



Cornwall Golf – Unification Working Group – FAQ’s May 2025

What will Unification mean to me?

- At your home club it will be business as usual the likelihood being you will notice little difference. You can still enjoy playing golf in the same manner, playing with your friends in roll-ups, and entering your Club competitions in the usual way.
- At County level you may notice some differences. Such things as an integrated Cornwall Golf website which will deliver improved communications. You will have access to a county diary with online booking for county competitions, news updates, newsletters and competition results including matches.
- We will of course have a new look with a change of brand and logo. Both the men’s and ladies’ teams will have similar branded kit and the same “Cornwall Golf” logo.
- With such a busy unified county diary with over 100 events and matches each year you may notice a change from the norm with regards to dates of events and the months they are usually played in.
- With a unified body working together you may see both male and female officers and volunteers organising and running your events.
- Cornwall Golf is hoping that we may in the future run male and female events concurrently and give greater opportunity to host mixed events.
- With one unified body future AGM’s, EGM’s and General Meetings can be attended by both male and female affiliated members. There will be no delegate system in operation. The Cornwall Golf board of directors and staff will be responsible for the running of golf and its development. The board will be voted members representing golf in the county.

FAQs:

Will Cornwall Golf still have a President?

- The unification working group have proposed the new body will be represented by a County President. This will be an annual appointment. There will be an expectation where possible the President will attend and represent the county at both male and female events, matches and competitions. The current CLCGA President, Nikki Hodge, has been approached and recommended by the unification working group to be Cornwall Golfs first president in 2026. This clearly demonstrates a commitment to delivering equality, diversity and inclusion in all we do for golf in Cornwall. Following this the County President will alternate between male and female each year.

How many Directors will be on the Board?

- There will be a chairperson and five directors making up the board at the present time. The current director roles will be made up as follows:
 1. Director of Finance.
 2. Director of Performance and Development.
 3. Director responsible for Club Support.
 4. Director of Championships and Competitions.
 5. Director of Governance.

How many male/female Directors?

- The Articles of Association clearly set there must be a minimum of 30% male and 30% female on the board as any one time. The number of directors may well increase in the future once the initial chair and the Cornwall Golf team start to put together a programme and strategy for the future.

How will Directors be selected?

- A Nominations Committee will look to identify people with the right skill set for the Board of Directors. Once in place there will be a following programme of re-appointment.

Will clubs still have Delegates/Voting Representatives?

- The current delegates system operated by the CLCGA will no longer exist. Each club will have one representative who can cast one vote representing the interests of both male and female members of their club.

How many meetings will Club Representatives attend?

- Yet to be confirmed, an AGM and others as necessary.

Will there be a new Constitution?

- Both the CLCGA and the CGU will be dissolved once approval from voting members of each organisation is approved.
- Following this a Cornwall Golf Limited will be formed and the new framework under the Articles of Association will be adopted.

What about the assets of the CGU and CLCGA?

- The reserves and assets from each of the CLCGA and the CGU will be merged into a new entity - Cornwall Golf Ltd.
- Cornwall Golf Limited and the unification is being brought about to ensure golf in Cornwall is fit for the future as we head deeper into the 21st Century.
- All the assets and future income will be used sensibly to ensure we promote and develop the game of golf in the future.
- The expectations from our governing bodies such as the R&A and England Golf places a far greater onus on our organisations to be in control of our governance and legal frameworks.
- We all play golf in Cornwall thanks to all the golfers of the past that have been members of many of our clubs for over 100 years. Without their commitment to the game financially and no doubt in part volunteered time there would be no golf played in Cornwall.
- We have a duty as golfers to take golf in Cornwall well into the future. This requires income and the best possible management of funds. The world is now a different place and such organisations as ours will need to ensure we operate professionally and deliver the best possible service to the golf industry in Cornwall. We need to align ourselves with many of our own clubs and operate as more of a business and hence the incorporation.
- We cannot achieve this without proper frameworks and staff in place to deliver golf and its development across the county.

Will affiliation fees increase?

- The unification working group has been thorough in its process and we do anticipate a small increase in affiliation fees. The current financial officers from the CLCGA, and the CGI prepared a forecast for the 2026 year as we move into a unified body.

- A proposed increase will be presented to members once we have finalised our forecasts for the first year of unification.
- Members may well question why we are proposing an increase when we have a sizable asset. Such an asset will not last forever and we need to ensure we are a stable organisation as we move forward into a new and exciting future.
- There will be an increase in operating costs across many areas, from salaries to technical equipment and future development.
- The increase will see an additional cost to members that will represent excellent value for money when you consider what the affiliation fee gives you already from free county cards, competitions, championships and development of the game.

Will there be an increase in paid staff?

- Yes. The CGU currently operates with one full-time member of staff and one part-time member of staff. The CLCGA is entirely voluntary. It is anticipated that the combined workload of the unified body will require increased staffing to allow for efficient running of Cornwall Golf Ltd. The number of paid employees is still to be confirmed but will cover management of county operations, golf development and administrative support.

Who advises you on Unification?

- England Golf supply a template and advice from our County Club Support Officer. We have also liaised with other Counties who have already unified which has proved helpful.
- In addition to this we have a legal team in place.
- We have received funding from England Golf to support the unification process.

How will Cornwall Golf Ltd Support Sustainability?

- Cornwall Golf Ltd will be committed to following the guidance as directed by the England Golf Sustainability Policy.

Will the Championships for both Men and Women continue as they do at present?

- The plan for 2026 is the Championships and competitions will be as they have been to date. However, once the unified body is operating you may see changes as we plan for the 2027 season.

How will volunteers for sub- committees be recruited?

- For any interested parties from all clubs there will be advice on how to become involved by the end of the year.

Will we still have County Captains?

- The structure will be reviewed; likely each team will have a manager/team captain.

Are there any rules which are different for men and women that need to be changed?

- We will become one body working under the same Articles of Association. In all Cornwall Golf Ltd deliver it will be done so professionally and with fairness. Equality, diversity and inclusion will be at the heart of the organisation.