

INTERNATIONAL BLIND GOLF ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Held on 5th December 2021 on Skype from 13.00 GMT

PRESENT

Andrea Calcaterra - Chairman
Garrett Slattery - Vice-chairman Admin
Graham Coulton - Vice-chairman Finance
Gerry Nelson - Director
John Eakin - Director
Linda Port - Director
John White - Representing Dr. Handa

APOLOGIES

None

PROCEEDINGS

1. AC welcomed all. A brief discussion was held outlining the current position in various countries relating to the Corona virus. It was noted that the emergence of the Omicron variant has again resulted in increased travel and other restrictions. It was appreciated that it seemed inevitable that COVID-19 would be with us for some time.

2. Minutes of the Board meeting held on 17th October 2021 were approved.

3. Matters arising:
 None

4. Recording of decisions taken by e-mail:
 - 4.1 Vision Cup team sizes are to remain at 12. Any proposed change to this should be tabled for decision at the next biennial meeting.

5. Finance:
 - 5.1 The current balances in the IBGA accounts are US\$366,853.11 and Au\$2,257.66.
 - 5.2 The Board approved the annual payment of \$395 for IBGA Handicap website maintenance for the next year.

6. World Championships:

- 6.1 GS reported that most countries had replied to a mail requesting confirmation whether their entrants to the World Championships and SA Open still intended competing next March/April (COVID-19 permitting). Just over 30 had confirmed their interest, with another dozen or so yet to reply.
- 6.2 Broad concern was expressed by the Board members about the viability of the 2022 event, due to the extensive travel restrictions which are currently in effect in many countries.
- 6.3 A discussion was held about what would happen regarding the next Biennial Meeting should the World Championships not be able to be staged next March. The IBGA Constitution requires that the Biennial Meeting take place at the same time as the World Championships. No provision is currently made to have an electronic meeting (e.g. by Zoom/Teams/etc.), and the majority of the Board felt that it would be extremely unwieldy to try to arrange a Biennial Meeting in such a way. Consequences of only having the Biennial Meeting in 2023 include:
 - The current Board of Directors would remain in office until that time; and
 - Items which may have been tabled for discussion (such as increasing the size of the Vision Cup teams) would only be tabled at that later date.
- 6.4 The Board decided that Members should be asked to confirm their acceptance of the Board's recommendations that:
 - The next World Championships should remain in South Africa, as approved at the last Biennial Meeting, but be postponed until 2023.
 - The next Biennial Meeting will be held at those World Championships.

7. Sponsored events:

- 7.1 Final reports have now been received from NIBGA relating to the ISPS Handa British Blind Open 2021. A much smaller field than anticipated (22 players) resulted in an overpayment of sponsorship of \$1,750 (as a partial payment had been made based on the expectation of 35 participants).
- 7.2 The British Blind Open 2022 is planned for 4-6 July. We are waiting for an official sponsorship request from Scottish Blind Golf.
- 7.3 BGS has advised us that the first Spanish Open event is to be postponed from its intended dates in mid-2022 to some time later in the year (dates to be confirmed).
- 7.4 Captains and Vice-captains for the 2022 Vision Cup were confirmed as follows:
 - North America: Greg Hooper (Captain) & Jeremy Poincenot (Vice-captain);
 - Rest of the World: John Eakin (Captain) & Garrett Slattery (Vice-captain).
- 7.5 The Australian Open is still planned for 9-11 February 2022, with entries closing in late January after which they would be looking for their agreed sponsorship from the IBGA.

8. Marketing:

- 8.1 The NIBGA request for marketing funds for \$5,000 to continue the development and growth resulting from the “try out” day at the recent BBO was considered (including the production of a video record of the development). This will be looked into in more depth, with a decision to be taken at the next meeting.
- 8.2 LP reported that the “Facing the distance” (12 minute) movie (on the relationships between players and their guides) will be aired on the Rhode Island Public Broadcast network.

9. World Handicap System & IBGA Handicap System:

- 9.1 JE is regularly in touch with the handicap secretaries regarding progress towards WHS. It seems that almost all now have access to WHS in some form. Japan (sighted golf) is likely to commence with WHS from April 2022.
- 9.2 JE will compile a list of players’ current WHS handicaps. This information will be displayed on the IBGA website, although it should be noted that this is for information only and that IBGA handicaps are still in effect.
- 9.3 It was noted that the IBGA Handicap Policy would need significant revision in order to implement WHS as the default system. It was confirmed, however, that IBGA handicap limits per sight category would remain in place, regardless of any WHS handicap limits. Players exceeding those limits could play in Stableford events.
- 9.4 We will contact Darren Douma to see whether he would be willing to assist with IBGA handicapping.

10. Website & Facebook:

Nothing to report.

11. Other business:

- 11.1 A sight form has been received for a particular player, which conflicts with a recent form received for the same player. The Board agreed that we should try to find a reliable independent tester to carry out more comprehensive tests on the player concerned. Should this involve additional costs, the IBGA will cover them.
- 11.2 GS will investigate the possibility of us moving to the Zoom platform for Board meetings during 2022.

12. Date of next meeting:

Sunday 23rd January 2022, at 13.00 GMT on Skype.