



# All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf

## Annual General Meeting

10am, 24 February 2021, Online

## Minutes

### Attendees

Craig Tracey MP (in the chair); Wendy Chamberlain MP; Lord Moynihan; Lord Butler; Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP; Baroness Nye; Karl M<sup>c</sup>Cartney MP; Ian Murray MP; Mark Ramsdale (Secretariat).

### Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chairman discussed the Group's activity over the previous year, noting it was its busiest year to date, with months of at least one meeting a week with industry bodies taking place to co-ordinating a response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Combined with earlier efforts to ensure previously disparate parts of the industry worked together, the result was the sport speaking with a single voice. This worked very well, with golf being talked about a lot more by Parliamentarians, a strong relationship developed with Ministers and Officials in DCMS, and ultimately enabled golf to return as quickly as possible as one of the first sports after lockdowns. The ambition is to ensure golf is seen in the same way as walking and cycling.

There has been some disappointment on 29 March return after the current lockdown. However, that was a realistic date and again see golf in the first tranche of sports to return. The Chairman placed on record his recognition of the hard work of the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Sports Minister and their Officials, and thanks to all.

The Group produced two reports that were passed to all home nation Chief Medical Officers, relevant Ministers, and the Prime Minister. The first, in the final quarter of 2020, showed how golf could continue to be played safely. The second, produced in January 2021 updated the first with input from epidemiologist Professor Charlie Foster, and Dr Andrew Murray, the Chief Medical Officer to the European Tour, presented greater scientific evidence and argument. Both were well received and made a difference to the arguments made at ministerial level.

The Group co-ordinated two responses to government consultations: one on business rates and one on red diesel rebates. Both could have significant impact on the industry. The Government's position on these responses is awaited.

A series of workstreams have been created to focus on specific aims important to the sport but all with the goal of increasing participation. Four are aligned to the Government's Sporting Future strategy: Physical and Mental Wellbeing; Individual Development; Equality and Diversity; and Social and Community. In addition, an Economic Development stream has been created. These streams will report monthly. A Public Policy and Co-ordination stream comprising governing bodies will focus on the relationship with governments, and will meet quarterly.

Feedback from the industry is very positive and the Group is itself moving in the right direction and is supporting the sport to do so.

### Apologies

Lord Wallace of Tankerness; Lord Robertson of Port Ellen; Mark Menzies MP; Rt Hon Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale; Ian Paisley MP; Julian Knight MP.

### Minutes of Inaugural Meeting

Were circulated and agreed via email after the meeting and are present on the Group's website. Members voted to accept as an accurate record of the meeting.



# All-Party Parliamentary Group for Golf

## Annual General Meeting

10am, 24 February 2021, Online

### **Election of Officers**

The following were elected as Officers of the Group for the forthcoming year:

Chair: Craig Tracey MP (Con), North Warwickshire

Vice-Chair: Baroness Nye of Lambeth (Lab)

Vice-Chair: Laurence Robertson MP (Con), Tewksbury

Vice-Chair: Lord Moynihan (Con)

Vice-Chair: Gavin Newlands MP (SNP), Paisley and Renfrewshire North

Vice-Chair: Lord Robertson of Port Ellen (Lab)

Vice-Chair: Lord Lennie (Lab)

Vice-Chair: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Lib Dem), North East Fife

Vice-Chair: Karl McCartney MP (Con), Lincoln

Vice-Chair: Julian Knight MP (Con), Solihull

Vice-Chair: Lord Goddard of Stockport (Lib Dem)

Vice-Chair: Rt Hon Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP (DUP), Lagan Valley

Vice-Chair: Steve Brine (Con), Winchester

Vice-Chair: Ian Paisley MP (DUP), North Antrim

### **Finance Report**

The Chairman spoke to a previously circulated Finance Report. As the Group had no balance to bring forward, nor any income or outgoings during the year, its balance carried forward remains at £0. Monies were collected by the Secretariat and included unexpected income from the R&A to ensure all home union and other bodies could be represented within the Group.

As per the Finance Statement, the Secretariat would retain much of the income to cover the coming year, with the balance provided to the Group. With Secretariat costs paid for in advance, a reduction in subscription rates to £2.5k for most organisations was proposed – The R&A and PGA being £10k. It was felt these amounts will ensure the Group does not collect too much money but creates a sufficient balance to cover future costs if needed.

The Finance report was put to the Members and agreed.

### **Secretariat**

A service level agreement between the Group and the Secretariat has been drafted and is undergoing final review before being sent to Officers for ratification.

With a name change, the Chairman nominated MR Sport/Three Lines Sport to continue as Secretariat to the Group. This was put to the Members and agreed.

### **AOB**

Lord Moynihan raised cross-party support in the House of Lords to move to 100% relief for sporting facilities to encourage all people to participate in sport. Action: Secretariat to supply Lord Moynihan with the responses to the Business Rates inquiry.

The Chairman noted the growing interest in social prescribing and the role golf can play. The Group would be supportive in whatever ways it could.

### **Close**

The meeting closed at 1018.