



One Governing Body



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

15th Set of Discussions on One Governing Body for Golf in Ireland

24 March 2017

Discussions Group (DG)

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

Apologies

Frank Bowen (FB) – Golfing Union of Ireland

Facilitator

Jane Williams (JW) – Sia Partners

Project Manager

Sarah Crowe (SC)

The Proposal

Progress of Working Groups

Organisational Structure (OS)

The OS WG developed a draft of the future structure, in terms of administration and competition and how the roles, responsibilities and functions would be carried out. The WG will further progress the emerging ideas before the next meeting and develop the draft OS paper.

IOM Paper

IOM presented his paper on the reflections of the OGB project and the next steps. Based on the legal advice received that the new OGB should be established as a company limited by guarantee, the DG will start to look at the objects of the future organisation and how to initiate the process.

Communications

The recent DG statement was issued to all Golf Clubs with the Organisational Structure Report on 15th March and is live on both the Golfnet and OGB websites. There is sufficient interest in the OGB website and there are approx. 2,500 page views per week with 2,172 unique visits per week.

Enhanced Communications Plan

SC talked through the enhanced communications programme, which would fit as an appendix to the proposal document. The proposed future plan would be to enhance the communications and agree an approach for Golf Clubs in Q3, to prepare them for a draft proposal in autumn 2017.

Finance

Combined accounts for CGI, ILGU and GUI had been circulated to the DG for consideration and all members were happy. The Finance WG met with someone from Deloitte regarding the content of the financial proposal. They talked about how it should be structured and are due to meet again in April.



One Governing Body



Volunteerism

The WG have considered a number of practices from international volunteer policies and have surveyed Irish volunteers and staff, which will feed into the draft report. The report has been drafted and will be ready for consideration at the April DG meeting.

Future Club Formation (FCF)

The Group will have the report finalised and ready for circulation to the DG by Friday 7th April. The Chair and members of the group will present the report at the DG meeting on 23rd May. There is likely to be savings at club level, due to what they are proposing.

Club Services

The WG have conducted a survey of all clubs, asking them to rank services in order of importance. Membership Development, Governance and Handicapping emerged as the top three. They have started to draft the report and are on schedule to present to the DG on 23rd of May.

Game Development

The WG are currently looking at a number of areas, incl. the health benefits of golf, family golf, course design etc. and all of these will feed into the proposal. The WG are referring to the ERSI study to ensure there are no gaps in the report. They are on schedule to present on the 23rd of May.

Championships

The Championships WG will be reporting back to the DG on 23rd May with their findings. They are looking at what ILGU and GUI tournaments can be run together and how this can be done in the future. The DG should expect some enlightening proposals from the Working Group.

Rules

Work is progressing well and the WG will be presenting their findings on 20th April. They are using the current ILGU system as a basis for the Rules proposal, as it is considered world class. They have adapted the current ILGU system slightly to suit the size of the new OGB.

High Performance

The WG have met twice and members of the group are forward thinking, especially in relation to girls and boys being coached together at the same time and same facility. They have looked at the coaching and staffing structure of HP in the OGB. They will be presenting their findings on 23rd May.

Course Rating/Handicapping

The WG have met three times in the past month and have agreed on all aspects and are now in draft report stage. The WG have agreed that there will be a proposal in the report to setup a joint National Handicapping Committee, which would lead by example for clubs in the future.

Reports from DG members on pieces of the Proposal being Developed within the DG

Proposed content for the case for OGB

The proposed content for this piece was drafted at the early stages of discussion and snippets of information can be taken from international examples on the reasoning behind change and the creation of a new entity.

Additions to the Proposal Document

The environmental sustainability of golf was highlighted as a topic that has not been addressed to date and will need to be included in the proposal for a new OGB.



One Governing Body



Proposed Consultation

The consultation piece is a work in progress and it will tee up the robust communications work nicely. A joint staff consultation will be integrated into the next phase.

Assessment of the development of the material and the emerging Proposal document

The DG are happy with how the proposal is being developed and it will be updated after every meeting with additional content/placeholders.

Reports of the action items from the last meeting (not covered by WG reports above)

The DG touched on the registration of a potential name for the OGB. They spoke about the process of securing and registering a name with the companies office and a potential trading name.

Process for meeting with the two Unions

The DG discussed the feedback and information meeting scheduled for 20th April with both ILGU and GUI Board members, including the key objectives, process and running order of the session. They agreed that refinements needed to be made to the process before the meeting.

Presentation and Assessment of outputs of the Working Groups

The group spoke about the process around receiving the WG reports in April and May. The DG discussed how to communicate with the Chairs of each WG ahead of the meetings and how to handle receipt of reports and what steps to take after they have been received.

Other Topics

Positive feedback was reported from the GUI Provincial Councils in relation to the updates received around the OGB discussions.

The DG touched on the topic of the PGA and their involvement in the new OGB.

KS updated the DG on the meeting PF, SH and he had with Sport NI on the topic of OGB. They are happy to assist in any way they can and will allocate the OGB project £15,000 a year over the first two years (2017-2018) instead of £10,000 each year, over three years.

KS, PF and SH had a call with Amanda Bennett, an expert in governance. She has worked closely with clubs on governance issues and the DG could harness her knowledge later down the line.

AOB

Date and venue of next DG meetings

- Wednesday 19th April 2pm – 6pm – Milltown Golf Club
- Thursday 20th April 10:00am – 12:30pm – Milltown Golf Club (*GUI/ILGU Board Members*)
- Thursday 20th April 2pm – 6pm – Milltown Golf Club
- Tuesday 23rd May 9am – all day – GUI Offices, Carton House
- Thursday 22nd June 10am – 3pm – Galway Golf Club
- Thursday 10th August 10am – 3pm – Malone Golf Club
- Monday 4th September 10am – 3pm - GUI Offices, Carton House
- Tuesday 26th September – TBC (*GUI/ILGU Board Members*)