



The Sobell Bridge Club



The MINUTES of the 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Sunday, 22 May 2011 in the Michael Sobell Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital at 6 pm.

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| Present: | George Howlett | President |
| | Doug Edmonds | Chairman |
| | Ken Short | Vice Chairman |
| | Sheena Edgar | Secretary |
| | Lynne Mathys | Treasurer |

Also present:
86 other members

1. Welcome to all by the President, George Howlett. He particularly mentioned those normally playing at Croxley Green and new members. He recommended that all members read an article by the Chairman entitled "From Small Acorns". It is a history of the club" and gives an excellent idea of its 'raison d'etre'. He said that the amount of money raised for The Friends would have been beyond the wildest dreams of the founders." He thanked the Chairman for all his hard work.
2. Apologies for absence: Joanna May, Irene Willis.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the 2009 AGM: proposed by Liz Crooke, seconded by Ellen Collins.
4. Matters arising:
 - i. Pay2Play: the Chairman had circulated a briefing paper on the cost benefit of EBU membership and Pay to Play. He summarised by saying that the cost did appear to be greater than the benefit, and membership depended on the members wish to support the EBU, the acquisition of points, and the use the club might make of their director training. It was requested that there should be a vote at the next AGM on whether membership should be continued.
 - ii. The Web booking system had been set up by Rob Pyburn, it worked well but was not much used. For those without internet connection Ruby Stiles still did run a find a partner service by telephone
5. Chairman's report. A message of thanks had been received from the Friends. The Chairman also thanked all those who helped run the club, its social events, weekends and the evenings. In particular Doug thanked Robin Pyburn, who had worked particularly hard to improve the website and, with Shirley Tucker, had set up the system for Pay2Play which worked remarkably well. He announced with regret that John Francis's condition remained effectively unchanged. He thanked Sheena Edgar for taking on the role of club secretary as well as Joanna May for becoming weekend secretary with Martin Isham now weekend organiser. Terry Butfield was playing secretary. The club now had sufficient car parking passes and the heating was working reasonably satisfactorily. The club had decided to dispose of the library as many of the books were very old. Thanks to Robert Teasdale's efforts, £150 had been donated to the Sobell for these. He advertised the next club supper to be held on June 25th.
6. Treasurer's report. The Income & Expenditure account, Statement of Affairs, End of Year Summary 2010/11 and Comparison 2010/11 were now available on the web. Lynne summarised the accounts by stating income was down by approximately £2,000 that £32,000 had been given to the League of Friends (£2,000 less than last year). Compared with 2009/2010 attendances were down by 5% (probably due to the closure of the club because of ice and the severe weather and illness); the weekends continued to be

popular, although the Bridge Suppers were less so, one having to be cancelled for lack of registrations. Lynne thanked Michael Tucker, the assistant treasurer for the enormous support he gave to her.

7. Motion that the accounts be accepted: Proposed by Brian Simmonds and seconded by Ahmad Mallick.
8. Election of Honorary Auditor: Howard Atkins was proposed by Terry Butfield and seconded by Catherine Stafford.
9. Secretary's report: Sheena thanked Shirley Tucker (membership secretary) and Adrienne Finch (minutes secretary) for making her life as secretary easier than it might otherwise have been. She outlined the Disciplinary Procedures which had now been devised and formed part of the club's regulations. However, she stated that the whole committee hoped that it would never have to be used.
10. Election of committee members. Those currently in post were prepared to stand again and they were elected unanimously. Proposed by Mike Gentry, seconded by Ahmad Mallick.
11. a) Discussion on the purchase of an automated dealing system: a briefing paper had previously been circulated by the Chairman and a number of questions were answered. There was then discussion on the merits and disadvantages.
b) Vote on the motion: that the Sobell Bridge Club should purchase an automated dealing system was carried by a substantial majority
12. AOB
 - a) the next weekend at Bournemouth for which numbers have to be agreed with the hotel by the end of the month was advertised. The committee would look again at having stand-bye players available to play with members without a partner.
13. The meeting closed at 18.47, when Howard Atkins introduced the annual prize giving.