



# One Governing Body



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

### 20<sup>th</sup> Set of Discussions on One Governing Body for Golf in Ireland

04 September 2017

#### **Discussions Group (DG)**

Frank Bowen (FB) – Golfing Union of Ireland  
Teresa Byrne (TB) – Irish Ladies Golf Union  
Pat Finn (PF) – Golfing Union of Ireland  
Sinead Heraty (SH) – Irish Ladies Golf Union  
Brege McCarrick (BMcC) – Irish Ladies Golf Union  
Iggly O’Muircheartaigh (IOM) – Golfing Union of Ireland  
Ethel Ruddock (ER) – Irish Ladies Golf Union  
Kevin Stevens (KS) – Golfing Union of Ireland

#### **Facilitator**

Jane Williams (JW) – Sia Partners

#### **Project Manager**

Sarah Crowe (SC)

#### **Elements of the Proposal**

##### Rotation and Representation

The DG conversed on the topic of Presidential, National Board and Regional Executive rotations. They discussed differing options of how to rotate the Presidency between the Regions, taking into account gender balance and the terms of office at both National and Regional level.

##### Role of OGB – Governing Versus Influencing

Comprehensive feedback was provided at the briefing and feedback sessions by club members that the new governing body should not dictate to clubs and the DG reviewed the feedback and discussed how to strike a balance between governing in certain regulatory areas and encouraging best practice in others.

##### Finance

The draft finance proposal was presented at the meeting and the DG delved in to some of the more detailed elements of the proposal, in order to get agreement on these. These elements included proposed affiliation fee, competition entrance fees and cash reserves of the unions.

##### VAT/Tax

The DG spoke about the tax implications of a CLG and a meeting with Deloitte will clear any questions pending on this topic. The group also discussed how to go about the creation of a CLG, with the options of using an existing model as the vehicle or creating a new entity in its entirety.

##### Memos and Arts

The DG reviewed the draft memos and arts of the new organisation and feedback was given on a number of points, including financial year ends at both national and regional level, the objects of the organisation and wording intricacies. These will be redrafted and worked on to reflect the feedback received.



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## Voting in OGB by Clubs

There were a number of voting options available to clubs which were up for review and the DG studied all options and rationale presented before reaching a consensus on which model was representative of all club sizes and genders.

## Voting by clubs in OGB decision

A point that was discussed in detail at the briefing and feedback sessions was how OGB will get club committees to decide on how they want to vote. The DG will be conducting detailed briefings with clubs in the run up to the vote but the internal structures of the men's and ladies clubs will conclude on how they gain an overall view of their membership.

## Model Club Structure

The DG reviewed the feedback from the briefing and feedback meetings, which pointed strongly to advising clubs on best practice models for club structures but not dictating to clubs. OGB will outline best practice principles and the key objectives of the new organisations, pertaining to clubs.

## Regional Structure

Club members and Officials gave their views during the briefing and feedback sessions on the two options for the Regional Structure. There was no overwhelming support that one model was better than another. A revised version was presented during the meeting and the DG proposed amendments to this for final sign off by the respective Boards.

## Transition Process

The transitions process from the current unions to OGB was addressed. The DG suggested key elements of the transition that needed to be taken into account to finalise the transitions plan for inclusion in the emerging draft proposal.

## Strategy, Equality and Culture Change

The strategy, including equality and cultural change for OGB was discussed and the DG would like to see amendments to the draft presented, in order to strengthen the piece around the development and growth of the game.

## Programme for selling OGB

The attendees at the consultation sessions made it clear that the communication on the topic of OGB needs to significantly increase, especially to ensure the message filters down to club members. The DG therefore spoke at length about the process for conducting this and the timeframe for this to occur.

## **Short form Proposal**

The DG held an in depth discussion on the emerging draft proposal for OGB, including the key elements of it, the length of the proposal, the additions to the background piece of it and how the elements of playing the game will be detailed within it i.e. Rules, Handicapping, Championships.



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## **Format and process for Boards engagement**

A meeting is taking place with members of both the ILGU and GUI Boards on 26 September and the DG discussed the format that this meeting should take and how best to ensure productivity during the session.

## **Elements of Proposal requiring approval**

The DG reviewed a number of documents detailing the key recommendations put forward in a number of areas, including Rules, Communications, Game Development and Handicapping/Course Rating and they reached agreement on what will be proposed in these areas.

## Dates and venue of next DG meetings

- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September – 10am – 12:30pm (*GUI/ILGU Board Members*), Milltown Golf Club
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September – 2pm- 5pm – Milltown Golf Club
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October – 10am – 3pm - GUI Offices, Carton House
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November – 10am – 3pm – TBC