



SCOTTISH GOLF
UNION

18 June 2009

To: Club Secretaries

Dear Secretary

Scottish Golf Union Subscriptions – 2010 and beyond

The Scottish Golf Union endeavours to advise the annual per capita level to affiliated clubs as far in advance as possible. This year has been exceptional for two reasons – the unprecedented financial climate and the Union has reviewed the methodology for collecting subscriptions from affiliated clubs.

In reviewing the means of determining the subscription levels of clubs, we investigated what other golfing countries throughout Europe do and charge. They all use a per capita system as we do. Most charge a reduced per capita for junior members, which we do not and will not. Our current per capita charge of £7 per adult male member is used to determine what a club collectively is due to the Union, and is the second lowest in Europe being well below the average cost of £22. For your reference a summary of the per capita fees paid in various European countries is detailed overleaf.

The review determined to retain the current practice of collecting affiliation fees. The one exception to this is that from 2011 we will not include golf club members who do not have playing rights of any kind in their membership category in the calculation of what each club pays. The delay of one year in implementing this change allows us to collect better data on the number of members in this position and for clubs to plan accordingly, bearing in mind some clubs will gain from this change and others will not. Adopting this practice does not change the fact that the Union requires a certain level of income per annum to conduct its business and a consequence of removing this group of members from the subscription calculation is that the overall per capita level will rise. This is taken into account in the future figures outlined below.

In the current financial year the Union has, like many clubs will have done, reviewed and cut its cost base. We have been through our budgets line by line and made every saving possible, including reducing staff. Significant savings of 12% have been made from the original budget of August last in order to try and break even. These cost cutting measures will continue and will be carried forward into the new financial year.

That said there is a minimum cost for maintaining the functions of the Union. This includes staging national Championships at all levels and ensuring Scotland is well represented in international amateur golf such as defending the Eisenhower Trophy, our world team championship title. We need to continue to invest in developing junior golf through our national initiative Clubgolf to help ensure golf is played by future generations of Scots. A key focus must remain providing services that enhance the playing quality of golf courses through supporting green keeper training, developing case studies and good practice in managing golf courses in changing climatic conditions and continuing the provision of world leading advice on best practice for environmental matters to ensure sustainable golf course management, through the Scottish Golf Environment Group. Finally, supporting clubs in these difficult times to gain and retain members through initiatives such as the Golf Awareness Week and SGU Golf Central requires on-going and increased attention.

The Board has reviewed all options and determined the minimum level of financing required to deliver our Scottish golf strategy over the next three years. This includes taking into account a further reduction in membership numbers, after 2009 saw nearly a 3% overall reduction. As a consequence the Union's per capita level will be £8 for next year (2010) and then £9 in 2011 and £10 in 2012. From 2011 members with no playing rights will not be included in the per capita calculation. We hope providing this detail in advance assists clubs in your own forward planning.

It is the Board's view that these per capita levels will allow the Union to maintain its operations at a minimum level in supporting the development of golf in Scotland as well as continue to compete successfully on the world stage.

Yours sincerely

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Chairman

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European Per Capita Levels - 2009					Per Capita Subscriptions		
Country	Male	Female	Boys	Girls	Total	Male	Boys
England	719036	121851	64700	5313	910900	£4.50	£4.50
Wales	48653	7559	7366	979	64557	£9.50	£4.75
Ireland	192000	60120	3700	included	289120	£11.70	£4.50
Sweden	314718	145278	55484	17464	532944	£16.30	£9.50
Norway	77800	28340	12200	3660	122000	£19	nil
Denmark	90879	42362	9600	2469	145310	£17.90	£8.95
Netherlands	191000	97500	10000	4500	303000	£14.40	£7.20
Austria	54711	34863	7458	3234	100266	£26.20	nil
Italy	59107	23070	6489	3125	91791	£54.10	£19.90
France	239961	100602	28483	9229	378275	£41.50	£9
Portugal	10373	2871	840	258	14342	£43.30	£13.50
Scotland	193035	26383	23334	2798	245550	£7	nil