

## West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at the RAFA Club on Thursday 22nd July 2021

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

Absent: Laurie Barth, Jen Challoner, Bernice Horseman, Dinah Moore

### 1 Minutes of previous meeting (1<sup>st</sup> July 2021):

These were agreed and signed.

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

- 2.1 Action on Alan to price and source new table coverings: completed. We agreed to purchase blue tablecloths for 12 tables at £15 each.
- 2.2 Action on Jane to relay a list of minor improvements to the RAFA Club: completed. RAFA Club have them in hand, but we have agreed to (i) buy any clocks we want (ii) source two umbrella bins (**action: Jan**) and (iii) acquire and charge an entry mat for the patio doors (**action: Chris**)
- 2.3 Action on Alan to install EBUScore: completed.
- 2.4 Actions to set up the test event: completed
- 2.5 **Carried Forward: Action on Alan** to work out mechanics of dual membership with Tim Shortman
- 2.6 Action on David to check out how Cheltenham BC manage cashless transactions: completed. Members there preload cash for BridgeWebs to allocate – but we don't use BridgeWebs. Discussions took an unexpected turn when Bill suggested the practical way to minimise coin cash handling would be to put table money up from £4 to £5. Most would tender a note, and get notes in return if necessary. Table money was last increased in October 2011; we have obviously just had moving/re-equipping costs; and Covid losses; so this may be accepted by members. Although Committee members present accepted this, Alan felt that such a major issue should first be considered by the missing Committee members; he will contact, then broach the possibility in his next newsletter to members. **Action: Alan**

### 3 Latest lockdown news:

Nationally, most legal restrictions ended on 19<sup>th</sup> July, replaced by a surfeit of advice. EBU noted this, and reiterated best practice playing arrangements. The EBU also recommended that clubs should review various air purifier/sanitiser products – see AOB below.

### 4 Readiness of the venue.

- 4.1 Bill said that the ventilation is a worry. We need to be very alert and sensitive to any emerging issues and reset our restrictions accordingly. (See AOB)
- 4.2 Though the RAFA Club will make good on their offer to remove all their furniture, we may actually want to save (e.g.) a red bench, for sit out players at the bar. The difficulty is, we'd like to fit all our furniture into an empty room, then reintroduce bits of RAFA Club furniture where possible and useful. A conundrum.

### 5 Lessons from the Trial Event

The technology worked! Though uploading to Pianola hasn't been tested (because the trial was a 'friendly'). The stairlift was a glitch – we need written instructions. One table was too close to the Director's cupboarding; should the table move, or the cupboarding? Not every Director will want to kneel on the floor to enter data into the computer; the shorter cupboard needs some kind of overmantle. A big **N** on the wall will help orientate members, All the hard surfaces made the playing area quite noisy. The afternoon tea service was delightful, and will be a feature of the

regular afternoon sessions. We need a float in the honesty box.

6 Dual Membership Progress  
See 2.5 above

7 Communicating with members

Alan will write again to all members summarising current progress and plans. The subtext will be that the pace to reopening is quickening. **Action: Alan**

8 Any Other Business

**8.1** Bridget had circulated an EBU information sheet on air purification prior to the meeting. After discussion, Committee agreed to purchase 2 Midi-size Air Atmos Clear units for £480 the two. **Action: Alan.** Committee believe that these units, combined with the existing extractor fans, will minimise the risk of airborne Covid transmission in the room.

**8.2** A starting date for play was discussed. Committee felt that a normal cycle should restart with a Wednesday evening session; which points to a 1<sup>st</sup> September or 8<sup>th</sup> September restart.

**8.3** Jane raised the need for a partner finder service that works better than the existing Pianola facility. **Action: Alan** will consider adding an item on the Pianola facility to the website, similar to that on Bristol Bridge Club's website. Historically, partner finding worked best when Lillian Skinner made partnerships personally by phoning around.

9 Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2:00 pm, at the RAFA Club

Agreed .....

Date .....

(CHAIRMAN)