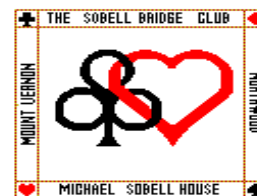


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THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

In aid of The Friends of Michael Sobell House
Registered Charity No. 1079638



Minutes of Committee Meeting No.115 held in the Friends' Meeting Room of the Michael Sobell Centre on Saturday 22nd July 2023

<u>Present:</u>	Adrienne Finch (AF)	President
	Peter Cobden (PC)	Chairman
	Alan McBride (AMcB)	Treasurer
	Lynne Mathys (LM)	
	Terry Butfield (TB)	Playing Secretary
	Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
	Jane Brown (JB)	Webmaster
	Lois Hargreaves (LH)	Session Manager
	Joanna May (JM)	Secretary

1. Apologies for absence were received from Val Lloyd.
2. The minutes of the most recent meeting, No.114 held on 15th April 2023, were approved as a true record of the meeting.
3. Matters arising

- i) PC will email members next week regarding donations to the Hospice. The Hospice have confirmed they will provide a proper crib sheet showing how to donate. Members should not confuse our Hospice charity website with a separate charity website in Oxford called sobellhouse.org and not make donations to that website.

JB was asked to put the crib sheet on the website.

Action: PC/JB

- ii) The current membership cards are in the filing cabinet in the office.
- iii) JM has not yet contacted the U3A about advertising on their noticeboards.
- iv) AMcB had spoken to Keith Jones (KJ) about inviting non-members to pay for playing online. Both thought we should not make a charge. GC will write to all members whose membership has lapsed asking if they wish to renew their membership and/or donate when they play online.

Action: GC

- v) JB had checked members' details on Pianola/EBUScore. Some data was incorrect. JB handed a list of the errors to GC for her to note.

4. Chairman's report

- Daytime Venue Opportunity
PC had circulated a note prior to the meeting with an update on the search for an alternative venue for a midweek afternoon session. AF had not got anywhere with Rickmansworth Golf Club; however, we do have a great opportunity to use a room at

another venue. PC sought the Committee's views on the idea and each member was encouraged to voice their opinion. In general, the Committee were in favour of the proposal.

PC will arrange another visit to the venue with AMcB with a view to clarifying the following logistical issues:

- i) The insurance situation for the Club if it were to use other premises. AMcB to check with the EBU, PC to check with the venue.
- ii) Check on the existing furniture, its storage and whether the chairs are comfortable. Is there sufficient secure storage space on site for the Club's furniture?
- iii) Check and establish which days suit the venue best.

Action: PC/AMcB

Thereafter, PC will send an email to members with a well-constructed survey to establish their long-term interest. It will inform them of our plans. Members will be asked if they are interested in the idea, willing to help in the setting up of the sessions, with the movement of furniture, etc. TB said we will need a minimum of six tables to run the sessions. A session manager, director and scorer will be needed for each session.

Action: PC

The Committee were asked to nominate someone who might agree to be trained up as a session manager. A couple of names were noted for future use.

- Summer Party

PC said that although this will not go ahead in the summer, we will hold it on the afternoon of Saturday 30th September. Ann Cobden and Catherine Stafford have offered to organise it.

- Table Manners

When PC sends out the next directors' rota, he will ask directors to talk briefly and slowly. Members who are hard of hearing have complained that directors talk too quickly and do not address the whole room.

Action: PC

5. Webmaster's report

JB has been training AF on EBU Score.

JB has prepared a laminated sheet of paper with instructions on how to use the system.

LM did not like the 'new' display on the bridgemates and the screen showing the results was too small. JB to investigate.

Action: JB

JB suggested that as EBU Score is such a simple system, we should aim to train our directors to use it. The next step is for Pete Davis to be trained, followed by Martin Tasker and GC.

Action: JB

6. Playing Secretary's report

TB suggested we need to reemphasise the Club's code of behaviour. This code is set out on laminated cards and the cards will be put on each table before the start of play. The director should ask players to read the card on their table before start of play.

Action: TB/all directors

7. Treasurer's report

PC told the meeting that we have been asked by the Friends if we would be willing to be a pledger (where a sponsor doubles the pledge). PC has agreed we will pledge £3,750 to be paid in January.

Action: AMcB

AMcB distributed a schedule showing income, expenditure and cash from April 2023. The closing balance for quarter one was £11,255.

8. Secretary's report

Nothing to report.

9. Membership Secretary's report

Nothing to report.

10. Sundays

LH reported there had been no Sunday sessions for the last three weeks, but she was hopeful of four tables tomorrow.

Two Sunday players had turned up on a Thursday evening and enjoyed it. But none of TMB's class have come to the Sunday night sessions.

11. Teaching programme

PC reported on behalf of TMB.

TMB is planning to run a beginners' course from 30th September – 12 sessions @ £125. The teaching book is thrown in free.

She is currently running sessions from her home on Wednesdays where she has 6-12 students who pay £5 per session.

In January 2024, TMB will start an improvers' course on Saturday morning at the Club - £100 for 10 weeks.

Speed of play seems to be the biggest fear for new players trying out a Thursday night session. JB questioned why TMB does not train her students to play quickly. It was suggested we run test duplicate sessions at the Club with new players and score them as normal.

In April 2024, TMB is planning to run four sessions on Saturdays from 10:30 – 12:30 with Club members to assist. She will have 6-8 people who will come along. We will try to play at a speed that is played at any bridge club.

It was suggested that TMB contact people who participated in the beginners' courses and invite them to join the improvers' course.

Action: TMB

PC to ask TMB if she could come to a Sunday night session bringing some of her students. A lift would be provided to TMB.

Action: PC

12. Any Other Business

- The Committee discussed Pianola and decided that there is no need to consider any change.

- At the AGM, Martin Isham asked about a trophy for Monday evenings. There is no reason we should not have one. This issue to be discussed at the January Committee.

Action: JM

- Speed humps. PC wrote to the Head of Facilities at Hillingdon. He replied this week saying they have asked the contractor to reduce the speed humps.

- LM reported the lights outside the Club House were not working.

Action: PC

- JM suggested the introduction of a Club newsletter like the monthly email from Pinner which she found interesting and informative. LH offered to implement this on a quarterly basis provided she receives sufficient data.

Action: LH

- The number of players in the Monday night online sessions is dropping and there are more robots. It was suggested that everyone would benefit if Sobell were to merge with Chiltern for the Monday night sessions but then Sobell would lose out financially. AMcB to discuss with KJ.

Action: AMcB

- AMcB said there is a free place on the next EBU Teachers' Training session (2 days) in October. He would be happy to take up the place if there were no-one else from the Club; otherwise, he would pay for it himself.

Action: PC

13. Date of next meeting – 10:00 am on Saturday 14th October 2023.