

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2017)

Before I delve into the administrative report, I would like to link to the tournament's report and extend the MGA's gratitude to the R&A, the Maltese Olympic Committee and Sport Malta.



Their unwavering support ensures that we can continue with our golf development programmes as well as participate in international competitions. We also appreciate the kindness of Mr Naum Janakiev and his team at NESTLE Malta for sponsoring our two national competitions and making the ordinary... extraordinary.

In between our last annual general meeting and this, we had a relatively quiet administrative year and I want to thank my colleagues on the Council for assisting me to ensure that everything progressed smoothly. I also want to acknowledge the input of the RMGC Chairman for his personal and the Club's support in our endeavours. We have additionally started to invite the RMGC Captain to those meetings where his presence is considered vital and we look forward to continuing doing so in the next quadrennial.



Our first overseas responsibility for the year was to attend the R&A's International Golf Conference. Held in St Andrews, this 10th Working for Golf Conference dealt with various aspects that are influencing today's game including the new set of Rules as well as the forthcoming world handicapping system.



Just ahead of Easter, we joined forces with the RMGC, the Junior Academy and the PGA of Malta to organise the Malta Junior Open. With the RMGC's members' understanding it was possible to extend this tournament for the first time to 54 holes enabling the tournament to be a probationary event towards the World Amateur Golf Ranking.

The competition attracted 50 players and included strong contingents from Cyprus, Germany, Italy and Poland. Ten were local players whilst just under a third of the participants were girls.



In line with our gender equity, we declared joint winners for the tournament. Indeed, this was won by the best girl and boy that entered - Valentina Albertazzi from Italy and Marco Rossrucker from Germany. The youngest

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RMGC players had their own subsidiary competition and I think the photos go a long way to showcase how much they enjoyed themselves thanks to the fervent work that Irwin, Thomas and Henning put in.



The success of last year has enabled the R&A to endorse this year's tournament as a counting event towards WAGR. 90 players from 20 different countries will converge at the RMGC in a few days' time. Half of the field has a playing handicap of 5 or better. Four players, including one girl, are better than scratch.

On behalf of the organising committee, I thank the RMGC members for their support towards this tournament and urge everyone to celebrate this historical achievement of the Club also through following the tournament or extending help to the organising committee.



Success does not come easy. After following a three-year programme with the PGA of GB&I, in July last year, Danny Holland qualified as a golf professional. Danny took up the game at 10 years of age and it has been a joy to see him mature into a fine player. We wish him well in furthering his professional career.

At this point, I also wish to acknowledge the role of the RMGC resident professional. Apart from being instrumental in Danny's career, Henning has been a very strong link in everything that we have done over these years. Thank you, Henning. Like most of us, you have seen these young players grow into manhood and like us you have been part of their disappointments and achievements both on and off the course.



One of my personal joys during last year was to witness Team Malta retain bronze in the European Team Shield and then to witness them being acknowledged for their success at the Sports Awards hosted by the Maltese Olympic Committee.



In April we continued with our golf to schools' initiatives. This time we took the programme to the schools in Gozo where nine physical education teachers received their level 1 training. Later in the week another eleven teachers were upgraded to level two. The highlight of the week was the first Golf to Schools "Festival" followed by the first experience with individuals within Special Olympics programme.

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About 60 children descended with their teachers to the Bocci Dome within the Sport Malta complex in Corradino and soon the hall became animated with children participating as a team identified by their different coloured caps and vying to do their best to achieve the highest scores according to the putting and chipping games that were set up for them.

The fun and the rationale behind the programme was enjoyed by the Hon Evarist Bartolo (the Minister of Education), the Hon Dr Luciano Busuttil (Chairman SportMalta), Mr Kevin Azzopardi (CEO for Physical Education), Mr Maurice Gruppetta (Chief of Staff Ministry of Education) and Mr Paul Stoner (Chairman Royal Malta Golf Club).

Unfortunately, the Hon Chris Agius (Parliamentary Secretary for Sports) and the person who kick started the programme in 2015 was unable to attend due to his hospitalization after being hit by a car a few days prior.



Towards the end of the activity the group was joined by Dr David Agius, Shadow Minister for Sports, who also stayed to watch the Special Olympics input.



Special Olympics Malta are determined to have golf as part of their team that goes to Abu Dhabi next year. We have just received information that Malta has been granted three places.

We have exactly one year to prepare these athletes for the games – quite a mean feat.



Those of you who attended last year's AGM would be fully appreciative of the input given by Richard Heath, General Secretary of the European Golf Association. The EGA's Strategic Plan, shared with us by Richard, was then re-discussed during a special meeting held in St Andrews and finally endorsed at the EGA's AGM held in November.

Amongst other things, the strategy for the next five years has seen a positive consideration on the needs of the emerging golf nations.

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I am also very happy and proud to announce that the EGA Executive Committee has chosen Malta as the next venue for the AGM.

This AGM is attended by the Presidents and/or General Secretaries of the European golf nations affiliated to the EGA as well as a number of Executive Directors from the R&A.



With that I conclude and thank you for your kind patience in receiving our reports. Any questions?



Before I close the official part of the meeting and hand over the floor to our distinguished guest, we have one item remaining on our agenda. The resignation of the current Executive Council members and the election of the new Executive Council members for the next quadrennial.

Dr Michael Balzan has decided not to re-stand for election. On behalf of all of us, also on a personal level, I thank him for his positive contribution over these last four years.

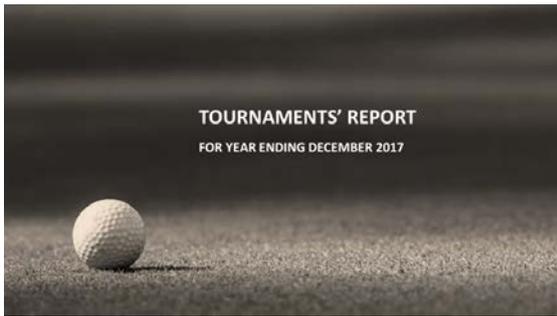
Ian, Kenneth, Maureen and I submitted our willingness to re-stand for another term and Doreen Balzan has submitted her nomination.

We have not received any further nominations and thus in us five, the MGA has a full uncontested Executive for the next four years.

The immediate years ahead will offer some challenges. The new Rules of Golf come into play in 2019 and we intend to bring you the education material as soon as we have the proper guidelines from the R&A. In 2020, we will have to adopt the World Handicapping System and we must bring that to you as well. We intend to complete our golf to schools' programme to cover all public schools and I would also like the Executive to consider how to move forward so that we are more proactive to assist the Club to attract more local members including ladies.

At the end of this next quadrennial, together with Ian and Maureen, I would have served the MGA for sixteen years – the Club another seven years prior to that. At the next elective AGM in 2022, I am fully determined to call it a day. I ask for your cooperation to help achieve this last personal wish. Thank you.

TOURNAMENTS REPORT (2017)



We start by expressing our appreciation and gratitude to Nescafe Dolce Gusto for their continued support in sponsoring our two national tournaments. Their contribution is invaluable. Our thanks also go to the RMGC Board of management and the Captain's Committee for their support and smooth running of the tournaments which ensured that they were enjoyed by all.



The seventh edition of the MGA Generation Cup attracted 18 teams in the main tournament. It was won by Martin Azzopardi playing with his son Sam. Played in Greensome medal format and with a combined team handicap of 32, the Azzopardi duo claimed the trophy with a net medal score of 63.



Debbie Holland playing with her son Danny placed second whilst Laine Tutane partnered by her daughter Cherlyn came in third.

It was a particularly hot July so unfortunately only two young players were able to brave the heat and participate in the concurrent 9-hole competition organised for the very young players.

These were Thomas Christmas and Dominic Cola Evans who were adopted by Anne Thompson. The trio garnered 17 points over the 9 holes played.



The eleventh edition of the Malta Association Shield which was played in November was won by Maria Woodward with an aggregate score of 34 and Eugene Cranley with an aggregate score of 28.



Gun Edlund placed second with Michelle Allsopp third in the Ladies section while Klaus Hummel and Johann Camilleri were second and third on the men's side.

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In line with its encompassing role, the MGA facilitated Peter DImech's participation in the 5th European Deaf Golf Championship. Returning scores of 17, 21 and 19 Peter placed 9th out of the twelve participants in his handicap category.



The MGA has continued to assist Danny Holland in his professional career by endorsing his participation in five GECKO tournaments. Andy Borg also participated in these tournaments and both players achieved some good overall results.

Danny's best placing was a joint third place on the Alcaidesa Golf Club with a score of -1 after three rounds.

Andy won second best amateur on the same course and went on to win best amateur one week later, on the San Roque New Course - a feat he would replicate on the Real Novo Sancti Petri Course in December.



Andy Borg also travelled on his own initiative to the Turkish Amateur Open. With scores of level par on the first day followed by +4, +7 & +4 for the subsequent rounds he finished in 20th place out of 42 competitors.



Although the MGA was not directly involved, we feel that is apt to mention the sterling efforts that the RMGC Junior Academy made to take a group of youngsters to play the Severis Cyprus Youth Open.

The best results were returned by Finley Gratil and Filippa Schuelze Doering who finished second and third respectively in their divisions. Young Noah finished fifth in his division whilst Laurens and Sviatoslav finished 10th and 44th respectively in their field that contained 51 players.

Filippa improved her performance some six months later when she won her division in the Latvian Junior Open by a margin of 26 shots.

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Her sibling, Laurens, went a step further by winning the Latvian open outright. Lauren's aggregate of +15 over 54 holes was the best score from all the boys' categories from 21 years and under. With this win, Laurens became the youngest RMGC winner in international competitions.



Laurens' first real experience in major tournaments occurred a few months earlier when in May he joined JJ Micallef to play in the Cyprus Men Open. Laurens' experience placed him 24th out of 54 players.

With a score of 9 over par through 54 holes at the Aphrodite Hills Golf Course, JJ became the first Maltese male golfer to win an amateur international open tournament. JJ had to fight hard for this win having been one shot behind the leader after the first day and then three shots behind after the second day of play.

JJ first edged ahead with nine holes to play – an advantage that he maintained until the last putt was sunk.

JJ doubled this win a few months later when, as a representative of the Club, he won the Turkish Airlines Amateur Competition.



In August, Team Malta composed of Nicholas Beck, Andrew Borg, Ruud Critien and JJ Micallef Verelst managed to defend and retain the bronze position in the European Team Shield Championship organised by the European Golf Association and hosted by the Bulgarian Golf Federation at the Pravets Golf Club.

Twelve other countries fielded a men's team for this third edition of the ETSC. These were Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine.

In the stroke play qualifier with a team aggregate of +8 Malta placed third overall behind Turkey and Lithuania. Malta's third place meant that they had to play Bulgaria (the host team) in the quarter finals of the match play knockout.

Without much deliberating, it was decided for Nick and Ruud to be the foursomes pair with JJ and Andy to play in the singles matches – a combination which was retained throughout the rest of the competition.

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Malta won two of its three matches and halved the other to get into the semi-final against Lithuania. Unfortunately, Lithuania proved too strong on the day, winning two of the matches against one loss... thus dashing Malta's hopes of reaching the final. In fact, Lithuania proceeded to win the tournament by beating Turkey.

Malta had to face Greece in the fight for third place. Here the Maltese team produced another fine performance by winning two of its matches and halving the third to retain the Bronze medal.



The year ahead will be a challenging one for our chosen players. Laurens will be participating in the R&A Junior Open and four players will return to defend, if not improve, their position in the European Shield. Golf will also form part of the Maltese Olympic Committee's contingent in the Mediterranean Games and we will be participating in the World Amateur Team championships as these return to Europe.

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MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

7TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2017)

Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting
held at the Royal Malta Golf Club on Wednesday, 7th March 2018 at 18:30 hours

Agenda:

1. Reading and approval of minutes of the AGM held on 7th March 2017
2. Receiving the Accounts for Year ending December 2017
3. Appointment of V. Curmi & Associates as Auditors for the ensuing year
4. Motions to amend the Constitution
5. Tournaments' Report
6. President's Statement
7. Matters Arising
8. Receiving the resignation of the existing Executive Council
9. Election of the new Executive Council Officers for the years 2018-2022
10. Closure of Meeting

Introduction

Mr Ian Restall, *MGA Secretary*, opened the meeting at 18:30 hours by welcoming Mr Paul Stoner (*RMGC Chairman*), Mr Joseph Cassar (*MOC Secretary General*), Mr Vincent Portelli, Mrs Gun Edlund and Mr Thomas Jacobsen (*RMGC Club Captain, Lady Captain and Club Vice-Captain respectively*) as well as Mr Peter Bromley and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 6th Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 7th March 2017 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 2017. 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 year was approved unanimously.

MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION



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4. Motion to amend Constitution

The members present unanimously approved the amendment to Clause 2.4.

5. Tournaments' Report

The Tournaments' Report for the year 2017 was presented by Mrs Maureen Borg, *MGA Executive Council Member*.

6. President's Statement

The President's Statement for the year 2017 was presented by Mr William Beck, *MGA President*.

7. Resignation of Executive Council

The meeting received the resignation of the Executive Council for the period 2014-2018.

8. Election of the Executive Council 2018-2022

Mr William Beck, Mr Ian Restall, Mr Kenneth Micallef, Mrs Maureen Borg and Mrs Doreen Balzan had submitted their nominations in time according to the MGA Constitution and stood uncontested. They were thus appointed to their respective roles as President, General Secretary, Treasurer and Council Members respectively.

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

PS: At the end of the AGM procedures, the members were addressed by Mr Peter Bromley – Handicapping, Rules and Course Rating Chairman of the Cyprus Golf Federation. Mr Bromley gave a presentation on Course Rating, Slope Rating and the new World Handicapping System.

These are draft minutes and remain subject to approval by the members at the AGM of 2019.

William Beck
Hon President

Ian Restall
Hon Secretary

MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

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