

West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held on 7th February 2024

Present:

Chris Frew (Chair), Jan Duncan, Jane Chapman, Jen Challoner, David Jones, Phil Lidstone, Bill Ashford

Apologies:

Bernice Horseman & Alan Peak-Payne

1. Approval of the Minutes from 6th December 2023

The minutes of the meeting were accepted.

2. Matters arising

2.1 Facilitation of bridge as a DofE scheme 'skill' at Redmaids High

Chris had finally spoken with Mr Minkee Kim (Coordinator of the DofE scheme at Redmaids High), following Phil's prompting via the Deputy Head. In discussion with Mr Kim, the notion of our paying a qualified bridge teacher was welcomed, and this was now endorsed by Committee. David's recommended format was an input of no more than 10 lessons (a short and 'punchy' introduction) via an after-school enrichment programme (called Athena). The Club proposes concluding with a 'championship' event, to include the girls, some pairs from our Club, and perhaps some pairs representing Redmaids teachers and parents. A September start was proposed by Mr Kim. David to contact with Cathy Smith as our first preference as a teacher, and discuss how the idea may be fleshed out. Phil offered to be a support at the teaching sessions. Budget parameters were agreed.

2.2 The mobile bar has been moved out, as has the large fridge; an under-counter fridge has been purchased.

2.3 Christmas party review

Jen summarised: it was an excellent 'fun do'. The panto was enjoyed. The event broke even. Lots of practical points were raised and more details can be found from Jen. Next time consideration will given to a bigger cohort - say 80 - and it was agreed that 20 tables of playing could be managed, albeit more chairs were needed. Consideration will be given to doing an in-house buffet next time. Agreed that raffle ticket mechanics need review, to reduce ticket admin.

2.4 Door closure – device now fitted.

3. Officer's Reports

3.1 Membership Secretary:

Membership – current 186. 4 yet to pay subs. Action agreed with Jane. It was thought that most members were active within the club. Life members relationship to RAFA discussed; it would be anomalous to seek RAFA membership subs from Life members who we never see. No further action agreed. Two former members - Brian Burrige and Nelson Stephens - have sadly passed away.

3.2 RAFA liaison:

Jan reported that the metal pillar will not be removed. Chris asked whether we had had any formal notification of a defibrillator training course? (Answer: no.)

3.3 Treasurer:

Budget situation "not unhealthy". There was some discussion about excessive biscuit consumption – on Thursday afternoon in particular – but the general feeling was that 'free tea and biscuits' was integral to our sessions. Thursday afternoon's financial set up discussed. Jen and Bill agreed to removing the rental charge in return for Jen keeping the biscuits stocked. Chris will ask Tom Nolan, Examiner of Accounts, to

opine on how Thursday's semi-detached financial arrangements should be presented in the Club year-end accounts.

4. Matters for Debate

- 4.1 Capacity issues, Monday and Friday afternoons. It was agreed that a maximum of 13 tables could be accommodated. There was a need for chairs and it was agreed to make an offer for 12 chairs (later revised to 16 as one more table could be squeezed in). Jan to explore with RAFA the purchase of chairs from upstairs.
- 4.2 Scoring methods. There was some debate about the merits of IMPs versus MatchPointed Pairs. Jen and Chris confessed to recent conversions to the merits of IMPs, though Bill prefers MatchPointed Pairs, particularly as it is far easier to effect handicapped results. David said that he had no issue with MatchPointed Pairs when there is a large number of tables. After discussion, Committee decided that the status quo would remain.
- 4.3 RAFA membership. It has been agreed with RAFA that the club can merge WOE annual Club membership fee with that of Bristol RAFA, with WOE transferring monies to RAFA. This arrangement to start in August for the next cycle.

5. Communication to members.

Nothing raised.

6. AOB

The revival of the Bastille Day was agreed – provisionally for Monday July 15th. It was noted that RAFA require corkage to be paid on club-provided wine.

The RAFA pictures have been rearranged by Jen, to make room for more of our own.

AGM date agreed Wednesday May 15th 18.00.

Jane is doing a Director's Zoom Course on 1st & 2nd March. The Club will meet her expenses.

Chris proposed the Club increase Directors' fee from £35 to £40, on condition that they ensure that there is milk for their session. Bill demurred; he said that he is bound to forget. Generally accepted, with an opt out for Bill.

Date of next meeting Wednesday April 24th, 6:00 pm