



# All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf

## Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1800, 18 October 2017, Boothroyd Room

Meeting commenced 1805

### In Attendance

**Members:** Stephen Gethins MP (in the Chair); Craig Tracey MP; Baroness Nye of Lambeth; Lord Stephen

**Organisational Associate Members:** Vivien Saunders, Fletcher Ransberry (AGCO); Collin Ballantyne (NAPGC); John Gerrie (The R&A); Sandy Jones, Maureen Roberts (The PGA); Samantha Strutt (BIGGA); Sophie Vukelic (STRI Group); Chrisitan Foreman, Charlotte Null, Stephen Toon (Sunningdale Golf Club)

**Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation):** Mark Timlett; Trevor Martin; Alex Giacchetti; Linda Segerstam; Duncan Kelso; James Edwards; Mark Heveran; Adrian Hyyrylanien-Trett

**Secretariat:** Jack Baker, Mark Ramsdale

**Other:** Mark Lichtenhein, Trish Johnson, Mike Round (Ladies European Tour)

### Welcome

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the meeting, and particularly new Co-Chair Craig Tracey MP.

The Chair noted that the Group had lost a number of members at the general election, and thanked them for their contribution.

The Chair welcomed:

- New Members: Lord Robertson of Port Ellen; Lord Stephen; Drew Hendry MP; Bill Esterson MP; Faisal Rashid MP
- New Honorary Members: Karl M<sup>c</sup>Cartney
- New Organisational Associate Members: Golf Business International
- New Individual Associate Members: Bruce Weller; Richard Wax; John Weir; Andy Lloyd-Skinner; Roger Wolfe; John Walsh; Stephen Smith; Drew Folland; Jim McLaggan; Adrian Hyyrylanien-Trett; Paul Williams; Alex Walker; Keith Waters; Gavin Corbett; Alan Walker

### Apologies

**Members:** Lord Moynihan; Mark Menzies MP; Eleanor Laing MP; Rt Hon Lord Robertson of Port Ellen; Laurence Robertson MP; Lord Wallace of Tankerness; Glyn Davies MP

**Honorary Members:** Helen Melville

**Organisational Associate Members:** John Maguire (Richmond Golf Club); Richard Shaw (Community Golf); James Reader (Covea Insurance); John Clark, Dave Fanning (PING); Jason Stanton (Mytime Active); Fiona Lyttle (GTC); Jane Montgomery (FSPA); Jacqueline Howem Ian Skellern (NGCAA); Robert Maxfield (The PGA); Alistair Booth

Our Supporters:



Delivered by:





# All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf

## Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1800, 18 October 2017, Boothroyd Room

(Frilford Heath Golf Club); Philip Morley (BGIA); Howard Swann (Golf Business International); Richard Haygarth (UKGCOA); Brendon Pyle (Golf Foundation); Roger Moreland (England Golf Partnership); Andrew Cameron (Q Hotels); John McBride (NAPGC); Cae Menai-Davis (Golf Trust)

**Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation):** Dennis Taylor MBE; Gillian Kirkwood; Andy Hiseman; Jim McLaggan; Paul Miller; Tony Westwood; Barry Pace; John Roger Jones; John Walsh; John Bushell; Nick Lunn; Jon Earl; Geoff Russell; Katherine Nathan; Stephen Towers; Eddie Bullock; Richard Wax; Alan Walker; Peter Gwilliam; John Weir; Ed Richardson; Keith Mannering; Keith Waters; Andy Pollock; Will Shucksmith; Paul Williams; Gavin Corbett; Liz Kahn; Alec Fitzgerald O'Connor; Rob Spurrier; Caron Morton; Colin Harding; Deanne Tager Smith; Tom Abbott; Drew Folland; Andy Lloyd-Skinner; Caroline Hardy-Evans

### Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous Group meeting were considered an accurate account.

### Matters arising

None

### Correspondence

- The Group received an invitation from the Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament to the 23<sup>rd</sup> European Parliamentary Golf Tournament. The invitation was circulated to Members, but unfortunately fell just after the general election, so none were able to attend. Co-Chair Stephen Gethins MP wrote back to thank the Speaker for the invitation.
- Co-Chair Stephen Gethins MP wrote to Group Officers not returned at the general election, passing on the Group's thanks for their work and support.
- The Group also wrote to supporters The R&A and The PGA, and national governing bodies, following its reconstitution in the new Parliament, offering to meet.
- A letter was sent to Team Europe Captain Annika Sorenstam, wishing her team well for the Solheim Cup.
- An invitation for Members to attend the Golf Trust UK Disabled Open was received and circulated.
- A number of items were received regarding VAT distortion, including an update from the UKGCOA on their work.
- An email was received questioning differing membership rates at golf clubs in Lancashire for men and women.
- An email from the Golf Foundation, with information on activity at The Open, was received.
- An email concerning the proposed closure of Southwood Golf Course, Farnborough, was received.
- Visit Scotland contacted the Group, regarding support for the 2019 Solheim Cup. The Secretariat was due to have a preliminary conversation.
- An email regarding the structure of disabled golf was received, specifically requesting help for the development of the Disabled British Open. **Action: Group to liaise with The R&A.**

Our Supporters:



Delivered by:





# All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf

## Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1800, 18 October 2017, Boothroyd Room

- An email was received by Stephen Gethins MP regarding coach education for those with disabilities. The Secretariat had been liaising with The PGA to take forward.
- A note was received from Heworth Golf Club, which has been invited to host the English Boys under-16 Open Amateur Championship, the McGregor Trophy, in 2020.
- The Secretariat sent an email to all Group Members requesting nominations for the Group's awards, to be presented at the annual charity dinner on 4 December.

The Chair reiterated thanks to all those Members not returned at the general election, and particularly former Group Co-Chair Karl M<sup>c</sup>Cartney. The Chair also thanked the Secretariat for all their support for the Group.

The Chair also noted the Group's commitment to golf for those with disabilities, and that the Group would look to continue to support this area as part of its future activities.

The Chair encouraged those Members present to submit nominations for the Group's awards.

### VAT

The Group continued to receive correspondence on VAT distortion in the golf industry. This was an issue that the Group was aware of, and wrote to HMT, the Treasury Committee, and the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on in the last Parliament.

The Group was aware of engagement from the UK Golf Course Owners Association and advisors KPMG with HMT to find a solution, but that recent developments had been disappointing. The Group was also aware of the work of the Association of Golf Course Owners in this area.

The Group would look to hold a private meeting with these organisations, to see how best it can support in this area.

### Group activity report

#### Parliamentary

In her maiden speech, the Member for Angus, Kirstene Hair MP, made reference to the many golf courses in her constituency.

Bill Grant MP referenced the Turnberry hotel and golf course in his constituency, and the associated benefits for the local economy, in his maiden speech.

Colin Clark MP, in his maiden speech, paid tribute to the economic benefits delivered by golf courses in his constituency.

In his maiden speech, Luke Graham MP raised the golfing opportunities provided in his constituency, not least at Gleneagles Hotel.

Our Supporters:



Delivered by:





# All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf

## Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1800, 18 October 2017, Boothroyd Room

The following early day motions were tabled in the House of Commons:

- TOMMY'S HONOUR FILM PREMIER – Welcoming the UK Premier of Tommy's Honour, a film telling the story of golfers Old Tom Morris and Young Tommy Morris – Stephen Gethins MP
- SIXTH SCOTTISH PAN-DISABILITY OPEN – Congratulating the organisers of the tournament and wishing participants and spectators well – Stephen Gethins MP
- SCOTTISH BLIND GOLF SOCIETY – Congratulating the society on receipt of funding to invest in equipment for registered blind and visually impaired people in Scotland to participate in the sport – Douglas Chapman MP
- POTENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS OF SPECTATING AT GOLF EVENTS – Welcoming research by the Golf and Health Project into the benefits to golf spectators from walking the fairways with their heroes – Stephen Gethins MP

### Public

Co-Chair Stephen Gethins MP met with Chief Executive of Scottish Golf, Blane Dodds, and golf writer Roger McStravick.

Co-Chair Stephen Gethins MP attended the Women's British Open and Scottish Pan-Disability Open.

The Secretariat met with a representative of Middlesex Golf Union to discuss a possible event in Parliament for junior players.

The Secretariat met with a potential sponsor for the Group's annual dinner.

The Group sent out press releases on:

- Officers elected at the Group's inaugural meeting
- The PGA's continued support for the Group
- UK involvement in the Solheim Cup
- The EDM supporting the Scottish Pan-Disability Open
- Craig Tracey MP's election as a Co-Chair
- The EDM on health benefits for golf spectators

At the time of the meeting, the Group had 742 followers on Twitter. The Group's twitter name: @ParliamentGolf.

### **AOB**

There being no other business, the Chair brought the main business of the meeting to a close.

Main business concluded 1822.

Our Supporters:



Delivered by:





# All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf

## Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1800, 18 October 2017, Boothroyd Room

### Presentation: Ladies European Tour

Baroness Nye of Lambeth took the Chair.

The Chair welcomed Mark Lichtenhein, Trish Johnson and Mike Round from the Ladies European Tour.

Lichtenhein opened by thanking the Group for the opportunity.

A short video was shown, outlining the work of the Ladies European Tour.

The aims and mission of the tour were discussed, as were differences in the product from the men's game. The movement behind women's sport in general was identified as an opportunity for the Ladies European Tour and the sport.

The development of the Ladies European Tour was discussed, and it was noted that the tour was undergoing a period of rebuilding.

The Solheim Cup, one of the biggest sporting events for women in the world, was raised and discussed, and it was noted that 2019 would be the biggest instalment of the competition to date.

The opportunities presented by the Olympics were outlined, especially to bring elite male and female golfers together in a way that hadn't happened previously. It was noted that 60% of the field in Rio were Ladies European Tour members.

Coverage of the Ladies European Tour was discussed, as was digital engagement through social media channels.

Female participation in golf in the UK was discussed and compared to other countries in Europe, and it was noted that the UK trails most other countries. Opportunities to develop female participation were discussed, as was the role of professionals on the tour in helping to grow the game.

Closing his presentation, Lichtenhein pointed to opportunities for the UK arising out of major women's competitions and particularly the 2019 Solheim Cup.

Opening to questions, the Group's commitment to supporting more women and girls playing the sport was emphasised, and opportunities for men and women to play together were discussed.

On participation figures, an open, friendlier approach at clubs was noted in other countries. Barriers to female participation were summarised, as were initiatives to include the whole family in other countries.

Opportunities to develop links between women's golf and business were discussed. It was noted that the Ladies European Tour had a dedicated development department, which seeks to find opportunities for players to connect with local communities around tournaments, which helps to add value to proposals to local partners.

Our Supporters:



Delivered by:





# All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf

## Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1800, 18 October 2017, Boothroyd Room

On whether there would be UK representatives in the 2019 Junior Solheim Cup, there were a number of girls aged 14-15 being targeted in Scotland, and there was some active work being done in this area.

There was discussion of how best to build a family friendly environment at golf courses, and also supporting women in other key roles in the sport.

Playing surfaces were raised, and it was acknowledged that players on the Ladies European Tour were very grateful to greenkeepers.

The importance of governance was discussed, including ensuring that women are in key roles, both at clubs and governing bodies.

The role of clubs in driving participation was discussed. It was noted that many get into the sport through family, and so getting the culture right in clubs could be vital to helping to drive participation.

Television coverage was raised, and it was noted that the cost of production for golf was incredibly high compared to stadium sports. The role of social media in reaching new audiences was also raised.

Speed of play was highlighted as an ongoing issue, and the Ladies European tour were working on dealing with this, to help engage a wider and younger audience.

LGBTQ challenges were raised, and it was noted that in the equality sphere, golf was a little further behind some other sports, though things were moving in the right direction.

There was discussion of the importance of ensuring that females of all ages have access to careers in golf.

The Chair closed the meeting by thanking those from the Ladies European Tour for their presentation, and reiterating the Group's support for women's and girl's golf.

**Meeting closed at 1929**

Our Supporters:



Delivered by:

