



MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

4TH BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING (2012-2014)

Minutes of the 4th Biennial General Meeting
held At the Royal Malta Golf Club on Tuesday, 11th March 2014 at 18:30 hours

Agenda:

1. Reading and approval of minutes of the BGM held on 25th April 2012
2. Receiving the Accounts for Years ending December 2012 and December 2013
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 Report
7. Election for Executive Council 2014 – 2018
8. Matters Arising
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.

Apologies

Mr Ian Restall (*MGA Secretary*), Mr Ray Mountford (*MGA Executive Council Member*), Dr Michael Balzan, Mr Henning Schulze Doering and Mr Joseph Cassar (*MOC General Secretary*) could not attend and sent their apologies.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 3rd Biennial General Meeting held on Wednesday, 25th April 2012 were taken as read and approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Mr. John Bonello, *MGA Treasurer*, presented and explained the accounts for the financial periods January-December 2012 and January-December 2013. Mr Bonello 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 Clause 2.7 of the Constitution.

5. Reports

Mr William Beck (*MGA President*) tabled the Tournaments Report and the President's Statement. In a brief account, Mr Beck requested the members to support Ms Mia Allsopp as the next (and first female) ambassador to the R&A Junior Open. The development in the EGA affiliation was also explained.

Mr Beck then thanked his Executive Council colleagues, especially outgoing members MR John Bonello and Mr Ray Mountford, for their contribution on the MGA Executive Council.

6. Election for the Executive Council 2014-2018

No elections were necessary as Mr William Beck (President), Mr Ian Restall (Secretary), Mr Kenneth Micallef (Treasurer), Mrs Maureen Borg (Member) and Dr Michael Balzan (Member) had submitted their nominations for the mentioned posts and remained uncontested.

7. MGA Honorary Membership

Mr John Bonello was bestowed with Honorary Membership of the MGA as a tribute to his excellent contribution towards the development of the game of golf in Malta.

8. Other Matters

Malta's affiliation with the EGA was discussed at length and the incoming MGA Executive Council was encouraged to continue seeking ways to make the rapport with the EGA acceptable.

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

Aldo Moro Street Marsa MRS9064 Malta • Telephone: +356 2122 3704 • Telefax: +356 2122 7020
www.maltagolf.org • association@maltagolf.org

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2012-2013)

It feels like it was still yesterday when we founded the Association and it almost seems impossible that the MGA has reached the end of its second quadrennial term. I attribute this mainly to the overall positive and pleasant atmosphere that has existed within the MGA Executive Council. Also of course, to the support that we have enjoyed from the majority of our affiliated members, from the RMGC Board of Management, from the various Club's committees and from our sponsors.

Naturally, it has not always been easy going and we have met with misunderstandings along the way. But goodwill generally prevailed and we continue to benefit from the experiences that came with such a responsibility.



MEETINGS HELD 2012 - 2013	
DATES	PRESENT
22 ND FEBRUARY 2012	William Beck 8 x
11 TH JULY 2012	Ian Restall 7 x
13 TH NOVEMBER 2012	Ray Mountford 8 x
21 ST FEBRUARY 2013	John Bonello 7 x
15 TH MAY 2013	Maureen Borg 6 x
12 TH SEPTEMBER 2013	Paul Stoner 6 x
29 TH OCTOBER 2013	
21 ST JANUARY 2014	
SUPPLEMENTARY MEETINGS	
International Open; WATC Players Selection; National Team Players	

Over these last two years, the Executive Council officially met 8 times. We also had additional meetings regarding the RMGC International Open; the selection of players for the World Amateur; with the national team players themselves and other minor and unofficial meetings that became necessary in our day to day management.

Again, one of the recurring points of discussion in our meetings was funding. And again, as in previous years, I thank our sponsors especially Nestlé Malta who, through their Nescafé Dolce Gusto Brand,

have continued to assist us with the Generation Cup and the MGA Shield. As the accounts have shown we have also been greatly assisted by the Maltese Olympic Committee and the Malta Sports Council as well as by the R&A through its development fund.

With a slight increase in all these incomes, our budget looks healthy for this forthcoming year especially as the Maltese Olympic Committee has increased its contribution due to the presence of golf at the 2015 Games of Small States of Europe in Iceland.

Our players have been forewarned that we seek nothing less than a medal, of whatever colour, from these games. I believe that we have our first real chance to achieve this but it will require sheer determination and commitment from all concerned.



Unfortunately, we could not continue to build up the players' knowledge through visits by our friend and coach, David Llewellyn. Our finances limited David's visits to only two every year. The gap between each visit was too long for the players to benefit anything concrete as they struggled to remember, let alone put into practice, the drills and the advice that David offered.

As we say goodbye to David, we welcome our working together with Henning. A coaching plan for the winter as well as for the summer months has been put in place until the games

next year and we are hopeful that this will reap the desired results.

Henning has always been of outstanding assistance to the MGA and, on behalf of my colleagues, I thank him for everything as I congratulate him for his personal endeavours to continue reviewing and increasing his coaching skills.

I am sure that you would also have noted that Danny Holland has started to become involved with coaching. In fact, through our affiliation with the Maltese Olympic Committee, Danny was able to enrol and pass level 1 of the coaching diploma offered by the MOC.

He is now going through a more demanding level 2 as well as other PGA Courses. Naturally, we are aware of the Rules of Amateur Status which allow Danny to pursue such studies but he should not, of course, breach them otherwise.

As Danny has matured, so have the other members in our junior national team. In just a few years they have grown into the game and it has been a privilege to see them play.



With the last trip to Glyfada last year, I kept my promise to travel with each of our national team players at least once.

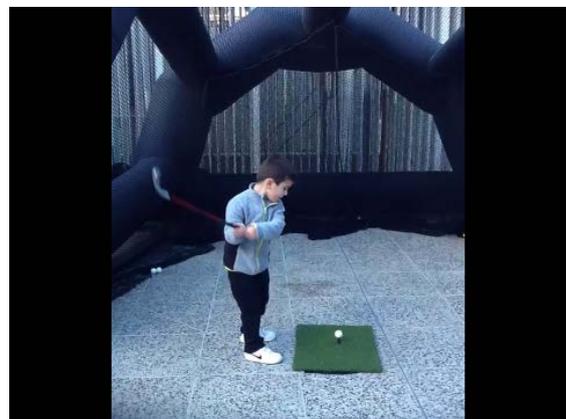
I can vouch that, bar to one minor negative experience a couple of years ago, all the players, whatever their age, have been great

credit to the game of golf in Malta and both the Club and the Association should be proud that we have such excellent ambassadors.

This year, Mia Allsopp brings a softer touch to our representations abroad and she carries to the UK a responsibility of being Malta's first ever female junior ambassador. I am totally convinced that she will carry her responsibility well independent of the number of strokes taken.

Riccardo Fantinelli a young 12 year old and already playing off a handicap better than that of yours truly and Laurens von Canal completes this younger generation playing in competitions to date albeit, family Fantinelli will soon leave our country.

We hope that the game and the work being done by the RMGC Junior Academy can bring forward even more young players to competitive golf. We know that talent is out there somewhere; we just need to find them and bring them into the game.



I think it was ample clear from the presentation on the tournaments the high level of golf that is being achieved in other countries. Andy's impeccable level par for the course over four rounds still only placed him 26th in Belgium, for example. This should only but resolve our commitment to help our players achieve their potential and this can only happen if we catch them young.



Our golf to schools project seeks to do exactly that and we are totally grateful to the R&A for giving us the possibility to start this initiative. Indeed the R&A have already approved to fund the visit of Christopher Smith to assist us launch this programme with the physical education teachers as well as special clubs and equipment to the value of € 5000.

The R&A, like us, await the nod from Malta's education system for the first opportune possibility for all this to happen. We now hope that we will be able to start from the next scholastic year.



To remain with development, I must mention Henning again and his extreme efforts to bring to Malta a golf road show. We were more than totally happy to assist in this wonderful initiative which saw more than 400 individuals trying out golf over the busiest holiday weekend during Christmas at Malta's most renowned shopping mall. Achieved through the assistance offered by the Ryder

Cup European Development Trust, in collaboration with the R&A and the PGA's of Europe, the success of last year's experience augurs well that Malta will benefit again from this road show this year.



I am more than pleased to announce that as one of their last decisions, the outgoing MGA Executive Council has approved the purchase of a similar golf net for the use of Henning to go to schools and colleges.

One of the highlights in these last two years has been Malta's first participation in the World Amateur Team Championship. Through the support of the Maltese Olympic Committee it was possible to send Andy, Ruud and Peter to this tournament which was being played nearer our shores for the first time since the commencement of the MGA.



This year, the tournament returns to Asia – specifically to Japan. As we focus our resources specifically on the Junior Open and the Games of the Small States of Europe, the

Executive Council decided that we could not sustain a visit to Japan and has therefore opened up the invitation to those members who want to make the trip under their own steam. So far five members have shown interest.



Earlier this year, Andy Borg was nominated, by the MGA Executive Council, for the “People’s Choice Awards” category in the Sports Awards being organised by the Malta Sports Council. This was the first time that golf was present in such awards.

As you can see, unfortunately Andy could not be present to collect his achievement certificate on the day and although he did not make the final six names from which the winner will be announced in a few days’ time, it was still very prestigious that golf was present in these awards and that the RMGC was chosen to host the press conference.



Our efforts to increase the knowledge on the Rules of Golf continued by us holding the

second session. Whilst I thank those members who made the effort to attend, I must admit that it was a disappointment that not many more showed up and were able to experience these informative meetings.



In recognition of golf’s responsibilities to its surrounding environment, around this time two years ago, the RMGC Chairman and I attended the R&A Working for Golf Conference at St. Andrews.

This journey served for the MGA to publish its environmental guidelines and for the RMGC to embark on the Club’s environmental policy.



In May last year Mr Stoner and I travelled again to the R&A to attend the 9th International Golf Conference organised by the R&A.

Held every four years, this conference was attended by over 200 delegates from 66 different countries. The conference dealt with various topics that are influencing today’s

game including anchoring; pace of play; making the game fun for senior golfers and beginners; golf in the Olympics; golf rankings and a worldwide unified handicapping system amongst others.



Through our affiliation with the European Golf Association, we were also able to attend a golf seminar and exhibition held within the confines of the EU Parliament in Brussels. The seminar considered golf's environmental priorities and progress; its social role and economic contribution.

Staying in Europe – since three years we have been questioning the merits of our affiliation with the European Golf Association. Specifically we feel that a disparity exists in the affiliation fee and voting structure across the 44 member countries that make up the EGA.



We were honoured with a visit to Malta by the EGA President who made the journey last

year to join us in celebrating the opening of the RMGC's Clubhouse as well as to try and understand what golf in Malta was all about.

Despite this visit; despite a very healthy understanding with the EGA General Secretary and despite various promises by the EGA Executive Committee to study and review the EGA structure, the status quo has not only been maintained but we have also seen an increase in subscriptions including a proposal to automatically join two other programmes via the EGA and pay the additional respective payments. As we neared this election year, the outgoing MGA Executive Council felt that it had not the mandate to decide Malta's future with the EGA.

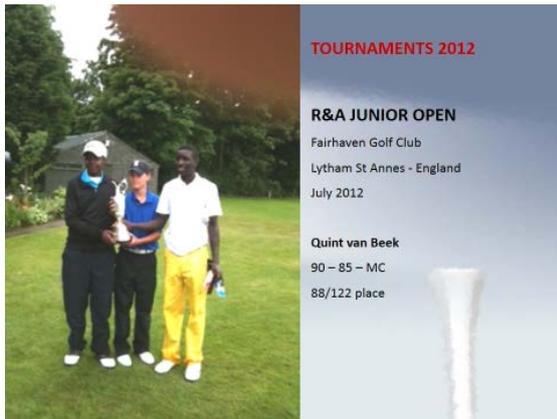
As to the future – today the MGA enters into its third quadrennial and I suggest that during this forthcoming four years we should concentrate on our vision to make golf more accessible. We have to be able to assist and encourage people of all ages to start and stay in golf.

My last words go towards my colleagues sitting here by my side. Friends, it has been a real pleasure to work with you over these last four years. I thank you for all your advice and assistance which made everything so much easier and possible.

Whilst we are going to miss John's and Ray's valuable involvement we look forward to Kenneth's and Michael's contribution to the development of the game of golf in Malta.



TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2012-2013)



We start this biennial tournament report from where we left it two years ago. Quint van Beek was the representative player in the 10th Junior Open Golf Championship organised by the R&A.

Playing in cold and rainy weather Quint's scores of 90 and 85 on the par 74 course littered with 130 deep bunkers prevented him from making the cut. In the second day Quint played one over par for the first nine holes before again succumbing to Fairhaven's rough.

The tournament was won by a girl from Japan who amazed everyone with 3 sub-par rounds of 66, 69 and 71 breaking all records for the tournament.



In August 2012, Andy was one of 86 players that registered to play for the tournament – 50 of which had a handicap of scratch or better. His first day score of +4 was indicative of the cut that was to be applied after 36 holes play.

He played the front nine on this day at level par but three bogeys and a miserable double bogey on the back nine meant that Andy missed the cut by a mere one stroke.

The tournament was won by a Swiss player with a score of 6 under par over 72 holes. As a true ambassador, despite his missed cut, Andy showed up for the second two days of the tournament and was able to assist as a marker.



Almost concurrently, Bernhard was playing in the Slovenian Under-21 Championship – his first ever experience in tournament play abroad. The Levada course boasts of having the longest par 5 in Slovenia. This 18th hole measures a staggering 598 metres from the white tees. A birdie on his last day on this last hole was a highlight in Bernhard's trip where he otherwise struggled with his putting.



Andrew, Peter and Ruud had the honour to represent Malta for the first time in the World

Amateur Team Championships. As per the report that was published on the players' return to Malta, Peter's par, par, birdie start; Ruud's +1 over nine holes on two different days and Andy's +2 and twice +3 over nine holes over three different days are all signs that the players can play well.

But the expectation that most of our national team players mentally struggle to hold a score together over a full 18 holes let alone over three or four days of such an international competition leaves one only to dream of what could be achieved if only we had the right resources.

Under their own initiative, Nicholas and Grigor travelled to Paphos in April 2013 to play in the Cyprus Men's Amateur Open.

The tournament was characterised by heaving scoring. Out of the registered 65 players only 52 managed to complete the full 54 holes and averaged between them rounds of 86 shots.

Nicholas +6 on the second day was the third best score and had moved him to overall 9th at the end of the day's play. Aphrodite had her own plans though for the third day as she worn out Nicholas of all his energy.

Grigor returned to Malta happy with his hole in one at Aphrodite's par 3 fifth hole measuring 135 metres.

Bernhard and Quint struggled at Kaskada and failed to make the cut after two days play – a cut which allowed only 20 players to proceed for the third and final day. Kaskada is a very hilly course and most of the time the players have to play to elevated or depressed greens from depressed or elevated tees or fairways.

The boys' eclectic scores over two days reflected 5 over and 2 over par for the course but the actual scores naturally tell another story.

Andy returned to Royal Antwerp and his one under par 71 for the course for each of the first two days of the Championship secured him a place for the remaining two days where he mirrored his score albeit on the other side of par and i.e. one over for the course on each day for a 71-71-73-73 to an aggregate 288 and 26th overall placing. The competition was won by a Belgian who played who played to an incredible 23 under for the course.



The Slovakian Open was won by a player from the Czech Republic with an 11 under par for the course. With hardly any time to put into a practice round, Nicholas missed the cut by 5 shots having been let down by his chipping game and putting – something which is normally his forte. He hit more than 2/3 of the greens in regulation but could not cash in on the putting due to the very fast speed of the greens at Welten Bec.



Quint, John and Matthew had a generally positive experience at Glyfada and three out of their six scores were under 80. Matthew played better on this foreign soil than his home handicap at that time but his gross scores were, simply put, not sufficient for the tournament.

Both Quint and John had a shooting chance to make it to the Grand Final of the Faldo Series in America but they just could not keep a good score together. John was able to play level par for the back nine on the first day to remain 5

over overall and continued to remain in contention until he drowned his chances on the last 6 holes of the second day. Quint front nine scores on both days were next to perfect with a +2 and +1 but on both days he carded similar scores of +5 on the back 9 holes with 4 double bogeys effectively being his doom.



And then there was Mike who under his own steam went to play in the Serbian Amateur. His scores like his swing are still lost somewhere in Belgrade.



Finally, we are pleased to confirm Mia Allsopp as our next young ambassador to the R&A Junior Open Championship that will be played at the West Lancashire Golf Club. This is the first time that a young female golfer represents Club and Country in this Championship. Please join us to wish her well.



On home soil, Nescafe Dolce Gusto has been totally encouraging to the MGA with their kind sponsorship of the Generation Cup and the MGA Shield. In 2012, the Generation Cup was won by Louis Sansone playing with his nephew Matthew Cassar Torreggiani.

Felicity Dix with her son Rupert placed second ahead of Doreen Balzan playing with her daughter Leann.



Yvonne van Beek playing with her son Quint won last year's edition. Whilst Francis Bergedahl playing with her son Chris took second place on count back ahead of the Beck father and son combination.



In 2012, Maria Woodward won the 6th Edition of the MGA Shield with a net 132. This meant that in its first six editions, the Shield was won by two gentlemen, two ladies and two juniors.



Ray Mountford – with a similar net 132 – won the Shield last year hotly followed by Margaret Nelson.

As highlighted in the accounts of the Association, the income from the MGA Shield goes a long way to help the MGA to achieve its goals and we take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the sponsors and to the participating players for their kind support.