

HOLE IN ONE GOLF SOCIETY IRELAND

**CONSTITUTION AS ADOPTED AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT GRANGE GOLF CLUB
ON FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER 2011**

HOLE IN ONE GOLF SOCIETY IRELAND

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HOLE IN ONE GOLF SOCIETY IRELAND

CONSTITUTION

Name of Society

1. The name of the Society shall be Hole in One Golf Society Ireland (“the Society”).

Objects of Society

- 2.1 The Society is constituted for the purpose of playing and promoting the amateur game of golf amongst those who, subject to clause 3.3.1, have achieved a hole in one in open, society or club competitions (including match play competitions).
- 2.2 The Society shall conform strictly with the “Rules of Golf” and the “Rules of Amateur Status” as prescribed by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.
- 2.3 The Society, in so far as it comprises male members, shall be bound by the Constitution of the Golfing Union of Ireland and shall conform with the bye-laws from time to time of the Golfing Union of Ireland.
- 2.4 The Society, in so far as it comprises female members, shall be bound by the Constitution of the Irish Ladies Golfing Union and shall conform with the bye-laws from time to time of the Irish Ladies Golfing Union.

Membership

- 3.1 The Society shall consist of members within the following categories of membership:
 - (a) Ordinary members
 - (b) Honorary members
- 3.2 The number of ordinary members shall not exceed 110 and in so far as is possible shall consist of an equal number of male and female members.
 - 3.3.1 An applicant for ordinary membership must be a member of a golf club affiliated to the Golfing Union of Ireland or the Irish Ladies Golfing Union and must have achieved a hole in one in an open, society or club competition (including match play competition) provided that nothing in this Constitution shall prevent a member of the Society who, subsequent to his or her election as a member of the Society, ceases to be a member of an affiliated club from continuing as a member of the Society.
 - 3.3.2 An application for ordinary membership shall be in writing. The application must be signed by the applicant and a proposer who must have been a member of the Society for a minimum of two years prior to the date of the application. The hole in one must be authenticated by an officer of the club where it was achieved by such officer and the applicant signing a card indicating the hole at which it was achieved.

- 3.3.3 Where in the opinion of the Committee it is not practical for the card to be signed by an officer of the club then the Committee may permit it to be signed by any person acceptable to the Committee who can authenticate it.
- 3.3.4 The Committee shall have absolute discretion whether to reject or accept any application.
- 3.4.1 The Committee may elect as an honorary member any person who has made an exceptional contribution to the Society or whose service to golf or to the public service would merit the honour. The hole in one requirements set out in rule 3.3 shall not apply for the granting of honorary membership.
- 3.4.2 The number of honorary members shall be disregarded for the purpose of the limit on ordinary specified in clause 3.2.
- 3.5 The Committee shall have power to call upon any member to resign from the Society or to expel him or her from membership or to suspend his or her membership for such period (not exceeding three calendar months) as the Committee may think fit if, in the opinion of the Committee, the conduct of such member is or has been harmful or prejudicial to the Society or has brought or may bring discredit to the Society or is or has been offensive, harmful, prejudicial or dangerous to other members of the Society.
- 3.6 The Committee shall not decide on any matter within the scope of clause 3.5 above until the member in question has been given at least ten days notice in writing that a complaint or complaints has or have been made about his or her conduct and of a date, time and place for holding a meeting of the Committee at which the matter will be discussed. Such notice shall specify that the member in question shall be entitled to make such written submissions and representations to the meeting as he or she think proper and may attend in person to do so.
- 3.7.1 In the event that the Committee takes a decision which is adverse to the interests of the member then the member may within ten days of the date of notification of the adverse decision notify the Honorary Secretary of the Society in writing that he or she wishes to appeal the decision.
- 3.7.2 The appeal shall be heard by a sub-committee consisting of the most recent available former Captain of the Society who is not a member of the then current Committee and four other members of the Society chosen by such former Captain.
- 3.7.3 The member having been notified of the constitution of the sub-committee and of the date of the proposed meeting of that sub-committee shall be entitled to make such written submissions or representations to that sub-committee that he or she thinks proper and to attend in person to do so.
- 3.7.4 The member shall be entitled to be represented by any person of his or her choice at the meeting and the appeal referred to in clauses 3.6 and 3.7 above provided the member has informed the Honorary Secretary of the name and occupation of such representative at least three days in advance thereof.
- 3.7.5 The decision of the sub-committee shall be final and binding on the member and the Society.

- 3.7.6 The decision of that sub-committee shall take effect immediately on notification of it to the member.
- 3.8 A member shall not be entitled either following resignation or expulsion or during any period of suspension to:
- (a) participate in any of the Society's golf outings; or
 - (b) a refund or rebate of the whole or any part of the annual subscription for the Subscription Year (as hereinafter defined) in which the resignation, expulsion or suspension takes effect.

Subscriptions

- 4.1 The annual subscription payable by an ordinary member shall be determined from time to time at an annual general meeting or at an extraordinary general meeting.
- 4.2 An honorary member shall be exempt from payment of an annual subscription.
- 4.3 The annual subscription of each member is payable in advance by 31 January in each year in respect of the period from 1 January to 31 December of that year ("the Subscription Year").
- 4.4 Any member whose subscription is unpaid by 1 March in any particular year shall be sent notification by registered post that if payment is not made within fourteen days of the date of posting of such notification such member shall cease to be a member.
- 4.5 Any member excluded from membership under clause 4.4 above may make an application in writing to the Honorary Secretary and may be re-elected by the Committee to membership within twelve months from the date of ceasing to be a member without payment of an entrance fee and without complying with any other laid down application for membership procedure upon payment of all subscriptions unpaid at the date of ceasing to be a member.
- 4.6 Ordinary members whose subscriptions are unpaid at the time of the annual general meeting or an extraordinary general meeting shall not be entitled to vote at the meeting or take part in any of its proceedings.
- 4.7 Ordinary members whose subscriptions are unpaid shall not be entitled to take part in the Society outings as members but shall be entitled to do so as visitors.
- 4.8.1 A member may make an application in writing to the Committee for leave of absence and the Committee may grant leave of absence if such member owing to absence, illness or other reason satisfactory to the Committee is unable to participate in the Society's outings.
- 4.8.2 During such leave of absence the member's subscription for that Subscription Year shall not be payable provided the application for leave of absence is made in advance of the Subscription Year to which it relates and the member shall not be entitled to take part in the Society's outings other than at the discretion of the Committee.

- 4.9 A member shall not be entitled to a refund or rebate of all or any part of the annual subscription if he or she resigns his or her membership or otherwise ceases to be a member.

Entrance Fees

- 5.1 The entrance fee, if any, payable by a member shall be that determined from time to time at an annual general meeting or an extraordinary general meeting.
- 5.2 A member who resigns his or her membership or ceases to be a member through death or pursuant to clauses 3.5 or 4.4 of this Constitution shall not be entitled to a refund of all or any part of any entrance fee already paid.
- 5.3 Every entrance fee due to the Society shall be payable in one amount within twenty one days of the date of notification of election as member and if the amount due is not paid the election shall be null and void.

General Meetings

- 6.1.1 The annual general meeting to receive the annual report of the Committee and the financial statements of the Society, to elect the office bearers and six other members of the Committee, to consider notices of motion and transact general business shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary of the Committee and shall be held on the day of the last golf outing of the calendar year or within fourteen days of that date.
- 6.1.2 At least twenty one days written notice of the annual general meeting and the business to be transacted at it shall be given to each ordinary and honorary member.
- 6.1.3 Notices of motion must be given in writing to the Honorary Secretary not less than ten days prior to the date of the annual general meeting.
- 6.2 An extraordinary general meeting:
- (a) may be called at any time for any purpose by the Committee; and
 - (b) shall be called within ten days of receipt by the Honorary Secretary of a requisition therefor signed by at least ten ordinary members.
- 6.3 Ordinary members shall be entitled to attend, speak and vote at general meetings except as provided in clause 4.6.
- 6.4 Honorary members shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote at general meetings.
- 6.5 The Captain or alternatively the Vice Captain or any other member of the Committee shall be the chairperson of a general meeting.
- 6.6 Subject to clause 6.10, the quorum for general meetings shall be twenty five ordinary members present in person. Proxies shall not be allowed at any general meeting.

- 6.7.1 Voting shall be by a show of hands and in the event of a tie the chairperson shall have the casting vote in addition to a deliberative vote.
- 6.7.2 A majority of ordinary members present at a general meeting may call for a ballot and that mode of voting shall be adopted instead of a show of hands and in the event of a tie the chairperson shall have the casting as well as a deliberative vote.
- 6.8 Subject to clauses 6.9 and 6.10, all business to be transacted at a general meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of the ordinary members present and voting at the meeting.
- 6.9 A motion to amend the Constitution of the Society shall require a two thirds majority of the ordinary members present and voting.
- 6.10 At least half of the ordinary members of the Society must be present at the meeting in the case of a motion to dissolve the Society and the motion shall require a two thirds majority of such members present and voting.
- 6.11 The accidental omission to give notice of a general meeting or the non receipt of notice of a general meeting by a member entitled to notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at the general meeting.

Appointment of Office Bearers and Committee

- 7.1 The business and affairs of this Society shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the Captain, Vice Captain, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and up to a maximum of six other members.
- 7.2.1 The Vice Captain shall automatically succeed to the position of Captain when the Captain completes his/her term of office or the position otherwise becomes vacant.
- 7.2.2 The offices of Captain and Vice Captain shall be filled in alternate years by male and female members of the Society.
- 7.2.3 The immediate past Captain shall be ex officio a member of the Committee.
- 7.3 Candidates for the position of Vice Captain, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer must be proposed and seconded at the annual general meeting. In the event of any position being contested, the position shall be determined by a secret ballot and in the event of a tie the Chairperson shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.
- 7.4.1 The positions of Captain, Vice Captain, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer can only be held by ordinary members who have been ordinary members for a minimum of two years.
- 7.4.2 The maximum term of office of the Captain and Vice Captain shall be one year.
- 7.4.3 The maximum term of office of the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be three years with a two year interval before being eligible for re-election.

- 7.5 In the event of there not being sufficient members proposed and seconded for the six other committee members the Committee shall be entitled to co-opt members up to a maximum of six.
- 7.6 The maximum term for the six other committee members shall be three years with a two year interval before being eligible for re-election. *
- 7.7 The Committee shall be entitled to fill from amongst eligible members of the Society any casual vacancy after it occurs amongst the office bearers or the Committee and the person so appointed shall hold office instead of and for the remainder of the period of office of the person in whose place he or she is appointed. This period shall be additional to the normal elective period of three years.
- 7.8 The Committee shall have power to regulate its own proceedings and power to make, and may alter, add to or remove from time to time such bye-laws and regulations (provided they are not at variance with the Rules of Golf or this Constitution) as it may consider necessary for the proper running and control of the Society.

Commencement

8. This Constitution shall take effect from the end of the meeting at which it is adopted.

* changed to 5
at 2013 AGM