

Spean Bridge Golf Club
Annual General Meeting
Friday 1st March 2019
Spean Bridge GC Clubhouse

Present

15 members of Spean Bridge Golf Club

Apologies

Colin Davidson, Pat Davidson, Aeleen Campbell, Charlie Donaldson, Ian Graham, Gordon Brown, Joe Wilson, Phil MacKintyre, Neil Robson.

AGM 2018 minutes

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were circulated and approved, proposed by T. Richardson, seconded by K. Dalziel.

New Captain

Allan Reid was introduced as the new Captain for 2019 and 2020

Officers Reports

Reports were presented by/on behalf of the Outgoing Captain, President, Treasurer and Secretary. The reports are appended to these minutes.

Ladies Section and Senior Section Reports

The Ladies Secretary and Senior section organizer reported on the activities of each section throughout 2019. The reports are appended to these minutes.

Discussion took place on whether the gents section could replicate the ladies section n introducing some competitions where participants have the choice of taking part on one of 2 nominated days. It was agreed that the suggestion should be discussed further by the club committee.

Election of officers and committee members

The following individuals were elected/relected to the committee

President: Colin Davidson – Proposed: John Muncie, Seconded: John MacLennan

Treasurer: Harry Campbell – Proposed: Willie Atkinson, Seconded: Galen Dalziel

Vice-Captain: Toby Richardson – Proposed : Brian Smith, Seconded: Jim Patterson

Committee Member: Pat Davidson – Proposed: Margaret Cassidy, Seconded: Amelia Stewart

Committee Member: Ken Dalziel – Proposed: John MacLennan, Seconded: Gary Martin

Committee Member: Christian Astelian – Proposed: Toby Richardson, Seconded: John MacLennan

2019 Subscriptions

The treasurer put forward the committee's proposal for a standard annual rate for all members including seniors set at £140. A new subscription level for 18 to 25 years old (in order to encourage participation at this age category) to be set at £70 and a juniors (under 18) rate remaining at £15 were also proposed. These rates were approved by a majority vote.

Any Other Business

Discussion took place on the feasibility of using the two different tees on the 9th for hole (one for 9th hole and the other for the 18th) and also measuring and using the current winter tees on the 8th hole for summer competitions. The committee agreed to look into the feasibility and engage with SGU to re-measure the course. An additional request was made to install blue tees forward of any carries on the course.

Toby Richardson requested clarification on whether the ruins adjacent to the 5th green should be treated as an immovable obstruction. A decision on this was deferred pending a review by the committee.

J.P. Mainardi has kindly offered to donate 2 trophies for competitions throughout the summer. The committee will determine which competitions the trophies shall be allocated to.

Jim Patterson offered to host a quiz night in the Summer to encourage members to socialise. A date for the quiz will be confirmed by the committee

Christian Astilean proposed that in order to encourage more members to participate in gents competitions over the summer we should introduce a men's order of merit trophy.

Appendix : Officers Reports

Captain's Report

Once again it was great honour to be Club Captain for this past season. I would like to thank those who had nominated me and also thank my vice-captain Allan Reid.

Sadly the 2018 match schedule suffered at the hands of the Scottish weather with only the away match against Triagh going ahead. This resulted in a loss. Unfortunately I was unable to play in this match due to work commitments so thankfully this is not a loss on my record and I solely put this loss on the shoulders of the stand in Captain Colin Davidson.

Once again the weather played a vital part in our Highlander Competition this year. We were also set to have a Battle of the ages with 4 clubs entering this year. Spean Bridge, Triagh, Fort Augusts and Sconser, but the heavens opened and the decision was made to postpone the competition and for it to be played at the beginning of the 2019 season... let's hope for better weather then.

It was not all doom and gloom through the season. We had our first annual Neilly Fraser Memorial Tournament and with the help from Neilly's family, the golf club and all who attended I believe this was a great success and fitting way to start what I hope will be great day each year in memory of one of our friends here at the club. The texas scramble format was won by a very close margin of 0.4 by G.Dalziel, J.Bamber & B.Stewart. The golf was of the highest calibre and so was the craic in gazebo after... I'm sure Donnie Swanson can confirm this, that is if he can remember any of it.

Another great day annually for us is our Open Day which was won by our very own Ian Graham. Congratulations to Ian for his win. Thankfully the weather stayed reasonable dry however attendance wasn't what we would hope for and I think we need to look at improving this for the 2019 season.

I won't babble on any further but I'd just like to end with saying that it was great honour to be captain of this Golf Club and a huge thank you to everyone to has helped me over my tenure.

All the best for the 2019 season to you all.

Galen Dalziel, Captain

President's Report

Welcome to SBGC AGM and my apologies for not being able to attend.

It's been a quiet year with no major groundwork undertaken -however plans are afoot for re-coring the greens to address the thatch issues that we experienced through 2018.

Clubs finances are on a much healthier footing thanks in part to the success of two opens, Hookers and Swingers and NF Memorial Day. Thanks to the members (and non-member) whose hard work was crucial to these events. This year we will be assessing the opportunities for funding some projects through the SSE Stonelairig community benefit fund.

Unfortunately Club membership is down yet again whilst at the same time SGU have raised affiliation fees! Also numbers actually playing in club competitions is disappointing low, although members playing in other clubs' Opens have been remarkably successful.

Willie and Ken kept the course in good condition despite weather and the animal kingdom conspiring against them.

Finally, thanks are due to the Senior members who manned the clubhouse. This makes a huge difference and more volunteers would be very welcome.

Secretary's Report

It has been a very interesting and enjoyable first year for me as secretary. I would like to thank our previous secretary, John Muncie, for all the help and support for getting me up to speed.

The total number of members at the club at this time is 90. This is somewhat down on last year and significantly fewer than a few years ago. This trend is consistent with what we are seeing at neighbouring clubs but is something that we will be seeking to address over the coming year. The committee is looking at a number of initiatives to attract new members and we will be announcing these shortly. In the meantime we would ask all members to do what they can to encourage friends and family to get involved with the club.

We were disappointed that the SGU voted to increase the affiliation fees from £11.25 to £14.50 and introduce the rise at the end of last season. The club have been in discussions with the SGU to understand what we can get back from the SGU to justify the rise. While these discussions are at an early stage we hope to be able to exploit some tangible benefits over the coming season.

A reminder that the R&A introduced some new rule changes coming into force in 2019. Free rule books can be picked up at the club house.

I am sure you will have all heard of the new EU General Purpose Data Regulations (GDPR) which were introduced in 2018. As an organisation we are obliged to protect whatever personal data you provide us and respect certain rights that you have over how we use that data. We have formulated a GDPR policy which will be uploaded to the website shortly. As part of this process we would ask that you fill out in full the 2019 membership forms that we will shortly be distributing and that you indicate your agreement for us to send you general information about club activities, events and promotions.

As always if you have any suggestions about how we can improve your experiences at the club we would be very pleased to hear from you. You can contact me at SBGCsec@gmail.com or leave a note in the suggestion box in the clubhouse hall way.

Ladies Section Report

The 2018 Ladies Golf Season was held between the 28th of April until the end of September when the final medal was held, not on the scheduled date however due to holidays. The turnout for the Ferguson Cup and Club Championship was extremely poor this year with only a few ladies with sufficient cards for the Championship and the same for the Ferguson Cup. The medal competitions had vastly more ladies competing, most likely due to only having to win one for the final and it now being held at any time on the Saturday and with an alternative day of Thursday.

The ladies held their normal Monday night 9 hole competitions from End March to the beginning of September. Unfortunately I cannot attend Monday nights due to extra shinty training and therefore cannot comment on attendance.

Winter league is becoming less of a competition and more like a winter break from golf completely. This is the second year that hardly anyone has competed, it will be discussed at the next ladies meeting if we should just scrap the winter league all together.

Of the two usual outings, Newtonmore and Blair Atholl, I am unable to report on these as I was unable to attend this year, I believe only Katherine Ann and Tricia competed at Newtonmore where Tricia was successful in the competition.

Mixed doubles had to be rescheduled due to numbers for the day and in the end was only played over 9 holes. It would be good if we had more from the club taking part in the competition though.

The Interclub was due to be held in August but ended up in September after being rescheduled, this was changed to September as a lot of ladies were on holiday in August. Fort William are struggling with lady members and could only play Rosie. After much discussion we decided to play 9 holes as the weather yet again was not good enough for 18. Arisaig were the victors, with Spean 2nd and Fort William 3rd. The 2018 Interclub will be held at Fort William this year and is currently pencilled in for 17th July.

Membership stays the same as 2017.

The 5th Hookers and Swingers competition was held this year in memory of Davy McCook at the end of June. The competition was a Texas Scramble with two rugby players and one golfer. It was a very well attended competition again and the craic throughout the day was brilliant. Donations from the day were split between the Junior Golf and Junior Rugby with each receiving approx £200. The competition for 2019 has been pencilled in for 22nd June.

Neilly Fraser Memorial Day was held for the 1st time on 9th June. The club made a good profit this day and the Fraser family raised a lot of money for MacMillan Nurses. The 2019 Memorial Day will take place on 8th June for 2019

Thanks to all that helped in the bar, kitchen and the golf course for these.

Seniors Section Report

The weather was much kinder last year and we had good turn outs at our weekly senior's league competitions. Despite starting his campaign with a not so impressive 4 points for his first outing of the year, Archie MacDonald rediscovered his form and posted an impressive best 10 round score of 209 points to take the winner's trophy.

Archie also took the senior medal final after being run close by Gordon Brown. Medal participation remains well down on the attendance for the senior league days, mainly due to the 18 hole format. As we now have an official 9 hole SSS certificate from the SGU we will be holding more 9 hole medals in the coming season.

The senior open was successful although visitor numbers were lower than previous years. Congratulations to Gary Martin who not only won the competition but also holed his chip on the 18th to equal the course gross record. We plan to experiment this year with holding the senior open on a Sunday, rather than during the week, to see if we can increase participation from other clubs.

The section enjoyed days out at Dragon's Tooth and Newtonmore, both subsidised by the weekly competition fees. Finances for the section are healthy for the new season.