

West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at the RAFA Club on Thursday 1st July 2021

Present: Alan Evans (Chair), Bridget Johnson, Chris Frew, Bernice Horseman, Jan Duncan, David Jones.

Absent: Laurie Barth, Jen Challoner, Dinah Moore, Bill Ashford, Jane Chapman

1 Minutes of previous meeting (3rd June 2021):

These were agreed and signed after minor typographical corrections.

2 Actions arising (not covered elsewhere):

- 2.1 Action on Alan to explain our (lack of) AGMs to members – completed. Dinah was said to favour a Zoom-based AGM.

3 Latest lockdown news:

No further advice from the EBU in the last month.. Nationally, most restrictions now planned to end on 19th July. We shall see.

4 Readiness of the venue.

- 4.1 Overall, the room is ready for use, though the new colour scheme was not to the taste of some.
- 4.2 Our old green table coverings now look inappropriate; **action: Alan** to source and price up new blue replacements.
- 4.3 The stairlift is installed.
- 4.4 The handrail down to the rear entrance is fitted. It is understood that new PIR lighting, and retreatment of the step edges, are planned.
- 4.5 Minor points now raised: (i) a sizeable doormat on entry via the rear doors (ii) a proper doorhandle to the ladies loo (iii) a wallclock (or two) (iv) a bucket for umbrellas at the rear doors. We also want permission to mount the whiteboard in the agreed spot, and seek permission to put up the (blue) noticeboard in our chosen spot. The noticeboard, and the most sensible location for the Director's cupboards, involves relocating pictures. On these points we are variously prepared to buy ourselves, do the work, or contribute to the costs. We would also like to take up the RAFA Club offer to move all their tables and chairs out of the room. Agreed that all these matters are best approached by asking Jane Chapman, our liaison point with the RAFA Club, to discuss with RAFA Club face to face. **Action: Jane**

5 Furniture Acquisition Update

- 5.1 The twelve new tables have been delivered, as have forty new (blue) chairs. The tables are easy to stack and erect, and the chairs proved comfortable for all Committee members. The total cost of the new chairs, tables and cupboards was £1900.

6 Equipment Update

- 6.1 Four of our old blue cloth-covered chairs are also on-site. The new Directors' cupboards have been assembled, put in position and filled with much of our equipment, now returned from sundry garages.
- 6.2 The mobile coat rack is in position.
- 6.3 Alan plans that we should replace ScoreBridge with the free EBUScore. **Action: Alan.** He will also test the BridgeMates with EBUScore after having imported the player database from Pianola.
- 6.4 Alan reported that the dealing machine worked OK with only minor glitches. He said that Gareth is prepared to continue dealing for us, though he has his own machine now.

6.5 Jen has asked for space to store her 'Fun Events' equipment at the RAFA Club; and Chris would welcome repatriating three floor fans from his loft. Both were asked to hang on for now.

7 Plans for Trial Sessions

7.1 Committee agreed a first trial session for 22nd July, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., with a limited number of tables. As it may reveal snags, we will invite only Committee, plus a few volunteers noted for their patience and constructive contributions. **Action: Chris** to tell Jen and Jane. Access to tea/coffee would be helpful; **action: Alan** to ask.

7.2 There may be further trial sessions. We have a shortage of directors in August. All-in-all, our current planning assumption is that we will fully reopen for bridge from early September.

7.3 During August we will develop house rules about wearing of face masks etc in light of the guidance at the time.

8 Dual Membership progress

8.1 It is now clear that WoEBC members will have to apply themselves, individually and directly, to the (national) RAF Association for membership, at £13 p.a.. We can then charge £17 p.a. for membership of the WoEBC, to include membership of the Bristol RAFA Club, and exchange lists of names and pay local memberships to the RAFA Club. Thus we can tell members that for £30 annually they will have membership of the RAF Association, the Bristol RAFA Club and the WoEBC.

8.2 We might find it easier to move our 'membership year' to start in September or October; and RAFA Club have said that they might move their membership year to help the administration. **Action: Alan** to meet with Tim Shortman (Chairman, Bristol RAFA Club) to work out how to make it work.

8.3 Those who paid £20 in March 2020 for membership for the year from April 2020, will have their payment credited towards the new membership year.

8.4 We will need to tighten our rules on non-members playing. Our draft Agreement with RAFA Club allows that guests are welcome up to four times a year each.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Alan's stylish notice about our Club for the RAFA Club noticeboard was approved.

9.2 Is there a cashless option for table money (or bar purchases)? Bill is said to be sceptical; Bristol BC has rejected it; but Cheltenham BC is said to use it. **Action: David** to find out more.

9.3 Bill's suggestion that we head off possible short-term cashflow problems in the coming months by making a small transfer from our Hampshire Bank 120-day Notice Account, was approved.

10 Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 22nd July, 4:00 pm, at the RAFA Club, i.e. following the trial session.

Agreed

Date