WAGS Committee Meeting 4th September 2024

The Rose & Crown - Wimbledon

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

Apologies: Hill (RH), Fawcett (TF)

The Chairman (MW) opened the 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 asked for comments on the fixtures generally with a view to 2025.

Richmond was discussed; and it was agreed that the Committee continue to like the venue but not the price! The idea of a higher WAGS subsidy was dismissed. RL was asked to see if he could negotiate a lower price and to offer an alternative day of the week - RL to report back.

Farnham also came under the spotlight for high pricing and this venue will also be reviewed.

The other fixtures will be repeated.

A venue for the 2025 Spring Tour in the second week of June was discussed. Cornwall and Somerset are always there as options but this time Kent is favoured and Mike Dearden will be invited to organise.

Nigel Field suggested Vienna as a destination for the September 2025 tour and it was agreed that in the first instance he would check out the golfing options.

MW to email the members to put forward 2025 tour options at the AGM.

In respect of the forthcoming Cadiz Tour, RL advised that everything is in place; he was concerned about the size of the transfer bus priced in as an extra 8/9 WAGS would like to join the original 12 flying with Zeta Tours, and that an extra cost here might be incurred as a result! Subject to that there is an extra 500€ as a result of an exchange gain It was agreed to allocate 100€ to each of the main events for prizes and €50 for the matchplay. Leaving 250€ for extra drinks or other unseen eventualities

Accounts

In the absence of RH, the Committee had a general discussion about the accounts. There are a number of members who are in arrears and RH will be chasing up individuals on their balances. MW stated that it is his intention, as Chairman, to get all Member's accounts up to date, preferably in the black, and all deficits eradicated by the end of the year.

The insurance for the Society is capped at 50 members and it was agreed that this should be increased to up to 75 members for an additional £50 premium which will cover all eventualities of an increased membership going forwards.

The Committee will ask RH to review the banking arrangements to see if internet banking services are available so that accounts can be updated more than once a month on receipt of a printed bank statement.

Handicaps – GM

With WAGS having first adopted the principles of the WHS system initially in our 2021 season, we now have the benefit of three plus years of experience to call upon. The system of handicap control that we use is set to mirror the club golfers WHS. It works very well for those golfers either gradually improving or unfortunately gradually declining in ability. We have of course pinned it to within two shots positive or minus of our club members current WHS handicaps. Fred reviews this at regular intervals. There are a few members that we have to review with the allowed *'something appears to be amiss'* proviso, this is done with the benefit of a full playing history to call upon by looking at our event records. The handicap sub-committee comprises myself with Fred Berring and Pete Middleton and we discuss these agreed changes frequently.

We have asked John Stembridge to provide the Committee with details of how many events each member plays. This is with a view to possibly increasing the number of qualifying events for the VL to 8 from the current 6 events. This would contribute to more Golfers having a chance of winning the VL.

John has subsequently provided the following data (we have information dating back to 1993 but it's not really relevant here):

Year	Members who have played at least 6 events	Members who have played at least 8 events	Difference
2024	23	15	8
2023	33	30	3
2022	35	28	7
2021	36	30	6
2020	28	21	7
2019	29	21	8
2018	27	22	5
2017	31	23	8
2016	27	20	7
2015	34	28	6
2014	35	25	10
2013	36	29	7
2012	39	32	7
2011	31	21	10
2010	34	23	11
2009	32	20	12

Something for consideration at the AGM.

Merchandise - RT

A quiet year ahead forecast for merchandise, resting on the laurels of the much admired designer 2024 gilet.

Suggestions from the membership cordially invited for the 2025 merchandise.

Website - JS

JS reported on changes to the Admin side of the website.

Following on from the last meeting's decision to monitor members' account balances, a new Admin report has been created showing all account balances. JS was requested to restrict access to this to the Treasurer, Chairman and Web master (now implemented).

On accounts, because Bob can only update them once a month (when he receives the bank statement), the account balance shown on the Members' page should give the date at which it was last updated. (now implemented).

Also following on from the previous meeting, a limit on one guest per member needs to be reflected on the booking page. This will be implemented by giving a limit for each event with a default value of one. It will allow a value of zero (members only) or more than one for exceptional circumstances.

Following a discussion around how many games should qualify for the Victor Ludorum, the Committee requested that JS provide figures of the number of members who played six or more games and eight or more games for the last few years to inform a review (see above).

Membership – NF

NF reported no further applications for memberships and confirmed that this year there had been a total of two. NF did mention his concerns that both new members had not attended many events and would touch base with their proposers.

AOB

The AGM is coming up with four Committee posts up for the 2 year fixed term renewal. The incumbents are offering themselves for re-election as follows:

Fixtures Secretary – Richard Latham
Handicap Secretary – Gerry McGuffie
Merchandise – Richard Trinick
Captain – Fred Berring

If there are any Members wishing to put themselves forward for any of the above positions with a Proposer and Seconder, please advise the Chairman in advance of the AGM and a vote will be held accordingly.

The Committee discussed, and reiterated, that only one guest per event is allowed. JS is to adjust the website to prevent multiple guests being allowed to book an event. As an aside to this rule, the Committee requires a WAGS scorecard to be marked and signed by a WAG wherever possible.

There being no further business, MW closed the meeting at c.21.15.

Mike Wells – Chairman (and temporary Scribe)