

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 15th JANUARY 2019

Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

Present:

Jean Forrest, President, in the Chair; T Clark; S Kingston; G Sharp; A Millar; W. Tyrrell; P Strain; R McKnight; B Duguid; J Lennox; and D Moore.

Apologies:

P Watson and I Robin

In Attendance:

Chris Robinson (Portpatrick), Lee Sterritt (Crichton) and J Suttcliffe

President's Welcome:

The President in her first executive meeting in post welcomed her new committee.

Executive Meeting 6 November 2018

The Minutes were approved by Wave Tyrell, seconded by Robert McKnight

Matters Arising:

None

Annual General Meeting 22 November 2018

The draft Minutes were approved by Alistair Millar, seconded by Peter Strain

Matters Arising:

None

Secretary's Report:

Representatives from Portpatrick, Kirkcudbright and Crichton Golf Clubs had been invited to attend this Committee Meeting. Portpatrick and Crichton were represented. Papers for this Meeting were sent to the three Clubs.

The SGL Conference took place on Saturday 1 December in Edinburgh. The main points of discussion were the launch of the all-singing, all-dancing digital software which was explained in detail, and development and Club support in 2019 with particular emphasis on developing women and girls' golf. The Area was represented by the President and Vice President who were encouraged by the vision but there was a lot of information to take in, especially related to the new App. The conference was very professionally run.

Meetings have been arranged with Ann Lang, the Regional Club Development Officer, at Newton Stewart on Monday 21 January at 7.00pm and at Dumfries & Galloway on Tuesday 29 January at 7.00pm to discuss the digital software. She has encouraged two of her colleagues, Carol Harvey, Women & Young People and Iain Forsyth, Chief Commercial Officer, to attend the meeting at Newton Stewart. They will be joined by Carolyn Hedley, Environment and Sustainability, at Dumfries & Galloway. Iain Forsyth has been heavily involved with the new digital app and a good turnout from the Clubs would be appreciated. There has been a good response from clubs with 16 out of 23 committed so far. It will be a good opportunity for clubs to ask questions especially to Iain Forsyth about the new App.

Congratulations go to James Erskine, Professional at G&G, and his team for being acclaimed TGI and Ping Club fitter of the year 2018.

Karin Sharp had provided a data base of volunteer course rating and rules officials. She has called a Specific Area and County Forum for Saturday 26 January at Stirling to discuss the future format of the Championships (particularly team events), Coaching Pathway, Grant Funding, Governance and Volunteering.

The new look Scottish Golf Development team to support affiliated Clubs and reflect a more Club-centric approach was unveiled on 7 December. The team will also provide additional expertise to Clubs in core service areas. The changes are as follows:-

- Regional Schools and Communities Officers moved to Regional Club Development Officer roles
- The Central Support Team is Iain Evans (Club Business); Gavin Forrester (Junior Development); Carol Harvey (Women & Girls); Carolyn Hedley (Environment & Sustainability); Calum Grant (Handicapping & Course Rating); and Mandy Martin (Regional Team)
- Ann Lang is the Regional Club Development Officer for South Area

Disclosure Scotland issued a newsletter giving an update on their activities. It dealt mainly with issues concerning those managing the system, in our case, SGL.

The SGL Newsletter of 20 December highlighted the interest being shown in the digital platform, the Buying Group and its success in terms of savings for the Clubs who had signed up and the new Rules of Golf from 1 January 2019.

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

Scottish Golf is seeking nominations from Ladies for the next Junior Vice President.

The Young Peoples Forum has been formed but we do not know yet if any of the South nominations have been successful.

Treasurers Report

Summary of Accounts up to 18 December 2018:

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/17	9,383.81	Sundries	274.20
Comps	230.00	Vouchers	1,170.00
IMT	<u>60.00</u>	ATC	1,246.59
	9,673.81	In bank 27/12/17	<u>6,983.02</u>
			9,673.81

The subscription forms to the Clubs had been sent out.

The IMT booklets have been ordered

CONVENORS REPORTS

Championships 2018/19

Graeme Sharp reported that he has had continued computer problems but has printed off entry sheet and getting them to the clubs. Everything else is up to date.

Coaching Convenor

In the absence of Pam Watson there was no report. Alistair Millar reported that he had spoken with Pam and she is happy to continue in her role. Jean Forrest read report for Iain Robin proposing Jim Lennox to be co-opted onto the executive to help with coaching based on his experience with Lochmaben juniors, this was agreed.

Senior Team Manager

Graeme Sharp reported that the match against Cumbria had been arranged for 31st March at Southernness. He has had no reply from the Borders but he will follow this up and if cannot be arranged will look for a friendly against another local Area.

Junior Team Manager

Iain Robin presented a report that he was presently arranging dates and venues for the NCF league matches and Junior competitions and hoped to have these finalized soon.

Course Rating

Robert McKnight reported that the results for last year's ratings had now been confirmed as follows:-

Ladies – St Medan & Wigtown & Bladnoch. Both confirmed unchanged at 65 and 71 respectively

Gents – Crichton – white 69, yellow 68. Both unchanged

Ladies & Gents – Stranraer – white 72, yellow 71, red 74. All unchanged

- Wigtownshire County – white 70, red 72. Both unchanged

- Wigtownshire County – yellow reduced from 69 to 68

The new Rules of Golf will result in the “Out of Bounds” and “Water Hazard” areas being renamed as Penalty Areas, with each rated as crossing and lateral (Crossing replaces OB/ER and Lateral replaces Water Hazard). These will also include new table values as well as the introduction of some new adjustments.

Updated stickers will be issued asap for use this year, a new up-to-date book will be issued for 2020 incorporating the above changes plus any further changes approved under the normal four-year revision cycle.

The World Handicap System (WHS) is set to be implemented in 2020 which means that the SSS will no longer be used. Instead, an exact USGA Course Rating (to the decimal point) and Slope Rating will be used to calculate a player's handicap.

D & G G Partnership

Jean Forrest reported that the brochures are now printed and will be distributed to all destinations out with Dumfries and Galloway. Delivery to clubs will be made at meetings during January and also by Jeff and herself as opportunities arrive. Finals club distribution is expected to

be by March when the ladies have their annual meeting at Castle Douglas to exchange competition information. She and Jeff are also placing brochures in outlets across the region where there is expected to be an interest in golf. Out with the region, brochures are not being distributed to golf clubs so it would be helpful if golfers from this region would take brochures with them when they are playing at clubs outside of Dumfries and Galloway. Final costs of this advertising exercise are not available as yet.

VisitScotland is launching their media promotion this month using material gathered by Peter Finch in September, along with the shortened version of our own regional video. With Wave's help they have created a page on our website to promote all of Peter's videos.

Attempts to create links with other agencies to create golf packages are being investigated.

Jean also reported that brochures were in the process of being delivered out to the clubs and other locations around D&G. She also reported that the VisitScotland promotion will start soon. She is looking to create more golf packages, links with South Ayrshire and P&O. She also said Jeff and herself hoped to promote the brochures at various sites including farmers markets, hotel and starting with the Kyte feeding station over its 2 year lifespan.

Webmaster and Fixtures Secretary

Wave Tyrrell reported that ninety per cent of the fixtures for the year had been confirmed. Club Opens from Newton Stewart and Wigtown & Bladnoch were outstanding together with the Ladies Opens at Gatehouse. He hoped to have the South fixtures shortly. The fixture list at present is in a format where Clubs may view entries as confirmed, amended or blank (not confirmed). He intends to publish the list in the normal format in the coming weeks

He also reported that he was pleased with the design of the two new websites where he had presented the content in a simpler style. This had involved changes in web hosting company and new applications to build the sites. The changes are proving to be worthwhile. There are two new pages added, one for the promotion of the golf break sponsored by Hetland Hall Hotel and the other for the Peter Finch You Tube videos promoting golf in the region, commissioned by VisitScotland

The hacking of the sites came as a shock. The resulting costs are as follows:-

- | | |
|--|----------|
| • New Webhosting package for 2 year period | £271.68 |
| • Domain & Site transfers | £52.68 |
| • Applications | £100.99 |
| • Bluehost refund | -£143.53 |
| • Total | £281.82 |

The main benefits of the new hosting deal is that:-

- The free Site Security Certificates are renewed automatically
- A weekly site scammer for malware is included
- Login attempts are restricted, a guard against brute force attacks
- 30 backups may be stored that would enable reinstating a website following a hack

The outcome of the Sitelock Security contract is as follows: _

- | | |
|---|---------|
| \$200 to partially reinstate the websites | £153.48 |
| \$100 annual fee to protect the website | £78.02 |
| Total | £231.50 |

Brian Duguid reported that there had been increased activity on the Facebook page but that more content from the Clubs was needed.

Child Protection

Duncan Moore reported that he had not heard anything but would work with Lee Sterritt to move things forward.

Dumfriesshire

Tony Clark reported that Barry Scott had started his second term as President of Dumfriesshire with Andrew Edgar from Moffat as Vice-President. Tony also said that a previous steward from Dumfries & County, David Morgan, was taking up a post at Royal County Down.

Kirkcudbrightshire

Brian Duguid reported that Jeff Sutcliffe (New Galloway) had taken over as President with Clark Riddick (Southernness) taking over as Vice-President with Brian remaining as Secretary. Brian also said that the county was looking at using a display pull-up as a way of advertising the county. The fact that New Galloway had approached the SGL about the per capita was also noted and that the county was looking at sponsorship for a new competition around the best 3 scores from 9 hole clubs.

Wigtownshire

Stephen Kingston reported that David Gladstone had taken over as President but was still waiting on a nomination for Vice-President from St Medan. He also said that with the Shamash Trophy now being played at Stranraer on 27th April a new date was needed for the Drenan Salvar.

Club Representatives

Lee Sterritt said that the Crichton was holding its own and into their 3rd year of a junior programme. This year the club was looking at corporate deals on Fridays. There was an issue with the Clubhouse that would need to be addressed.

Jim Lennox said that at Lochmaben it was a constant battle to retain members and get new people playing golf.

Chris Robinson said it was the same volunteers doing everything and that junior sections across Wigtownshire were a worry. He said that Dunskey was looking at new income streams such as turning the stewards house into visitor accommodation.

A O C B

Jean Forrest reported that she hoped to attend both the ladies counties first executive meetings of the year with a view to explain how the South Committee works and try to find out what the barriers to amalgamation are. To this end she has tried to contact Northern Counties as they have successfully amalgamated.

Alistair Millar mentioned that Tony Reason from Kirkcudbright had passed away recently.

Brian Duguid said that Jeff Sutcliffe had done another good job with Kirkcudbrightshire booklet and championship report. He also said the county had been asked to facilitate 3 clubs (Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie and Colvend) work closer together sharing machinery etc.

There being no further business the President thanked the members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 26 February 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright.