

**MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DUMBARTONSHIRE GOLF UNION HELD IN  
CLYDEBANK AND DISTRICT GOLF CLUB ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.30PM.**

**PRESENT**

Representatives from the following clubs; Bearsden, Cardross, Clober, Clydebank and District, Clydebank Overtoun, Dougalston, Douglas Park, Dullatur, Dumbarton, Hayston, Hilton Park, Kirkintilloch, Lenzie, Milngavie, Palacerigg, Vale of Leven and Windyhill.

Executive and Co-opted Members; Hugh Semple, Alan Bell, Jimmy Cowan, Billy Hannah, Sam Bolton, Bob Provan, Graham Smith, David Thomson, John Struthers, John Ward and Frank Gloag.

**WELCOME**

President Hugh Semple welcomed representatives from member clubs and asked if all present had signed the sederunt. He thanked the Captain and Council of Clydebank and District Golf Club for the use of their facilities for the AGM, Annual Dinner and DGU Executive committee meetings'

**APOLOGIES**

Alan Harris, (DGU Past Secretary and Past President), Iain Orr (DGU Executive), Jim Paton (DGU Executive), Mark Ferguson (DGU Co-opted), Brian Thistle (Captain Douglas Park), The Carrick Golf Club, Helensburgh Golf Club and Radnor Park Golf Club.

**INTIMATIONS**

President Hugh Semple was sad to announce the deaths of Jackie Cross (Vale of Leven, Past President DGU), Willie McKinlay (Vale of Leven, Past President of DGU), Colin Harris (Kirkintilloch, DGU Auditor) and Bert Bowden (Douglas Park, past DGU Executive). There was a minutes silence in remembrance of Jackie, Willie, Colin and Bert.

**MINUTE OF DGU ANNUAL MEETING OF 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

President Hugh Semple advised that the minute of the AGM of 11<sup>th</sup> November had been issued with AGM notices, can we take them as read and asked for a proposer and seconder. Proposed, Maurice Liddell (Clydebank and District), seconded Bob Provan (DGU Executive)

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

As I come to the end of my 2 years in office as President of DGU I would like to say that it has been a pleasure and a great honour to represent the county over the period. When I stood here this time last year the merger of the gents and ladies golf unions had just taken place and since that time when the new Board was instituted there has been little or no information forthcoming from Scottish Golf as to the future direction and guidance for our game. Indeed, they have lost for various reasons both the chief executive and his deputy with a new chief executive Blaine Dodds being appointed some 2 months ago. I know from various sources that the Ladies are not too happy at the way things are progressing and there are rumours about forming regions. What their remit is and their impact on the various Areas and County's is no one knows both from a gents and ladies perspective. We shall have to wait and see what develops if anything at all. Our sport continues to decline in terms of numbers wishing to join golf clubs particularly at junior level where there seems to be a dearth of new people wishing to learn and ultimately take up the game. This leaves the burden of financing and maintaining our golf clubs on a smaller membership base with a resultant increase in fees. While I have no immediate answer to this problem I do think that we are making it too easy and too cheap for the casual golfer to just pick and choose when and how much he pays through the BRS system. Indeed golf can be had for as little as £15 a round which in my view is far too cheap. Perhaps we need a minimum pricing system which might encourage some of the casual golfers to join clubs to get value for money. However to achieve this all the clubs would need to agree throughout the country, a dream perhaps. I would now like to take the opportunity to thank the people who have assisted me and the Union over the last year, my Vice President Alan Bell for his support and advice over the period. To Sam Bolton and the coaching team for their hard work and commitment to assisting our young players get the most out of the game. Our web site and face book sites have been admirably brought up to date by John Struthers. The Championship Convener Ian Orr has decided to retire at this time and I would like to thank him for his work last year in trying circumstances. I would also like to thank Jim Paton for the running of the A team which despite a disappointing Area team Championship did well in the West of Scotland League losing out by a point to Ayrshire the eventual winners. The Boy's team under Graham Smith is in a transition period after numerous successes this year not performing to their best although at youth level we did win the West of Scotland League. More on the team matches can be read in the manager's reports and my sincere thanks to all the clubs who hosted County events and team matches. On the golfers honours front the highlights of the year at club level were Balmore Golf Club who won the Scottish Team Championship at Stranraer and

were narrowly beaten in Portugal by one shot of for the European title. Balmore were represented by Chris McLean, James Wilson and Neil McConnachie all boys who have been through the college and represented the county at boys and men's level. On an individual level the highlight has to be George Duncan of Windyhill winning the Scottish Amateur Championship at Royal Aberdeen GC, again George has been through the county college system and has also represented the County at boys, youths and men's level and also winning his first cap for Scotland. He has also won the DGU order of merit. Last year we had a new secretary Jimmy Cowan a past president of the County and Jimmy on reflection has decided that the job is too time consuming for him and has decided to step down. I would like to thank Jimmy for his contribution to the county and for his good sense of humour and dedication to the job. We are extremely fortunate that John Struthers has agreed to step in and I am sure that under Jimmy's guidance and help he will carry out the duties of secretary to the fullest and I wish him all the best for the future.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Billy Hannah (Treasurer) spoke to the financial report for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, previously circulated to member clubs. He commented on the salient items. Reduction in Subscriptions; due to fewer numbers of club members, match expenses; increase due to carry over of winner's vouchers from previous years, coaching; only 8 clubs took up the coaching grant available, clothing badges and medals; purchase of medals for prizewinners and windchaeaters for Ateam at Scottish Area Team Championship, sundry miscellaneous payments cost of updating DGU website. He asked for any questions. 1. Why net assets of £62,000, reply it is recommended nonprofit making organization should have between 6 months and 2 years expenditure. 2. Suggestion retain one year's expenditure. 3. With regard to coaching grants, could clubs who have already claimed maximum take up any shortfall in budget due to clubs not applying, reply DGU could consider this by increasing the maximum allowed, will consider. Accounts formally proposed by Sam Bolton (Dougalston/DGU Executive, seconded by Alan Shearar (Hayston).

#### **PROPOSED PER CAPITA FEE FOR 2016/17**

President Hugh Semple advised clubs that Dumbartonshire Golf Union propose a per capita fee £3.00 a reduction of 60p from previous year, it has been accepted that DGU funds are such that they should be reduced but on a year to year basis. Billy Hannah (Treasurer) said that he would therefore estimate a loss of around £10,000 in 2016/17 year. Hugh added that the per capita could be reviewed again next year. There has been a counter proposal from Cardross Golf Club that that the per capita levy for 2017 be set at £1.00. The background to this proposal is the surplus cash funds held by the DGU for which there is no planned expenditure in the foreseeable future. The member clubs are all examining ways of reducing costs in an uncertain climate and this proposal would help, Graham Mills (Cardross). President asked for a seconder to this proposal, duly seconded by Craig Bell (Hilton Park). Following some discussion with regard to per capita fee a further motion received, proposed by Mark Taylor (Bearsden) and seconded by George McCallion (Vale of Leven) that per capita fee be set at £2.50 for 2016/17. A vote was taken on the two counter proposals, £2.50 or £1.00, resulting in 11-6 in favour of £2.50. A further vote was taken on DGU proposal £3.00 against £2.50, resulting in 14-2 in favour of £2.50. Decision, therefore, that per capita fee for 2016/17 be £2.50.

#### **CONVENER'S REPORTS**

President Hugh Semple advised that contained in the AGM papers were respective reports for Championship, Coaching, SSS/Handicaps/Course Rating, A Team, Youths Team, Boys Team and Media. He asked if there were any question, no questions received.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

President Hugh Semple advised that nominations for election 2016/17 were included in the AGM papers, no further nominations have been received.

President – Alan Bell (Hilton Park), proposed by Hugh Semple, seconded by Billy Hannah.

Vice-President – Sam Bolton (Dougalston), proposed by Alan Bell, seconded by Billy Hannah.

Immediate Past President - President Hugh Semple (Hayston), elected.

Secretary – John Struthers (Hilton Park), proposed by Alan Bell, seconded by Hugh Semple

Treasurer – Billy Hannah (Lenzie), proposed by Alan Bell, seconded by Hugh Semple

All above duly elected as Office Bearers

#### **ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE**

President Alan Bell made a statement on Executive nominations. Jim Paton (Kirkintilloch) is due to retire but has offered himself for re-election. Proposed by Alan Bell, seconded by Hugh Semple. Jim Paton duly elected to executive for 3 years. President Alan Bell advised that as Sam Bolton and John

Struthers elected as Vice-President and Secretary then there is one other vacancy on the Executive. Clubs were advised of this on the AGM notice. No other nominations have been received, President Bell asked for any nominations this evening. No further nominations. President also advised that DGU are looking for members to join sub committees to assist with events, if anyone wishes to assist please notify the Secretary.

**ELECTION OF AUDITOR**

President Alan Bell proposed Gordon W Thomson CA (Bearsden), seconded by Billy Hannah, Gordon duly elected.

**A.O.C.B.**

President Alan Bell advised that Keith McIntosh (Cardross) has been elected as Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. Craig Bell (Hilton Park) asked if the DGU Constitution and Minutes of Executive Meetings could be added to the website, President Bell said that having recently reviewed the Constitution, some amendments will be necessary but saw no reason not to include as and when reviewed. Tom Cummings (Kirkintilloch) spoke of his concern with regard to Scottish Golf Ltd and the lack of information to clubs, other clubs present were in agreement. President Bell replied that this is also the case with Dumbartonshire Golf Union and all other Areas, He advised that there is a meeting later this month with our neighbouring Areas at which a Past President of the Scottish Golf Union (now Scottish Golf Ltd) would be attending. Past President Hugh Semple advised that he was at the Scottish Area Team championships in September and attended an ad hoc meeting of Area/Union Presidents, meant to last half an hour but went on for two hours, where many concerns were raised. President Bell suggested that he will be happy to meet with the clubs as soon as thought appropriate to discuss Scottish Golf Ltd. At the same time, necessary amendments to the DGU Constitution could be discussed and agreed. The consensus of club representatives present was that groups of clubs will be preferable to individual meetings. There was no further business, President Bell thanked the member clubs for attending and giving their contributions. Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair at 8.30pm.