SGM 07/10/23

Dear Members,

Firstly, can I thank all those who attended the SGM last night to debate and vote on the proposed changes to the club rules which would allow the first stage of “One Club” to happen.

Within our current club rules, we must have 50 members present, to allow the meeting to progress and unfortunately the 34 members who arrived was insufficient to form a quorum meaning that the meeting could not take place.

This is incredibly disappointing as this should have been the culmination of 3 years hard work by the Transition Council and prepares our club for the generation following us.

In recent weeks there has been a members information evening allowing for questions. We have communicated the proposed changes, and you have received information giving the required 7 days’ notice. There was also a further reminder this weekend, so you should have had all the information required to make an informed decision and exercise your right to vote.

As disappointing as this is, equality is something that we must move forward with, so a further SGM will take place on Tuesday 21/11/2023 at 7.30pm.

There has been some criticism of the clarity of information provided and while we don’t agree, perhaps it might be a reason that so few members attended.

Enclosed we detail the motion proposed and an explanation of why we need to make changes if you require further information.

If you attended the information evening, then these questions will have been answered, however if you do have questions that you feel need addressing prior to the meeting, please get in touch and I or one of the team will endeavour to answer.

We fully appreciate that changes to the club rules may be of little relevance to you, especially if there is likely to be little change to your ongoing membership fees and this may have led to you to feel it is unimportant to attend.

As a current full member, you do have a vote on this matter, and it is important that you exercise it.

Kind regards,

Aidan Place

Hon. Sec.

**Original Notice of Motion**

**Rule 4 Council**

1. For the Club Year 2024 the Club shall be managed by a Committee formed from the 2023 Men’s Council and Ladies Committee, except for those members who would otherwise automatically retire at the end of 2023; Members who failed to attend the required number of meetings; and those members who do not wish their names to go forward.
2. The Committee shall elect an Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer for the purposes of day to day running of the Club.
3. The Committee will be jointly chaired by the two respective Captains, at least one who shall preside at all meetings, including General meetings. The Chairs will have a casting singular vote, which if cannot be agreed on shall abstain.
4. Seven members will form a quorum
5. Members of 2024 Committee will NOT be entitled to a concession on their Annual Subscription except for specific posts identified and agreed by the Committee.

Sub paragraphs f,h,I,j,k as set out in the current Rules will remain in place.

**Rule 5 Membership**

*Categories of membership*

Where a member of the Club has attained the age of 18 years as of 1 January of that year, they shall be deemed to be a full member with voting rights regardless of gender. Membership categories as deemed appropriate by Committee ie age related will be treated as full members with a concessionary subscription rate as approved by the Committee.

Members will be offered a choice of either a 7-day membership or a 5-day membership. The 5-day category will have restrictions placed upon them as set out in the attached appendix.

The following additional categories will remain: (defined as set out in current Rules)

Student, Honorary, Temporary, Country, Family, Non-Playing

**Rule 7 General Meeting**

The Club Annual General Meeting will necessitate a quorum of at least Fifty members present before any business can be conducted.

A Special General Meeting may be called at the request of Committee or on a requisition signed by at least fifty members and stating the single nature of business to be placed on the Agenda. SGM will require a quorum of at least 25 members before any business can be conducted.

**Rule 16**

*Ladies Branch*

Remove

**Explanation of notice of motion**

**Rule 4 ( Council)**

Next year we are redrafting the club rules into a club constitution. With no significant changes to club rules over many years this is important as the next draft of rules will treat all members equally, regardless of gender.

This is obviously a huge undertaking and not to be rushed into. The transition Council intends to have this document ready for adoption at the AGM in 2025 but they felt that the changes to playing rights could be addressed for the 2024 season. In the interim the changes to Rule 4 explain that for one year (2024) the council will be made up of male and female members. There will be some natural retirees and the Council will choose the Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treasurer from within.

Due to the potentially increased size of the Council, there will be no fee reductions on the grounds of cost for this period or for certain positions, as agreed by the transition Council.

At the end of this year all members will have opportunity to vote on the makeup of the Council for 2025 which will be as prescribed in Golf Ireland’s 30/40/30 ratios for equal opportunity.

**Rule 5 (Membership)**

Next year there will be one class of members providing they have reached the age of 18 and they will all have a vote.

Two classifications of playing rights will be available, 7 day and 5 day.

As previously communicated, there are restrictions on playing rights at weekends for 5-day members, with concessions for special occasions like Captains Day.

7-day members will all have equal access to the tee sheets and there will be separate competitions for both genders as currently. The hope is to introduce some more all gender competitions if there is demand.

Also as communicated the rates for 7 and 5-day membership will be broadly in line with the Male and female rates as currently. As per previous years, Council reserves the right to recommend a rate for both categories at the AGM. Council will also control the amount of movement between 7 and 5-day membership to ensure the ongoing financial viability of our club for future generations.

**Rule 7 (General meeting)**

After discussion we have removed the proposed reduction to 25 members for Quorum for SGM as on reflection this may provide, in certain circumstances, too much power to too few.

**Rule 16 (Ladies Branch)**

As we have one classification of members, there is no requirement for a separate set of rules for Lady members.