



One Governing Body



Irish Ladies Golf Union (ILGU) & Golfing Union of Ireland (GUI)

26th Set of Discussions on One Governing Body for Golf in Ireland

22nd February 2018

Discussions Group (DG)

Pat Finn (PF) – Golfing Union of Ireland

Sinead Heraty (SH) – Irish Ladies Golf Union

Brege McCarrick (BMcC) – Irish Ladies Golf Union

John Power (JP) – Golfing Union of Ireland

Ethel Ruddock (ER) – Irish Ladies Golf Union

Kevin Stevens (KS) – Golfing Union of Ireland

Unavailable: Teresa Byrne (TB) – Irish Ladies Golf Union

Unavailable: Frank Bowen (FB) – Golfing Union of Ireland

Facilitator

Jane Williams (JW) – Sia Partners

Project Manager

Sarah Crowe (SC)

The Discussions Group recapped on the work that has been ongoing since the last meeting on 8th January 2018. This included briefing of the Provincial Councils, District Executives, the ILGU and GUI AGM's and the background work on the outstanding legal documents. The DG also flagged what items should be given priority at today's meeting. These included, a review of the Proposal document, the legal documents, communications debrief and the timeline to the respective EGM's on Golf Ireland.

Communication

PF and SH provided updates on the communications briefings undertaken, on behalf of both the GUI and the ILGU. These briefings were conducted with the Branches of the GUI and the Districts of the ILGU. Both Chief Executives also updated their respective Club AGM's on the Golf Ireland Proposal, which was received positively, with rationale sought on some elements of the proposal. Heritage and tradition of both organisations was expressed by GUI Clubs as a point of concern, especially around losing the heritage of both organisations. Other points raised were in relation to the rotation of President of Golf Ireland, the provincial executive and the operations of setting up the four executives, centres of excellences in each of the four provinces, the affiliation fee and the timeline to the vote.

SH provided the group with a sense of the feedback from amongst the ILGU volunteers and within ILGU affiliated clubs. Overall, they feel that the proposal is directionally correct and is the right thing to do for golf. There was also a fear of losing the representation of the ILGU and whether a minimum gender requirement of 30% will retain the women's voice.

An update was also provided on the respective GUI and ILGU Communications Briefings with clubs that are planned for April and May of this year. Clubs will be given an update on the Golf Ireland Proposal and may seek clarification on any elements of the Proposal.

Legal Documentation

The group spoke about issuing the legal documents to a governance expert, in addition to legal experts, for review, once signed off by the DG. Senan Turnbull is a governance expert working with Sport Ireland, who the group would like to review the legal documents.



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Group members reviewed areas of uncertainty in the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Regulations. In doing this, they looked at a number of areas in all three documents, which ranged from the election of the President in Golf Ireland to the size and rotation of the provincial executives.

Proposal Document

The DG began the process of reviewing the Proposal document for wording and content changes and agreed a number of substantive changes. They also decided that a professional and independent script writer should be appointed to review the final proposal, before it is issued to Clubs, for consideration.

The DG touched on many elements of the proposal and discussed the progressive nature of the document and how it seeks to strike an appropriate balance between progression and tradition.

AOB

The DG closed the meeting and agreed on a date for its next meeting; **Monday 5th March 2018, Carton House – 10am-3pm.**