



All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf

Ordinary Meeting Minutes

1800, 23 May 2018, Committee Room 21

Meeting commenced 1802

In attendance

Members: Stephen Gethins MP (in the Chair); Craig Tracey MP; Laurence Robertson MP; Lord Lennie

Organisational Associate Members: John Clark (PING); Mark Lichtenhein (Ladies European Tour); Samantha Strutt (BIGGA); Jonathan Wright (The PGA); Patrick Cunningham (NAPGC); John Gerrie (The R&A); Cae Menai-Davis, Charlotte Stanton (The Golf Trust)

Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation): Gary Salt; Emma Ballard; Katherine Nathan; Mark Timlett; Rudi Guraziu; Tony Menai-Davis; Caron Morton; Stephen Smith

Other: Daniel Hulsey

Secretariat: Jack Baker

Welcome

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the meeting, and particularly

- New Members: Lord McFall of Alcluith
- New Individual Associate Members: Chantel Scherer; Sarah Forrest

Apologies

Members: Rt Hon Dame Cheryl Gillan MP; Rt Hon Eleanor Laing MP; Lord Moynihan; Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale; Ian Murray MP; Lord Wallace of Tankerness; Graham Jones MP

Honorary Members: Jim Gales MBE; Helen Melville

Organisational Associate Members: Robert Maxfield, Maureen Roberts (The PGA); Stephen Lewis, Brendon Pyle (Golf Foundation); Jason Stanton, Scott Bartlett (Mytime Active); Fiona Lyttle (GTC); Richard Haygarth (UKGCOA); Jason Neve, Lee Strutt, Lee Webb (RAC); Colin Ballantyne (NAPGC); Alistair Booth (Frilford Heath Golf Club); Deb Bufton (NGCAA); John Maguire, Les Howkins (Richmond Golf Club); Philip Morley (BGIA)

Individual Associate Members (all, no affiliation): John Roger Jones; Michael Coffey; Eddie Bullock; Brad McLean; Julie Otto; Nick Lunn; John Bushell; Geoff Russell; Linda Segerstam; Barry Pace; Andy Pollock; Richard Payne; Tony Hanson; Deanne Tager Smith; Andy Hiseman; Carl Dalby; Jim McLaggan; Keith Waters; Alex Walker; Christine Langford; Gareth Hughes; Chantel Scherer; Andy Lloyd-Skinner; Liz Kahn; Paul Williams; Glen Halsey; Duncan Kelso; Tom Abbott; Stephen Alabaster; Keith Mannering

Minutes of previous meeting

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

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Matters arising

- The Secretariat was organising a panel discussion on golf and the environment for the next meeting, for discussion on issues around sustainability and climate change.
- The Secretariat was liaising with bodies involved with the 2019 Solheim Cup, to offer any support that the Group could provide, including an event in Parliament.

Correspondence

- Vice-Chair Rt Hon Dame Cheryl Gillan MP wrote to the Royal Horticultural Society to explore opportunities to celebrate golf's heritage.
- The Group received a number of pieces of correspondence regarding an issue around tee times for male and female players at Cottrell Park Golf Club. The Group wrote to Wales Golf regarding this issue, and has received a response stating that Wales Golf has made every effort to mediate and help both parties to resolve the matter, and emphasising the commitment of Wales Golf to equality in the sport.
- A note was received from Councillor Ron Sands regarding Medway Council's decision to close Deangate Ridge golf course in Kent. The course has now been closed, but understand Medway Council has received an expression of interest from a community group to provide sports, leisure and wellbeing facilities, which is under review.
- An email was received regarding Women's Golf Day, which is taking place on Tuesday 5 June.
- Co-Chair Craig Tracey MP wrote to European Tour Chief Executive Keith Pelley, offering to meet. The Secretariat had scheduled a date.
- The Group wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport regarding ongoing issues around Sandwich station related to the staging of The 149th Open. Assurances were received in response from the Secretary of State's office.
- The Group wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and the Sports Minister, to extend invitations to the Golf and Health reception being held in Parliament in October.
- An invitation was received and circulated to Members to an APPG for Japan Sports sub-Group meeting with Shunichi Suzuki, Japanese MP and Cabinet Minister in charge of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- An invitation to The R&A's Women in Golf Charter launch was received and circulated to Members.
- A letter was received from Golf Foundation CEO Brendon Pyle, thanking the Group for the money raised at its annual dinner.
- An email was received from an associate member, regarding Group support for the Ladies European Tour. **The Secretariat noted that the LET were an associate member of the Group, so the Group had regular contact with them.**

Group activity report

Parliamentary

In the Easter adjournment debate, Drew Hendry MP made reference to the golfing opportunities in his constituency.

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In a Westminster Hall debate on the effect of the UK leaving the European Union on tourism and the creative industries, David Duguid MP referenced the seventh oldest operating golf course in the world in his constituency.

At Business questions, Kirstene Hair MP raised the impact of coastal erosion on Montrose golf course in her constituency, and requested a debate on the impact of coastal erosion on communities. In response, the Leader of the House noted the issue, and encouraged her to seek an Adjournment debate on the issue. **Action: Secretariat to extend an invitation to join the Group and attend the next meeting.**

In a Westminster Hall debate on the economies of the UK islands, Patricia Gibson MP paid tribute to the golf tourism industry in her constituency.

At successive Business questions, Kevin Brennan MP raised the case of his constituent and her suspension from Cottrell Park golf course. The Leader of the House first encouraged him to seek an Adjournment debate, and then reiterated her support for women and girls sport. **Action: Group to monitor.**

An early day motion was tabled by Group Co-Chair Stephen Gethins MP recognising the 20th anniversary of Elmwood Golf Course.

Public

Co-Chair Craig Tracey MP met with:

- representatives of the UKGCOA, to discuss their work in the sport;
- representatives of a potential supporter for the Group's annual dinner;
- representatives of The R&A to discuss ongoing issues around transport links for The 149th Open.

The Secretariat attended the Golf Foundation awards.

The Secretariat met with Golf and Health Executive Director Roger Hawkes to discuss the event being held in Parliament in October.

The Group sent out a press release on the meeting with the Golf Foundation.

At the time of the meeting, the Group had 900 followers on Twitter. The Group's twitter name: @ParliamentGolf.

AOB

Restrictions on chemicals used to control leatherjackets were raised. The Chair suggested that this was left for discussion at the next meeting, where there would be a panel discussion on golf and the environment.

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

Main business concluded 1809.

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Presentation: Cae Menai-Davis, The Golf Trust

The Chair welcomed Cae Menai-Davis from The Golf Trust.

Menai-Davis made a presentation focusing on the development and growth of The Golf Trust's work since its establishment six years ago.

It was noted that The Golf Trust had received an England Golf Award for innovation, for their Golf's Got Talent programme.

The organisation's ethos was discussed and Menai-Davis noted that The Golf Trust's greatest achievement was putting smiles on participants faces.

Sustainability of projects was also discussed, and it was emphasised that ownership of projects was given to the community where possible, providing training and leaving equipment at venues to ensure that activities continued in the future.

The Golf Trust's methods were discussed, particularly when working with those with early onset dementia, and with a range of physical and learning disabilities. The importance of being adaptable was emphasised, particularly when understanding and working with a range of communities.

Three case studies were discussed. The first was with young people from a socially deprived area, and had sought to upskill participants, a number of whom were coaching in schools themselves

The second case study raised was initially funded by Hillingdon Community Trust and involved work with specific religious groups. Sessions were delivered in a church and mosque, and had since grown, securing new funding. The project opened up the sport to different communities, but also helped to link communities, and generations within families, where in some cases there was a language barrier between generations.

The final case study discussed highlighted the work that The Golf Trust do with families.

Challenges around funding and exposure were raised. A number of current projects were discussed, including an announcement on an expansion of work with Els for Autism.

Opening to questions, there was a discussion around affiliation fees. Golf for those with Parkinson's was discussed.

The importance of promotion of opportunities to work within the golf industry was raised. Opportunities for those with disabilities to work in the industry were discussed.

There was a discussion of funding opportunities in golf, and the funding costs of projects were discussed.

Meeting closed at 1930

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