



One Governing Body



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

19th Set of Discussions on One Governing Body for Golf in Ireland

10 August 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)

Mid-Point Summary of the Briefing and Feedback Meetings

JW had drafted a summary of the briefing and feedback sessions conducted to date, which covered five venues and 12 sessions with GUI and ILGU officials, Golf Club members and a more focused segment group. Discussion ensued around the topics outlined, the areas of interest and the feedback received on these key elements of the proposal.

Legal Structure Differences

Ulster Branch legal advisor Alan Kirk, joined the DG to brief them on the differences between the legal structures in Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (ROI). He spoke about the 1996 registration of clubs order which brought in significant change to clubs in NI, the DG seeking approval of the Equality Commission in NI and the differences in the clubs structures in NI and the ROI.

OGB Golf Club Message

The DG spoke about the message that is being transmitted to Golf Clubs around club structures in the future. They agreed that all clubs currently affiliated to the ILGU and GUI will be affiliated to the OGB on day one and it is likely the OGB will have a suite of club structure models which clubs can review and move to, if they see fit.

Principles in Proposal

The DG held a conversation around the topics of the key principles for the proposal for OGB. These included best practice club structure models, with no imposition on clubs to change, and detailing the changes between the current running of the unions and the new OGB.

Regional Structure

There was great discussion around the split of the regional structure for the organisation in terms of administration and competition. The feedback received from the initial briefing and feedback sessions indicates that neither the straight line nor county boundary models are ideal.

Organisational Structure

A discussion ensued around the organisational structure and the representation of the members of the Board and the gender balance required at this level, stemming from the nominated regional representatives and the elected positions.



One Governing Body



SH and PF also gave an overview of the proposed staffing structure for the new body, which was broken down between departments and individual roles.

TUPE

PF gave an update on the transfer of undertakings for the new governing body after meeting Michael Doyle of Arthur Cox.

Legal Structures

FB provided the DG with an update on the ongoing work around the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the new Byelaws which will need to be drafted. Work is progressing well on these items and there will be some external involvement and consultation with legal experts.

Finance

TB provided the DG with an update on the structure of the financial piece in the proposal document and the elements of this, including due diligence, affiliation fee and financial management. TB also gave an overview of the historical income and expenditure accounts, historical membership numbers, historical balance sheets and pro forma income and expenditure and OGB balance sheet.

Voting

IOM gave the DG an overview of the paper he drafted on the potential future voting structure of clubs for OGB. The conversation that followed concluded with the decision that more permutations and combinations needed to be worked through to come up with a club voting model for the new body.

Location

Location of the National head office was touched upon and efficiencies were spoken about, arising from basing all staff in one head office location rather than two. This decision will depend on the level of space and capacity of one head office to hold all future staff.

Communications

SC provided the DG with a run through of the communication proposal between September 2017 and quarter one of 2018. SC detailed how to communicate with Branches and Districts, Golf Club members and Staff and also spoke about a succinct proposal pack which would be put together and sent to clubs after the final proposal is approved by the respective Boards.

Transitions

PF and ER presented the proposed transitions plan for OGB and the detailed timeline post vote on OGB and pre establishment and initial stages of the new organisation.

Equality

The DG discussed different aspects of equality, such as the promotion of it as a strategic objective for the new OGB.

Dates and venue of next DG meetings

- Monday 4th September 10am – 4pm - GUI Offices, Carton House
- Tuesday 26th September – 10am – 12:30pm (*GUI/ILGU Board Members*), Milltown Golf Club
- Tuesday 26th September – 2pm- 5pm – Milltown Golf Club
- Tuesday 24th October – 10am – 3pm - GUI Offices, Carton House
- Monday 27th November – 10am – 3pm – TBC