

The last face to face meeting of the Championship Committee was in Lausanne in February 2020. If I had been told then that we would be still feeling the effects of a pandemic disease in October 2021, I would not have believed it.

In the last two full seasons we have had to accept changes in our working practices. Zoom and Teams meetings have become the norm. The way we have played golf was affected. Some Rules of Golf were changed to try to restrict the spread of Covid. Despite all these challenges we managed a full season with only a few exceptions. Whilst congratulating ourselves on providing great opportunities for European Golf Association golfers to compete against their peers, we must not forget the many who have suffered and indeed some who have paid the ultimate price as a result of this dreadful disease. Our thoughts are with them.

The last two seasons have proved that the EGA is resilient and resourceful. We have proved that we can react quickly to changing circumstances and, with your help and cooperation, we arranged a wonderful season of golf, for which I, and they, thank you. This spirit of working together is vital to our Association, it is what binds us. If nothing else, it has proved that the maxim of 'evolution rather than revolution' really works.

We embarked on our 2021 season with optimism and hope. In March we set out our programme of 25 Events at 19 venues with the goal of maximising playing opportunities in a safe environment and giving as many players as possible the opportunity to take part in EGA team and individual events. We reverted to normal formats but revised our closing dates and relaxed our cancellation dates to accommodate as many participants as possible. By April time we were heartened to see how many had entered our individual and team events. An early rearrangement of dates was the European Championship for Golfers with Disability due to take place at Bokskogens Golf Club in Sweden.

The event was moved to the O'Connor Course, Amendoeira Golf Resort in Portugal. We thank both federations for their cooperation. Thanks to Manon Eggermont for running the EDGA events and this one in particular where we present the medals. The weather was hot, but so was the golf. Juan Postigo defended his title being -7, Charles-Henri Quelin silver and Johan Kammerstad took bronze. Daphne van Houten dominated the Ladies with Mette Wegge Lynggaard silver and Jennifer Sraga bronze. In the seated category, Richard Kluwen successfully defended his title with Mariano Tubio silver and Graham Freeman bronze.



By May, we were experiencing difficulties with our prestigious matches because of Covid-related travel restrictions. Despite the best endeavours of all concerned, three international matches had to be cancelled, The Bonalack and Patsy Hankins Trophies and subsequently the Vagliano Trophy, but we successfully rescued the Jacques Léglise and Junior Vagliano Trophies. Once again, many thanks to the Swiss, Swedish and Dutch Golf Federations for their cooperation. At this time, also because of Covid, we had to relocate The European Girls' and Amateur Team Championships to Montado Golf Resort, Portugal and PGA Catalunya Resort, Spain respectively. Thanks to our good friends in Portugal and Spain and to Sweden and the Netherlands for trying so hard on our behalf. Another great example of what can be done when we work together in a positive manner.

May and June proved to be most challenging, particularly in the GB&I Zone. We are so sorry that the restrictions on travel have prevented so many people from competing abroad and this disappointment was exacerbated by the need to move the European Ladies' Amateur Championship from that fine venue, Alwoodley Golf Club. Royal Park Golf & Country Club I Roveri in Italy was quick to provide an impressive alternative, with our blessing.

June saw our championships get under way with the European Mid-Amateur Championship at Pula Golf Resort in Spain. Steven Rojas from Switzerland edged out Joonas Hinkkanen from Finland and Stefan Wiedergrun (GER) by one stroke. The Women's event saw a tie at 229, Maria Anetseder and Deborah Wehle both of Germany. Maria won the title at the first playoff hole. In the 40+ events Oscar Jubindo Sanchez of Spain and Helene Malvy of France took the honours.



144 competitors, aged 50+, teed up on a slightly rearranged date at the magnificent Golf de Morfontaine. Martin Birkholz, a previous winner in Slovenia in 2018, hung on to win after two sub-par rounds to start. Our own Championship Committee member Christine Petit Martin won the ladies' event with a fine concluding 70. Spain's Maria Castillo Dologaray and Italy's Gianluca Bolla won the prizes for the +60 players.



One of our flagship events, the European Amateur Championship, was played at Golf du Médoc Resort. Despite Covid restricted entries from GB&I, a full field of 144 players from 30 Nations with a WAGR ballot cutoff of 584 teed it up. Christoffer Bring from Denmark registered four scores in the sixties and that with a six at the first in the last round. A wonderful performance following in the footsteps of previous Danish winners of this event Nicolai Hojgaard, Lucas Bjerregaard and Morten Backhausen. This victory earned him a spot in the 149th Open Championship at Royal St George's where he played alongside our previous double Champion Matthias Schmid. We wish them all well in their chosen careers. Ludvig Åberg scored the lowest round of the tournament, a ten-under-par 61, good enough to take home the silver medal, with David Puig taking the bronze.



We then entered our busiest time of the year, which is our Team Championship period. We saw 79 Teams and over 400 players from 30 countries compete. Sadly, we were missing some teams but look forward to welcoming them back as soon as conditions allow, which will expand our golfing fraternity even greater in the future.

There were heroic deeds recorded in golfing terms and congratulations go to England in winning the Ladies' Team Championship at Royal County Down Golf Club in Northern Ireland, beating Sweden, and also to Italy for their 3rd place performance defeating Scotland. It was good to see GB&I teams taking the opportunity to play in one of our events on 'home soil'.



In the Girls' Team Championships, Spain, France and Sweden took the honours in that order at Montado Golf Resort, Portugal.



The European Amateur Team Championship was hosted by PGA Catalunya at short notice where Denmark prevailed against France and for the first time in their history became Team Champions. France reached the final after going to five extra holes against Spain in the semi finals. In a keenly contested final against France, Denmark won both morning foursomes matches. To come from two down in the foursomes is difficult and so it proved to be for France, fittingly, Christopher Bring, our 2021 European Amateur Champion, sealed the win for Denmark on the 15th hole. Belgium came out winners for the Bronze medal defeating Spain 6-1.



The Boys' Team Championship was held at Furesø Golfklub, Denmark. Our New General Secretary, Michael Thannhäuser was in attendance with some 'hands on' experience in which they all had to handle some wet weather causing some delays. Michael welcomed a chance to get out of his chair, put on his waterproofs and get thoroughly wet, just like the old days! The cream came to the top in the match play series having the top stroke play qualifiers Germany and Italy battle for the gold medal. It was also fitting that the top stroke play scorer, Tim Wiedemeyer holed the winning

putt for Germany on the 18th Hole. My friend Jean-Louis Dupont (Coco) would have approved. In the contest for bronze, despite sharing the foursomes in the morning, the Czech Republic failed to repeat their morning form and the Swedish Team ran out winners in the afternoon series.



The European Amateur and Boys' Team Championships, Division 2 was a very close affair. The Finnish Teams prevailed in both, but not without some dramatic events. The men's final looked comfortable for Finland until a spirited fight back by the Czech Republic who took 3 singles matches. The match was sealed by Jesse Waaralinnä for Finland on the 17th.



In the Boys Final, Finland won despite a good start by Norway in the foursomes.



The Ladies' Amateur was held at the rearranged venue, Royal Park Golf & Country Club I Roveri, Italy. A very strong field comprising 25 of the world's top women amateurs played in the Championship. In this high-quality championship, Swedish players took six out of the top 10 places which included positions 1, 3, 4, and 5. An impressive performance

by any standards. Ingrid Linblad, scoring -12, prevailed from Alexandra Försterling, Germany, -9, who prevented a Swedish whitewash. The Bronze medal was won by Sara Kjellker, -7, who had led after rounds 2 and 3. The victory earned Ingrid a spot in the AIG Women's Open at Carnoustie. Once again, many thanks to Italy in taking this, one of our flagship events at short notice.



The European Young Masters at Vierumäki Golf Club, Finland, provided the stage for the top under 16 players from 27 Nations to test their skills. Helen Briem of Germany excelled in the Girls' event winning with a score of 205 (-11), featuring



eagles and birdies regularly. Savannah De Bock of Belgium and Denisa Vodickova (CZE) tied on 207, Savannah taking the silver medal. In the Boys' event, Jorge Siyuan Hao of Spain, completed a five-stroke victory over early leader Tim Wiedemeyer of Germany. Turkish player Can Gurdeneli earned the final spot on the podium with a 69 in his last round. In the Nations' Cup, Germany led from start to finish. Spain edged out France for the silver by a single stroke.



Jurmala Golf Club, Latvia, hosted the Team Shield Championships. This new venue proved to be ideal both on and off the course. A total of 24 teams competed in both events. In the Ladies' event, the home team battled to the final and beat Poland to take their first EGA title. Ukraine beat Turkey 2-1 in their match for the bronze medal. Greece won Flight B without losing a match.



The Men's Team Shield was extremely tight, the top seven teams separated by just five strokes in the qualifying rounds. Malta and Lithuania led the stroke play and went on to meet in the Final. The championship was decided by the match between Laurens Schulze Doering of Malta and Gediminas Markevicius of Lithuania. A birdie on the 17th secured the championship for Lithuania. Bulgaria defeated Ukraine to take the bronze medal. Latvia took the Flight B title on home soil gaining maximum points.



The Jacques Légrise Trophy was contested at the famous Falsterbo Golfklubb. The Continent of Europe team was captained by Joachim Fourquet (FRA) with some wet and windy conditions to contend with. The first day was a close affair with the hosts claiming a one-point advantage over the GB&I side. On day two the control of the match swung towards the hosts, who secured 3.5 out of the 4 points in the morning foursomes. This left a mountain to climb for the visitors, made steeper following a comprehensive win in the third singles by Tiger Christensen over Jack Bigham. This left only two points to secure the overall win. Riccardo Fantinelli secured one of them and despite a spirited point from Harley Smith, Frenchman Oihan Guillamoundeguy holed the winning putt against the top ranked player in the field, Josh Hill.

Another win from Cameron Adam put another point on the board but other wins and a half from the Continent of Europe followed which resulted in a win by 16.5 - 8.5. Cameron Adam, Captain of the GB&I Team, graciously conceded that the foursomes was the key to the Continent of Europe's success but that his team will be back to keenly contest at Blairgowrie next year.



France vs Germany and bronze match of England vs Ireland. Ireland claimed the bronze medal against England 3.5 - 1.5. In the final, Francois Illouz and Pascal Grizot of France won the foursomes match, Germany took the singles matches and once again a reigning European Champion, Martin Birkholz, secured the final point.



BlackSeaRama, Bulgaria, was the popular venue for the European Senior Ladies' Team Championship. In windy conditions, the Spanish team faced Sweden in the quarter-finals in a close match. After a win over Switzerland 4.5-0.5 they went on to beat Germany in a close match to secure their first ever European Senior Ladies' Team Championship. Switzerland went on to claim the bronze medal from Belgium.



At Sedin Golf Club in Slovakia, there was a very strong entry for the Senior Men's Team Championship. Some old rivalries were rekindled. England and Ireland topped the qualifying stages. But it was Germany who went on to beat Spain and England to reach the finals. On the other side of the draw, it was France who came out on top against Ireland to set up an intriguing final of

We were treated to a feast of grass roots golf at Golf de Fontainebleau. 18 EGA Federation Clubs selected three players each to represent them in this three round stroke play event. Golf Club de Toulouse led from the start with their best two scores for the three rounds being 436. They were chased home by Golf-und Land-Club Berlin Wannsee e.V with a spirited last round total of 142. The German club pipped last years winners by one stroke scoring 438 . Smørum Golfklub, scored 439, a spirited performance in the defence of their title. Elisa Galli and Amalie Leth-Nissen tied on level par for the best individual scores.



Good luck to the competitors in the Men's Club Trophy to be played at Troia Golf, Portugal after this publication.



With a lot of good will on both sides everybody was delighted that the Junior Vagliano match was played at Hilversumsche Golf Club in the Netherlands. The Great Britain and Ireland side faced tough opposition away from home. After a slight delay for fog, the mist cleared to reveal a beautiful day for golf. The Continent of Europe started strongly in the foursomes securing a 2 - 1 lead by lunchtime. They forged further ahead in the afternoon singles winning four and halving one. On day two the Continent of Europe won all three foursomes to retain the Junior Vagliano Trophy, the overall score at the completion of all matches, being 14-4. Outstanding unbeaten performances by Meja Örtengren, Nora Sunberg of Sweden and Francesca Florenllini of Italy were a feature of the match. Gillian Roy, manager of the Great Britain and Ireland side had nothing but praise for the administration of the EGA and the NGF staff, "they catered for all our needs, the team loved the experience and there will be friendships made for life". A fitting tribute to golf at the end of a busy season.

Behind all these bare facts of scoring there are the realities of putts holed and missed, opportunities missed, good fortune, bad bounces and of course the weather. It all adds up to a season of golf, the game we love. But to make all this happen it needs a legion of willing workers at club, federation and association level, all pulling together on a daily basis.

As Championship Chairman I see how willing people are to give their time freely to help others enjoy competitive golf. The last two seasons have been difficult for all, and I would like to thank all my committee for their commitment to this cause.

Michael Thannhäuser has had a baptism of fire, but he and his team have been fantastic at handling everything that came their way. The professionalism of Arnaud, Josh, and Sabine and more recently Marine, is clear to see and much appreciated. Thank you all.

To say that the last two seasons have been interesting is an understatement, but it has been stimulating. There is a great future ahead for the EGA and I wish you all well. I am sure there will be challenges, but if they are met in the spirit of cooperation and good will on all sides they will be overcome.

I commend this, my last report to the AGM.

JR Jones
Championship Committee Chairman

