WAGS Committee Meeting 5th March 2025

The Rose & Crown - Wimbledon

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

Apologies: Hill (RH), Latham (RL), Stembridge (JS), Middleton (PM)

The Chairman (MW) opened the Committee Meeting at 8pm.

Fixtures - RL

Although absent we managed to have a Whatspp video with RL during his luxurious looking stay in Argentina. RL was kind enough to forward some comments regarding the fixtures which I have abbreviated.

Kent Tour 6th – 8th June 2025

We have reserved golf for 24. There are 19 on tour so far. We have reserved 5 singles and 9 twins at Dunkerleys. We have filled the 5 singles (Warburton, Shaw, Burn, Trinick, Stembridge) with McGuffie on the waiting list for a single. We have 3 twins confirmed: Pete & Dave Middleton, Wells & James, Vip & Grizz and we have Pete Berring, Bob Hill and Lee Davies looking for room mates! We have 4 staying elsewhere.

Mike Dearden & Toby Caulfield are staying locally. Latham and Heaney are in the Royal.

Malaga Tour 18th – 20th September 2025

We have 24 places and 20 on tour so far. The 12 singles are sold out and 3 twins are confirmed. RL will shall stay at Molina Lario for one night on 14th April and visit the golf courses on the 15th April.

See the "new look" itinerary:

https://wetu.com/ItineraryOutputs/Discovery/ebc57e3f-b107-469a-89ec-a06cb533f23f

Accounts - RH

In the absence of RH (who we learn is suffering from the lurgy), the Committee had a general discussion about the accounts.

We have a number of members who are still in the red and the Chair is putting out a missive to members to bring their accounts up to date. Unfortunately we may have to implement a rule whereby one cannot book a Wags event unless your account is up to date in the green.

Ideally, we should have had all deficits cleared by the end of 2024. Alas, there are still a few Wags with their figures in red clearly shown. We would hope this is just an oversight but, in the interest of all Wags (most of whom keep a credit

balance), this is becoming something that keeps cropping up and the committee, The Chairman and Bob Hill should not be having to chase members. So, please bring your accounts up to do asap!

We do not have as much money in the bank as we did a year or two ago and it was agreed we should discuss the annual subscription of £85 which has been held at that rate for a very long time indeed. Everywhere prices have gone up and this might just be the time when we have to increase this. We agreed to discuss this at the AGM later this year at New Malden Golf Club.

We also need to review the Society bank account with HSBC because we still do not have online access. Fred Berring mentioned that his other golf society can look their society account up online so why can't we?

Fred Berring raised the point that he has paid in more money recently but it was not showing up as a credit on the Wags website yet he is showing as owing money. RH to examine this.

As a final point on the accounts, we discussed the ever increasing cost of our flagship event at Richmond Golf Club. The net member cost is now £130 and that is after the significant Wags sub. Only 22 Wags played in August 2024 so we will address this and discuss at the AGM.

Handicaps & Comms – GM

GM confirmed we have just renewed our software licence for Handicap Masters. This is a clever bit of kit which automatically tallies the last 20 scores and averages the best 8 for a cost of only £66 pa.

FB will also be sending his findings from England Golf to check on other Wags handicaps where available online.

We agreed that RT (West Byfleet organiser) will not send the groups and tee off times via Gerry McGuffie only for GM to send on to all relevant Wags but will put it on the Wags Whatsapp as that seems to be looked at by all Wags these days and would be the easiest way to communicate. If this works then we might keep using that system and is less work for GM.

Merchandise - RT

RT mentioned that Vip Patel has managed to get a deal whereby we have the Wags logo on some golf gear. More is to be revealed! £80 for 5 items and £110 for 10 items. We believe he has struck a deal with the people that embroider the Wags Waistcoat sometimes. Vip will obtain some items for us to review in due course. No doubt this could be the start of the "House of Patel Couture"!

MW mentioned the previous minutes from the 2024 AGM regarding Anthony Shutes comments from the floor with regards to having new merchandise every two years rather than every year. Every two years seems perfectly reasonable.

Website - JS

Although absent, JS sent us an update for the meeting. He alleges that some of the romantic in him has got in his way of late! No doubt there is more follow…..best of luck JS!

JS has been in contact with Steve Stoner about putting the old fixture cards onto the Wags website. We have cards for every year except 2008 so if any Wag can assist John would be most grateful. I am sure at least one Wag must have a card lying in a bedroom drawer somewhere!

JS is also going to pick up investigating making the Wags website more mobile and tablet friendly but this is very much a background task considering how busy he and his company is at the moment.

Membership – NF

NF reported that Steve Mackinson has resigned due to not playing in many events due to work pressures. Thanks very much Steve for your camaraderie over the many years we have known you. Keep going with that one handed chip/pitch shot!

There have been no further applications for memberships.

AOB

MW said that we ought to change our constitution of only allowing a Chairman to be in situ for a maximum of 2 years. It is felt that this doesn't allow for ease of continuity and we ought to change it to 2-4 years. We can discuss at the AGM.

RH mentioned via MW that there isn't much room on some of the esteemed trophies these days. One answer from FB may be to have some of them mounted on a plinth to allow more names to be added or even buy a new trophy.

We agreed to keep the extra £5 sub for guests as a requirement even though, if they win best guest (as they might be the only guest) that the wine will inevitably cost more. Perhaps we can turn some of these guests into Wags? On this subject we also noted that the maximum number of guests should be limited to one per Wag per event otherwise you'll have a Wag and his two mates with another Wag and this seems unfair. Also, if you bring a guest, you must play in the same group. The same guest can come up to three times a year and then become a Wag.

There being no further business, MW closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

Tom Fawcett - Secretary