

ENGLISH WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting of the Operational Board held on Friday 12 December 2008 in the EWGA Board Room, 11 Highfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3EB at 10.30 am

Present:	Mrs E Earnshaw	President
	Mrs R Whitehead	Chairman, Operational Board
	Mrs S Whittaker	Chairman, Management Board
	Mrs A Andrews	Midlands South
	Mrs B Brooke	North
	Mrs M Berriman	South
	Mrs A Pyke	East
	Mrs S Rawles	South West
	Mrs J Wright	Midlands North
	Mr J Robinson	Chief Executive
	Mr J Green	Finance Director
	Mrs L Walker	Minutes

Action

- Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Sally Goulds and Angela Allsopp, LGU Councillor.
- Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Sue Whittaker, Julie Wright who was attending on behalf of Sally Goulds and John Green the newly appointed Finance Director.

The Chairman reported that interviews are being carried out for the recruitment of Non-Executive Directors. Seventeen applications in total have been received.

The Chairman extended congratulations to the following:
All members of the EWGA who appeared on Eggheads, the team did remarkably well and were only the second team to beat four Eggheads in the individual rounds.

Congratulations were also extended to: Jodi Ewart who has been selected by Golf World to play within a team of 12 for the Mid-Season Amateur team; Alex Peters – runner up in the Daily Telegraph Team Championship; Liz Bennett – winner of the ladies Order of Merit; Hannah Barwood – winner of the junior order of Merit and the Faldo series Girls' title; Rachel Connor – for raising £1,500 for terminally ill children; Sian James – for qualifying for British Universities Championship; Hannah Coles – who won the 2008 Ladyherd Fall Classic in the USA; Laura Jones – who won Oklahoma City Star Classic; Kirstie Jennings and Kelly Hanwell – who won the Daily Mail Foursomes.
- Approval of Minutes of 15 October 2008 The Minutes of the meetings held on 15 October 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of each

meeting following an amendment to item 6h.

4. Matters Arising

County Constitutions – the feedback from Regional meetings is that there is not a requirement to set up a working group to assist in this area. John Green agreed that if any County did need information they could contact him.

Australian Spoons – Guidelines have now been distributed. Barbara Brook questioned payment of the facility fee of £200 for this competition as it seemed rather low but it was pointed out that a course would only be required for half a day for this event. Jim Robinson (JR) stated that if any county had a problem with this figure they should contact the EWGA office.

Northumberland LCGA – the matter has now been finalised.

Non-Executive Directors – JR reported that there had been a good response from the advertisement, 11 men and 6 women had applied. 10 candidates had been interviewed and one more interview has still to take place. The standard of applicants has been very high and offers will be made before Christmas. Those offered a position will be requested to supply two referees.

JR reported that he has attended all Regional Meetings and the main point that had come from those meetings was communication. A structure of communication will be put in place which will improve the situation. Sonia Harvey (SH) also recommended that Regional Chairman and JR attend County AGM's where possible.

Isle of Man Ladies Golf Union – JR has followed up this matter and has spoken to the EGU to understand how the situation had been addressed for the men. JR has written advising the Isle of Man that they need to continue to pay affiliation fees for the time being.

Mobile Phone Policy – JR reported that this policy will not change in the foreseeable future.

Company Car Policy – John Green is looking into the benefits of leasing company cars and meetings will be set up with lease companies in the New year.

JG

Angela Uzielli and Bellamy Bursaries – The Chairman reported that Harriett Beasley has been awarded an Angela Uzielli Bursary and Helen White and Grace Greenaway have both been awarded Bellamy Bursaries.

Team Players' behaviour – Although two squad members had been asked to write a letter of apology to the President following an incident at an event earlier in the year, it was recorded that no such letter has been forthcoming.

Regional Meetings – Sue Whittaker stated that she would like to attend Regional Meetings, if invited.

Midlands South – It was confirmed that Margaret Sheepy will take over from Anne Andrews as Regional Chairman of Midlands South.

Regional Posters – these are now with the Design Company for completion.

5. To Receive Correspondence

a) Letters of thanks were received from: Ahmed Agaoglu (Turkish Golf Federation), Liz Bennett, Jessica Bradley, Janet Collingham, Jodie Ewart, Georgia Hall, Emma-Jane Harris, Anne Herbert and Julie Otto.

6. County Golf

a) County Golf Funding – As there are discrepancies between the guidelines and the M&A's a resolution will be put to the members at the AGM to delete Article 88 and amend Article 17.

The County Levy will remain at £15 for 2009. Although the criteria for what expenses will be met by EWGA will be documented, it was suggested that each County be given a specific amount and if a County exceeds this the extra costs should be met by the County. Margaret Berriman is looking into the matter. It was also suggested that the £1,000 given to Counties to help with County Finals should be reviewed as it is now a 5 day event.

MB

7. AGM Matters

The following were appointed:-

4 Doorkeepers Sue Rawles, Sonia Harvey
Anne Andrews, Anne Pyke

Roving Microphone Margaret Berriman

Proposers and seconders:

Apologies	Barbara Brooke
AGM Minutes	Anne Pyke
Management Report	Margaret Berriman
Secunder	Sue Rawles
Appointment-S Whittaker	John Green
Secunder	Jim Robinson
Appointment-Non-Execs	Sue Whittaker
Secunder	Jim Robinson
Ops Board Report	Sally Goulds
Secunder	Julie Wright
Finance Report	John Green
Secunder	Ruth Whitehead
Club Levy	John Green
Secunder	Jim Robinson
County Assoc Fee	John Green

Second
Re-Election of Auditors
Second

Jim Robinson
John Green
Jim Robinson

AGM Voting – two LGU Resolutions are to be voted on by Golf Clubs using the old voting system format.

The EWGA Special Resolutions are amendments to the M&A's which must be voted on, in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, by Counties. Counties will need to gather the views of their clubs by a show of hands at a meeting to be held prior to the AGM. It is understood by the Committee that due to the Christmas period the timeframe for Counties to hold a delegate meeting is tight but unfortunately this is unavoidable.

8. Operational Board Chairman

A discussion was held between the Regional Chairmen regarding the appointment of an Operational Board Chairman for 2009.

9. Distance measuring Devices

The EGU allow these devices to be used in competition although EWGA do not which has caused quite a lot of conflict within clubs and much criticism has been received. It should be made clear to clubs that if they have a local rule in place allowing the use of Distance Measuring Devices for club competitions they may be used but they will not be permitted when playing EWGA medals or in EWGA Championship events. It should be noted that the R&A do not allow use of these devices in their competitions.

The use of distance measuring devices and the use of buggies in EWGA competitions will be reviewed at the end of 2009.

10. Finance Report

Following a meeting between the Auditors, John Green and Jim Robinson to finalise the 2008 accounts, the accounts will show a break-even figure for the nine months to 30 September 2008.

The negative goodwill shown in the accounts was brought about by the transfer of ELGA assets to EWGA at no cost.

11. Regional Meetings Review

East – Counties have suggested that a cheque to cover facility fees could be sent in advance of the event.

Midlands North - It has been questioned whether Counties could be covered under EWGA's Public Liability Insurance. John Green agreed to look into this. Many clubs have also questioned why a subscription is paid to the LGU as with the abolition of LGU medals, LGU have nothing to do with the Club golfer. JR pointed out that whilst the LGU are working towards their business plan target of self financing, an affiliation fee will need to be paid.

Engraving of Trophies – Counties are responsible for engraving.

Midlands South – It was felt that EWGA should be aware of the fact that, due to the current economic climate, some clubs may not declare the correct number of members when paying their subscriptions.

Nominations should be put forward by Counties for future places at the R&A Rules School. It was also felt that EWGA should reintroduce the Rules seminars.

Margaret Sheepy will take over from Anne Andrews as Regional Chairman following the EWGA AGM.

South – Margaret Berriman reported that Pam Williams is standing down as County Delegate for Sussex, her replacement will be Wendy Russell.

South West – Sue Rawles had nothing to report from the South West.

North – Barbara Brooke reported that Marian Rae will Chair the Championship and Venues Committee for one year and that Ann McMullen will sit on the Committee as the representative from the North.

As Barbara wishes to retire at the end of 2009 her successor needs to be appointed for a three year term. The Memorandum and Articles of Association will need to be amended to reflect this change.

12. Any Other Business

a) Referees at Regional Events – referees used at these events need not be qualified.

b) Coronation Foursomes, 2010 onwards – Each Region should send up to 3 venue recommendations to the LGU who will follow up where necessary.

c) Sonia Harvey reported that Shona Malcolm has accepted the CEO position at the LGU until 2010 and will also be Chairman of the Scottish Ladies Golf Union. Maureen Lockett will become President of the LGU following their AGM.

d) CONGU Statistics Committee – A representative from EWGA is needed to sit on this Committee. Ruth Whitehead asked for any suitable nominations to be emailed to Jim Robinson.

All

e) EWGA Website – The building of the new website needs to be progressed as soon as possible. Tenders were submitted 12 months ago and JR is to meet again with Nemysis to move this initiative forward. Cost will be in the region of £45,000

JR

therefore money will have to come from reserves.

f) ELGA Trust Charity Golf Day – Details of the sponsorship packages had been distributed.

g) EWGA/EGU Merger - The EGU have agreed to re-open merger talks following Sue Whitakers letter of recommendation to Max Kaye of the EGU. Talks will begin in the New Year and a press release has been issued. A decision must be made on who will represent EWGA on the merger panel.

h) Central Handicap Database – It was agreed that Paul Keeling from the EGU will be invited to present to the Operational Board at the meeting scheduled for 15 January 2009 at the Arden Hotel, Solihull.

i) The Chairman reported that Sally Watkins is unable to Captain the Girl's Home International team in 2009.

j) The Chairman reported that Sue Westall, Seniors' Captain for 2009 has requested Sue Timberlake as Manager in preference to a 7th player - agreed

k) EWGA Medals – A comparison of the conditions of other Home Countries medal conditions has been produced by Emma Lowe and distributed.

l) Vivien Saunders – Vivien has suggested that EWGA should run a competition for scratch golfers linked to EWGA medals. JR is to meet with Vivien early in the new year, this will be discussed at the next Operational Board meeting.

m) JR advised that a Handicap Seminar will be held at Edgbaston Golf Club on 27 January 2009.

n) Pearson Trophy – This is not regarded as an EWGA event whereas some Regions believe that it does come under the EWGA banner. Elizabeth Earnshaw agreed to look into the background to this trophy.

EE

o) WSP Funding – Details of the level of funding for golf should be announced next week.

p) Trademark of Logo – The British Tourist Board has objected to the use of the EWGA rose being used and are threatening to take the matter to High Court. JR is progressing this matter.

JR

Before the close of the meeting Anne Andrews and Sonia Harvey thanked the committee for their company and support during their time on both the ELGA Executive Committee and EWGA Operational Board.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking Anne and Sonia for all their hard work, advice, support and commitment over the years.

The Chairman also thanked Sue Whittaker and Julie Wright for their attendance and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

The President thanked the Chairman for chairing the meeting.

18. Date of Next meeting The next meeting will be held on Thursday 15 January 2009 at the Arden Hotel, Bickenhill, Birmingham at 0930 am.