

Minutes of LAGS A.G.M.

Monday 30th October 2023

Present:

David Merrygold, Grant Masom, Paul Lord, Godfrey Wardle, Geoff Hopkinson, Alan Robb, Peter White, Ivan Stephenson, Alan Tyler, Alun Davies, Vic Cooper, David Brittain, Doug Weston, Peter Gunn, Terry Willcox, Rob Thomson, Brian Cox, John Campbell, Roy Matthews, Terry Adams, Ian Griffith, Adrian Scevity, Roger Shaw, Dick Ash, Ron Fielding, David Hillis, Roger Preedy, Shaun Pyatt, Malcolm Barker, George CZ, Jim Morrison, John Smith, Geoff Maidment, Brian Clark, John Gonoud, Peter Warrington, Geoff Whitton, Bill Cole & Peter Ellingham.

Apologies for Absence:

Vance Williamson, Brian Cable, Dennis Smith, Peter Macleod, Jim Whitcomb, Andy Stone, Len Stacey & Hamish Keith.

Minutes of last Meeting

Accepted

Matters arising from last Meeting

- **125th Anniversary – LAGS Donated Acer Tree**

This has been pruned and the dead wood removed. It seems to be growing again so we will wait to see if it recovers fully.

Secretary's Report

We now have 109 members with an average age close to 72.

The LAGS were formed in 1973. To commemorate the 50th anniversary a new "Anniversary Cup" is being introduced next year. This will be an individual Stableford competition and scheduled on Monday 15th April.

I have had to make a last-minute change to the LAGS Diary for next year to accommodate the England Golf Seniors Series on 1st July. As a result of this, the Pro's Prize and Noble Cup competitions will be run as one event on Monday 24th June. The logistics of this are still to be finalised.

We have one significant change to our matches next year. We encountered problems agreeing dates with Lambourne. We have now replaced them with Frilford Heath. Hopefully this will be a popular change. I am also pursuing alternatives when/if Maidenhead closes.

The LAGS Diary will be posted on the Noticeboard and emailed to everyone in the next few days.

Club and LAGS Competition requirements. In 2024, the Seniors Championship, Vets Cup and Salisbury Salver will have a maximum handicap index of 25.3 playing off the yellow tees (not 20.9 WHI with 22 shots received). This will mean a maximum of 27 strokes received. Higher handicappers can enter but will have to play off the maximum allowance. The Competition Manual will be updated.

On 1st April 2024 there will be changes to the WHS system (Course rating will be used instead of Par to calculate course handicap (brings UK in line) and 4BBB cards will be acceptable provided no gimmies are taken). At the same time, the club will be introducing Ability Based Play. Details will be communicated nearer the time.

A few words about the roles of warden and vice-warden. Arrangements have been made to ease the workload of both roles. We have established a group of LAGS who are willing to captain the team when the warden is unavailable. Likewise, we are establishing a small group who are willing to conduct the draw for the Monday roll-up. Hopefully this will encourage more people to volunteer for the roles in the future.

New Eclectic Cards are available. You can start these with effect from next Monday 6th November. See Paul Lord afterwards if you want a card. The £2 fee will be deducted from your bar card.

Finally, a reminder that the LAGS Annual Diner is on Friday 17th November. If you have not already done so, please let me have your bookings.

Treasurer's Report

Our current funds are marginally down from last year but still healthy. This now reflects our normal level of activity before COVID, but we do have less members participating in our regular counting competitions when we take a small donation to pay for the gifts to the green staff and Kerry who are all invaluable to our section.

We still have some further expenditure to spend in respect of those gifts and other payments in respect of our Annual Dinner which will obviously reduce our current balance, but I don't expect that to present a problem given the current balance.

The Accounts will be finalised at the end of the year, and I will be happy to discuss any questions at that time.

Match Secretary's Report

Results have not been as good as previous years mainly caused by halving four of our twelve home matches and losing all but one of our away matches. However, we did achieve a startling win away at Ashridge! I think our "friendly" opponents are trying to gain revenge for previous year's results.

The warden has played in only 15 matches this year due to family commitments and the remaining 9 games captained by four different Lags.

This year has seen two leading performers in more than 8 games played, with Brian Clark and Peter Gunn with 56% of available points won and Alan Robb, David Hillis, Godfrey Wardle and Peter Warrington scoring 50% or more.

Thanks to responses to my late requests for additional players on 10 occasions this year when Lags have dropped out after selection. Hopefully if the early season's request system set up by Bill Streeter is not used next year but just application sheets on our notice board up a week earlier than at present, there will be fewer occasions when this will happen.

After 12 years of carrying out this task I am retiring, and I hope that whoever takes over my role gets the same support that I have had.

Warden's Report

Only a brief report from me. The LAGs are a great group of people, and joining the LAGS four years ago was a great way for me to get involved in the golf club and get to know people.

It's been a privilege to help in the continuing traditions of the LAGS by being Vice-Warden and Warden for the past two years, but it's also been very enjoyable.

Various thank-yous – firstly, to my various long-suffering partners, with apologies for all the duff shots and missed putts, particularly when the match has been on the line. Secondly, and perhaps most importantly, to Pete, Geoff and Paul, who do all the work of running the LAGS, much of it behind the scenes and unglamorous. Thank you for all the work you do, which makes the job of Warden really rather easy.

So, I wish Godfrey well as he takes over – if you have as much fun as I've had, you'll have a great year.

Election of Officers

The meeting thanked Geoff Hopkinson for 12 years of sterling work as Match Secretary.

The Secretary (Pete Ellingham), Treasurer (Paul Lord) and Greens Representative (Pete Ellingham) were duly re-elected.

The new match secretary is Godfrey Wardle.

Announcement of new Vice Warden

The new Vice Warden is Alun Davies.

LAGS hole-in-one club

It appears that we do have a LAGS hole-in-one club. It is not widely known and needs to be restored.

There are sufficient funds to start without a contribution and everyone will automatically be a member

The suggested approach is:

- Payout for hole-in-one achieved on a Monday (either LAGS Rollup or Home Match)
- Amount payable dependent upon number of contributors – maximum of £50
- We can increase the amount paid if we have a larger number of contributors
- When the pot is less than £50, we will ask for a voluntary £2 per head to remain in the club.

AOB

Eclectic Cards and Temporary Greens

It was questioned again if scores made on holes when temporary greens are in use should be counted towards the eclectic. After a brief discussion, a vote was taken where the overwhelming majority voted against allowing these to be counted towards the eclectic score.

2022 Trophies Presentation

Congratulations to the winners who are:

THE NOBLE CUP (LAGS Champion) Peter Macleod

THE CAMPBELL CHALLENGE CUP (Warden & Vice-Warden Challenge)
Adrian Scevity & Dick Ash

THE THORP GOBLETS (Fourball Knock-Out Winners) Gary Robinson & Doug Weston

THE BLABER BOWL (Most Consistent Golfer) Dick Ash

RALPH ISON CUP (Eclectic) Peter Warrington

PLAY YOUR AGE Brian Clark

COCK UP CUP Roger Preedy

STAN SIDDEERS CUP – VICE WARDEN Godfrey Wardle

The result of the annual Warden v Vice Warden team competition for the Stan Sidders Cup resulted in a 6½-½ win for the Vice Warden's team.