

Welcome to the UKWDGA AGM 2023 Secretary Report.

In writing this report for our second Annual General Meeting (AGM), I have to pinch myself to be reminded that we are only 19 months into the development of the UK Women's Disc Golf Association (UKWDGA) and that the 2022-2023 operating year is only the first full year since we agreed our Constitution with its aims and objectives. Zoë and I have worked extremely hard to keep the momentum going. Thanks to Zoë for your support, fun and the hard work you continue to contribute.

Membership 2022

The Membership year is January - December and membership grew to 73 Members throughout 2022, which considering we had hoped for 20 when we first started is somewhat incredible. *Gabriella Everett* volunteered her time and became Membership Assistant, and has played a valuable part of the membership processing, helping get membership letters ready to send out in a timely manner. Gabi has agreed to continue for another year, as per the Roles and Responsibilities for this position. Thank you for your time and help Gabi.

Membership 2023 to date

Renewal invitations were sent out to 2022 members mid-November and we advertised 2023 Membership benefits across socials and our website. We have had an amazing renewal takeup along with new members joining. To date we have 75 members for the 2023 year with hope that this will increase, a few of these members are international. Interestingly, we have had 20 females who have not renewed their membership to date. Despite being invited to complete a [survey](#), so that we may understand the reasons, no one returned a reply. However, from the number of members that have joined for 2023 it is evident that we have taken on 20 new to us females, which is wonderful. Trying to understand the changes that occur in women's lives would go some way to possibly helping others in the future, but we appreciate that not everyone wishes to share.

Noticeably we have sadly not seen a renewal from a number of 2021/22 members from Scotland and we have written to the Scottish Disc Golf Association (SDGA) raising concerns over this and asking what role they are taking in promoting disc golf for females. To date we are waiting for a response to see how we can work together. We are happy to report that we have gained several members from Northern Ireland where disc golf is obviously catching on.

Being a young organisation, made up of volunteers to run and promote it, we are limited in how much we can achieve on our own, so we are looking to press other disc golf associations within the UK to play their part too, as well as encouraging members to spread the word.

Supporters

Our work to gain support to enable us to deliver our aims and objectives has continued throughout the year. The Executive Members have worked hard convincing people once again that women are worth the investment. We have been overwhelmed with the support that has been shown in many guises, both from ongoing Supporters to new ones for the 2022/23 year. The Inventory link in the Treasurer Report shows the items that still remain available for use and only tells half the story in terms of written and verbal encouragement from some Supporters. We've had bespoke UKWDGA socks made and donated to us and even a tomato company sponsored our bag tags! We even convinced a printing company to print and donate our lanyard medal inserts for our 2022 Championships.

We have continued to have our Members Monthly Draw, a Christmas Draw and we've even had a Bingo Night, all with Supporter donations for prizes.

Support also comes from the many guys who come to our events too. There are several who have been to every event as well as those trying our events for the first time. A huge thank you to all our supporters, we appreciate you.

PDGA Europe Grant

We put together a business case to facilitate an application for funding from PDGA Europe Disc Golf Development Grant Program, as we felt that this financial support would give us the opportunity to keep our organisation going and become more established to promote our aims and objectives further. The grant application detailed what we wanted assistance for, including promotion of disc golf for women, sanctioning events and an event gazebo to add to our flags and banners, so that we become more visible when out and about. We were successful in receiving a grant, shown in the Treasurer Report, and have already started utilising this. We are required to produce a progress report back to PDGA Europe.

Website, Socials & Communication

Our website has been refreshed a little during the last year and is kept up to date monthly. With the Home, Beyond the Flight, Events and Membership pages being the most viewed. We have used the UKWDGA Facebook and Instagram pages to promote our activity more widely by using hashtags and these too have seen increased viewing.

Our Facebook Private Group continues to be the best way for members to communicate what they are doing as well as the Executive Members promoting good news and activities. However it is recognised that not all members use social media for a variety of reasons and we should therefore give some further thought to how we can be more inclusive in our communication methods.

Our Newsletter, Beyond the Flight, has proved popular for those not using social media as a means of catching up with what has happened in the month before release, as well as any up and coming events. It has also proved popular with many others in the wider disc golf community, as there have been far more unique clicks to open each issue than members of the UKWDGA. Hopefully this is expanding awareness that women play disc golf too!

We believe our reporting style of activities, events and celebrations across all platforms has raised the bar within UK disc golf circles, as we are seeing improved reporting elsewhere and this can only be good for the disc golf community.

Events Calendar

At the time of our last AGM we had just had our 2022 Spring Sling at Dunbar. Since then we have successfully organised and delivered events with some support of members in an Events Committee, helping to make decisions on prizes, player packs and local info on the courses of choice. Some of those individuals have also stepped up and either run an event as Tournament Director or helped out as Assistant. Thanks go to Elva Preston, Gabi Everett, Amanda Humphries and Melodie Zehnder.

Our delivered events;

2022 Summer Soiree - Longford Park, Stretford

2022 Women's Global Event (WGE) - Lilford Park, Leigh

2022 UK Women's Disc Golf Championships - Quarry Park, Leamington Spa

2023 Winter Wonderland - King George V NG18, Mansfield

2023 Spring Sling - Beacon Park, Lichfield

We are proud and delighted with the standards of the events put on during the last 12 months. Female participation has been on the increase and with all divisions open for registration our events have also appealed to newcomers to competition and age-protected players, who have been excluded from being able to play in these types of divisions at other events across the UK. We have continued to adopt an ethos of optional player packs, to keep the costs down to play. The player packs and prizes offered have been of a 'usable and reusable' nature rather than the often offered trophy & discs. We have had lots of positive feedback via our post-event surveys and some helpful suggestions.

2022 & 2023 Bag Tag League

In 2022 we saw plenty of participation in the UKWDGA Bag Tag League. Concluding in November 2022 our 1st, 2nd and 3rd successful players received store vouchers from the league sponsor Ace Disc Golf, with prizes also going to players who had played the most players for tags and the most courses played whilst playing for tags.

Our 2023 Bag Tag League commenced in January, launched at our Winter Wonderland event. Gaining two Sponsors, The West Plaza Tomato Company who wanted to provide our actual bag tags and Carbella Designs who are providing some gorgeous disc golf bags as prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. From our extensive inventory we will be looking to present other prizes as the league year concludes, as well as a mystery draw for all participants presenting photos of the outcome of their bag tag challenges.

Celebrating success

From the catalyst of what is now referred to as the Original UK Women's National Bag Tag League with 46 Members, we have worked hard to engage with Supporters and increase the participation of women in disc golf across the UK. Obviously after a relatively short time we have only just got started and continue to learn what is working, what is not and also realise how much there is to do. We can report on what our initial steps have achieved and acknowledge that we are only sharing part of the story, as not all people who play disc golf want to compete. We can demonstrate some measurables as a baseline, and look to see how other data can be collected in the future.

In 2018-2020 there were as little as 5 individual female players competing in two or more events across all PDGA Sanctioned Tournaments in the UK. The introduction of the Original Bag Tag League in 2021 increased that participation to 46 in the League and there was increased interest in sanctioned events. However in 2022, the UKWDGA created the start of a supportive community with 73 members, where 65 unique individuals played in 1 x PDGA sanctioned tournament and from those 65 participants, 50 played 2 or more events. The UKWDGA has had the most female participants at their PDGA Sanctioned events out of any UK based PDGA Sanctioned Disc Golf Events in 2022. In 2019, 25 females were registered with the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA). In 2022 there were 53 UK based females registered with the PDGA which has recently reduced to 41 for the 2023 PDGA year. Just to add to this, out of those PDGA members, 16 are now PDGA Qualified Rules Officials.

We know there are women out there playing who are not part of these statistics and never will be, however our aim is to encourage more women's participation in this amazing activity of disc golf, both recreationally and competitively, and we will continue to strive for that broad goal.

Our strapline for 2023 - ***We Grow, Support, Mentor, Encourage, Engage and Nurture Women's participation in disc golf*** and this is our mantra to keep us focused on our mission.

Carole Findlay UKWDGA Secretary