

West of England Bridge Club

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at the RAFA Club on Wednesday 22nd February 2023

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

Apologies: Bill Ashford

1 Minutes of previous meeting (14th December 2022):

The minutes were agreed and signed.

2 Matters to note, arising since last meeting:

2.1 Alan E sent a cheery Christmas message to members, as actioned.

3 Officers' Reports:

3.1 (Membership Secretary) Bridget raised a couple of specific queries re membership status, for session organisers to action.

3.2 RAFA Liaison (Jan) Jan said that the planned Monday meeting had been postponed, but reported some matters in hand:

3.2.1 the toilet smell had been dealt with

3.2.2 the toilet doors are to be rehung the other way

3.2.3 security cameras are to be installed outside

4 Substantive matters debated:

4.1 Restarting Monday evenings. There is some interest, but we may rob Wednesday evenings and end up with two unviable sessions. After discussion we concluded: not yet.

4.2 Dealing machine replacement. We agreed that the old machine should be scrapped. A minority thought that taking up Gareth's offer (to use his machine and dealing services) was the better option, but the majority view prevailed, which was that we could afford, and would be more secure, with our own machine. It was then agreed that it would make sense to acquire the same make as Gareth: a PlayBridgeDealer 4. Alan Evans was asked to discuss further with Gareth the merits of getting precisely the same model as Gareth owns (the 4+ version, at £4254), or the cheaper model at £3984, then authorised to buy one or the other. Jane, Chris and Jan all offered to learn how to operate it.

4.3 Directors, and director cover over the summer. David is away mid-June to 7 July. We are short of director cover. Jane and Chris offered to be trained in the longer term, but that will not solve the summer problem. David pointed out that the three elements of the role are (i) responding to Director calls, (ii) organising an appropriate movement, and (iii) setting up the computer and the BridgeMates to score. These are all distinct and may be separable.

4.4 AGM date. Wednesday 24th May at 6pm was agreed. Other times, on other days, were considered – hoping to involve the many afternoon-only players – but in the end we decided to stay with the arrangement of the last several years.

4.5 Candidates for roles post-AGM. Bridget had already given notice that she would retire from Committee, and Alan Evans now confirmed that he would not be standing for Committee. Jane had already volunteered to stand for Membership Secretary, and Alan Peak-Payne now offered to stand for Secretary. David said that his chairmanship of Avon created a conflict of interest which precluded his standing for Chairman at the WoEBC at this time. Chris then offered to stand for Chairman. Bill and Jan offered to continue in their current roles.

Alan Evans said that he was happy to continue as Webmaster, and to help with the Improvers class on Thursdays.

The lack of new candidates from our newer membership is a matter of concern. Several likely-looking members were mentioned, and Alan Evans was actioned to speak to them, and make a general appeal via a newsletter.

- 4.6 EBU National Pairs. David said that the EBU had the data on who was eligible, and would be writing to candidate pairs. We need take no action.
- 4.7 Bringing evening sessions forward to a 7 pm start. Bristol BC are doing so; Alan E will write to members who historically have participated in Wednesday and Friday evenings, to seek their views on whether we should do the same. There is no need for the evenings to remain in line.

Communication to members

See 4.5 and 4.7 above; and notice of the AGM date needs to be given.

5 Any Other Business

There is no-one available to direct on Friday. Jane offered to run a simple four team movement, with results recorded on travellers, for uploading on Monday. Chris will open up/lock up.

6 Date of Next Meeting:

26th April 2023, 6 pm.

Agreed
.....(CHAIRMAN)

Date