

Scottish Blind Golf Society Annual General Meeting

Held at RNIB, 12-14 Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh on Tuesday 12th June 2018 at 12.30pm

Attendees: Ally Reid, Sam Sloan, Charlie Forbes, Eddie Pawlik, Craig Clarke, Gordon Dickson, David Paterson, Darren Healey and Gill Lowther.

1: Roll call/apologies and establish quorum

Ally kicked off the meeting with a roll call, Gill confirmed apologies received and quorum was confirmed as over a quarter of members were present.

2: Captain/Chairman's comments

Charlie confirmed that the society had struggled with a number of resignations over the previous 7 months, although Ally, Sam and Charlie had all pitched in and kept things going. Gill and Craig have been recruited through the Volunteer Centre, Edinburgh, with thanks to Joanie. Now looking to the future to settle down.

3: Minutes of last AGM, matters arising and adoption

Minutes from the previous AGM were not available due to the website being down. It was therefore assumed that all minutes had been read and agreed.

4: Secretary's report/comments

Gill confirmed that there was little she could say due to time in the role, but a proper report would be available next year.

5: Financial report and SBGS accounts

5:1 Adoption of accounts

Craig talked through the key points from the accounts as follows. The accounts are for the year ending 31/10/2017.

Total unrestricted receipts for the year were £25,398.28, total outgoings were £28,976.95, leaving a deficit of **£3,578.67**. Although

a deficit has been incurred, this is a reduction in the deficit from the previous year which was **£8,703.85**.

There has been a restricted receipt from The Big Lottery Grant of £9,960, which can only be used as per the application.

The progress made in reducing the deficit has been due to a reduction in costs and also some income improvements.

The Balance Sheet of the Accounts (p6) shows funds of £22,159.30 held externally in the Scottish Disabled Trust account. This can be used for anything. The Auditors queried this amount which Craig was able to confirm the source etc., which the Auditors were happy with. As an aside this money has since been moved into the SBGS bank account.

Craig stated that SBGS should try to keep a minimum of six months' running costs in reserve in case of funding withdrawals, and confirmed that the bank account balance easily covered this.

The Auditors have signed off the accounts. Sam and Craig signed the accounts off in person at the meeting.

Therefore adoption of the accounts was proposed by David and seconded by Ally. All in agreement.

5:2 Strategy plan for 2018

Membership fees – there was full agreement that the £30 membership fee should stay as is for this year.

District Subsidies – last year the AGM voted to remove the £10 subsidy with members paying £20 a head for a district event. There was full agreement that this should stay the same for this year.

Prizes for centrally funded event – Craig proposed that the prizes should be improved upon. An example of a set of golf balls was cited from Stirling. It was proposed that vouchers should be issued: £25 for first, £15 for second and £10 for third. Charlie seconded this

proposal and all in agreement. Districts can decide their own prizes, but Charlie to talk to James regarding this.

Stroke play – keep at £60 with one overnight stay.

Match play – was cancelled due to lack of attendance. If there is no support again it will be cancelled, it was agreed that it is only viable with a minimum of 8 golfers.

International team contributions – there will be one international in 2019 – the Scotland vs England championship. There will be no contributions next year. David questioned whether this impacted the financial situation, which Craig confirmed was viable. However it was also proposed by Ally that this should be reviewed annually at the AGM. Craig seconded this and all in agreement.

SBGS training grants – Craig confirmed that The Big Lottery funding can only be used for the purpose that was put forward in the application. (Alex Scott, Marketing Consultant helped secure this). Therefore it should be spent on coaching for new/younger members, recruitment of new/younger members, equipment and training for existing members. This funding should be used within the year, however this would mean it being spent by the end of July 2018. It was discussed and agreed that despite an unsuccessful attempt by John Imrie in Aberdeen to put on an event for potential new young members more attempts should be made. Discussion covered trying to put on a training event with a possible overnight stay in Edinburgh, which could also be open to existing members. If this was used as a pilot, with a view to this being rolled out a couple more times, this would be a good investment of the funding and should meet The Big Lottery requirements. Charlie to action this.

6: Other Office bearers' reports

6:1 Match Secretary

Matches this year have highlighted the need to ensure that venues have at least six buggies for events to ensure that people are able to play. Some courses are flatter which may compensate for less buggies, but this is a good rule to go by.

There was a long discussion around the Jim Watt Memorial as to whether it should be a player/guide format, a merit counter, whether it should be hosted and paid for by Edinburgh or SBGS etc. All agreed that in some format it is nice to honour these figures especially as they are former friends and their families have requested that this be the case. Ally proposed that it should stay as is currently set up for this year and be paid for by SBGS, and then reviewed again at the next AGM. Darren seconded this and all in agreement. Sam to action this.

Sam asked for people to propose courses that have the minimum amount of buggies required and that would not charge us green fees in order for him to review these and extend his list of possibilities.

6:2 Handicap Administrator

Ally confirmed that the IBGA man who updates the handicaps is in the process of moving house. He answers to the IBGA Board but is not a member of it, he just volunteers. Therefore we need to bear with Ally while there is a delay in getting the IBGA website updated, but the handicaps will be updated by Ally and maintained.

6:3 District news

Edinburgh Classic is on 9th July, first tee time at 11.30am. This will be stroke play. There are only three buggies and these will be allocated on a needs basis.

Grampian Classic is on 17th September at Brechin, first tee time at 11am. There are four buggies available.

Glasgow Classic is on 21st June at Hamilton, first tee time at 10.30am.

7: Written proposals/amendments received

None received.

8: Election of office bearers

8.1: Captain Charlie Forbes: nominated by Ally Reid, seconded by Darren Healey. All agreed.

8.2: Vice Captain Sam Sloan: nominated by Charlie Forbes, seconded by Ally Reid. All agreed.

8.3: Treasurer Craig Clarke: nominated by Ally Reid, seconded by John Imrie. All agreed.

8.4: Secretary Gill Lowther: nominated by Ally Reid, seconded by Sam Sloan. All agreed.

8.5: Handicap Administrator Ally Reid: nominated by David Paterson, seconded by Cameron Mcdiarmid. All agreed.

Sam is currently Match Secretary but will need to give this up upon taking over the Vice Captain role. Section 4 of the Constitution governs this, but does allow for the roles of Match Secretary and Handicap Administrator to be undertaken by one person as an interim measure until this can be resolved at the next AGM. Therefore Ally will take over the role of Match Secretary from Sam with his help.

9: AOB

Craig highlighted that the content of an AGM should be a summary of the previous year. The Captain should cover off items such as Order or Merit, key results etc. It was acknowledged that the late timing of this AGM did not help and therefore it should be held a lot closer to the end of the year.

Ally proposed a wording change to the Code of Conduct, specifically to sections 7.D and 7.E. He detailed the reasoning behind was it to ensure that there is clarity in these sections. 7.D relates to Open International events, in that anyone can play in them and can play at their handicap even if it is over the tournament maximum. However 7.E is for World Championships where there is a limited number of spaces, handicaps are restricted and there is an expectation that the best players are sent

to represent their country. The wording of the sections is correct, however the titles are misleading. Therefore he proposed that 7.D title should stay as is which is "Structured selection system is for Society entrants to Open International events". The 7.E title should change from "Attending foreign competitions and invitations to Society members" to "Structured selection systems for Society entrants to World Championships". This was seconded by Sam and agreed by all. Gill to update the Code of Conduct accordingly.

Ally informed those present that he had received a call from the Southern Irish Blind Golf Secretary requesting a meeting at the BBO in Cardrona. This is regarding a proposed event in the future. Ally has agreed to arrange a meeting between the SBGS and the Irish Committee at Cardrona.

Darren raised the possibility of removing the Classics and replacing with a Masters instead. However Charlie questioned the costs involved, Gordon questioned whether people would be willing to participate. There was no appetite for this change.

There was a discussion on the website going forwards. Craig will forward the login details he has to Gill. Gill will see what administrator/builder capabilities we have and assess whether this is something that she can do or we need to get someone in to build a new one. Gill is happy to update ongoing whichever route is taken. Gill also suggested that we should not just copy over old content and we should make the most of the opportunity to decide how the website should look and feel.