

BOOKING MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES – 2nd JUNE 2008

Hirings are running at what may be an all-time high. This is resulting in an increasing problem with conflicting requests for hire time. Examples of these conflicts are:

1. Players and Body Rock during November/December.

It is pleasant to report an excellent example of the current good community spirit within the hiring community. When Body Rock announced that they had been given the exam dates for the end of this calendar year, it was immediately clear those dates had already been firmly booked by other hirers, including a stage rehearsal by the Players panto team.

After some quick telephone calls, which included an offer of help from Freda Thomas, the WI Hall Booking Manager, the matter was quickly resolved by the Players offer to move their rehearsal date, despite having booked the Main Hall for their rehearsal, many months previously. Moving their rehearsal date was not straightforward, because it involved contacting several other members of the Players, ensuring their agreement, and perhaps holding a rehearsal at less than the ideal time. It is a pleasure to report this welcome co-operation within the hiring community.

2. Carpet Bowlers and the Ballroom Dance Classes on Tuesday evenings from September.

Some background considerations:

Booking. At the end of 2007 the ballroom dance class organisers (Haverhill Adult Learning Centre) asked to have the Main hall on Tuesday evenings during the summer term (currently running) and again for the three terms of the 2008/2009 academic year.

Then in March this year, as they prepared for their summer break, the carpet bowlers said they wished to start their Tuesday evening activities again in September as usual.

On a strictly 'first-come...' basis it should go to the ballroom dance class. However, the carpet bowlers have always had the Tuesday evening hiring with their league games starting in September.

Memberships The carpet bowlers have about a dozen playing members on a Tuesday and double that number of players on a 'home' match day.

The ballroom dance class currently numbers 20, of which at least 9 are Wickhambrook people.

Hire dates The carpet bowlers cannot yet say which Tuesdays they will play 'at home' or 'away' as that depends on league fixtures etc. During the past year the carpet bowlers have used and paid for the hall on 22 occasions.

The Learning Centre have specified exactly which dates they require: Every Tuesday from 23rd Sept to 2nd December (inc) excluding half term on 28th October, then 13th January 2009 to 24th March (inc) excluding half term on 17th February. They will delay these dates to accommodate the panto fortnight. Finally, 21st April to 30th June (inc) excluding half term on 26th May. With these 30 dates known beforehand we are able to hire the Pavilion lounge for band practices on unused Tuesdays.

Hire fees.

At the hire fees which will be in force after 1st June 2008 (£8.19/hour for the Main Hall), the carpet bowlers would pay a total of £360.36 over the year, while the ballroom dance class would pay £491.40. The carpet bowlers have stated that they think the MSC is too cold and the hire fees are too high and wish to relocate to the WI hall if that could be arranged.

Whereas the ballroom dance class organisers have stated that they are 'absolutely delighted' with the MSC's Main Hall and have offered an unspecified amount extra in an effort to secure the booking.

At the meeting on 2nd June would the Trustees please consider this matter and give definitive guidance as to which booking to accept. A resolution by 3rd June is required.

My personal inclination is to stay with the carpet bowlers, as they have a long track record, over many years, of hiring the hall, even though a) this will lose us the very popular ballroom dance class and b) the risk remains that the carpet bowlers will continue to be dissatisfied and might later relocate to the WI hall.

End of report.