



## MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

### 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2022)

Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 at 18:30 hours.

#### Agenda:

- Reading and approval of minutes of the AGM held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- Receiving the Accounts for Year ended December 2022.
- Tournaments' Report.
- President's Statement.
- Matters arising.
- Closure of Meeting.

#### Introduction:

The meeting needed postponement by 30 minutes as no quorum was present and also because of the lack of presence of the MGA President and Treasurer due to an unexpected visit to hospital emergency.

Ms Johana Grech (*MOC Director of Youth*), Mr JJ Micallef (*RMGC Vice-Captain*) as well as Mr John Bonello, Dr David Debono and Mr Richard Waterhouse (*all RMGC ex-captains*) were welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Mr Paul Stoner (*RMGC Chairman*), Mr Benji Mangion (*RMGC Club Captain*), Ms Eileen Borg (*RMGC Lady Captain*) and Dr Karen Zammit Southernwood (*SportMalta*).

#### 1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 [circulated in advance] were taken as read and approved.

#### 2. Treasurer's Report

Mr Kenneth Micallef, *MGA Treasurer*, presented and explained the accounts for the financial year ended December 2022 and forwarded a budget for the year 2023. Mr Guy Cubitt and Mr John Fletcher were thanked for reviewing the accounts on behalf of the membership before these were approved by the MGA Executive.



## MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

### 4. Tournament's Report

The Tournament's Report for the year 2022 was tabled.

### 5. President's Statement

The President's Statement for the year 2022 was presented by Mr Beck.

### 6. Matters Arising

Mr John Bonello moved a vote of thanks and confidence on the MGA's Executive members for all the work they were endeavouring to promote the game of golf.

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

William Beck  
*President*

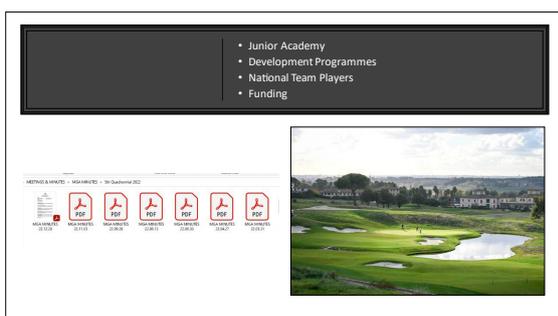
Nicholas Beck  
*Secretary*

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

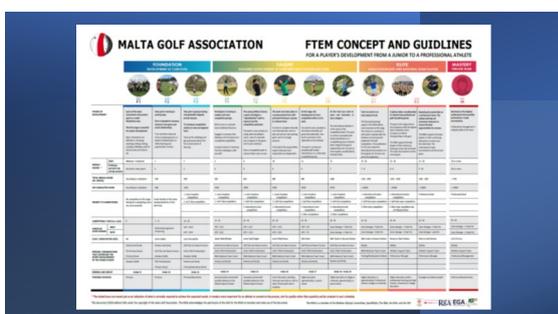
## PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2022)



In this first year of the fifth quadrennial term, the Executive met formally seven times with the RMGC represented by its Chairman. I am happy that our two newly elected executive members, Nicholas and Andy, have settled quickly in their roles and have both been able to contribute positively to the meetings and beyond.



The main topics for discussion during these meetings concerned the junior academy, development programmes, national team players and funding. In November, we were also able to attend the annual general meeting of the European Golf Association which was held in Rome.



Malta once again facilitated the meeting of the Emerging Golf Nations, and we took the

opportunity to share our new players' development template. Required by the Maltese Olympic Committee, this development plan seeks to explain the path that a junior player needs to follow to achieve success. We acknowledge the kindness of the Swiss Golf Association for allowing us to plagiarise its own template and share the result with the emerging golf nations in Rome. The move has been appreciated by the EGA and the template has been approved by the MOC who have also shared it with other national federations.

The financial and tournaments' reports, presented by my colleagues, have highlighted a busy 2022. As importantly, the annual review that these reports automatically generate, brings to the forefront the challenges that we face as an Association.

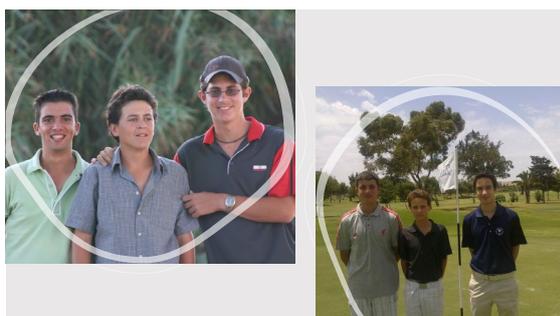


Funding and sponsorships are crucial if we are to be able to continue developing the game. Funding from the MOC and SportMalta is focused on international participation and coaching. Simply put, if we do not send players to experience international golf then we do not receive these funds. Funding from The R&A is towards development programmes. This is naturally limited because any of our programmes are small due to the size of our golf market. Unlike what the slide suggests, securing long term strong sponsorships for sport is an amazingly difficult thing. The MGA organises only one competition which makes any sponsoring brand exposure quite limited.

## PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2022)

We were lucky in 2022 to find the helpful support of Ozo, Oakley, Crosscraft and various individual souls but as one can appreciate this was limited to specific events. Whilst we are extremely grateful to all our current stakeholders and sponsors, we need to work towards stronger and longer financial security to enable us to be bolder with our programmes.

Secondly, we face an acute shortage of young nationals in our midst. The younger Borg, Mangion, and Urpani siblings were followed by Critien, Denaro, Dlx and Schembri followed by Beck, Bergedahl and Micallef and then by Caruana, Holland, Micallef Stafrace, Cassar Torreggiani and Van Beek.



Out of these 18 names only two are non-nationals and half of them have since stopped playing the game. As these generations morphed over the years, and with the coming of age of Laurens, we have been able to continue to send individual players and a national team to participate in international competitions over successive years. We have to admit that Maltese golf was lucky that Laurens gained citizenship, but we also have to admit that during his growing age he was the only Maltese teenager playing the game.

We now have two Maltese boys and two girls playing regularly in local competitions. We have recently been contacted by a Maltese family living in the UK. Their daughter, Serena,

is a member at Wentworth and at 14 years of age has a handicap of 3.8.



All are being encouraged to experience international competitions. Out of 63 juniors in the junior academy programme only 21 are Maltese and out of these only a handful are girls. All these young juniors are still in their early stages in the game, and we are unable to assess whether anyone will make the mark. The stark reality is that 17 out of the earlier mentioned 19 names had their guardians playing golf before them. The stark reality is that the majority of the Maltese junior academy players do not have the same family connection which makes us doubt as to whether they will continue in the game.



In these last 10 years or so, we have also missed the triumvirate comradeship that invites competition and sustains one's growth in the game. In one way or other, this trio of players has been present at club level for many years. It now seems to have disappeared and we will do well if we can encourage young Maltese players to take up the game and to form these kinds of bonds.

## PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2022)



This lack of succession is also of concern for the future administration of the MGA. Whilst I am very happy that Andy and Nicholas have joined the Executive, we need to assure that the Executive Committee remains functioning in three years' time when both Kenneth and I will truly have to call it a day.

The MGA's first five-year strategy for the development of golf in Malta was published in 2020 and has already gone through half its lifetime. Although our work remains mainly in line with this strategy, this year we have to already start to think of its revision and endeavour to address the above-mentioned concerns so that we can leave the MGA in a stronger and better position than it has ever been since its inception.



Until this revision happens, we are not going to sit on our laurels. After an absence of three years, our golf to schools' programme restarts this Monday with some minor differences. We have decided to focus on only one government college, we shall be embracing four private schools and we shall be advising the teachers

to take the programme to a younger group of children – those aged seven.



We remain committed to strengthen the administration of the Junior Academy through the involvement of parents, by empowering the families with tools that they can follow their child's development and also by generating more fun for the youngster through a programme that will include games based on the Golf Sixes format.



For this we acknowledge the assistance of The R&A who have also kindly approved that the funds we did not use in 2022 could be used to buy golf clubs for the Golf to Schools programme as well as to equip the Junior Academy.

To forward weekly coaching sessions to these youngsters requires dedication, commitment, energy and patience and here we would like to thank Henning and his team for not failing in this quest. The help of a handful of volunteers who show up for the Sunday monthly competitions is also much needed and appreciated.

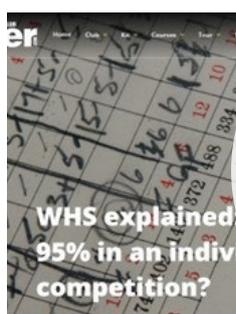
## PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2022)



Remaining with Henning, we congratulate him for his continuous efforts for acting to comply with current regulations and to achieve higher qualifications – the latest of which has been his certificate from the UK and to fulfil the requirements towards the national school leaving certification.

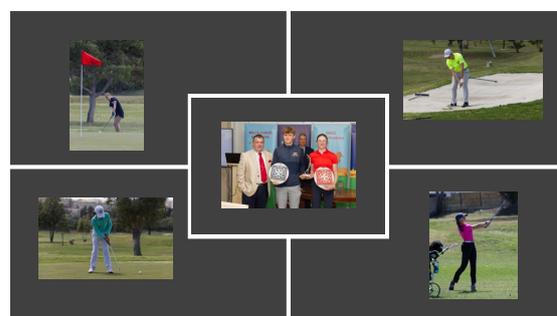


We also thank him for his sterling work with athletes from the Special Olympics family. From two he has now four of these athletes – one of which has just been promoted to the Birdie group in the Junior Academy. Henning continues to work with these kind souls who have embraced the game. We wish them the best of luck to achieve positive results in the World Games that are due to be held in Berlin in a few weeks' time.



Picking up from last year's statement, the World Handicapping System has now settled well also with the adoption of a 95% allowance in individual stroke play competitions. During this year, we should see an international interoperability standard being adopted and we remind members, who hold a handicap index at another overseas club, to come forward so that we can start regularising their history ahead of the adoption of this standard.

Last year we also announced that golf was going to be part of the MOC's Invitational Games. Unfortunately, as the months progressed other small nations did not find the support of their own Olympic Committees to send a team to Malta and we thus had to withdraw golf from being part of these games. We thank the MOC for their understanding. We look forward to being part of the MOC family for the Commonwealth Games that are going to take place in Victoria Australia in 2026.



Of course, just before Easter 2022, we hosted another edition of the Malta Junior Open. The number of visiting players did not match those of the previous edition held before COVID interrupted everything for two years; but those who participated were stronger players and enjoyed their time with us. Numbers for this year's event are slowly trickling in and we hope that these surpass those of last year. Again, such an event cannot be successful without the assistance of a number of volunteers and RMGC staff with Irwin Gratil remaining the fulcrum of everything.

## PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2022)



One last news item. I am pleased to announce that Nigel Hall, under his own initiative and expense, has attended the Tournament Administrators and Referees Seminar hosted by The R&A at St Andrews and has successfully passed the referees' examination. We congratulate Nigel and welcome him to the local referees' circle.

To conclude, our thanks to all those who have assisted us with our work and these include The R&A, the MOC, SportMalta, the Chairman and Board of Management of the RMGC, the RMGC staff, Henning and his team, Irwin and all those volunteers and members who have embraced our endeavours and have forwarded their encouragement.



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## TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2022)



2022 was one of the most demanding yet satisfying year for tournaments' participation however a heavy schedule, also at Club level, prevented us from organising the Generation Cup. This has been missing from our annual schedule for three years now. We intend to bring it back this year with a new fun format.



The sixteenth edition of the MGA Shield was played in November. Back to its original medal on day one and Stableford on day two format, this was won by Patrick Baldachino in the men's division and Doreen Balzan in the women's division. The competition was kindly sponsored by Crosscraft and, as the photo depicts, it was quite an enjoyable atmosphere at the RMGC.



The first player to travel to international participation was Filippa Schulze Doering when she went to Sicily to play in the Mira Hotel

Challenge hosted at the Monasteri Golf Club. Filippa placed 17<sup>th</sup> overall but managed to secure the best net score. In the Faldo Series Scotland Championships at the Fairmont in St Andrews in April, Filippa was in the third place in the girls' under-21 group after two days of golf before the third day was cancelled due to bad weather.

Playing the Sicilian Amateur Open, in early June, at Il Picciolo Golf Course, Filippa's plus nine score over 36 holes of play landed her first overall win at an international tournament.

Later in the same month, at the Slovenian Junior Open, Filippa again managed to win the best net score for the under-18 girls' category. In August, Filippa played in the Serbian Junior International Amateur Championship in Beograd where she placed second just six shots behind the winner.



Junior members Laya Cristina and Noah Gratil represented club and country at the R&A Junior Open Championships that was played at Monfieth Golf Links Course in the week preceding The Open. Noah's score of ten over par after 36 holes was sufficient for him to be declared as the winner of the Southern and Western European region. His six over par on the last day placed him tied 38 at the end of the tournament which was won by Graham Connor from Scotland with a score of -13 for the course over three rounds of play.

Unfortunately, Laya's experience was at a different level. She had a difficult performance on the first day which forced her to withdraw from the tournament.

## TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2022)



The Malta National Golf Team composed of Andy Borg, Ruud Critien, JJ Micallef and Laurens Schulze Doering managed to retain the silver medal at the eighth edition of the European Team Shield Championship after a closely fought final round played against the Greek National Team.

The tournament was played at the Pannonia Golf Club in Budapest Hungary under the auspices of the European Golf Association. Ten other men's teams from emerging golf countries participated in this year's tournament which started with a qualifying individual stroke play round that determined the eight teams that could proceed to the match play knockout rounds.

With an aggregate team score of +1 (best three scores counting), Malta attained first place in the qualifying round and were drawn to play against Liechtenstein in the match play quarter final. The Malta players took early lead in all matches which they did not surrender moving them to the semi-final against Serbia.

Again, the team attained an early lead and managed to hold off a mid-round charge by their opponents to make it to the final round of the tournament against Greece – who had already won the ETSC in two previous occasions.

With Laurens winning his singles match and Andy losing his with similar scores of 3&2, the title was decided in the foursomes with Malta fielding the pairing of Ruud Critien and J.J. Micallef. Both teams headed down the last

hole tied. The match remained tied after 18 holes and a sudden death playoff was required to determine the winner. Both teams halved with pars on the first playoff hole. However, a missed putt for par for Team Malta compared to Greece's par on the second playoff hole resulted in Greece claiming the European Men's Team Shield Championship for the third time.

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
GREECE	3			3
LITHUANIA	2			2
CROATIA	1	1		2
SERBIA	1			1
POLAND	1			1
<b>MALTA</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>
BULGARIA	2	1		3
TURKEY	1	1		2
CYPRUS	1			1
LATVIA		1	1	2
HUNGARY		1	1	2

YEAR	STROKE PLAY	AGG. SCORE	KNOCKOUTS	PLAYERS
2022	1st	1	Silver	Andy, JJ, Laurens, Ruud
2021	1st	3	Silver	Andy, JJ, Laurens, Ruud
2020	1st	4	Bronze	JJ, Nicholas, Laurens, Ruud
2019	1st	17	Bronze	Andy, JJ, Nicholas, Ruud
2018	3rd	11	Silver	Andy, JJ, Nicholas, Ruud
2017	3rd	8	Bronze	Andy, JJ, Nicholas, Ruud
2016	1st	3	Bronze	Andy, JJ, Luc, Ruud
2015	2nd	-1	5th	Andy, JJ, John, Ruud

Gold at the ETSC has remained elusive for our national team. Since its inception, Malta has placed first five times in the qualifying stroke play rounds and has featured on the podium in all editions except the first one.



Laurens Schulze Doering entered in the regional qualifier to play the 150th Open Championship at St Andrews. His 12<sup>th</sup> place out of a field of 125 players allowed him to proceed to the final qualifying round that was played over 36 holes in one day at the St Annes Old Links course. With only the top four players possible to proceed to The Open, Laurens 57<sup>th</sup> place out of 72 players was not sufficient although a feather to his cap for completing the two rounds whilst ten players, including professionals, withdrew after the first round.

## TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2022)



Laurens crowned his summer 2022 experience by winning three men's open golf tournaments starting with the Cyprus Open held at the Elea Estate Golf Club. A score of level par for the course over 54-holes gave Laurens a seven-stroke lead. Laurens' second win was at the 30th Croatian International Amateur Golf Championship which was played at the Riverside Golf Club in Zagreb. This was a harder fight with Laurens finally prevailing at the second playoff hole as another player matched his score after 72 holes of regular play. His third and final tournament was the Hungarian Amateur hosted at Zala Springs. A score of eight under par for the course over 54 holes secured Laurens third win in an international tournament over a span of seven six weeks. Laurens' seven under par for the course during one day of this tournament achieved a course record.



As a national federation, the MGA is restricted from forwarding funds to players who do not hold Maltese citizenship.

This does not however prevent us from admiring the efforts of these players and we praise Yaroslav Petrenko, Alexander Vagimov, Anna Zonova and Finley Gratil for making the endeavour to participate abroad. Anna actually won the under=16 category in the Serbian Open whilst Finley had the best net score in his category at the Cyprus Open.

Nationals Nicholas Scerri, Andy Borg and JJ Micallef also participated in other tournaments abroad. Nicholas participated in the Mira Hotel Challenge in Sicily. Andy joined Laurens in The Open Qualifier and both him and JJ also featured in the Hungarian and Croatian Open.



For their achievements over these last three years, Nicholas (Beck), Andy, Ruud, JJ and Laurens were awarded during the MOC Sports Awards that were held in December although, as one can appreciate, it was not possible for all five to attend the ceremony.

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# FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 2022



## INCOME

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Sponsorships	5,450	10,050
Affiliation Membership Fee	2,572	2,450
Maltese Olympic Committee	12,289	14,010
Sport Malta	10,000	5,950
MGA Shield net income from members	1,410	3,800
R&A Special Grant (including ETSC subsidy)	7,015	6,684
Malta Council for Voluntary Sector	3,200	2,450
Other	477	1,802
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>42,419</b>	<b>47,196</b>

## INCOME

### Explanation of main deviations from 2021:

- Reduction in sponsorships mainly due to no sports incentive scheme funds related to COVID from the Malta Tourism Authority.
- Increase in Sport Malta funding.
- Reduction in income from MGA Shield as 2 competitions were held in 2021.

<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>
Subsidies for overseas competitions	<b>22,141</b>	20,888
Affiliation Fees	<b>4,516</b>	6,036
Gifts and Trophies	<b>3,215</b>	2,422
Development Programmes	<b>6,258</b>	2,340
Elite Players' Coaching	<b>8,379</b>	6,083
Postage, printing & stationery	<b>1,935</b>	686
Bank Charges	<b>10</b>	23
Miscellaneous	<b>1,647</b>	94
RMGC Course Rating	<b>40</b>	504
Website (2018-2021)	<b>184</b>	774
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<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>48,325</b>	<b>39,849</b>

## EXPENDITURE

### Explanation of main deviations from 2021:

- Increase in overseas competitions, coaching and development programmes due to extra funding from MOC and Sport Malta also due to an effort to achieve gold in the European Team Shield Championships.
- Increase in printing due to the printing of golf booklets for the Junior Academy.
- Miscellaneous figure reflects cost of food and drinks to participants of the Junior Open.

## INCOME STATEMENT

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Total Income	42,419	47,196
Total Expenditure	48,325	39,849
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Surplus (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	(5,906)	7,347

## BALANCE SHEET

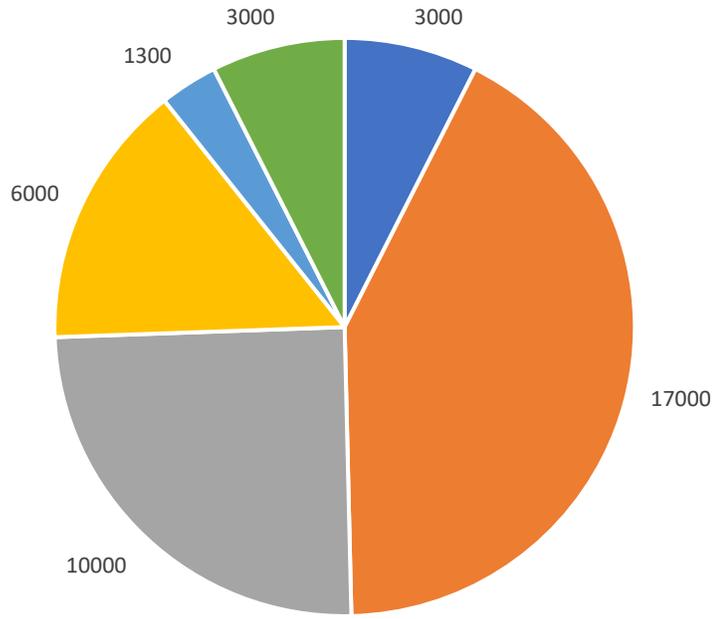
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Trade Receivables	0	8,551
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>25,972</u>	<u>23,327</u>
	<u>25,972</u>	<u>31,878</u>
<b>Equity and Liabilities</b>		
Accumulated Fund	<u>25,972</u>	<u>31,878</u>
<b>Total Equity and Liabilities</b>	<u>25,972</u>	<u>31,878</u>

**BUDGET**

**FOR YEAR 2023**

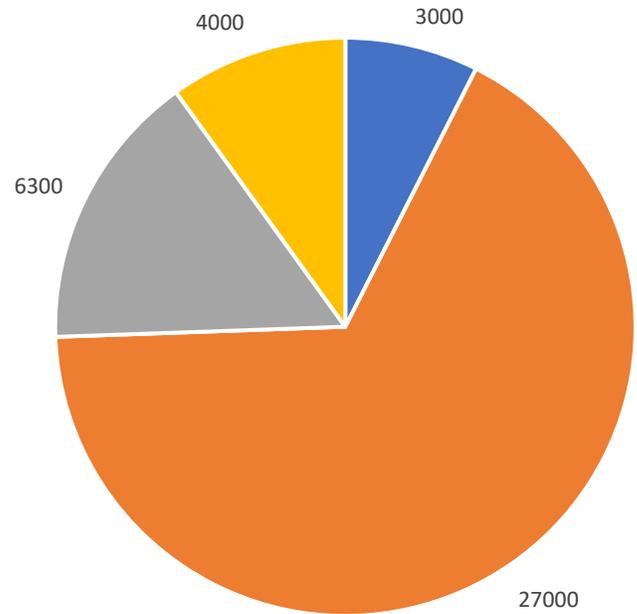


### INCOME



■ Affiliation Fees ■ MOC ■ SportMalta ■ RandA ■ MGA Shield ■ Sponsors

### EXPENDITURE



■ Affiliation Fees ■ Tournaments ■ Development Programmes ■ Golf to Schools ■