WAGS Committee meeting 23rd November 2023

The Rose & Crown - Wimbledon

Attendees: Bunning (CB), Wells (MW), Latham (RL), Stembridge (JS), Fawcett (TF), Middleton (PM), Trinick (RT), McGuffie (GM), Hill (RH), Field (NF)

Apologies: Berring (FB)

Our Honourable Chairman CB opened up the meeting for what was his final hurrah as Chairman. CB has served Wags in admirable and honourable style for the past 20 years and more latterly as Chairman. Not only has he served Wags with a high degree of aplomb but his help and leadership has proved to be invaluable over the years to help the Society continue to flourish and develop. CB, you will be sorely missed at our future meetings however being a local lad you are always most welcome to a beer or three should you get any kind of withdrawal symptoms in future.

CB began the meeting at 7.30pm following a number of well earned beverages and hearty meal for all committee members.

Fixtures - RL

RL opened up by informing us that most of the venues for 2024 are sorted and we agreed to sub Richmond again to ensure another large turnout.

The tours have yet to be fine tuned.

Bournemouth update:

Friday 7th June: Broadstone unavailable. This has been replaced by Barton on Sea with 11am tee off. Full English beforehand.

Sat 8th June: Isle of Purbeck confirmed with 2pm tee off (lunch available not included).

Sun 9th June: Remedy Oak GC. 1.30pm tee off.

RL is comfortable with the previously quoted price £365 (single supplement £130) however it might even be less.

Nine holes at the Isle of Purbeck from 10.30am is available. We agreed to leave this optional as it will not be a Tourist Trophy / VL event.

Remedy Oak has a lot of support from those committee members who have played there, however it is expensive at around £150 pp although RL has managed to reduce this to £135pp plus £10 pp for sandwiches and chips. RL will see if he can negotiate that down further. Hence the reason we will leave this course until the Sunday as a non VL event for all those who want to pay and play this magnificent course. The committee vote was a 50/50 split.

The stay will be 2 nights and three VL rounds. The Carlton Hotel is the place where we will stay.

Mark Adams had forwarded a Belgium Tour idea to RL which RL forwarded to all committee members. After due consideration the feeling was that Bournemouth offered a more attractive tour and cost. In addition the Belgium option showed a lack of single rooms. A big thank you to Mark for preparing a tour idea. We may well revisit this in future.

Burn Butt/Latham Salver Autumn Tour update:

RL has obtained a quote for Cadiz 18-22 September 2024.

Here is the electronic itinerary (WETU)

https://wetu.com/Itinerary/Landing/13841378-E9B8-4A14-95FA-76F97A4E8AE8

Price £ 593 pp sharing / single suppl £ 264

This is based on the 4* Barcelo Occidental hotel which is only a 12 minute taxi ride to the town centre.

https://www.barcelo.com/es-es/occidental-cadiz/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=my_business&utm_content=7354

A nicer hotel with a much better central location is the Parador but this increases the price to £850pp sharing / £416 single supplement.

https://paradores.es/es/parador-de-cadiz?utm_source=GoogleMyBusiness&utm_medium=linkgoogle&utm_campaign=paradordecadiz&utm_term=organico&utm_content=ficha

As a result the committee agreed we would stay at the Occidental on the grounds of cost.

Flights in and out of Seville currently at £355 pp economy are additional.

Carrier	Flight No.	From	To	Departure	Arrival	Duration	Stops	Cabin	Aircraft Type
British Airways Operated By Ba Euroflyer	BA2650	LONDON, (GATWICK) Terminal S	SEVILLA, (SEVILLA AIRPORT)	WEDNESDAY 18 SEP 17:10	WEDNESDAY 18 SEP 20:55	02h45	No Stop	Economy	Airbus Industrie A320
British Airways Operated By Ba Euroflyer	BA2651	SEVILLA, (SEVILLA AIRPORT)	LONDON, (GATWICK) Terminal S	SUNDAY 22 SEP 18:25	SUNDAY 22 SEP 20:10	02h45	No Stop	Economy	Airbus Industrie A320

Please note that there will be an alternative flight option via Easyjet but they have not yet released their September 2024 dates.

The courses would be:

Sherry Golf Jerez
Villanueva Golf Club
Sancti Petri Hills Golf Club

The stay would be 4 nights B&B and three rounds.

RL is also looking at Cascais in Portugal but has not yet got a sensible price for it (currently over £1,000 pp plus flights). More information to follow in due course if a lower price warrants it consideration.

Accounts – RH

RH confirmed the accounts are in good order. There is a healthy £10,000 in the bank.

Handicaps – GM

The R&A has now come up with World Handicap System revisions which are coming into force for the UK and Ireland on 1st April 2024.

More information can be seen on the R&A website.

JS suggested the Handicap Committee take this away and come up with whether we change or continue with the Slope Rating system.

Otherwise the Wags Handicap system is working well! We had lots of different winners in 2023 so something has to be right!

Merchandise - RT

RT trundled in around 7.45 pm to add his wit and humour to the proceedings as ever! Armed with various garments from bygone days he had no shortage of takers for them.

RT mentioned that a Black or Navy Blue Under Armour Gilet might be the new order of the day for those cooler days out on a course. He can get a price of £65 and we agreed it would make an excellent addition to Wags arsenal of attire and that Navy Blue is the preferred colour. It will also carry the Wags logo.

Website - JS

JS said all is working well. He now has a lot more time to devote to the website (thanks to relinquishing his responsibilities at AFC Wimbledon). JS thinks the website is in need of a makeover and needs a more modern look. He will be looking at this in the weeks and months ahead.

Membership – MW

We have 50-55 members and that's the way we should keep it for our insurers. However, if any Wag has not played at least three times we do think that their introducer has a quiet word with the member as we would not want to stand in the way of someone joining the Society because we are apparently full.

AOB

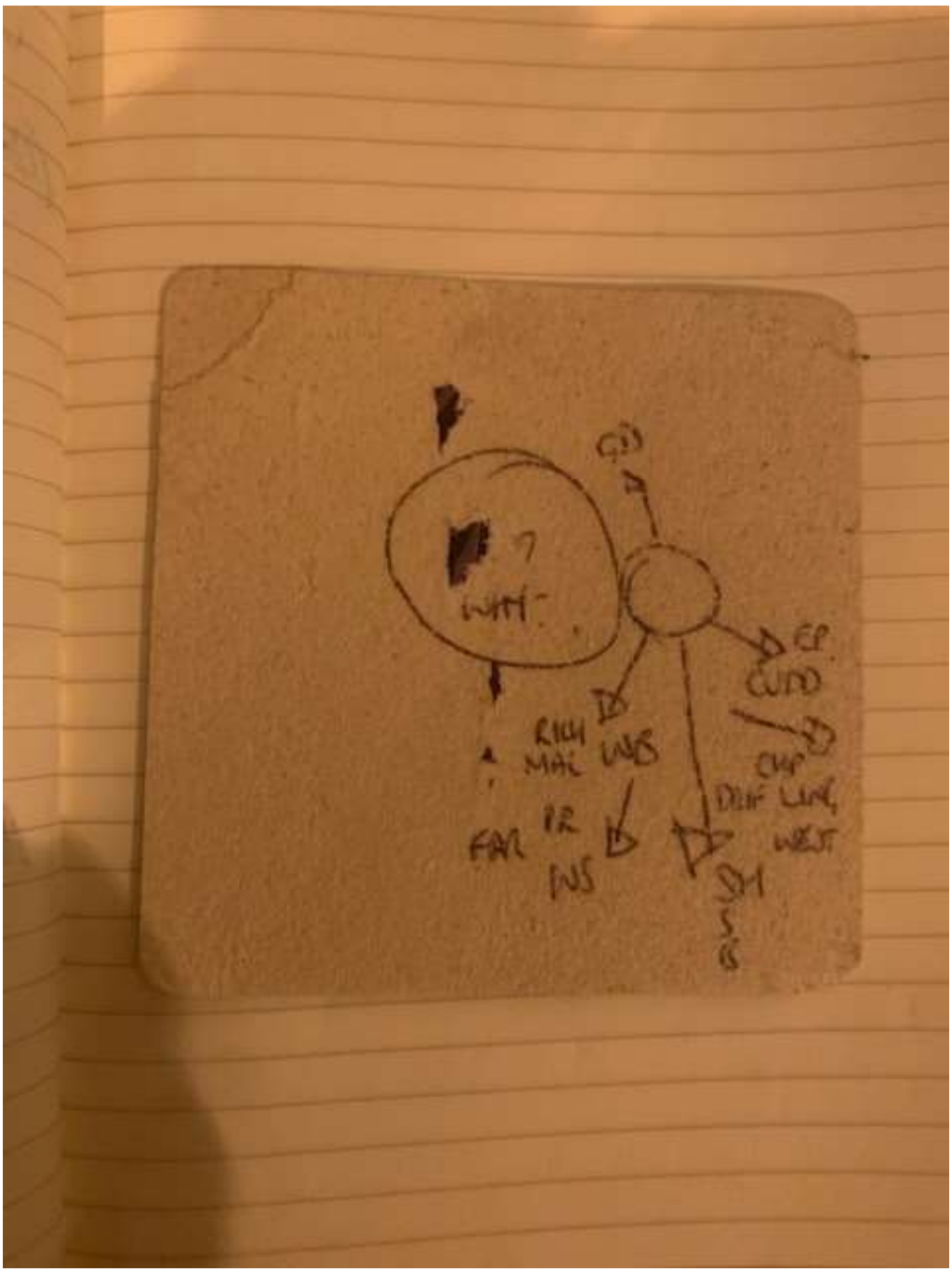
Congratulations to RH for winning the 2023 VL just one point ahead of RT! A much closer end to the season than one might have imagined a week or two prior. Whilst RH was content to sit it out watching football, RT was scoring particularly well at Pine Ridge. Just one or two putts more RT!!! Well done in getting so close. RH was presented with the VL. Well played Bob!

TF was presented the Chairman's Trophy by CB for maintaining and writing up the Minutes which is certainly no quick number but hugely enjoyable helping Wags to keep informed of events. A big thanks from me! It is much appreciated.

Prior to the meeting the honourable member Martin Dilke-Wing mentioned to a number of committee members that nearly all the standard venues are

centred on South West London and beyond which is true. However most members live around that geographical area so it was felt the venues are a true representation of where the majority can get to within relative ease. If we spread our wings even further it might be that many members cannot make events and thus numbers might be smaller than would be the case otherwise.

He carefully mapped out how the geographical spread currently looks!



MW raised the point that Wags does however need to be inclusive and be careful on costs.

Welcome to our new Chairman Mike Wells and our new Membership Secretary Nigel Field!

CB closed the meeting at 9pm.

Tom Fawcett - Secretary