

WAGS AGM meeting 19th September 2019

Attendees: Dearden (MD), Bunning (CB), McGuffie (GM), Hill (RH), Stembridge (JS), Latham (RL), Trinick (RT)

Apologies: Shutes (AS).

The meeting commenced at 18:45 in the main dining room at Malden Golf Club. The Committee table was replenished with Claret and the Chairman MD welcomed everyone to the meeting. A precis of the year was delivered and we welcomed two new event venues this year in Westerham and Surbiton. The WAGS Waistcoat event at Richmond was very memorable and our special guest Linda Beament won the putting competition! This year's VL competition is shaping up to be a very close and an exciting finish is on the cards!

1. Website. (JS)

JS announced to an attentive audience that the WAGsite went to version 2.0. A self-sustaining and stable platform where event organisers can enter the cards for each competitor themselves. The other functions of the WAGsite such as handicapping and the posting of Committee minutes are also catered for. There was a request by one of our ex-chairmen Mr Peter Berring, that a part of the WAGsite lists the members who have achieved 'a hole in one'. JS agreed to look into this further.

2. Handicaps. (GM)

The current system appears to be working well. The discussion took us to news of the WHS (World Handicap System) which is due to replace our WAGS 'close as we can get' to CONGU system in 2020. The new potential system was outlined as a rolling best eight of your last 20 rounds with a soft and a hard cap on handicap increases. The new system requires all UK courses to have a slope and, on the day, a CCA (Course Conditions Adjustment). The latest announcement by the EGA is that the system for England will be live on November 2nd 2020. So, until that point, we will continue with our current WAGS system as outlined on the WAGsite. A software update to accommodate the new WHS is being developed by 'Handicap Master', the current software that stores every member handicap and calculates the adjustment following each event.

3. Finance. (RH)

The Society is in good financial health. WAGS currently has £9k in the bank. All subs have been paid and the retained members funds currently stands at £1.6k.

4. Membership. (CB)

We currently have 49 fully paid up members. This year we have lost Nigel Caufield (aka 'The Badger'), Piers 'the' Elder, and Rob Jones. There are two new member applications from Nigel Field and Mark Brown that will take the count to 49. There was a question from the members on what constitutes a WAGS Junior, this was answered by CB as being a WAG under the age of 25. Currently all members are over 25, some more so than others.

5. Fixtures. (RL)

The numbers for the previous year's events show 259 appearances at 12 fixtures, this is 5% down on the previous year. An abundance of fixtures in the month of August could be partly to blame. A discussion point was JS's event with three course options offered for next year, Lingfield, Chartham Park or maybe the RAC Club. A vote was taken and the RAC Club was chosen. Next year's Wineglass event will be held at Betchworth Park. On the question of tours, the Sussex Tour reverts to two days. A question of whether WAGS have one or two UK tours next year was put to the members. In 2020 the schedule could well include Scotland (June) and Somerset (September). RL to investigate further. RL would also check out a 29th Anniversary Tour to South Africa to co-inside with the Lions 2021 tour. A straw poll was taken of the usual teams for this year's Cracker positive reaction from the Wild Geese, Ninja Hippos, Pirates, Badgers (with Mike Wells raising a team) and maybe a resurrected Three Wheels on my Waggon team.

6. Merchandise. (RT)

This year's offering of a deep to vivid red (cerise) sports fleece has been well received. A few WAGS have requested a size larger than XXL, RT to investigate if a few XXXL sized items can be provided. RT looking into a super new special Tour Shirt for the eagerly anticipated 2022 (30th WAGS) Anniversary Tour.

7. Committee Elections.

Four Committee posts are up for the 2-year fixed term renewal. The incumbents of three of the positions were offering themselves for re-election, with the post of Chairman being offered to Mr Anthony Shutes with Chairman Mike Dearden offering his resignation on the completion of his two year term of office.

Treasurer (Robert Hill) – re-elected

Membership (Christopher Bunning) – re-elected

Website (John Stembridge) – re-elected

Chairman (Mike Dearden) – resigned, Anthony Shutes unanimously voted in as the new Chairman

With AS moving to Chairman the post of Secretary is now vacant. The position was offered to Tom Fawcett and he has accepted, with the membership carrying this vote.

8. AOB

A resignation letter sent to GM by Rob Jones was read out by MD. The membership and Committee appreciated Rob's contribution to WAGS and the fact that his character and personality summed up the very best that WAGS have to offer and wished him well as he joins the veterans at Glamorganshire Golf Club.

The meeting closed at 20:10 ready and the members cleared some space at their tables for Steak and Kidney Pie.

GM

22nd September 2019