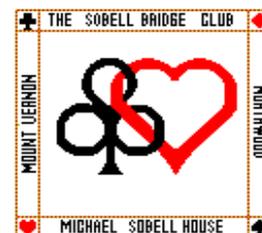


THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



Minutes of Committee Meeting No 99 held at the Michael Sobell Centre on Saturday 27 January, 2018

<u>Present:</u>	Doug Edmonds (DE)	Chairman
	Lynne Mathys (LM)	Treasurer
	Adrienne Finch (AF)	President, Secretary
	Terry Butfield (TB)	Playing Secretary
	Joanna May (JM)	Weekend Organiser
	Lois Hargreaves	Session Manager
	Peter Cobden (PC)	Publicity Officer
	Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
	Jacquie North (JN)	Liaison Officer

- 1 Apologies were received from Calver Townsend and Rob Pyburn.
- 2 The minutes of the previous meeting No 98, held on 11 November, 2017 were approved.
- 3 Matters arising
One of the street lights had been replaced. Other matters arising were already on the agenda.
- 4 Chairman's report
 - i) Friday afternoon attendances are still low, the situation is being monitored. DE
 - ii) The farewell occasion for George had gone well.
 - iii) This year's diary changes. a) the wine and cheese party on March 17 has been cancelled because of its close proximity to the one in January and other events. b) the Christmas party is to be held on December 15, 2018.
 - iv) Neil Frais is doing on a director's course.
 - v) Pete Davis has agreed to be a dealer.
 - vi) Theresa Murray-Bates is going on the EBU teacher training course at the end of January.
 - vii) A post of publicity officer has been created and Peter Cobden has agreed to take on the role.
 - viii) The scorebridge licence has been renewed.
 - ix) To date a replacement club secretary had not been found.
 - x) It was reported that sadly Brian Simmonds & Thelma Charlton had died. Condolences had been sent.
- 5 Treasurer's report
 - i) LM confirmed the fall in attendances of 25%, but had been unable to assess the amount to be transferred to the Friends. She was authorised to do a suitable transfer when she had time to look at the accounts. LM
- 6 Secretary's report – Nothing to report.
7. Falling Attendance Working Party Report.
The Working Party (AF, LM, JM, PC) had met twice, latterly with DE and a report produced which will form part of the secretarial record.

Major points. We cannot expect that any one action will suddenly increase the membership but the club's profile needs to be raised, the atmosphere on club evenings needs to be efficient but friendly and we need to be prepared to pay for advertising.

- i) A publicity officer is to be appointed and PC has agreed to take on the role. PC
- ii) RP wishes to retire and a new web master appointed. The website needs changing and 'Northwood' must feature prominently so that a Google search finds us. It needs to be made friendly to prospective new members and include a map and parking arrangements. PC will identify desired changes and liaise with RP. PC
All
- iii) On all occasions the club should be referred to as the Sobell Club at Northwood' or ' the Northwood Sobell Club' by all members All
- iv) A new flier is being designed by PC and once produced should be placed in all Hospice

	shops, coffee shops at Mount Vernon and any other suitable place. When ready we should all take action to place them. Additionally PC is designing a poster which could also be displayed on Hospice notice boards.	PC/AI I
v)	PC is to investigate where press releases, notices of events etc can be placed preferably without payment.	PC
vi)	We should run events that appeal to a wider bridge community, like our Chicago Bridge Tea. We should also endeavour to run a 'Really Easy Bridge' event as suggested by Gary Conran at Hertfordshire County Bridge Union.	DE
vii)	The attendance lists should be monitored to see if there are people who would come more often if they had a partner.	GC
	<u>Actions on club evenings to improve the atmosphere.</u>	
viii)	When visitors or new prospective members come we should make more of an effort to welcome them, be prepared to provide some mentorship, and to introduce them to the club facilities and to give them a welcome pack (GC has these). The role of the 'Steward' has been revived.	GC/A II
ix)	On joining and on renewal of membership, members should be given two 'Friends and Family vouchers (PC has designed one), so that a non member and their partner can play twice for free. Its validity should be extended beyond the end of June (see conditions) .	
x)	Slow play and noise levels may be linked. We need to be sure that raised voices and bad tempered argument do not happen and we each need to take action at our tables if these circumstances occur. All these things upset the quieter members.	GC
	<u>Teaching.</u>	All
xi)	Our teaching course must be resurrected. Theresa Murray-Bates is going on a course, AF has offered to help her and JN has said she is willing to organise the sessions, space and timing being important plus advertising and notices need preparation. They should consult with each other.	
xii)	Problems with the computer may be exacerbated by it having to multitask. See 8 iii) below	JN/A F/PC
7	<u>Playing Secretary's report.</u>	
i)	TB and PC agreed to do some 'spring cleaning' on cards and bidding boxes, and TB agreed to buy more items if they were needed.	TB/P C
ii)	There is to be the first 'afternoon' teams event tomorrow, AF to buy biscuits.	
iii)	Sim pairs will be held just on a Monday.	AF
8	<u>Webmaster's Report</u>	
i)	RP had given his apologies.	
ii)	With reference to the Falling Attendance Working Party report, PC was authorised to buy a laser printer to be connected to his home computer. He would produce all the tickets etc that were required so that the main computer could be left to deal with playing and scoring.	PC
iii)	Following DE's appeal to the membership for help with the web, Jane Brown had made an initial enquiry. To be followed up	DE
9	<u>Social Matters</u>	
i)	The wine and cheese party took place on Saturday, January 13 organised by Peter and Anne Cobden, assisted by DE, JM and AF, with a number of others running around. It was a successful and enjoyable occasion. Thanks were made to all involved. 64 tickets were sold with 60 attending. A profit of approximately £350 was made. The next wine and cheese event will be September 22.	
ii)	The Chicago tea will be held on Saturday, 4 August. Lynne and Joanna to organise and AF to assist with food organisation.	LM/J M/AF
10	<u>Bridge weekends</u>	
i)	Bournemouth at the Marsham Court Hotel April 27-30. Currently there are 36 people booked. The hotel no longer has standard rooms available (we have taken up our contracted number) so that those booking now will have to pay £45 extra for a sea view room. JM needs to organise for directors and scorers, and a list of equipment needed must be checked before the equipment is loaded. This person still to be defined!	JM
ii)	Brockenhurst in the New Forest, October 19-22.	DE
11	<u>Liaison Officer's Report.</u> The light in the road to the car park needs replacing	JN
12	<u>Any Other Business.</u> None	
13	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> – Saturday, 7 April, 2018 at 10:00 AM. In AF's absence, JM will take the minutes.	