

West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at the RAFA Club on Thursday 19th August 2021

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

Absent: Bill Ashford, Jane Chapman, Dinah Moore

1 Minutes of previous meeting (22nd July 2021):

These were agreed and signed.

2 Actions arising (not covered elsewhere):

- 2.1 Action on Alan to purchase blue tablecloths for 12 tables at £15 each – done. We will keep the old green cloths for messy events like meals, and for RAFA Club to use to protect our tables.
- 2.2 Action on Jan to source two umbrella bins – in progress. Jan decided one is enough. The damaged floor area is too large to be obscured by a second bin, so it should be repaired. **Action: Chris** to look at it.
- 2.3 Chris to acquire and charge an entry mat for the patio doors – in hand.
- 2.4 Action on Alan to write to members trailing the table money increase to £5 – completed, and accepted by members with only one negative comment.
Gareth reportedly has bought a payment card machine for his club; **action Alan** to ask him for details.
- 2.5 Action on Alan to investigate partner finding via Pianola; Bridget has suggested an alternative, whereby members who want to find partners (or organise lifts) could join a WhatsApp group. Jane has volunteered to administer.

3 Readiness of the Venue – RAFA Club actions:

- 3.1 The room to be cleared; it happened today.
- 3.2 Written instructions for the stairlift; **action Jane** to seek from RAFA Club.
- 3.3 Keys: RAFA Club has authorised extra sets; **action Chris** to acquire five (for Alan, David, Jen, Bill and Gareth).
- 3.4 Wiring for a fire alarm system is in progress.
- 3.5 Bernice asked that the edge to the slightly raised paved area outside be painted white.
Action: Jane.

4 Readiness of the Venue – WoEBC actions:

- 4.1 Air purifiers: two have been bought and Alan demonstrated one.
- 4.2 The Directors' cupboards have been moved; RAFA Club will now fix the wifi relay high on the wall.
A debate on spare cupboard space surfaced the volume of club possessions still held off-site. Jen would like to be free of the Fun Events paraphernalia at her house; Laurie has our library and bookcase; Chris has a carrying chair and a guillotine. Alan said that we should look at what could be repatriated, but not yet.
- 4.3 The whiteboard and noticeboard have been installed by Chris and Phil Seymour. **Action: Chris** to now find and fix the little shelf that holds the pens.
- 4.4 Alan has been commissioning the printer and dealing machine. The dealing machine is being temperamental over the bar coding on cards, which Alan is discussing with the Duplimate manufacturer; Gareth has said he could deal for us in the interim if necessary. The printer seems gunged up. If the printer cannot be cleaned, Alan is authorised to buy another.

- 5 Dual Membership Progress (should be triple membership progress)
 This remains a knotty problem to explain, let alone administer, even with goodwill on all sides. We now have the forms for members to complete to enrol in the RAF Association; that membership involves them setting up an annual DD (for preference) for £13. Members should enrol at an early visit to the club, and annual membership of the RAF Association will date from then. When accepted by the RAF Association (which takes a couple of weeks) members must then enrol in the Bristol RAFA Club (membership £7-50 for a year or part-year, running from 1st January each year). Members will also pay £9-50 p.a. to the WoEBC for membership of our club; membership year currently running from 1st April each year. Alan and Bridget will organise with Tim Shortman how this will work. **Action; Alan and Bridget.** We are happy to move our membership year start date if it makes administration any easier. The WoEBC membership fee some members paid in advance of the abortive membership year that began on 1st April 2020 will be credited in some way.
- 6 Opening Date and formats
 After discussion, we agreed to reopen for bridge from Wednesday 1st September. The first 3 sessions (i.e. Wednesday evening, Thursday afternoon and Friday evening) will be trial sessions, to bed down our systems and gauge interest. The trial sessions will be limited to eight tables and will require members to book in advance (Jan volunteered to administer); and they will be free. From Monday 6th September, our full, normal programme will restart. Alan is organising a Director rota. Jen hopes to resume attendance at Thursday sessions, and asked that tea/coffee involves biscuits but not cake (**Action: Jane**). (David's view on cake on Monday afternoons was not discussed.) A question arose: can the tables be left out after each session? To be clarified (**action Jane**), but Alan hopes that they will normally be left out Monday to Friday.
- 7 Treasurer's report on current finances
 Bill wrote to say that we are now down to £1500 in our current account; and £3,000 has been requested from our term deposit account. This latter will not arrive until the end of October, but Bill will finance the gap, if necessary, from his own pocket.
- 8 Communication to Members
 Alan will write to all members (with an email address) with the reopening details above, asap. He will also give Chris a list of the non-emailed, for him to spread the word by phone. **Action: Alan and Chris.**
- 9 Any Other Business
- 9.1 Laurie raised a niggles about the announcement on Monday nights of the winners before and after handicap. Alan committed to not sneering.
- 9.2 **Action Chris** to look at restarting the quarterly and annual competition results recording mediated through Pianola. **Action Alan** to check how NGS grades get into EBUScore.
- 9.3 Jen will continue to keep a register of attenders at Thursday afternoons. (All other sessions' attenders can be checked from the website.)
- 10 Date of Next Meeting:
 Monday 13th September, 6:00 pm, at the RAFA Club

Agreed
 (CHAIRMAN)

Date