WAGS Committee Meeting 30th September 2026

The Rose & Crown - Wimbledon

Attendees: Wells (MW); Latham (RL); McGuffie (GM); Berring (FB); Hill (RH); Stembridge (JS); Middleton (PM).

Apologies: Fawcett (TF); Trinick (RT); Field (NF),

The Chairman (MW) opened the Committee Meeting at 19.00. 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:

1. Fixtures RL outlined his proposals for next year 2027:

Bunno Birdie Cuddington: fixed for 16 March

Trinick Trinket West Byfleet: proving awkward again and it was agreed to approach Pyrford Lakes

Stembridge Sandwedge: it was agreed to approach Chartham Park again for w/c 19 April

Robinson Ryder: to be fixed for Woodcote Park 13 May so as not to clash with the first May Bank holiday

Shutes Shotglass West Surrey: RL was asked by the committee to ask Anthony tp push this back by one week to 27 May

Spring Tour: It was agreed to amalgamate the spring tour with the Sussex Minotour in the interests of reducing the number of fixture days without reducing the number of trophies. These fixtures would be:

- Thursday 10th June Mid Sussex - People's Trophy
- Friday 11th June East Brighton - Warburton Slice
- Sat 12th June Seaford Head - Shaw Shield
- and the Tourist Trophy would be awarded to the best overall weekend result as normal

Organiser Steve Shaw
RL to check out the Malmaison (previously Seattle) for accommodation

Wells Wineglass: Mike has fixed this with Betchworth, 15 July

Richmond: fixed for Friday 13 August

Dodgy Dish: to be requested for last week of August 2027

35th Anniversary Tour: Prague 4-8 September: Lee Davies has got this well under control. 18 signed up so far. Deposits to be organised, but no rush

Berring Bowl and McGuffie Quaich: dates and venues as per 2026

James Jug: to be moved to Winter Hill mid-November

2. Subsidy of c.£200 agreed for the Prague Tour

3. Gerry Robinson's stats were reviewed and it was agreed that RL would summarise this report at the AGM

4. Burhill: It was agreed that WAGS' involvement would cease due to lack of WAGS interest

5. The Committee discussed Andy Burn's proposal to hold a commemoration golf event to honour the 10th Anniversary of Mike Beament's passing

The Committee felt that the organisers were struggling to get the numbers (72) to hold this event as planned, even though WAGS, and others, were invited with partners

The conclusion was that the Committee felt that if this event goes ahead it should not affect the WAGS programme of events and specifically the already booked Richmond Fixture. However, it could be held independently of WAGS fixtures (and the VL) at another venue and date, and naturally would be open to WAGS individual members to support it if they wished, but that it would not be a WAGS event

The Chairman will inform Mr Burn and Mr Bailey accordingly

Accounts- RH:

RH summarised the financial position as follows:

- Society funds currently c.£15,000 plus we've also got 3 x £1,000 hole in one funds.
- Individual accounts are reasonably up to date (but please check your balance regularly).
- Generally, events are breaking even with small profits or losses, losses due to low turnouts and prizes not being covered by fees.
- 2027 is the last year of the Beament Legacy.

See attached Income and Expenditure summary to 30th September 2026.

Handicaps – GM:

WAGS Handicap System Review and Introduction of Additional Handicap Adjustment Rule:

Background:

The WAGS WHS-based handicap system was designed to fulfil two key objectives:

1. To support competition participation for golfers who hold an official WHS Handicap and are members of a registered England Golf (EGU) affiliated golf club.
2. To provide a fair and practical handicap solution for society golfers who play only occasional golf and/or primarily participate in WAGS events and therefore do not maintain an official WHS Handicap.

The current WAGS handicap methodology has proven effective in accommodating players whose golfing ability and therefore handicap is either gradually improving or experiencing a gradual decline in performance over time. The system provides a responsive mechanism that reflects longer-term playing trends while maintaining competitive fairness across the membership.

Committee Review:

The Committee, together with Handicap Secretary Gerry and Handicap Sub-Committee members Fred Berring and Peter Middleton, met to explore opportunities available under the "Something Appears to be Amiss" provision contained within the WAGS Handicap Rules.

The review focused on instances of occasional erratic scoring patterns, particularly where exceptionally high Stableford scores occur despite the player's current handicap not reflecting such performance. It was recognised that the existing calculation methodology, whilst effective in most circumstances, can be slow to react when isolated scores significantly exceed a player's demonstrated playing ability.

Outcome of Discussions:

Following detailed discussion, the Committee considered measures that would allow the handicap system to respond more promptly to exceptionally high scores while maintaining fairness and consistency for all players.

As a result of these discussions, and following a formal Committee vote, it was agreed that an additional handicap adjustment rule will be introduced.

New Rule:

With effect from January 1st 2027, any player returning a score of **40 Stableford points or higher** in a WAGS qualifying competition will receive a **mandatory one-shot handicap reduction**.

This one-shot reduction will be applied **in addition to** any handicap adjustment generated by the WAGS Handicap Master software.

Rationale:

The purpose of this rule is to provide a practical mechanism for addressing exceptionally high scores and to help maintain competitive balance within

WAGS competitions. It acts as a supplementary safeguard where exceptional performances may not be fully reflected by the normal handicap calculation process.

Existing Handicap Calculation:

The WAGS Handicap Master software will continue to calculate player handicaps using its established methodology:

- A database of each player's most recent 20 scores is maintained.
- The player's best 8 scores from those 20 rounds are identified.
- The average of those best 8 scores is used to determine the player's WAGS Handicap.

The new mandatory one-shot reduction for scores of 40 points or more will operate alongside this calculation process and does not replace the existing handicap methodology.

Conclusion:

The Committee believes that this amendment will enhance the effectiveness of the WAGS handicap system by providing a more responsive mechanism for dealing with occasional exceptional performances, whilst continuing to support both WHS-affiliated golfers and society golfers in a fair and equitable manner. The rule is intended to preserve competitive integrity and ensure that handicaps remain as representative as possible of current playing ability.

Merchandise – RT:

It was agreed that the Merchandise department would look into purchasing a golf shirt for the 2027 season.

A budget of £100 per person was agreed with a focus on quality (but a discreet sized logo ie smaller than the Portugal shirt logo).

A couple of colours were discussed including white and purple.

Website – JS:

Nothing major to report but a couple of questions were raised:

1. Would it be possible to host photos from events on the site?

   This was discussed and JS explained that it was outside of the general purpose and scope of the web site and would be better hosted in a specialised/dedicated web application. JS committed to research avenues for this. If anyone in the society has any relevant experience or suggestions please contact him.
   RL offered to act as “gatekeeper” for pictures to be uploaded for QA purposes.

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2. MW mentioned that he received an error when trying to update his address on the site. JS will investigate.

Membership – NF:

51 members of which 49 are UK and 2 overseas

48 of 49 UK charged subs, exception is Gavin Flaxman as he's having a 'sabbatical' this year.

Summary of appearances (VL rounds) this year up to and including Winter Hill:

VL Apps	No.
7 or more	19
6	4
5	4
4	4
3	7
2	4
1	3
0	6
	51

Bob analysed the membership and as you can see membership is stable at around 50 less than 50% competing in VL.

No new members since our last meeting, no applications received.

Question is do we need to try and recruit, and do we need to up the min amount events that members need to attend.

If we were to recruit, I assume that would be targeted at the members who attend most events.

Do we need to try and find out why 20 members are only attending 3 events or less? Cost or time the issue? Maybe an issue to discuss at AGM?

AGM:

The AGM is on Thursday 8th October following the golf at New Malden.

There are four positions up for election (every two years):

Fixtures – Richard Latham
Captain – Fred Berring
Merchandise – Richard Trinick
Handicaps – Gerry McGuffie

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AOB

None!

There being no further business, MW closed the meeting at c.20.52.

Mike Wells – Chairman (and temporary Scribe)

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