if innovative ideas were brought forward, the new budget would not have to be allocated to VS as has been the practice for as long as she has been involved with the Partnership. Clubs were emailed at the beginning of this month asking for marketing suggestions and for green fee figures for 2015 - 2018 to assist in making some assessment of the success, or otherwise, of the VS campaigns. Any new marketing ideas taken to the Council to bid for control of the Golf Tourism Budget will have a better chance of success if there are monitoring arrangements included.

Only three Clubs had responded so far and they were Castle Douglas, Lockerbie and Southerness

AGT (Ayrshiregolf.com) is a golf tour firm run by Ryan McCallum. He started originally with just tours in Ayrshire, but now has tours organised in several other regions as well. Jean was working with him at present towards expanding his tours to include our region.

She and Jeff continue to distribute copies of the brochures as opportunities arise both within the region and beyond. Assistance with this from others will be gratefully received. Pete Haslam has taken some to a couple of clubs south of the border. D&G Council are taking a stand at VisitScotland EXPO on 10 and 11 April and they are taking brochures to that.

Joining VisitScotlandGolf would ensure the work of the Partnership reached a wider audience.

The response from Peter Finch's videos has given the website thousands of hits but there is no evidence they have increased visitor numbers.

Webmaster and Fixtures Secretary

In the absence of Wave Tyrrell, the President reported that the fixtures for all clubs were now published on the website except for the South Junior Fixtures.

Both websites are running fine. In May 2018 the EU introduced the General Data Protection Regulation in EU law on data protection and privacy for all individuals within the European Union. Increased warnings for cookies and notifications for privacy policies have increased on the internet. YouTube and Google analytics for example use cookies even though the web designer has not knowingly enabled cookies. Our sites use these features. YouTube and Google analytics are commonly employed and one might argue that we ignore the regulation. Our competition to win a

golf package at Hetland Hall placed the Association / Partnership into the situation where it would be wise to comply with the legislation as we are clearly collecting personal data in the use of our online entry procedure. Wave had therefore added cookie notices and an interim privacy policy to the websites.

A Privacy policy should be agreed by the Executive. The interim policy on the website is a very brief document designed to meet the legal requirement. There are policies published by a range of golf organisation that can be followed. There are two important strands, one on the collection, use and safekeeping of data and the other on the privacy for children.

It was agreed to send out copies of the draft Privacy Policy and draft Short Privacy Policy to all members in good time so they can be discussed at the next meeting when Wave is present.

Child Protection

The President reported that Duncan Moore had tendered his resignation as his health was not good and he felt he was unable to continue. Duncan was thanked for his contribution and commitment over the past 4 years, especially with the juniors, and wished a quick return to full fitness.

Rather than someone from the Executive taking over it was agreed that Lee Sterritt, or someone similar, be approached to take over the role on a part-time basis

Dumfriesshire

Tony Clark reported that the County had received a donation of £1,000 towards Junior development.

James Erskine had taken some boys to Dubai for coaching

Kirkcudbrightshire

Brian Duguid reported that Tongland Golf Centre was closing down with immediate effect
The County were still looking for a Junior Convenor.

New Galloway had started a Ladies coaching programme.

The possible sponsor, mentioned at the last meeting, had decided to withdraw his offer
Castle Douglas, New Galloway, Colvend and Dalbeattie had agreed to share green keeping equipment

Brian thanked the President for attending Iain McBeath's funeral

Wigtownshire

Stephen Kingston reported that most Clubs were in the process of holding their AGM's

The Wigtownshire Championship would be held on 19 May and the Drennan Salver at Stranraer on Sunday 22 September.

Jim Burns had tendered his resignation as secretary of Stranraer Golf Club in April

Stranraer had held Night Golf over 5 holes from 6.00 to 9.00pm at £25 per head. There was a good turnout and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

A O C B

Brian Duguid asked if the Partnership had any plans to help Clubs with discounted offers for visitors travelling to the Open at Portrush. Could something be set up with P & O

The Secretary reported that he was well on with re-writing the Rules for Competitions and would distribute these prior to the next meeting.

There being no further business the President thanked the members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 9 April 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Selkirk Arms Hotel Kirkcudbright.