

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT CROSS PARTY GOLF GROUP

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH, 2015 AT THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT, EDINBURGH

Present: Tavish Scott MSP (Convenor), Chic Brodie MSP (Deputy Convenor), Jacqui Stone (**sportscotland**), Hamish Grey (SGU), Alan Grant (VisitScotland), Brian McLeish (Scottish Enterprise), Alan Fleming and Euan Black (University of the Highlands and Islands), Karen Swan.

Apologies: Jamie McGrigor MSP, Clare Adamson MSP, David Stewart MSP, Murdo Fraser MSP, John Pentland MSP, Gordon Todd (Scottish Enterprise), Chris Spencer (North Berwick Golf Club), Jim Gales, Stephen Cunningham and Peter Osbourne (Scottish Disability Golf Partnership), Karin Sharp (SLGA), Andy Salmon (Scottish Golf).

1. Welcome and Apologies

Tavish Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. AGM – Election of Office Bearers

The Office Bearers were nominated and agreed as follows: Tavish Scott MSP – Convenor, with Chic Brodie MSP and John Pentland MSP as Deputy Convenors. The SGU was again nominated and seconded in the role of secretariat.

4. Revised Scottish Golf Strategy

Hamish Grey gave a presentation on the revised Scottish Golf Strategy, highlighting the wide ranging consultation involved. Key changes include the fact that ClubGolf is now an integral part of the Scottish Golf Strategy and its focus has broadened to family golf. The Scottish Government has kindly agreed to increase its support to this programme by £1m over the next four year period (to April 2019). This is in addition to the ongoing commitment of £500k per annum throughout the same period. Other changes see a greater focus on quality coaching and club development.

In subsequent discussion it was agreed that Karen Swan discuss the local issue of practice facilities in South Ayrshire with **sportscotland**.

5. University of the Highlands and Islands

Euan Black and Alan Fleming from the University of Highlands and Islands (UHI) outlined the golf related courses available at UHI, including a new Professional golf qualification. It was agreed that UHI should discuss their plans with Chic Brodie as similar developments to link with the PGA were well advanced in Ayrshire.

6. TV Rights – Open Championship

There has been much debate about the recent decision by the R&A to award the TV rights for Great Britain and Ireland (GB&I) to Sky. It was highlighted that the BBC pulled out of negotiations for the live coverage of the Open and were only interested in a highlights package. They will take two hours of highlights each night. Sky will cover the event live and will show no more than four minutes of advertisements per hour. Coverage can be accessed for £10 for the week if a fan does not have access to Sky Sports coverage. There is no correlation proven between participation numbers and sports being shown live on free to air television and the R&A has stated that increased funds will be available in GB&I to invest in developing golf in the future as a consequence of the deal. Details for this remain under consideration.

7. Any Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair.