

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DUMBARTONSHIRE GOLF UNION HELD AT
CLYDEBANK & DISTRICT GOLF CLUB ON FRIDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2025**

PRESENT

Jim Devaney (Clydebank & District), Graham Smith (Cardross), John Struthers (Hilton Park), Billy Hannah (Lenzie), Sam Bolton (Douglas Park), Frank Gloag (Hilton Park), David Thomson (Dumbarton), William McMeekin (Lenzie).

INTRODUCTION

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

1. APOLOGIES

John Cameron (Hilton Park), John Stirling (Clydebank & District). Sharon Edgar (Lenzie), Iain MacCalman (Clober)

FORMAL BUSINESS

2. To approve of the minutes of the 2024 AGM.

These were approved unanimously, proposed by Billy Hanna seconded by Graham Smith.

3. Presidents Report

The President gave a summary of his overview of the past year. The complete text of his report is as follows.

Presidents Report

What a whirlwind year since I took up post last November. Not even before a golf ball was hit in 2025 I was receiving invites from neighboring counties to attend their presentation nights which I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and spending time with my fellow presidents, but also with Dumbartonshire taking on the responsibility of the West of Scotland league this also added to what was a busy diary.

It was a very proud moment for myself to host Dumbartonshire's annual dinner and prize-giving where I had the great pleasure of welcoming the new President of Scottish Golf Lynne Terry in what was her first engagement since taking on the role

The season once again 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 a trust formed by local clubs (Overtoun, Radnor Park, Kilbowie, Clydebank Seniors) secured a 3-year lease at £1/year, effective July 2025. Local MP Douglas McAllister leads a taskforce to pursue Community Asset Transfer, keeping the course operational during negotiation. All bodes well for the future.

Events

Spring Meeting 2025 – Clydebank & District Golf
DGU 2025 Strokeplay Championship- Lenzie Golf Club
Wylie Trophy Team Championship – Lenzie Golf Club
DGU 2025 Matchplay Championship - Lenzie Golf Club

DGU 2025 Seniors Strokeplay Championship - Lenzie Golf Club

Autumn Meeting 2025 – Douglas Park Golf Club

DGU Junior Strokeplay Championship – Balmore Golf Club

DGU Junior Matchplay Championship – Balmore Golf Club

The Strokeplay and Matchplay and Wylie Trophy Team Championships were played at Lenzie GC on the 20th of July with the Strokeplay being contested over 36 holes by 40 players. Congratulations to Craig Bissett (Dumbarton) who was victorious after a countback after tying with David Lindsay (Lenzie) both scoring a two-round total of 137. The Wylie Team Trophy was won by the home club (Lenzie). Congratulations also to Senior's winner Brian Doherty (Cardross) who has successfully defended his title. The Wylie Trophy was won by the home club Lenzie.

Congratulations also to Craig Chalmers (Lenzie) who had earlier in the year had won the 2024 Matchplay championship at Cardross which was carried forward from the due to the cancellation of the event due to weather. Craig successfully defended his title by defeating Iain McCalman (Clober) in a closely contested final.

The Spring meeting was held at Clydebank & District GC where the scratch trophy was won by local player Stewart Brown with a scratch score of 70 defeating Craig Bissett (Dumbarton) on a countback. The Handicap was won by Another C&D player, John Stirling. with a net score of 67.

The Autumn Meeting was played at a rain sodden Douglas Park Gc on the 14th of September. Congratulations to Liam McGrogan (Dumbarton) who won with an excellent scratch score of 71.

The Junior Championship was held at Balmore GC with Cameron Burns (Douglas Park Golf Club) winning the Scratch prize. In the Matchplay final congratulations to Cameron Burns (Douglas Park Golf Club) also won the final against Ishan Rohatgi (Bearsden Golf Club) in a closely fought match. The Strokeplay championship attracted a full field of 51 players with 8 players qualifying for the matchplay stage.

Inter-Club Knockouts

These competitions again proved popular with everyone including juniors and seniors.

Finals Day took place at Dullatur GC on the 30th of August where the weather almost had a big impact on all the finalists with a terrible week of rain prior to the event we were putting contingency plans in place if the golf course was to be unplayable but fortunately there was a break in weather with all finals being played and completed just! The individual winners will be named at the prize giving.

Annual Dinner and Prizegiving

This took place at Clydebank and District GC on Friday 11th April when we were entertained by our guest speaker Willie Allan. There was good attendance, and we were pleased to see so many prizewinners turning up to receive their trophies.

Team Matches

Our "A" team had three matches in the Area Team Championships sadly losing all three to Fife, Angus and Argyll & Bute Golf Associations. The matches started with a fine win against Angus at Downfield Golf Club but unfortunately, we lost to Fife in what was a home match played at Hayston Golf Club. Our final match in the league stage was at home against Argyll & Bute where we recorded another fine win. Fife who was unbeaten in the league fixtures, went on to win the 2025 Area Team Championships by defeating Glasgow Golf Union in the semi-finals and Renfrewshire Golf Union at

the finals weekend hosted by Elgin Golf Club. Congratulations to Fife Golf Association on their fine win.

The Boys team travelled to Hamilton Golf Club on the 14th September where they played foursomes in the morning round and single in the afternoon round, the accumulative total for the day was 157. **Lothians** secured the championship for the third consecutive year.

Not such a good season in the West League Matches with the “A” team winning one and losing four and the Youth and Boys team also recording the same result of one win and four losses in their respective leagues.

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

We are running with 3 coaching squads in 2025/26.

The Area Coach for all 3 groups is **Colin Fisher** who is based at Great Western Golf.

The framework for the sessions will consist of the following:

Self-assessment

Measure data

Goal setting

Plan

Action

Self-assess and review

Much of the work in the early stages for the new players will be around building sound fundamentals, improving concepts and gaining an understanding of what factors control a ball flight, so they can slowly begin to self-organise and adjust based on ball flight observations. Thereafter, into the new year of coaching starting, building skills, particularly wedges, greenside shots and putting, then starting to build key playing skills with strategy and decision-making.

With the returning players, much of the work will be wedge play, short game and putting, then onto performance support skills. Routines, Strategy, Mental Game, Emotional Control, Tournament Preparation, Practice habits etc.

Technology & Communication

Throughout, we will use the CoachNow app to communicate with players and parents and this is also where we can log video footage, Trackman and SAM Puttlab data where applicable, homework tasks and reflective notes from practice and competitive rounds.

CoachNow is a brilliant resource and allows the players and their parents on the go access to all their info at their fingertips. The only people who have access to the players ‘Training Space’ on CoachNow are the player themselves, their parent/s/guardian and the coach.

2026/27 Intake

Clubs will be asked for their nominations towards the end of the season. Once a review of the current programmes has been completed guidance as to the selection criteria will be published.

Coaching Provided by Clubs

Clubs who deliver their own Junior Coaching may claim a grant towards the cost in providing this coaching.

Claim forms and further details will be sent to Club Managers / Junior Convenors in May 2026.

Junior Events

Throughout this year DGU and member clubs have hosted junior opens with the following events being played.

DGU Strokeplay - Balmore Golf Club
DGU Matchplay - Balmore Golf Club
DGU Junior Spring Meeting - Clydebank & District Golf Club
DGU Junior Summer Meeting - Kirkintilloch Golf Club
Clydebank & District Junior Open
Hilton Park Junior Open
Milngavie Junior Open
Clober Junior Open
Dullatur Junior Open
Helensburgh Junior Open
Lenzie Junior Open

Congratulations to Lewis McGlinchey (Clober GC) who has won this year's boys order of merit.

SGL Areas & Counties

We are working very closely with other counties in communicating with Robbie Clyde Chairman of Scottish Golf. There is also a new Scottish Golf Regional Manager in place to liaise with the Clubs and Counties.

West of Scotland AGM

This took place on Friday 14th November at Clydebank & District clubhouse, on the 2 year rotation of the chair it is Dumbartonshire's turn in 2025 and 2026. A proposal from Glasgow Golf Union to increase the age limit in the Youth League from 25 to 30 did not attract a seconder so was not progressed.

A discussion on the concerns that have been raised with Scottish Golf confirmed that the majority of the West of Scotland Areas supported the proposals.

The main concerns and suggestions are as follows;

Back in **February** the Presidents of the 6 West of Scotland Areas (Ayrshire, Dumbartonshire, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and Stirlingshire) met with the SGL CEO to discuss a number of areas of concern around the events that SGL are running or more to the point have stopped running.

Although we are all committed to providing a range of events to allow players to grow and develop there is a view that too much of the SGL emphasis is on the elite players and members of Open Play. In the view of the Areas it especially leaves gaps in terms of the opportunities for our boys and youths to develop.

The specific points initially raised are as follows:

1. The Areas consider that a proportion of the field in the Scottish Boys Strokeplay currently played in April, should be made available to Scottish players only. Our suggestion is 50% of the field should be home grown talent, this has been previously suggested by our Executive members at recent Regional Forums. As per item two, the Areas consider that this tournament has a date swap with the Scottish Boys Matchplay.

Rationale on this is, that many Areas, Counties and Clubs provide various coaching programmes to enhance junior golf and when it comes to play in their national championship they find they are unable to get an entry due to other countries making multiple entries and eliminating Scottish players. The SG Strategic Objective is to nurture talent therefore we must provide avenues for the players to achieve this by providing entry to our national competitions.

2. The Areas consider that the Scottish Boys Matchplay Championships currently played in July, should revert to being a Matchplay Championship from the start to finish as it was previously. Therefore, eliminating the Qualifying element and allowing 256 Boys to compete in a full Matchplay set up. We also consider that this tournament should swap dates with the Scottish Boys Strokeplay and be played in April with the Strokeplay taking place in July

Rationale is that this would enhance the player experience and ability to play in such type of tournament and remove the pressure of having to pre-qualify.

3. The Areas wish to propose that there is a grant increase for the Men's and Boys' Area Team Championships and also the current Area and County Investment Fund. We are aware that we have not had an increase in any of these for a considerable number of years and with the ever-increasing costs of providing hotels, food, coaching etc Areas and Counties would welcome support from the national body on these. We suggest that the minimum increase should be 100% in each of the funds available but consideration should be given to providing more than this.

Rationale in this is, the Areas and Counties have been instrumental in supporting Scottish Golf for the number of increases in the Per capita fees paid to Scottish Golf by Clubs over the past 5-7 years and now seek to see some further investment for that, at an Area and County level. In providing coaching, accommodation etc prices in all areas have increased for the Areas and Counties yet the grants have stayed static.

4. The Areas have been supportive of the recent re-introduction of the Scottish Mid-Amateur Championship, a competition that was removed from the Scottish Golf calendar of events some years ago, and the Areas wish to propose that Scottish Golf once again take this tournament back onto their regular schedule. Great strides have been made by the current committee taking this forward and SG and they should come together to ensure that this fixture is returned to a national event.

5. Similarly, the Scottish Youth Championship should also be re-instated as a national event. This tournament was well attended in the past and would provide another stepping stone for players who have come through Boys coaching at a national and Area/County level.

Rationale is that there appears to be a void between the Boys and Men's competitions, and this will hopefully provide a major tournament for those golfers progressing from the Boys ranks into Men's Tournaments

6. The Areas consider that the Scottish Team Championships be reinstated as a National Competition, this was removed from the SG calendar some years ago and was a well-respected tournament with the teams from the Areas' clubs providing their winning team in their respective Team Tournaments to find a Scottish Champion. We also consider that reinstating this would allow for the Scottish Champions to represent Scotland at the European Team Championships and Scottish Golf should endorse our entry to that as they did a number of years ago. In fact it was won by Balmore the last time it was held.

7. The Areas feel that there needs to be a better balance in awarding WAGR points so that players do not ignore the national championships in the chase for WAGR points in other tournaments. The elite players receive a lot of support in getting them to this point in their careers and to have then shunning the national championships to go after WAGR points elsewhere devalues our championship.

8. General Play scores. The Areas feel that the number of general play scores that are accepted at national championships should be restricted. Some countries have already introduced a limit to the number of general play scores that can be used in determining a handicap index for entry to major competitions.

Executive Positions

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 as President and I would like to take this opportunity to say that it is an honour to represent DGU as President this year and would like to thank everyone on the Executive and at our member clubs for their support.

4. Financial Report

Treasurer Billy Hannah explained the accounts and referenced key points commenting on the slight increase in club membership numbers and the strict controls over costs. The interest gained in our bank account was a welcome addition to our income streams. It was noted that catering costs at team matches were increasing as were travel costs associated with participation in national competitions.

The accounts were approved, proposed by Sam Bolton and seconded by David Thomson.

5. Budget Proposal

The recommendation from the Executive was to retain the £3.00 affiliation fee for 2025/26. The Treasurer explained that this would result in a very small deficit (£1,178) at the financial year end but was covered by our reserves.

This was approved unanimously, proposed by Billy Hannah, seconded by Sam Bolton.

6. Convenors Reports

These had been circulated to the clubs and the President summarised the key points, welcoming David Thomson to his new role as Coaching Convenor. The President again thanked all the players who took part in the team matches and congratulated all competition winners. There were no comments or questions.

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

David Thomson (Dumbarton) and Sam Bolton (Douglas Park) were unanimously elected,

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 Sam Bolton.

10. Any Other Business

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

Frank Gloag proposed a vote of thanks to the chair.

John Struthers
DGU Secretary.