

## West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at the RAFA Club on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Present: Alan Evans (Chair), Bridget Johnson, Chris Frew, Jan Duncan, Jen Challoner, David Jones (part).

Apologies: Bernice Horseman, Bill Ashford, Jane Chapman, Laurie Barth

Minutes of previous meeting (27<sup>th</sup> October 2021):

These were agreed and signed.

### 1 Actions arising (not covered elsewhere):

- 1.1 Action on Chris to disguise hole in parquet flooring: done.
- 1.2 Formalising the Room Hire Agreement: Chris redrafted (as Draft 9) and circulated. Next action is for RAFA Club Committee to formally agree it.
- 1.3 Changing the financial year, and Constitution consequences: Bill and Chris have discussed. Bill wants the financial year to change to a 1<sup>st</sup> September start, to coincide with the agreed new membership year start date. This was also agreed, though both will require a formal change to the Constitution, and would point to AGMs around November in normal times. Next action: Chris to propose consequent changes to the Constitution, which would need membership ratification at a Special General Meeting.
- 1.4 Offer to RAFA Club of free lessons: Chris has produced a Notice; Tim will discuss with his RAFA Committee and promote to their membership.

### 2 Issues relating to RAFA Club as a venue: (actions for Jane, unless otherwise stated)

- 2.1 Still seeking written instructions for the stairlift.
- 2.2 Wiring for a fire alarm system. Q: Is it working? A: Don't know; Jane to ask.
- 2.3 Jane to ask for a stairwell light lampshade.
- 2.4 Loo door closers have been installed.
- 2.5 Jane reports that occasional and incidental use of the kitchen is OK with the RAFA Club
- 2.6 The beeping has stopped, but is the stairlift fixed? Jane to ask.
- 2.7 We are sure that we are not responsible for the security issue on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November, but have agreed that Monday and Thursday afternoon directors will now additionally check that the ground floor is locked up.
- 2.8 Jane finds Monday evenings awkward to attend RAFA Committee meetings. Action: Chris to sound out another candidate for liaison officer.
- 2.9 RAFA have reported that they cannot reconcile coffee/tea receipts at the honesty bar. This is concerning if it is serious. Action: Jane to seek details.
- 2.10 Noise levels during play; Jane would like to these to be abated. Discussion produced no economic suggestions, though if RAFA Club were to propose more carpeting, we would welcome it.
- 2.11 Jen has told Tim Shortman that the radiator by the patio doors is not working. Tim said he will investigate.
- 2.12 Tim has asked that afternoon session players respect the RAFA Club's agreement with Gymboree, which reserves 20 (?) (undesigned) parking places for their use. We will ask afternoon Directors to tell players to park outside if the carpark looks crowded.
- 2.13 Chris wondered if the suggestion that RAFA Club may want to mount TV screens on the end walls is still a runner. Action: Jane to ask.
- 2.14 Jen asked Tim if we may have use of the cupboard at the base of the front stairs on the immediate left, and he agreed. Action: Jane to confirm at RAFA Committee.

3 Issues relating to WoEBC as a bridge club:

3.1 Ken Griffin has asked if we can host League matches. Action: Alan to check availability of boards first..

3.2 Attendance numbers and Christmas/New Year opening. Alan circulated some interesting graphs. Our initial thoughts are that Monday and Wednesday evening sessions are cancelled during Christmas week; Friday evening of Xmas Eve and New Year's Eve are unlikely to be popular; but afternoon sessions should continue throughout. However, reduced numbers would make some sessions unviable, so during the coming week Directors will take soundings at each session, so that a definitive announcement may be made over the weekend of 18/19 December.

4 Officers' reports

4.1 (Treasurer) Bill wrote to say that a transfer of £3,000 from our savings account arrived on 30<sup>th</sup> October. He confirmed that we are now broadly breaking even.

4.2 (Membership Secretary) Bridget produced a current analysis of who was now playing but had yet to renew as a member. Actions fall on relevant session Directors. Bridget is not (and cannot) checking RAFA Association or RAFA Club membership.

5 Communication to Members

Christmas/New Year opening will warrant an email to all members. An SGM to discuss Constitution changes would need a formal announcement at some future date.

6 Any Other Business

6.1 Jen proposes mince pies to mark Christmas for the afternoon sessions in the week before Christmas. This was agreed. [Stop Press: subsequently the idea has been dropped because of the Covid surge]

6.2 Jen says she will present Tim with a bottle of her home-made sloe gin, by way of appreciation for his helpfulness.

7 Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 6:00 pm, at the RAFA Club. Possibly to be preceded by a SGM if the date works for Bill and Jane.

Agreed .....  
(CHAIRMAN)

Date .....