WAGS Committee meeting 13th November 2019

Attendees: Shutes (AS), Bunning (CB), McGuffie (GM), Latham (RL), Hill (RH), Trinick (RT), Fawcett (TF). Captain Berring F (FB). Handicap sub committee P. Middleton (PM)

Apologies: J Stembridge (JS)

The meeting commenced at 1930 hrs at The Rose & Crown. Beer was already flowing well beforehand.

Our new Chairman **(AS)** gave a big thanks to our recently departed Chairman, Mike Dearden, and welcomed the new Secretary **(TF).**

Handicaps (GM). GM advised that the handicap scoring system update process is now described in detail on the website. The 'World Handicap System' is not due to launch in England until November 2020. An amended WAGS handicap system based on this would have to wait until the start of the 2021 WAGS season. There will be a year end review of Wags handicaps. **PM** gave some examples of how we would fare under the new system such as TF, McCabe, Ayres and Poil all of whom would face cuts!

1. **Membership (CB). CB** announced two new members, Nigel Field and Mark Brown, who should start 01/01/20 paying the standard joining fee and annual sub. **FB** suggested the joining fee of £10 should rise. The point was reiterated that new members scores do not count until 12 months (NOT calendar year) has passed since joining. **AS** said the first three rounds are required to validate a new member's handicap and they should play with a committee member.

2. **Finance (RH). RH** is considering going to the Cayman Islands such is the rude health of the accounts. However, **RH** said we lost money on some events this year but overall we made money on the fixtures. We paid too much to Richmond Park where **RH** is requesting a rebate.

   FB asked if all members had paid up their accounts. There are a few who haven't and polite action will be taken to request any such member brings their account into line.

   FB said whilst it is difficult to know in advance how many games one will play in a given year it is important to pay the annual fee plus a small amount extra to cover the start of the year as Wags has to pay in advance to golf clubs. In addition, if Wags was to fold, would Wags members get their money back? **PM** asked if we should reduce the £130 requested at the start of the season to £100.

   ACTION: It was agreed we would leave it at £85 joining fee plus £45 extra and we will consider raising the £85 annual fee to £100 at the Sept '20 AGM. It has been £85 for a long time.

3. **Merchandise (RT).** **RT** said his palatial home is overloaded with "stuff" and he may arrive at West Byfleet '20 with a van load of gear to give away! He will aim to get Wags shirts emblazoned with Lions and Wags motif for the South Africa tour in '21. There will be no new merchandise in '20.

4. **Fixtures (RL).** Everyone is responsible for their own safety. WAGS does have third party cover for UK events but this excludes buggies. There is no overseas cover and members are strongly advised to obtain their own cover. The SA tour is likely to cost circa 1K per head.

   FB felt that we should concentrate on golf on the tour rather than being encouraged by other sporting events occurring at the same time.

   The Burhill Xmas Cracker will involve 5 Wags teams. Team Captains are to arrange their own team payments are made to Burhill directly. Wags are NOT responsible for this.

   A vote was called for regarding a tour to Scotland and the committee voted 6-2 for such a tour in June '20 possibly. **RH** and **RL** to arrange. At the time of writing it has been noted that some WAGS may prefer Portugal. Or even Suffolk? Potential member ballot to take place.

   ACTION: Initial ballot on a) no tour except Somerset, b) Portugal, c) UK. Only if UK gets the vote do we then ballot Scotland or Suffolk.

   W Byfleet will be the first venue in '20 w/c 16th March.

   Seaford is to stay on the fixture list despite the risk to life.

   Richmond will now be arranged by **TF** as Andy Burn has handed over the baton.

   It was suggested we might move Camberley Heath to another venue such as Farnham GC as the food at CH was not good. **GM** and **RL** will look into this as a possible replacement. **RL** is keen to have two new venues each year. The two new venues being chosen will be for the Stembridge Sandwedge and the McGuffie Quaich.

   The Somerset Tour will take place 4-6th Sept '20.

   RL will aim to provide provisional fixtures in mid January '20 however **CB** thought it best to get on and produce the fixture card even if some event dates may change. **RH** will arrange the list in January.

5. **AOB:** The Wags January social is open to all and their partners on Friday 31st January at the Rose & Crown. A table will be booked for this and an invite via email to be sent out. **MG/TF** to arrange.

6. Next Committee meeting and venue. tba

The Meeting closed at 2000 hrs.