

West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at the RAFA Club on Wednesday 19th October 2022

Present: Alan Evans (Chair), Bridget Johnson, Chris Frew, Jan Duncan, Bernice Horseman, Bill Ashford, Alan Peak-Payne, Jane Chapman, David Jones.

Apologies: Jen Challoner

1 Minutes of previous meeting (24th August 2022):

The minutes were agreed and signed.

2 Matters to note, arising since last meeting:

2.1 The Club closed on 19th September, the day of the Queen's funeral

2.2 Friday afternoon sessions restarted on 23rd September

2.3 We hosted a League match on Wednesday 5th October; we had enough boards, which Gareth pre-dealt.

2.4 The first Quarterly Competitions ended, and the winners were cited on our website

2.5 Our website is now hosted by GoDaddy, not UK Secure

3 Officers' Reports:

3.1 (Treasurer) Bill presented the draft Report and Accounts for the financial year 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022. He said, bottom line: we lost £392 over the year. In the previous 17 months – the Covid period – we lost about £7,000, of which about half was the cost of moving premises and re-equipping. However, as of today, we have £31,000 in the bank, and need only 4/5 tables per session to break even, so Bill forecasts that we should be solvent for years to come.

Alan Evans commented that, given the turmoil over the past year, and the impact of alternative online bridge sessions, these results are very promising. **Incidental Action:** Alan Evans to reword our website introduction to clarify our current sessions.

3.2 (Membership Secretary) Bridget circulated a list of current members who have not as yet renewed, split between those who have not played since March 2020 (15 members) and those who have played since September 2021 (20 members). The former group will be lapsed at the end of October; the latter group will be chased if/when they reappear. Individual cases were discussed and assigned.

3.3 RAFA Liaison (Jan) Jan will test the water over our thought that the RAFA Club pictures of aircraft could be consolidated, to free up a wall for our own pictures and plaques.

4 Substantive matters debated:

4.1 Alan P-P spoke to Ralph about BCC's sources of new players. They advertise through free periodicals as we do but, crucially, BCC can offer lessons to complete beginners, and this provides the bulk of their new faces (although few move on to become regular club players).

4.2 **Action B/F** on Alan P-P to contact Marc Lee re possible match versus Bristol University: **C/F.** Alan P-P will also try contacting UWE.

4.3 Should Monday evening sessions be revived? Several pairs were named as prepared to patronise, but on balance it was agreed that we should secure (the new) Friday afternoon sessions first, then reconsider Monday evening sessions in the Spring.

4.4 Mike Letts' BCC merger initiative: Alan E has written to explain why we are content to remain independent.

- 4.5 Beautifying our Club entranceway. Committee agreed a £100 budget for Alan P-P to spend on potplants likely to survive. Chris offered to lend a Victorian mahogany plant stand. **Action:** Alan P-P to consider.
- 4.6 Offer to accommodate BCC sessions during their reported refurbishment shutdown: the refurbishment is now understood to be just an idea, unagreed by BCC Committee or members at present. Our offer remains open for discussion, should BCC choose to consider it.
- 4.7 The Director Pool. Bill is unavailable for dates in December, and Alan Evans may be unable to cover evening sessions for the time being. David may cover those specific dates; **Action:** Alan Evans, who will continue to manage the Director rota generally.
- 4.8 Spare Player pool. Paul Brown has done most of the heavy lifting to date [thanks, Paul] but cannot make some December dates. Several Directors (Bill, David and Gareth) are generally prepared to be the spare player in sessions they direct; and Bill, David and Chris are happy to be the spare at other times, by arrangement. There is only a need for someone to manage the Spare Player rota, akin to the Director rota; **action Chris** to ask Paul Brown if he will take it on.

5 Communication to members

Nothing specific raised.

6 Any Other Business

6.1 Alan P-P asked how Thursday afternoon financial arrangements fitted in to the overall picture? Bill said that Thursday afternoon players paid the same table money as all other sessions, paid the same membership fees, and were no different to any other members. The only difference was that, for historical reasons, Jen held the finances and paid the helpers directly from the table money. As Jen transfers regular sums to cover a due share of our rental, and transfers occasional lump sums also as profits arise, there would be no gain from altering the situation. Nevertheless, he will undertake to occasionally review Jen's books more formally.

6.2 At present it is policy for Cross-IMP scoring to be used in sessions with fewer than five tables; for five tables or more, it is the Director's discretion whether to use that or Match Point scoring. By proxy, Jen asked whether Match Point scoring (instead of Cross-IMP scoring) could be reintroduced as she (and others) found it easier to understand.

A discussion ensued. The eventual conclusion was that there is inadequate understanding of the relative merits, and we should start by improving understanding of the relationship between a Cross-IMP score and a Match Point score on a given board; and how one's final session result under each system relates to (i) the award of Masterpoints, and (ii) movement in one's NGS grade.

David bravely volunteered to work up a presentation on these matters, to educate and then put the issue to attenders at each session for them to indicate preference. **Action: David**

7 Date of Next Meeting:

14th December, 6 pm. Agenda to include decisions on Christmas/New Year sessions

Agreed
(CHAIRMAN)

Date