



One Governing Body



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

24th Set of Discussions on One Governing Body for Golf in Ireland

29 November 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
John Power (JP) – 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)

The process for the meeting was agreed by the DG members when the meeting was opened. The main objective being that the DG work through the areas where there are differences of opinion in elements of the ED Proposal, and try to form an alternative solution, that would be acceptable to the Boards of both Unions and ultimately to Clubs affiliated to both Unions. The communications process in the GUI and the ILGU was also spoken about and the DG agreed to revisit the communications in both organisations later in the meeting.

Regional Structure

The DG held a conversation around the structure of the new organisation. The group reflected on the Organisational Structure Workshop held in early 2017 and they talked through the different maps which were drafted also. These ranged from county boundary, to straight line structures. They reflected on the provincial structure, currently in place in the GUI, the emotional attachment golfers have to province and how the provincial structure works in other sports throughout Ireland. The DG came to a decision on what proposal they would be putting forward on the Regional Structure, and this was based on study, reflection and feedback. The DG agreed proposal will be presented to the two Boards before being approved for insertion in the recommended Proposal for Golf Ireland.

Presidential Rotation

The rotation of the President was pinpointed as extremely important for the new governing body. Golf Ireland should be a model organisation for golf clubs and for sporting organisations and other organisations alike. The DG agreed proposal will be presented to the two Boards before being approved for insertion in the recommended Proposal for Golf Ireland.

Voting of Clubs

The DG discussed the structure of voting of clubs in Golf Ireland and the bands of voting for smaller and larger clubs. The DG were of the view that the voting of clubs in the future should be fair for all sizes of club and for both genders. The DG also want to strike the right balance in the Proposal. The DG agreed proposal will be presented to the two Boards before being approved for insertion in the recommended Proposal for Golf Ireland.



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Gender Balance

The group briefly held a conversation on the topic of gender balance in the new organisation. The group came to a recommendation that 30% male and 30% female should be the minimum gender requirement for Golf Ireland. The DG agreed proposal will be presented to the two Boards before being approved for insertion in the recommended Proposal for Golf Ireland.

Club Vote Date

The members of the DG held a discussion around setting a date for an ILGU and GUI Extraordinary General Meeting of clubs in 2018 to vote on the proposal for Golf Ireland. Additional discussions with Provincial Councils and District Executives will need to take place before communication and briefing sessions with clubs, ahead of the set date for clubs to vote on the Proposal. The DG agreed proposal will be presented to the two Boards before being approved for insertion in the recommended Proposal for Golf Ireland.

Financials – Affiliation Fee

The feedback on some of the financial elements of the ED Proposal were discussed by the DG. Detailed and informed conversations took place around the topics of the Financial Controls Policy, and the proposed affiliation fee for Golf Ireland. The DG agreed proposal will be presented to the two Boards before being approved for insertion in the recommended Proposal for Golf Ireland.

Topics such as National Board Composition, the Transitions Plan for Golf Ireland, Golf Ireland's Relationship with Clubs, Regional Executives, Volunteers, and Championships were touched on by the DG. A position was reached on these topics and like the elements listed above, the DG agreed proposal on these will be presented to the two Boards before being approved for insertion in the recommended Proposal for Golf Ireland.

Omnibus for Golf

SC and JW provided the DG with an update on the Omnibus for Golf. An overview was given on the approach taken, which was one of anonymity and confidentiality of respondents, the drafting of the material which was sent to omnibus volunteers and the initial results from volunteers completing the survey questionnaire. It was acknowledged that further contact with omnibus volunteers is required to gather more responses and more in-depth analysis is required, pending a heightened increase in the response rate.