

## **SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT CROSS PARTY GOLF GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH, 2013 AT THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT, EDINBURGH**

**Present:** Tavish Scott MSP (Deputy Convenor), Murdo Fraser MSP, John Pentland MSP, Neil Findlay MSP, Hamish Grey (SGU), David Connor (EventScotland and VisitScotland), Stewart Walker (Golf Tourism Scotland), Heather Gaunt (PGA), Jackie Davidson (ClubGolf), Fiona Farquharson (SLGA), Graeme Rose (Office of Murdo Fraser MSP), Kim Karam (Office of Tavish Scott MSP).

**Apologies:** David McLetchie MSP, Jacqui Stone (SportScotland), Ewen Cairns, Alan Grant (EventScotland), Robbie Clyde (EventScotland), Kim Atkinson (Scottish Sports Association), Daniel Gray (Scottish Sports Association), Lee Derrick, Gordon Todd (Scottish Enterprise), Chris Spencer (North Berwick Golf Club), Andy Salmon (Scottish Golf).

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

#### **2. Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012 Meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes of this meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.

#### **3. AGM – Election of Office Bearers**

All the Office Bearers were nominated and seconded in the same roles for the coming year. David McLetchie MSP remains Convenor with Tavish Scott MSP, Adam Ingram MSP and John Pentland MSP as Deputy Convenors. The SGU was again nominated and seconded in the role of secretariat.

#### **4. Presentation from Hamish Grey**

Hamish Grey (HG) gave a presentation on the newly agreed strategy for Scottish Golf to 2016. Copies of the Scottish Golf Strategy 2012 – 2016 were distributed to the group. This, and the presentation, included 'A Vision for Scottish Golf' and key goals.

The key goals to 2016 were outlined; more golfers, more members, stronger clubs, winning golfers, outstanding events, excellent governance and strong partnerships. HG discussed how these goals could be achieved by developing not just champions but also the best green keepers, managers, coaches and others and outlined success criteria and targets and said it was important to keep these aims in mind, especially after the recent spell of economic and climatic challenge for golf in Scotland.

Research is to be conducted on the future of membership in 5,10, 15 years' time and HG discussed this as well as explaining the need to reassess rules and regulations which will make new, younger members feel more welcome.

The SGU are looking to train 40 club managers per year. Over 80 managers have already been trained and HG described this process as 'critical'. Encouraging young players will result in an increase in adult players as they mature.

#### **Questions and Discussion:**

It was noted that there were no 'golf courses' targets in the document. HG said there was an audit on this carried out 18 months ago and the resulting Scottish Golf facility strategy is part of the overall strategy. It shows we do not need any new golf courses although Scotland may benefit from more practise facilities in strategic locations.

Discussion of membership and ways to save money, encourage more participation and on Clubs jointly procuring resources.

#### **5. Presentation from Jackie Davidson (ClubGolf)**

The presentation was on the latest programme outcomes. Various milestones have been reached including over 40,000 (81%) Primary 5 children participating in ClubGolf's introductory programme at school (which means 260,000 now in total).

Jackie discussed Clubgolf's vision, sponsorship and official partners and promotion (the programme is backed by world class golfers).

Alex Salmond has given assurances that the programme will be given financial support until 2018.

[Full presentation is available from Jackie Davidson should anyone wish]

#### **6. Update on Membership of Clubs**

Covered in previous discussion

#### **7. Any Other Business**

HG – Economic and Social impact study of golf in Scotland will be completed later in the year. There will possibly be a launch for this in the Scottish Parliament in September.

The Deputy Convenor thanked those who presented and those who attended.

There being no other business, the meeting closed. A date for the next meeting will be circulated.

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