

## **WAGS Committee meeting 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

### **London Scottish Golf Club**

**Attendees: Bunning (CB), Latham (RL), Stemberge (JS), Fawcett (TF), Middleton (PM), Trinick (RT), McGuffie (GM)**

**Apologies: Wells (MW), Berring (FB), Hill (RH).**

Following a late morning tee off at London Scottish GC for available honourable committee members the meeting commenced at 4pm.

A big thanks goes to London Scottish and our honourable Chairman CB for arranging the day. A hot one it was too and enjoyed by all especially by our honourable handicap secretary with a magnificent gross 78! Well played Mr McGuffie!

Following a sumptuous lunch and a number of beverages our honourable Chairman CB opened up the meeting in the Clubhouse recapping the Minutes from the May committee meeting and pointing out that Dave Broadmoor achieved a Hold in One! There are three £1,000 prizes still available guys so it's waiting to be won!

#### **Fixtures - RL**

RL stated that the numbers for the Autumn Burn Butt and Latham Salver (aka Surrey Hills Tour) are still relatively small and in fact makes one wonder whether we should have gone ahead with a tour to Malaga since it is almost exactly the same members who have signed up as those that would have gone to Malaga! Next year we will go abroad for the Autumn tour.

GM will draft a communication this week to members for anyone wanting a room for the Burn Butt as they have 12 rooms on hold for us if any Wag needs accommodation. Most are taken.

The AGM is taking place after the New Malden fixture although CB and TF will be unable to attend due to holidays. We therefore needed to agree who will run the meeting. The committee agreed that RT would run the meeting and that MW would be proposed by the committee to replace CB as Chairman of WAGS. CB has been in the Chair for two years and aims to stand down.

The Robinson Ryder will not be arranged for 2024 as Gerry Robinson cannot organise this. Wags will need to put out a communication to see if anyone can fill his shoes and choose a venue.

Some of the early fixtures for 2024 are now in place. It was noted that Betchworth GC doesn't seem to attract a huge number of Wags for the Wells Wineglass so perhaps we should change this to another venue. Mannings

Heath was mentioned by TF as a possibility as well as Bramley GC near Guildford and Bletchingley GC. We need to keep an eye on costs of course.

One of the problems we have these days is that Golf Clubs are becoming quite corporate in their requests such as asking us to give a final confirmation of numbers a week before the event.

We need suggestions for 2024 tours and this will be discussed at the AGM with tours in June and September. Sussex is a firm favourite in July. For June Isle of Purbeck, Bournemouth (Ferndown etc), Cornwall, Wales and Somerset were mentioned. For September Morocco, Portugal, Turkey and Spain were mentioned. To be discussed at the AGM.

### **Accounts – RH (absent)**

CB confirmed the accounts are in good order. There is £17,300 in the bank as confirmed by CB. RH has confirmed the figures up to mid August so please refer to the website for details regarding individual member accounts. Not many are owing money so please could anyone not up to date try and bring their account up to date asap.

It was noted that many members are not aware of what happens if you win The Big Swing Trophy at Richmond. The rule is that the winner asks WAGS to donate £250 to a Charity of their choice. The best way of giving is to make the gift yourself privately thus obtaining the available tax relief and then requesting a refund via RH. We should also make it public knowledge regarding which Charity has been chosen each year within the minutes.

### **Handicaps - GM**

The WHS (better known as The Wags Handicap System!) is working well.

We had a recent comprehensive review of handicaps in the first week of August with Fred Berring. GM reviewed all those on the WHS system and rehashed the handicaps as a result.

GM mentioned that on the R&A and WHS websites that if you beat your handicap by 7 points or more then you should be cut by 1. 10 more and you get cut by 2. We should be look at this in more detail.

It was whilst we discussed handicaps that the clubhouse alarm went off.....none other than a result of JS vaping!

### **Merchandise - RT**

RT said that he is considering buying us caps which are of a decent quality rather having to order only tiny amounts of different labels. For example, how many caps are required for members who have played 400 games or 500 games. It would be tiny. Much better is to have a really good quality cap which we all want to wear! For example, Titleist caps are excellent.

Sweaters were mentioned but we have enough sweaters in general and how often do we need a sweater?

Budget wise we agreed that £40/£50 per cap would cost us around £2,000/£2,500 maximum which is well within affordability and it may be the case that we don't need to spend as much as that. The majority voted for new caps which we could do every year as they get old quickly.

RT also mentioned that we changed the winning prizes budget to £100 at last year's AGM as he proposed. Some might have forgotten but £100 is the budget per event as agreed last year.

CB also mentioned we have the £85 per annum subscription which helps towards merchandise, losses on events and insurance so we have plenty to spend and also some of this helps to subsidise a foreign trip every five years as it accumulates.

CB also added that we add £3 to each match fee to pay towards the prizes.

The budget for caps will be put to the AGM.

### **Website - JS**

JS said all working well and nothing to add.

### **Membership – MW (absent)**

TF mentioned that many names are on the website from the past but JS replied that it is helpful to keep them there for historical scores. In any event, if one looks at the handicaps page this gives a true reflection of the current membership.

CB added we have 50-55 members and that's the way we should keep it for our insurers. We have James Scott and Richard Howell as more recent new members.

### **AOB**

Etiquette: we have had a number of complaints about certain WAGs actions at fixtures.

The committee have agreed that the following actions must be adhered to at all times:

- a) Do not talk as players are driving or putting in particular.
- b) Slow play by players spending more than 3 minutes looking for their ball.
- c) When players are on the putting green fellow players should ALWAYS remain silent and not move. In particular players must NOT stand in

line with the flag or be in a putters peripheral vision where possible.  
Simply move to 90 degrees!

- d) Players who hit the ball further than others walking down the fairway in front of the shortest ball meaning that the player with the shorter drive has to hit through players ahead of him. Simply stay level with the ball or at the very least step to one side if you do happen to be ahead for some reason.
- e) When you hire a buggy you should adhere to the clubs instructions at all times. If the club states you do not drive a buggy down the fairways it's important not to contravene this rule.
- f) Broken glass at Richmond this year was unfortunate and has lead to them saying plastic cups will be given next year. Unfortunately Richmond does not place tables for us at Richmond for the putting competition so next year we will ask. We repaid the damages.
- g) JS reminded us all that we do have an etiquette code on the website!

We have some committee members up for re-election this year.

Chairman: CB  
Secretary: TF  
Handicaps: GM  
Website: JS  
Accounts: RH

A big vote of thanks was given to CB for both chairing this meeting and for his tenacity in driving the society forward over the past two years.....anyone for another pint?

CB closed the meeting at 5.30pm.

**Meeting ended 5.30pm**  
**Tom Fawcett - Secretary**