

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT CROSS PARTY GROUP ON GOLF

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT, EDINBURGH

Present: David McLetchie MSP (Convenor), Chic Brodie MSP, Neil Findlay MSP, Murdo Fraser MSP, Adam Ingram MSP, John Pentland MSP, Dr Richard Simpson MSP, Robbie Clyde (EventScotland), Jackie Davidson (Clubgolf), Lee Derrick (Golf Tourism Scotland), Hamish Grey (SGU), Kim Karam (representing Tavish Scott MSP), Shonagh McEwan (representing the Scottish Green Party), Chris Spencer (Association of Golf Club Managers); Gemma Swinton (EventScotland) and Ron Wallace (PGA).

Apologies: Tavish Scott MSP, Sheila Hartley (SLGA), Andy Salmon (Scottish Golf), Gordon Todd (Scottish Enterprise); Alan Miller and Stuart Ferrier (**sportscotland**).

The MSPs present agreed to constitute a Cross Party Group on Golf for this new session of the Scottish Parliament in succession to the Group convened in the last Parliament by Tom McCabe. It was agreed that the name, purpose and office bearers of the new group would be as follows:-

1. Name:-

Cross Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Golf

2. Group Purpose:-

The cross party group on golf seeks to promote the development of the game of golf and its associated activities and industries in Scotland and to work with public bodies, organisations and businesses to that end.

3. Office Bearers:-

Convenor: David McLetchie MSP

Vice Convenors: Tavish Scott MSP
Adam Ingram MSP
John Pentland MSP

Secretary and Treasurer: Hamish Grey (Scottish Golf Union)

4. 2014 Ryder Cup

Robbie Clyde (EventScotland) gave a presentation highlighting the plans for and benefits of Scotland hosting the 2014 Ryder Cup at Gleneagles.

There followed detailed discussion covering matters relating to transport, pricing and general opportunities to leverage off the hosting of the Ryder Cup to maximise the benefit for Scotland. This applies not only to the period around the event itself but also before and after the event.

The opportunity which hosting the Ryder Cup provides for Scotland and its importance to the health of the game and industry was fully recognised and appreciated.

The Convenor thanked Robbie Clyde for his presentation.

5. AOCB

The Convenor intimated that the next meeting would consider the progress of the national junior golf programme, Clubgolf. As a key legacy of Scotland's successful bid to host the Ryder Cup this follows from the discussion at today's meeting. In the new year, once club membership returns are known and have been analysed by the SGU, a meeting would be held to consider the state of the game at club level.

The Convenor thanked everyone for their attendance at this inaugural meeting.