WAGS Committee Meeting 6th March 2024

The Rose & Crown - Wimbledon

Attendees: Wells (MW), Latham (RL), Stembridge (JS), Trinick (RT), McGuffie (GM), Hill (RH), Field (NF), Berring (FB)

Apologies: Middleton (PM), Fawcett (TF)

The Chairman (MW) opened up his inaugural Committee Meeting at 19.20. With our Secretary (TF) absent, it was decided that each Committee Member would draft their own Minutes to be reviewed and incorporated into a blended document, below:

Fixtures - RL

RL referred to the fixtures list which everyone had received; two areas of discussion ensued:

Upcoming fixtures:

West Byfleet - proving popular again with 30 signed up already. RL mentioned that numbers greater than 30 would result in an earlier tee off. There were groans at this news and some wondered whether we should cap numbers at 32 or 33 but it was decided to stick to the current 36. RT & RL to monitor.

Cuddington - off to a good start with 20 signed up already.

Richmond GC - had surprised us with a higher than normal increase in costs from £120 to £140 (plus £5 for a bacon roll). RL had contacted the club to appeal this but was turned down, reporting that we have no favours from this Club due to past alcoholic behaviour! It was agreed to pass on the increase to members but still maintain a WAGS subsidy of £20 pp and review the situation for next year in September.

It was also decided to return to the Carvery lunch rather than the Braai which we had enjoyed since the Pandemic.

Turning to tours, RL reported that everything was on track for Bournemouth with 27 signed up for the Friday / Friday night and 26 for the Saturday / Sunday. It would be possible to sign on more if required.

There was a discussion around a couple of members who have elected to play golf but stay elsewhere. This was felt by many to be anti-social and a shame, but there might be reasons for this. MW to discuss with those two and report back.

Regarding Cadiz RL asked RH to stand by for a deposit for £200 pp (£ 4,800). He is still negotiating the final invoice, especially the transfer costs and once agreed with Madrid, will send to RH for action. It was also agreed that those

flying with Zeta / BA (15) would have to pay for transfer costs separately from the rest of the tourists who were making their own way to Cadiz.

The tour is currently "full" with 24 signed up but RL thought there would be room for up to 4 more if required; he reported that Simon Marrett would be interested if he could sign up his friend Tim Scott for membership, and this tour. This was agreed.

Accounts – RH

RH confirmed the accounts are generally in good order. A schedule of Members balances was discussed and it was noted that there are a few "Outliers" where balances were deemed by the Committee to be unacceptably high. The general feeling was that it is unfair for those members in credit to effectively subsidise those in deficit.

In addition, RH provided an analysis of attendances over the last three full seasons which identified that there are a few Members who haven't met the minimum criteria of a minimum of three events to be played each year. It was decided to discuss this issue under the Membership Secretary's report (see below).

A further analysis of the event cost comparison with previous years was discussed and it was agreed that we should try to minimize event costs where possible, but it was also conceded that generally costs had increased exponentially across the board.

RH will be chasing up individuals on their balances. MW stated that it is his intention to get all Member's accounts up to date, preferably in the black, and all deficits eradicated.

Handicaps – GM

The handicap sub-committee of Gerry McG, Fred B, and Peter M have discussed the following proposed adjustment to the WHS (World Handicap System). The current Course Handicap calculation for WAGS is Handicap Index x (Slope Rating/113) x 95% (Known as 'the Leveller' Calc) From April 2024, the WHS propose that the calculation would also factor in any difference between Course Rating and par (either way) to become Handicap Index x (Slope/113) + (Course Rating – par). So, if par is lower than Course Rating, you'll get more shots on your Course Handicap, and vice versa.

We carried out an impact analysis of how this change would potentially affect WAGS events and WAGS handicaps during a typical season.

On most courses handicaps up to 20 would lose a shot and up to 40 would lose more between two to three shots. There were a few courses where shots would be gained for all such as Launceston but they would be the exception. Overall it was felt that the proposed change wouldn't be adopted for this current season. It was agreed that the recently introduced 'Leveller' 95% was working to reduce

high Stableford winning scores and assist low handicap (sub 10) members. It was also agreed that we still have many different event winners and that we could even increase the 'Leveller' Calc lower to 90% if we wished to in the future, should circumstances dictate.

Merchandise - RT

It has been decided the merchandise for 2024 will be a WAGS branded gilet. This will be available later in the year.

The Committee are finalising how many paid up members are eligible to receive this collectors item.

The merchandise department will be emailing a spreadsheet to enable all members to confirm their current shirt size.

Website - JS

JS reported that he had spoken to Steve Stoner re: revamping the site to make it more readable on phones and tablets. Steve is happy to help with the design, JS to handle internals. This is a longer term project - for delivery in 2025?

There followed a general discussion about the site and several enhancements/refinements were suggested:

1. Open up a new year (User and Admin);
2. Enable a reserve list when an event is fully booked;
3. New member application online;
4. Event grouping - allow organiser to set playing grouping and send email to all those playing showing groupings;
5. Restrict event booking to current members only;
6. Mark an event as members only (no guests);
7. Treasurer report of all who are in debit on their account;
8. Report of all current members with contact details (as a spreadsheet);
9. Investigate issue where (seemingly) some gmail users are not receiving booking notifications.

JS is working on 1. and 2. and 9. The others are all do-able, can the Committee rank the others in order of importance please?

Membership – NF

The matter of active Members and arrears was brought up by the Chairman. Both issues were discussed at length with particular attention to the arrears. Most of the Committee were disappointed to hear of the amount of arrears from some members. Richard T was disappointed and suggested that if the account was not sufficiently funded then the WAG should be frozen out of events until that had changed. There seemed to be a consensus around the table re addressing the issue. Likewise with active members, points were raised regarding the inactive members who were holding back new potential

members. It was discussed that should a member be classed as non-active they step down but are most welcome to join events as a guest. Bob H produced a report of attendance and that showed 12 members had only attended between 0-2 events in 2023.

Exceptions are made for overseas members re membership activity. Currently 2 oversea members.

The Chairman proposed that a letter outlining the issues re account arrears and attendance was sent out to all WAGS. Chairman would compile a letter and send around to Committee for approval.

NF reported that he had sent out Applications Forms to Simon Marrett and Mark Adams as both were proposing members. NF has received back completed Application from Simon re potential new member Tim Scott. Both Simon and Tim are attending West Byfleet. Tim Scott would be paired with a Committee Member at the opening event.

AOB

There being no further business, MW closed the meeting at c.21.00.

Mike Wells – Chairman (and temporary Scribe!)