

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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2011 AT SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT, EDINBURGH**

**Present:** David McLetchie MSP (Convenor), Chic Brodie MSP, Neil Findlay MSP, Murdo Fraser MSP, John Pentland MSP, Stewart Maxwell MSP, Jamie McGrigor MSP, Michael McDougall and Craig Miller (representing Dr Richard Simpson MSP), Jane Booth (PGA), Jackie Davidson (ClubGolf), Daniel Gray (Scottish Sports Association), Hamish Grey (SGU), Sheila Hartley (SLGA), Brian McLeish (Scottish Enterprise), Andrew Mellon (Elmwood/BIGGA), Alan Miller (**sportscotland**), Kate Sheppard (ClubGolf), Gemma Swinton (EventScotland) and Gordon Todd (Scottish Enterprise).

**Apologies:** Tavish Scott MSP, Dr Richard Simpson MSP, Andy Salmon (Scottish Golf) and Chris Spencer (Association of Golf Club Managers).

#### **1. ClubGolf Programme**

Jackie Davidson made a presentation to the Cross Party Golf Group on the national junior golf programme, ClubGolf. This included outlining the significant success of the programme in 2011 and plans to work on retention of those children attracted into golf through the programme in the future. There followed a wide ranging discussion on details of the programme.

#### **2. SGU/SLGA Amalgamation**

Sheila Hartley and Hamish Grey outlined the recent developments regarding the proposal to amalgamate the men's and ladies' governing bodies. This failed to get the necessary support of SGU members in May 2011. The main sticking point of what should be the appropriate voting structure in the amalgamated body was highlighted. Discussions remain ongoing to try and find a way forward and it is hoped that a new proposal acceptable to both memberships can be agreed in the New Year.

#### **3. Niddry Castle case and golfers insurance**

The background to the recent court case relating to Niddry Park Golf Club was outlined. A golfer and the Club itself were found negligent when a poorly struck shot hit and blinded in one eye another golfer on an adjacent hole. The case brings into sharp focus a number of issues:

- Every golfer's responsibility to exercise due care towards other golfers;
- The importance of golf clubs adopting a robust Health and Safety Management System;
- The potential liability of club committee members and office bearers; and
- The importance for both clubs and golfers in taking out appropriate insurance (recognising that no matter how many precautions one might take accidents can still happen).

Hamish Grey circulated the advice note on this matter that the SGU and SLGA have issued to clubs and have on their websites. It was noted that clubs are provided with an excellent and free health and safety advisory service as well as a recommended golf insurance supplier by the governing bodies.

#### **4. AOCB**

The consequences for golf of changes currently being considered in Westminster to British summertime was raised by Andrew Mellon. After discussion it was agreed that the Convenor would investigate the status of the proposed legislation on this matter and the SGU and SLGA would consider the possible impact of the changes, if adopted, on golf. This matter will be considered at the next Group meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Convenor. A date for the next meeting will be circulated in the New Year.