



ENGLISH DISC GOLF ASSOCIATION

# National Director AGM Report 2025

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## Summary

- 2025 was a year of major change and progress for the EDGA, despite challenges and growing pains.
- The organisation restructured, worked with UKU and SDGA, and aimed toward forming a unified UK flying disc body.
- Two board members resigned early in the year, creating pressure but the remaining team adapted to maintain operations.
- New volunteers joined to improve social media, website strategy, and potentially the Secretary role.
- Mandatory EDGA membership for Tour events was introduced; it aligned with international standards but raised communication concerns.
- Member engagement has been low and often inconsistent; EDGA plans more updates, surveys, and open discussions to improve this.
- Team GB had strong representation at major international competitions including The World Games, European Championships, and European Masters.
- Work toward Sport England recognition slowed but progress continues, especially around unifying UK disc golf bodies and increasing membership.
- Priorities for 2026 include stronger governance, improved communication, better membership systems, development pathways, and continued work toward sport recognition.
- The organisation thanks members and volunteers and remains committed to building a stronger, more connected disc golf community.

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## 1. Introduction

2025 has been a year of significant change and development for the EDGA. We have successfully navigated this period of transition, which has highlighted our passion for disc golf but also tested our resilience. There were some bumps along the road, but overall, I feel it was a fantastic first year as the English Disc Golf Association.

This restructuring has not come without its problems, teething pains, and necessary adjustments. Leading this organisation this year has been both challenging and rewarding as we have made strides to reorganise flying disc sport in the UK, linking up with UKU and SDGA, reaching some agreements to move forward with the asks of WFDF to form one flying disc body to represent all disc sports in the UK. We have also witnessed the success of our home-grown players and teams representing Team GB playing at 3 large and prestigious international competitions.

Despite these briefly mentioned difficulties, the EDGA has made important progress in strengthening governance, identifying communication issues, and contributing to the growth of the sport nationally and internationally.

## 2. Organisational Change and Transition

Early in 2025, the EDGA began implementing approved changes from last year's AGM. We undertook these structural adjustments to set up the EDGA for the future. These changes were a multitude of needed alterations and showed that we were doing the right thing, but exposed gaps in communication, consistency, and execution. This was further dampened by the loss of a few board members mentioned in the next section and the overall availability and time of a few others to commit to needed tasks and work.

Encouragingly, we've already welcomed new volunteers who have stepped forward to fill key roles and strengthen our operational capacity:

- Nick Chan has joined as Social Media Officer, bringing valuable experience to help improve our communication and public engagement.
- Paul Knutton has taken on the role of Website Strategy Officer, supporting the ongoing development of our digital presence in regards to our new website and other online resources.
- Connor Harvey-Ward has expressed interest in taking up the Secretary role, which would be a significant boost to our administrative operations and internal coordination.

These additions represent a positive and necessary step forward in expanding our volunteer base, distributing workload more effectively, and ensuring we have the right

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expertise to support the EDGA's growing responsibilities. We will always need more members to step forward and offer their skill sets in any and all capacities, so please do not be shy.

### 3. Board Resignations

Early in the year, two board members took the difficult decision to step away from their roles. Their contributions to the EDGA were valued, and we extend our thanks for their time and effort in supporting the Association and the sport.

Their departures came during a crucial period of organisational transition and required the remaining board members to show off their flexibility and resilience. There were a few things that got left out, like the updating of the new website and the follow-up of the monthly "town hall" discussions, where we had planned to gather feedback on our progress. The team responded well and banded together to cover the workload, redistributing responsibilities and maintaining the organisation's operations without significant disruption. This experience underlined the importance of effective succession planning and teamwork within the organisation.

### 4. Mandatory Membership for EDGA Tour participation

One of the most significant alterations in 2025 was the implementation of mandatory EDGA membership for players participating in sanctioned EDGA Tour events. The aim of this policy was to align with international standards, boost membership numbers for the reapplication of sport recognition with UK Sports Councils, and enable better data management and player support.

However, this revealed several challenges as some members expressed concerns regarding costs, timing, and the clarity of communication around the change. We recognise that the introduction could have been managed with greater consultation and transparency. However, the policy represents a key step toward the growth of disc golf in England and the UK.

A review is being conducted in the form of a tour and year end feedback form to refine the membership structure, improve communication, and ensure the system remains accessible and fair to all players.

### 5. Member Engagement and Feedback

Throughout the year, one of the ongoing difficulties has been a lack of consistent feedback from members. While a number of individuals and clubs have offered constructive insights, broader engagement across the membership base has been limited. Most engagement was

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through social media channels and personal pages. Some of these were not very constructive and actually quite counterproductive.

On numerous occasions, the Board and I asked for people to contact me directly if they wanted to discuss anything about what we were doing as an organisation, but the responses have been thin. Even in the run-up to this AGM, I have not received many messages or any emails addressing any concerns. This has made it exponentially more difficult for the EDGA to ensure that our decisions fully reflect the needs and perspectives of the wider community. To address this, the Board plans to strengthen communication channels and create more opportunities for members to share their views. Initiatives will include:

- Regular updates to members
- A continual membership survey
- Open online discussion sessions to gather feedback and ideas

The goal is to make member engagement easier, more transparent, and more meaningful ensuring that all members feel their voices contribute to the direction of the Association.

### 6. International Representation ~ Team GB Disc Golf

A major highlight of 2025 has been the continued success of Team Great Britain at key international competitions. The EDGA, alongside the SDGA, supported British representation at several prestigious events, showcasing the depth of talent across the countries.

*A. The World Games – Chengdu, China:* After a 20-year hiatus, Team Great Britain was proudly represented at The World Games in Chengdu, China, by Rachel Turton and Ben Holding. Competing against the world’s elite, both players performed with professionalism and composure, gaining invaluable experience on the sport’s most visible international stage. Our invitation to this event and their selection marked another important milestone for Great Britain’s presence in global disc golf.

*B. European Championships – Sula, Norway:* At the European Championships in Sula, Norway, Team Great Britain was represented by Rachel Turton, Bella Tait, Ben Holding, and Joe O’Brien. The team demonstrated great skill, commitment, and sportsmanship in a highly competitive field, further strengthening the UK’s reputation within the European Disc Golf Federation (EDGF) and across the continent.

*C. European Masters Championships – Salzgitter, Germany:* The European Masters Championships in Salzgitter, Germany, saw strong representation from Great Britain, with Iain McDougall, Derek Robins, Sue Underwood, Ben Heywood, and Laura Fyfe competing. Their performances reflected the strength and depth of the UK’s Masters divisions, and their dedication served as an excellent example of the passion and competitiveness that define our sport.

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These international appearances provided valuable experience for all athletes involved and reinforced the importance of cross-national collaboration. The EDGA remains proud to support players contributing to Team Great Britain's success on the world stage. Up next, we will have the 2026 WFDF World Teams Championship in Lithuania in September. EOI will be released soon, and all members of EDGA or SDGA can put themselves forward for selection to represent GB at this new look event. This year will see a new format where there will be 2 different teams (MPO/FPO and a Masters) competing in a similar structure to years past. I invite any and every one to drop their name in the hat for the chance of selection.

### 7. Sport Recognition

With the smaller board we had with resignations and no one to step into responsibilities, We did not progress much with an actual reapplication to Sport England. However, we have been addressing issues that caused the need for the withdrawal of our initial application. The transformation of the organisation to the EDGA is one of those steps. One of the biggest red flags was the existence of multiple disc golf bodies across the UK. If we show the councils we are working together, this will strengthen our future reapplication. We have been conducting meetings with the SDGA over the year to plan out what a joint disc golf body will look like, how it will be structured, and what responsibilities it will have.

The closing of the UKWDGA is also something that could affect the application. We have plans to continue the work the brilliant ladies at UKWDGA were doing in the coming year. This was another question from the contact at Sport England. If the then BDGA was representing all disc golfers in the UK, why do these other bodies need to exist?

Membership numbers also were in the discussion for recognition which is why it was made mandatory to compete on tour. We still need to find a way to increase these to aid in the application and we are striving to move closer to completion in 2026.

### 8. Looking Ahead

Looking toward 2026, the EDGA's priorities will focus on stability, inclusivity, and growth. The Board will work to:

- Strengthen governance processes and define clearer Board roles
- Refine the membership system to balance accessibility and sustainability
- Improve communication and transparency with members
- Develop clearer pathways for player development and international representation
- Build stronger partnerships with clubs, regional bodies, and event organisers
- Continue work towards recognition of the sport by Sports Councils

These goals will ensure that the EDGA continues to evolve into a robust, credible, and

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forward-looking organisation that supports both the grassroots and elite levels of disc golf in England.

## **9. Conclusion**

2025 has been a year of both challenge and progress. The EDGA has continued to adapt, learn, and grow while supporting our athletes, members, and events at every level. From managing internal change to representing Great Britain internationally, the organisation has demonstrated resilience and commitment to the sport's future. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the EDGA Board, our members, volunteers, and all who have contributed to our progress this year. Together, we have laid the groundwork for continued success and a stronger, more connected disc golf community in the years to come.

Iain McDougall  
National Director - English Disc Golf Association

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