

West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at the RAFA Club on Wednesday 26th April 2023

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

Apologies: Jen Challoner

1 Minutes of previous meeting (22nd February 2023):

The minutes were agreed and signed.

2 Matters to note, arising since last meeting:

- 2.1 PlayBridgeDealer 4+ dealing machine was bought, bundled with four sets of boards. One set was dodgy, and Alan Evans had it replaced. Jan and Jane have had practice sessions in its operation under Gareth's tutelage, and are now doing it unsupervised. They will be paid as Gareth was for this service. Bill proposed that we present Gareth with a bottle of whisky to thank him for his years of help with dealing, the months that we have been using his machine, and for training his successors. Unanimously agreed; **action Chris** to organise.
- 2.2 The Friday evening session description was updated, as requested.
- 2.3 We gave up Thursday 16th March to a RAFA Club function.
- 2.4 Alan Evans conducted a survey of members; as a result we moved to 7:00 start on Fridays from 31st March.
- 2.5 Bill has bought more scorecards.
- 2.6 Gareth's charity marathon is 24/25 June.
- 2.7 Chris checked the suspect air purifier; it is electrically safe.

3 Officers' Reports:

- 3.1 (Membership Secretary) Bridget spoke of the difficulty of getting some members to actually complete the Membership Application Form. **Action: Alan** Evans to make it available through the website.
- 3.2 (RAFA Liaison) Jan covered several items:
 - 3.2.1 a dishwasher has been installed in the store room behind our playing area, and the RAFA Club is happy to wash our cups etc there.
 - 3.2.2 RAFA Club will be installing security cameras in the car park
 - 3.2.3 RAFA Club complain that we leave the patio doors open unnecessarily, contributing to their ballooning utility bills for heating. Bill said that he occasionally leaves them open when opening up because, ironically, the area is too hot. Jan said that she turns radiators off where she can, but one cannot be turned off. The extractor fans may also not be working properly; RAFA Club will be looking at these. Committee agreed that all session Directors should be reminded not to waste heat, and to keep the patio doors closed other than when members are arriving or leaving. A notice reminding members to 'Please Shut the Door' will also be pasted on the doors.
- 3.3 (Treasurer) Bill had nothing to report.

4 Substantive matters debated:

- 4.1 Readmission of the recently-resigned member. The accounts of the events of 6th March are irreconcilable. We would like to see reinstatement, but that would be subject to RAFA Club agreeing. Committee's best thought is that if the member apologises for the perception of his behaviour, that apology may be accepted and all parties would

agree to forgive and forget. **Action: Chris** to write to our former member proposing this way forward.

4.2 Directors, and director cover over the summer. David is away mid-June to 7 July. Gareth will cover Friday afternoons and Bill offered to cover Monday afternoons. Paul Brown and Jane Chapman are now having lessons on how to run sessions; Jane will shadow David.

4.3 AGM date. Wednesday 24th May at 6pm is agreed. **Action: Chris** to assemble an agenda; he said he would welcome the text of what speakers plan to say. A formal Calling Notice is on the noticeboard and, as of today, we have a single candidate for each role on the Committee.

Committee considered various incentives to attend the AGM – free play/drinks/meal etc – but eventually agreed that the experience of attending was reward enough. **Action: Alan Evans** to write to all members, encouraging attendance.

4.4 Noise complaint re session ends. Jen reported that she had received complaints that those playing the final boards of a session slowly, are disturbed by the speedier players who have finished and immediately start moving around, chatting etc. **Action: session directors** to remind players to have consideration at close of play.

4.5 Fate of the old Duplimate. Alan Evans reported that he had sold it for £100.

4.6 Fair Warning. Jen is planning a Christmas meal and panto one Friday lunchtime in December. She will be contacting RAFA Club via Jan, talking to Casting Agencies, etc.

5 Communication to members

See 4.3 above.

6 Any Other Business

6.1 Alan Evans relayed an appeal from the EBU for Vugraph operators for an event at the beginning of May.

6.2 Jen asked for Matchpoint scoring on one of the afternoon sessions. David agreed to implement without delay, probably Fridays. **Action: David.** This would enable us to introduce quarterly prizes after handicap, as well as before handicap.

7 Date of Next Meeting:

12th July 2023, 6 pm.

Agreed
.....(CHAIRMAN)

Date