# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DUMBARTONSHIRE GOLF UNION HELD IN CLYDEBANK AND DISTRICT GOLF CLUB ON WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2019

**PRESENT**

Representatives from the following clubs; Balmore, Cardross, Clober, Clydebank & District, Douglas Park, Helensburgh, Hilton Park, Kirkintilloch, Lenzie, Vale of Leven.

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

**WELCOME**

President Sam Bolton welcomed representatives from member clubs and asked if all present had signed the sederunt.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Stuart McKie and Jim Marshall (Dullatur Golf Club).

1. **INTIMATIONS**

President Sam Bolton was pleased to announce that there were no intimations this year.

1. **MINUTE OF DGU ANNUAL MEETING OF 14TH NOVEMBER 2018**

President Sam Bolton advised that the minutes of the AGM of 14th November 2018 had been issued with the AGM notices. Sam then asked for a proposer and seconder. Proposed, Jim Paton (Executive) seconded Iain Orr (Executive).

1. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Sam Bolton gave the following report.

“Ladies and gentlemen I would like to welcome you to the 2019 DGU Annual General Meeting.

I would like to thank Clydebank & District golf club for the use of their facilities tonight and throughout the year.

What has the DGU been up to since last November?

Iain Orr, Alan Bell and their team have carried out the required Course rating fully and efficiently.

Jim Paton, ably assisted by our secretary, John Struthers, has overseen successful and keenly contested Interclub competitions culminating in the Finals Day in September. I’d like to thank the many clubs who took part in these events and hope for their continued participation in future. They also organised well attended Spring and Summer meetings. The only low point was the Autumn meeting where we tried to have a pairs competition which had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. We’ll try a different format next year.

The Coaching College was well organised by Frank Gloag whose enthusiasm for seeing the boys progress is second to none. Our coach, Bob Collinson, also deserves great praise for passing on his extensive knowledge to the boys with boundless energy and encouragement, engendering individual progress and team spirit. Both the boys and their parents show great appreciation of the tuition and the College system.

Not only the boys reap the benefits of the coaching system but also the DGU Interarea teams.

This year Graham Smith has continued to organise the boys and youth teams and his efforts are much appreciated by both sets of players as well as the DGU.

The boys team is in transition but shows a great deal of potential for the future. The youth team were all conquering, winning their league undefeated. Congratulations to Graham and the team.

Jim Devaney has taken over the A team and has had a mixed year but the experience he has gained during his first year will enhance our team’s success rate in future. I must mention one of Jim’s team in particular, namely James Wilson, who has had a great year on the circuit and represented the Scottish Amateur Team in the Home Internationals puting up a very creditable performance.

The DGU would like to thank all of the clubs who gave us the use of their courses for all of the events and team matches and we look forward to your continued support.

The Presentation Dinner was excellent this year and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Hopefully they’ll all return next year to applaud our golfer’s achievements.

Our secretary, John Struthers, and treasurer, Bill Hannah, both deserve thanks for their usual efficient management of the day to day running of the DGU.

I’ve enjoyed my first year as President carrying out my duties from Turnberry to Leven and many points in between. Our Vice President John Struthers has worked very hard to support me as have the rest of the Executive and co-opted members.

Finally, I would like to wish our clubs and all DGU members success in the coming year.”

1. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Billy Hannah (Treasurer) spoke to the financial report for the year ending 30th September 2019, previously circulated to member clubs. Billy highlighted key points. Overall income was down by £875 on the budget with subscriptions being down by £1,075, a 5.5% decrease. The subscription decrease was heavily impacted by the sale of Dundonald and its subsequent move to Ayrshire Golf Association.

There was an increase in the grant from SGL, up to £1,500 from £1,250. There was an underspend in team costs due to the location of the national competitions leading to a small number of overnight stays. Updates to our website had resulted in additional one-off costs.

The £250 coaching grant was taken up by 9 clubs, an increase of 1 over the 2018 figure. Clubs were encouraged to take up the grant. In response to a question from Scott Abraham (Clober) the Secretary confirmed that he would write to clubs at the start of the season with a copy of the grant application form.

There being no further questions the acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Jim Devaney (Executive) and seconded by Iain Orr (Executive).

1. **Budget Proposals for 2019/20**

Billy Hannah (Treasurer) spoke to the proposed budget for 2019/20. Billy highlighted key points. The subscription income is projected to fall by 7% with Billy highlighting that 10 years ago the overall membership number was 11,000 compared to the current figure of 7,300. The proposal is that the per capia fee remain at £2.50 giving a potential reduction in our reserves of £12,228. With a current bank balance of £38,643 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 Frank Gloag (Executive) and seconded by Sam Bolton (Executive).

The fee level of £2.50 was proposed by Iain Orr (Executive) and seconded by Scott Abraham (Clober).

1. **CONVENER’S REPORTS**

President Sam Bolton advised that contained in the AGM papers were respective reports for Championship, Coaching, Course Rating, A Team, Youths Team and Boys Team. There were no questions.

1. **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

President Sam Bolton advised that nominations for election 2019/20 were included in the AGM papers; no further nominations have been received.

The positions of President and Vice President are two year appointments so no election required this year.

POSITION / Name Proposer Seconder

SECRETARY

**John Struthers Billy Hannah Jim Paton**

TREASURER

**Billy Hannah Sam Bolton Alan Bell**

Both were duly elected as Office Bearers.

1. **ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE**

President Sam Bolton advised that nominations for election 2019/20 were included in the AGM papers; no further nominations have been received.

 Proposer Seconder

**Jim Paton Sam Bolton Tom Cumming**

**Jim Devaney Sam Bolton Jim Paton**

President Sam Bolton expressed his thanks to David Thomson (Dumbarton) who had served on the Executive but had stepped down due to work commitments.

Sam also invited anyone interested in becoming involved in DGU activities to let either himself or the Secretary know.

1. **ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

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

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

Tom Cumming (Kirkintilloch) asked what the reaction had been from the clubs to the proposals from SGL on mandatory use of the SGL Venue Management System for competitions and handicaps along with the proposed allocation of handicaps to non-club members. The Secretary advised that the vast majority of clubs who had contacted him were opposed to the SGL proposals. Tom stated that another Area had arranged a meeting with SGL so that their clubs could raise their concerns with SGL directly. Scott Abraham (Clober) also expressed his concern over the allocation of handicaps to non-club members. Ann Scott (Douglas Park) made the point that clubs had the ability to decide who played in their Open competitions and could set different prices for SGL club members and nomadic golfers. Sam Bolton encouraged clubs to raise directly with SGL as under the present governance structure the clubs had more power than the Areas and Counties.

Scott Abraham (Clober) raised concern over the delay in being advised by SGL of the result of the course rating undertaken some months ago and that the assessment was carried out during a very wet and windy day. The Secretary reported that SGL had told him that all the course ratings were due to be reviewed at a meeting in November with the results being issued to the clubs in early December. Alan Bell, who had led the course rating team, confirmed that he had reported the weather conditions to SGL so that they could be taken into account when the SSS was being calculated. Scott Abraham said that he thought the assessment should be done again in more normal weather conditions. Sam Bolton suggested that Clober wait on the result being received from SGL and if not happy to contact SGL.

Scott Abraham (Clober) suggested that as the numbers attending the annual dinner were now around 100 that the venue should rotate around the member clubs that were willing to host it so that the financial benefits were shared around. There were no objections to this and it will discussed by the Executive. It was noted that as bookings had already been made for the 2020 dinner that any change would not happen until 2021.

Jim McCallion (Vale of Leven) asked if SGL had any strategy to help clubs avoid financial ruin. Sam Bolton advised that in the current SGL structure the Areas and Counties had no real say in what priority was given to this and that the Areas had no more information than that being given to the clubs. Scott Abraham wondered if mass resignations might be necessary to make SGL react. Tom Cumming commented that communication from SGL was still really poor. It was noted that an SGL Regional Forum was due in the next few weeks where a number of our clubs and the Executive’s representative will be able to raise these concerns.

There being no further business, Billy Hannah (Treasurer) proposed a vote of thanks to Sam Bolton (President) for his chairmanship of the meeting.

**John Struthers**

**DGU Secretary.**