

West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 3rd June 2021

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

Absent: Laurie Barth, Jen Challoner, Dinah Moore

1 Minutes of previous meeting (13th May 2021):

These were agreed.

2 Actions arising:

None not covered elsewhere.

3 Latest lockdown news:

Still considerable uncertainty nationally as to whether the final lockdown restrictions will be lifted on the 21st June. There is no further advice from the EBU. Bristol BC plan to open in June, but the EBU plans its first f2f tournament in August.

4 Readiness of the venue.

- 4.1 Risk Assessment. Done by (our member) John Cockram, a Chartered Safety and Health Practitioner. John was overall quite impressed with the venue. The report emphasised the cleaning regime, and noted that precautions may need to change as evidence emerges. For now, ten tables should allow for sufficient spacing.
- 4.2 Carpeting. Jane said that the patch of purple carpet on an otherwise hardwood floor looks odd in the context of the overall colour scheme, but it is new, clean and safe; so we should live with it. She will ask at the next Bristol RAFA Club Committee meeting (14th June) what else might be planned. **Action: Jane.**
- 4.3 Handrail to lower ground external entrance. Recommended by the RA; to be installed by the RAFA Club imminently.
- 4.4 The lower ground floor, where we shall play, has recently been dedicated as the ‘Johnny Johnson Room’.

5 Furniture Acquisition Update

Twelve new tables have been bought and delivered.

Our chosen chairs are shown at:

www.trentfurniture.co.uk/products/all-industries/harrow-steel-stacking-chair-with-silver-frame-81 Jan asked whether we have tried them? Answer: no, but elsewhere a similar model has proved acceptable to most people. After debate, Committee agreed to buy forty, supplemented by the few blue cloth chairs we brought from Golden Hill, for use by those with a strong preference. We shall take up RAFA Club’s offer to put away their existing stock of chairs, as we do not want players dragging their favourite models of chair around the room. **Action: Alan** to purchase chosen chairs. Jan asked if RAFA would also put away their red-upholstered benches if asked? Before asking we will take up occupation, and see how it looks.

Alan has also identified a matched pair of lockable cupboards, one tall and one shorter, to be the new Directors’ Cupboard(s), available for about £500 for DIY assembly. This was authorised to purchase; **Action: Alan.** Chris will take up the RAFA Club offer to be the RAFA Club keyholder and be on hand to take delivery. **Action: Chris**

6 Questionnaire to members

Alan reported 80ish responses, covering about 90 members. We learned that several have

moved away, and – sadly – Ted Cox has died. Analysing the returns, there was an overwhelming interest in returning to f2f bridge, to the sessions members previously attended. While many were prepared to return as soon as lockdown ended, some said they would wait until September to see how the situation developed, and there was much interest in our plans to make the sessions Covid-safe. Several wanted assurance that all attenders will have been fully vaccinated. Jane asked: are we allowed to ask and discriminate? The answer was, we don't know. Several would not attend if required to use a face mask; we want to be in a position where we do not require them (or visors), and not requiring them is not controversial. Members would of course be able to choose to continue to wear face protection if they so wish.

Considering all the above, and after debate, we concluded that today we could not, and should not, fix a date for reopening for general f2f bridge. A best guess at present would be a general restart in August. Alan and David have agreed to be on the Directors' rota ab initio; Bill is available from September and Gareth will do Fridays. Jen has sent a message that she hopes to be available for the Thursday Improver sessions.

Agreed that Alan should write an email to members, to keep them in the loop. **Action: Alan.**

7 Plan for trial sessions

We agreed that the next Committee meeting should be on 1st July, and ideally in the Johnny Johnson Room. At that meeting we can finalise plans for moving all our equipment to the RAFA Club and (hopefully) fix dates for trial sessions to commission and test the necessary technologies.

8 Dual Membership

Chris spoke to his note of 28th May. Though the mechanics need further work, it was agreed in principle that we should charge one annual membership fee, provisionally set at £30, to include membership of the (national) RAF Association and the Bristol RAFA Club. We will need to get each member to complete the RAF Association Application Form, but then ourselves control the process of submitting the applications in bulk, and making bulk payments to the RAF Association and the Bristol RAFA Club. Bristol RAFA Club have a Membership Year that runs from 1st January to 31st December; it would be administratively simpler if we were to fall in line with that. (Currently, our Membership Year runs 1st April to 31st March, coinciding with our Financial Year; which complicates the Treasurer's job.) How should we handle the membership income we received early last year for the Membership Year 2020/21, during which there was no play? Committee agreed that those members who paid early should not be penalised, but should be credited with the full payment they made in March 2020 towards our new membership arrangements. How should we handle part-year payments for the balance of 2021? Simplest would be if we made pro-rata payments to RAF Association and Bristol RAFA Club, but charged our members nothing. Approach to be negotiated with Bristol RAFA Club. **Action: unassigned**

9 Any Other Business

9.1 We have missed two AGMs. **Action: Alan** to explain to members.

9.2 Jane asked for the .doc format rather than the .docx format.

10 Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 1st July, 2:00 pm, hopefully in the flesh at the RAFA Club. **Action: Alan** to arrange.

Agreed

Date