

**Notes from the meeting of the Central Regional Forum held in
Glenberrie Golf Club on Wednesday 27 November 2019**

<p><u>Present</u></p>		<p>Chic Nash (CN), Alison Davidson (AD), Jim Ewing (JW), Alan Brown (AB), Patricia Masterton (PM), Lorna McKinlay (LM), Christine Roger (CR) and Joan Peden (JP)</p>
<p><u>In attendance</u></p>		<p>Keith MacDonald (KM), Iain Forsyth (IF), Andrew McKinlay (AM), Karin Sharp (KS), Lee Probert (LP), Joe Persh (JP)</p>
<p><u>Welcome & Introductions</u></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>KM welcomed everyone and advised he would be acting as Chair for this meeting. A round table introduction followed. Apologies were noted from Jim McArthur. Acknowledgement made of the late Hugh Hunter and his contribution to golf.</p>
<p><u>Update from Scottish Golf (WHS and VMS)</u></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>IF gave an update on the WHS implementation.</p> <p>Round table discussion took place in relation to a number of issues including implementation timetable, the practicality of entering scores under the new system, the concept of general play scoring, whether or not matchplay will be included (it will not), the position in relation to ISV licensing and the issue of multiple CDH numbers including a discussion about multiple membership.</p> <p>A presentation was given by LP in relation to the VMS system including the app and the venue interface.</p> <p>Roundtable discussion took place in relation to use for regions, issues around the system “crashing”, the ongoing use of score cards, necessity for new kit (current browser is all that is needed).</p> <p>An update on where we are with VMS uptake was also provided, with approx. 145 clubs currently engaged at some stage, with 58 at data migration stage and 2 in parallel testing. Request was made by SG that clubs give us the opportunity to demo the platform to them and then it is for them to make up their own minds as to whether it right for them. The clubs that are in the parallel testing stage have been providing feedback on functionality and making suggestions for improvement and the platform has seen some considerable change in the last few months as a result.</p>
<p><u>Core Discussion Items</u></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>AM provided general additional updates: Delighted to have announced new partnership with Forev, providing opportunity for Golf Clubs to have electric charging points installed at Clubs and would encourage everyone to look a look at this.</p>

		<p>As well as WHS and VMS being focal points for SG in 2020, participation is the other key theme. Women & Girls activity using Solheim Cup success as a springboard will see additional regional hubs being promoted. The Club Ambassador scheme which was set up for Solheim will be continued with AIG Women's Open being held at Royal Troon in 2020 it is hoped this can be another professional event that could be used to enthuse and engage female golfers to support.</p> <p>Work continues on the development of a new junior framework with a Spring launch planned – it is likely that this programme will be a feature that we present at the next round of Forum sessions.</p>
<p><u>Communication</u></p>	<p>3.1</p>	<p>AM reported that SG continue to circulate regular Club & Golfer Bulletins to the respective distribution lists but challenge remains in getting these seen by a wider audience. Often misinformation is spread through uncertainty both within the membership, media and by third party views, if in doubt we would encourage all members to speak to us for clarification rather than assume a position.</p> <p>The issue of getting the messages through to the end user was acknowledged. It was also acknowledged that communication had improved.</p>
<p><u>Club Support</u></p>	<p>3.2</p>	<p>With VMS & WHS already covered which are clearly significant areas in which SG will support clubs over the next few years, AM advised that other support services are being reviewed. We recognize that as an organisation we have perhaps tried to offer too many services and as a result of the quality of delivery success has been impacted or difficult to evaluate. We are looking to provide more specific support in core areas, with more flexibility of delivery through central routes or online portals to meet modern day requirements.</p>
<p><u>Volunteers</u></p>	<p>3.3</p>	<p>AM advised that a Volunteer Strategy was being worked on, we have been looking at other sports, voluntary sector support and initiatives and will be looking at launching something in 2 phases through 2020. Phase 1 will be for those volunteers that support directly SG (eg Referees, Course Raters, Coaches) and Phase 2 will be aimed towards clubs, to provide guidance around recruitment and retention of volunteers.</p> <p>We are also looking at a Spring 2020 launch of a new learning platform that will be aimed at providing peer to peer communities, for sharing of knowledge, best practice, ideas and support amongst volunteers of different experience across critical roles in golf. A pilot phase is anticipated in early 2020, with an aim to launch more widely when season underway.</p>

<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>CN asked about the proposal that had been put forward by Scottish Golf in relation to the pay per play golfer. AM and IF provided explanations as to why Scottish Golf were looking to go down this route.</p> <p>A roundtable discussion took place in relation to this matter with particular concerns being raised about the fear from clubs that members will leave to become pay per play golfers which this initiative may be seen as encouraging. Questions also arose in relation to the administration of handicaps for these golfers. It was acknowledged by all that doing nothing is not an option. All agreed to give further thought to what changes may be made to any such scheme to try and alleviate some of these concerns.</p> <p>The composition of the group was discussed with emphasis on trying to get additional club membership for the forums – this being a general issue across the forums.</p>
<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Next meeting dates will be looked at for March/April via usual Doodle poll approach in early 2020.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.20 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair and all present for their contributions.</p>