

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Golf

DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

Group re-established on 15th September 2011

DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM

24th March 2015

DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 12 months of the previous AGM]

25th March 2014

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

8th April 2015

GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT CROSS-PARTY GROUP ON GOLF MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2015

Attended by 2 MSPs and 7 other members

AGM – Election of Office Bearers: The Office Bearers were nominated and agreed as follows: Tavish Scott MSP – Convener, with Chic Brodie MSP and John Pentland

MSP as Deputy Conveners. The SGU was again nominated and seconded in the role of secretariat.

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.

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.

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.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Adam Ingram (Scottish National Party)

John Pentland (Scottish Labour)

Tavish Scott (Scottish Liberal Democrats)

Chic Brodie (Scottish National Party)

Jamie McGrigor (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

Murdo Fraser (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

Neil Findlay (Scottish Labour)

Richard Simpson (Scottish Labour)

Stewart Maxwell (Scottish National Party)

NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals	Ewen Cairns Dr Alan Taylor (University of Abertay)
Organisations	Scottish Golf Union Scottish Golf Club Golf Scottish Ladies Golf Association Professional Golf Association Golf Club Managers Association Event Scotland Golf Tourism Scotland Scottish Enterprise SportScotland Scottish Disability Golf Partnership Scottish Sports Association University of the Highlands and Islands

GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener	Tavish Scott MSP
Deputy Conveners	Chic Brodie MSP & John Pentland MSP
Secretary	Hamish Grey (Scottish Golf Union)
Treasurer	

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

The Scottish Golf Union paid £61 for catering for the AGM, while the value of Hamish Grey's time spent as Secretary on Cross-Party Group work is estimated to be £365.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

N/A

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Tavish Scott MSP
Parliamentary address	M2.17, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 6296