

## **WAGS AGM meeting 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Attendees: Anthony Shutes (AS), Chris Bunning (CB), Bob Hill (RH), John Stembridge (JS), Richard Latham (RL), Tom Fawcett (TF)**

**Apologies: Gerry McGuffie (GM), Richard Trinick (RT)**

**Attendees: Gerry Robinson, Brian Batchelor, Peter Berring, Huw Thomas, Mike Wells, Vip Patel, Mark Adams, John Quilter, Quintin Heaney, Richard Poole, Mike Luscombe, Pete Middleton, Dave Middleton**

The meeting commenced at 18:30 in the main dining room at Malden Golf Club.

Our illustrious Chairman Anthony Shutes opened the meeting to report that after ten years on the committee he will be standing down. The committee thanked him for his service and his great leadership. No doubt a deserved rest from the inner workings of WAGS will be most welcome and we thank him for his tremendous service. He will be a hard act to follow but we now have our man!

A few years ago Wags decided to bring in a two year fixed term for the role of Chairman to give members a chance to lead our Society. Anthony's two years is now at an end and hence he is standing down. Furthermore, Anthony will be leaving the committee to give some fresh blood the opportunity to help move forward our great Society.

Chris Bunning put himself forward as our new Chairman. This was proposed by AS and seconded by Gerry Robinson. Welcome to the helm Chris! The committee look forward to serving under what will no doubt be unique Bunno leadership. This left a space on our benches as Membership Secretary. Mike Wells put his name forward and this was approved. Welcome to the Wags Committee Mike.

Our Chairman's last speech summarised the year, covid and tours and finally presented the Chairman's prize....with plenty of frivolity thrown in along the way!

Events have been extremely well attended this year. Covid had contained us and we wanted to get out there again and play as soon as possible. Only one event had to be cancelled (the Robinson Ryder) but all other events went ahead albeit a few rescheduled. We had two fabulous tours to both Norfolk and Wales which were fully attended. It was a miracle in that it didn't rain in Wales and the weather in Norfolk was perfect.

Our Chair went on to recognise the work of ALL the committee but with particular emphasis on the Fixtures Secretary (RL), Finance Secretary (RH) and the Website Secretary (JS). In addition, the Chair recognised the individual organisers of the events and tours. It was noted that many requests rain down on the organisers at the last minute. Of note are the following:

Andy Burn: "I always want to go out first!"

Richard Trinick: "I am on holiday" (as he was today!)

Mike Gardner: Always late!

There were a number of other complaints that organisers have to put up with, particularly at the last minute, notably:

"I am always drawn last"

"I don't want to play with Hill again!"

"Why do I always get drawn with X?"

As a final farewell our Chair presented the Chairman's prize. Last year it went to VIP who has nurtured our much coveted trophy for 365 days so this year our Chair had to award it to a new unsung hero of Wags. There were a number of potential candidates. A special mention was made for Pete Middleton for his forensic support on handicaps (whilst also ensuring he doesn't get cut) and the man behind the scenes on tours, our very own Gerry McGuffie, who seems to turn around the handicap updates around midnight. The decision was close but after much thought it was the two people our Chair wanted to mention above all others: Richard Latham and John Stembridge without whom Wags would be much the poorer. After much consideration the Chairman's prize was awarded to John Stembridge for his excellent work on the website without which we would be lost! Well done John.

Thank you Mr Chairman and we wish you well. Welcome Chris Bunning Mr Chair!

### **1. Website. (JS)**

JS announced to an attentive audience that the WAGsite has had a quiet year because it is so well organised and event organisers have become much better at entering scores online (unless your name is Mike Wells!). Pete Berring intervened and asked about putting photos on the website as memorabilia. He agreed to organise a collection of photographs.

### **2. Handicaps. (GM)**

Although a non-attendee, GM sent a missive pre the AGM to say he will be sending each WAG a resume of his handicap record after The James Jug. The current handicap system is working well and seems to result in a greater range of winners.

### **3. Finance. (RH)**

The Society is in good financial health. There is a £250 contribution per member for our 30<sup>th</sup> tour in 2022. The £120 deposit has been scrapped and Wags has removed the cost differential for guests.

The Hole in One competition now has two full at £1,500 each and a third fund building. AS asked if we should reduce the fund in each case to £1,000 or less and use any excess towards the 2022 tour to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And for those who cannot tour, to rebate their subs.

The consensus was that it should be reduced to £1,000 and to use the excess towards the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour. We can continue to build the third fund towards £1,000 and then start a 4<sup>th</sup>.

A majority voted for this change.

#### **4. Membership. (CB)**

We currently have 49 fully paid up members. All members can qualify for the VL. We are very happy to welcome a few extra members. Currently we have 47 members and 2 overseas members.

#### **5. Fixtures. (RL)**

The largest event has been Cuddington where we had 40 members and two guests. Woldingham, Betchworth and Westerham were also well attended. It was suggested by AS that we organise for 40 at Pine Ridge. We will have a huge points winner this year after the handicap changes! RL ran through the fixture list. The major change is the removal of Moor Park to be substituted by Grims Dyke.

It is unclear if the Burhill Christmas Cracker will go ahead at this stage.

Regarding our June summer tour, York, Oxford (CB) and Worcester (Vip) were mentioned. It was agreed that Oxford would be the best location for obvious reasons.

Regarding the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour the competition is between Tavira and Villamora and now Barcelona into the mix. There will be a vote put to Wags members shortly. We agreed that if you know you cannot go, please do not vote.

RL mentioned that any income earned by Zeta Tours is rebated directly back to Wags.

A big thanks was mentioned to A Burn, M Wells and R Latham for their input into the tour choices.

#### **6. Merchandise. (RT)**

Although on one of his many holidays, RT is arranging a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary shirt which will be high quality. RT will consult with Chas Ayres on this as Chas can negotiate with Glenmuir.

## **7. Committee Elections.**

Four Committee posts are up for the 2-year fixed term renewal. The Chair was summarised earlier. The incumbents of four of the positions were offering themselves for re-election:

Treasurer (Robert Hill) – re-elected

Membership (Christopher Bunning) now replaced by Mike Wells

Website (John Stembridge) – re-elected

Secretary – (Tom Fawcett) – re-elected

## **8. AOB**

RH stood up and gave a big thanks to our Chair Anthony Shutes.

The meeting closed at 1940 ready and the members were ready for some excellent Malden cuisine.

**Tom Fawcett**

**Secretary**

**30th September 2021**