WAGS AGM meeting 25th September 2025

New Malden Golf Club

Committee: Mike Wells (MW), Richard Trinick (RT), John Stembridge (JS), Richard Latham (RL), Tom Fawcett (TF), Nigel Field (NF), Fred Berring (FB)

Apologies: Bob Hill (RH), Gerry McGuffie (GM), Andy Burn, Rhod James, Mike Gardner, Anthony Shutes, Pete Berring, Richard Howell, Mark Brown, Chris Poil, Quintin Heaney, Mark Adams

Attendees: Pete Mitchener, Pete Middleton, Dave Middleton, Vip Patel, Steve Shaw, Chris Bunning, Rob Faulkner, Chas Ayres, John Quilter, Gerry Robinson, Lee Davies

Before the Chairman MW got matters underway our highly esteemed Merchandise Secretary RT opened up the proceedings with a presentation to Richard Latham of a new Wags cap to celebrate his 300 appearances. Well done Ricardo…may there be another 300 in you!

Our esteemed Chairman MW got the AGM underway at 17.35 despite hoping for an earlier start but held up because the Secretary was on his way from work.

Chairman's Report

Our Chairman MW presented his annual speech to kick things off. Firstly, to confirm we welcomed two new members to Wags and confirming we have played 18 fixtures thus far including two tours to Kent and Malaga in Spain.

The VL is very tight indeed with a mere 6 points between Vip in 6th position and Nigel at the summit. However, with our Chairman on a lowest score of 27 maybe he is in pole position being only 4 points behind Nigel?! Two events to go being at Farnham and Pine Ridge.

MW made the main award of the evening: The Chairman's Cup! This was first won by Richard Latham a few years ago and again last year. This is a trophy for good deeds done for the Society. For the second time he awarded it to the Secretary TF for his tireless work in the background. Sadly, it will be my only trophy this season due to injuries but I will be back with a vengeance next year!

Fixtures (RL)

Following an excellent tour in Spain RL and TF had been in discussions over the who should be the temporary keeper of the Horn of Africa! On the final day of the tour the scorecards had indicated that Rhod James and Tom Fawcett were equal last so it was decided to have a putt off! Fawcett won on the first

hole. However, the scorecards were then further scrutinised and TF was found to have two points more than he should despite not having many in the first place! It is suspected that the fact Latham lost Fawcett's scorecard as he careered down the course caused much of the problem hence we had to use only one card! Harsh…..but fair! As a result, Fawcett is not only in the Hall of Shame but must also look after this wonderful trophy for the next 12 months.

RL confirmed that attendances have been around 17-23 Wags at each event this year. The James Jug at Pine Ridge normally yields the most. November 2024 saw 31 turn up by way of comparison.

Gerry Robinson made the point that one year of a low turnout doesn't mean it will continue.

RL said the Sussex tour was particularly poorly attended. The Warburton Slice heralded only 5 Wags, Seaford Head hosted 11 Wags whilst East Brighton hosted only 9. Those figures for East Brighton and Seaford Head included one guest! This isn't really a tour as such but is an event Wags can come to ad hoc if they prefer and play one day only or all days if preferred.

In any event, The People's Trophy (normally played at East Brighton) is being changed to be played next year at London & Scottish GC in the Autumn. This leaves Sussex with the Warburton Slice and the Shaw Shield.

Mention was made re the accommodation. Currently Wags stay all over the place which might lead to a general lack of Wags teambuilding! Many years ago Wags used the Hotel Seattle (now called Malmaison) where everyone stayed which helped create a more party-like atmosphere.

From the floor, Lee Davies mentioned that the Richmond website says it costs £150 for a round at RGC on a Friday but only £120 for a Thursday so why not change the RGC venue to a Thursday? Heads nodded in agreement at this wise suggestion. Lee added that he feels The Drift GC is not good value. Vip added why not Fulwell GC instead or Purley Downs GC. Something for RL and the committee to consider.

Lee also mentioned whether we could entertain some different styles of play such as Fourball along with also putting in our cards as normal. Some Wags play and bet on a private Fourball anyway so why not have the extra Fourball Matchplay competition within an event?

Pete Michener mentioned whether we should consider changing the timing of certain events as courses change considerably throughout the season and perhaps have a course like West Byfleet changed with Cuddington perhaps and start the season a little later as early March can be very wet (and cold).

Andy Burn has offered to host another Somerset tour in 2026. RL has suggested a possible York tour and TF mentioned Ireland. If any Wag has any ideas they want to propose please let RL have the details by the beginning of November because a lot of hard work needs to be done in bringing about a successful and affordable tour for all.

For September 2026 countries and places such as Turkey, Catalonia (Spain), Porto (Portugal) and Sitges (Spain) were mentioned as possibilities with the most popular seeming to prefer Porto.

We don't want a massive tour nor an expensive one since 2027 will be Wags 35th anniversary. In 2027 it is suggested that Andy Burn might try and arrange for us to celebrate a 10th Anniversary of Mike Beament's passing. This would not be a Wags event. Instead, it will be a Charity event and not just restricted to Wags either. The idea is to include an event at both St Georges Hill GC or Worplesdon GC. Watch this space!

A plea was made to members to get the Wags events in our diaries before other social events start being booked by our other halves or even ourselves. As JS confirmed, the events can easily be downloaded at the click of a button from the Wags website. Simply go to the Members area of the website and click the bottom link entitled "add events schedule to your calendar".

Finance (RH)

Although sorely missed at the AGM, RH sent the committee a missive confirming we have some 13K in the bank versus 10k at this stage in 2024. This is because our Merchandise Secretary has been concentrating on his golf and retirement! I jest of course…..2027 will be a fantastic year and he has promised some great merchandise to celebrate our 35th anniversary. For shirts, please ensure they are of the wicking variety (ie sweat resistant). The ones were wore for Malaga were superb in most respects except we looked like we had just run a few miles after the first two holes!

RT is helping RH with banking arrangements and in particular obtaining a suitable Wags bank account where we have digital access. This is why the accounts can remain out of date for up to a month as currently we operate on postal copies. RT mentioned Metro Bank takes on a lot of golf societies so he will further investigate. And we might even get some interest too!

Lee Davies, from the floor, said perhaps we could look at using one of the hole in one funds to help subsidise the main tour in 2027.

Fred Berring (FB) mentioned we should release dates for any 2027 tour well in advance.

Merchandise (RT)

Whilst 2025 has been a quiet year for Merchandise it was agreed that some fabulous merchandise will be arranged for our 35th anniversary.

Handicaps (GM)

Fred Berring (FB) was asked by the absent GM to make a few comments. The handicap system works pretty well with Wags being + or – 2 shots from their English Golf handicaps.

To create a better and arguably more equitable playing field any Wag who is not a member of a golf club should register with igolf and then use this system to input their scores whenever they play a round anywhere. This will help to give a more accurate handicap.

Our ex-Chairman Anthony Shutes (who was absent) gave us his views before the AGM saying Wags winners should be cut one shot.

Pete Mitchener said Wags can input their own WHS handicap on the Wags website.

FB confirmed he can see 2/3rds of Wags handicaps but that still leaves 1/3rd who cannot be viewed.

Our ex-Chairman Chris Bunning added his thoughts to the fray by stating he thought Wags handicaps were based solely on Wags scores and not including other events members may take part in. But FB said it is all about being fair to everyone. In conclusion FB said the system is working as well as best it can under the circumstances and we have had lots of different winners.

As a final point, please could Wags keep their details up to date by informing GM of any changes to your contact details etc.

Website (JS)

Event organisers have been much better at inputting their own event scores which is an improvement.

As Wags members may have noticed, this season is the first season whereby one has to play in at least 7 events to contend for the VL.

We now have a message on the website when booking an event that one should ensure one's account is in credit to meet the cost of an event. Please make sure your account is always up to date!

The members tab on the website also allows us to keep our details up to date. And this includes the ability to add your golf club membership (if you have one) and your WHS handicap too under Personal Details. This needs publicising to members who may not be aware of this. Please could GM take note!

Our last 20 years playing cards are also now available on the website which may cause some amusement. Do have a look. Some great captions too.

Finally it was confirmed that RL and JS are working on a Wags family tree which will display who introduced who and when over the years.

Any further ideas should be given to JS regarding improvement ideas for the website.

Membership (NF)

Nigel Field (NF) confirmed we now have 55 members with one recent new member Don McGown. There are 48 active Wags and 7 who have not played at all in 2025. All Wags should aim to reach three events.

Re-Elections

Five committee posts are up for the 2-year fixed term renewal. The incumbents of four of the positions were offering themselves for re-election:

Secretary – Tom Fawcett (TF)
Finance – Bob Hill (RH)
Membership – Nigel Field (NF)
Website – John Stembridge (JS)

Chairman – Mike Wells (MW)

All were dutifully re-elected and will continue to operate diligently and generously on behalf of all committee members and the wider field of Wags membership.

AOB

Wags who wish to Captain their teams for the Burhill Christmas Cracker should get their teams together and provide information to Richard Latham as soon as possible. This event is great fun, light-hearted (best two stableford scores from each team of 4) and takes place on Thursday 18th December at Burhill Golf Club KT12 4BX. I recommend each Captain pays the sub for the

team and asks each team member to reimburse the Captain. This keeps it simple for all concerned.

Pete Mitchener advertised that he is taking part in a golf Charity Event at Woodcote Park GC in early May 2026 raising money for an excellent charity for autism. If any Wag would like to get involved please contact Mitch on Petermitchener@gmail.com or 07876 177071.

The meeting closed at 19.02 and the members were ready for some excellent Malden cuisine.

Tom Fawcett
Secretary
29th September 2025