

# MINUTES OF THE BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL GOLF FEDERATION

MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2018

CARTON HOUSE, MAYNOOTH, IRELAND

PRESENT:	Mr Andres Schonbaum	Argentina
	Mr Karen Horvannisyan	Armenia
	Ms Stacey Peters	Australia
	Mr Robert Vallis	Bermuda
	Mr Roberto Gomez	Brazil
	Mr Seth Underwood	Bulgaria
	Mr Jeff Thompson	Canada
	Ms Liz Hoffman	Canada
	Mr Robin Jarvis	Cayman Islands
	Mr Felipe Bertin	Chile
	Mr Gabriel Morgan	Chile
	Mr Xiaoning Zhang	China (People's Republic)
	Mr Zheng Pang	China (People's Republic)
	Mr Felipe Harker	Colombia
	Mr Camilo Sanchez	Colombia
	Mr Manuel Jimenez	Costa Rica
	Mr Ales Libecatj	Czech Republic
	Mr Morten Backhausen	Denmark
	Mr Lars Broch Christensen	Denmark
	Mr Nick Pink	England
	Mr Nigel Edwards	England
	Ms Hanna Hartikainen	Finland
	Mr Antti Peltoniemi	Finland
	Mr Christophe Muniesa	France
	Mr Jean Lou Charon	France
	Mrs Cécile Poncet	Gabon
	Mrs Marion Thannhäuser	Germany
	Mr Luis Galindo	Guatemala
	Mr Dufirstson Julio Neree	Haiti
	Mr Willy Mehu	Haiti
	Mr Kenneth Lam	Hong Kong
	Mr Danny Lai	Hong Kong
	Mr Haukur Orn Birgisson	Iceland
	Mr Dilip Thomas	India
	Mr Mukesh Sabharwei	India
	Mr Laith Barnouti	Iraq
	Ms Sinead Heraty	Ireland
	Mr Rollo McClure	Ireland
	Mr Alessandro Rogato	Italy
	Mr Andy Yamanaka	Japan
	Hyungmo Kang	Korea
	Sangwon Ko	Korea
	Mr Peter Tinner	Lichtenstein
	Mr Mindaugas Markevicius	Lithuania
	Mr William Beck	Malta
	Mr Jorge Robleda	Mexico
	Mr Jorge Coghlan	Mexico
	Mr Vlad Volostnykh	Moldova
	Mr Raja Hasnaoui	Morocco
	Mr Edmond	Morocco
	Mr Murray Ward	New Zealand

Ms Emeh Gladys Ekong	Nigeria
Mr Oyinlola Olagunsoye	Nigeria
Ms Dayana Vasquez	Panama
Ms Simone de Souza	Peru
Mr Janusz Sikora	Poland
Mr Manuel Quinta	Portugal
Mr Sidney Wolf	Puerto Rico
Mrs Christine Beauchamp	Puerto Rico
Mr Fahad Nasser Al Naimi	Qatar
Mr Mohammed Faisal Al Naimi	Qatar
Mr Clive Brown	The R&A
Mr Martin Slumbers	The R&A
Mr Nikolay Remizov	Russia
Mr Andrew McKinlay	Scotland
Ms Jovana Trifunovic	Serbia
Ms Lyn Sen	Singapore
Mr Jerome Ng	Singapore
Mr Tomas Stoklasa	Slovakia
Mr Rastislav Antala	Slovakia
Mr Uros Gregoric	Slovenia
Mr Geoff Taylor	South Africa
Mrs Sally Greasley	South Africa
Mr Gonzaga Escauriaza	Spain
Mr Luis Mendez	Spain
Mr Gunnar Hakansson	Sweden
Ms Maria Moller	Sweden
Ms Barbara Albisetti	Switzerland
Mr Ting-Heng Sung	Chinese Taipei
Ms Hsueh-Yun Hsieh	Chinese Taipei
Mr Maher Bouchamaoui	Tunisia
Ms Veronika Rastvortseva	Ukraine
Ms Alena Terseshchuk	Ukraine
Mr John Bodenhamer	USA
Ms Stephanie Parel	USA
Mr Guzman Etcheverry	Uruguay
Mr Rafael Barrios	Venezuela
Mr Richard Dixon	Wales

IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr Peter Dawson OBE	President - International Golf Federation
	Mr Clive Edginton	Joint Chairman - International Golf Federation
	Mr Mike Davis	Joint Chairman - International Golf Federation
	Mrs Nicki Hirayama	Women's Chairman - International Golf Federation
	Mr Antony Scanlon	Executive Director – International Golf Federation

Mr Dawson welcomed the attendees to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He asked everyone to stand for a few moments of silence to remember three previous Women's Chairmen who had passed since the last Biennial Meeting in Cancun, Mexico: Mrs Lally Segard, Mrs Patricia Bridges and Mrs Emma Villacieros.

## I ELECTION OF MEETING CHAIRMAN AND ROLL CALL

Mr Dawson thanked the meeting and Mr Clive Edginton was duly nominated to chair the Biennial Meeting.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 2016 Biennial Meeting, held in Cancun, Mexico, were approved by a show of hands.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA

Any such matters would be dealt with in the Executive Director's Report, later in the meeting.

4 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

4a. Items arising from the previous day's Administrative Committee were covered as follows:

**Proposed changes to the 2010 IGF Constitution (in line with the International Olympic Committee Charter)**

It had been agreed unanimously that the proposed changes (totalling 21) would be taken en bloc. This item would be discussed later at this meeting.

**Proposed resolution to change the requirements for the WATC from two courses to one, starting in 2022.**

This proposal had been discussed in detail and the Administrative Committee had agreed that this change, if agreed, would start in 2024. This item would be covered under 5d later in this meeting.

**2022 WATC: Bid from the French Golf Federation**

The Administrative Committee had agreed to accept this bid, using two courses. This would be covered further under 5c later in this meeting.

**Candidate for Women's Chairman following the retirement of Ms Nobuko Hirayama this year**

The nominee put before the meeting was Claudia Camargo from Mexico.

Finally, the Committee approved the nomination of both Ms Nobuko Hirayama (Japan) and Mr Sidney Wolf (Puerto Rico) to the IGF Board.

The Chairman reiterated that most of the items listed above would come up for further discussion during this meeting.

5. WORLD AMATEUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

5a. 2018 IRELAND

Women's Chairman, Ms Hirayama, reported on the WWATC 2018 and began by thanking the GUI and ILGU for their hard work as well as giving thanks to Carton House for providing two wonderful golf courses. A record 57 teams had competed, with Lebanon participating for the first time. Bulgaria and Morocco had competed in the WWATC for the second time.

USA, with three of the top WAGR players, won the Espirito Santo Trophy by ten strokes. It was the USA's first win since 1998 in Chile. Japan was second, on -19, with Korea third on -18. The low individual scorer (-17) was Ayeon Cho of Korea. The host country, Ireland, had finished in eleventh place.

Ms Hirayama recorded her thanks to both the GUI and ILGU and to the IGF with its support staff from The R&A and the USGA. She closed by confirming that this would be her last WATC as Women's Chairman and that she had enjoyed her role very much, adding that it had been an honour to witness such a high standard of golf.

The Chairman asked Mr Rollo McClure to respond on behalf of the 2018 hosts. Mr McClure said that it had been a full five years since Ireland began the bidding process for the 2018 WATC. It had been a great pleasure to welcome everyone to Ireland and added that the standard of women's golf was excellent; he hoped for the same from the Eisenhower Trophy during the coming week.

The Chairman thanked Mr McClure and his colleagues and gave a special mention to the many volunteers who had given up their time to assist with both events.

#### 5b. 2020 HONG KONG

The Chairman invited Mr Kenneth Lam to give a short presentation on the work being done by Hong Kong in preparation for the 2020 event. Mr Lam showed a short video, adding that it was a great honour for Hong Kong to have been chosen to stage the event. He, too, gave his thanks and congratulations to Ireland for hosting a wonderful WWATC and he looked forward to the men's event this coming week.

The courses chosen for the 2020 WATCs were the Hong Kong Golf Club and the Clearwater Bay Golf & Country Club; the women's event would be staged over the Old and New Courses at the Hong Kong Golf Club, whilst the men's event would be played over one course at the Hong Kong Golf Club and one course at Clearwater Bay. The brochure used to submit their bid two years ago had been handed out to attendees to take away with them, together with updated fact sheets.

He had already received many questions about the logistics involved and the proposed team accommodation. He was pleased to report that one hotel had been identified which would hold both men's and women's teams. This hotel was a twenty-minute drive from Hong Kong Golf Club and it was about ten minutes further to Clearwater Bay.

He looked forward to welcoming everyone to Hong Kong in two years' time.

#### 5c. 2022 HOST

The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to the bid prepared by the French Golf Federation to host the WATC in 2022. He added that the presentation was very thorough and reported that the Administrative Committee had approved the bid at its meeting the previous day; it was put before this meeting for ratification.

Before taking a vote, he invited Mr Scanlon to report on the bid. Mr Scanlon drew everyone's attention to the bid papers in their documents and added that it was a most impressive and comprehensive document. He added that the bid was drawing on the legacy of the upcoming Ryder Cup and the 2024 Olympic Games – both events being staged at Le Golf National in Paris. He commended the French Golf Federation for its vision in using this same venue for the 2022 WATCs.

The dates proposed are 25-28 August for the Espirito Santo Trophy and 1-4 September for the Eisenhower Trophy (although he noted that both dates were still provisional at this stage).

He urged the meeting to support this bid. The Chairman confirmed that formal acceptance was being sought at the meeting today and he asked for a show of hands.

The meeting gave its overwhelming support to the bid and he reiterated his thanks to the French Golf Federation for putting it forward. The Chairman asked Mr Jean Lou Charon to come forward to say a few words. Mr Charon thanked the President, Chairmen and delegates for their confidence in voting for France to host the WATC in 2022 and added that they were proud to do so.

He reiterated the connection between the upcoming Ryder Cup and the 2024 Olympic Games. He reminded the meeting that, in 1994, Le Golf National had also hosted the WATCs which had featured a young Tiger Woods playing for the USA team. He hoped that a future star would take part in Paris in 2022. He thanked the delegates again for their trust and confidence.

#### 5d RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WATC FROM 2022

The Chairman reminded the delegates of his opening remarks where he reported that it had been agreed at the previous day's Administrative Committee to change the resolution. He asked Mr Scanlon to explain the reasons for the proposed change.

Mr Scanlon reported that, in June 2018, a telephone meeting of the Administrative Committee had taken place because, at that stage, no bids at all had been received for the 2022 event. He reminded the delegates that, at the 2016 Administrative Committee meeting, it had been decided to suspend the rotation of zones to encourage bids from any zone. He added that only one bid (Ireland) had been received for this year and, again, only one (Hong Kong) for 2020.

The most likely reason for the lack of support was that of cost to the host venue, with the 2016 event reportedly costing in excess of \$1.2 million. The current host (Ireland) was working to a budget of €800,000. It was apparent to the IGF that this was causing problems for many countries and it was also to the detriment of developing golf in their respective regions.

It was agreed by the Administrative Committee in June 2018 that one way of reducing the cost would be to remove the requirements for two courses to be used at every WATC and reduce it to just one. The knock-on effect of doing this would, unfortunately, result in the maximum number of teams (currently 72) being reduced. At this stage, the IGF was not looking to discuss qualification events or the like; rather agreement to this reduction in the number of courses was being sought. Fortunately, since the June 2018 meeting, the single bid had been received from France, offering two courses, meaning that the current maximum of 72 teams could be accommodated.

Because the requirements would therefore remain unchanged for 2022, the written proposal previously circulated to attendees to change the requirements from that year was unnecessary and the Administrative Committee had agreed very strongly the previous day to move the potential date of change to 2024. Mr Scanlon was asking this meeting, therefore, to alter the original draft resolution to 2024, before discussing further the consequent reduction in the number of teams from that year.

He further explained that this deferment would give time for a full consultation process with all the affiliates; it was hoped that, whilst the number of teams would be reduced, a qualification system would be sought to ensure a balance between the strength and diversity of the fields.

Mr Scanlon recognised that this proposal would not find favour with everyone, but added that every attempt would be made for every country to seek qualification. It was hoped that this change would enable more countries to be able to bid to host the full WATCs.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the proposal was: (1) the requirement for the 2022 WATCs and all subsequent WATCs to be reduced to one golf course be changed to 2024 and (2) to debate that proposal once the change had been agreed. He then invited questions from the floor.

Mr D J Neree from Haiti asked whether the change of year could be pushed back to either 2026 or 2028 because of the lack of bids currently being received. The Chairman replied that some difficulty was anticipated by the IGF in securing bids even for 2024 if the format was not changed. There was currently no certainty that any two-course bids would be received for 2024. He reiterated the good fortune that the 2022 gap had been filled by France only just in time for this meeting. It was hoped that, if the proposal was agreed at this meeting, any country bidding for 2024 need use only one course. The IGF would like to keep to 2024 as the year of change to allow any countries present to be able to prepare a bid. Not doing so could mean that no countries would feel able to prepare a bid for 2024.

Mr N Remizov (Russia) felt that the resolution in question had not been very well prepared; his thoughts were that a full proposal, including qualification recommendations, should have been included in this resolution. He felt that Russia would no longer be able to send a team to compete under these circumstances and felt ill-prepared to vote at this meeting as a result.

The Chairman reiterated that the first part of the resolution put to this meeting was to agree (or disagree) to the change of resolution; after that, agreement would be sought regarding any potential qualification process. He asked for a show of hands in favour of changing the resolution, following which the date of 2024 was now substituted in place of 2022.

The next stage was to approve that altered resolution and again, the Chairman asked for any comments before putting that aspect to the vote.

Mr R Antala from Slovakia reported that, because golf had existed in his country for only twenty years, it was still a challenge to attract young people into the game. He felt this would be true of many of the smaller countries represented here. For example, Slovakia did not yet have one professional golfer which currently excluded them from golf in the Olympic Games. However, the WATC served as a motivation for their players, many of whom it was hoped may gain a place at college in the USA as a result of their performance at the WATC. Whilst he understood the economic argument, he would prefer to seek other ways to help countries meet the cost of hosting the WATCs in their current format.

The Chairman fully understood these comments, but it was hoped to find a way of all countries being able to qualify for the final event and the next two years would hopefully provide a solution for all. He added that there had been a waiting-list of eight countries this year for the Eisenhower Trophy which highlighted the issue that not all countries can play in the events' current format. The proposed new format would provide an opportunity to qualify for a starting place in the WATC, the details of which would be worked out over the next two years.

He reminded the meeting that the Administrative Committee had felt very strongly that, if the size and complexity of the event were not reduced in the future, there would be a real problem of finding countries willing to host the WATC. It was hoped that bids would be forthcoming for 2024 onwards under the new structure.

Mr Galindo (Guatemala) supported the argument put forward by Slovakia as his was also a small developing country where golf was concerned and, such was the importance of the WATC, to remove it from their reach would be demotivating for countries such as theirs to continue to try to encourage young people to play golf.

Mrs Ekong (Nigeria) asked whether the proposed qualification system would have an effect on the number of women's teams permitted to play, given that the current field for the Espirito Santo Trophy fell short of the maximum 72 permitted teams. Mr Scanlon replied that, in reality, the reduction to one course could mean a total of 48 teams per event.

Mr Christensen (Denmark) reiterated the importance and stature of the WATC to a small country like theirs, adding that sending a team of three players meant in reality sending a Captain and a Coach (five people in total) whereas if the Captain could be a professional, then this would reduce costs for some countries. Currently, the Captain (advice-giver) cannot be a professional under the Conditions of the WATC. His question was whether the IGF had considered splitting the men's and women's events to make it less costly to send this number of people at one time.

The Chairman replied that some countries send the same representatives to cover both events and, if the events were split, then that would in effect increase the cost. Mr Scanlon added that it had been considered, but perhaps needed to be discussed again.

Mr Dawson added that this whole issue had been coming for some time; finding golf venues to give up two courses for three weeks, together with the cost to the host country and, whilst he agreed with the comments from the smaller countries, he reminded that meeting that the duty of the Administrative Committee under the IGF's constitution was to set the parameters and the format of the WATCs. The Administrative Committee had considered it very carefully, did not want to make a quick decision, and wanted to consult all its members on any proposed changes. Agreeing to make the change from 2024 would give the IGF time to agree a solution to the qualification process. The position of the smaller countries was well understood, but the duty of the Administrative Committee was to deal with this problem now, in good time to avoid a lack of bids in future. He was in no doubt that the IGF should support the Administrative Committee's decision and this would give certainty to any countries thinking of bidding for 2024 that they need do so with only one course. Agreement to this change of date was what was required at this meeting, rather than debating here any possible qualification processes. He added that the IGF understood that it was a very difficult decision, but one which had to be recognised now in order to preserve the WATC for the future.

Mr Sanchez (Colombia) agreed with the comments from Slovakia, comparing it in Colombia with its junior football leagues,

Mr Dawson replied that the Administrative Committee would seriously consider a proposal to use existing regional events in which teams are already participating as a qualifying event, which would reduce any potential additional costs.

Mr Barnouti (Iraq) understood arguments for both sides, adding that everything in life was difficult, but ways would be found to overcome this particular issue.

The Chairman invited a vote by a show of hands in favour of the resolution to change to one course and the vote was carried by a majority. The resolution was approved and the Chairman thanked everyone for their input. Work could now begin on finding the best way forward in which to put in place a system to find a balance of nations.

## 6. RESOLUTIONS TO CHANGE THE IGF 2010 CONSTITUTION

The Chairman reported that there were, in total, 21 resolutions to be passed at this meeting and he invited Mr Scanlon to introduce the item.

Mr Scanlon explained the reasons for changing the 2010 constitution. The IGF Board was currently undergoing a strategic review of the IGF and, as part of that review, the role of the IF recognised by the IOC, there were certain requirements under the Olympic Charter. A number of amendments had therefore been put to the delegates which would ensure that the IGF constitution conformed with the Olympic Charter and the IOC's Agenda 2020. This would enable the IGF to continue to be the International Federation recognised by the International Olympic Committee. He further explained that these were largely "good governance" practices, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the IGF's affiliates. Previously, had any issue arisen with one of the member countries, the only course of action would have been expulsion.

He highlighted problems encountered by other sports, where some high-profile individuals had conducted themselves in a negative way, with the federation being powerless to prevent that individual from representing their country at the highest level. Also covered was the process of becoming a member and, finally, the approach from the European Golf Association for inclusion in the membership of the IGF. Clarity was also required in the meaning of some clauses, together with a clean-up of any errors in the wording.

A memo had been circulated previously, highlighting the issues above. If passed, the resolutions would come into effect on 9 September 2018 as, concurrently, the professional members were considering the written resolutions. The IGF would confirm at a later date whether all these resolutions had been passed.

The Chairman asked for an agreement to take all 21 resolutions en bloc rather than take them all separately; all agreed.

Resolutions A to U were put to the whole meeting; carried unanimously.

## 7. FINANCIAL UPDATE

The accounts for 2016 and 2017 had been circulated previously and the Chairman asked Mr Scanlon to provide an update on the finances of the IGF.

Mr Scanlon began by illustrating how the IGF was funded and how it operates, as follows: the perception is that the IOC provides the IGF with a huge sum of money (from broadcasts) and, whilst this was true, following the Rio 2016 Olympics, \$640 million dollars was distributed amongst the 28 International Federations. However, it was not distributed equally; rather the sums were split into five different categories (A-E) and the IGF, as a new member, was in the lowest category (E) receiving \$12.75m from the IOC for its contribution to the Olympic Games. Putting that into context, that sum had to cover the IGF's operations from 2010 to 2020.

Before that sum came through, the IGF's delivery partners (the European Tour, the LPGA, The R&A, the Masters Tournament, the PGA of America, the PGA Tour and the USGA) all financially contributed to the IGF to enable it to carry out its operations before receiving the \$17.5m. Not only did the delivery partners contribute financially; crucially they committed resources and people. The IGF has a small team of four staff based in Lausanne, Switzerland and operates by using the resources of its delivery partners and the collaboration of its membership as a whole to deliver events.

This collaboration was evident during this year's WATC with the contribution of both The R&A and the USGA of their resources and finance. Using that model, the IGF is able to reduce its operational costs considerably. Currently, with all of its commissions, committees and projects, the IGF has in excess of fifty staff currently working for the IGF in some capacity. The IGF is not required to compensate its delivery partners for their time nor, in the majority of cases, for their expenses. The expenses of the members of the IGF's commissions and committees are currently paid for by their respective Federations or organisations and many of the meetings are conducted by conference call.

In summary, the IGF's operations are lean, efficient and very effective in delivery. He added that the IGF did not have much money at this stage and, in fact, would run out of money by the end of 2018. Its delivery partners would therefore be asked to assist for 2019 and 2020 (delivery of the Olympic Games). The IGF would be required to fund and underwrite certain aspects of the golf events at the Tokyo Olympics to ensure delivery.

Part of the aforementioned strategic review of the IGF would be how it moves forward to fund and resource its projects. There would be complete transparency on this and he confirmed that funding would be made available for the WATC and other events it operates.

Mr Scanlon thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to put the IGF's funding in context.

## 8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr Scanlon began his report by giving an update on the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. He recognised that many of the countries present at this meeting would be participating in Tokyo.



By way of background, qualification for the golf events in Tokyo would repeat those for Rio 2016, ie, there would be two individual events (men's and women's). The Board (and the Competitions Committee) had considered mixed events or team events, but given time constraints within the fourteen-sixteen days available, plus comments from the athletes, it was decided to leave the format unchanged.

The format would therefore be limited again to sixty men and sixty women; qualification would be from the Official World Golf Rankings (OWGR) with the top fifteen countries in the OWGR having four athletes qualifying (per event) and thereafter a maximum of two per country not already qualified.

Qualification for the men's event started on 1 July 2018, continuing until 22 June and for the women's event from 8 July 2018 until 29 June, following the US Open.

The main challenges faced by the IGF are distance and accommodation; Mr Scanlon explained that there were no hotels near the golf course at Kasumigazeki Golf Club and the distance between the golf course and the Athletes' Village is roughly a ninety-minute car journey. The IGF had been working closely with the LOC and the local government to mitigate this – hopefully cutting the journey to sixty minutes, which was felt would be acceptable to the athletes. The IOC and the LOC had agreed to allow the players to use cars (effectively vans) allocated to every player and their entourages in making the journey to the course. He added that this was effectively a cost reduction to the LOC as buses in Tokyo were very expensive indeed. There being no quality hotels near the golf course, nor a culture in Japan of renting property, the athletes would have to stay in the Village.

He reminded the meeting of the recent high temperatures experienced in Tokyo (over 40 degrees) during the period of the Games and the Medical Commission was currently reviewing extra possible requirements for the athletes on the golf course.

Mr Scanlon then gave an update to an item raised at the 2016 Biennial Meeting – that of Rule 50 - and the fact that the IOC had modified its generic rules specifically for golf. This had created a number of issues for federations which were unable to take advantage of sponsorship on team uniforms. This item had now been clarified and uniforms would now be permitted to carry the name of a sponsor. He had made it clear at this stage to allow federations to start that process now if they wished to do so.

Mr Scanlon then proceeded to talk about the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) due to take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October 2018. He highlighted that the Argentine Golf Association had been working hard to produce the golf events (two separate fifty-four hole events for boys and girls aged 15-18 plus one mixed team event). The World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) was used to determine the qualifying athletes. Additionally, five universality places had been offered.

For the 2022 YOG, the IOC was currently considering bids from Botswana, Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia and a decision on that should be made just prior to the 2018 YOG.

The host venue for the 2024 Olympic Games had now been confirmed as Paris and the IOC had also made the decision to award the Games to Los Angeles in 2028. Mr Scanlon was delighted to announce to this meeting that golf would be represented at both. He attributed the success of the golf events in Rio to paving the way for golf at these future venues. This would hopefully lead to the countries at this meeting having more constructive dialogue on golf development with their respective National Olympic Committees.

With the IOC also being based in Lausanne, the IGF enjoyed a good relationship with the Director of Sport and the Executive Director of the Olympic Games. The IGF is also represented on a number of commissions and committees with Mr Scanlon having recently been appointed to the Digital & Technology Commission of the IOC and also the Engagement Working Group. He was pleased to confirm therefore, that the IGF was actively contributing to the Olympic movement and that contribution had been recognised by the IOC.

The IGF's relationship with the Association of Summer Olympic (International) Federations (ASOIF) was in good shape, with the IGF being regular attendees at its General Assembly. Part of the IGF's contribution to that body was being represented on some of ASOIF's committees, giving the IGF the opportunity of being at the forefront of having an input into its policy-making.

GAISF (formerly SportAccord) was the first body which the IGF joined in order to be recognised by the IOC as the International Federation for golf. However, Mr Scanlon reported that there had been some issues with GAISF in recent years which had resulted in the IGF's resignation from that body, in solidarity with the IOC. Since then, GAISF's constitution had changed and it had a new President and, with that, both the IGF and the International Athletics Federation had been invited to rejoin GAISF which he was pleased to report that they had done.

Mr Scanlon reported that membership of the IGF had grown from 147 to 151 affiliates with three new applications currently pending. This was very good news, but as had been reported earlier, it had a knock-on effect on the number of federations entering the WATC. Growth was expected to continue between now and the next Biennial Meeting.

Anti-doping – as members of their respective Olympic Committees, the National Federations here were reminded that they were obligated to be compliant under the WADA Code (as did the IGF) and it was the IGF's responsibility to oversee that compliance from its members. He added that the WADA Code was currently undergoing a review, with the new Code to be applicable from January 2019.

The IGF had been very actively engaged in steering some of the wording of the new Code and a specific category of athlete had been identified to undergo testing: unless they were 50<sup>th</sup> or above in the rankings in their particular sport in their own country, then they would not be subjected to the WADA Code, which was seen as a common-sense approach. This would have the benefit of taking pressure off the National Federations.

Finally, as an update on the IGF's relationship with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), Mr Scanlon confirmed that the IGF was now recognised by the IPC as the International Federation representing Golf and, with that recognition, the IGF had attended a number of meetings so far. The IGF had also submitted a bid for the 2024 Paralympic Games where, under the classification of lower-limb amputees, 32 male and 32 female athletes would compete in a 54-hole stroke play event. One more stage in the process had to be completed before that could be confirmed, but a meeting was due to take place in Madrid in a few days' time with its Executive Board and Federation members (where Antony would be present) when it was hoped that this proposal would be accepted and confirmed.

The Paralympic bid was praised for being a catalyst in making the Federations aware of their responsibilities in the world of disabled golf, not only by creating elite pathways for these athletes, but also by accepting them as members of clubs. He added that, whilst 15 per cent of people in the world were disabled, this was not reflected within the members of the IGF. This was seen to be a huge opportunity for the IGF to increase its responsibilities in this area.

He acknowledged The R&A's and the USGA's efforts in encouraging disabled golfers by modification of the Rules of Golf.

The Chairman thanked Mr Scanlon for his very conclusive report.

## 9 IGF WOMEN'S CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reminded the meeting that Ms Hirayama would be stepping down after the 2018 WATCs and, under Article 6.6 of the Constitution, the Administrative Committee had been charged with finding the name of a successor to bring to the Biennial Meeting for ratification. Consequently, at the previous day's meeting, the Administrative Committee had agreed that the name put forward was that of Claudia Camargo from the Mexican Golf Federation.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands to ratify that appointment, and the appointment was duly confirmed.

## 10 2018-2020 ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

The Chairman announced that the following countries had been nominated to appoint members of the Administrative Committee for 2018-2020:

Asia-Pacific Zone:	Australia, China (replacing Pakistan), India, Japan, Korea
Americas Zone:	In addition to the USGA, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Puerto Rico
Europe/Africa Zone:	In addition to The R&A, Finland, Netherlands (replacing Germany), Spain, South Africa

The above recommendations, made by the Administrative Committee, were put to the meeting and the Chairman asked for a show of hands to approve these appointments, which was duly done.

## 11 SIMPLIFICATION OF THE RULES OF GOLF & IMPLEMENTATION OF WORLDWIDE HANDICAP SYSTEM

Whilst this was not strictly an IGF matter, the opportunity had been taken (having so many members present) to give an update on some of the governance issues currently being undertaken: namely, Rules of Golf, WHS and WAGR.

Presentations on all three subjects were given by (Rules of Golf) Thomas Pagel (USGA), WHS David Rickman (The R&A) and (World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR)) Stephanie Parel (USGA) & Ian Scott (The R&A).

The Chairman thanked all the presenters and hoped that the meeting attendees had gained more insight into all three areas of governance as a result.

## 12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Barnouti (Iraq) stood up and gave his thanks to the IGF for including Iraq in the WATC this year, and thanked the IGF for the current format(!), although neither of the Iraqi teams had been able to participate because of visa issues.

The Chairman thanked Dr Barnouti and welcomed Iraq to the Biennial Meeting.

Mr Dawson (President) drew everyone's attention to a booklet *The Truth About Golf* which had been distributed to meeting attendees. The booklet had been compiled by the IGF and The R&A as a result of meetings with Federations around the world during golf's bid for inclusion in the Olympic Games. It had become apparent during these meetings that – according to the Federations – were golf to become an Olympic Sport, it would gain recognition in their countries and increase government support for the game. Since golf's return to the Olympics, some good examples of this had been seen to be working, but this was still not happening everywhere, particularly amongst several of those countries who had been most forceful in making that point before the IGF made its bid.

At the most recent R&A International Golf Conference, this particular topic had been raised and this document was produced as a result of those discussions as an attempt to galvanise governments into supporting the game. The document described the strengths of golf and also, how increasingly the game was becoming aligned with modern government thinking and practices.

Mr Dawson asked the members to use the booklet as best they could and to let the IGF know if they would like more copies, translations or a tablet-friendly version for use as presentations to governments.

### 13 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman confirmed that the next Biennial Meeting would be held on 19 October 2020 in Hong Kong, China.

He again thanked and congratulated the Golfing Union of Ireland and the Irish Ladies' Golf Union for their successful staging so far of this year's WATCs and asked Mr McClure to take these good wishes back to the respective organisations. The Chairman also congratulated the French Golf Federation on its successful bid for the 2022 WATCs and gave special thanks to Ms Hirayama for all her good work in her role as IGF Women's Chairman. He then congratulated Ms Camargo on her election to that post.

Finally, he gave his thanks to all the attendees for coming to the meeting and looked forward to welcoming everyone to the 2020 WATCs in Hong Kong, China. The meeting was declared closed.