

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DUMBARTONSHIRE GOLF UNION HELD AT
DOUGLAS PARK GOLF CLUB ON TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2024**

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), Stephen Porter (Douglas Park), David Steele (Clober), John Cameron (Hilton Park).

INTRODUCTION

The President welcomed members to the meeting and introduced the top table.

1. APOLOGIES

Sam Bolton (Douglas Park), William McMeeking (Lenzie), Graham Wylie (Hayston).

FORMAL BUSINESS

2. To approve of the minutes of the 2023 AGM.

These were approved unanimously, proposed by John Stirling, seconded by Jim Paton.

3. Presidents Report

The President gave the following overview of the past year.

When we look back on the 2024 golfing season I think what most of us will remember is the weather and how badly it affected our playing of the game. I cannot remember a season when so much competitive golf was interrupted or cancelled due to bad weather and course closures.

The season began with the campaign to keep Dalmuir Municipal Course open after it was threatened with closure due to Council budget cuts. I am pleased to report that between the joint efforts of the members of Clydebank Overtoun and the County the Council had a change of heart and although I hope I am wrong I suspect it is a subject that will be visited again in the future.

Notwithstanding the weather there was a lot of golf played. The Strokeplay and Matchplay Championships were scheduled for Cardross GC at the end of August but unfortunately the aforementioned weather intervened and the Strokeplay event had to be abandoned midway through the first round when the persistent heavy rain flooded the course. The event was reduced to 18 holes and rearranged for Saturday 5th October. Congratulations to the Strokeplay winner Fraser Paul (Windyhill) and the Seniors winner Brian Doherty (Cardross). The Wylie Trophy was won by the home club Cardross. Unfortunately due to weather and short daylight hours we were unable to complete the Matchplay event. This will be carried forward to next Spring.

The Spring meeting was held at Clober GC where the scratch trophy was won by Sam Somerville (Bearsden) with a fine 65. The Junior Stableford run in conjunction with this event was won by Oliver Renton (Dullatur).

The Summer Meeting/Texas Scramble was again held at Clydebank and District and again it proved popular with a large percentage of the entrants coming from the home club. The West of Scotland Championship was held at Douglas Park GC in mid May where local player Matthew Anderson shot a record equalling 64 to win by 5 shots from 5 players on 69. The team championship was won by Douglas Park.

The Junior Championship was held at Dumbarton GC with Craig Fortune (Clober) winning the Scratch prize. In the Matchplay final Cammie Pike (Lenzie) overcame Craig Fortune when he holed a 10 ft putt on the last green in what was a tight and keenly contested match. The Strokeplay championship attracted a full field of 48 players.

Inter-Club Knockouts

These competitions again proved popular with everyone including juniors and seniors. Finals Day took place at Helensburgh GC on 31st August when for a change the sun shone and all the finalists had a great day. The individual winners will be named at the prize giving but it is worth mentioning here that Carla Burns (Douglas Park) became the first female winner of a DGU Championship when she won the Junior Handicap Championship.

Before I leave this part of the report I would like to congratulate Milngavie Golf Club's Lorna McClymont who reached the final of the Ladies British Amateur Championship to go with the Scottish title she won at Nairn in May. Lorna was also selected for the G B and I Curtis Cup Team.

Congratulations also to Sean Smith Kirkintilloch GC one of the boys from our coaching college who was included in the first of the Stephen Gallagher Foundation Squads.

Annual Dinner and Prizegiving

This took place at Clydebank and District GC on 12th April when we were entertained by our guest speaker Alan Tait. A reasonable attendance and we were pleased to see so many prizewinners turning up to receive their trophies.

League Matches

Our "A" team had three matches in the Area Team Championships sadly losing all three to Renfrewshire, South and Borders. The matches against South and Borders were away from home at unfamiliar venues of Stranraer and Torwoodlee and although the team put up a spirited performance they fell short.

The Boys team fared a bit better losing two and drawing two of their matches.

Not such a good season in the West League Matches with the "A" team winning one and losing four and the Youth team faring slightly better winning two and losing three of their matches.

There was quite a bit of travelling involved in this season's matches and I would like to thank all the players who gave up their time to take part. I would also like to say a big Thank You to all the Clubs that hosted our various events in the past year

Junior Coaching

This continues during the winter months under the watchful eye of Colin Fisher Head Professional at World of Golf. During these sessions Colin covers all aspects of the game including warm up exercises and nutritional information he also takes the boys on to the golf course (weather permitting) when he teaches course management and game strategy.

During the school holidays this year in place of the medals we ran last year we encouraged the boys to enter the junior opens being run by Clober Lenzie, Clydebank & District, Helensburgh and Hilton Park Golf Club's . The entries were encouraging and we hope to continue this in future years and would welcome any other club prepared to run a junior event.

In September I took a team of six boys from the College to compete in the Scottish Junior Team Championship at Panmure GC and I am pleased to report that the team came in a very creditable 5th place.

At last year's AGM a question was asked regarding the allocation of the coaching grant the suggestion being that those clubs with a large active junior membership should get proportionally more of the coaching grant. The Executive did discuss the matter and decided that there should be no change to the allocation at present.

SGL.Areas & Counties

Very little to report here , Robbie Clyde took over as the new Chief Executive of Scottish Golf and has been busy getting around the country visiting Clubs and Counties. There is also a new Scottish Golf Regional Manager in place to liaise with the Clubs and Counties and he has also been busy doing the rounds I know that he has visited my own club Hilton Park and at least one other in the area.

West of Scotland AGM

This takes place tomorrow night (27th) at Loudon GC when Dumbartonshire will take over the chair. Once again there are proposals to change the format of the league matches with the "A" team matches reverting back to the previous format of 8 singles matches. The format this year of 2 x foursomes and 4 x singles has not proved popular with the team managers and players. The second proposal concerns the Youth team matches where GGU are proposing as a one year experiment the upper age limit be increased from 25 to 30 years of age. There would be a review at the end of the 2025 playing season.

Course Rating

This task is now being undertaken by a team from Scottish Golf.

Again looking to the future we would welcome expressions of interest from anyone who would like to contribute to the DGU activities.

Finally on a personal note this will be my last report as President and I would like to take this opportunity to say that I am honoured to have been DGU President for the last two years and would like to thank everyone on the Executive and at our member clubs for their support.

I wish my successor, his team and all the member clubs all the very best for the coming season.

4. Financial Report

Treasurer Billy Hannah explained the accounts and referenced key points. There had been a slight increase in membership fee income showing a hopeful trend in membership retention across our member clubs. A new interest bearing bank account had been opened which gave us an additional income stream of £430. Expenditure was over budget due to the number of away matches played by the teams, especially in the Gents and Boys Area Team Matches. The Boys ATC being in Banff which necessitated 2 overnight stays. Overall there was a small surplus, £172.

John Stirling asked about the increase in uncashed vouchers and Billy explained that this was due to the high volume issued (Strokeplay Championship and Finals Day) just before the end of the financial year. It is not due to players not cashing vouchers.

The accounts were approved, proposed by John Stirling and seconded by Stephen Porter.

5. Budget Proposal

The recommendation from the Executive was to retain the £3.00 affiliation fee for 2024/25. The Treasurer explained that this would result in a very small surplus (£122) at the financial year end.

This was approved unanimously, proposed by Stephen Porter, seconded by Graham Smith.

6. Convenors Reports

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

There were no comments.

7. Election of office bearers.

The following were approved unanimously:

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

8. Election of Executive

There were no new nominations and no retirements.

The Chair of the meeting was then taken over by incoming President, Jim Devaney.

9. 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.

10. Any Other Business

There being no further questions or comments, Jim Devaney (President) closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and to Douglas Park for hosting the AGM.

John Struthers
DGU Secretary.