

## ENGLISH WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting of the Operational Board held on Thursday 14 January 2010 held at the Arden Hotel, Solihull, Birmingham at 09.30 am

Present:	Mrs E Earnshaw	Chairman, Operational Board
	Miss M Sheepy	Midlands South
	Mrs J Wright	Midlands North
	Mrs C Tremlett	South
	Mrs J Walker	East
	Mrs C Slater	North
	Mrs M Gliddon	South West
	Mr J Robinson	Chief Executive
	Mr M Hall	Finance Director (interim)
	Mrs J Clink	LGU Councillor
	In Attendance	
	Mrs L Walker	Minutes

Action

1. Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Angela Allsopp, LGU Councillor.
2. Chairman's Remarks The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting in 2010. Congratulations were extended to:  
Alex Peters, winner of the Abu Dhabi Championship: Hannah Ralph and Kym Larratt who have earned their full playing cards for the 2010 European Tour and Corisande Lee who will be offered some playing opportunities on the European Tour in 2010.
3. Approval of Minutes The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2009 were approved following minor amendments and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
4. Matters Arising
  - a) Captain's and Coaches Job description – This is now complete following a review of the Ladies' Home Internationals in 2009. JR will speak with the Captains and Coaches regarding selection criteria and the roles of both positions. The job description will be distributed and discussed at the next Operational Board meeting.
  - b) Report on LGU Resolution – The LGU resolution to restructure the LGU was carried at the EWGA AGM. If the Resolution is passed at the LGU AGM, Angela Allsopp will stand down as an LGU Councillor. EWGA will only have one LGU Councillor (Jenny Clink) but a Deputy should be appointed – see item 7.
  - c) Rolex – It was confirmed that Rolex will not be sponsoring the Rules Seminars but other companies will be approached.
5. To Receive Correspondence
  - a) Letters of thanks – No letters of thanks had been received since the last meeting.

JR

6. AGM Feedback from the AGM had been discussed in the joint Management/Operational Board meeting held prior to this meeting.

7. LGU Deputy Councillor If the LGU is restructured the Deputy LGU Councillor will be required to serve for 4 years as a Deputy, as a cover in the event of unavailability of the LGU Councillor, followed by 4 years as the LGU Councillor.

EE suggested that a Deputy from the Operational Board be appointed for each of the first 3 years with the Deputy in the 4<sup>th</sup> year subsequently becoming the LGU Councillor. Jenny Clink will discuss the position at the next LGU meeting.

8. Financial Update The year end and AGM presentation have been the priorities but October/November and December month-ends have been done and budgets are being looked at. A forecast on budget is to be put together to ensure the target of break-even is achieved. A forecast decline in membership, rise in cost of living and bank interest rates together with VAT rise back to 17 ½% will contribute towards a break-even rather than a profit situation.

JR commented that his personal view is that the decline in membership will not be as great as forecast and that with clubs now uploading onto the Central handicap database it will be possible to ensure that clubs declare all its members when paying subscriptions.

9. EWGA Trust Update Trust funds are low, only County grants were met but no individual grants were awarded in 2009. Joel Graham-Blake, Inclusion and Diversity Development Officer, is working on restructuring the Trust grants.

It was reported that the sale of EWGA diaries has raised £10k and the raffle raised £9½ k which will go to the Trust.

The necessary paperwork is being prepared for JR to replace Sally Goulds as a Trustee.

The Chairman reported that the Trust Management Committee for 2010 will comprise:

Elizabeth Earnshaw	Chairman
Jim Robinson	Trustee
Kirstie Jennings	Trustee
Julie Wright	
Susan Bayley-Ward	

240 clubs participated in the Trust Stableford competition in 2009 giving a total of £2,500 for the Trust, however disappointingly, the numbers were down on 2008.

10. Chief Executive Report Since the last report in November, time has been concentrated on the AGM and Year End Account preparation and merger talks,

therefore there was nothing further to report.

11. LGU Report The LGU report was given in detail at the AGM, no further comments were made.
12. Regional Matters No Regional meetings have been held since the last Operational Board Meeting, therefore there was nothing further to report.
- Judi Walker enquired whether, although not all Counties were interested in participating in the public liability insurance proposal offered by Towergate, if those that were interested could be offered a competitive deal. PJR stated that the premium offered was only if all 35 counties participated but counties were welcome to contact Towergate for individual quotes.
- Julie Wright commented that the Conditions of Competition for Regional Tournaments sent out with the entry forms varied substantially from Region to Region and felt that these should be standardised. JR to speak to Emma Lowe and the Championship Committee. JR
13. Regional Championship Losses A schedule of profit and losses on regional Championships had been distributed however some of the figures shown conflicted with the figures held by Regional Chairmen. Kerry Udall would be asked to recalculate the figures and redistribute to the Regional Chairmen. MH
- Where losses are made, these need to be checked to ensure that no unreasonable costs are being claimed, it was also suggested that the amount of loss claimed for reimbursement should be capped.
14. County Issues a) County Final Funding - £1,000 per team is granted by EWGA but it was felt that this figure is inadequate and should be increased to £2,000. It was suggested that the terms of the 'ring fenced pot' should be changed to facilitate the increase after consultation with the regional committees. Virgin Atlantic has agreed to sponsorship of County Finals, the money being used towards scoreboards and to offset the cost of running the event.
- b) Affiliation Fees/numbers – Regional Chairmen requested that, for those Counties who have requested EWGA to collect their subscriptions, a list be sent monthly of all Clubs that have not paid their subscriptions. It was agreed that a list of those clubs that had paid would be sent to counties on a monthly basis. MH
15. Rules of Golf Sub-Committee The Committee will be included in the 2010 Handbook and will comprise:
- Anne Pyke – Chairman
  - Sally Goulds
  - Sandra Fraser
  - Sue Rawles

Judi Walker  
Ruth Whitehead

The term of office for members of this committee is a maximum of 6 years. The draft terms of reference will be produced for discussion at the next Operational Board Meeting.

16. Health and Safety There were no Health and Safety issues.

17. Any Other Business The Chairman asked for the Board's approval that The President, Ann Irvin, be invited to attend Operational Board Meetings – agreed.

Margaret Gliddon asked whether she was expected to attend all Regional competitions. The other Regional Chairmen advised that Margaret should attend as many as possible and that all expenses will be reimbursed.

Margaret Sheepy commented that the EWGA Medal entry form indicates that a Regional finalist may enter any of the Regional finals rather than just their own. It was agreed that the Championship and Venues Committee should discuss this and clarify.

Julie Wright commented that she felt that the EWGA Regional Medal entry form is misleading as some handicap secretaries are interpreting the net differential to be net score against the CSS rather than the SSS. It was suggested that the column on the entry form headed 'Nett Differential' should be changed to read 'Nett Difference (Nett-SSS)' next year. This amendment will be discussed with the Championship and Venues Committee.

The Chairman asked Julie Wright to represent EWGA on the English Schools Committee – agreed.

Jim Robinson asked that Regional Chairman order EWGA lapel badges to distribute at Championships in plenty of time in order to ensure the office have stocks.

Name badges are to be ordered for:

Elizabeth Earnshaw	- Chairman of the Operational Board
Margaret Gliddon	- Regional Chairman, South West
Julie Wright	- Regional Chairman, Midlands North
Carol Slater	- Regional Chairman, North
Judi Walker	- Regional Chairman, East

18. Date of Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23 March 2010 in the Board room at EWGA Offices, 11 Highfield Road, Birmingham B15 3EB at 10.30 am

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