



MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

6TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2016)

Minutes of the 6th Annual General Meeting
held at the Royal Malta Golf Club on Tuesday, 7th March 2017 at 18:00 hours

Agenda:

1. Reading and approval of minutes of the BGM held on 24th February 2016
2. Receiving the Accounts for Year ending December 2016
3. Appointment of V. Curmi & Associates as Auditors for the ensuing 2 years
4. Motions to amend the Constitution
5. Tournaments' Report
6. President's Statement
7. Matters Arising
8. Address by Mr Richard Heath, General Secretary, European Golf Association
9. Closure of Meeting

Introduction

As no quorum had been reached by the appointed time, the start of the meeting was postponed by 15 minutes.

Mr Ian Restall, *MGA Secretary*, opened the meeting at 18:15 hours by welcoming Mr Paul Stoner (*RMGC Chairman*), Mr Joseph Cassar (*MOC Secretary General*), Mr Richard Heath (*EGA General Secretary*), Mr David Allsopp, Mrs Gina Turkington and Mrs Gun Edlund (*RMGC Club Captain, Lady Captain and Lady Vice-Captain respectively*) and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 5th Biennial General Meeting held on Wednesday 24th February 2016 were taken as read and approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kenneth Micallef, *MGA Treasurer*, presented and explained the accounts for the financial period January-December 2016. Mr Micallef thanked the auditors for their professional services.

3. Appointment of Auditors

The appointment of V. Curmi & Associates as the MGA's auditors for the forthcoming two years was approved unanimously.

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4. Motion to amend Constitution

The members present unanimously approved the amendment to Clauses 5.3 and 7.4 of the Constitution inter-related to provide for gender equity in the composition of the Executive Council.

5. Reports

The Tournaments' Report was presented by Mrs Maureen Borg, *MGA Executive Council Member*, and the President's Statement was presented by Mr William Beck, *MGA President*.

6. The European Golf Association

Mr Richard Heath, EGA General Secretary, presented the EGA's role and work in the Sustainable Golf Committee and in the World Handicap System. Furthermore, he highlighted the EGA's thoughts on its next strategic plan for 2018-22.

The MGA President concluded the meeting by reminding of the MGA's Executive Council elections due in 2018 and extended the Executive Council gratitude for everyone's support.

There being no further matters, the meeting was called to an end at about 19:30 hours.

These are the draft minutes from the meeting and remain subject to the members' approval at the next Annual General Meeting due to be held not later than 30th April 2018.

William Beck
Hon President

Ian Restall
Hon Secretary

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PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2016)

In November, last year, we celebrated ten years from the founding of the MGA. Ten years which saw us getting established, learning the ropes and dealing with the many new stressors that come with the job.

But thanks to an excellent team effort from my friends on the MGA Executive Council, thanks to the enormous support of Royal Malta's management board and its membership, and thanks to the wonderful relationships with our national and international governing bodies we managed to reach many of our initial goals and time... time has really flown by.



Our 10th Anniversary dinner was a positive wonderful highpoint celebrating these ten years enhanced by the presence of Bernard Gallacher. What a lovely gentle soul graced our dinner.



Although our juniors perhaps found it difficult to relate to a golfer from an era when their own parents were still at school, I trust that they, like us, will cherish and remember the man's kind heart.



During the year, the Executive had five formal meetings which were regularly attended by all Executive Members. As much as we could, we attended the local meetings organised by Sport Malta. We were also very happy to attend the Maltese Olympic Committee's Sports Awards Presentation night when four of the national team players were acclaimed for their achievements.



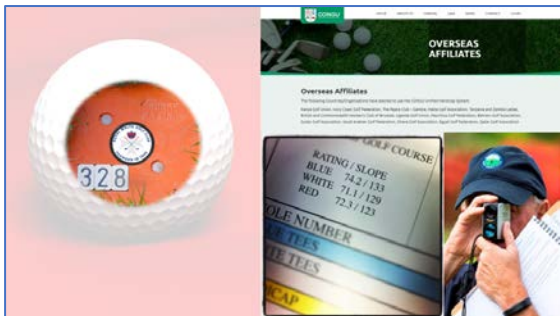
Overseas, we attended the AGM of the European Golf Association which made it possible for the Emerging European Golf Nations to formally meet, for the first time, and discuss the problems and opportunities that the smaller European golfing nations face.

This was only possible thanks to the present President of the EGA as well as to the EGA General Secretary, Richard Heath here with us today, both of whom put their personal commitment behind our request for this meeting to transpire.

The Emerging Golf Nations face very similar struggles including the effect of EU legislation

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2016)

towards sustainability and the use of pesticides; the need to attract more golfers to the game; the cost of participation in overseas tournaments; the cost of, in some instances, indeed the lack of professional coaching; as well as the importance of more investment in golf facilities. It is not a coincidence that Richard is with us this week when Malta is hosting the Sports Forum of the EU Presidency as we endeavour to assist Royal Malta in its quest to improve its course.



Staying with Royal Malta, we have had very lively, positive and fruitful discussions with the Club's Board of Management and Captain's Committee. I am very happy to report that we are completely on the same page when it comes to the interpretation of the designation clauses of CONGU's Handicapping System and specifically its Exceptional Score Reduction module as well as to the replacement of the distance plates in preparation of the next course rating exercise which is due before September next year. It is always a great pleasure to work together with you guys.



Societies that work together for the common good can only but yield positive outcomes. In this aspect, we were pleased when two of our younger golfers were chosen by the Maltese Olympic Committee as ambassadors to spread the word amongst young athletes against doping in sport. We were also happy to continue joining initiatives towards a more active lifestyle fighting the plague of obesity.



The Golf to Schools programme was launched in 2015 and was an instant success. The teachers loved it. The children loved it. For the first time in their careers, the teachers were being asked "when do we play golf again?" and commented that they liked the programme because everyone could play it and because the success rate was high. The resounding success meant that the Ministry of Education requested us to take the programme to level 2 as well as to introduce it to another 12 schools.



Thanks to the support of the R&A, the Ministry of Education as well as to Sport Malta and the RMGC, in March last year thirteen new teachers qualified in level 1 of the programme

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2016)

through the visit of Chris Smith. Six other teachers were trained in level 2 enabling them to guide their students from playing golf based games to starting developing skills more akin to the real game of golf. With these 19 teachers in Level 1 and Level 2, it becomes possible that by the end of this scholastic year the programme will have reached 4 colleges in Malta which between them have 26 schools, 159 classes and circa 6500 students – 40% of the student population at primary level. The programme continues this year when Chris Smith returns in April and together we hit Gozo.

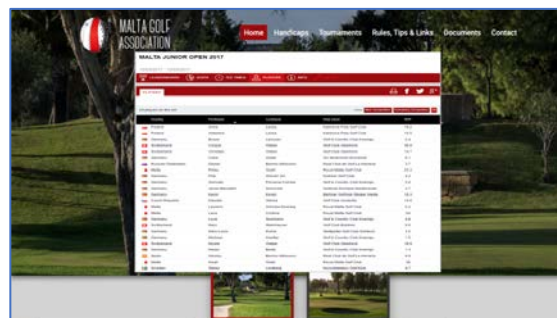


The feedback we received from all quarters, including that of the Minister of Education as well as from the students themselves encourages us to continue with this programme so that by 2020 we will have golf present in all primary schools in our country.



Someone who is passionate about the game is Laurens. At 13 years of age he has already combined his father's swing with his mother's sensibility. In these last 2 years since he started

to play competitions, he dropped his handicap from 16 to 5 and it was not a problem for us to nominate him to enjoy the MOC's Elite Youth Scheme. We trust that soon he will be able to represent us in keener competitions abroad.



He will experience a tough challenge on home ground in a month's time. Working together with the RMGC Junior Academy our Junior Open is attracting a reasonable field of juniors from continental Europe. So far one from the Czech Republic, Russia, Spain and Sweden; two from Poland, three from Latvia, four from Switzerland, six from Cyprus and ten from Germany.

This is the first time that this competition will be played over 54 holes which will help it to attain World Amateur Golf Ranking status from next year.

Whilst on the subject of WAGR, it is heartening to realise that the Emerging Golf Nations meeting at the EGA played a part in convincing the R&A to decrease the requirement to a minimum of 8 girls for competitions to be WAGR compliant.

The MGA always believed that its role cannot and must not be just towards the betterment of elite golfers. As we enter into our next ten years we need to start thinking on a wider perspective.

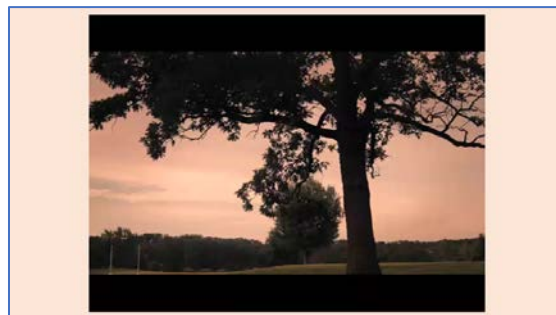
PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2016)



And we start by assisting Peter Dimech in his dream to participate in the European Golf Deaf Championship. I am sure that, like all the elite and the junior golfers that have represented us so far, Peter will be a great ambassador for Maltese golf.



Our next major project must be Special Olympics. The MGA's was made aware of this challenge during a visit to Malta last summer by Dr Eleni Rossides. Dr Rossides is the National Director of the Cypriot Special Olympics Board and a Board Director of Special Olympics International. Her husband is the General Secretary of the Cyprus Golf Federation. Her visit and my subsequent visit to see what the CGF was achieving in this regard has put us on a path that must lead us to embrace these challenged children into our game.



To liberally use John F Kennedy's words, we choose to do these things in the next decade not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to make our game really accessible to all, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win.

< THANK YOU >

TOURNAMENTS REPORT (2016)



The MGA organises two national closed tournaments both of which have again received the substantial support of Nescafé Dolce Gusto as well as that of the RMGC Board of Management and Captain’s Committee.



The MGA Generation cup attracted a total of 23 teams in the main tournament whilst another 6 players participated in the concurrent 9-hole competition organised for the very young players.

Team Khachaturov composed of Grigor and his son David and playing off handicap 26, improved their greensomes score from last year by two shots to secure first place ahead of team Beck composed of William and his son Nicholas playing off handicap 11. Third place was another father and son duo composed of Ricky and Sam Reeves playing off a team handicap of 18.

JJ Micallef adopted young Noah Gratil and won the 9-hole competition with a veritable one over par for the course resulting in 31 points.

Andy Borg playing with daughter Amelia came in second with 22 points.



Cenk Kahraman and Filippa Konig were declared as joint winners of the tenth edition of the MGA Shield. This is the first time that the MGA Shield was presented to the overall best male and female players due to a decision of the MGA Executive in line with gender equity. We believe that this decision removed any ambiguity over the different golf tees that mixed golf is played from and was welcomed by the participating players.

Competition #1	[09/02/2016 – 11/02/2016]	La Canada and Almenara Golf Clubs
JJ Micallef	+13 (two rounds)	Missed Cut (Tied 30 from 68 players)
D Holland	+13 (two rounds)	Missed Cut (Tied 30 from 68 players)
Competition #2	[16/02/2016 – 18/02/2016]	Marbella and Santa Clara Golf Clubs
JJ Micallef	+8 (three rounds)	22 nd place
A Borg	+4 (two rounds)	Missed Cut (Tied 24 from 81 players)
D Holland	+11 (two rounds)	Missed Cut (Tied 48 from 81 players)
Competition #3	[22/02/2016 – 24/02/2016]	San Roque and Finca Cortesin Golf Clubs
JJ Micallef	+21 (two rounds)	Missed Cut (Tied 50 from 69 players)
D Holland	+22 (two rounds)	Missed Cut (Tied 52 from 69 players)
A Borg	+25 (two rounds)	Missed Cut (Tied 59 from 69 players)

Malta’s representation in overseas tournaments during 2016 started with JJ Micallef and Andy Borg experiencing the GECKO tour in Spain. Additionally, the MGA felt it should extend its support also to Danny Holland whose studies towards gaining a professional coaching licence requires him to participate in several professional tournaments. The Gecko Tour founding philosophy is to provide an affordable and highly competitive tournament experience to professional players (and low handicap

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amateurs) from across Europe during the winter months. JJ and Danny participated in three events whilst Andy participated in the last two. Andy's missed cut, despite his four-over par, over two rounds on his first experience in this tour amplifies the high level of play in these tournaments.



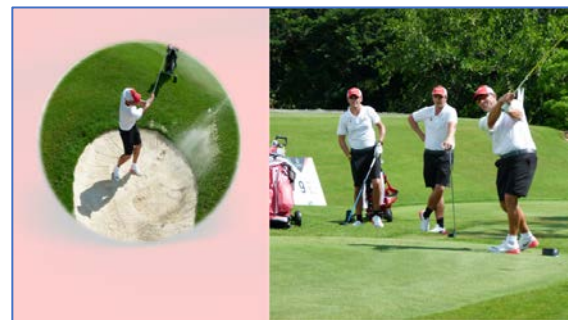
In July, Club and Country were represented by Laurens Shulze Doering and Filippa Konig in the R&A Junior Open that was held in Kilmarnock Scotland. This was the first time that Malta was represented by both a boy and a girl player in this tournament that attracted a record of 148 players from 80 different countries. Whilst Filippa missed the cut with a +34 after 36 holes; Laurens finished tied 80th with his +38 over 54 holes. The winner of the tournament was Pedro Silva from Portugal with a score of -5.



Also in July, Quint van Beek participated in the Lithuanian Amateur Open. This was Quint's first tournament overseas for some time. With an unhappy score of +72 over 54 holes Quint placed 42 out of 66 players.



In September, Andy Borg, JJ Micallef and Christian Brown represented Malta in the World Amateur Team Championship. They returned from Mexico a shattered bunch having placed a low 68th out of 71 teams – unfortunately the worst result for Malta in this Championship since we first participated 3 editions ago.

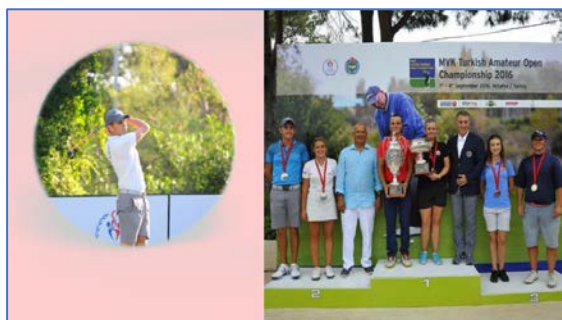


Indeed, Malta ended with a score of +87 equivalent to 125 shots worse than the Australian winning team but also 200 strokes better than Armenia who placed last and some 60 shots short of the mid-40 placing that was hoped for ahead of the tournament.



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On a lighter note, Gernot Schmidt and Anne MacDonald participated in the International Pairs tournament that was held in Spain in November. Their 4BBB Stableford score over two days was a genuine 72 points and we commend them for taking this personal initiative to go to this tournament won by an American team with scores of 46 and 44 Stableford points off handicaps which, we understand, the American duo struggled to reliably convey to the tournament's organisers.



Summer was not all disappointment though. In September, JJ Micallef with a 72-hole aggregate score of +13 managed to secure second place in the 15th Turkish Amateur Open Championship that was played at the National Golf Club.

JJ and Andy Borg (the other Maltese in the tournament) were among the eleven international players that entered the event with all the others being Turkish Citizens. Andy registered a final aggregate score of +15 placing him 6th overall.

The difficulty of the National Golf course manifested itself in the overall scoring of the field with the (Turkish national) winner returning an aggregate score of +2 and the last placed a score of +106. It must be said that JJ and Andy made the personal effort to go to

Turkey without any financial assistance from the MGA.



Even better was team Malta's overall performance in the European Team Shield Championship organised by the European Golf Association and hosted by the Hungarian Golf Federation at the Pannonia Golf & Country Club at the end of July 2016.

The team composed of Andy Borg, Ruud Critien, JJ Micallef and Luc Schembri managed to bring home the bronze medal in the second edition of this championship. Malta's +3 score in the aggregate medal qualifier round placed them first out of 12 teams and matched them with Latvia for the first match play knockout round consisting of one foursomes and two singles matches.

With two out of these three matches won, Malta proceeded to the semi-finals against Serbia. In Serbia, our players found extremely tough players and lost all their matches to a country that on the next day prevailed over Croatia to win the championship.

This left Malta and Liechtenstein to battle it out for third place – countries that bonded fantastically well from the first edition of this tournament even though it was Liechtenstein who eliminated Malta in the first stage of the match play stages last year.

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Our boys did not disappoint. With wins of 7&5; 5&4 and 2&1 our players achieved bronze – another medal added to the silver achieved in the Games of the Small States of Europe in 2015.

