



Argyll and Bute  
Golf Union

## Scottish Golf Union

Patron Her Majesty the Queen  
Argyll & Bute Golf Union

# Minutes of AGM

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 11:00  
In the Inveraray Inn - Inveraray

The meeting convened at 11:00 at the Inveraray Inn, Inveraray, with President Gordon Chalmers in the chair.

**Present:-** President G. Chalmers, G. Morrison, M. Sim, J. Weir, G. Bolton, C. McKirdy, W. McAdam, J. MacMillan, G. Reynolds, I. Shaw, & T. Mundie

**Apologies:-** S Ellis

**Minutes:-** The minutes of the last AGM were read and approved:  
Proposed by G. Morrison, and Seconded by I. Shaw.

**Matters arising:-** None.

### President's report:-

I reviewing my report to last year's agm I had to suppress a chuckle as I realised that this year's would be even briefer than last year. It seems incredible that another year has slipped away without me attending any of our events, largely through a catalogue of clashing family commitments. As always the sterling efforts of my fellow Executive members saw us complete most of our fixtures, and Graham's report carries the detail of how those went.

It is regrettable that we had to make the decision to cancel the Handicap Championship in June due to lack of numbers committed to playing at Glencruitten. This obviously caused the loss of the Area Team Championship as well. The potential loss of up to £1000 in running the competitions was considered too great a hit for the Union, and it is hard to see the Team Championship re-emerging in the short term, particularly in light of further financial blows as outlined in the Treasurer's report.

I spoke last year about challenges to the game nationally. These have not changed, and my report as representative to SGL will do little to raise hopes of a quick recovery in club membership and player numbers. I would dearly love to be able to imagine I leave the office of President with the Union and the Game generally in better shape than when I took over, but that would be to deny the size of the task ahead of us and the game in general.

With this in mind, we have to continue to nurture the young talents we have and do whatever we can to avoid losing further ground to competing demands on players' time and money. Experimenting with different formats for competitions (6-hole/9-hole/12-hole) adjusting



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handicaps, similar initiatives have been suggested and may in time change the norms of our game, but at the core we have to listen to what people want on a local level and try to accommodate them without unnecessarily aggrieving our existing membership who are after all the lifeblood of our clubs and game generally. It goes without saying this is more easily said than done. But doing nothing is not an option.

In conclusion, as I step down from the Presidency I'd like to thank all of you for your support throughout the year and wish you the best for the years to come, and wish Ian all the best as he takes over.

### Secretary's Report:-

Gentlemen

The season started in April with a tremendous win for Robert Macintyre of Glencruitten at the Scottish Champion of Champions event at Leven. Our two other representatives especially Craig Pirie performed as expected. Craig leapt up the field on the Sunday with two under par scores. Graham Bolton trailed both Bob and Craig with some erratic play.

Our Area events opened with the Matchplay Championship at Machrihanish. The event took place in the norm for the time of year with cold and windy conditions dominating the weekend.

The semi – finalists were the favourite Craig Pirie & George Macmillan. The other semi featured David Graham and Graham Bolton

Craig emerged from the top half of the draw with a tight win over George and Graham took advantage of some erratic play from David to win fairly comfortably.

In conditions which were blustery and cold. Craig won easily as Bolton was unable to take advantage of some opportunities early on and Craig's steady play saw him win his first matchplay title.

Early June saw Grangemouth GC venue for the Boys' Area Team Championship. The Argyll and Bute team of Alastair Shaw, Lewis Brown, Scott McAlister and Niall Gallacher finished in a tie for 14th place. Many thanks to Ian Shaw and Graham Brown for accompanying them.

Day	Round	Players	Score	Round Score	Day Score	Total Score
SUN 05/06	R1	Scott Mcalister/A Shaw	85	168		
		Lewis Brown/NIALL GALLACHER	83			
	R2	Scott Mcalister	78	236	404	404
		A Shaw	85			
		NIALL GALLACHER	79			
		Lewis Brown	79			

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On the same weekend as the Boys ATC the Spring Meeting took place at a Cowal with 73 entrants. Andrew Barton from Cowal won the 2016 Spring Meeting at a canter. His superb 69 less 3 net 66 was enough for a convincing victory over club mate David Hunter with a net 70. In third place was Bertie Flint(snr)

The winners were as follows

1	Barton, Andrew Cowal	69 - 03 = 66	Overall Winner & Lowest Gross Score
2	Hunter, David Cowal	70 - 00 = 70	Overall Runner-Up
3	Brown, Lewis Tobermory	73 - 03 = 70	Overall 3rd
4	Flint, R Snr Cowal	79 - 08 = 71	Overall 4th
5	McHutchon, Craig Cowal	85 - 14 = 71	Overall 5th
6	Dick, Calum Cowal	80 - 09 = 71	Overall 6th
7	Cairney, John Cowal	84 - 13 = 71	Overall 7th
8	Goffin, Ian Cowal	77 - 05 = 72	Overall 8th

Inveraray hosted the Boys Championship in July with a first time winner in Alastair Shaw, Alastair followed up his under 16s win the previous year at Taynuilt. Alistair Harris from Millport won the under 16's. Congratulations to all who bothered to play as the field were only 12 players. An alarming statistic, with the bulk of the players from Rothesay and Millport

The winners were as follows:

1	Shaw, Alastair Port Bannatyne	77	Under 18 winner
2	Harris, Alistair Millport	78	Under 16 winner
3	Brown, Rhuaridh Lochgilphead	79	
4	Brown, Lewis	80	



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	Tobermory	
5	Poole, Lewis Rothesay	81
6	Murphy, Steven Glencruitten	82
7	Gallacher, Niall Millport	84
8	Murray, John A Rothesay	86
9	Jack, J Millport	91
10	Donaldson, M Millport	95
11	Adam, Cameron Millport	114
12	Jack, L Millport	116

August saw a return to Machrihanish Dunes for the Area Strokeplay Championship. A field of 38 had gathered to compete for the Area's main championship. In the morning the players were greeted by a stiffening easterly breeze along with heavy rain showers.

This did not deter Gordon Tyre and Calum McKirdy who set the early pace with two over par scores of 74. This established a two shot advantage over Stuart Campbell , with David Lamont a further two shots adrift.

The afternoon round saw conditions improve as the day went on and this was reflected in the scoring. Gordon Tyre despite slipping to a score of 77 in the afternoon became clubhouse leader with a 151 total. This 151 total did not look threatened until Graham Bolton with an afternoon 71 to add to his morning's 79 for a 150 total and sneak in front with only a few games out on the course.

With nobody else scoring better than a 73 in the games remaining, Bolton emerged with an unlikely victory and secures his 10th Argyll & Bute Stroke Play title. In third place was Chris Carson with a total of 153 with John Jack and Davey Lamont joint fourth on 154.

The winner of the Youths title was Andrew Wallace who defended his title from 2015.

The winners of the Team Trophy were Rothesay Golf Club, who represented the Area at the National final at Stranraer on the 18th September 2016 and finished a creditable 7th place despite a faltering finish from their representatives.

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The 2017 Stroke Play Championship will be held at Millport Golf Club on the 19th August 2017.

The highlight of the golfing year was undoubtedly Robert McIntyre's run in the British Amateur Championship at Royal Porthcawl, South Wales. Robert got to the final after some inspired play, so much so that two of the executive decided on a Friday night road trip to support Bob in the final. Bob was up against Hampshire's Scott Gregory in the 36 hole final. The final was a close fought affair with Bob coming up just short in securing a trip to the 2017 Masters amongst other rewards. Gregory's short game proved the deciding factor with some inspired bunker play emerging a 2&1 victor. Bob followed this up with a great 4th place in the European Amateur Championship and also represented his country in the prestigious Eisenhower Trophy in Mexico.

September saw Dalmahoy host the Scottish Area Team Championships over the East and West course on the outskirts of Edinburgh.

The Argyll & Bute team of Robert Macintyre, Craig Pirie, George Reynolds, David Hunter, Alistair MacLean & Graham Bolton finished twelfth with Bob Macintyre and Craig Pirie leading the way, however inconsistency from the others saw our hopes of qualifying quickly evaporate.

On September 17th saw the Glasgow Youths' Championship at Ralston with the area represented by Alastair Shaw, Lewis Brown and Scott McAlister. Their individual scores were some way short of Calum Fyfe's 133 total in glorious weather.

The Argyll & Bute seniors' team finished down the field 8th in the Scottish Seniors ATC at Largs, with Les Pirie our best performer with 75.

Finally Alastair Shaw played in the Boys Champion of Champions at the Duke's at the end of October. His score of 77 put him in the top half of the scoring.

Away from the playing side cuts to our Area grants will likely have a serious effect on our ability to continue with our various programs etc. There is no longer any Area team grant for both the Boys and Mens teams and the continuation of the coaching grant is also in serious doubt after next year.

With the new organisation approaching a year old, and the CEO & depute CEO departing the scene, there still seems to be distrust between the counties/areas and the management. Various changes have now taken place in how the national events are structured. No event seems safe from change. Watch this space.



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Finally I would like to thank our member clubs, without their help we would have no venues for our area events, and a special thanks to you the area executive for officiating in the events we held ensuring our events run like clockwork.

**Graham Bolton (Area Secretary)**

### **TEAM MANAGERS REPORT :-**

September saw Dalmahoy host the Scottish Area Team Championships over the East and West course on the outskirts of Edinburgh.

The Argyll & Bute team of Robert MacIntyre, Craig Pirie, George Reynolds, David Hunter, Alistair MacLean & Graham Bolton finished twelfth with Bob Macintyre (28<sup>th</sup> place) and Craig Pirie leading the way, however inconsistency from the others saw our hopes of qualifying quickly evaporate.

Lanarkshire won the event by beating Lothians 5-4 in the final.

### **COACHING REPORT :-**

5 boys received coaching from Colin Fisher at Great Western Golf. Progress amongst the boys was variable with Jack Reynolds and Niall Gallagher singled out as those who have definitely progressed.

Ken Campbell of Machrihanish continued with Henry Palmer for another winter. Feedback has been limited with only a few scores record on CDH throughout the season. The player has not competed in any area events in the past two years.

With finance a major part to play whether we can sustain the current program a discussion will take place at the first meeting of the new executive on how our coaching program will be delivered.

### **Treasurers Report:-**

#### **AREA TREASURER REPORT 2016**

The accounts from the union showed a deficit of £326.40, this was slightly less than anticipated due to events being cancelled. These events would normally run at a small loss, but due to lack of entries a decision to cancel them was made to stop greater losses being made. There are some significant changes in income/costs in 2016 compared to 2015, which require consideration. The accounts presented have not been audited as yet, but will be available soon.

#### ***Expenses***



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- 1) We have continued to invest heavily in our junior coaching, but no decision has been made regarding the coming year. However on a positive note the coaching grant has been preserved for a further 12 months.
- 2) Team costs have decreased slightly due to the area being prudent. We have sought out best value accommodation with the Area men's team staying in the Premier inn rather than at the venue's Dalmahoy country club, where a one course lunch excluding drinks was in the region of £11 per head. We now no longer receive any grants for either the Boys ATC or indeed the senior ATC where a grant of £500 was available. Going forward venue locations will dictate the level of costs incurred. I.e. further away the more expensive due to travel.
- 3) Player support costs at previous year levels. Support going forward will require reviewing.
- 4) Championship costs down by 30%. Primarily due to events being cancelled. The structure of our events program also requires review.

### ***In come***

- 1) Subscriptions have fallen again with over £500 reduction. This equates to 170 male members across A&B.
- 2) We continue to receive grants from the SGU for coaching, but likely this will be the last year.
- 3) Entry fees received cut dramatically for obvious reasons, but as stated above a review of our events is required.

### **Balance Sheet**

The balance sheet is still very healthy with £13312.95 in the bank accounts and creditors consisting of outstanding vouchers still to be honoured of £805 and other expenses totalling £375.00 including audit fee. We are still in a pretty financially secure state, and can continue at current levels for some time, however falling member numbers and reduction in events and grants receivable will impact on our ability to provide events etc. I still propose that a per capita charge of £3.00 be levied to male members within the Area next year, as I believe the way things stand we have no mandate to push through any increase.

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 30th September 2016 with our reserves sitting at £12495

Graham Bolton  
Area Treasurer  
26th October 2016

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Profit & Loss Account 2015/16		30/09/2016	
		2015/16	
Income		£	£
Subscriptions			8,616.00
SGU Boys ATC Expenses Refund			-
Championship Entry Fees			1,192.00
SGU Grants	Area Team Championships		-
	Coaching Grants		1,250.00
Sponsorship & donations			-
Other fund raising ball raffle)			-
Clothing Sales			60.00
Bank Interest ( net)			6.92
			<b>11,124.92</b>
Expenditure			
Championship costs		3,007.85	
Team Championships		1,964.64	
Area Player Support		732.69	
Team Clothing		448.71	
Meeting Expenses		811.60	
Audit fee		355.00	
Secretarial Expenses	Post, Stationery, Telephone	50.00	
	Honorarium	1,320.00	
Coaching		2,272.80	
SGU AGM Attendance		-	
Software purchase/ web space rental		261.41	
Insurance		220.32	
Sundries			
Bank Charges		6.30	
			<b>11,451.32</b>
Surplus/Loss for Period			<b>- 326.40</b>

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Balance Sheet		30/09/2016		2015/16	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets			-		-
Share Capital			1.00		
Bank			13,312.95		
Clothing & Ball stocks			450.00		
Debtor - G bolton			-		
					13,763.95
					<b>13,763.95</b>
Less Liabilities					
Creditor			-		-
Accruals - Vouchers still to be honoured			-		<b>805.00</b>
Accruals			-		-
Accruals - audit fee & secretarial			-		<b>463.00</b>
					<b>12,495.95</b>
<b>General Fund as at</b>	30th September 2015				12,822.35
Surplus/Loss for the year					<b>- 326.40</b>
			<b>30/09/2016</b>		<b>12,495.95</b>

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### **SGU Rep's Report:-**

I would be delighted to have a great deal to report on progress as SGL takes over from SGU and SLGA as the managing body for club golf in Scotland. In truth, that is not going to happen today.

In the last weeks as our AGM approached I started to wonder if I'd been dropped off a mailing list as the only correspondence I had been receiving over the year concerning SGL had come via our Secretary.

The AGM of the new body took place in March with an agenda literally packed with procedural and administrative minutiae which required nothing other than rubber-stamping, with the exception of one matter, the right of the Board to vary the per Capita by up to 5% pa without reference to the membership. In consultation with the Treasurer I submitted our Proxy vote against this proposal.

In late January Graham attended a meeting where various presentations and discussions regarding how the proposed regional forums would work, things they should consider and how to feed back into the management of Scottish Golf. A working group was had been set up under the chairmanship of Neil McDonald from Stirlingshire GU.

The objectives of the working group and the process they will facilitate with all regional bodies are:

- To consult and make recommendations for a practical break-down of Scotland into a number of regions of similar size, taking into account local affiliations, geographical links and the link to delivery of golf programmes
- To recommend the remit of the regions
- To make recommendations for how such regions should be funded
- To consider and recommend how regional and national forums should be established (including format, who attends and frequency) and what support they would require

I communicated with Neil in the last couple of weeks to get the latest. To summarise his reply, the first year of Scottish Golf Ltd (SGL) has not been without its troubles but the Board are delighted with the progress being made by the new Chief Executive, Blane Dodds, who has been copied in to my enquiry re progress.

It is the intention of Blane and the Chair, Eleanor Cannon to meet with Area and County officials between now and the end of December to discuss, amongst other things, the Regional Structure. It is thought they will encourage that Areas and Counties should remain as at present with SGL encouraging amalgamation at local level through time. Not all Areas and Counties operate the same way and some may find local amalgamation



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relatively straightforward (Perth & Kinross are well on their way) where others may take more time.

It is hoped that officials of the Areas and Counties will play an active role in the Regions, once formed, but rather than creating another layer of governance, the Regions should have an administrative role for example in Course Rating, Handicapping, Club Liaison. The role of Areas and Counties could predominantly be in running competitions, as they do now. It is felt this would avoid duplication of effort. In this way it is envisaged that the Regions, supported by SGL, could provide the conduit between SGL and member clubs in a structured and consistent way.

It would thus appear that what little progress has been made tends in a direction we had feared as regards dilution of the power/influence of Areas on National governance. We now await the proposed consultations/discussions with the new CE as and when this should occur.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:-**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Second</b>
President(1 year)	Iain Shaw	Gordon Chalmers	Murray Sim
Vice President	Terry Mundie	Murray Sim	Iain Shaw
Secretary	Graham Bolton	Iain Shaw	Calum McKirdy
Treasurer	Graham Bolton	Iain Shaw	Calum McKirdy
Exec Members	Calum McKirdy	Iain Shaw	Murray Sim
	Steve Ellis	Iain Shaw	Murray Sim
	Murray Sim	Iain Shaw	George Morrison
	Gordon Chalmers	Iain Shaw	Murray Sim
	George Morrison	Iain Shaw	Murray Sim
	Willie McAdam	Iain Shaw	Murray Sim
	Jonathan McMillan	Iain Shaw	Murray Sim

### **A.O.C.B. None**

The AGM was closed at 12.25,

Graham Bolton (Area Secretary)