

THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



Minutes of Committee Meeting No 102 held at the Michael Sobell Centre on Saturday 17 November, 2018

Present:

Doug Edmonds (DE)	Chairman
Calver Townsend (CT)	Session Manager
Lynne Mathys (LM)	Treasurer
Terry Butfield (TB)	Playing Secretary
Joanna May (JM)	Weekends Organiser
Jane Brown (JB)	Webmaster
Peter Cobden (PC)	Publicity Officer
Adrienne Finch	Secretary & President
Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
Jacque North (JN)	Liaison Officer
Val Lloyd (VL)	Session Manager
Mike Keen (MK)	for item 11

- 1 There were no apologies.
- 2 The minutes of the previous meeting No 101, held on 21 July, 2018, were approved. JB will put them on the web site **JB**
- 3 Matters arising
 - DE has sent an e mail to members concerning the Hospice. **JB**
 - The Privacy Policy is to be put on the website. **JB**
 - A printer has been bought and is a success. **AF**
 - Copies of past minutes are to be sent to Jane **AF**
- 4 Chairman's report

The Hospice

DE gave an outline of the current state of play, which is not that much further on than at the last meeting. It is known that Hillingdon want to purchase 10 hospice beds. Currently patients are allocated beds on the cancer wards in the hospital. There is to be a meeting of all concerned parties on December 11 which DE will attend as he is now on the Sobell Trust Board alongside Rob Lacey and Jo Sandercock. The Michael Sobell Hospice finances have improved because of two recent legacies but the current situation is affecting income. Questions posed included what the future of the current building is (housing the hall which is used by the Bridge Club). It is felt that the club will need a fall back position if the hall should be lost to us.

Croxley Bridge Venue

This sheltered housing complex is to be re-developed starting January, 2019. A number of alternative venues are being investigated, although the going rental rate in the area is £14/hour which is more than we currently pay. So far none has been satisfactory and the search continues. **DE**

'Relaxed Bridge'. This was a disappointing event with only eight people attending.

Next year's diary. A draft copy is attached as part of these minutes. The date of the AGM was changed to give the treasurer and auditor more time to get the accounts in order.

5 Treasurer's report

- Table monies (-£1870) and attendances across all days were down. The club had raised £17,000 over seven months since April, 2018. However tuition fees had raised £1,706.75 so far this year and a further course is in process and more were being planned.

- 6 Secretary's report – succession planning
- It had been suggested that DE contact Kulsem Makan about taking on the role of Secretary, but she had had recent surgery and the timing was not felt to be appropriate. JM to ask her at the next opportunity. **JM**
- 7 Membership Secretary's report and update on privacy sign ups
- GC had contacted members who had not paid since 2017 to find out whether they wish to renew their membership. Twenty had rejoined as a result. The other sixteen names will be deleted. **GC**
 - Scorebridge and Pianola should be linked, GC and JB to deal with this. **GC, JB**
 - The club has eight new members as a result of the teaching programme
- 8 Teaching programme
- The Improvers' course which started in October has thirteen registrants.
 - The next Beginners' course starts on January 14 with a 'taster' session and will last 15 weeks. All registrants will be made club members.
 - Integration of students into the club will start in January, and a rota will be needed for the Tuesday evenings when they start. **PC, TMB**
 - It is intended to run a Sunday Chicago session for those students who wish to come. This will be run by JN and will include others on her list. **JN**
 - We need to find out how many students want to attend the Christmas Party. **PC, TMB**
- The thanks of the whole committee were extended to Theresa Murray-Bates for her hard work. will forward these. **AF**
- 9 Publicity Officer's report
- PC said that posters for the new Beginners' course would be circulated as previously in the three Hospice shops and at local golf clubs, libraries and stores. There will be an insert in the 'What's Happening' section of the December 8 Optima edition. **PC**
- 10 Playing Secretary's report
- An extra £2 is paid by our SIMS players to cover the majority of the charge made by the EBU. At the last event DE and Anne had come 14th nationally. They were congratulated.
 - LM requested that she should not direct as often as she now is. One week she had directed three times. Lynne will speak to Neil Fraiss to see if he can fill in on a regular basis. **LM**
11. Mike Keen (MK)
- MK had asked to attend the meeting as he felt he could add something to the discussion on falling attendance and behaviour at bridge, this rooted in his own experience of running bridge sessions at his own home. He felt that the Sobell's members were forgetting that they were not only there to play bridge but also to raise money for the Hospice; and that it should be a pleasant and sociable occasion. It took only one occasion of rudery to put someone off from coming to the club again. He had always taken a zero tolerance policy towards discourtesy and felt that e mail reminders were ignored by the guilty. After a full discussion it was agreed that face to face comment to the guilty was essential DE and TB taking a primary role, but all committee members should assist. **DE/TB**
All
 MK was thanked for his interest in the Club's welfare and for the time he was prepared to give.
- 11 Webmaster's report
- A Wi-Fi Laser double-sided printer has been bought at a cost of £149.00.
 - JB has continued to work on the web site to make it more attractive to newcomers. In order to up the profile of the web site, the number of 'hits' has to be increased. She asked that all committee members not to go on the Results site directly, but via the Sobell Bridge Club title. This will up the 'hit' rate and raise our profile. They should try to do it at least once a day! **JB**
 - The problems with the weekend computer seem to have been sorted. **All**

12 Social Matters

- DE reported that the profit made from the wine and cheese evening was £270.50 with 56 people attending.
- Mair Bird has agreed to run next summer's party.
- So far 68 tickets for the Christmas Party had been sold. PC has obtained a number of quality prizes for the raffle. The tickets will cost £2.00 each, £10 for five and will be available to all members, not just those present on the night. A list of what Peter and Anne Cobden would like people to bring (salads and desserts) will be posted in the club later.

PC

13 Bridge Weekends

- Brockenhurst – 42 attended so it was not possible to play teams. The hotel was good and a profit of £498.89 was made. Thanks were extended to GC who scored for the whole weekend. Unfortunately the hotel has stopped hosting bridge weekends from next year so a repeat visit will not be possible.
- Details of next year's weekends are:
 - i) May 10-13, 2019: View Hotel, Eastbourne
 - ii) October 18-21, 2019 – Belfry Hotel, Oxford

Thanks were extended to JM for all her hard work.

14 Liaison Officer's Report

Nothing to report.

15 Any Other Business

VL requested that use of plastic/cardboard cups should be placed on the next agenda

AF

16 Date of Next Meeting – Saturday 19 January, 2019 at 10:00 AM. AF will not be able to attend.

The meeting ended at 12:20 p.m.