

WAGS AGM meeting 28th September 2023

Committee: Richard Trinick (RT), Bob Hill (RH), Richard Latham (RL), Mike Wells (MW), Fred Berring (FB)

Apologies: Chris Bunning (CB), Gerry McGuffie (GM), Tom Fawcett (TF), John Stembridge (JS), Pete Middleton (PM), Rhod James, Mike Gardner, Anthony Shutes, Nicholas Bailey

Attendees: Mark Adams, John Quilter, Vip Patel, Richard Howell, Steve Mackinson, Lee Davies, Nigel Field, Will Fairbairn. Steve Shaw, Rob Faulkner.

The meeting commenced at 17.20 in the main dining room at Malden Golf Club.

Our illustrious Chairman Chris Bunning was otherwise engaged on a golf course in Portugal for the second year running and thus our one and only Richard Trinick stood in as acting Chairman for the 2023 AGM.

He commented on the low turnout for the meeting saying it was disappointing

The minutes of the last meeting were approved; there no specific matters arising

He read the following statement from the Chairman (CB):

“As I have now completed my stint of two years as Chairman of this esteemed organization, I can look back on another excellent year for WAGS, our 31st season. There was an excellent revisit to Launceston and St Mellion. A great time was had by those who can remember, and sincere thanks go to Richard for organizing the trip so well.

Since I took over as Chairman in September 2021, and since COVID has been and gone, we have fulfilled every fixture that Richard has arranged, with very good turnouts for each event. Many thanks to Richard and all the event organisers.

Finances are being sensibly dealt with by Bob and Membership has remained just above the 50-mark, welcoming new members Richard Howell and Nick Gimson. (no one has heard of Nick Gimson!)

Congratulations to Mike Gardner for winning the Victor Ludorum last year and there are still a few events before this year's is decided.

Also, to Richard Trinick for winning the Beament Big Swing.

The choice of Chairman's Prize is always difficult, with all of the committee working so hard to run your society so efficiently.

However, after a lot of thought, I have decided it should go to Tom Fawcett for his tireless work on attending the committee meetings and producing the minutes so accurately and quickly.

I look forward to an enjoyable end to the season with fixtures at The Army and Pine Ridge to come. Finally, best of luck to my successor.
Thank you, Mr Chairman, for a great job

1. Fixtures (RL)

RL commented on the fixtures over the last 12 months The most popular were Pine Ridge (35) and Richmond - also the most expensive! (32) The least popular were Chartham Park (18) and Betchworth (20) The three UK tours; Cornwall, Sussex, Surrey Hills all had around 18 golfers

Overall attendance was up from 341 to 356 with a new event added, the Warburton Slice.

Average attendance remained at 24

Pine Ridge needs to be advertised and RL will contact Burhill

Turning to next year RL recommended the ditching of Betchworth Park, to be replaced by either Cowdray Park or the Drift, both recently played on the Surrey Hills Tour the Drift seem to be the favourite being nearer. MW then threw in some other options to what will be his event so the committee will need to decide

Tours next year were discussed. RL proposed an UK or French tour for June 2024 and a Spanish or Portuguese tour for September 2024 there was general agreement to this RL mentioned that Andy Burn had offered another Somerset tour, and he also suggested Bournemouth. Richard Poole and Mark Adams had mentioned Le Touquet. For September Malaga and Lisbon were mentioned. It was agreed that any tour proposals should be submitted to the committee by 1 November

2. Finances (RH)

These are ticking over quite nicely Everyone pays their money All good Lee asked if there were any poor payers but no there are not Everyone who is playing is paying Net worth £12,934 RT feels that we could make more money on reserve deposits accounts To be discussed at committee RH mentioned that he was looking at moving from HSBC anyway. RH was thanked for his efforts

3. Merchandise (RT)

RT modelled the new WAGS blazer It has been a very busy year Vip was congratulated on the Hall of Shame shirts Mark Adams suggested umbrellas with transparent panels which you can put into trolleys, and also commented on Steve Mac;s red sweater

4. Handicaps (FB)

GM's report was read out by FB

"Honourable members, it has been another great year working with you all in fine tuning each of your respective handicaps!

In February we introduced 'the leveller' calculation. The intention was to adopt the approach of UK Golf Clubs in applying an additional 5% cut on competition handicaps following the stroke rating calculation. It's reduced the number of 43+ winning scores from five last season to just one so far this season. We believe that it's helped to rein in runaway winners, which can only be a good thing.

On the topic of the members who have handed in the most cards since our last AGM in 2022. Former Chairman Peter Berring leads the way with 19! Not missed an event, with Vip next on 18 and Scotty on 17.

The top three players who have shown the most improvement over the past year are Mr Dilke-Wing, McCarthy and Faulkner.

That will be all for this year's report, don't forget to keep your WAGS handicap to within two of your club WHS!"

MW asked if everyone liked the WHS system; there are divided views.
Many feel it is not working perfectly
RT encouraged those with views to contact GM

5. Communications (GM)

No report but working well

6. Website

Late apologies from JS due to a hospital appointment but it is working well.

7. Membership.

MW has removed Nigel Caufield from the Society
It was agreed that those not playing should be contacted by the person who had introduced them
Lee, Scotty and Richard H were singled out as excellent new members
Mark Adams mentioned increase the numbers to 60 but it was felt that with maximum numbers of 36-40 at any event, 50 remains a viable ceiling; it was decided to be more ruthless with existing people who are not really turning up
Membership thanked for his work

8. Committee Elections

Chairman CB retiring and proposes **Mike Wells** Seconded by Steve Shaw
Thunderous applause!

RL proposed that the following be automatically re-elected, this was agreed

Secretary Tom Fawcett

Treasurer Bob Hill

Website / IT John Stembridge

Handicaps Gerry MCGuffie

Membership MW retiring to the Chair and proposes his successor to be **Nigel Field** ,
seconded by John Q and Peter B
Thunderous applause!

9. AOB

RT proposed that this be discussed in the bar; this was agreed, and the subject was then forgotten!

Richard Latham

Acting Secretary

6 October 202