

**Bahamas Golf Federation**  
**2021 Annual General Meeting**  
**Venue: BGF Golf Facility & Zoom (link to be shared)**  
**Date: Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Time: 2pm**

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Meeting led by Glen Archer

**Pre-Meeting Items:**

The sign in sheet was available for persons to sign in. All attendees wrote their name and added their signature to confirm.

**Section 1: Opening Prayer**

Rendered by Anthony Hinsey

**Section 2: Opening of the Meeting**

Roll Call – Glen Archer called the names listed on the sign-in list. All called were asked to acknowledge their presence. The roster was:

1. Eustan Forbes
2. Marvin Bethell
3. Mike Rolle
4. Glen Archer
5. Leander Brice
6. Ian Hepburn
7. Marc Robinson
8. Fred Taylor
9. Georgette Rolle
10. Rodwell Knowles
11. Gina Rolle
12. Dwight Tinker
13. Dr. Patti Symonette
14. Lynford Miller
15. Anthony Hinsey
16. Dr. Madlene Sawyer

**Section 3: Matters Arising**

No matters arising as no previous minutes were presented. Due to technical issues, the recording for the meeting was not able to be transcribed. Glen Archer moved that the meeting continue without the minutes.

**Section 4: President's Report**

Lynford presented on a 10-point plan for 2022-2023. The points were shown on zoom as well.

***Point # 1 Continue the open dialogue with the members, golf courses, and governing bodies.***

The various relationships includes, but is not limited to the USGA, IGF, R&A, the Ministry of Youth Sports and Culture, the Ministry of Education, the Bahamas Olympic Committee. We have been communicating more with all of the bodies, which led to more invitations to events such as the British Amateur and the St. Andrews Open.

***Point # 2 Support a sustainable school golf program***

In 2021 the kids who played in the National School golf championships were excited. We were oversubscribed for 2021, so we will see how to maximize the rounds for 2022. Mike Rolle chimed in to suggest that the private primary compete separate from the public, then blend them. Gina confirmed that this is how it is done. The R&A supported it financially with approximately \$13,500, and clubs valued around \$12,000.

***Point # 3 Continue to support junior golf***

With the help and support of the Fourteen Clubs coaches and team, we will continue this. We do not have the manpower to do this, so we have partnered with Fourteen Clubs to run this. Operations are back up on Monday – Saturdays.

***Point # 4 Reintroduce women's golf***

Women's golf is growing with the only female club Women's 242. An additional grant proposal was submitted by Dr. Patti Symonette for 2022 for women's golf. The R&A and USGA are really pushing female initiatives. There are several junior females coming up, and we want to make sure to provide initiatives for them.

***Point #5 Additional Club Growth***

We have several active clubs. Members have asked why the BGF does not have more tournaments. We want to support the individual clubs. We encourage members to join those clubs and take part in their activities. We will still have the major events such as the national amateur championship, junior nationals, PATs, the Sands Beer Cup (National Amateur rounds (4), Exuma classic (1), Abaco classic (1), The Players Championship (2) , and the Grand Bahama open(2)), and host qualifiers for the team events.

***Point #6 Change the mindset to developing low handicap golfers versus simply developing golfers***

We have a few initiatives. The Playing Ability Tests (PATs) are test which rank players based on their ability to shoot 36 or less from a defined distance. There are 10 levels. Everyone starts at the same level no matter the handicap. Mike Rolle chimed in to ask about shots given to provide a handicap for the less skilled players. Lynford explained that the model assists the players to know where their skill level is, and then the coaches can better assist with what you need to work on.

Another initiative for this point is to get a Bahamian to the Olympics. To do this they need world ranking points. This will consist of three rounds each month. There is a maximum handicap for entry. The winner of the event will automatically receive world ranking points. We have been additionally motivated after seeing a fellow Caribbean nation player win the Latino Amateur American Amateur Championships (LAAC). We are happy for them and have sent our congratulations to them.

***Point # 7 Strengthen the bridge between the BGF and the BPGA***

Lynford mentioned that he is fairly new in golf and still trying to understand the role the BPGA plays and how we can work together to improve golf in our country. We have established a relationship with the current president, Raquel Riley, to make this work. With the World Ranking Points initiative, we feel that this is a great step to collaborate.

***Point #8 Redefine the national team development and qualification process***

Currently we have a few qualifiers. We want to add more for other events. We will define a squad and have them practice together, and even after the qualifiers; they will still remain as a practice squad. In the past, the practice squad would not get together after the qualifier, but we want to change that. We want a long-term practice squad made up of players of a certain handicap range.

***Point #9 Reinroduce a major fundraising event***

Currently, we only have the National Amateur in place as a major fundraiser. There were other events before, so we want to begin with adding one more, then build back up to previous levels of fundraisers.

***Point #10 Assist with the development of the home facility***

Over the past two years we have worked with Mr. Flowers and supported where we could. We have done this through purchase or donation of machines, parts, balls, etc. We assisted wherever we could afford.

A conversation about the range began:

Mike Rolle asked about the name of the facility. Lynford said that it is called the BGF Golf Practice Facility and Driving Range. Eustan Forbes asked what are the current clubs at this time? What contribution does the current clubs make to the BGF? Do we have any control over that? Lynford mentioned the major clubs are the ones with golf courses. The other clubs are ones without courses such as Palmdale, Poop Deck. We do not have control over the clubs. Have the clubs assisted? Lynford confirmed that the clubs have assisted in some ways. When the Federation asks for financial or other support they do assist. Eustan asked about access to the courses. Lynford confirmed that we are working on access.

Eustan asked for the criteria for the national team? Is it a one time, once per year selection? Or will we produce tournaments year-round? Lynford confirmed When we select the teams, are we holding firm to the qualifying process? Lynford answered that yes, we have other they must be an active member and qualify through one of the avenues. Before the pandemic we started a training squad, then once the team is announced, we have practices. Anthony Hinsey chimed in to say that the practice squad is made up of former members as well as those who have potential. Eustan asked about the process for juniors have potential. Fred Taylor chimed in to say that the kids who want consideration must be at level 5 or higher. This means that these players are able to shoot Par from the forward tees at a golf course.

Lynford said that we have borrowed a player rating system from Puerto Rico. Mike Rolle asked how many tournaments are needed. We need up to 14 events to match what Puerto Rico does. One reason why it is difficult here is that some players only play in a few of the events, so the model wont work as well unless we have double the amount of events to make it feasible for the players

to play a minimum of six. Eustan mentioned that if they are not able to commit, then they should not be considered for the team. Multiple people chimed in.

Ian Hepburn mentioned that the national amateur is always played around the times of aerification. It is normally held around May, which is when the majority of courses do this. We will try to have it earlier. Mike Rolle mentioned that we should give the courses the dates in advance and make sure that the courses are not undergoing maintenance. Marvin Bethell mentioned that if it is free, it is difficult to arrange. James Gomez on zoom chimed in to ask...

One challenge is that there are four different properties, and all of the courses may not be on the same schedule. Mike Rolle said that we need to negotiate with the minister of sports.

Lynford said that we will meet with the minister of sports to negotiate and plan.

Mike Rolle mentioned again the name of the facility. He spoke about him consistently coming to the driving range. He suggested that the facility is named after Craig Flowers. Eustan Forbes suggested to bring it to motion and have people second the motion. Marvin mentioned that this was on the table from previous board, so this should have happened. Glen Archer mentioned to please bring this up under the any other business section.

Glen Archer mentioned that the presidents report spoke on additional club growth. Glen mentioned the days of having the interclub competition and that it should be reintroduced. He mentioned also having a match play event, using the usga handicap system to determine the ranking of everyone.

## **Section 5: Treasurer's Report and Appointment of Auditors**

Presented by Marc Robinson

The auditors of the account was submitted. James Gomez will be the auditor for our accounts. The audited report should be completed by the end of February. Members asked for a printed copy. Marc said that it was on the website. Eustan mentioned that a printed copy should have been made available.

- Revenues
- 301,000. 490 of that fromt
  
- Northern division 11,000
- Total operation expenditures for 2021 \$261,000
- Net operating profit of \$
- Interest income \$110
- Net operating income \$20,000
- Total cash in hand at bank \$2,000 for central, \$16,000 norther division

Marvin asked if there is a separation of accounts. Marc confirmed that the central division and the junior are blended. The northern has its own and the ladies has its own. Lynford mentioned that

the central division accounts was closed and transferred to the main account. Eustan mentioned then that there is no central division. Lynford clarified that everything

Confirmed that there are three accounts; Main, northern, and ladies.

Eustan asked who are the signatories on these accounts and how do they report? Ambrose and his team handles the northern division. Eustan asked if we have any say over the northern division? The answer is no. Marc confirmed that the board does not sign on the northern account but they sign on the ladies.

Dr. Patti chimed in and confirmed that the ladies account has been inactive for the most part. The activities for the ladies division. She just had documents handed over to her. For various reasons, the signatories on the account is two persons. She is meeting with FCIB next week to discuss the account. She will make sure that someone from the GEC is a signatory on the ladies account. The state of dormancy and any fees since then is what she will work on with the FCIB rep to correct ASAP.

Which accounts were sent for auditing? Eustan Forbes asked what regulations do you have as president for managing the accounts?

Eustan asked for it to be rectified so that a GEC member is a signatory on all accounts. Mike Rolle asked if the northern division makes contributions. Lynford mentioned that the northern division takes care of their teams whenever they travel. Marvin asked if some of their fees come to the BGF as well. Lynford said that Ambrose said that he does not think they should have a separate account. Miek Rolle mentioned that Freeport is able to support themselves. Mike asked about the southern division. Reg Smith was the last active chairman. It is basically dormant. The BGF now has to pick up and assist the Southern. The Central has to also pick up and assist the divisions who need assistance.

We must determine a formula. Freeport was once bigger than Nassau.

Marc continued to cover the expenses:

Interschool program

Junior team

Senior team

## **Section 6: Motions**

- A. Motion #1: Rename the BGF Facility in honor of Mr. Flowers.
  - Proposed by Mike Rolle. Seconded by Eustan Forbes
  
- B. Motion #2: Special Meeting on Constitution Reform
  - Proposed by Eustan Forbes
  - Seconded by Anthony Hinsey

C. Motion #3: A GEC member should be a signatory on each account

- Proposed by Dr. Patti Symonette
- Seconded by Marc Robinson

D. Motion #4: Establish a financial advisory committee for improved operation of accounts and assets

- Proposed by Glen Archer
- It was not seconded by anyone.
- Comments were that this is a role of the GEC.
- The motion was denied.

E. Motion #5: Establish a commemorative memorial committee to enable recognition and tribute to golfers

- Proposed by Glen Archer
- Seconded by Dr. Patti Symonette

### **Section 7: Other Business**

Royal Blue rate increase of \$3

Section 8: Meeting Adjourned at 5:30pm

Proposed by Glen Archer

Seconded by Eustan Forbes

### **Election Process**

As there was only one slate presented, the names were approved by acclamation as there was no opposition.

President

Lynford Miller

Vice President

Anthony Hinsey

Directors (6)

Ethelyn Davis

Dr. Patti Symonette

Gina Gonzalez-Rolle

Timothy Pinder  
Frederick Taylor  
Georgette Rolle-Harris

Selection Committee  
Keno Turnquest  
Duwayne Hepburn  
Peter McIntosh