

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DUMBARTONSHIRE GOLF UNION HELD
AT CLYDEBANK & DISTRICT GOLF CLUB ON THURSDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2023**

PRESENT

John Struthers (Hilton Park), Billy Hannah (Lenzie), Frank Gloag (Hilton Park), Jim Devaney (Clydebank & District), Graham Smith (Cardross), Jim Paton (Kirkintilloch), David Thomson (Dumbarton), John Stirling (Clydebank & District), Ian Brodie (Douglas Park), Stephen Porter (Douglas Park), William McMeeking (Lenzie), David Russell (Balmore), Adam Burns (Balmore), David Bell (Vale of Leven), David Steele (Clober), Tom Foster (Helensburgh).

INTRODUCTION

The President welcomed members to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Sam Bolton (Douglas Park), David Carmichael (Cardross), Chris Thomas (Helensburgh), Hayston Golf Club.

2. INTIMATIONS

The sad passing of Honorary Vice President Allan Brodie was noted and the meeting held a period of reflection in memory of all club members who had passed in the past year.

FORMAL BUSINESS

1. To approve of the minutes of the 2022 AGM.

These were approved unanimously, proposed by Jim Paton, seconded by Ian Brodie.

4. Presidents Report

The President gave the following overview of the past year.

The Strokeplay and Matchplay Championships were held at Hayton with entries up again on the previous year. Congratulations to Strokeplay winner Iain MacCalman (Clober) and Matchplay winner Chris Clark (Bearsden). We believe that Chris may be the youngest winner since the Championship began in 1897.

The Spring Meeting was held at Kirkintilloch but unfortunately the entry was down on the previous year. Again a Junior event was held in conjunction with the men's event to increase the playing opportunities for our juniors.

The Texas Scramble went ahead this year at Clydebank and District and although popular it has to be said the bulk of the entries were from the home Club.

The West of Scotland Junior Championship was held at Cathkin Braes where Fergus Allan (Windyhill) won overcoming the defending champion Joseph Kelly (Cambuslang) 3/2.

The Junior Championship was held at Hilton Park, Chris Clark winning the Strokeplay with a level par 69 over the Allander course. In a repeat of last year's Matchplay final Fergus Allan (Windyhill) overcame Sam Sommerville (Bearsden). Fergus was 2 under par when the match finished and became only the second player to win two years in a row.

As a general comment we would welcome any ideas on how to get the message out about our various competitions and how to get more players involved. We have a social media following of approx 800 and we have about 400 email addresses and although the Secretary diligently advertises our competitions it is usually the same faces from the same Clubs we see every year.

Inter-Club Knockouts

There were 200 entries for this years competitions with 50 juniors playing including a number of girls. The Seniors Championship proved even more popular than the previous year and hopefully this trend will continue. The junior competitions will again be completed earlier in the year to avoid clashes with national events and West of Scotland League matches.

Annual Dinner and Prizegiving

Our second Dinner post Covid was reasonably well attended and again we were pleased to see so many competition winners turning up to collect their trophies. A big thank you again to Clydebank and District for hosting the event.

League Matches

Our "A" team had three matches in the Area Team Championship against North, Ayrshire and Argyll and Bute. Unfortunately a good win against Argyll and Bute in the final match at Cardross was not enough to see us qualify having already lost to a very strong Ayrshire side.

The Youth Team sadly fell short in their quest for the West of Scotland League title in what was very much a transitional year for them.

It was also a difficult year for the Boys Team again in transition having lost some of the senior boys from the previous year.

At this point I would like to say a big Thank You to all the Clubs who hosted our various events in the past year.

Junior Coaching

A slight change in strategy this year at the request of our Coaching Professional. Instead of three groups of 9 or 10 we have made the groups smaller 7 or 8 and increased them to four groups, 2 on a Monday and 2 on a Thursday once a month. This has made it more manageable for the Professional and it means the boys will get more individual attention.

During 2023 we ran a series of medal competitions during the school holidays with a view to giving the juniors more competitive play. These were reasonably well attended although we fell foul of the weather at Windyhill and Ross Priory. Undeterred we plan on doing something similar in 2024. Thank you to the Clubs who gave us tee times for these events.

SGL Areas & Counties

You may have read that SGL proposed to make changes to the Scottish Boys Championship making it a Strokeplay competition and doing away with the Matchplay element. This was not well received and they have now agreed to delay any decision pending more consultation. There are also changes to the WHS system due to be implemented from April next year. The calculation will now be Course Rating minus Par which will in effect make most the Course Handicap Charts redundant. Whilst it will be up to each individual Club whether or not to get these charts reprinted Scottish Golf would like to see the Scottish Golf

App used instead. The use of a QR code has also been suggested. The Regional Forums that were set up are still in place but have not met since before the pandemic.

The SGL General Meeting being held in December to approve proposed changes to the SGL Articles has prompted a number of Areas to raise issues of concern over a lack of transparency in the SGL operations. A promised Autumn consultation on the affiliation fee has also not taken place. A number of changes to the SGL Board have taken place in the last few months with no notification to members.

SGL are due to respond to the issues raised in advance of the General Meeting.

West of Scotland AGM

This takes place on 29th November and there are proposals that would change the format of the Leagues namely:- "A" Team would change to 2 x Foursomes + 4x Singles, Youth Team would be replaced by 4 x under 25's and 4 x over 25's. We are supportive of the "A" Team change but oppose the Youth Team change.

Course Rating

Five assessments were completed during the year namely :- Cawder Keir, Hilton Park (both courses), Milngavie and the new development at Hogganfield.

Executive Positions

Looking to the future we would welcome expressions of interest from people who would like to contribute to the DGU activities. Not necessarily to become Executive Committee members but to help run and plan the various activities and competitions, team matches, junior events, etc. Please contact the Secretary if interested.

2024 Competition Venues

The President thanked the following clubs for agreeing to host key competitions in 2024.
West of Scotland Championship – Douglas Park
DGU Championship – Cardross
DGU Knockout Finals - Helensburgh

5. Financial Report

Treasurer Billy Hannah explained the accounts and referenced key points. Income was up on forecast due to the retention of members within member clubs. The Annual Dinner finances benefitted from the reduction to one speaker. The provision of a new trophy and other repairs to damaged trophies were a one-off cost. We received the usual grants from Scottish Golf for ATC costs along with support for Junior Development. A late invoice from 2021 paid in 2022 had been accrued for in the 2021 accounts.

With no questions or comments the accounts were approved unanimously, proposed by David Thomson, seconded by John Stirling.

6. Budget Proposal

The recommendation from the Executive was to retain the £3.00 affiliation fee for 2023/24. The Treasurer explained that this would result in a very small deficit (£129) at the financial year end.

This was approved unanimously, proposed by David Thomson, seconded by John Stirling.

7. Convenors Reports

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

There were no comments.

8. Election of office bearers.

The following were approved unanimously:

Name	Proposer	Second
PRESIDENT Frank Gloag	John Struthers	Sam Bolton
VICE PRESIDENT Jim Devaney	Frank Gloag	John Struthers
SECRETARY John Struthers	Sam Bolton	Billy Hannah
TREASURER Billy Hannah	Sam Bolton	Frank Gloag

9. Election of Executive

The following was elected to the Executive:

Graham Smith (Cardross)

10. To approve appointment of Independent Examiner.

The appointment of Gordon W. Thomson C.A. (Bearsden GC) was approved unanimously, proposed by Billy Hannah, seconded by Jim Paton.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 William McMeeking (Lenzie) said that whilst he greatly appreciated the financial assistance given by the DGU to clubs' junior development activities he asked that the method of allocation be reviewed. Specifically that clubs with more juniors should receive a bigger share, e.g. 100 juniors v 10 juniors. The President agreed that this would be reviewed.

11.2 John Stirling (Clydebank & District) asked if the DGU could consider inviting the winners of the Fourball Knockout to the Annual Prizegiving as is the case with the singles competitions winners. Also if invites to the Team Championship winners could also be considered. The President responded that as the Fourball was now established with a good number of entries that invites for the winners would now be possible. The Team Championship winners' position will be reviewed.

11.3 Frank Gloag (President) raised the possibility of changing the format of the Junior Knockout to a mini-league to give the players more games. After discussion there was support for a format that gave more playing opportunities with the caveat that arranging more matches would ideally involve Club Junior Convenors helping with the scheduling of matches. The proposal will be progressed with junior Convenors.

Frank Gloag (President) closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and for their support in hosting the various DGU events.

John Struthers
DGU Secretary.