

Changes to the Divisional Delegates' Meeting Membership

The last Delegates' Meeting considered the following item

*There are currently some **176 people/posts entitled to attend the Delegates' Meetings for 59 clubs** who are the only members entitled to vote on any matter. There is a real danger that the voice and interests of the clubs will be (and has been in the past) lost in discussions.*

*It is therefore suggested that the **Management Committee undertake a review of the membership** with a view to reducing it so that **it includes only the essential, executive non-club members**. The review will report back to the next meeting with subsequent consultations with clubs about the Constitutional changes necessary.*

The meeting agreed to the suggested referral of this item to the Management Committee to propose changes.

The current composition is laid down in the Constitution

Divisional Delegate Meetings

9.5 *GBA Divisional Delegates Meetings will be attended by Divisional Officers & Officials and a maximum of two authorised delegates from each affiliated club having members of the relevant gender. Past Presidents who have passed from office by less than five years and members of sub-committees raised from time to time for specific purposes may attend meetings but without power to vote.*

17.4 *County Life Members may attend and speak at General or Divisional Delegate Meetings of the Association but have no voting rights beyond those associated with other roles.*

The number of posts this generates is

Clubs	2 x 59	108
Officers		13
Officials		34
Past Presidents		4
Finance		3
Middleton Cup		4
Life presidents		9
Life members		6
	Total	181

Many of these posts are filled by the same person so the number of people attending is less than this.

Possible new arrangements

Much of the detailed work of the division is undertaken by groups or committees, namely

- Benevolent Fund – Secretary and 4 trustees
- Competitions – Competition Secretary and 4 section competition secretaries
- County Match Selectors – Junior VP and 8 section selectors
- Finance – Treasurer and sub-committee of 3 members
- Greens – 8 members of the greens' group (2 per section)
- Middleton Cup – Team Manager and 4 section advisors

Currently all these people as classed as officials and can attend delegates' meetings.

Suggestion 1

Establish the principle that the chairman of a committee/group or their representative attends the delegates' meeting but the members of the committee/group do not attend

So, for example, the chairman of the Benevolent Fund would attend but the other trustees would not; a Chairman of the Greens' Committee attends to bring forward the views of the members of the group but the sectional green committee members do not have the right to attend.

A chairmen who was not an Officer would have the title '**Executive Official**' to distinguish them from the other group members whom would retain the designation of Official. There are other current officials who should similarly carry the designation executive official as they undertake a specific function, namely

JEC Representative (DR)
Bowls Development Officer (DR)
Child Protection Officer (vacant)
County Press Officer (vacant)
Website Manager (RG)
County Records Officer (AP)
County Greens Advisor (MS)

Suggestion 2

Reduce clubs to a single delegate

No change is suggested in attendance rights for past-presidents, life-presidents or existing life-members

In the future, however, a change is suggested. There are two routes for being granted the life-member honour in the Constitution

- 17.1 This honour may be awarded to a member who has given exceptional service to either their Club and/or to the Association

Suggestion 3

Where the life-member honour is awarded through exceptional service to the GBA, the person is also given the right to attend both delegates' meetings and the AGM. However, if the award is for club service, it would not carry these rights.

The effect of these changes if accepted would be to bring the delegates' meeting size down to

Clubs	59
Officers	13
Executive Officials	10
Past Presidents	4
Life presidents	9
Life members	6
Total	101

This is still quite large with some 20% of the membership being made up of 'honorary' members with no functional or other responsibilities. This number may decline in the future.