WAGS Committee Meeting 3rd June 2024

The Rose & Crown - Wimbledon

Attendees: Wells (MW), Stembridge (JS), Trinick (RT), McGuffie (GM), Middleton (PM), Field (NF), Berring (FB), Fawcett (TF)

Apologies: Hill (RB), Latham (RL)

The Chairman (MW) opened up the Committee Meeting at 19.25.

Fixtures

Richard Latham (RL) has done a sterling job putting together the Bournemouth tour. Pairings, timings and venues are already on whatsapp for all touring members. The hotel has not quite finished its renovations so apologies to any Wag whose room is still being renovated.

The committee has voted in favour of Chris Bunning and Mike Gardner to be our esteemed Fines Captains for the Saturday evening! We can then use the cash raised towards drinks at the Friday dinner which will be the main tour dinner. Please could all members remember to bring some cash!

Our Chairman (MW) has kindly agreed to take the wine for prizes which will involve the standard winning prize, second and third place plus NP and LD for each VL event.

There were a couple of members who didn't want to stay in the hotel and the Chairman has spoken to the members concerned. Having said that, they are not touring now for other reasons.

Westerham - there are 16 Wags signed up thus far along with two guests. Make your way onto the Wags website as there is plenty of room available at this stunning course and of course, to play for the Dearden Decanter!

Richmond GC - has surprised us with a higher than normal increase in costs which takes it to £152 pp all in. It seems they want to price us out! As a result we voted a majority yes for the £26 pp subsidy to help keep costs down for members.

We agreed that we will speak again to Richmond re 2025 and try and keep costs to a minimum or we might be faced with finding a replacement venue in time.

We believe alcohol consumption in the past might have something to do with us falling out of favour at Richmond GC!

Accounts

Bob Hill (RH) confirmed by whatsapp that the accounts are in good order. However there are a few members in arrears that need bringing up to date so please visit the Wags website and ensure your account is up to date.

Nigel Field (NF) asked if the website could be set up so that it would **not** allow members to book an event if their account is in arrears. Richard Trinick (RT) said the committee should be aware of members accounts that are in the red. We agreed that at the next committee meeting to go through the list of accounts that are in the red as it's not fair for members who keep their accounts up to date (and effectively subbing those that do not) for upcoming events.

The broad agreement was that if someone has an account that is in arrears then they cannot book an event until their account has been brought up to date. We agreed that we should have a black list which is kept up to date on a monthly basis.

We also agreed that Bob Hill (RH) should send out the annual subscription letter by email at the end of January each year to ensure prompt action can be taken by members to look at their accounts and pay the £85 as it helps the Treasurer to ensure all subs have been paid. This is also a good indicator that each payer wants to be a member of our esteemed society!

We are still banking in the old-fashioned way! Chris Bunning and Bob Hill will need to sort out matters if we want to change to online banking. Many banks don't offer such facilities to Societies however there are a few who might (possibly Santander and Lloyds to name but two that we could try).

Handicaps – GM

Please refer to the previous March 2024 minutes if you want to see how the handicap system works. Gerry McGuffie says the system is working well and we appear to have many different winners with a wide range of handicaps which indicates all is well.

Merchandise - RT

The new navy gilets have been a firm favourite and a big thanks to Richard Trinick (RT) for organising these. RT commented that a number of Wags don't appear to know their size! It's no good complaining if you put your incorrect size on the order form!

RT has plenty of past merchandise at home that he can give to new members.

We need some more merchandise ideas for our 35th anniversary in 2027! If anyone has any ideas please let Richard Trinick know.

Website - JS

The upgrade to our website is a long term project into 2025. We do need the help of anyone who knows how to create websites so if any WAG has any ideas or can help John Stembridge (JS) please contact him.

There was a previous issue with anyone with a gmail account where the system didn't confirm their attendance by return email when booking an event. This has now been sorted.

We also discussed the idea of opening up a space on the website for old events where the annual itinerary shown on the Wags event cards could be made available. Steve Stoner has done a wonderful job over many years creating these and no doubt has all the previous ones on record. It would be good to have these historical cards available to view.

JS mentioned it would be helpful if new members could register on the website.

Membership – NF

Richard Trinick (RT) mentioned we should not sign up two guests for an event and then not turn up ourselves! Moreover, any member should not bring more than one guest to any event. If we are short of numbers then of course any member could contact the organiser and ask if they can bring more than one guest but this should be highly unusual. Wags members want to play with other Wags members!

42 members have played so far this year which is excellent. Let's have even more of you!

AOB

TF mentioned there appears to be some issues regarding the Stroke and Distance rule. One can look this up online but in brief, if you lose your ball or think you have lost your ball you should play a provisional shot and you effectively suffer two penalty strokes (eg when you play 3 off the tee). So if you have hit say your second shot and you lose the ball in an unstaked area you should take an extra shot from where you hit the previous bad shot. In this example you would now be taking your 4th shot. However we all know that sometimes we don't think we have lost a ball and we walk up to have a look for it. If this happens it is often not feasible to walk back to the original place where you took the original shot. In this case you take Stroke and Distance which means you would now be taking your 5th shot because you are already up with where you lost the ball. It's effectively a two stroke penalty.

Wags agreed some time ago that in this situation you can drop the ball so that you are unhindered by any bush or tree. Also, when looking for the ball please stick to the 3 minute rule.

RT mentioned Wags should refrain from gimme's where the ball is more than a putting grip distance away from the pin.

RT also mentioned that, unless arranged with the organiser, one should remain for prizes.

MW closed the meeting at 21.05.

Tom Fawcett – Secretary