# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DUMBARTONSHIRE GOLF UNION HELD AT CLYDEBANK & DISTRICT GOLF CLUB ON WEDNESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2021

**PRESENT**

John Struthers (Hilton Park GC), Billy Hannah (Lenzie GC), Sam Bolton (Douglas Park GC), Frank Gloag (Hilton Park GC), Iain Orr (Hilton Park GC), Jim Devaney (Clydebank & District), Graham Smith (Cardross GC), Rob Campbell (Balmore GC), Bob Newton (Balmore GC), Brian Gifford (Clober GC), John Boyle (Clober GC), John Stirling (Clydebank & District GC), Ben Canham (Helensburgh GC), Chris Thomas (Helensburgh GC), Ross Campbell (Vale of Leven GC), David Bell (Vale of Leven GC).

**INTRODUCTION**

The President welcomed members to the meeting and explained that he would chair the formal part of the meeting and for the AOB would pass over to the Vice President so that he could write up the minutes.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Bob Provan (Dumbarton GC & Executive), Jim Paton (Kirkintilloch GC & Executive), Stuart McKee (Dullatur GC)

1. **INTIMATIONS**

The meeting noted the sad passing of Jim Hay of Kirkintilloch Golf Club. The meeting observed a minutes silence in memory of Jim and all club members who had passed during the past year.

**FORMAL BUSINESS**

1. **To approve of the minutes of the 2020 AGM.**

These were approved unanimously.

1. **Presidents Report**

The President gave the following overview of the past year.

*The Covid restrictions in place at the beginning of the year held back some of the early competitions and team matches but thankfully by the end of the year we were back to something approaching normality.*

***AFFILIATION FEES 2020/21***

*The welcome increase in membership numbers across member clubs has been reflected in the increased affiliation fee income which allows us to maintain our programme of events and team matches for 2021/22.*

*It became clear during the year that the present method of calculating the membership numbers to be used for the affiliation fee calculation causes confusion and additional work for club managers. It is therefore being proposed to change the process to align with that used for the SGL fees. This is a later agenda item.*

***JUNIOR COACHING***

*Covid restrictions and associated isolating periods held back the start but we are now running 2 groups with monthly sessions at Bishopbriggs Golf Range. The “Performance” group is mainly the previous year group supplemented by some new players. The “Development” group consists of younger boys who are showing potential to progress towards team play in future years. We are working with Scottish Golf to integrate with their national programmes.*

***ANNUAL DINNER & PRIZEGIVING***

*We did not hold a dinner in 2021 due to Covid and we intend to have a dinner and presentation of trophies in March 2022.*

***EVENTS***

*The match play championship final which was held over from 2020 was won by George Duncan in his last amateur event before turning professional.*

*The Strokeplay Championship was held at Windyhill Golf Club where the highlight was a 36 hole winning score of 12 under par by Andy Campbell of Dumbarton.*

*The Inter-Club knockout competitions were affected in the early stages by the Covid travel restrictions but with a bit of flexibility we managed to get the gents finals played on finals day at Cardross Golf Club with the junior competitions being completed in the October holiday week.*

*With the decreasing number of clubs able to produce a junior champion a new junior handicap championship was instigated. This proved successful with around 30 entries from a variety of clubs.*

*It was also good to see several juniors playing in a junior event run in conjunction with the spring meeting at Milngavie. Given the limited local opportunities for competitive junior play we will look to build on this next year.*

*The junior championship suffered from the adverse weather and after 2 cancellations was played in conjunction with the Lenzie Junior Open for which we are very thankful for Lenzie’s help in accommodating the re-arranged dates.*

***LEAGUE MATCHES***

*A tremendous year for both our Boys and Youth teams who won their respective West of Scotland Leagues.*

*The “A” team showed signs of progress with several younger players featuring in the team.*

*The format for the Scottish Area Team Championship is changing in 2022 with us having 3 matches in May, June and July against Ayrshire, Angus and the South. The winners of the mini-leagues will progress to a national final.*

*Changes are also expected in the junior area team championship but details of this are not yet known.*

***COURSE RATING***

*Covid restrictions meant that the programme did not really get underway on 2021. Our long standing team leader, Alan Bell, stood down this year and we are very grateful to Andy Robertson for stepping forward to take on this key role. Bob Newton has also joined the course rating team and will receive the appropriate training once we get underway in 2022. We also thank Iain Orr for his work as co-ordinator for the course rating team as he steps down from the Executive this year.*

***EXECUTIVE CHANGES***

*As mentioned previously both Alan Bell and Iain Orr step down from the Executive this year and we thank them both for their many years of service to the DGU.*

*We welcome to the Executive new members who are being proposed later in the agenda. It is great to see the increase in clubs represented on the Executive and a decrease in our average age.*

***ORDER OF MERIT***

*Discussions are ongoing with potential sponsors of a new format for both Gents and Juniors and details will be circulated to member clubs once finalised.*

1. **Financial Report**

Treasurer Billy Hannah explained the accounts and explained anomalies caused by the shut down in 2020. Specifically mentioned were the SGL coaching and ATC grants, the competition income and expenditure figures and the reduced coaching costs.

The accounts were approved unanimously.

1. **Budget Proposal**

The recommendation from the Executive was to retain the £2.50 affiliation fee for 2021/22. The Treasurer explained that although the budget presented was showing a projected deficit for the year it was expected to be somewhat less due to the increase in membership numbers.

As the projected deficit would reduce our reserves to an acceptable level it was likely that an increase to the affiliation fee would be needed next year.

The Balmore representative suggested that rather than waiting until next year when a significant increase may be required, that the fee should be increased to £3.00 this year. After discussion a fee of £3.00 was proposed by Balmore and seconded by Helensburgh. With no dissenting voices the proposal was passed.

1. **Proposed change to affiliation fee process**

The reason for the proposed change had been explained in a paper distributed to the clubs and the Secretary gave a brief resume of the reduced admin that would result from the revised process.

The proposal was carried with no dissenting voices.

1. **Convenors Reports**

These had been circulated to the clubs and the President invited questions or comments.

The Clober representative pointed out that Callum Rutherford had been omitted from the list of players in the Boys team matches. This was noted with apologies for the omission and will be corrected.

There were no other comments.

1. **Election of office bearers.**

The following were approved unanimously:

**Name Proposer Seconder**

PRESIDENT

**John Struthers Sam Bolton Billy Hannah**

VICE PRESIDENT

**Frank Gloag John Struthers Sam Bolton**

SECRETARY

**John Struthers Sam Bolton Billy Hannah**

TREASURER

**Billy Hannah Sam Bolton John Struthers**

1. **Election of Executive**

The following were elected to the vacancies on the Executive:

Bob Provan (Dumbarton GC)

Andy Robertson (Bearsden GC)

William McMeeking (Lenzie GC)

1. **To approve appointment of Independent** **Examiner.**

The appointment of Gordon W. Thomson C.A. (Bearsden GC) was approved unanimously.

1. **Any Other Business**

12.1 The Helensburgh representative thanked the DGU for their support during the year and asked about the pricing in the Reciprocal Scheme. The Secretary explained that this was not a DGU scheme but was operated by club managers on behalf on the clubs in the scheme. With the retiral of the Douglas Park and Bishopbriggs secretaries there was a gap in terms of who would ensure that club details concerning availability and pricing was up to date. The Secretary will endeavour to find club managers willing to take on the co-ordination of the scheme. It was noted that each club had the ability to set the price for their own course.

12.2 The Helensburgh representative asked about giving the courtesy of the course to Ladies Counties and other visiting parties. The Secretary explained the difference between Areas and Counties and how they are funded. Ultimately it is up to clubs to decide whether to give the courtesy of their course or not.

12.3 After discussion on the format of DGU stroke play events it was determined that a Texas Scramble format will be trialled in one of the competitions in 2022. It was noted that the recommended handicap limits for a Texas Scramble had been changed under WHS and the Secretary will consult with M&H convenors before setting the terms of the competition.

12.4 The Vale of Leven representative commented on the Golf in Scotland events and the potential clash of dates with local events.

12.5 There was a general discussion on junior golf and the Secretary asked clubs if they could consider holding a junior open in 2022. The DGU Executive members will be happy to give advice and offer any other help that clubs may require.

**John Struthers**

**DGU Secretary.**