



One Governing Body



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

17th Set of Discussions on One Governing Body for Golf in Ireland

23/24 May 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
Ethel Ruddock (ER) – Irish Ladies Golf Union
Kevin Stevens (KS) – Golfing Union of Ireland

Apologies: Iggy O’Muircheartaigh (IOM) – Golfing Union of Ireland

Facilitator

Jane Williams (JW) – Sia Partners

Project Manager

Sarah Crowe (SC)

Working Group Reports

Club Services Working Group Report

Three members of the Club Services WG presented their report to the DG and explained their proposal in terms of what the future offering should be for clubs in the OGB. They highlighted the business issues facing clubs and the importance of making clubs an attractive proposition to their members.

High Performance (HP) Working Group Report

The ILGU HP Manager, the GUI National Coach and the Chair of the WG presented their vision for the future of HP in the OGB. Ideas were shared around a number of topics, including the National and Regional structure of HP, selection of panels and Team Ireland.

Future Club Formation (FCF) Working Group Report

The FCF Group presented their report findings to the DG and placed great importance on the structure of management committees, particularly focusing on skill set importance in the makeup of committees. They also covered areas including development of new clubs, gender representation and how prescriptive the OGB should be in the area of club governance.

Championships Working Group Report

Three members of the Championships Group presented their report to the DG. They spoke about their vision for the new body in terms of championships and tournaments and recommended joint work where possible, including the inter-club championships and inter-provincials/inter-regionals.



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Game Development (GD) Working Group Report

Two members of the WG presented their extensive report findings. These covered areas of general participation, family golf, junior and young adult golf, the PGA/Volunteer coaches and course setup and competition.

Proposal Document

The DG reviewed the draft proposal, revisited all elements of it in detail and pinpointed themes requiring further development. These included the 'Dream', the Strategy and the Model of OGB, to name but a few.

Elements of the Proposal

Finance in the OGB

The Finance Working Group are meeting on 8 June and they will be drafting the financial projections over the next number of years. All the WG feedback and financial implications of these proposals will be taken into account at their next meeting.

Legal in the new OGB

Following significant discussion, there is an assumption within the DG that the new OGB will be a company limited by guarantee and the next step in the process is to draft the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the OGB and to review and revisit the Rules and Bye-Laws.

Case for OGB

The Group addressed a paper drafted on the Benefits for One Governing Body and discussed a number of areas covered within it. The paper touches on areas such as speaking with one voice, promoting an equal environment and what a true governing body really is.

Transitions Process

There was a lengthy discussion around the topic of transitioning, if the vote is passed by both the ILGU and GUI members. The DG spoke about how this would work immediately after the vote and in the months/years following in order to ensure a smooth transitioning period.

Communications in the OGB

SC provided the group with an update on the second draft of the Communications WG proposal. The DG provided feedback on a number of the recommendations contained within, covering staffing structure and the internal and external communications, amongst a number of other issues.

Organisational Structure (OS)

The OS WG provided the DG with a briefing on the updated paper and OS map. The suggestion was made that both the newly drafted 'straight line' map and the initial 'county boundary' map needed to be tested during consultation to gather feedback on which would be a viable option. They also made suggestions about the internal structure at both national and regional level.



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Membership Structure

DG members spoke about future membership in golf clubs and the flexibility of membership types in the new OGB. There is a requirement to strike a good balance between structure and flexibility.

Voting

DG members debated the issue of voting, and how to structure the vote of clubs/members on the draft proposal. Voting on this proposal will be the biggest change in male/female golf in the last 125 years.

Outstanding items from the last meeting (19/20 April '17)

Handicapping/Course Rating WG and Rules WG

A discussion arose around the proposal to bring forward to the respective Boards in relation to a joint Handicapping/Course Rating committee and a Rules committee and the DG came to an agreement that the establishment of such a committee sits outside the remit of the DG as it relates to working jointly and not solely to OGB.

Consultation Sessions

A conversation took place around the timings and structure of the consultation sessions scheduled to take place in July/August. The logistics of the sessions will be worked out ahead of the next DG meeting.

AOB

Date and venue of next DG meetings

- Wednesday 21st June 11am – 3pm – Galway Golf Club
- Thursday 22nd June 9am – 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*)