



Argyll and Bute  
Golf Union

## Scottish Golf Union

Patron Her Majesty the Queen  
Argyll & Bute Golf Union

### Minutes of AGM 2010 Argyll Hotel Inveraray Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Meeting convened at 11-00am at the Argyll Hotel Inveraray, with President Murray Sim in the chair.

**Present:-** President M. Sim, J. Weir, G. Chalmers, C. McKechnie, J Innis, J.McKinlay, G. Bolton, C. McKirdy, & G. Morrison.

**Apologies:-** L. Pirie, R.Biggart.

**Minutes:-** Last year's minutes were read and approved : Proposed J. Weir, Seconded G. Morrison.

**Matters arising:-** None.

#### President's report:-

I'd like to start off again this year by thanking all the Clubs who very kindly provided the courtesy of their courses for our fixtures this year. We greatly appreciate the generosity of these clubs. We tend to circulate our events on the same courses apart from the Team Trophy competition and Machrihanish is the venue which is visited more than any others. The golfers who take part always look forward to playing there and we feel we're giving them the opportunity to play this world famous course at a very reasonable fee. This year we were fortunate enough to have our Handicap Championship at the new Machrihanish Dunes course. The majority of golfers who participated enjoyed the experience and it would be nice if we could have one of our fixtures at this venue again sometime in the future. Thanks go to the members of the Executive who negotiate and agree dates with their committees throughout the year.

All our competitions this year were completed successfully apart from the Senior's event in Rothesay which had to be cancelled as a result of low numbers putting their names forward. Overall however the attendances were fairly good. It is important that we have as many as possible taking part in these events and all members of the Executive have a responsibility to promote and encourage their fellow club members to take part. Publicity is crucial and I would ask all clubs to help us also in ensuring that our notices are displayed. The entry fees are minimal and our prize money is excellent and very seldom do these events clash with Club's Open Competitions. I would like to thank all the members of the Executive and on many occasions club members who willingly gave up their Saturdays and Sundays to run this year's events.

This is the first year in which the Area Team Championship was played in the new format. The general consensus of the event which took place during May over two courses at Kinross was not particularly good. With the extreme weather conditions we had earlier on in the year the course conditions were not perfect, the accommodation arrangements had many of the Areas complaining and perhaps more than anything our team did not perform as well

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as we had expected. Regrettably this was the only opportunity of the year we had for our guys to be competitive as a team and I feel if at all possible we should make arrangements for some friendlies to be played. It would be excellent if we were able to invite areas to the Kintyre Peninsula to compete in a competition over the two Machrihanish courses. There's no doubt this would attract a lot of interest and it's this type of event which we should always have in our plans. Next year the Championship is scheduled to take place in Prestwick over two links courses and even if we have weather similar to this year the possibilities of course conditions being as poor as this year are considerably reduced. My thanks to our Team Captain Calum McKirdy and to Graham Bolton and Les Pirie for organising our events this year.

Coaching for eight boys at the World of Golf centre with Professional Colin Fisher has now commenced. We have also provided financial assistance to a further junior who is being coached by Adam Hunter. Rigorous standards have been put in place by Colin and Les has indicated that to date the performances of all has been extremely encouraging. It is to be hoped that the handicaps of these boys who are lucky enough to get this opportunity will come down during next year's playing season. Thanks again to Coaching Convener Les Pirie who puts a lot of time and effort into managing the group. I think he benefits also from attending some of the sessions.

To conclude I would like to thank Richard Biggart for his years on the Executive. Richard has indicated that he wishes to stand down and on your behalf I would like to thank him for the work he has carried out throughout the last few years. Graham Bolton continues to look after accountancy matters on our behalf and I would like to thank him for doing this in such an efficient manner. Thanks also to Les Pirie who as well as working with the Juniors has been our Vice President and Secretary and he has carried out his duties in an exemplary way. John Weir has worked hard as our SGU Representative and thanks to him once again for doing this task on our behalf. I've enjoyed my time as President and certainly appreciate the support and assistance given to me by all throughout my term. I make no apologies for finishing my report on a similar note as I did last year with this reminder. Our Constitution states "that it is our role to foster and maintain a high standard of amateur golf throughout Argyll & Bute". We must be forever striving to exceed this aim.

### **Secretary's report:-**

Firstly I would like to wish a warm welcome to our two newest affiliated clubs, Ballachulish and Machrihanish Dunes.

The season began in April with Graham Bolton winning the matchplay title following a 2&1 victory over Les Pirie.

The Spring Meeting was held at Machrihanish at the end of May, the winner was Alan Wilson, the runner up being the experienced David Howie, with Robbie MacLarty in third, completing a Taynult 1,2,3. The first five players all tying on nett 70. In 4<sup>th</sup> place was local man Stuart Campbell who returned the best scratch score of 71.



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The team trophy was held at Inveraray in June, with Tobermory edging out the host club by 2 shots. 225 – 227.

In late June, the Handicap Championship was held at the Area's newest member club, Machrihanish Dunes. The winner was C. Smyth of Tarbert on 39 Stableford points. The runner up was Kenny MacCallum of Glencruitten with a remarkable 38 points, playing off 1. In 3<sup>rd</sup> place was K. Blair from Tarbert with 35 points.

The next event was the boy's championship at Cowal golf club. 43 boys entered the competition and the runaway winner was Bob MacIntyre of Glencruitten with a magnificent 72 gross. Runner-up was Scott Turnbull of Millport with a 78. There was a 3 way tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place on 80 between Alastair MacVicar, Craig Pirie & Sean Dunstaffnage. Handicap winner was John Stirling of Cowal with a nett 68.

The County Strokeplay was held at Millport in August and was won for the 9<sup>th</sup> time by Graham Bolton with a 139 total. Runner-up was Alan McKie of Glencruitten. Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> were John Jack of the host club and Alan O'Neil of Machrihanish.

The Youth's Championship was won by Craig Pirie with 148, second was Kevin Mapes & third Mark Turnbull of the home club.

The entry for our flagship event was a very disappointing 32, which meant that half the field qualified for the matchplay.

Only 4 of the entrants were of an age to participate in the youth championship, of those, 3 returned in both rounds and received vouchers.

I would like to see the youths championship continue, but think that in future we can only justify vouchers for the winner and runner-up or perhaps only the winner.

The boys Area Team Championships at Peebles saw our boys avoid last place finish by virtue of the North Area playing out of turn in the morning foursomes. However they still managed to emulate the 6 man team by finishing last of the teams who completed. For a while, it looked likely that we might have beaten Angus to 14<sup>th</sup> place but they triumphed by 3 shots.

Having watched the boys in practice, I have no doubts about their collective ability. I am sure the problem lies in their inability to just take a bogey; instead they try the miracle recovery and run up 7's and 8's.

I have tried to explain to the boys that not all pins need to be attacked and that sometimes missing the green on the wide side can result in a stress free up and down.

Hopefully their course management will improve with experience.

Congratulations to Bob MacIntyre of Glencruitten who won the European under 14 title at Gullane, beating a German boy in a sudden-death playoff.



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Unfortunately for Argyll & Bute his marathon week came to an end just a day before the Area team Champs at Peebles, and by the singles, the wee man was a spent force.

In addition, he finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the National under 14's and joint 19<sup>th</sup> in the under16's. He is currently playing in the SGU winter series; he was 5<sup>th</sup> in the opening event and 22<sup>nd</sup> last week.

### **AREA TREASURER REPORT:-**

The accounts from the union showed a small surplus of £253 for the year 2009/10.

This can be explained by a number of reasons.

#### **Expenses**

- 1) Championship expenditure for this year is slightly up on 2008/9 levels, with the seniors being the only event not taking place.
- 2) Team costs were slashed due to the revamped Area Team Championships and the unwillingness of other counties to play friendlies against A&B.
- 3) Our coaching costs were similar to previous years.
- 4) Meeting costs have stayed at previous year levels.

#### **Income**

- 1) Subscriptions received had decreased by nearly 5% this was due to the continued reduction in members within A&B. This trend is likely to continue in the near future with hopefully a bottoming out soon. 2010/11 budget figures allow for a further 5% drop in numbers.
- 2) Entries for our major event the Strokeplay Championship continue to fall. It seems an ageing adult golfing population are less willing to travel afield and support the Area Champs.
- 3) Area Team Grants have been cut in line with the changes in the Championship formats, however we still receive the maximum coaching grants available.

#### **Balance Sheet**

The balance sheet is still very healthy with £16,671.83 in the bank accounts and creditors comprising of outstanding vouchers still to be honoured of £982.50 and a coaching commitment to in respect of Robert McIntyre of approx £300.00



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The county is still in a strong position financially which has allowed the executive to continue to invest in our junior coaching with the aim to strengthen golf in A&B in future years.

I am confident that all income & expenses have been accounted for and that these accounts reflect a true and fair view of the County's affairs at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 with our reserves sitting at £16,204.63

Graham Bolton  
Area Treasurer

### **TEAM MANAGER'S REPORT:-**

A disappointing result at the Area Team Championship whereby the team with an average age of 40 were tailed off last.

It was also disappointing that the other areas seemed reluctant to play any friendlies during the past season.

### **COACHING CONVENORS REPORT:-**

We currently have 8 boys in our winter coaching programme at the World of Golf Clydebanks under the tutelage of head coach Colin Fisher. Colin has instilled a disciplined approach in the boys whereby certain standards are expected of all the boys.

John McKinlay asked whether the boys unsuccessful in being selected for Area Coaching had been informed. GB to clarify with Les Pirie.

### **S.G.U. REP'S REPORT:-**

Main point that may affect A+B members is the proposed amalgamation of the SGU and the SLGA. Meetings are taking place between the SGU and the 16 Areas where the proposal and its rationale are outlined and discussed. These meetings should be concluded by Mid December 2010. No decision will be taken before all clubs and Areas have been consulted.

The SGU AGM in January 2011 will debate the matter further at a workshop and at a further round of seminars in Feb/March 2011 where clubs areas and counties will be asked for their opinions/decisions. Any progress or otherwise will be voted on at a SGM March/April 2011



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CDH Central Database of Handicaps has run into a few significant issues which are being addressed urgently by GolfBox.No roll out date has been programmed.

Ian Harvey of Ayrshire has been nominated as Junior V.President.

### ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:-

Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
President/Secretary	Les Pirie	Graham Bolton	John Weir
V.President/Treasurer	Graham Bolton	Murray Sim	John McKinlay
Executive Members	Murray Sim	Calum McKirdy	John Weir
"	Gordon Chalmers	John Weir	Calum McKirdy
"	Jim Innis	Graham Bolton	Murray Sim
"	Craig McKechnie	Murray Sim	John McKinlay
"	John McKinlay	Graham Bolton	Jim Innis
"	Calum McKirdy	Graham Bolton	John McKinlay
"	John Weir	John McKinlay	George Morrison
"	George Morrison	Graham Bolton	Calum McKirdy

**AGM was closed at 11.45am**



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### MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING ARGYLL HOTEL INVERARAY SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010

Meeting followed the AGM, with Vice President Graham Bolton in the chair and the same Executive members present as elected at the AGM

MINUTES of 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2010:-

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Proposed by G.Bolton, seconded by M. Sim.

MATTERS ARISING:-

There had been no update in the use of DMD's, but an opportunity to discuss with Hamish Grey would take place after this meeting. (Hamish Grey confirmed that the status quo would remain for 2011.)

Murray Sim asked if it would be beneficial if the Area could ascertain all the open events within the Area in an effort to ensure fixture clashes were minimised. Clubs to be contacted as soon as practicable.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

<b>SGU REP</b> <b>J. WEIR</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b> <b>M. SIM</b>	<b>SECONDED</b> <b>G. BOLTON</b>
<b>TEAM MANAGER</b> <b>C. McKIRDY</b>	<b>M. SIM</b>	<b>G. BOLTON</b>
<b>COACHING CONVENOR</b> <b>L. PIRIE</b>	<b>G. BOLTON</b>	<b>C.McKIRDY</b>

#### CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was available at this time.

#### AREA SUBS

Four clubs had already paid their subscriptions for the coming season.

#### FINANCE

GB submitted accounts to 26<sup>th</sup> November. No income had been received in this new financial year as yet, with the main expenditure items being the costs of staging our meetings and the coaching commitment with World of Golf.



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There remained outstanding vouchers from the last playing season which the Treasurer will honour into the New Year. The Treasurer also submitted a budget for the coming year with a deficit of approx £600 being projected.

### COACHING

There was no further update on the Coaching at this time.

### EVENTS ROTA

With the two flagship events confirmed for Machrihanish next season. Venues for the remaining events were discussed. Rothesay GC would be willing to hold an event in July with a Sunday date to be sought for one of the handicap events. It was expressed that Machrihanish Dunes be approached with a view to hosting either the Spring Meeting, Handicap Championship or a Summer/Autumn meeting. Craig McKechnie indicated that Cowal likely be able to accommodate any approach from the Area.

Taynuilt expressed an interest in hosting the Boys' championship with a date in late July most likely. Tobermory most recent winners of the Team Trophy would be willing to host the 2011 Team Championship.

### AOCB

The SGU AGM will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2011 at Tulliallan. Accommodation has been booked our behalf by the SGU. It is likely the President & the V.President would attend.

### SGU AMALGAMATION

Hamish Grey, the Chief Executive of the SGU was welcomed to the meeting and gave a presentation on the current position as far as the Amalgamation of the SGU and the SLGA is concerned. This is part of the process of meeting with the sixteen areas to outline where the Organisations are presently including some of the history on how we have got to this point. Hamish outlined the key issues that need to be addressed on the move towards amalgamation. He emphasised that it would inevitably mean change for all of us - men, women, volunteers and staff members but it was important for everyone to keep in mind that the outcome has to be what is best for Scottish Golf.

At the end of the presentation a questions and answers session took place. Hamish was thanked for coming along to our meeting.

The meeting was closed at 12.05pm with a tentative date of 30<sup>th</sup> January 2011 being pencilled in for the next Executive meeting at the usual time & venue.