

West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at the RAFA Club on Monday 13th September 2021

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

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

1 Guest appearance by Gareth and his card payment machine: postponed to our next meeting.

2 Minutes of previous meeting (19th August 2021):

These were agreed and signed.

3 Actions arising (not covered elsewhere):

- 3.1 Action on Jan to source an umbrella bin: completed. Jan needs reimbursing £32-99.
- 3.2 Action on Chris to fix hole in parquet flooring: in progress.
- 3.3 Action on Chris to acquire an entry mat for the patio doors: completed. Invoice for £61-39 passed to Tim Shortman.
- 3.4 Action on Alan to investigate getting NGS grades into EBUScore: believed solved, though yet to be tried.
- 3.5 Action on Chris to investigate setting up Quarterly and Annual competitions: Chris has reminded himself how it's done, but we agreed to not to set up such competitions for now; we will wait for the natural time periods to come round.
- 3.6 Action on Jane to set up a WhatsApp group for members to facilitate partner-finding etc: completed, though take up is slow.
- 3.7 Action on Alan and Chris to email (Alan) or phone (Chris) all members re reopening: completed.
- 3.8 Duplicate Keys: action on Chris to acquire five sets (for Alan, David, Jen, Bill and Gareth). Completed. Invoice for £70 with Bill.

4 Readiness of the Venue – RAFA Club actions:

- 4.1 Written instructions for the stairlift; **action Jane** to seek from RAFA Club. Carried forward
- 4.2 Wiring for a fire alarm system has stalled. No further news..
- 4.3 Tea/coffee and biscuits. The original plan for RAFA Club ladies to serve tea has been replaced with a DIY urn. Committee debated whether this is satisfactory. Agreed it is more practical in principle. Under this new order, tea/coffee and biscuits remain free at afternoon sessions; and tea/coffee are charged at 50p at evening sessions.

5 Readiness of the Venue – WoEBC actions:

- 5.1 The whiteboard penshelf has been fixed.
- 5.2 Duplimate machine. Alan has found a UK-based agent who will try to fix it. Alan will courier it to him; meanwhile, Gareth is using his machine to do the boards for us.
- 5.3 Printer: Alan has bought a new printer for the club, though it is not yet installed. (This prompted a debate about whether to bother with printed results on the noticeboard; this may be revisited.)

6 Current Issues

6.1 Dual Membership Progress (should be triple membership progress).

Alan and Bridget are liaising with Tim Shortman. Members have been completing and sending off applications to the RAF Association; more proformae are needed. Tim has said that there is no need to wait for the RAF Association membership number to come back; members can apply for RAFA Club membership by completing a form and paying online (preferred), or

handing £7-50 over the bar. The reset Membership Year of WoEBC will now run 1st September to 31st August. The majority of members are deemed to have paid by carrying over their sub payment from March 2020. From all others, £9-50 is now due.

6.2 Review of mask wearing. Following Paul Brown's letter, the issue has been reconsidered. The website wording has been strengthened to encourage mask-wearing at all times.

6.3 Attendance numbers and weekly session formats. In terms of the low numbers, we need to hold our nerve and not panic. Cross-Imp scoring is a fairer scoring system for small attendance numbers, but we are making no longer-term decisions about scoring systems for Monday and Wednesday evenings.

There seems to be a general shift to preference for afternoon sessions, so we will 'reposition' Monday afternoons, withdrawing the word 'gentle' and emphasising that it is relaxed, competitive, and suitable for capable players. Paul Brown has offered to contact all those he knows to encourage them to try Monday afternoons; we accept, and Bridget is authorised to share member contact details with him. **Action: Chris** to tell Paul.

Action: Chris to get entries into the local free newspapers and magazines about our sessions. Afternoon play may be popular, but we are not yet ready to open up a third afternoon a week.

7 Communication to Members

Alan will write to all members to remind them we are fully open and 'reposition' Monday afternoon. **Action: Alan**

8 Any Other Business, including Officers' Reports

8.1 NICKO. Jan will encourage WoEBC teams, but all team members must be members of WoEBC; though if they virtually never appear at the RAFA Club, we would not require them to join it.

8.2 AGM. Committee considered when to hold an AGM, as there is discomfort that the last formal AGM was in May 2019. Nevertheless, after discussion it was agreed that we should target May 2022 for the next.

8.3 Sandwiches. We have evening session players who come straight from work. Might RAFA Club do sandwiches for sale? **Action: Jane** to ask.

9 Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 25th October, 6:00 pm, at the RAFA Club.

Agreed
(CHAIRMAN)

Date