



MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2023)

Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting
held on Wednesday, 6th March 2024 at 18:30 hours.

Agenda:

- Reading and approval of minutes of the AGM held on 22nd February 2023.
- Receiving the Accounts for Year ended December 2023.
- Tournaments' Report.
- President's Statement.
- Matters arising.
- Closure of Meeting.

Introduction:

Apologies were received from Mr JJ Micallef (*RMGC Club Captain*), Dr Karen Zammit Southernwood (*AIMS Director Regulatory Affairs*), Mr Kevin Azzopardi (*MOC Secretary General*) and Mr Richard Waterhouse

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting held on 22nd February 2023 [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 2023 and forwarded a budget for the year 2024. Mr Guy Cubitt and Mr John Fletcher were thanked for reviewing the accounts on behalf of the membership.

VCA were approved as the appointed auditors for the year ending 2024 should the income of the Association exceed an amount which would require the pertinent audit.

3. Tournament's Report

The Tournament's Report for the year 2023 was tabled.



MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION

4. President's Statement

The President's Statement for the year 2023 was presented by Mr Beck.

5. Matters Arising

A discussion ensued where views were expressed as to how more golfers could be attracted to take up the sport.

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

William Beck
President

Nicholas Beck
Secretary

These are draft minutes which need to be approved at the next Annual General Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2023)



During the year under review, the Executive had a relatively quiet administrative year and met only four times.

The main topics for discussion during these meetings were international and national competitions and development programmes including women in golf initiatives. In April, we attended the 11th International Golf Conference hosted by The R&A in St. Andrews and in November we attended the Annual General Meeting of the European Golf Association which was held in London where Malta once again facilitated the meeting of the Emerging Golf Nations.

We have especially left out three events within the tournaments' report as these require special mention.

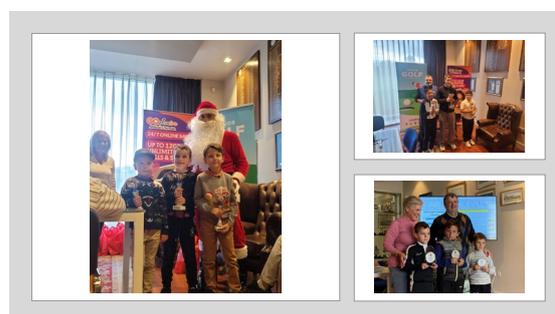


First and foremost, the Malta Junior Open which was played in early April. This attracted 63 players from 18 different countries. 26 were girls and 8 were junior members of the RMGC. More than half the field registered with a handicap index of 5 or better out of which fourteen had a handicap of scratch or better.

The success of the tournament was due to four main things coming together. The cooperation of the Board of Management and Captains' Committee of the RMGC, the kind sponsorship of individual members, the extraordinary help of the volunteers during the three days of the competition and the unyielding energy of Irwin Gratil who was the inspiration of everything that happened outside the ropes.



In June, Henning accompanied three Special Olympic Athletes to the World Games that were held in Berlin. Adam on the left of the picture placed 4th in his class despite a bout of sickness, Rebecca placed 2nd and Mark placed 1st both in their respective classes. These athletes as well as those that continue to frequent the weekly sessions at the RMGC are admirable. They play golf with a smile and with sheer determination to succeed despite their challenges.



And then, of course, there were the monthly Sunday competitions organised by the Junior Academy. The Academy is not part of the MGA, but I mention it here because of two reasons. Firstly, because both Doreen and I remain

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2023)

involved to assist the RMGC in its administration and second to highlight the dire need to attract more local juniors to the game. Out of the 70 juniors registered in the academy only 17 are locals.

I know that I have harped on this for many years now, but we remain with an unsuccessful approach of how to attract more local youngsters to the sport. We invested heavily in the golf to schools' programme, but this has not reaped any success whatsoever.

Even our offer, to refurbish the kits that we had distributed to the various teachers, was miserably snubbed at. At a point where we need to revise our strategic plan, I suggest that this investment in junior golf must somehow remain on top of our agenda, and we need to find innovative ways to make it successful.



As must initiatives towards women in golf. We made it clear that we can assist with funds towards this programme and were very much looking forward to its commencing last year. Unfortunately, the first session was poorly attended, and we were then hit by several weeks of very hot weather which doused everyone's enthusiasm.

Somehow, we need to find the energy and human resources to ensure that the game can also appeal to women.



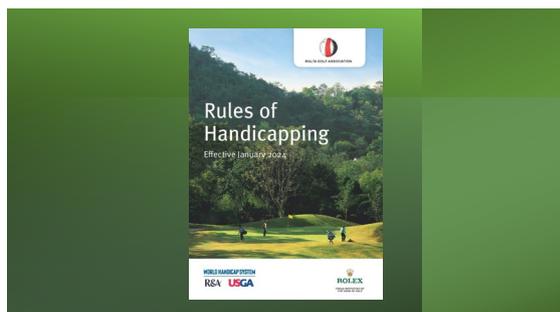
Succession planning is the third item that I consider important in our strategy going forward. Here, I use the same slide as last year because a year has passed, and we have failed to address this. During 2023, I was drawn to my other responsibilities as a moderator to the Malta Taekwondo Association which consumed a lot of my extra time. I apologise for this and promise that this challenge together with the previous two items shall be in the forefront of our work during 2024.



As Royal Malta successfully renewed several of its greens during the summer of 2023, it became necessary to re-rate the course. This was effectively done through the kind virtual help of Richard Cau who was then Chairman of the Course Rating and Handicapping Committee of the European Golf Association.

Richard remains committed to help us re-rate the course once the greens' project is completed later this year but this time this will require a full physical re-assessment.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT (2023)



The other revision has been forthcoming from the World Handicapping System. The rules effective from 1st January 2024 brought with it some clarifications and changes to the previous edition of 2020 including the introduction of rule 5.10 which allows the acceptance of individual scores from four-ball formats and a more detailed Appendix D to assist committees how to conduct a review of a player's handicap. The requirement that this must be sanctioned or ratified by the national Association is underlined.

Towards the end of the year, the Authority for Integrity in Maltese Sports forwarded its brief of the new requirements for Associations and Clubs to registers with the Authority. AIMS has taken over the regulatory responsibility away from SportMalta with the latter remaining focused on sport development and the management of public sports facilities. Before the year ended, we successfully submitted all the necessary paperwork towards the MGA's registration with AIMS.

As a final note I want to express my committees' admiration towards Noah and Aleks. Despite them being in contention to represent Malta in The R&A's Junior Open they have shown great sportsmanship with Noah even caddying for his friend. That's a wonderful spirit and may it be an inspiration to upcoming players and perhaps even a lesson to us all.



I end by offering our thanks to those parents who help out in the Junior Academy's monthly competitions, to our sponsors and, as always, to the Chairman, Board of Management, Captain, Lady Captain and the committees at the RMGC, to the MOC, SportMalta, the EGA and The R&A for their unyielding support towards everything that we do.

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TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2023)



On a national level, the MGA organised two competitions in 2023: the MGA Shield and the Generation Cup and sponsored the Stableford Cup.

Kindly sponsored for the second year running by Crosscraft, the 17th edition of the MGA Shield attracted 88 male and 12 female participants.



With a point better than Guan Minggi, Laya Cristina reclaimed the Shield which she had forfeited last year. With a similar one-point margin, Tore Lindtveit claimed the best male prize ahead of Patrick Baldacchino.



During one of our committee 2023 meetings, under the suggestion of our Treasurer, the MGA Executive decided to sponsor an individual Stableford competition. On a summer course when 18 holes were played over two similar loops of nine, 87 men and 8

women participated. The overall winner was Andrew Crosby whose score of 38 points equalled to that of Peter Naudi but had a better back nine to clinch the trophy. Carolina Romero's 34 points claimed the best score from the ladies ahead of Laya Cristina.



After an absence of three years, 2023 saw the return of the Generation Cup. The 10th edition was played a week ahead of Christmas some days after the passing away of Vincent Curmi who had won the first edition of this competition with his grandson in 2011.

With a net 56, the main competition was won by Alex Ganado who was adopted by Andy Borg. At only nine years of age, this was Alex's first 18-hole tournament but under the guidance of Andy's experienced hands the team performed incredibly well to win the competition a clear seven shots ahead of Laurens Schulze Doering and his adopted player, Antonio Bianco.

The subsidiary competition was won by Cai Denaro and his grandfather Victor, with a net score of 35, just one shot ahead of Arthur Hotier Glasper who was adopted by Dominic Yoko.

The Malta National Golf Team composed of Liam Debattista, Laurens Schulze Doering, Ruud Critien and Oliver Stuart managed to retain the silver medal at the ninth edition of the European Team Shield Championship after yet another closely fought final round played against the Greek National Team.

TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2023)



The tournament was played at the International Olympic Academy Golf Course in Costa Navarino – the backyard of the Greek team. Ten other men’s teams from emerging golf countries participated in the 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 +14, the team placed second with Greece placing first. Laurens level par score placed him in a three-way tied first position. Malta’s placing meant that the team had to face Serbia in the first round of the match play knockout stages of the tournament.

The match play rounds consisted of one foursomes match followed by two single matches. Two wins out of three matches ensure that the team makes it to the next round of the competition. Malta won 2 matches out of 3 against Serbia and proceeded to play Bulgaria in the semi-final round to win also with a margin of two matches out of three.

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
GREECE	4			4
ESTONIA	2			2
CROATIA	1	1		2
SERBIA	1			1
POLAND	1		1	2
Malta	0	1	1	2
BULGARIA		2	1	3
TURKEY		1	1	2
CYPRUS		1	1	2
LATVIA		1		1
HUNGARY			1	1

YEAR	STROKE PLAY	AGG. SCORE	KNOCKOUTS	PLAYERS
2013	2nd	14	Silver	Laurens, Liam, Oliver, Ruud
2012	1st	1	Silver	Andy, Li, Laurens, Ruud
2011	1st	3	Silver	Andy, Li, Laurens, Ruud
2010	1st	4	Bronze	Li, Nicholas, Laurens, Ruud
2019	1st	17	Bronze	Andy, Li, Nicholas, Ruud
2018	3rd	14	Silver	Andy, Li, Nicholas, Ruud
2017	3rd	8	Bronze	Andy, Li, Nicholas, Ruud
2016	1st	3	Bronze	Andy, Li, Luc, Ruud
2015	2nd	-1	5th	Andy, Li, John, Ruud

This placed Malta in the final round against Greece who had won the competition already

three times. The final was a fitting end to the tournament. The foursomes match did not see an advantage of more than one hole to either side before Ruud and Oliver eventually winning their match on the 18th hole with this margin. Liam’s match remained all square after six holes but then he lost 7 and 8 to go two down. Despite a valiant fight, his opponent did not capitulate and won his match on the 17th. Malta’s hopes rested on the shoulders of Laurens who was 1 up after 16 holes.

After a good tee shot on 17, the mystery of golf hit Laurens to make him lose the last two holes allowing Greece to claim the European Men’s Team Shield Championship for the fourth time.

Since its inception, Malta has always placed in the first three positions of the qualifying stroke play rounds and, with four bronze and for silver finishes, has featured on the podium in all editions except the first one.

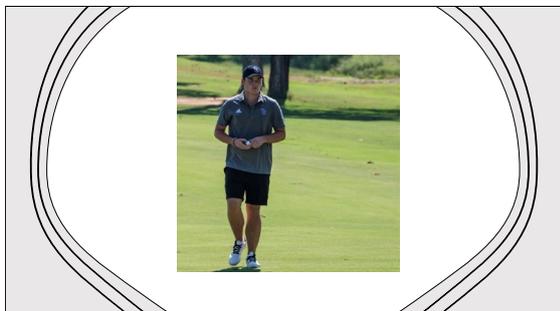
The team travelled to the tournament with Andy Borg as their captain. This was Andy’s first time in such a role. He led by example and he did his utmost to assist the players in everything that was required throughout the week.



Andy remains dedicated to the game, and he ventured into many tournaments this summer mainly under his own finances. We assisted him to play in the Tour Qualifier, the European Seniors and the R&A Senior Open Qualifier. At the Tour School, he made it through the first stage of qualifying and missed the third day cut at the final stage. He made the cut in the

TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2023)

European Senior and missed out by 2 shots to play in the Senior Open. He remains dedicated to the sport and remains determined to keep on improving his game. Of similar disposition is Laurens.



Laurens started his summer playing season by playing in the Cyprus Open which he had won the previous year. Laurens struggled with his iron play – something which was to plague him for the rest of the summer – and finished 12th out of 50 players. He also tried to defend his title in the Hungarian Amateur Golf Open and was tied first at the end of regulation play. He lost on the second play-off hole when a bad lie prevented him from reaching his goal. Laurens also played in the prestigious English Amateur Golf Open, the Scottish Open and the European Amateur Golf Championship. These are big championships attracting a lot of very strong players. In the English, he missed the cut by three shots and in the Scottish, he missed the cut by a mere 1 shot. He had a similar close miss in the European which features one of the toughest cuts in amateur golf.



Due to her educational commitments to enter a USA College, Filipina could only play in one

tournament this summer – that of the Hungarian Amateur Golf Open. Apart from the elements that a golf course offers, she had to fight the flu. She managed to grind it out to place in the top ten positions for the women's category. Filipina is now part of the sports team at Adelphi University just outside New York.



Like Filipina, Laya Cristina was part of the Maltese Olympic Committee's development scheme. She played in the Irish Girls and the Leinster Girls whilst she was in Ireland during the summer. She placed 16th out of 38 and 10th out of 45 players respectively. Despite her results, Laya's game has great potential which has been noticed by the Irish Golf Federation. They are supporting her over the next two years with programmes that we can only aspire to achieve one day.



Towards the middle half of 2022, we became aware of another young female player living near Wentworth. Serena Falzon Sant Manduca's golfing history enabled her to also become part of the MOC's youth development scheme. She played in many tournaments during 2023 including the Big 5 South African Open where she placed first in her age category. The MGA assisted her in other

TOURNAMENTS' REPORT (2023)

competitions starting with the Midland U16 Girls Open where she placed 12th. She won her category in the World Junior Golf Championship and placed third in her category in the IMG World Junior Golf Championship to win her a place in this year's tournament in San Diego. She failed to feature in the R&A Girls under 16 but then placed third in Golf Championship that was played in Amendoeira, Portugal.



And finally, there was Mark Ganado – a new addition as an upcoming junior promising golfer. At less than 14 years of age, Mark is showing great improvement in his game and more than halved his golf handicap over a few months. He played regularly in the weekly competitions organised at Club level and we decided to help him experience his first golf competitions abroad. He participated in the US Kids tournament in Germany and also in Rome. In Germany, he placed 7th in his age category whilst in Rome he placed 9th.



In a year of various successes for Maltese sport, our national golf team were also awarded for their silver medal in the European Team Shield during the MOC's Sports Awards that were held in December. Unfortunately, however, none of the players were able to attend the event due to different personal reasons.

Despite not being under the MGA's direct support because of their non-nationality, we acknowledge the efforts of Noah Gratil and Alexander Vagimov for their efforts during the year to enter several international competitions to continually improve their experience.

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A white golf ball with a dimpled texture is positioned on a red tee. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a golf course setting. The lighting is bright, creating a slight shadow on the grass.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2023**



INCOME

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Sponsorships	4,221	5,450
Affiliation Membership Fee	3,555	2,572
Maltese Olympic Committee	21,131	12,289
Sport Malta	10,000	10,000
MGA Shield net income from members	1,110	1,410
R&A – National Body Development Grant	5,526	5,877
R&A – ETSC Subsidy through the EGA	1,141	1,138
Malta Council for Voluntary Sector	3,000	3,200
Other	0	477
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Total Income	49,684	42,419

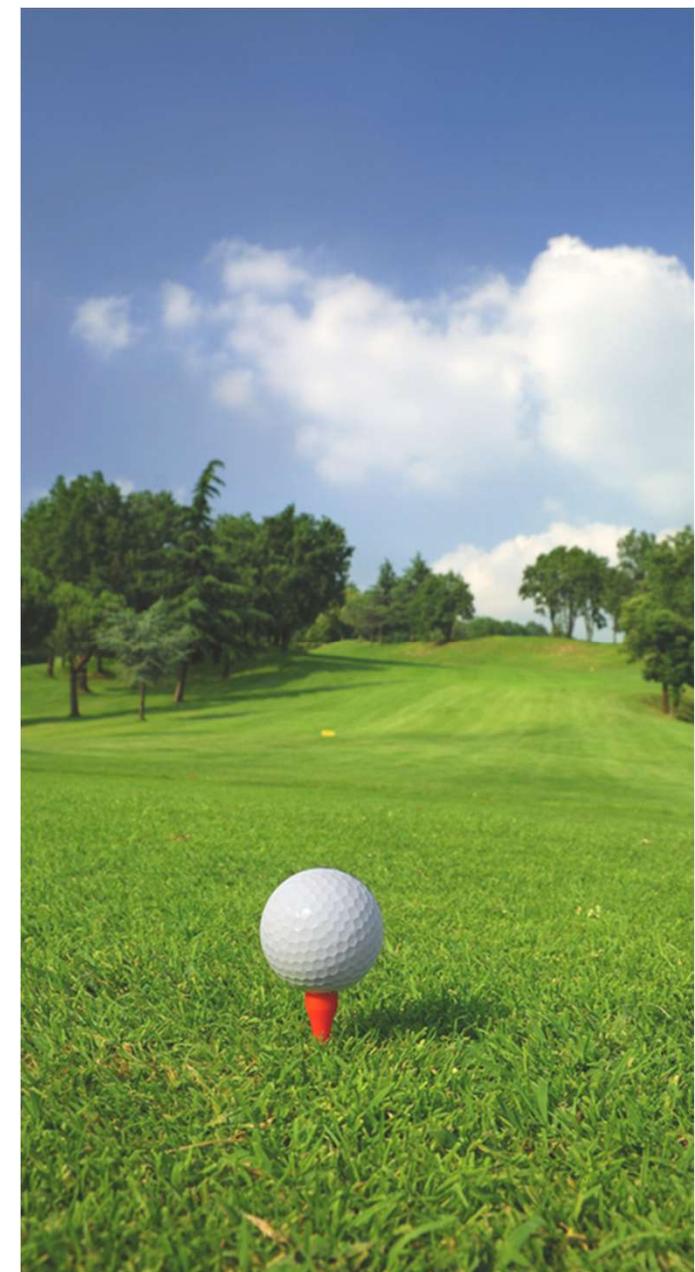


INCOME

Explanation of main deviations from 2022:

- Increase in MOC funding mainly towards new developing players:
 - Laurens
 - Filippa
 - Serena
 - Laya
 - Mark

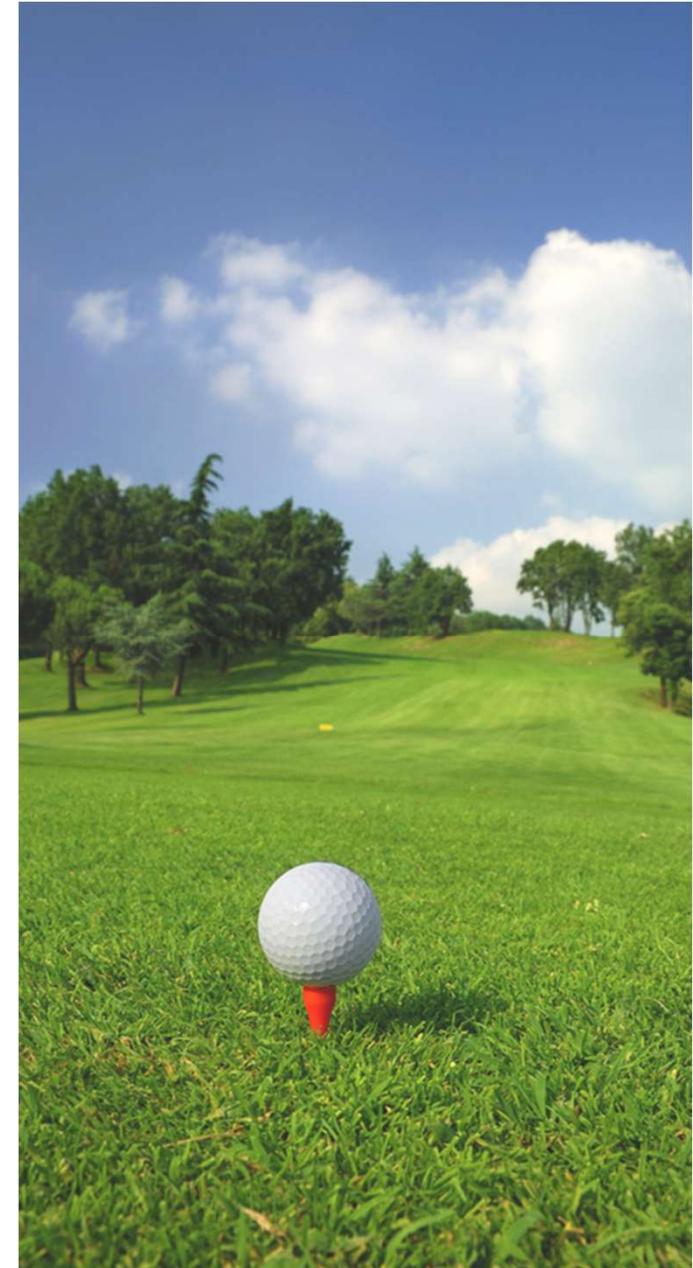
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Subsidies for overseas competitions	30,635	22,141
Affiliation Fees	4,322	4,516
Prizes and Trophies	5,196	3,215
Development Programmes		
Golf to Schools	3,511	5,322
Special Olympics	2,500	2,000
Women in Golf	1,181	300
Junior Pathways	436	636
Elite Players' Coaching	0	6,379
Postage, printing & stationery	639	1,935
Bank Charges	22	10
Miscellaneous	88	1,647
RMGC Course Rating	0	40
Website	335	184
MGA Sponsorships	1,957	0
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Total Expenditure	50,832	48,325



EXPENDITURE

Explanation of main deviations from 2022:

- Increase in overseas competitions due to extra funding from MOC.
- No expense towards Elite Players' Coaching.
- MGA Sponsorships reflects cost of The Stableford Cup competition.



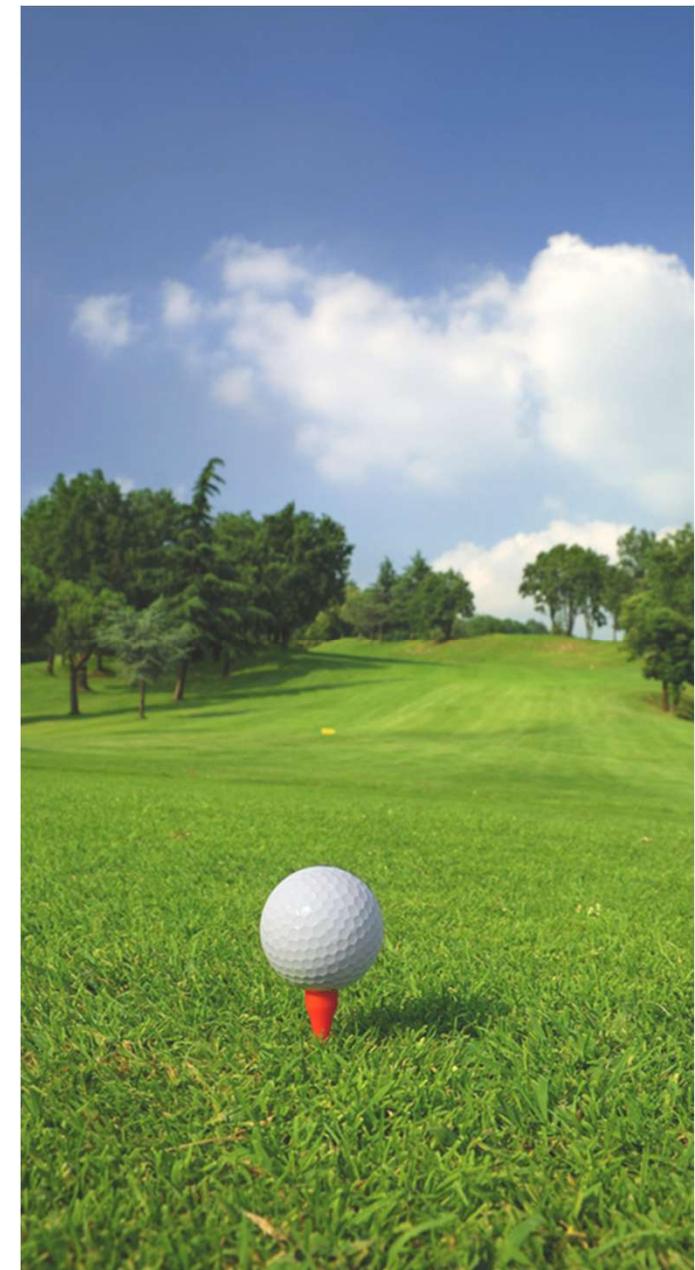


INCOME STATEMENT

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Total Income	49,684	42,419
Total Expenditure	50,832	48,325
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Surplus (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	(1,148)	(5,906)

BALANCE SHEET

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets		
Receivables	10,000	0
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>14,823</u>	<u>25,972</u>
	<u>24,823</u>	<u>25,972</u>
Equity and Liabilities		
Accumulated Fund	<u>24,823</u>	<u>25,972</u>
Total Equity and Liabilities	<u>24,823</u>	<u>25,972</u>

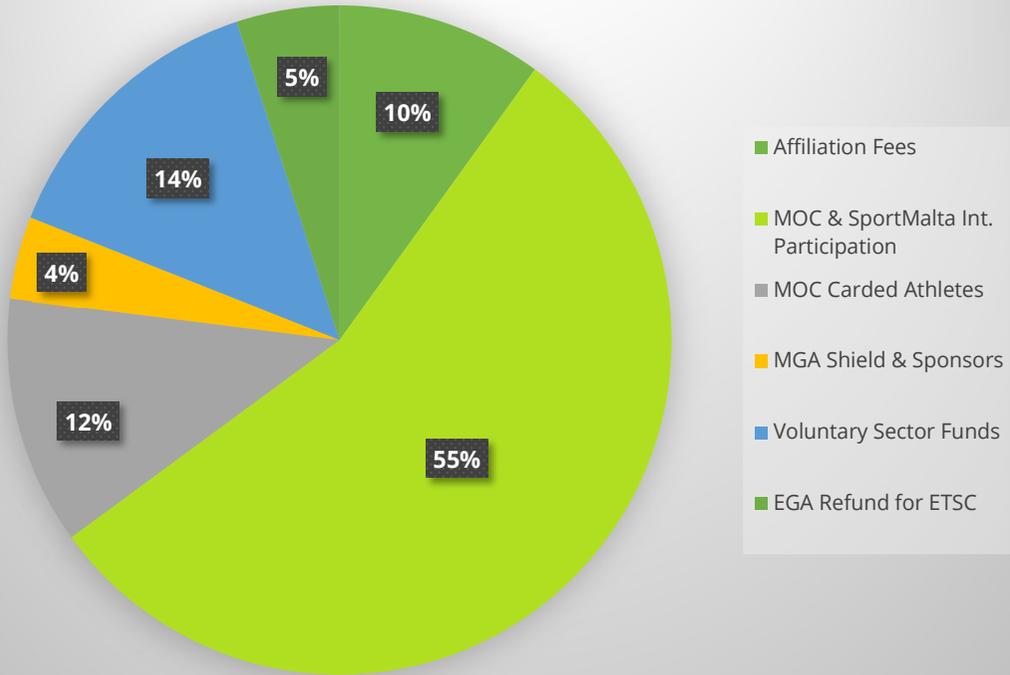


A white golf ball with a dimpled texture is positioned on a red tee. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a golf course. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

BUDGET FOR 2024

INCOME



INCOME

Affiliation Fees	5000
MOC & SportMalta Int. Participation	27450
MOC Carded Athletes	6000
MGA Shield & Sponsors	2000
Voluntary Sector Funds	7000
EGA Refund for ETSC	2500
TOTAL	49950

EXPENDITURE

Affiliation Fees	5000
Tournaments	27450
Carded Athletes	6000
Golf to Schools	5000
Women in Golf	4000
Special Olympics	2500
TOTAL	49950

EXPENDITURE

