

EGA
European Golf Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





TIGER WOODS, TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP



JUSTIN THOMAS, PRESIDENTS CUP



'THE BIG THREE'



JORDAN SPIETH, THE OPEN



LORENA OCHOA,
WOMEN'S BRITISH OPEN,
ST ANDREWS

ABOUT GOLF...

Here are a few things that we know about this most particular game. And about its most eminent participants. We know that their aim could not be higher. That you do not come this far without an unwavering determination to overcome every challenge and conquer every distraction. We know that tradition can only last this long if it is perpetually enriched by talent. We know that every drive starts with inner strength, and every putt with unrelenting humility. These are but a few reasons that we have partnered for so long with the noblest institutions, the most legendary tournaments, and the greatest players. After all, we are on the same course.

#Perpetual



OYSTER PERPETUAL DAY-DATE 40
IN PLATINUM



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2023 AT A GLANCE

The EGA was founded **86** years ago and is composed of **49** member countries representing **4.6M** registered players

1800+ 

PARTICIPANTS
Competed in EGA Championships

24 

EUROPEAN TITLES
Awarded to players and teams

19

EVENTS
Coordinated in **16** different countries

37k+ 

FOLLOWERS
Engaged across Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter)

2.3M+ 

PAGEVIEWS
Recorded on www.ega-golf.ch



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



JAN HUBRECHT
President



CAROLINE HUYSKES
President-Elect & Chair of WGES



HAUKUR ÖRN BIRGISSON
Past President



ACHIM BATTERMANN
Honorary Treasurer



YVES HOFSTETTER
CC Chairman



RICHARD CAU
HCRC Chairman



GÁBOR GÁGYOR
Central Zone Officer



GERALDINE HENRY
GB&I Zone Officer



HANNA HARTIKAINEN
North Zone Officer



MIGUEL FRANCO DE SOUSA
South Zone Officer

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS



GIANLUCA BOLLA



JOAQUÍN CASTILLO



JOSÉ MARIA CAZAL-RIBEIRO



DYMPNA CONLON



BENOÎT DUMONT



HÖRDUR GEIRSSON



DENISE MCCARTHY



SHEENA MCELROY



CHRISTINE PETIT-MARTIN



JACKIE QUINN



LISBETH RIGGELSEN



HÅKAN STÅLBRO



MARC VUILLEMIN

HANDICAPPING & COURSE RATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



BARBARA ALBISETTI HEATH



SONJA JELAČA



NICK HÜTTEL OLESEN



JAN VISSER



MIKA WIKSTRÖM

EGA STAFF



MICHAEL THANNHÄUSER
General Secretary



ARNAUD BARAÇABAL
Championship Director



SABINE VEGA
Office Manager



JOSH PARKYN
Communications Manager



MARINE SCIOT-SIEGRIST
Championship Coordinator



COLIN ALLAZ
Project & Events Coordinator



EXTERNAL STAFF:
NIELS DOKKUMA
Sustainability / Agronomist

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

(PRESIDENT ELECTION YEAR)

1938	Col. Burton	(ENG)	1973	Viscount Pereira Machado	(POR)	1997	Patrick Foley	(IRE)
1951	Cl. Van Der Straeten	(BEL)	1975	Arild Wahlstrom	(NOR)	1999	Dieter Usner	(AUT)
1953	Jacques Léglise	(FRA)	1977	Juan Antonio Andreu	(ESP)	2001	Manuel Agrellos	(POR)
1955	Max Lambert	(LUX)	1979	Claude-Roger Cartier	(FRA)	2003	Björn Nordberg	(SWE)
1957	Prince F. Ruspoli	(ITA)	1981	Alexander Sinclair	(SCO)	2005	Andrew B. Morgan	(WAL)
1959	W. Schniewind	(GER)	1983	Richard Rahusen	(NED)	2007	Marion Thannhäuser	(GER)
1961	C. Falck	(SUI)	1985	Jens Wester-Andersen	(DEN)	2009	Gonzaga Escarriaza	(ESP)
1963	M. De Bolarque	(ESP)	1987	Juan M.S. De Vicuna	(ESP)	2011	Antti Peltoniemi	(FIN)
1965	Edward Brändström	(SWE)	1989	Neil Hotchkin	(ENG)	2013	Colin Wood	(SCO)
1967	Gerald Micklem	(ENG)	1991	Jan Brügelmann	(GER)	2015	Jean-Marc Mommer	(SUI)
1969	Willem Snouck-Hurgronje	(NED)	1993	Roberto Livraghi	(ITA)	2017	Pierre Bechmann	(FRA)
1971	Heinz O. Krings	(GER)	1995	Ulf Laurin	(SWE)	2019	Haukur Örn Birgisson	(ISL)

HONORARY MEMBERS

(MEMBER APPOINTMENT YEAR)

1993	Jean-Louis Dupont	(FRA)	2007	Lally Segard	(FRA)	2017	Alexis Godillot	(FRA)
1998	Marc Lambert	(LUX)	2011	John C. Storjohann	(SUI)			

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JAN HUBRECHT

"Our studies show time and time again, that there is a positive correlation between participating in our amateur championships and success as a professional player."



In my second annual report, I will focus on Championships and International Matches, and the key strategic issues that have required our focus this year.

CHAMPIONSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

There is always a buzz of excitement in the week that the Boys', Girls', Ladies' and Men's team championships take place and this year was no exception. That week marked the start to an extraordinary year for the Royal Spanish Golf Federation since it won three of those team championships, the Ladies', the Girls' and the Amateur Team Championship.

It is only the fourth time in the history of the EGA that this has been achieved and remarkably Spain has accomplished this for the third time with Sweden managing it once. Maybe not surprisingly the Boys' Team Championship for the Jean-Louis Dupont Trophy was won by Sweden!

The Ladies' Amateur Championship was won by Spain's Julia Lopez Ramirez who also set a new course record of 63 on Tegelberga Golfklubb which compares with the previous record of 65 on a course some 250 meters shorter.

To add to the trophy haul, Spain's Jose Luis Ballester Barrio won the European Amateur Championship two shots clear of the joint runners up.

To cap it all off, the Spanish team won the Senior Ladies' Team Championship.

Our own Michael Thannhäuser won the Mid-Amateur Men's Championship and his German colleague Alena Oppenheimer won the Mid-Amateur Ladies' Championship.

In the European Young Masters, Italy's Natalia Aparicio headed the Girls' leaderboard and England's Ben Bolton won the Boys' division with France winning the Team event.

Five International matches were played. The R&A hosted the Vagliano and Junior Vagliano Trophy matches at Royal Dornoch in Scotland with the Continent of Europe's Ladies' team winning 13.5-10.5 and the Continent of Europe's Girls' team retaining the trophy with a scoreline of 9 points each.

The EGA hosted the Jacques Léglise Trophy match at Golf de Chantilly in France which was won by the Continent of Europe for a historic fourth time in a row with a score line of 17-8.

At La Manga in Spain, we welcomed the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation on the happy occasion of the Patsy Hankins and Bonallack Trophy matches. It was the first time since 2018 that the teams met. The European team won the Patsy Hankins Trophy for the first time scoring 19 points to 13, whereas Asia Pacific took the Bonallack Trophy 17 points to 15. Following an initial meeting in April of this year and a subsequent meeting in St Andrews we met our Asia-Pacific colleagues on two occasions during the week for detailed discussions and the desire on both sides for these matches to continue remains high.

The Captains of our COE vs GB&I matches and our Europe vs Asia-Pacific matches deserve recognition too. Myrte Eikenaar, Ane Urchegui García, Joachim Fourquet and Yves Hofstetter have all made outstanding contributions and I am sure that their players have benefited hugely from their personal experience and guidance.

I would like to congratulate all of our winners and runners up.

Congratulations also go to my county and country colleague John Gough who is the top ranked European player of 2023 and also to Sweden's Ingrid Lindblad, who, for the fourth year in succession, leads the European Ladies' leaderboard and who also won the Mark H. McCormack Medal as the World's highest ranked amateur player.

As this report is being finalised, the Junior Solheim Cup and Junior Ryder Cups will kick off soon and I wish the girls and boys the very best for an amazing opportunity in their early golfing careers.

OTHER CHAMPIONSHIPS-RELATED MATTERS

You may recall that in my last report I wrote of the joy we experienced from seeing young Ukrainian players participate in our championships. So, a year after the first fund raising campaign, we received sufficient funds to allow us to operate this programme for a second year. Many countries and individuals donated again and I would like to thank each and every one of you. I would also like to record that both the Spanish and French Federations allowed us to use part of their donations to pay the Ukrainian Golf Federation's annual membership fee. I sincerely hope that we can continue this scheme for a third year.

In prior years, we have reported on the detailed hosting report studies and implementations. Of course, since the Covid years we have all seen significant cost increases in the accommodation and travel sectors and the delicate balance to maintain the highest level of participation and hosting at appropriate venues will require constant review of costs and team fees.

On a related topic you have received regular updates in recent years on the outcome of the Elite Amateur Project and I am optimistic that with The R&A and the EGA jointly working with the DP World Tour and others that an agreement can be reached to reward our best amateur players with the opportunity to advance. After all, our objectives are two-fold, firstly to attract the world's best amateur players to our amateur championships and secondly to create rewards for those players.

On this point, I have to say again that it is so regrettable that some countries do not target the highest ranked events for their best players to participate in. Our studies show time and time again, that there is a positive correlation between participating in our amateur championship and success as a professional player.

SUSTAINABILITY

I wish to thank both Caroline Huyskes and Michael Thannhäuser for their huge focus on the latest initiatives and successfully progressing them to where they are today. The next stages of the plans will be discussed in detail at the AGM's open forum sessions with particular emphasis on what each federation must do next, namely the influencing

of its key stakeholder groups. We have been fortunate to benefit from the energy and expertise of Niels Dokkuma who has been seconded to the EGA from the Royal Netherlands Golf Federation. Last, and not least, my thanks go to all members of the Environmental Sustainability Working Group for their passion and knowledge.

Looking ahead, we now know that managing and influencing on the issues of pesticides, water usage and bio-diversity will require considerable resources for quite a few years to come. From a financial perspective you have all contributed to the sustainability fund and we should also recognise the significant contributions made by The R&A and the DP World Tour.

From a human-resources perspective the Chairmanship of the Working Group in charge of Environmental Sustainability has in recent years been the President Elect's duty but given the size and complexity of the task ahead this would leave us vulnerable. Thankfully the EGA Constitution allows for a sustainability expert to join the Executive Committee and with that in mind, I am glad to say that the Swedish Golf Federation is enthusiastic with its support of Gunnar Håkansson becoming the working group's Chairman effective this AGM. Gunnar has a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the subject. We have also written to our North Zone members, as our constitution mandates, to seek their support.

THE OFFICE TEAM

The office team in Lausanne continues to do an excellent job. They act as a great team but then great teams tend to have great leaders and Michael Thannhäuser is no exception. I was delighted that Michael won the Mid-Amateur championship and was able to claim his special reward of playing in the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship at Sleepy Hollow C.C.

Michael will write in detail about the achievements of the key tasks that are part of our strategic pillars. You are aware that, in order to allow Michael to focus on the key strategic issues, we have a new staff member, Colin Allaz, who has settled in well and has experienced his first championship season.

CONCLUSIONS

I would like to thank all members of the Executive Committee for their fine support and hard work dealing, at times, with challenging issues.

The Championship staff and members of the Championship Committee continue to deliver high quality championships in terms of brand consistency and style. Their long days, sometimes 9-10 in a row, are hugely appreciated yet vital to the successful staging and running of our Championships and International Matches.

Likewise, the members of the Handicapping & Course Rating Committee have worked tirelessly in support of our federations.

I would also like to thank our current and past committee members who serve on the three R&A committees as advisory members.

Three Executive Committee colleagues will attend their final AGM in an official capacity:

Haukur Örn Birgisson has served the EGA for 12 years, first on its championship committee and then on the EC which led to his 6 years in the three presidential roles. He had a huge task in handling

the complex and challenging negotiations of the World Handicap System and, of course, during his presidency we all faced the challenges of the disruptive covid years and it is worth remembering that during those two years, the EGA was able to deliver most of its championships and had its first, and hopefully only, remote AGM. We will also remember his cheerful and positive leadership style.

Richard Cau joined the HCRC as the South Zone representative in 2016 and became its chairman in 2019. Richard was, of course, involved in the early stages of the WHS and was part of the team that influenced the design and content of the system. He was hugely influential in the transition year to WHS and its subsequent iterations. His ability to lead his team cheerfully and balance the technical details whilst keeping an eye on the bigger picture has been admired by many.

Geraldine Henry has served the EGA for 8 years first as a CC member and then as the GB&I Zone Officer. The traits that mark her service to the EGA are 'leadership by example' and 'independence'.

We were all very happy that in her final EGA year we were able to nominate Geraldine for the refereeing assignment at the 151st Open Championship at Hoylake, the highlight of her very long and distinguished career in golf administration.

We are very grateful to Rolex for their excellent and continued support. The EGA looks forward to enhancing a very fine relationship.

The R&A has been our partner in the four International Matches between the Continent of Europe and GB&I for many years. It has offered hosting countries of specified championships significant financial support and its Golf Development team reaches out to many of our members. Our relations at all levels continue to improve and technical support, e.g., Rules of Golf is always readily available. The EGA values all aspects of this excellent relationship.

On a personal note, I would like to say how special the EGA experience has been. It is now a little over 12 years ago when, working at an England Golf championship, I had that 'tap on the shoulder' from the then Chief Executive who suggested that I should join the EGA's Championship Committee. I am honoured to have had such a rewarding time and that I was able to make a small contribution. I now look forward to supporting Caroline Huyskes during her Presidency which, I know, she will deliver with passion and excellence.


JAN HUBRECHT
EGA PRESIDENT



GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

MICHAEL THANNHÄUSER

"The work carried out in 2023 with EGA members and other important stakeholders was very rewarding and has already led to concrete, positive actions promoting sustainable golf."



The Annual Report is always a good moment to reflect on our current and future activities. It is the time of year when we ask ourselves what went well and where we need to adjust to improve operations. It's also the time when we prepare for our Annual General Meeting to facilitate the open dialogue with our delegates from across Europe.

2023 has been a year with great variety. It was a year with outstanding performances from many EGA members, and especially Spain who won an exceptional four Team Championships in addition to winning two major individual titles at the European Amateur and Ladies' Amateur Championships. It was a year when The R&A released the new rules of golf including modifications in consideration of players with disabilities. A year when, for the first time, the Continent of Europe secured four straight Jacques Légise Trophy wins. And a year when the EGA made a significant effort to deal with possible consequences coming from EU regulators in Brussels.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Regular operations in Epalinges started with unexpected challenges. Early in the year the EGA was subject to a cyber-attack which required attention to be fully resolved. Further investments in the IT infrastructure had to be made to mitigate risks for the future. In addition, some action had to be taken when, overnight, the EGA's principal bank Crédit Suisse reported financial irregularities. Fortunately, Crédit Suisse's takeover by UBS provides stability and allowed the EGA to diversify its funds to further institutions.

The EGA strategy presented to members last year identifies EGA Championships and Matches,

as well as Communication among the main strategic pillars. While we highlight some of the existing communication activities in a separate section of this Annual Report, the championship season unfolded with its usual waves of suspense and tension. Full fields, exciting action and meaningful emotions characterised EGA Championships this year. I was lucky to witness the excitement myself at the European Boys' Team Championship in Geneva which culminated in a holed winning putt from 15 meters by Sweden. I was impressed by the general level of play by all teams, and especially excited to see how much the event meant to the players when the Swedish team let their emotions run wild after sealing victory. I can only recommend you to relive the action, the footage of the final putt is available on the EGA's social media channels where it's been watched by more than 180'000 people.

Last year, the EGA also presented its plans to make better use of its network and provide EGA members more opportunities to exchange best practice. I am pleased to report the successful staging of the Sports' Directors' Meeting in March (Amsterdam) which included representatives from WAGR and the Challenge Tour. The meeting was very well attended and characterised by lively discussions on various important subjects. The EGA also co-hosted the WHS Calibration Seminar in May (Paris) as well as the Sustainable Golf Forum on the occasion of The 151st Open. Furthermore, the EGA organised regular meetings with the sustainability experts of EGA members and participated in various other networks, such as meetings with the General Secretaries.

The development of the EGA website has been a continuous project this year. As a reminder, the Content Management System of the website

has reached the end of its life-cycle and needs to be upgraded to ensure a safe environment in line with today's requirements. We expect to launch the new website during the coming winter months and hope to offer a fresh look, improved user experience and some added functionalities that facilitate office administration as well as the collaboration with EGA members.

THE VALUES OF GOLF

My personal highlight of the year happened at the International Golf Conference in St Andrews. While I appreciate how the Golf Industry embraces the future, it was a speech by The R&A's Past Captain Bruce Mitchell that caught my full attention. In his speech, Bruce Mitchell looked at inclusivity and diversity from a different angle and presented his 'values of golf' in an inspiring fashion. Governing bodies, in their daily work with programmes, networks and athletes, could be served by taking a moment to remind themselves how golf affects lives and what positive influences it can have on individuals. For example, by stimulating work ethics and resilience. By turning a negative result into a positive. By helping to deal with disappointment. Or by focusing on the tasks at hand. Real lessons for life.

Sir Michael Bonallack was another individual that embodied golf's true values. It was saddening to learn that one of the most decorated amateur players in the game passed away in September. Sir Michael's passing occurred two months after the successful staging of the Bonallack Trophy which I know he followed with great interest. Both the Bonallack and Patsy Hankins Trophies were well organised in collaboration with the Royal Spanish Golf Federation and held in excellent spirit alongside the APGC.

I would like to use this opportunity to highlight the excellent commitment of all EGA committee members. The execution of some tasks would not be possible without their dedication and precious time. And this year I would especially like to highlight the commitment of the four captains of our international matches: Myrte Eikenaar, Joachim Fourquet, Yves Hofstetter and Ane Urchegui García. All four of them have led their teams with pride and passion and were present when they were needed the most.

I would also like to thank EGA members for their renewed contributions to the UGF Fund. Thanks to the donations received of more than € 20'000, Ukrainian athletes were able to participate in five different European championships this year. Furthermore, Ukraine's EGA membership fee was kindly facilitated by the French and Royal Spanish Golf Federations. Ukrainian players and officials are highly appreciative of the support and expressed their gratitude in a letter which is displayed later in this Annual Report.

EMBRACING THE OPPORTUNITY

European golf went through its own 'stress test' when environmentalists decided to attack several golf courses at the beginning of this year in various countries, including France, Germany, Spain and Switzerland. Making golf future-proof seems to be more relevant than ever, also when we consider the increasing regulatory requests coming from Brussels. Beyond the EU's current draft regulation on the sustainable use of plant protection products, we would all be well advised to prepare for future threats including water scarcity, CO2 emissions, energy consumption etc. Is the golf sector ready to face these challenges? Have national golf authorities defined sustainable golf strategies in their own country? Does the golf sector communicate enough about its many benefits on society and health, the environment and economics? Regulatory requests may pose short-term limitations but also provide an opportunity for the sector to lead change rather than sitting on the back foot. The work carried out in 2023 with EGA members and other important stakeholders was very rewarding and has led to concrete, positive actions promoting sustainable golf.

Enhancing pathways for Europe's elite amateur players to the professional ranks has been the EGA's desire for many years. The EGA readdressed the matter during the past 12 months and made some good progress in several meetings held with The R&A and the European Tour Group regarding the establishment of localised rankings with concrete rewards. While the EGA's influence may have reduced with the addition of other powerful stakeholders, I am optimistic that we will soon experience improvements to the pathways of Europe's elite amateur players. Our collaboration with The R&A relating to the new 'Open Amateur Series' and our exemptions

for the winners of the European (Ladies') Amateur and Mid-Amateur Championships to the equivalent US championships are two good examples by what means we envision the future and how we apply our best efforts to represent the interests of European golf.

The new EGA Championship bidding process, which includes an analysis of budget details, has proved to be a beneficial step forward. We were able to eliminate unnecessary costs for some EGA members and experience a more consistent application of the EGA minimum standards. I would like to thank hosting members for providing some of their best venues as well as their organisational support throughout the championship season. At some point we may need to consider an adjustment of certain team fees as hosting costs have increased due to inflation and rising prices. Finding the right balance between costs of hosting and participation will always need to be closely monitored.

In February, I was able to attend a meeting involving the General Secretaries of International Sport Organisations based in Lausanne. The feedback from more than 20 individuals was relatively clear: the requirements and complexities for sport organisations are rising and more specialisation (e.g. in relation to IT, environmental sustainability, communication) is needed to meet today's expectations. The EGA is no exception and taking advantage of current and future opportunities in golf will require a solid strategy, good leadership and adaptability.

Acknowledgements

I extend my gratitude to everyone in the EGA's network for their trust in the EGA structure. First, I would like to thank the EGA President and all the EGA committee members who dedicate valuable time and expertise to our organisation. I also thank The R&A and all other international organisations we collaborated with so closely this year. Some new networks were created and some old friendships renewed. And of course, I want to thank Rolex, a unique and long-term partner to the EGA's activities.

A special thank you goes to our staff members Marine, Sabine, Arnaud and Josh, as well as our new team member Colin who supported the team with enthusiasm. I can ensure EGA members that all staff members fulfil their demanding roles with passion and competence, two elements of success for everything that we do at the EGA.

In closing, I wish all delegates a joyful Annual General Meeting. I hope this gathering will give you further insights in specific subjects and provide ample opportunities to network within the EGA family.



MICHAEL THANNHÄUSER
EGA GENERAL SECRETARY



EGA TIMELINE 2023

NOVEMBER

- 2022 AGM (Rome)

JANUARY

- EGA website redesign: project kick-off
- Budget process implementation for host venue selection
- Design and proposal of the Junior Ryder Cup Qualifying Ranking
- Annual meeting with The R&A
- Update of the Championship Committee induction programme

MARCH

- EU SUR: Position Paper for EU ENVI committee in collaboration with UEFA
- General Secretaries' Meeting
- Championship entries opened
- Workshop: Sports' Director's Meeting
- EGA website redesign: analysis of data migration

MAY

- EU SUR: Commissioning of the Impact Assessment Study & appointment of a public affairs agency
- EGA co-hosts WHS Course Rating Calibration Seminar
- Selection process for upcoming International Matches
- Championship equipment logistics

JULY

- Over 500 players represent their countries during European Team Championship week
- EU SUR: EGA Sub-Committee finalises Turfgrass Sustainability Roadmap 2023-30
- European Championship for Golfers with Disability played with a full field
- EGA co-hosts Sustainable Golf Forum at The 151st Open
- 14 EGA championship titles awarded at 9 venues in July

SEPTEMBER

- EGA website redesign: review and approval of final designs
- 380'000+ unique users and 2.3M+ pageviews recorded on www.ega-golf.ch in the past year
- 6 players earn automatic selection to Junior Ryder Cup through ranking organised by the EGA
- Closing of 2022/2023 Financial Year & budgeting process

DECEMBER

- 2022 EGA Advent Calendar published on social media
- European Amateur Order of Merit concept presentation (The R&A & The European Tour)
- Trophies' refurbishment and engraving
- Member Federations' statistics collection

FEBRUARY

- EU Sustainable Use Regulation (SUR): strategy development & consultation with EGA members
- UGF fundraising initiative renewed
- February committee meetings (Lausanne)
- Meeting with the European Tours
- Announcement of 'The Open Amateur Series' in collaboration with The R&A

APRIL

- Video & content production planned for 2023 EGA events
- EU SUR: start of regular meetings of the Collaborative Platform (EGA, The R&A, ETG, FEGGA)
- Championship season preparations
- Recruitment of additional EGA staff member & onboarding

JUNE

- Start of the championship season
- EGA website redesign: development of designs & review of financial estimations
- Announcement of the new European Mid-Amateur Team Championship starting in 2024
- The Open and Jon Rahm's Instagram accounts share news of José Luis Ballester's EAC win

AUGUST

- 2023 European Participation Report published
- Organisation of the Bonallack & Patsy Hankins Trophies with 48 players representing 25 countries
- Distribution of the new Rules of Handicapping (2024) to EGA members
- 40th highlight video of the season filmed at the Jacques Légli Trophy
- 1800+ entries and 359 refunds managed during the season

OCTOBER

- 2023 Annual Report prepared
- 1 million+ Facebook and Instagram accounts reached by the EGA's social media pages in the past year
- 2023 AGM preparations (London)
- End of the championship season

EGA 2023 COMMUNICATIONS SPOTLIGHT

Enhanced communication is a pillar of the EGA's 2023-27 Strategic Plan and is based on the EGA's desire to continuously add value for its members. While the EGA's external communications strategies are designed to improve the awareness of the EGA brand and its activities, the objective of internal communications is to strengthen the ties with EGA members and other important stakeholders in golf. This year's communications included frequent updates relating to the EU Sustainable Use Regulation (SUR), the World Handicapping System and EGA championships which led to various concrete actions.

The initiatives of the past 12 months have shown positive results in terms of collaboration, engagement and overall reach and benefited both national golf authorities and participants of EGA championships at the same time:

WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

A fundamental aspect of the EGA's strategy is to facilitate knowledge-sharing among its members through workshops and meetings. A number of gatherings took place in 2023 that facilitated the dialogue between EGA members:

- 📌 Sports' Directors Workshop (Amsterdam, March): This workshop brought together the sport directors of more than 20 European countries to discuss key industry topics, foster collaboration and exchange knowledge
- 📌 WHS Seminar (Paris, May): The EGA co-hosted a comprehensive World Handicap System Calibration Seminar in Paris, enabling members to better understand the system and its implications
- 📌 Sustainable Golf Conference in collaboration with The R&A (St Andrews, July): The EGA's partnership with The R&A resulted in a successful Sustainable Golf Conference that explored environmentally responsible golf practices
- 📌 Sustainability Expert Group: The EGA held regular meetings with the sustainability experts of EGA members, facilitating the exchange of expertise and updating them on relevant matters

The EGA provides valuable information in various areas and contributes to the exchange of best practices between members. The foundation for all relayed communications were the regular meetings of the Executive, Championship, and

Handicapping & Course Rating Committees, as well as the EGA Working Group in charge of Environmental Sustainability. Additionally, routine meetings with senior R&A officials, the USGA, and Rolex representatives contributed to reinforcing collaboration with the EGA's partners.

COLLABORATION WITH EGA MEMBERS

One of this year's objectives included improved communications relating to EGA championships. The EGA reached out to its network and created active links between communication departments to share event results of international championships and to provide useful materials that could be used by various individuals to enhance their own communications efforts. Notable initiatives included:

- 📌 Digital Toolboxes: The EGA has started to create digital toolboxes for all major EGA events, which are shared with host federations. These toolboxes contain essential resources for effective communication such as quick facts, images, past results, and videos (including a teaser video for the European Team Championships)
- 📌 EGA Event Photos: Over 5000 photos were uploaded to the EGA website this year that were available for download and use by member federations. Communication departments made good use of this resource to promote the performance of their own players and teams during European Championships
- 📌 Social Media Collaboration: The EGA fostered collaboration with member federations on social media in a number of ways, including joint posts, tagging, and publishing content designed to be easily re-shared
- 📌 Direct Mailings: The EGA circulated mailings on selected subjects to engage directly with the communication departments of EGA members. To give an example, a message announcing the 'Sustainable Golf Week' was sent to EGA members providing access to various materials

All EGA members are encouraged to join the collaboration which bore fruits in several countries, for example when Golf.de (Germany) shared news of Tim Wiedemeyer's record third Jacques L'eglise Trophy win in August.

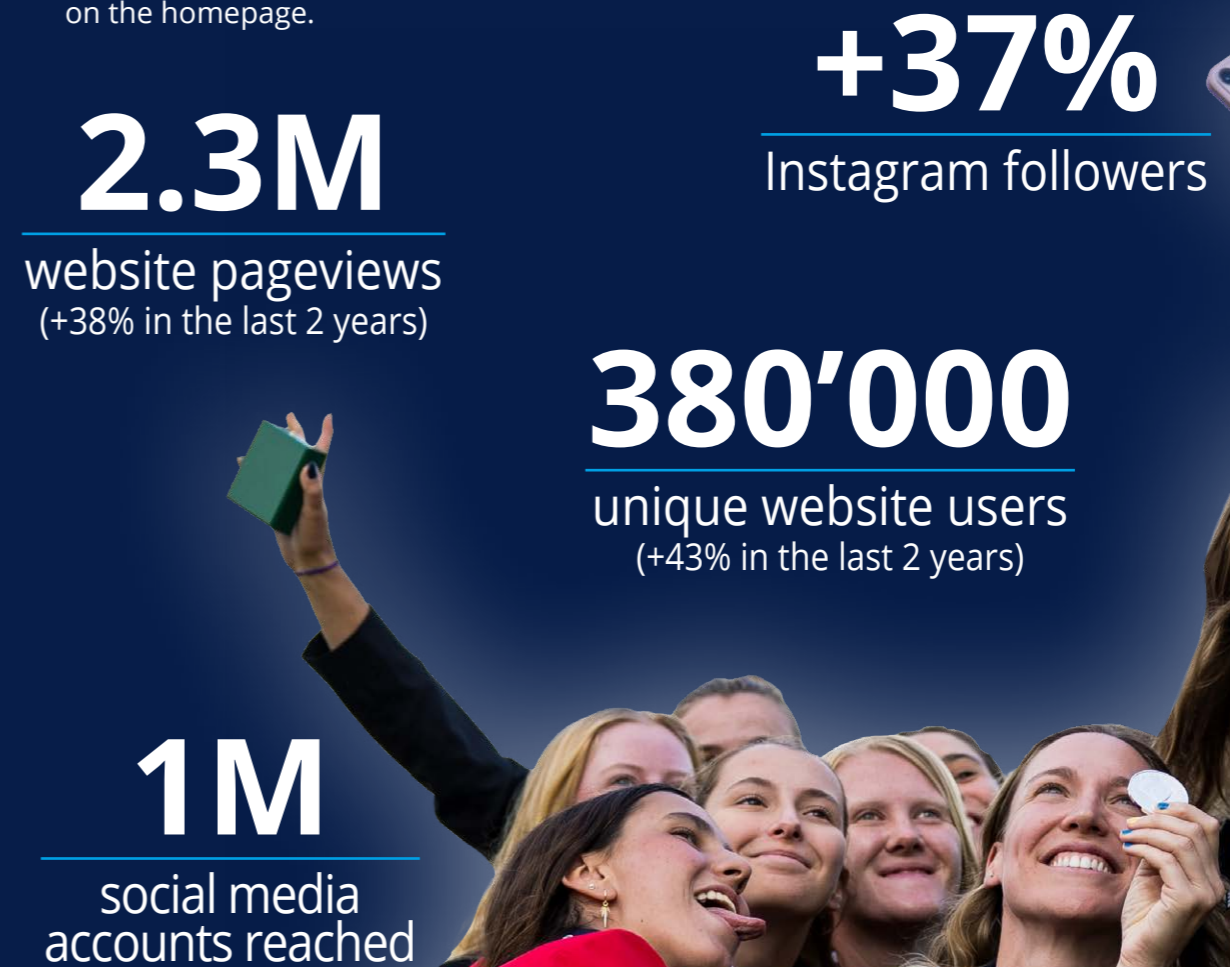
WEBSITE (WWW.EGA-GOLF.CH)

As with many modern organisations, the EGA website is the backbone of its daily operations. The website received over 380'000 different users and over 2.3 million pageviews during the past 12 months, which represents an approximate 40% increase over the past two years. Featuring championship-related information, entry forms, access to livescoring, as well as the EGA International Calendar (that features close to 200 international events), the website is a critical point of contact for end users. The membership section provides further valuable information to national golf authorities, staff and committee members.

As previously mentioned, the EGA website holds thousands of images, dozens of videos as well as archived results from EGA championships which can be downloaded by member federations. The website is also an essential pillar to communicate directly with end users: At the end of 2023, 100 different news articles will have been published which is an increase of 20% compared to last year. Members may have noticed that the news items were moved from a less visible section of the website to being prominently displayed directly on the homepage.

Livescoring has become an increasingly popular tool to facilitate the engagement with EGA championships and track hole-by-hole results. A button with a direct link to the livescoring section of the EGA website has been prominently implemented on the homepage with the goal of improving site navigation for users. The new button, coupled with promotion on social media, has been very successful and led to a more than four-fold increase in views on the EGA's dedicated livescoring page since its addition.

After seven years, the Content Management System's (CMS) of the EGA website has reached the end of its life cycle and requires a significant update. The migration of the CMS is essential for security updates and bug fixes, and allows for some added functionalities for EGA members, participants of EGA championship as well as EGA staff members. The new EGA website is expected to be launched in early 2024 and will include some fresh designs with improved navigation, enhanced event pages and a better overall user experience.



SOCIAL MEDIA

The EGA's social media initiatives have focused on increasing awareness of elite amateur golf, showcasing EGA championships, the EGA's wider activities and expanding its audience. The EGA prioritizes Instagram due to its favorable organic reach and is also present on Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn. This year's efforts have yielded strong results, including:

- Collaborations with major golf organizations, including the European Tour Group/ Ryder Cup Europe, The R&A and The Open (660'000+ followers), as well as posts shared by Jon Rahm (700'000 followers) and Sergio Garcia (440'000 followers)
- A significant increase of the EGA's Instagram followers (+37%) as well as improved engagement rates across all channels. This year 30 of the EGA's social media posts received more than 1,000 'likes' compared to 12 posts from the previous year
- The EGA reached over 1'000'000 different social media accounts with its own content
- Publishing of 100+ graphics designed to be shared by member federations and participants of EGA championships (e.g. leaderboards, host venue posts, calendars, team championship brackets etc.)
- 81'000 visits to the EGA's Instagram profile alone

NEWSLETTER

The EGA's newsletter is a valuable communication channel, and it will continue to be an area of focus in the coming seasons. The EGA published a newsletter each month featuring more than 120 different news items which is an increase of 20% over last year. The average opening rate of 67% compares to industry standards of approx. 20-30%. The design of the new website will help gather new subscribers with the goal of adding further to the 10% increase in readership seen this year.

MEDIA PRODUCTION

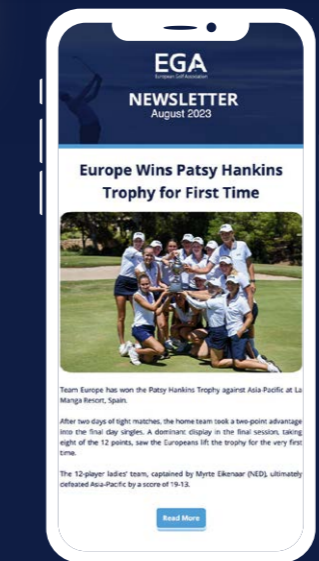
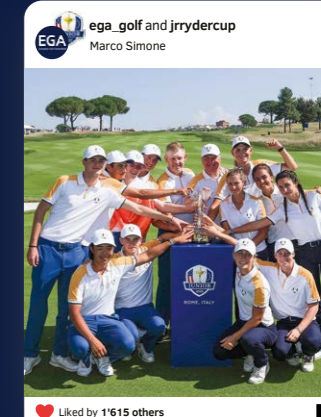
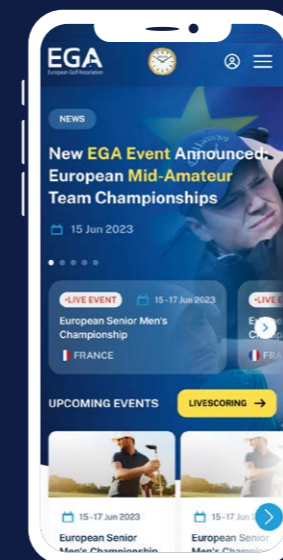
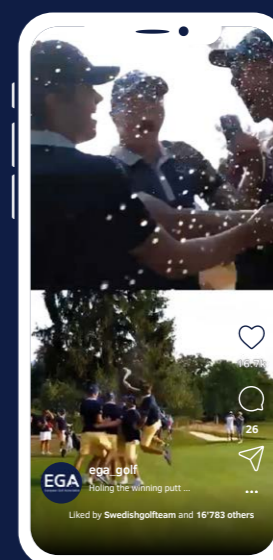
The EGA's collaboration with Rolex has enabled the production of high-quality video content at EGA championships. In 2023, video teams covered action from 13 EGA championships and International Matches and produced 41 highlight videos and 22 additional short-form 'reels'. The clips are prominently featured on the EGA's social media channels and proved to be very popular. The clips are also available on the EGA's dedicated YouTube channel. The potential and value of the footage was best displayed at the 2023 European Boys' Team Championship when a video of the emotional winning putt from the Swedish team reached more than 180'000 Instagram users.

GLOBAL GOLF POST

The EGA renewed its collaboration with Global Golf Post, one of the leading weekly digital golf publications in the world. The magazine features selected action from EGA championships.

Providing valuable information to the EGA network is one of the main objectives when it comes to internal and external communications. With the introduction of a new website, the utilisation of different means of communication as well as the ongoing collaboration with national golf authorities, the EGA is well-positioned to continue delivering content to its various stakeholders. The EGA remains committed to enhancing the golfing community's experiences and to strengthening the relationships between the EGA, its members and federations' expert groups. We thank EGA members and participants for the collaboration and engagement this year, and look forward to providing further content opportunities in the future.

2023 MEDIA SHOWCASE





2023 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FOR GOLFERS WITH DISABILITY
GC THE DUTCH (NED)



2023 EUROPEAN LADIES' TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
TAWAST G&CC (FIN)



2023 EUROPEAN AMATEUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
ROYAL WATERLOO GC (BEL)



2023 EUROPEAN BOYS' TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP, DIV. 2
BORŠA GC (SVK)

Damian Beseda
PHOTOGRAPHY

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

YVES HOFSTETTER

2023 has been another busy year for the Championship Committee with 19 events played in 16 countries and over 1800 participants playing in EGA Championships. All the members of this committee were delighted to experience an entire season without any disruptions due to COVID.



Here is my review of this year's exciting outcomes:

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The season started in June with the European Mid-Amateur Ladies' and Men's Championships in Bogogno (Italy). After a 3-way play-off, the ladies' title was won by Alena Oppenheimer (Germany). As for the men, the championship was won by Michael Thannhäuser (Germany), General Secretary of the EGA, showing us that he knows how to adapt from theory to reality.



The next championship was the Seniors' Individual which took place at Douglas GC (Ireland). Alison Taylor (Ireland) won the ladies' title and the men's gold medal went to Edward McCormack (Ireland), a demonstration of local supremacy as the runners-up were also Irish.



The European Amateur Championship at Pärnu Bay Golf Links (Estonia) was won by José Luis Ballester Barrio (Spain) who opened the week with a 10-under 62 and finished with an extraordinary total score of -21. The lack of wind and the soft conditions may have rendered the course a bit too accessible. With first place, Ballester Barrio earned a spot in The 151st Open Championship.

In July, the European Championship for Golfers with Disability took place at Golf Club The Dutch (Netherlands) and the gold medals were won by Tommaso Perrino (Italy) for men, Daphné Van Houten (Netherlands) for women and Richard Kluwen (Netherlands) in the «seated» category.



End of July, Tegelberga Golfklubb (Sweden) hosted the European Ladies' Championship. From Spain, Julia Lopez Ramirez, after beating the course record on the third day, had to fight hard in order to take the first place from her compatriot Carla Bernat Escuder in the last round.

At Sedin Golf Club (Slovakia), France won the Nation's Cup of the European Young Masters.



The individual titles were claimed by Ben Bolton (England) for the boys' and Natalia Aparicio (Italy) for the girls'.



TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Royal Waterloo Golf Club (Belgium) hosted the European Amateur Team Championship which was won by Spain, beating Denmark in the final. The last day, the two remaining matches were up in favour of the Spaniards. Jaime Montojo and Angel Ayora were both able to close out their matches within short succession of each other,

bringing Spain to the decisive four points and a second consecutive title.



At Tawast Golf and Country Club (Finland), Spain defeated the 2021 & 2022 champion, England, in the final of the European Ladies' Team Championship. Carolina Lopez-Chacarra secured the winning point by defeating Charlotte Heath on the 16th green. This is the first win for Spain in this event since 10 years, and the first time since 2015 that a country other than England or Sweden has claimed the title.



Geneva Golf Club (Switzerland) hosted the European Boys' Team Championship which was won by Sweden, with France as runners-up. Neo Berg walked onto the 18th green one up over Oscar Couilleau but a double-bogey meant extra holes would be needed to settle the championship. With a large crowd following the show, a solid par from Couilleau at the first play-off hole meant Berg had to hole a long putt to keep the match alive. With the match on the 20th hole, Neo Berg holed a spectacular 30-footer to seal victory and spark the Swedish celebrations.





EUROPEAN GIRLS' TEAM CHAMPIONS SPAIN

At Golf Club d'Hossegor (France) Spain, who did not lose a single match during the week, beat Italy in the final of the European Girls' Team Championship. The decisive point was brought by Andrea Revuelta in the penultimate match. After turning a three-hole trail on the front-nine into a two-hole lead through 16, she made a solid par on the 17th, where Natalia Aparicio couldn't make the putt that would have extended the championship.

At Green Resort Hrubá Borša (Slovakia), the Division 2 of the European Amateur Team Championship was won by Scotland over Portugal.



EUROPEAN AMATEUR TEAM DIV. 2 CHAMPIONS SCOTLAND

Austria beat Iceland in the Boys' equivalent event.



At Costa Navarino (Greece) the European Ladies' Team Shield was won by Poland defeating Bulgaria.



The European Men's Team Shield was won by Greece over Malta.



At Parador El Saler Golf (Spain), the host team Spain defeated Ireland on home grounds for the European Senior Ladies' Team title.



The European Senior Men's Team Championship was won at Royal Golf Club Mariánské Lázně (Czech Republic) by England defeating France in the final.



The Ladies' Club Trophy which took place at Pravets GC (Bulgaria) saw the victory of RCF La Boulie (FRA).



At the time of this report, the Men's Club Trophy had not yet taken place.

I would like to highlight the outstanding performance of Spain who surpassed their competitors by claiming victory in six of this year's EGA Championships (4 Team events and 2 Individual titles).



Another simultaneous event took place later in August with the Bonallack and Patsy Hankins Trophies at La Manga Club (Spain). The Bonallack Trophy was won by team Asia-Pacific 17/15.



Europe won the Patsy Hankins Trophy 19/13.



INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

From June 30 to July 1st, the magnificent Royal Dornoch GC (Scotland) hosted the Vagliano and Junior Vagliano Trophies. The Ladies' event was won by the Continent of Europe 13.5 to 10.5.



As for the Junior format, a tie at 9 apiece allowed the Continent of Europe to retain the Trophy.



Finally, the Jacques Léglise Trophy was hosted at Golf de Chantilly (France) on August 25-26 where the Continent of Europe defeated Great Britain & Ireland 17/8.



REMARKS AND CONSIDERATIONS

A disciplinary decision of disqualification from the championship had to be taken against a player who brazenly cheated during the Boys' Team Championship.

Some minor incidents received penalties as well as the disqualification of a team during the qualifying stage of a championship.

The Senior Team Championships are so popular that a maximum limit of 20 teams and the implementation of a Division 2 for men and ladies at the same venue are being considered.

EGA CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

In 2023, the Championship Committee welcomed four new members, Benoît Dumont (Belgium), Lisbeth Riggelsen (Denmark), Gianluca Bolla (Italy) and José Maria Casal-Ribeiro (Portugal). The Championship Committee contributed to the organisation and delivery of 24 European Titles.

THANKS

I would like to address my heartfelt thanks to all the members of the Championship Committee for their excellent collaboration and their dedication.

My sincere thanks also goes to the EGA Staff who did a great job during the entire season.

Lastly, I would like to thank all members of the Executive Committee for their support.



YVES HOFSTETTER
EGA CC CHAIRMAN



HONOURS LIST 2023

EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

	DATE	EVENT	VENUE	WINNER	RUNNER-UP
JUL	11-15	Ladies' Team	Tawast Golf &CC (FIN)	SPAIN	ENGLAND
	11-15	Amateur Team	Royal Waterloo Golf Club (BEL)	SPAIN	DENMARK
	11-15	Girls' Team	Golf Club d'Hossegor (FRA)	SPAIN	ITALY
	11-15	Boys' Team	Golf Club of Geneva (SUI)	SWEDEN	FRANCE
	12-15	Amateur Team, Division 2	Borša GC (SVK)	SCOTLAND	PORTUGAL
	12-15	Boys' Team, Division 2	Borša GC (SVK)	AUSTRIA	ICELAND
AUG	02-05	Ladies' Team Shield	Costa Navarino (GRE)	POLAND	BULGARIA
	02-05	Men's Team Shield	Costa Navarino (GRE)	GREECE	MALTA
SEP	05-09	Senior Ladies'	Parador El Saler (ESP)	SPAIN	IRELAND
	05-09	Senior Men's	RGC Mariánské Lázně (CZE)	ENGLAND	FRANCE
OCT	05-07	Ladies' Club Trophy	Pravets Golf Club (BUL)	RCF LA BOULIE (FRA)	SMØRUM GC (DEN)
	26-28	Men's Club Trophy	Troia Golf (POR)	TBC	TBC

EUROPEAN INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

	DATE	EVENT	VENUE	WINNER	RUNNER-UP
JUN	08-10	Mid-Amateur Ladies'	Bogogno Golf Resort (ITA)	ALENA OPPENHEIMER (GER)	JESSICA ROSS (IRL)
	08-10	Mid-Amateur Men's	Bogogno Golf Resort (ITA)	MICHAEL THANNHÄUSER (GER)	BEN WELCH (ENG)
	15-17	Senior Ladies'	Douglas Golf Club (IRL)	ALISON TAYLOR (IRL)	CHARLOTTE ÖDMAN (SWE)
	15-17	Senior Men's	Douglas Golf Club (IRL)	EDWARD MCCORMACK (IRL)	ALAN CONDREN (IRL)
	28-01/7	Men's	Pärnu Bay Golf Links (EST)	JOSE LUIS BALLESTER BARRIO (ESP)	MADS LAAGE (DEN)
JUL	20-22	Golfers with Disability Ladies'	Golf Club The Dutch (NED)	DAPHNE VAN HOUTEN (NED)	MARCELLA NEGGERS (NED)
	20-22	Golfers with Disability Men's	Golf Club The Dutch (NED)	TOMMASO PERRINO (ITA)	BRADLEY SMITH (ENG)
	20-22	Golfers with Disability Seated's	Golf Club The Dutch (NED)	RICHARD KLUWEN (NED)	MELODY ROCCA (FRA)
	26-29	Ladies'	Tegelberga Golfklubb (SWE)	JULIA LOPEZ RAMIREZ (ESP)	CARLA BERNAT ESCUDER (ESP)
	27-29	EYM Girls'	Sedin Golf Club (SVK)	NATALIA APARICIO (ITA)	MARIE ELODIE PRATS-RIGUAL (FRA)
	27-29	EYM Boys'	Sedin Golf Club (SVK)	BEN BOLTON (ENG)	MARKUS MARELSSON (ICE)
	27-29	EYM Nations' Cup	Sedin Golf Club (SVK)	FRANCE	ITALY

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

	DATE	EVENT	VENUE	WINNER	RESULT
JUN	30/06-01/07	Vagliano Trophy	Royal Dornoch GC (SCO)	CONTINENT OF EUROPE	13.5 - 10.5
	30/06-01/07	Junior Vagliano Trophy	Royal Dornoch GC (SCO)	CONTINENT OF EUROPE Retained Trophy	9 - 9
AUG	03-05	Patsy Hankins Trophy	La Manga Club Resort (ESP)	EUROPE	19 - 13
	03-05	Bonallack Trophy	La Manga Club Resort (ESP)	ASIA PACIFIC	17 - 15
	25-26	Jacques Légrise Trophy	Golf de Chantilly (FRA)	CONTINENT OF EUROPE	17 - 8

ORDER OF MERIT 2023

The final 2023 European rankings, which extracts European players from the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR), were taken the day before the start of the DP World Tour Qualifying School on 28 August:

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S AMATEUR GOLF RANKING



EUROPEAN MEN'S AMATEUR GOLF RANKING



A special thanks to the R&A/USGA WAGR Committee for their work with the rankings.





2023 EUROPEAN GIRLS' TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
GC D'HOSSEGOR (FRA)



2023 EUROPEAN YOUNG MASTERS
SEDIN GC (SVK)



2023 EUROPEAN LADIES' TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP
TAWAST G&CC (FIN)



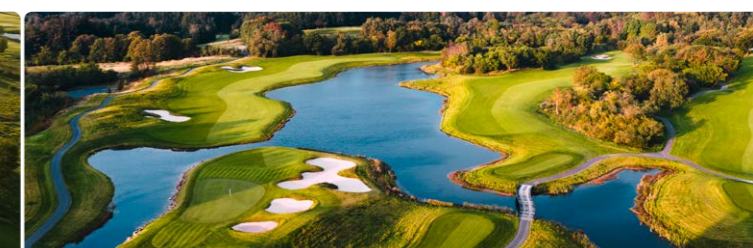
2023 EUROPEAN SENIOR MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP
DOUGLAS GC (IRL)

2024 EGA EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
06-08 JUN	EUROPEAN MID-AMATEURS' CHAMPIONSHIPS (Ladies' & Men's)	Jurmala GC LATVIA
13-15 JUN	EUROPEAN SENIORS' CHAMPIONSHIPS (Ladies' & Men's)	TBA TBA
26-29 JUN	EUROPEAN AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Men)	The Scandinavian DENMARK
09-13 JUL	EUROPEAN LADIES' TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP	Real Sociedad Hípica Española Club de Campo SPAIN
09-13 JUL	EUROPEAN AMATEUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP	Royal Park I Roveri ITALY
09-13 JUL	EUROPEAN GIRLS' TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP	Göteborgs Golf Klubb SWEDEN
09-13 JUL	EUROPEAN BOYS' TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Jean-Louis Dupont Trophy)	Diamond CC AUSTRIA
10-13 JUL	EUROPEAN AMATEUR & BOYS' TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS, DIVISION 2	Kraków Valley G&CC POLAND
18-20 JUL	EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP FOR GOLFERS WITH DISABILITY	Golfclub Hösel GERMANY
24-27 JUL	EUROPEAN LADIES' AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP	Messilä Golf Club FINLAND
25-26 JUL	ST ANDREWS TROPHY	Royal Porthcawl WALES
25-27 JUL	EUROPEAN YOUNG MASTERS	Penati Golf Resort SLOVAKIA
31-03 JUL AUG	EUROPEAN TEAM SHIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Ladies' & Men's)	TBA TBA
23-24 AUG	JACQUES LÉGLISE TROPHY & JUNIOR VAGLIANO TROPHY	West Lancashire Golf Club ENGLAND
03-07 SEP	EUROPEAN SENIOR LADIES' TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP	TBA TBA
03-07 SEP	EUROPEAN SENIOR MEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP	BlackSeaRama GR & Villas BULGARIA
11-14 SEP	EUROPEAN MID-AMATEURS' TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (Ladies' & Men's)	Golf de Chiberta FRANCE
03-05 OCT	EUROPEAN LADIES' CLUB TROPHY	Welten Golf Club SLOVAKIA
24-26 OCT	EUROPEAN MEN'S CLUB TROPHY	TBA TBA



JURMALA GOLF CLUB, LATVIA



THE SCANDINAVIAN, DENMARK



REAL SOCIEDAD HÍPICA ESPAÑOLA CLUB DE CAMPO, SPAIN



ROYAL PARK I ROVERI, ITALY



GÖTEBORGS GOLF KLUBB, SWEDEN



DIAMOND COUNTRY CLUB, AUSTRIA



KRAKÓW VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, POLAND



GOLFCLUB HÖSEL, GERMANY



MESSILÄ GOLF CLUB, FINLAND



PENATI GOLF RESORT, SLOVAKIA



ROYAL PORTHCAWL, WALES



WEST LANCASHIRE GOLF CLUB, ENGLAND



BLACKSEARAMA GOLF RESORT & VILLAS, BULGARIA



GOLF DE CHIBERTA, FRANCE



WELTEN GOLF CLUB, SLOVAKIA

HANDICAPPING & COURSE RATING COMMITTEE REPORT

RICHARD CAU

“More than 120 countries around the world have implemented the new system including 43 in continental Europe and four in GB&I.”



Less than four years after the launch of the World Handicap System, I consider quite extraordinary where we are. More than 120 countries around the world have implemented the new system including 43 in continental Europe and 4 in GB&I. During 2023 the European Golf Association continued to focus on how the system was applied by its members and at the same time started to prepare the first important revision planned for beginning 2024. As with the Rules of Golf, the Rules of Handicapping foresee periodic revisions (normally every four years) to improve and/or update the system.

In February two important communications were sent out to all members:

- WHS update on the Rules of Handicapping Revision to help countries plan the remaining 12 months before the change. The document included a revision timetable and some important guidelines on terminology and trademarks.
- A handicapping guideline prepared by the Handicapping and Course Rating Committee regarding the acceptability of scores for handicapping purposes when the new Model Local Rule E-12 on the use of fairway mats is in place.

After a deep discussion during the dedicated forum session at the 2022 AGM in Rome, in April we were happy to share with the members the answers to their main concerns on the Interoperability Programme. We understand that it may take some time to get the project on its way, but the EGA strongly supports it and is pleased to see that the Accreditation Process is moving forward.

In May, after 5 years, we organized a Course Rating Calibration Seminar in Europe with more than 80 attendees coming from the whole continent. The WHS staff updated all delegates on the course rating system and especially on the changes coming up in 2024. The only significant change will be the new minimum length to rate a course that

will decrease considerably and enable several new courses and players to become part of the system. The new Course Rating Manual and Guides will be ready and available to be sent to all National Associations this Autumn. The meeting was a great occasion for European Raters to meet up again after the COVID-19 pandemic. The EGA is hoping to have another conference in Europe in two years' time. The venue was one of the best ones we could ask for, Le Golf National in Paris. A special thank you to the French Golf Federation for providing the location as well as for their great support.

In conjunction with the Calibration Seminar, we also organized a Handicapping Session to introduce the new Rules of Handicapping starting in 2024. Our representatives on the WHS HOC and delegates from The R&A and the USGA presented the main changes to the attendees. The same presentation was shown during a webinar at the end of June to inform the people who were not able to attend the session in France. On a Handicapping level, what we will address at the beginning of 2024, is nothing compared to the big step that was made in 2020. There will only be some minor changes to improve the system.

A few weeks after the meeting in France all documents relating to the new handicapping rules including the new manual and the technical specifications were published on the EGA website (members' section). In a letter sent separately to all members, the HCRC explained which options of the system were to be chosen and what was the procedure to make these choices so that each National Association could receive its Rules of Handicapping manual.

During the year, many countries started dealing with "Handicap Manipulation" in elite events. Unfortunately, when the Handicap Index is the main criteria to enter an elite event, there will be some individuals trying to manipulate the system. These players could manage to enter the event while another participant, that would normally have had

the right to play, would not be admitted to the field. I am sure we all agree that this is not fair, and we need to do our best to avoid this to happen. The HCRC has been pointing out this possible issue for more than a year and I am pleased to see that some countries work on national rankings instead of handicaps and others require scoring records to understand if the official handicap index really reflects a player's ability in high level competitions. This is the right way to go!

MEETINGS

In 2023, the HCRC officially met four times in February, March, May and September. The minutes are available on the EGA website. Additionally, a meeting is scheduled for Saturday 18th November following the AGM. Concerning the World Handicap System, the EGA representatives on the WHS HOC, Jan Visser and myself, attended the two HOC meetings in March and October.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all the HCRC members for the efforts they provided during 2023. A special thank you to Mika Wikström who finishes his term as HCRC member after serving as North Zone Representative for 8 years.

My thanks also goes to Eduardo Berge Alonso our representative in the World Handicap Research Team.

Thank you also to our General Secretary and his team for their efficiency and for all the help they provided.

Good luck to Jan Visser who is set to replace me as Chairman of the Handicapping and Course Rating Committee and to Nick Hüttel who will join the WHS HOC starting from next year.

LOOKING AHEAD

2024 will mainly be focused on implementing the new Rules of Handicapping and going forward with Accreditation and Interoperability. Following the decisions made on the discretionary items by the EGA and by CONGU, I am happy to say that the system will be applied unanimously around the whole continent making life easier for all European golfers.

RICHARD CAU
EGA HCRC CHAIRMAN



WORKING GROUP IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

CAROLINE HUYSKES

"The EGA took a coordinating role in all these initiatives with the objective of supporting the political process in Brussels and to facilitate EGA members with their actions on a national level."



In the past 12 months the EGA has taken an active role in relation to Environmental Sustainability, especially with regards to the draft Sustainable Use Regulation (SUR) concerning the use of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) as published by the European Commission. As an initial reaction, during the late summer of 2022, the EGA coordinated a joint response from the European golf sector and, together with The R&A and in consultation with the GEO Foundation for Sustainable Golf, published a Pan-European Position Statement expressing the views and concerns of golf.

Sustainable golf was also an important topic at last year's Annual General Meeting in Rome, where the draft EU SUR and other relevant subjects were discussed. Members supported the EGA's elevated role in Brussels and indicated that they were willing to give financial assistance if needed. Since then, the EGA has become a main stakeholder coordinating the advocacy for golf towards political institutions, and has initiated various actions relating to the EU SUR and:

- Formation of a dedicated EGA Sub-Committee dealing with potential effects of the EU SUR supported by EGA members from Spain, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, Ireland and the Nordic countries
- Coordination of a Collaborative Platform between the EGA, The R&A, the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations (FEGGA) and the European Tour Group (ETG). Further support coordinated with international stakeholders including the International Golf Federation (IGF), Ladies European Tour (LET) and others
- Engagement of a public affairs agency (BCW Brussels) consulting on the EU SUR towards political institutions and supporting the narrative with various advocacy materials

- In collaboration with UEFA, commissioning a dedicated 'Impact Assessment Study' analysing the potential effects of the draft EU SUR
- Commissioning a 'Socio-Economic Analysis' relating to the specifics of the European golf sector
- Publication of the 'Turfgrass Sustainability Roadmap 2023-2030' completed by the EGA Sub-Committee in consultation with the GEO Foundation for Sustainable Golf and BCW Brussels, and further supported by the above-mentioned stakeholders
- Drafting of statements and position papers for submission to EU Committees, Member States and follow-up meetings with MEPs in Brussels
- Supporting EGA members with their political interactions on a national level
- Sourcing of financial contributions from EGA members and other stakeholders in golf

The EGA took a coordinating role in all these initiatives with the objective of supporting the political process in Brussels and to facilitate EGA members with their actions on a national level. The work done in relation to the EU SUR is not only beneficial for EGA members from EU Member States, but largely for all our members as it is in line with the general trend in European society towards a healthy and sustainable environment. The 'Socio-Economic Analysis', the 'Impact Assessment' and the 'Turfgrass Sustainability Roadmap 2023-2030' were shared with EGA members and include some relevant conclusions for the future:

- An immediate, non-transitional and total ban of all pesticides would severely impact the fair playability of European golf courses
- The European Golf Sector can make further sizeable, drastic reductions relating to the use of chemical PPPs

- Additional time is needed for a transition phase, taking into account the difference in climate across different European regions as well as the limited availability of alternative products
- Golf's socio-economic, health and environmental benefits need to be maintained and communicated
- A coherent collection and analysis of the (limited) usage data available from EGA members should be considered
- Stimulate a broad collaboration with other turfgrass sports displaying the various views and data from e.g. football and golf's national associations
- Increasing need to communicate facts and data on the economic, social and environmental benefits of golf on society
- Increased focus on Integrated Turfgrass Management and prevention
- At the time of writing this report, it seems that European Regulators are open to work on a joint approach based on future drastic reductions in chemical PPP use and concrete, SMART targets. The EGA continues with its advocacy efforts and will contact EGA members in case of further developments.

Furthermore, during the past 12 months, the EGA continued to reignite the group of European sustainability experts. Regular meetings were held with these passionate individuals that seem to receive an increasing level of recognition within the organisations of EGA members. Exchanging views, coordinating best practices in golf and promoting common approaches on practical issues are key features of the collaboration. On the back of this group, the EGA organised the 'EGA Sustainability Day' in 2022 and co-hosted the '2023 Sustainable Golf Forum' during The Open Championship at Royal Liverpool, together with our friends from The R&A.

Since September 2022, the Royal Netherlands Golf Federation provided the services of their sustainability manager and agronomist, Mr. Niels Dokkuma, for one day a week. Niels studied Turfgrass Science at the Pennsylvania State University, has practical experience from his studies, and extensively dealt with the Dutch government over recent years on the phase out of PPPs under the current EU Sustainable Use Directive (SUD). During these past 15 months, Niels has done significant work for the EGA

and provided great support in the fields of sustainability, agronomy and public affairs relating to the draft EU SUR. I would like to thank Niels for his enthusiasm in this project and his excellent knowledge, and I express my gratitude to the Royal Netherlands Golf Federation for facilitating this important work.

Given the importance of the current activities, the EGA Executive Committee decided that it would like to add a new, permanent member to its committee that will be responsible for leading the EGA's Working Group in charge of Environmental Sustainability. If approved by the assembly at the AGM, the individual will be elected in line with the conditions of other EC member appointments and influence the EGA's future strategies on sustainable golf. Following our invitation to EGA members to propose individuals with relevant expertise, I was particularly pleased that Mr. Gunnar Håkansson expressed his interest in joining the EGA Executive Committee in this capacity. As General Secretary of the Swedish Golf Federation (SGF) Gunnar is well known to the EGA family and has a wealth of experience in developing complex strategies in golf. Gunnar also has a certified master's degree in agricultural economics, he was previously the Director of the SGF's green section and is a current board member of the Scandinavian Turfgrass and Environmental Research Foundation (STERF). Given Gunnar's background, the EGA EC is confident that he is an excellent candidate for this role.

The upcoming EGA AGM in London will once again host a forum session on sustainable golf. The session will allow members to discuss the latest developments related to the draft EU Regulation as well as the EGA's future involvement in the process. Furthermore, a communication expert will give members insights and advice on how to best communicate to their (national and local) stakeholders on matters of sustainability. Finally, a draft strategy and business plan will be presented on how the role of the EGA in sustainability could develop in the years to come. Of course, we will also continue to keep our members updated with the monthly EGA Newsletter, sharing the latest initiatives and news on sustainable golf in Europe.

CAROLINE HUYSKES
EGA CHAIR OF WGES

FINANCIAL REPORT

ACHIM BATTERMANN

"2023 was a good year for the EGA. All EGA championships had pleasingly full fields of participants, resulting in slightly higher income from championship entries."



2023 was a good year for the EGA. All EGA championships had pleasingly full fields of participants, resulting in slightly higher income from championship entries. All International Matches were held with successful results and at the budgeted costs.

Despite high inflation and significantly increased energy prices, travel costs were kept within budget with an increase of only 10% compared to 2022. For the "CC Member Expenses", a higher provision was made in the previous year, which fortunately was not needed to the full extent, resulting in a significantly reduced expense for 2023.

Staff costs were slightly below budget, which is partly explained by the delayed recruitment of the new staff member.

Thanks to the Finance Commission's continuous conservative planning, as well as some forecasted expenses that did not occur in 2023, it was again possible to release a certain number of provisions in 2023. For example, the provision for the risk of legal litigation proved to be unnecessary.

The financial year 2022/2023 closes with a positive result of CHF 24'971.

BUDGET 2023/2024

For 2024 we expect cost increases in line with inflation affecting the budget only in some areas.

Contributing to the planned increase in expenditure is the further work required to migrate the EGA website as well as the full year cost of the staff member recruited in May 2023.

The proposed 1.5% increase in membership fees offsets some of the additional costs and is again deliberately below the expected inflation rate in Western Europe.

The planned loss of CHF 22'343, budgeted despite the suggested increase in membership fees, is covered by the partial release of the overall reserves.

A separate budget will be presented for the extraordinary "Sustainability" budget.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Achim Battermann'.

ACHIM BATTERMANN
EGA HONORARY TREASURER

NOTES ON ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements of the Association have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of commercial accounting as set out in the Swiss Code of Obligations (Art. 957 to 963b CO). They are presented in Swiss Francs (CHF), being the functional currency of the Association.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents represent cash on hand or on deposit with banks.

REVENUE

The financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis; thus, income and expenses are accounted for when they are acquired or engaged and not at the date of payment and are registered into the books of accounts accordingly.

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Transactions during the period in currencies other than CHF have been translated into CHF at the appropriate rates ruling at the time. Liabilities and current assets in other currencies at the final position date have been translated into CHF at rates ruling on that date. All resultant exchange differences have been dealt with through the income statement.

AUDITOR'S REPORT



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Report of the statutory auditor
to the Annual General Meeting of
EUROPEAN GOLF ASSOCIATION
Epalinges

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of EUROPEAN GOLF ASSOCIATION for the financial year ended 30 September 2023.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Executive Committee. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law. An employee of our company assisted in the bookkeeping during the reporting year. This individual was not involved in the limited statutory examination

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the association's articles of incorporation.

Nyon, 17 October 2023

MOORE STEPHENS REFIDAR SA

Electronic signature certified by digicert - Switzerland

Déborah Dépraz
Audit licensed expert
Auditor in charge

Electronic signature certified by digicert - Switzerland

Jacques Grossen
Audit licensed expert

Enclosure : Financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes)

EGA BALANCE SHEET IN CHF ON 30.09.2023

ASSETS	Note	on 30.09.2021	on 30.09.2022	on 30.09.2023
Cash in Bank		1'284'059	1'353'658	777'393
Saferpay current account		4'127	-	1'500
Receivables	1	35'248	58'544	7'339
Prepaid Expenses/Guarantee Deposit		4'173	1'271	609
Property and Equipment	2	7'668	27'603	19'185
Website		1	1	1
Long-term deposit		-	-	601'907
Total Assets		1'335'276	1'441'077	1'407'934
LIABILITIES				
Saferpay Current Account		-	(300)	-
Creditors & Short Term Accruals		(295'552)	(219'943)	(212'129)
Long Term Accruals	3	(164'505)	(250'542)	(200'542)
Total Liabilities		(460'057)	(470'785)	(412'671)
Net Assets		875'219	970'292	995'263
RESERVES				
Balance at the Start of the Year		858'009	875'219	970'292
Surplus/(Deficit) of the Year		17'210	95'073	24'971
Balance at the End of the Year		875'219	970'292	995'263
TOTAL RESERVES		875'219	970'292	995'263
NOTES ON BALANCE SHEET				
1. RECEIVABLES				
Championship Fees and Event Re-billing		1'600	-	-
Miscellaneous (short term income)		33'648	58'544	7'339
		35'248	58'544	7'339
2. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT				
Furniture		4'567	22'620	15'555
Computer and IT		1'921	4'983	3'630
Intellectual Property		1'180	-	-
		7'668	27'603	19'185
3. LONG TERM ACCRUALS				
Reserve International Matches (BT/PHT)		100'000	100'000	100'000
Reserve Golf Europe		19'904	-	-
Reserve Various		44'601	60'542	60'542
Reserve - Website development		-	90'000	40'000
		164'505	250'542	200'542

R&A AMATEUR STATUS COMMITTEE REPORT

“Further feedback will be sought from national governing bodies and other key stakeholders on the modernised Amateur Status Rules.”



In collaboration with the USGA, the Committee continues to review a small number of matters that have arisen since the new Rules were introduced on 1 January 2022.

In particular, the Committee has been monitoring the impact of cash prizes for scratch competitions and, in this regard, the input of the EGA countries through the reports submitted by Stefano Sardi and Joachim Fourquet has been hugely helpful to understand the current position in Europe.

The Committee continues to monitor information from national governing bodies and media coverage in relation to amateur golfers benefitting from the use of name, image and likeness.

In due course, further feedback will be sought from national governing bodies and other key stakeholders on the modernised Amateur Status Rules, with a view to gathering opinion and suggestions for any future revisions.

As noted above, the contributions of Stefano and Joachim are greatly appreciated and invaluable to the work of the Committee.

BRIAN FLEMING

CHAIRMAN, AMATEUR STATUS COMMITTEE

R&A RULES OF GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT

“The Committee continues to strive to provide the Rules in a more consistent, simple, accessible and modern way to ensure their relevance to all golfers.”



The R&A aims to undertake its longstanding governance role through collaborative leadership, and in line with this we commenced the new four-year Rules of Golf review cycle with a global conference on the Rules of Golf in St Andrews this February. The conference produced some valuable output resulting in a number of items being taken forward for further discussion by the Rules of Golf Committee. The Committee continues to strive to provide the Rules in a more consistent, simple, accessible and modern way to ensure their relevance to all golfers.

The R&A's Rules Education Centre is now being accessed by over 50 national governing bodies. The system is being used to help national federations in providing the Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 exams online. This has the advantage of allowing the instructors more time to focus on teaching at the seminars and less administration and resource required in conducting the exam. For delegates, the opportunity to do the exam at a time convenient to them ensures that they can make the most of the seminar and maximise their time learning.

The Rules Education Centre also facilitates the new R&A Level 4 Advanced Referee qualification. In December 2022, referees from the European Tour Group became the first to qualify for the new Level 4 award after successfully completing all 7 of the competencies required. Following this, in early 2023, the Ladies European Tour participated and have now also qualified as Level 4 Advanced

Referees. This demonstrates the high standard and level of experience required to gain the qualification.

The R&A is working in collaboration with national governing bodies to facilitate the Level 4 Advanced Referee qualification and already we have referees from Portugal and Sweden participating in the programme to become qualified.

In February this year, we were able to welcome delegates back to our Level 3 Tournament Administrators and Referees Seminar after a two-year break due to the pandemic. The next Level 3 TARS is planned for 6-9 February 2024.

The Rules of Golf app continues to increase in its popularity. The app now contains 20 languages, meaning it is available in the first language of over 96% of golfers. Many of the EGA members have been instrumental in providing translated versions of the Rules of Golf and we appreciate the valuable work in ensuring that the Rules are more accessible.

We are grateful for the input from our Advisory Committee Members, Ane Urchegui Garcia and Jan Rye who have contributed willingly to the Rules of Golf Committee.

ROGER BATHURST

CHAIRMAN, RULES OF GOLF COMMITTEE



R&A SUSTAINABLE GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT

“For Europe the 2023 objectives are to successfully establish a sustainable operating model with robust quality assurance standards.”



SUSTAINABLE CHAMPIONSHIP AGRONOMY (SCA)

The objective of Sustainable Championship Agronomy is to deliver sustainable and environmentally positive world class playing conditions for R&A championship golf courses.

In 2023 we have focused on the delivery of site visits for this year's host venues, including The Women's Amateur (Princes), The Amateur (Hillside and Southport & Ainsdale), The Open (Royal Liverpool) and The AIGWO (Walton Heath). 70 site visits were completed, reviewing course condition and providing advice. A positive average Agronomy Report Score was achieved on all venues. 33 venues completed sward analysis to understand sustainable grass composition with fine fescues and browntop bent dominating our championship venues. The annual meadow-grass content will be further reduced in the coming years.

The 151st Open was a great success from an agronomy and course set-up perspective with positive comment from players, TV commentators and media on the quality of the Hoylake links and the excellence of the greens in particular. Effort was expended on achieving consistency of speed and sward composition across all greens with bents and fescues now dominant. Weather patterns in the build up to The Open and during it, were predominantly wet and the links reflected this. It was softer and greener than we would have chosen, and moisture and firmness values reflected this. Nevertheless, the links played well and the run off areas adjacent to greens were shown off at their best, both in terms of strategy and turf presentation. The rough, having been weakened by the drought in June, strengthened in time for the Championship and overall, it was challenging without being overly penal.

SUSTAINABLE AGRONOMY SERVICES TO CLUBS (SAS)

The purpose of SAS is to place The R&A in a leadership position, providing premium sustainable agronomy advisory services.

Progress to date has been positive and we foresee to reach our ambitious 2023 goals. Contracts continue to be successfully achieved including advisory services and workshops. As of the end of September contracts have now been agreed with >100 clubs and organisations in GB&I, APAC and Europe equating to >200 site visits.

For Europe the 2023 objectives are to successfully establish a sustainable operating model with robust quality assurance standards. Priority markets include Germany, Netherlands and Spain forming a pipeline of clubs for advisory work in 2023 and 2024. Contact has been renewed with Federation CEO's to re-confirm appetite for R&A Sustainable Agronomy Services in their jurisdictions.

To assist with the delivery of professional sustainable agronomy services in Europe, an agronomy contractor and accreditation process has been agreed and advertised for applicants, and a marketing agency was appointed. Further business development discussions have also taken place with EGA, GCMA, GCME, UK Golf Federations, IMG, Architects and Designers to drive their members towards our Sustainable Agronomy Services.

SUSTAINABLE AGRONOMY RESEARCH (GC2030)

The objective of GC2030 is to research and deliver ready to use sustainable agronomy solutions for golf facilities to adopt. GC2030 also supports the positive impact of golf courses through scientifically robust data and research.

GC2030 research projects remain on track to deliver practical outputs and ready to use solutions. Formal annual project reviews are scheduled and a new template has been produced to better record research progress and project management tracking. As per the contractual agreements, next year's funding is dependent upon satisfactory annual reviews and project updates. The call for new project proposals will be launched in Q4. Year 1 of a 5-year study report on bio-diversity at R&A Championship venues has been published recently (Golf and Nature - A study of UK golf courses - year 1).

Interest in GC2030 projects is increasing with the proposed full ban on the use of pesticides on golf courses in the EU, specifically for Integrated Turf Management (ITM) and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

SUSTAINABLE GREENKEEPING EDUCATION AND SCHOLARSHIP

The R&A's Sustainable Greenkeeping Education and Scholarship programme aims to be recognised as the "Gold Standard" of greenkeeping education. It provides access to scholarship funding, invitation to education events for professional development and opportunities at the best worldwide credible volunteering programme to gain valuable skills and experiences.

In order to grow this important section, we are currently in the process of hiring a dedicated candidate for the position of Manager of Greenkeeping education. Also, we are initiating a closer co-operation with USGA's Green Section Record. In the meantime, promotion and support has continued with funding the Asian Golf Federation for the development of the Certificate in Greenkeeping Program and working with New Zealand Sports Turf Institute. Scholarship experience at Championship venues has been provided for The 151st Open, the AIGWO and the BMW Championship.

GREENLINKS SUSTAINABLE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND EVENTS

The GreenLinks program objectives are to demonstrate sustainable golf leadership for our 'crown jewel' championships.

The Greenlinks Plan for the 151st Open was successfully delivered and included the hosting of the Sustainable Golf HUB in the Practice Ground which was well attended. The HUB's main focus this year was on Golf & biodiversity and on our Sustainable Agronomy Services (SAS).

Engaging with spectators, on all four Championship Days 'Greenlinks Updates' were played every hour (over 50 times in total) on The NTT DATA Wall providing daily time data on sustainable transport use, refill water station use and low carbon meals and also a call to action to visit the Sustainable Golf Hub in the Practice Ground. For media coverage, multiple features were hosted during championship week and Championship Sunday across Sky Sports News, including Sustainable Agronomy, Biodiversity, The Sustainable Golf Hub and Greenlinks. Two features were hosted on Sustainable Agronomy, Greenlinks and our Sustainable Golf Hub with The Open Radio.

Raising the profile of European sustainable golf, a number of Affiliates and industry bodies attended the R&A-EGA Sustainable Golf Forum at The 151st Open Championship. The event themes included the proposed pesticide Regulation impact, the Sustainable Agronomy Service Europe launch in Q4, European research (GC2030) and additionally a practical demonstration of Greenlinks activations at the 151st Open.

Greenlinks Delivery at The 2023 AIG Women's Open included activations including zero waste to landfill, renewable energy and smart energy practices including an increased use of battery storage solutions, sustainable catering practices, lower carbon travel prioritised, Guided Nature Trails and a "Golf & Nature" stage session.

DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE GOLF

We are delighted to inform you that as per 1 January 2024 we will be employing Mr Daniel Lightfoot as our new Director of Sustainable Golf. With his solid background in golf, agronomy as well as in business, Daniel is well equipped to drive our ambitious strategy forward. In doing so, we value our cooperation with EGA and we look forward to introducing him to your relevant EGA committees as well as to your Associations, Federations and Unions shortly.

CEES A.M. COLLART

CHAIRMAN, R&A SUSTAINABLE GOLF COMMITTEE



WORLD AMATEUR GOLF RANKING® REPORT

ELIZABETH MOSER



INTRODUCTION

2023 is the fourth year of the Power method of calculation within WAGR®. The transition to the new system has been in place now for over 44 months.

The number of finished WAGR Counting events has increased again for 2023 with a 11% over rise in all events from Wk 1-34 for 2023 compared to the same timeframe in 2022.

The R&A/USGA would like to thank all our affiliates for their hard work and attention to detail in supporting the accurate and timely submission of results.

WAGR® STATISTICS

WAGR® coverage includes more than 7'500 players from 103 countries; this remains inline with 2022 figures. We estimated 2023 to have processed around 6'300 events by the end of 2023 which would be 5.5% increase on 2022.

EUROPEAN STATISTICS

At 1 September 2023, WAGR® coverage included 2'387 players from Europe (1'413 Men, 974 Women) from 39 countries. These figures all show a decrease on 2022 by 26 players - 1'431 Men, 974 Women from 43 countries.

NEW RANKED AND RE-RANKED PLAYER/S IN 2023

There have been 1'846 (1'163 men, 683 women) new ranked players in 2023 up to Week 34. In comparison for the full year of 2022, 2'208 players became newly ranked.

Players who have successfully become re-ranked is 197 (150 men, 47 women) at the end of Week 34 in 2023. In comparison for the full year of 2022, 249 players became re-ranked.

MARK H. MCCORMACK MEDAL

The winner of the 2023 men's Mark H. McCormack Medal was Gordon Sargent of the United States. The winner of the women's medal was Ingrid Lindblad of Sweden.

The award is named after Mark H. McCormack, the late founder of sports marketing company IMG and an avid supporter of amateur golf. The Mark H. McCormack Medal is awarded to the player ranked number one in the WORLD AMATEUR GOLF RANKING® after the European Amateur Championship or U.S. Amateur Championship, whichever concludes later.

TOP 5 COUNTRIES WITH MOST RANKED PLAYERS

WOMEN		MEN	
COUNTRY	N° RANKED PLAYERS	COUNTRY	N° RANKED PLAYERS
France	120	England	222
Spain	111	France	127
Germany	104	Sweden	117
Sweden	89	Spain	115
England	81	Germany	95

TOP 10 POWER MEN'S AMATEUR EVENTS IN 2023 WK1 TO WK34

EVENT NAME	WEEK N°	POWER	COUNTRY
1. U.S. Amateur Championship	202333	994.3178	United States
2. NCAA D1 Championship - Stroke	202322	990.5934	United States
3. The Western Amateur Championship	202331	987.79	United States
4. Arnold Palmer Cup	202323	979.6604	United States
5. Southern Amateur Championship	202329	972.2573	United States
6. Northeast Amateur Invitational	202325	956.0808	United States
7. Southern Highlands Collegiate	202309	946.9683	United States
8. Valspar Collegiate	202313	943.9994	United States
9. NCAA D1 Championship - Match	202322	942.5929	United States
10. Jones Cup Invitational	202301	938.0168	United States

TOP 10 POWER WOMEN'S AMATEUR EVENTS IN 2023 WK1 TO WK34

EVENT NAME	WEEK N°	POWER	COUNTRY
1. Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship	202313	998.7215	United States
2. Arnold Palmer Cup	202323	979.6604	United States
3. NCAA D1 Women's Championship	202321	959.7372	United States
4. European Ladies' Amateur Championship	202330	935.0455	Sweden
5. The Womens Amateur Championship	202324	919.6367	England
6. U.S. Women's Amateur Championship	202332	915.1605	United States
7. Darius Rucker Intercollegiate	202309	913.9045	United States
8. European Ladies' Team Championship	202328	913.114	Finland
9. Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship	202310	881.9257	Singapore
10. Nexus Collegiate	202307	873.1631	United States

TOP 10 POWER EUROPEAN MEN EVENTS IN 2023 WK1 TO WK34

EVENT NAME	WEEK N°	POWER	COUNTRY
1. The Amateur Championship	202325	886.8413	England
2. European Amateur Team Championship	202328	853.0403	Belgium
3. European Amateur Championship	202326	845.7406	Estonia
4. Bonallack Trophy	202331	782.3003	Spain
5. St Andrews Links Trophy	202323	717.2064	Scotland
6. R&A Women's & Men's Home Internationals	202332	663.7511	Wales
7. European Nations Cup - Copa Sotogrande	202316	589.9153	Spain
8. Lytham Trophy	202317	566.2711	England
9. Spanish Amateur Copa S M El Rey	202309	532.2686	Spain
10. English Men's Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship (Brabazon Trophy)	202321	467.2656	England

TOP 10 POWER EUROPEAN WOMEN EVENTS 2023 WK1 TO WK34

EVENT NAME	WEEK N°	POWER	COUNTRY
1. European Ladies' Amateur Championship	202330	935.0455	Sweden
2. The Womens Amateur Championship	202324	919.6367	England
3. European Ladies' Team Championship	202328	913.114	Finland
4. Patsy Hankins Trophy	202331	833.4232	Spain
5. Vagliano Trophy	202326	687.6122	Scotland
6. Spanish International Ladies' Amateur Championship	202309	666.5221	Spain
7. Portuguese Internacional Ladies Amateur Championship	202304	664.1037	Portugal
8. R&A Women's & Men's Home Internationals	202332	663.7511	Wales
9. Internationaux de France U21 - Trophee Esmond	202315	628.511	France
10. German Girls Open	202322	587.5329	Germany

TOP ELITE EVENT WINNERS IN 2023

MEN	WOMEN
The Amateur Championship Christo Lamprecht (RSA)	The Women's Amateur Championship Chiara Horder (GER)
NCAA DI Championship Fred Biondi (BRA)	NCAA D1 Women's Championship Rose Zhang (USA)
European Amateur Championship Jose Luis Ballester Barrio (ESP)	European Ladies' Amateur Championship Julia Lopez Ramirez (ESP)
U.S. Amateur Championship Nicholas Dunlap (USA)	U.S. Amateur Championship Megan Schofill (USA)
World Amateur Team Championship Scheduled for October 2023	World Amateur Team Championship Scheduled for October 2023
Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship Scheduled for October 2023	Women's Amateur Asia-Pacific Championship Scheduled for October 2023

PLAYERS TURNING PROFESSIONAL IN 2023

As of Week 34, 448 WAGR® players turned professional in 2023:

- Men: 328 (136 Europe) [2022 Full Year 397 (130 Europe)]
- Women: 120 (32 Europe) [2022 Full Year 172 (57 Europe)]




MEN	WOMEN
Ludvig Aberg (SWE)	Rose Zhang (USA)
Maximilian Steinlechner (AUT)	Benedetta Moresco (ITA)
Tom Vaillant (FRA)	Lauren Walsh (IRL)
Travis Vick (USA)	Reika Arakawa (JPN)
Adrien Dumont De Chassart (BEL)	Amalie Leth-Nissen (DEN)
Fred Biondi (BRA)	Amelia Williamson (ENG)
Santeri Lehesmaa (FIN)	Chiara Tamburlini (SUI)
Anton Albers (GER)	

WR4GD STATISTICS (THE WORLD RANKING FOR GOLFERS WITH DISABILITY) 2023

WR4GD coverage includes 1'580 players (1'199 players in 2022 an increase of 32%) from 46 (up 13 from previous year) countries, and over 124 scheduled ranking tournaments (an increase of 42 from previous year.) As of Week 34, 88 have taken place to date. The rankings are not separated by gender as in WAGR® but are divided into Gross, Net and Stableford

Rankings. It should be noted that players can have a ranking position in more than one set of rankings. The Gross rankings also includes Professional golfers with disability.

TOP 3 WR4GD PLAYERS IN 2023

GROSS RANKINGS (Week 34) Players with golf handicaps up to 18.4	NET RANKINGS (Week 34) players with golf handicaps up to 18.4 but excludes Professionals	STABLEFORD RANKINGS (Week 34) Players with golf handicaps from 18.5 up to 54
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kipp Popert (ENG) 2. Brendan Lawlor (IRL) 3. Chris Biggins (USA) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lukas Snobl (CZE) 2. Simo Kosunen (FIN) 3. Scott Smith (AUS) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Richard Saunders BEM (ENG) 2. Timo Pessi (FIN) 3. Pentti Vaara (FIN)
		

ELIZABETH MOSER
WAGR™ Manager





Letter of Gratitude

*On behalf of the Ukrainian Golf Federation we would like to express our respect and gratitude to
the European Golf Association*

We deeply appreciate your constant support and strong position in protecting the interests of Ukrainian golf players.

The Ukrainian Golf Federation and Ukrainian golfers will never forget your kindness, friendly attitude and dedication that help us to overcome all the challenges.

You make us believe that we are not alone and hope for a bright future. It is a great honor for all of us to have such a friend and partner.

The Ukrainian Golf Federation is sincerely grateful for all your hard work, for all the opportunities you provide us, and for your kind support!

*Best regards,
the Ukrainian Golf Federation*



SIR MICHAEL BONALLACK 1934 - 2023

The EGA family was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Sir Michael Bonallack in September.

Sir Michael was one of the most decorated amateur players in the history of the game, winning The Amateur Championship and English Amateur Championship five times each and the Brabazon Trophy four times. He also represented Great Britain & Ireland in the Walker Cup nine times and helped England to the European Amateur Team Championship title on three occasions.

Sir Michael also made enormous contributions to the game off-course, including 16 years as Secretary of The R&A, six years as Chairman of the European Tour, President of the English Golf Union, Honorary President of the PGAs of Europe, and Chair of the Official World Golf Rankings amongst many other roles. He was inducted in the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2000.

Sir Michael's memory will long live on in the minds of all those who knew him, and in the form of the Bonallack Trophy, the biennial match between the best male amateur players from Europe (EGA) and Asia-Pacific (APGC), which is named after him.

At this year's match, the 12-player European team competed for the prestigious Bonallack Trophy over three days at La Manga Resort in Spain. The Ryder Cup style format, and two strong teams, made for an exciting and close contest. In the end, the visiting Asia-Pacific team emerged victorious with a final score of 17-15.

"I am proud of my team that fought so hard trying to win back the Bonallack Trophy" said European team captain, Yves Hofstetter. "I know that Sir Michael followed the match with great interest and would have been proud of the high level of golf and great sportsmanship displayed throughout the week."





EGA
European Golf Association

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