



One Governing Body



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

18th Set of Discussions on One Governing Body for Golf in Ireland

21/22 June 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 for OGB

Legal Structure

The DG agreed that the new OGB will be a company limited by guarantee. Tax implications were mentioned and outside assistance will be required as the discussions progress.

Governance

The DG spoke about the potential makeup of the Board and the rotation of the Presidency of OGB. A discussion ensued around board representation, rotas and how voting by clubs will work.

Finance & Financial Management

The proposal document was discussed in relation to the financial elements to be detailed within it. Essential pieces of information such as the affiliation fee and how finance will be managed in the OGB are required in the proposal, amongst many others.

Future Club Formation (FCF)

The DG reviewed the recommendations from the FCF WG and a conversation took place around some elements such as future club structures and recommendations relating to gender representation.

Regional Structure for OGB

Both the county boundary and straight line maps were discussed and will be tested at consultation to gather feedback on where the preference lies in terms of competition and admin structures.

Club Services

The DG talked through some of the recommendations from the WG, especially in relation to ease of access of information for members, through a new website. The need for regional based support services for clubs was also discussed.

Club Membership

The DG touched briefly on the differing types of club membership and agreed that this topic should be left as a task and a strategic objective for OGB to address.



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High Performance

Selection committees, national coaches and a HP director were discussed as part of the recommendations that the HP group submitted. Talent development was also identified as a gap between development and the pathway to elite.

Volunteers

The DG were pleased with the content of the recommendations from the volunteer report. The pathway for elected volunteers was discussed, as was the level of induction training for current and future volunteers.

Game Development

The DG spoke about the future of the game and the impressive and futuristic recommendations coming from this group. Welcome packs were suggested for new members of OGB and the topic of family golf was discussed in detail.

Championships

The future of the Australian Spoons was highlighted as important for both women and men and the DG touched on the topic of a future family golf event, which will be added to the recommendations.

Rules, Handicapping and Course Rating

ER provided the DG with an update that a National Handicapping and Course Rating committee will be established by both Unions outside the work of the DG.

Rules

The DG were pleased with the logical recommendations from this WG. They also spoke about the topic of amateur status as something that falls under the Rules umbrella.

Relationship with Sport Ireland et.al

The group discussed the importance of outlining in the proposal the strategic intent OGB hopes to have with Sport Ireland, Sport NI, the PGA, the Olympic Council, the R&A and others.

Communications in OGB

A proposal for communications in the OGB was discussed and the recommendations of the WG in terms of practices at national and regional level, including staffing structures will be taken into account by the DG.

Staffing Profile of OGB

Staffing structure, skills, resourcing, organisational departments and overall design of the organisation was touched upon and ideas will be further developed ahead of the next meeting.

Transition to OGB

The DG spoke about a number of topics relating to the transition from the two current unions to OGB, if the vote passes. These ranged from the voting structures to the date and timing of the vote, amongst many others.

Location of OGB

A discussion ensued between group members around potential head office and regional office locations for OGB. A number of options were discussed for head office ranging between current head offices locations, Abbotstown and Dublin in general were all suggested as potential locations.



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Consultation Process

An update was provided on the upcoming consultation process with officials, clubs and more focused segment groups. The logistics, the topics and the format of the sessions were discussed in detail.

Strategy

The DG reviewed a draft strategy paper for OGB and they provided feedback on elements to be covered in the development of a strategic plan, including the dream, values and mission for the new body, all of which should be included in the proposal.

Staff Consultation

The consultation with CGI, GUI and ILGU staff was very positive and well attended. The feedback was pertinent and the DG will tweak some aspects of the project based on the feedback received.

Dates and venue of next DG meetings

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