



## MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

### 5<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING (2014-2015)

Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial General Meeting

held At the Royal Malta Golf Club on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 18:00 hours

#### Agenda:

1. Reading and approval of minutes of the BGM held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014
2. Receiving the Accounts for Years ending December 2014 and December 2015
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. 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*) and Mr Joseph Cassar (*MOC Secretary General*) and thanked those present for attending.

#### 1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial General Meeting held on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were taken as read and approved.

#### 2. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Kenneth Micallef, *MGA Treasurer*, presented and explained the accounts for the financial periods January-December 2014 and January-December 2015. 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 5.11, 6.1, 6.6, 7.1, 7.2 and 7.5 of the Constitution all inter-related to provide for an Annual (instead of a Biennial) General Meeting according to the advice received from the Commissioner of Voluntary Organisations.

### 5. Reports

The Tournaments Report and the President's Statement were presented by Mr William Beck (*MGA President*)

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

***These minutes remain subject to approval by the members at the next General Meeting.***

William Beck  
*Hon President*

Ian Restall  
*Hon Secretary*

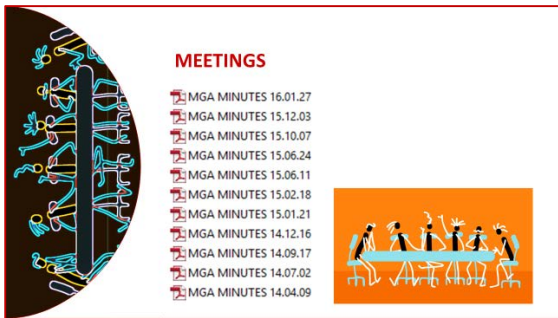
### MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

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**PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2014 - 2015)**



Olympic Committee in the summer of 2014 at Mellieha Bay. It was a good opportunity for golf to be showcased together with volleyball; football; and badminton amongst others and our efforts were appreciated by all including the Parliamentary Secretary for Sport and the Opposition's shadow representative for Sport.



We continue to believe in the Working Together requirement for Golf Malta to succeed and hence we embellished the net with proper banners.

At the start of this quadrennial, we welcomed Kenneth Micallef who replaced John Bonello as Treasurer and Michael Balzan who replaced Ray Mountford. The Executive had eleven formal meetings which were regularly attended by all Executive Members.



No meetings were called overseas by any of the Governing bodies apart from the AGM's of the European Golf Association which were both attended.

Dressed in such a way the net's next presence was at the Europa Donna Breast Health Day that was organised at St Georges Square in Valletta in October of 2014. The experience was wonderful but tiring. Unfortunately not many ladies came forward to try the game but a number of children did.

Our main efforts throughout these past two years were to take the game to outside venues.



Our new golf net was first utilised during the beach games that were held by the Maltese



In May 2015 we were again present in another MOC initiative this time at Ghajn Tuffieha. This was a really busy morning with more than 200 boys and girls visiting our area. All these initiatives could not have been possible without the help of Henning and Danny and all the other RMGC volunteers who came forward to assist. Thank you all.

Our main focus had to remain our golf to schools project but permit me to leave this to the last as I would like to address three other main happenings during these last two years.



Firstly Danny Holland's successful completion of the Level 1 Coaching Certificate that was administered by the Maltese Olympic Committee. This came at a time when Danny was just about to take the first steps in his PGA qualification and I am sure that the experience helped him to understand the broader picture of sport coaching.



And then our congratulations towards Henning for taking persuasive steps to continue building on his experience. I think his commitment made it very easy for the RMGC and the MGA

to assist Henning in making the trip to Bulgaria to attend the PGA's Coaching Circle. The same commitment and increased knowledge of the game made it also very easy for the MGA to nominate Henning as its National Team Coach and have him present as part of the contingent to Iceland.



Again working together, this time with the RMGC Junior Academy, we were able to reach a logical understanding and place the Junior Open in the calendar of the European Golf Association and thus attract a number of extremely good players from overseas.

I am confident that we can continue to reap the positives from this experience and to take this Malta Junior Open to another level and make it acceptable for World Ranking points.

The main issue remains that the tournament needs to be upgraded to 54 holes and I do hope that the members can find it in their heart to accede to these requirements thus enabling Golf Malta in general and especially more so, the RMGC to become a strong feature on the European Junior Tournament calendar.





The Golf to (public primary) Schools project has been in the forefront of the MGA's development considerations for a good part of six years with initial exchanges held with The First Tee and The Golf Foundation in an effort to understand the rationale behind such programmes as well as to the teaching structure and requirements.

With The First Tee's main remit being the USA; and that of The Golf Foundation being the UK; the MGA heeded the R&A's advice to communicate with Short Golf who had the support of the R&A to propagate similar programmes in other countries. A first meeting was held in the UK in the summer of 2013 with Chris Smith – a golf professional coach and the man behind the Short Golf programme.

A complete change of government in Malta in March 2013 followed by a further cabinet reshuffle, prolonged a meeting with the Maltese sport and education authorities to ascertain their willingness to accept such a programme before any further steps could be assumed.

An exchange with the new Parliamentary Secretary for Sports, during the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014, facilitated the opportunity for GOLF MALTA to present the Golf to Schools objectives including a pathway to golf after this initial steps.

The Parliamentary Secretary embraced the plan instantaneously and set in motion a series of meetings which culminated in the official launch of the programme on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015 under the guidance of the aforementioned Chris Smith who travelled to Malta under the financial assistance of the R&A who also donated 8 Short Golf kits to enable the MGA reach its preliminary objectives.

22 classes are already involved in Level 1. These classes are from the St Margaret and St

George Preca colleges – public colleges that cover the neighbourhoods of the three cities and those towns between here and Valletta.



The feedback that we have received from the teachers involved has been extraordinarily positive and we have been asked to extend the programme to the colleges of St Benedict and St Ignatius – thus covering the whole of Malta which is West, East and South of Marsa.

To this means the R&A have already given their support to send us six more golf kits as well as another visit by Chris Smith in a few days' time so that he introduces the programme to more teachers as well as impart the necessary knowledge to step up the plan to Level 2 – just a level below that of junior golf at Club's level.

This would mean that by the end of this year golf will be in 40% of public schools in Malta. We cannot expect the R&A or SportMalta to continue assisting us in this remarkable way and, during the weeks ahead, we will endeavour to find a corporate sponsor to assist us to cover the other 60%.



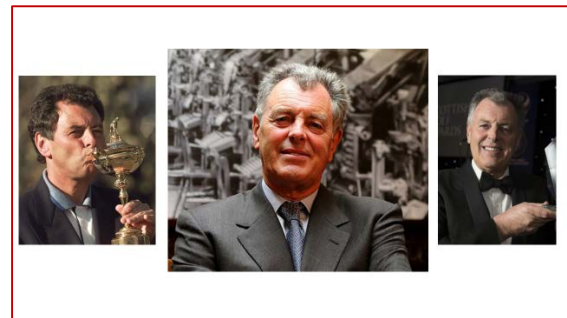
In November 2015 we had the pleasure to see this photo in The Times of Malta as part of the journalist's write up covering the Getting Active – Schools on the Move initiative. I think we should all be proud that our game has made such a headline and it shows that by working together we can achieve results.

We have been advised that we should prepare a leaflet to show the pathway to play competitive golf including that of representing Malta in overseas tournaments. This of course necessitates an understanding of Club membership. The RMGC have reacted with theirs but I still await the relevant information from the Marsa Sports Club. The extremely positive point here is that I understand that the MSC have offered 10 free junior memberships to aspiring young golfers. We believe that the structure of the Golf to Schools programme allows the identification of such talent.



And mentioning talent, the 60 world's best male golfers are due to put golf back in the Olympics between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August this year followed by their 60 female counterparts three days later. After an absence of more than 100 years, the world golf community holds its breath as it awaits this event and we are all hoping that its legacy will be felt by the National Olympic Committees indeed by all those involved in and playing golf throughout the five continents.

To conclude, this year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the foundation of the Malta Golf Association. We have thought to celebrate this modest milestone by holding a gala dinner to coincide with the presentation of the main prizes for the next edition of the MGA Shield.



I am happy to say that Sir Bernard Gallacher has accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Now 65 years old, Sir Bernard played eight Ryder Cups and captained Europe three times in the competition winning it in 1995. In the summer of 2013 he survived a cardiac arrest and a coma which has led him to fervently campaign for more public defibrillators in the UK. I am sure that the man will be inspirational to us all on the night and I trust that the event will be successful in a small way to thank everyone who has assisted us in our way through these important first years.

Without further ado...



## TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2014 - 2015)



The MGA organises two national tournaments both of which again have had the enormous kind support of Nescafé Dolce Gusto.



The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Generation Cup played in February 2014 was won by the Van Beek mother and son duo. With two shots ahead of the Bergedahls and the Hollands, the Van Beeks retained the trophy that they had won the previous year. Laine Tutane and her daughter Cherlyn won the 9-hole competition.



The gender of the winning pair changed the following year. Michael Abele playing with his daughter Amber successfully managed to take full advantage of the new playing format and

their greensomes score was three better than second placed Khachaturov father and son. Stefan Satariano playing with his son Matti won the 9-holes subsidiary competition.



The 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the MGA Shield due to be played in November 2014 had to be postponed due to the very bad weather that hit the country during the weekend.

Played instead in late January 2015, the tournament reverted to a Medal stroke play for the first day and a Stableford for the second day with the results subtracted to determine the overall placing.

JJ Micallef with a differential score of 29, two ahead of Bernard Bugeja and three better than Maike Beekman and Catherine Milet, claimed the shield.



The 2015 edition was played as planned in November and this time the trophy returned to the ladies as Sue Simons clinched it from Luc Adam Schembri with a net differential of 30 points due to a better last six holes on the last day of the competition.



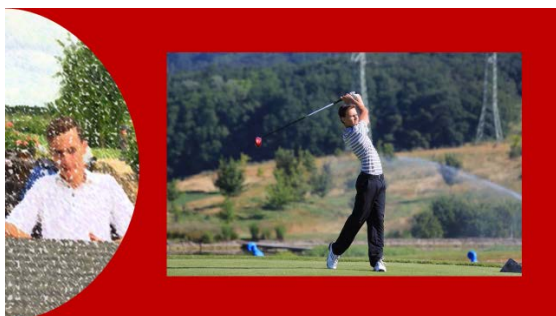
As from this year's edition the Shield will be presented to the best scores returned from both a male and a lady winner.



In July 2014, it was young Mia Allsopp's turn to represent club and country in the R&A Junior Open. At 15 years of age Mia made local history when she became the first girl golfer to represent Malta in this prestigious tournament which attracted 121 other junior golfers from around the world.

Mia struggled in the tough weather conditions that prevailed. Her +83 over two days were particularly punctuated by bad scoring on three successive par 4 holes > the 7th; 8th and 9th which on their own contributed to +29.

Despite placing last, Mia's report for the tournament was chosen by the R&A to feature on their website in recognition of the spirit of what the game should be all about. The Junior Open was won by Kevin Leblanc from Ireland with a +5.



During the same time Quint van Beek travelled to Luxembourg to participate in the 69th

International European Men Amateur Championship which was played at the Kikuoka Country Club in Canach. He followed this with the Nick Faldo Series Championship which was played at the Burg Golf Course in Herkenbosch, Holland. In Luxembourg Quint placed tied 61 out of 78 players with a +16 over 36 holes whilst in Holland he placed tied 86<sup>th</sup> out of 140 players with a score of +37 over 54 holes. The tournaments were won by scores of -11 and -4 respectively.



In the same summer, The MGA also supported the trip of three national junior players to participate in the Slovak Junior Open that was held at the Welten Golf Club in Bac during the first week of August.

John Micallef Stafrace placed a prestigious fifth in the under-18 category whilst Bernhard Abele and Matthew Cassar Torreggiani also gave "a good account of themselves". The highlight was John's -2 on his third day of the competition – the first sub-par round from a Maltese junior golf player.





It was then the turn of Andy Borg and JJ Micallef to try and feature in the Belgian International Amateur Championship held at the Royal Antwerp Golf Club. With a field of 102 players the cut was placed at the best 42 plus ties which resulted in +3 or better after 36 holes.

Unfortunately both our players failed to make the cut with scores of +6 and +5 respectively.



The 2014 overseas tournament year ended with Andy Borg, JJ Micallef and Daniel Holland's participation in the World Amateur Team Championship – Eisenhower Trophy – that was held in Japan. Team Malta finished a credible 50th place out of 67 teams with a score of +24.

The result reflects an improvement of 15 places from Malta's first showing in these Championships in Turkey two years ago plus a team score of 44 strokes to the better. Furthermore whilst in 2012 Malta's team score was 92 strokes behind the USA, this year's result narrowed this deficit to 62 – an improvement of 30 strokes.



In December, we took the opportunity of some fantastically attractive hotel and golf rates to take the national team players for a training camp to Verdura, Sicily. Under the guidance of Henning, the camp was also a means for the MGA Executive to start determining the three players that were to represent Malta in the Games of the Small States of Europe that were going to be held some months later.

We believed that it was important to identify the three players as early as possible thus enabling them to start preparing and focusing for this tournament.



The Maltese Olympic Committee's insistence that participation in such Games had to be supported by prior exposure to other tournaments, made us send Andy, JJ and Daniel to participate in a couple of tournaments of the GECKO Tour in Spain.

Daniel had turned professional in the meantime but his presence was possible as Iceland, the host country for the GSSE, included the chance for professionals to represent their country.

The results returned from the GECKO were not jubilant but the MOC continued to believe in our words that Malta will bring back a medal from the Games – albeit perhaps not gold as Iceland had a very strong home advantage.

The preparations ahead of the Games continued to remain thorough. As soon as the tournament course opened after the winter

lull in May; JJ and Daniel were there for a three day practice whilst Andy unable to make the same itinerary because of his sister's wedding went to Ireland to participate in the Irish Open.



The final exposure to the course was a few days ahead of the official practice round as the players travelled ahead of the other Maltese Contingent with the MOC's continued understanding of the importance for our players to reap the maximum benefit from getting to know the course.

I just do not have words to explain the feeling when our boys made their last putts. I, and all those here in Malta who were following the live scoring knew that they had made silver but the players themselves did not. They felt that they had left a lot of shots out there but all the other players had also found the last day's conditions hard.



As our three players retreated to the scoring area to return their cards and see for themselves the live scores, the realisation quietly sank in that Andy; JJ and Daniel were bringing home the silver.



For their achievements in Iceland, the players received the MOC Silver Award during a Gala Presentation that was held in early December 2015. Their nomination in the SportMalta Sports Award was also accepted albeit this did not make the final phases.

The 2015 summer highlights were far over though as a few weeks later Malta was due to participate in the first edition of the European Team Shield Championship for men amateur golfers organised by the European Golf Association. This was held during the end of July in Bulgaria.

Requiring a team of four amateurs holding citizenship of each respective country, Malta participated with Andy Borg, JJ Micallef, Ruud Critien and John Micallef Stafrace. The other eleven countries that fielded a team for this first edition were Bulgaria; Ukraine; Macedonia; Albania; Romania; Latvia; Croatia; Liechtenstein; Serbia; Greece and Hungary.

The format of the championship was a stroke play qualifier on the first day; followed by three match play knockout rounds. In the match play rounds the teams were required to play two singles and one foursomes match with the condition that play continues until a match is won. Two wins out of three determined the team that would proceed to the next round and the eventual winner and final placing of the teams. All the championship was played off scratch.



In the first day's stroke play event, Team Malta's 215 aggregate (-1 for the course) was only the second score returned under par for the course – behind that of Croatia – and meant that the first match play games were against Liechtenstein.

Ruud and John lost their foursomes match but Andy won his singles leaving JJ's match the one that had to determine whether the team proceeded to the semi-finals. Two agonisingly close putts which did not fall in on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> greens to win the match outright instead of losing it on the 19<sup>th</sup> meant that Malta had to finally contend with a fifth place instead of fighting for one of the podium finishes.



Andy and JJ played another tournament each during the summer of 2015. Andy participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Turkish Open that was played at the Carya Golf Club and with a four day score of +19 placed 21 out of 40 players – 20 shots behind the winner from Denmark.

JJ played in the Swiss Men Open but with a +11 score after the second day failed to make the cut.

Both Andy and JJ travelled to these two tournaments mainly under their own steam and initiative.

Mostly also on his own family's initiative, Laurens Schulze Doering travelled in each of these past two years to participate in the US Kids Tournaments. The MGA very gladly offered its modest financial assistance.

We are already looking ahead towards the possible tournaments for this year.

Our main intentions are to support a team entry to the second edition of the EGA's Team Shield being held in Hungary; to send a team to the World Amateur Team Championships that are being held in Mexico and to facilitate the participation in the R&A Junior Open that will be held in Kilmarnock, Scotland.



For the latter, the juniors are already identified and these are Filippa Konig and Laurens Schulze Doering. This will be the first time that Malta will be sending both a girl and a boy to this tournament. As always, please join us to wish them well.

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