



Historic merger finalised

An update from the Ladies' Golf Union and The R&A

We have great pleasure in writing to inform you that the merger of the Ladies' Golf Union (LGU) and The R&A has been finalised and will come into effect from 1 January 2017.

The merger of the two governing bodies is a historic and hugely exciting step which will enable us to support golf and speak with one voice for all those who play – women and men and girls and boys.

A great deal of work has been carried out over the last year to bring the merger to completion and we would very much like to thank everyone who has played a part in the process and particularly the national associations, LGU affiliated clubs, partners and sponsors for the tremendous support we have received.

Integration

The integration of the two organisations puts us in a better, stronger position to realise our collective vision for growing the game of golf around the world and our combined resources and staff expertise will help us to achieve our shared aims for the development of golf.

The completion of the merger is a progressive and important move for the development of women's golf, including increasing girls' and women's participation and encouraging more families to enjoy golf as a recreational activity. Bringing the two organisations together creates a platform that will allow us to develop our aspirations for women's golf on a global stage and encourage more girls and women to play golf and become members of golf clubs.

Business operations

The LGU's business operations and its members of staff have been integrated into The R&A's group of companies and an agreed governance structure has been implemented to give LGU Board members representation on relevant R&A Committees. The LGU building on the Scores in St Andrews will be utilised by the merged organisation and will be included in a review of R&A facilities.

Championships

The R&A will also assume responsibility for staging the LGU's championships and international matches next year and we are delighted to be able to offer leading professional and elite amateur golfers opportunities to play in a world class series of events. The Ricoh Women's British Open will continue to be managed by IMG under the existing agreement with the LGU.

Information about the LGU's championships and international matches is being integrated into the Championships section of The R&A website www.RandA.org. This will include online entries, live scoring, competitor information, history, a list of previous winners and event archives.

Subscriptions

The merger will also see the phasing out of the LGU subscription, currently £2.50 per member, which is collected from women members of golf clubs affiliated to the LGU. The subscription will continue to apply in 2017 but will be phased out thereafter. The subscriptions collected in 2016 and 2017 will be used exclusively to help fund LGU operations.


Future briefings

You will find below a briefing covering some of the questions you may have about the merger and a full list of the 2017 championships and international matches. We trust you will find this information useful but if there are any further questions you have regarding the merger then please do not hesitate to contact us.

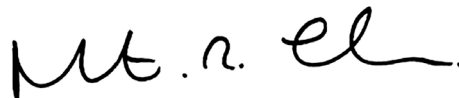
This briefing is the first in a series of communications to keep you updated on the progress of the merger. Representatives of the LGU's national organisations, affiliates and partners will also be invited to attend an in-person briefing at The R&A's Working for Golf conference in St Andrews next April.

We would like to close by wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. We will look forward to working with you in the years to come.

With kind regards,



Trish Wilson
Chair
Ladies' Golf Union



Martin Slumbers
Chief Executive
The R&A

The benefits of the merger

What does the merger with The R&A mean for the LGU?

The LGU's business operations have been integrated into The R&A's group of companies and the merger takes effect from 1 January 2017.

The two organisations' resources and staff expertise will be combined to focus on the achievement of shared aims for the growth and development of women's golf and the staging of world class championships and international matches each year.

What will happen to the LGU's Championships and International Matches?

The R&A will also assume responsibility for staging the LGU's championships and international matches next year and will integrate this within a full schedule of events. The objective is to give leading professional and elite amateur golfers opportunities to play in a series of world class events.

The Ricoh Women's British Open will continue to be managed by IMG under the existing agreement with the LGU.

What will happen to the LGU website?

Key historical and organisational information about the LGU and the merged organisation will be displayed on the R&A website www.Randa.org. Information about the LGU's championships and international matches is being integrated into the Championships section. This will include online entries, live scoring, competitor information, history, a list of previous winners and an event archive (where available). Followers of the LGU social media channels will be referred to the R&A equivalents which will feature a programme of content about the merger and LGU championships and development activities.

What will happen with overseas associations who are affiliated to the LGU?

Overseas associations will be able to affiliate to The R&A and will be contacted in the New Year.

Will you update LGU stakeholders on the progress of the merger?

A series of progress updates will be communicated to the LGU's national organisations, affiliates and partners in the course of 2017.

What will happen to the LGU's staff members?

The LGU members of staff have accepted positions with The R&A and will begin their tenure with the organisation from 1 January 2017. They will join relevant departments working in The R&A's current offices.

Will the LGU Board members be invited to join R&A committees?

An agreed governance structure has been implemented to give LGU Board members representation on relevant R&A Committees and this will take effect from 1 January 2017.

Is the LGU office closing?

The LGU's office at The Scores has been acquired as part of the merger and will be utilised by the merged organisation.

Will the LGU subscription still apply?

The LGU subscription, currently £2.50 per member, which is collected from women members of golf clubs affiliated to the LGU, will be phased out after 2017.

The subscriptions collected in 2016 and 2017 will be used exclusively to help fund LGU operations.

The 2017 Championship Schedule

Championship	Venue	Date
Coronation Foursomes	Various	1 January – 17 June
Ladies British Open Amateur Championship	Pyle & Kenfig	13 – 17 June
The Amateur Championship	Royal St George's and Prince's	19 – 24 June
The 146th Open – Regional Qualifying	Various	26 June
Vagliano Trophy and Junior Vagliano Trophy	Circolo Golf Bogogno, Italy	30 June – 1 July
The 146th Open – Final Qualifying	Various	4 July
The 146th Open	Royal Birkdale	20 – 23 July
Ricoh Women's British Open – Pre Qualifying	Hankley Common	17 July
The Senior Open Championship	Royal Porthcawl	27 – 30 July
Ricoh Women's British Open – Final Qualifying	Castle Course, St Andrews	31 July
Ricoh Women's British Open	Kingsbarns Links	3 – 6 August
The Boys Home Internationals	St Annes Old Links	8 – 10 August
Ladies and Girls Home Internationals	Little Aston	9 – 11 August
The Seniors Amateur Championship	Sunningdale (Old Course)	9 – 11 August
Girls British Open Amateur Championship	Enville	15 – 19 August
The Boys Amateur Championship	Nairn and Nairn Dunbar	15 – 20 August
The Jacques Leglise Trophy	Ballyunion (Old Course)	1 – 2 September
Ladies British Open Amateur Stroke Play Championship	North Berwick	6 – 8 September
The Walker Cup	Los Angeles Country Club	9 – 10 September
Ladies Senior British Open Amateur Championship	Royal Belfast	19 – 21 September
Ladies Senior Home Internationals	Newport	3 – 5 October

More information

For more information about the merger please visit www.RandA.org

If you have any further questions please email enquiries@randa.org

For regular updates on the merger and women's and girls' golf follow [@RandA](https://twitter.com/RandA) on Twitter