



THE PGA OF HUNGARY

The ninth in our monthly series that takes a random look at member PGAs in turn.

A 'New' PGA Sharing in Eastern Europe's Golf Explosion

Golf's explosion of interest in Eastern Europe is becoming one of the sporting phenomena of the 21st century... and among the many inspiring features of this seemingly limitless growth potential is the way that PGAs are responding to the challenge.

Here we have regions that could have been created by nature for the very purpose of accommodating sublime golfing facilities yet were, for many years, prevented by the prevailing political climate from doing so.



László Tringer

Now, happily, countries that were previously sidelined by circumstances, as golf blossomed elsewhere, are rejoicing in the benefits that the sport can engender in terms of healthy exercise and relaxation for the community along with business and tourism opportunities.

Due to problems with the previous administrations, Hungary founded a new PGA in 2002 and virtually 're-started from scratch' with just two qualified professionals, László Tringer and Damien McPherson.

It meant that they were a little behind some neighbouring countries in this regard but the good news is that the 'new' PGA of Hungary is catching up fast.

As László can describe in some detail, the existing set-up of which he is a hands-on President, has both a total awareness of the job opportunities that lie ahead as development takes place, and an appetite to welcome them in a professional manner while 'working together' with The PGAs of Europe.

The PGA operates in tandem with the amateur Federation and, as a result of the groundwork now in place, the PGA's training programme is running effectively as the only one allowed to do so. Based at the University of Budapest it complies with the relevant legislation that working as a sports coach in Hungary requires a licence from the state.

With development of new facilities already robustly underway around the country, all necessary ingredients are in place. Considerable investment is creating some six new courses to add to a similar number already in existence as golf gradually raises its profile.

Gone now are the days when uncertainty



Áron Makszin

existed about the status of the PGA of Hungary and when non-qualified 'teachers' were giving lessons, many of them with high handicaps themselves, and thereby setting new players off on entirely the wrong foot.

There are now an additional fourteen qualified PGA professionals in Hungary, thanks to the establishing of the training programme, other graduates are emerging.. Consequently the way forward is becoming clearly defined under the watchful eye of Education Committee chairman Leif Ohlsson, and colleague Jonathan Mannie.

The PGA of Hungary The Facts

President / Chairman: **László Tringer**
 CEO / General Secretary: **Áron Makszin**
 Asst CEO / General Secretary: **Orsolya Szántó**

Number of Members: 27
 Full: 23
 (Female): 1
 Trainees: 4

Beautiful Balaton 'Golfing Destination in Waiting'

Few Westerners have heard of 'Balaton', but if forecasts emanating from those who have visited the region, prove to be accurate, the day will dawn when it is high on the list of golfing destinations.

Beautiful Balaton features the largest lake in Central Europe, with all the attractions that go with such a vast and scenic locality and is therefore a holiday paradise.

Among those who are profoundly aware of the region's attractions are golf course developers with designs on using the beauty of its natural surrounds to build attractive facilities there.

Located some 50 miles southwest of Budapest it has an area of 231 square miles and extends for 48 miles along the southern foothills of the Bakony Mountains at its widest point, Lake Balaton measures about nine miles.

If planning permission allows, there is ample space for golf to expand in an area rich in wine growing and other popular attractions of all description to offer for tourism.



Lake Balaton

Did You Know?

- Hungarian golf goes back to the beginning of the 20th century when they had many well-known amateurs.
- Count Géza Andrassy introduced the sport into Hungary in 1902.
- The first golf club in Hungary was founded in 1911 at Széchenyi Hill, a difficult course in a very beautiful setting (the legendary Bobby Jones played there).
- The European political strife of the second half of the 20th century did not favour the development of golf in the region for 40 years.
- The sport only started developing again at the end of the 1980s when a new golf course was built at Kisoroszi, where the Blue Danube Golf Club was established. This was followed by the formation of the Hungarian Golf Association who immediately joined the European Golf Association.
- The best known course in Hungary is the Birdland Golf Country Club in Bük. Other Hungarian golf courses include St Lorence, Hencse National, Old Lake and Pannonia.