# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DUMBARTONSHIRE GOLF UNION HELD IN CLYDEBANK AND DISTRICT GOLF CLUB ON WEDNESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7.30PM.

**PRESENT**

Representatives from the following clubs; Balmore, Clober, Clydebank & District, Douglas Park, Dumbarton, Helensburgh, Hilton Park, Kirkintilloch, Westerwood, Windyhill.

Executive Members; Alan Bell, Billy Hannah, Sam Bolton, Bob Provan, Graham Smith, John Struthers, Iain Orr, Jim Paton and Frank Gloag.

**WELCOME**

President Alan Bell 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.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Alan Harris (Lenzie Golf Club)

1. **INTIMATIONS**

President Alan Bell was pleased to announce that there were no intimations this year.

1. **MINUTE OF DGU ANNUAL MEETING OF 15TH NOVEMBER 2017**

President Alan Bell advised that the minutes of the AGM of 15th November 2017 had been issued with the AGM notices. Alan then asked for a proposer and seconder. Proposed, Iain Orr (Executive) seconded Craig Bell (Hilton Park).

1. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Alan Bell reported that the first major event of the year was the Annual Prize Giving and Dinner. This was attended by about 100 people and we had two speakers on the night who were well received.

Alan then advised that the Spring Meeting was held at Cardross with a field of 25.

Alan reported on the scratch Strokeplay event at Clydebank & District which was won by Scott Moore out of a field of 27. Scott followed this up by winning the Matchplay to make him a double Champion of Dumbartonshire.

The West of Scotland League kicked off in June for the Boys Team and the reports included in the AGM papers gave details of all three teams’ results.

Alan advised that the Boys Strokeplay and Matchplay at Clober had a low attendance of only 13 players but nevertheless, congratulated Kyle Murphy and Ashton McLean who won the respective events.

Alan reported that the trend of low entries to competitions led to the cancellation of the Autumn Meeting and the evident lack of interest by club members in such events will be subject to review by the Executive as to the best course of action to provide meaningful and attractive events. A Texas Scramble has been proposed for next year for example.

Alan expressed his thanks to Frank Gloag and John Struthers for their efforts in the Coaching and Competitions elements of the Area. Alan also advised the meeting that Frank represents us at the Scottish Golf Regional Forum. Alan thanked our Team Managers Graham Smith and Jim Paton for all their work with our teams.

Alan reported that Iain Orr has organised the Course Rating exercises this year and thanked Billy Hannah for his service as Treasurer.

Alan stated that Sam Bolton would shortly be taking on the role of President of the Union and wished him all the best in these difficult times for Clubs and thanked Sam for his support during his tenure.

Alan stated that the operation of our various events in Dumbartonshire and the West of Scotland generally cannot happen without the support of the Clubs who provide their courses and expressed his thanks for this which is much appreciated.

Alan said that on a personal note, he was relieved that, as he comes to the end of his term as President, that we are still functioning and more importantly, that we have not lost any of our clubs due to the continuing fall in membership numbers. Alan expressed the hope that this trend is cyclical and that an upturn is due in the near future. Alan concluded by wishing all the clubs the very best in the next few years and again expressed his thanks for all the support given by the clubs.

1. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Billy Hannah (Treasurer) spoke to the financial report for the year ending 30th September 2018, previously circulated to member clubs. Billy highlighted key points. The income from subscriptions was down reflecting the drop in membership numbers in the clubs. Other budget items were generally on or under the budget forecast. Billy expressed his thanks to the various Convenors for keeping within the budget figures.

There being no questions the acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Craig Bell (Hilton Park) and seconded by Jim Paton (Executive).

1. **Budget Proposals for 2018/19**

Billy Hannah (Treasurer) spoke to the proposed budget for 2018/19. Billy highlighted key points. The honorarium has been reduced by 10% to £8,828 down from £9,804. Based on the recent trend of falling membership numbers at the clubs the subscription income forecast had been based on a drop of 400 members. Maintaining the affiliation fee at £2.50 means that the budget will reduce the amount of cash being held by the DGU by a further £10,000. With a current bank balance of around £45,000 this is a sustainable figure and it is hoped that we will come in under the projected deficit figure.

There being no further questions the acceptance of the budgets was proposed by Sam Bolton (Executive) and seconded by Iain Orr (Executive).

1. **CONVENER’S REPORTS**

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

Craig Bell (Hilton Park) offered the services of Hilton Park to provide further junior coaching opportunities. Alan Bell advised that this would be picked up under Agenda item 10.

1. **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

President Alan Bell advised that nominations for election 2018/19 were included in the AGM papers; no further nominations have been received.

Name Proposer Seconder

PRESIDENT

**Sam Bolton Alan Bell Billy Hannah**

VICE PRESIDENT

**John Struthers Sam Bolton Alan Bell**

SECRETARY

**John Struthers Sam Bolton Billy Hannah**

TREASURER

**Billy Hannah Sam Bolton Alan Bell**

All were duly elected as Office Bearers.

Chairmanship of the meeting then passed to Sam Bolton as the new President.

1. **ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE**

President Sam Bolton advised that nominations for election 2018/19 were included in the AGM papers; no further nominations have been received.

**Proposer Seconder**

**Iain Orr Sam Bolton Billy Hannah**

**Bob Provan Sam Bolton Billy Hannah**

**David Thomson Sam Bolton Billy Hannah**

President Sam Bolton advised the meeting that a number people had come forward to become co-opted members and they would serve on various sub-committees. In due course it was hoped that some would become full Executive members.

1. **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

**10.1 Reciprocal golf for members of clubs hosting DGU competitions.**

President Sam Bolton introduced the topic by explaining that a situation had arisen when the Strokeplay Championship was being played at Clydebank & District (C&D). Some C&D members had gone to another DGU club thinking that they would get the courtesy of the course due to their course being unavailable. However, the other club had not been aware of any agreement to allow this and the C&D members were unable to play. After discussion, with contributions from Ann Scott (Douglas Park), Bob Provan (Executive) and John Stirling (Dumbarton) it was resolved that the Secretary would contact the host club a few weeks prior to a competition to remind them that other DGU clubs could be willing to allow the curtesy of their course whilst the competition was being held. Players will be reminded to contact the other club well in advance to book a time.

**10.2 Junior coaching beyond the existing coaching college.**

President Sam Bolton invited the Secretary to explain the topic. Secretary John Struthers explained that both himself and the Coaching Convenor are approached by clubs and club professionals with proposals to set up additional coaching programmes using facilities at their clubs. The purpose of raising the topic was to see if member clubs wished the Executive to explore this further.

Tom Rae (Windyhill) expressed the view that their Juniors, some 60 in number, were not really interested in coaching and really just wanted to have fun playing with their friends. Tom asked for help / advice from the DGU on how to encourage juniors to participate in medals and competitions because the juniors at Windyhill appeared to be more interested in bounce games. The Secretary responded that this was more a matter for the clubs themselves to promote their competitions.

Craig Bell (Hilton Park) re-iterated that their facilities for Junior Coaching, practice area, teaching professional and Trackman equipment were potentially available for other clubs to utilise if they did not have their own facilities. Craig also stated that there were a variety of drivers behind junior coaching and suggested a review of the overall strategy.

Frank Gloag reported that the existing Coaching College model had been revised with less coaching at the driving range and the facility at Balmore with new on-course coaching activity. Frank mentioned that he hoped clubs would be able to support this by making a small number of tee times available for the boys.

Ann Scott (Douglas Park) said that her club had been very active in the provision of junior coaching and hoped that this would continue.

Daryn Cochrane (Westerwood) positioned the work that was being done in some clubs in conjunction with Golfphin and the work being done in schools.

It was resolved that the Secretary would continue to work with the clubs to find ways to support junior golf development.

1. **ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

President Sam Bolton proposed Gordon W Thomson CA (Bearsden), seconded by Billy Hannah, Gordon was duly elected.

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

Tom Rae (Windyhill) asked if there was anything that the DGU could do about members who left a club mid-term without paying their fees. The Secretary advised that a club could suspend a member’s handicap via SGL which would prevent then getting a handicap at a new club. Tom Cumming (Kirkintilloch) pointed out that a new CDH number could be applied for by the new club and that it therefore relied on SGL picking this up. The Secretary further advised that there was no action the DGU could take. Craig Bell (Hilton Park) suggested that clubs with this problem could consider taking legal action in the Small Debt Court. Craig also suggested front loading the payment cycle so that payments were made before the end of the playing season.

There being no further business, Sam Bolton (President) proposed a vote of thanks to Alan Bell (Past President) for his conduct of the early part of the meeting and for Alan’s work during his term as DGU President.

**John Struthers**

**DGU Secretary.**