

WAGS Committee meeting December 7th 2022

Rose & Crown - Wimbledon

Attendees: Bunning (CB), Latham (RL), Stembridge (JS), Fawcett (TF), Hill (RH), Berring (FB), Trinick (RT), McGuffie (GM)

Apologies: Wells (MW), Middleton (PM)

The meeting commenced at 7.45 pm after a cracking meal and many well received pints.

Our Chairman CB opened up the meeting to greet everyone and to highlight various items on the agenda.

Fixtures - RL

RL mentioned we have now organised a Tour back to St Mellion in Cornwall for 9th -11th June 2023 which was well received by everyone. The Valley of Death looks forward to seeing us all again! RL mentioned tee offs will be from 9am which meets most Wags sleep requirements after the usual mayhem of the night before.

We have two new venues: The Army Club near Aldershot. I am sure we'll have all guns blazing at The Quaiche. Also, we visit Woodcote Park as a new venue for The Robinson Ryder on May 4th.

We discussed the Sussex Tour. RB and Steve Shaw have been thinking about making it a triple event or do we tag on the extra day at the beginning and have it as a Team Event for the extra day? Currently the Sunday is a Non VL event. CB mentioned we could make the Thursday (the first day) and have a Matchplay event then the Fri and Sat are the two VL events. The committee agreed with this proposal. RH and Steve Shaw will discuss further.

It is noted that fees have risen like everything else at the moment.

CB mentioned that it is not necessary to have another overseas tour in 2023 as it is not a special year where we are celebrating anything. However, MW will be speaking to his contacts in Spain and Majorca to see what options may be there which would suit members budgets. We all recounted what a success the Majorca tour was many years ago. Santander might be a consideration too. After all Seve Ballesteros learnt his golf at the famous Real Golf de Pedrena!

The Berring Bowl in 2023 will be on 14th September followed by the Autumn Tour a week later.

Handicaps - GM

GM mentioned the system is working well. Naturally it is still early stages. As we all play more Wags rounds the handicap system will become more accurate. It was acknowledged that low handicappers have a tough job to win bearing in mind the higher handicap statistics. However, as CB & TF pointed out, this new system has created more new winners which can only be a good thing.

The point was raised that some clubs use the new handicap system and then use 90% of the result thus Handicap x 90% x Slope rating. We put it to the vote and voted in favour of 90%. This should help the low handicappers a little more.

Finance - RH

RH said that finances are in rude health. There is no need to increase subs (£85 per member) which have been held at a constant for many years. The Mike Beament legacy now stands at £2,662. Much of it hasn't been spent due to Covid. Richmond is one of the more expensive and well attended venues so perhaps we could subsidise Richmond again. The Hole in One funds stand at 4K and we have 9k in the bank.

The committee raised the point that we don't get much bank interest even though rates have risen recently. However, as RH mentioned, it is a big hassle to change banks when you are a Society.

Merchandise - RT

RT mentioned we could have some new merchandise such as plum coloured gilets however if anyone has any suggestions please feed them to RT. TF mentioned brollies could be an idea.

Membership - MW

On behalf of MW, RH presented a membership matrix showing the many different categories of members. We should aim to reduce these to three categories: Full Members and Honourable Life Members and Guests.

We should delete Country Members, Juniors and ex-Juniors.

Anyone else can come as a guest of course (eg the current Country Members). All those occasional players can contact a Wag and get an invite that way.

FB felt that Overseas Members should not be able to win the Hole In One competition. Also he added that if you don't play three times a year then

one's membership should be reviewed and those players could come as a guest.

JS mentioned that we need to keep ex-players on the website for historical score statistics.

New Members are required to complete three events before their provisional handicap is confirmed. New members are not eligible to win any prizes until they have had their handicap confirmed. Furthermore, new members scores in their first 12 months of membership will not qualify for the VL.

We need to review the Wags Rules as shown on the website to reflect the above as that mentions Junior Wags

CB also raised the point that too many of the same members keep playing alongside the same familiar faces whereas we should aim to mix it up more so that as a Society we get to know everyone and enjoy our golf with members we may not have played with much. We should become more inclusive! This is the job of each organiser but as most organisers play plenty of Wags golf we know how this should work so we will use this initiative in future.

Website – JS

The committee agreed the website is excellent and hopefully all members make full use of it. JS will be in contact with Steve Stoner regarding his help in continuing to modernise the website.

AOB:

We agreed that the Hole In One competition should be available at any Wags event even if it is not a VL event. The exclusion would be The Christmas Cracker at Burhill GC as that is not a Wags event.

FB mentioned that if you have played at least three times in the last year and are a member you can be included to win the Hole In One competition.

Meeting ended 9.45 pm
Tom Fawcett - Secretary