

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND GOLFERS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING 9 APRIL 2019
Held at the Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright at 7.15 pm

Present:

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

Apologies:

J. Lennox and P Strain,

In Attendance:

Steve Ewing, Castle Douglas

President's Welcome:

The President welcomed the members and visitor.

Executive Meeting 9 April 2019

The Minutes were approved by Brian Duguid, seconded by Robert McKnight

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary reported that he had invited representatives from Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway, Moffat and Sanquhar Golf Clubs to attend this Committee Meeting. Castle Douglas attended but Dumfries & Galloway, Moffat and Sanquhar did not reply. Papers for this Meeting were sent to all the Clubs.

The SGL Area and County Coaching survey was returned to Clare Queen on 24 April

The SGL Area and County investment application for funding towards coaching and attendance at ATC's was returned and approved and the maximum grant of £1500 had been received

SGL issued a digital platform update. It was agreed that James Pocock, Moffat Golf Club be invited to report on progress as his Club had been invited to trial the software. There was a suggestion that Moffat had stopped using it as it was not working for them. There were many issues but mainly SGL had reduced the size of the trial version and it was too small and Moffat had returned to using their previous system.

SGL issued the Club Newsletter for April.

The Secretary attended a meeting with Thornhill GC and Lewis Cheetham on 23 April. Lewis stated that he was going to continue his membership of Carlisle and only wanted to use the facilities at Thornhill for practice to save him having to travel to Carlisle. Thornhill wanted him to become a junior member but he was not in favour. Crichton has had no further communication with him since the initial enquiry on 2 April. On Thursday 30 May he was informed that Lewis had joined Thornhill as a Junior Member and was using the practice facilities on a regular basis and helping out with the other Junior Members. The Club was happy with his commitment and behaviour. It was agreed that there was no need to take this subject further meantime.

SGL has issued another reminder to Clubs to enter the Scottish Mens Medal Finals as entries so far have been very disappointing. There are only 6 entries for the finals at D&G on Friday 26 July.

Iain had received a request from Castle Douglas for the South to provide a prize for a Charity Texas Scramble in Iain McBeth's memory at Castle Douglas Golf Club on 13th July to raise funds for SADSUK and the Scottish Ambulance Endowment Fund. The Executive were of opinion that although this was a very worthy cause the Association is not a commercial organisation and its only income is from member Clubs and SGL grants and consequently could not support the event. They were also concerned that this may set a precedent and the Association could be inundated with requests. However, the members of the Executive present agreed to donate personally a sum of money, £45, to be used by the Club as they sought fit provided it is explained that the prize is from the Members of the Executive of SoSGA. The money was given to Steve Ewing to pass to the Club Captain..

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

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer presented a Summary of Accounts up to 14 May 2019 as follows;-

Income		Expenditure	
In bank 1/9/17	9,383.81	Sundries	968.52
Comps	230.00	Vouchers	1,580.00
IMT	100.00	ATC	1,326.59
Subs	14,276.75.00	NCF	532.20
SGL Grant	<u>1,500.00</u>	Matches	721.20
		In bank 14/4/19	<u>20,362.05</u>
	25,490.56		25,490.56

Reminders had been sent to those Clubs who had still to pay their subscriptions. There are still 5 Clubs outstanding. Brian Duguid and Stephen Kingston asked to be informed of those Clubs in their respective Counties which had not paid.

CONVENORS REPORTS

Championships 2019

Graeme Sharp reported that regrettably the Shamash Trophy had to be abandoned due to inclement weather. He thanked Robert McKnight for taking care of all the procedures on the day The Shamash Trophy would now be played at Stranraer on 22 September and the Drennan Salver on 28 September also at Stranraer.

One entry had been received for the Gillespie Challenge on Sunday 16 June

Coaching Convenor

The President reported that Jimmy Lennox had agreed to be the Coaching Convenor provided he was able to give the job sufficient diligence and time commitment due to his full time work. Jean was keen to set up a meeting with Chris Robinson and the other professionals in the region to determine what was required to develop an efficient coaching policy to which all could agree and commit. It was agreed that Alastair Millar chair a meeting to which all the professionals, Chris Robinson, James Erskine, Ross Murdoch, Frankie Murray, Brian Gemmell, Joe Fergusson and Jim Dougal be invited.

Senior Team Manager

Graeme Sharp reported that the South were well beaten by Northumberland at Southernness on Sunday 21 April in an unofficial trial match with a view to making it an official match next year.

The Borders Area had been in touch and it was hoped to arrange a match during the summer.

Junior Team Manager

Jean Forrest intimated that Iain Robin wished to stand down as Junior Team Manager due to ill health. She suggested that an email be sent to all Clubs giving a job outline to look for a volunteer. Iain agreed to provide a job outline.

Iain Robin reported that he was very grateful to Alastair Millar for taking the Junior Team to Cockermonth on Sunday 21 April to play the first NCL league match against Cumbria. The team recorded a marvellous victory by 6½ games to 5½. Alastair was accompanied by Duncan Moore.

Since the end of April there had been no activity as the boys had been sitting their school exams.

Course Rating

Robert McKnight reported that he had received the stickers for the new penalty areas viz Crossing Obstacles and Lateral Obstacles.

David Kernohan of SGL had been in touch advising that the communication process to the Clubs would be as follows:-

1. Initial contact email from Scottish Golf
2. Email confirming course rating from Area Convenor
3. Email from Scottish Golf confirming that the course had been rated

4. Email from Scottish Golf with SSS Certificate (presumably with the Slope Rating)

Robert had recently contacted Eileen Scott in an attempt to arrange suitable dates for this year's course rating programme and will hopefully commence in July. Only Portpatrick, Kirkcudbright and New Galloway are on the rota this year.

A discussion on how the Slope Rating would affect each individual golfer left everyone totally confused.

D&G Golf Partnership

Jean Forrest reported that the Service Station Poster Marketing Campaign had run with an extended extra week because the posters were not all located in the correct locations at the start of the campaign. Also an additional 12 posters were added as further compensation. Although the campaign is now officially complete, posters were spotted on the 26th May still being displayed. Clubs (13) who did provide feedback at the end of April, all reported nil use of the promotion code OPEN19.

The Table-Top Display is currently at Portpatrick GC as they are hosting a One-armed Golfers Festival Week. The Organisers of the Walking Festival at Newton Stewart did not have space to take the Table Display, but they did take Brochures. The only club to respond to the email request for venues for the Display has been Castle Douglas. The Display is booked to be at the Dumfries Motor Show in August and hopefully, when asked, representatives from Dumfries clubs will man it on that occasion. Emails had been sent to the organisers of the SkiffieWorlds to be held in July at Stranraer and the Adventure Conference to be held at Laggan Outdoor Centre in June, but there had been no response to date.

On 20th May, Jean attended an International Marketing Seminar in Edinburgh arranged by the Visit Scotland Golf Group. The main purpose of this meeting was to assist the group in setting in place a 3 year plan for marketing the 8 regions in the group to the international market. It was encouraging to discover that this plan was being created to market clubs described as 2 and 3 tier clubs and not the larger well-known clubs which already have strong international markets. Our clubs are all 2 or 3 tier. This description (tier) is to be changed as is considered not suitable for marketing. The other encouraging outcome was that there should be an emphasis on the 8 regions working collaboratively in order to market golf in Scotland as a whole. The International Market was identified as mainly European, including England and Ireland.

The Drone footage has not been completed so far, and at this time she did not have a date for it.

Jeff Sutcliffe has been an excellent member of the Partnership, playing a huge part in the creation of the Golf Brochure and the sole person responsible for the Table-Top Display. Prior to that he was involved in the Partnership's appearance at the Golf Show in 2018. Regretfully, he finds at this time he is unable to continue to support the Partnership and has stood down. He will be greatly missed, but perhaps at a later date he may find time to help again. Peter McGarrie has always been willing to help with Partnership activities and she was pleased to report that he had agreed to become a member of the Partnership Steering Group, along with Brian Duguid, treasurer, and Wave Tyrrell, webmaster, and herself. It would be good to have someone from Wigtownshire joining too as then all 3 counties would be included.

Webmaster & Fixtures Secretary

Wave Tyrrell reported that the web and fixture list were up-to-date.

It was agreed to adopt the revised Privacy Policy

Child Protection

The Secretary reported that Lee Sterritt had sent all the necessary forms to SGL for processing.

Dumfriesshire

Tony Clark reported that the championships would be held at Moffat at the weekend.

Kirkcudbrightshire

Brian Duguid reported that the Championship, played at Gatehouse, had been won by Clark Riddick (Southerness); the Solway Cup was won by Raymond Wong (Southerness) and the Solway Bowl by Clark Riddick

A pull up banner is on order for display at Association events etc

The final of Team Championship between Dalbeattie and Kirkcudbright is to be played at Brighthouse Bay on June 3rd.

Correspondence had been sent to all Clubs in Association re Junior Coaching. Only two Clubs responded.

The Association has been unable to secure the services of a Junior Convenor and getting a team for the Peat Salver is proving difficult.

Wigtownshire

Stephen Kingston reported that there were 41 entrants for the combined scratch and handicap championships. Colin Hamilton (Stranraer) with a score of 136 is the champion for 2019, Scott Whannell (Newton Stewart) was runner-up with 137 and Matthew McCulloch (Portpatrick) was third.

The inter-Club leagues had started.

Club Representative

Steve Ewing reported that green fees during April and May at Castle Douglas had been encouraging and membership was marginally up.

All information was passed to Angela for posting on the website.

Energy sensors had been fitted on electrical appliances and some savings were being noticed

AOCB

It was noted that Rhoda McWhirter (D&G) had died after a long illness

It was also noted That only 6 Clubs had registered for the Marketing Seminar

There being no further business the President thanked the members for their attendance. The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 2 July 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Selkirk Arms Hotel Kirkcudbright.