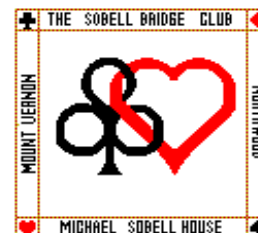


# THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



## Minutes of Committee Meeting No 101 held at the Michael Sobell Centre on Saturday 21 July 2018

### Present:

|                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Doug Edmonds (DE)          | Chairman                 |
| Calver Townsend (CT)       | Session Manager          |
| Terry Butfield (TB)        | Playing Secretary        |
| Joanna May (JM)            | Weekends Organiser       |
| Jane Brown (JB)            | Webmaster                |
| Peter Cobden (PC)          | Publicity Officer        |
| Gwen Cozens (GC)           | Membership Secretary     |
| Jacque North (JN)          | Liaison Officer          |
| Lois Hargreaves (LH)       | Session Manager          |
| Val Lloyd (VL)             | Session Manager          |
| Theresa Murray-Bates (TMB) | for item 8 on the Agenda |

- 1 Apologies for absence were received from Adrienne Finch and Lynne Mathys.
- 2 The minutes of the previous meeting No 100, held on 7 April 2018, were approved.

### 3 Matters arising

- (carried over from Committee meeting of 7 April 2018) - LM told the Committee that some years ago a 24-hour bridge marathon was held at the Club and maybe this type of event should be considered in the future. PC commented that such an event could be a way of persuading magazines to give the Club copy.

### 4 Chairman's report

#### The Hospice

DE told the Committee that the unit was closed down by East & North Herts NHS Trust at the beginning of June. They claimed it was because of asbestos, a leaking roof and an infestation of rats. However, Hillingdon Council said there was nothing wrong structurally with the building and asked for a report from East & North Herts NHS Trust. Hillingdon Council convened a meeting of Trustees and other interested parties; but no-one turned up from East & North Herts NHS Trust. On July 17, the CQC published their report of their inspection of Mount Vernon Cancer Services including End of Life Care (which took place in March 2018). This stated that the environment was not well adapted to the needs of the people using it i.e. they did not like the layout. Staffing at night was questionable and there was no clear vision or strategy.

DE has been in touch with the Chair of the Charity. She has promised a report on the options to stakeholders and this is expected in the next few weeks.

DE suggested that he prepares an email to all members giving the facts and this was agreed by the Committee.

DE

### 5 Treasurer's report

- In her absence, LM had emailed the latest of accounts to the Committee members for the quarter April to June 2018. This showed that table monies were down by £325.00 (3.6%) against the same quarter last year. Subscriptions were down by £300.00 which equates to 30 members. Tuition fees had raised £1,706.75 so far this year.
- LM has proposed donating £8,000 to the Hospice.

LM

6 Secretary's report – succession planning

- AF had forwarded information from HBA and the EBU to the appropriate committee member throughout the period.
- There were no disciplinary issues.
- About succession planning, it was suggested that DE contact Kulsem Makan about taking on the role of Secretary.

DE

7 Membership Secretary's report and update on privacy sign ups

- GC reported that almost all members had consented to the privacy policy document and signed it.
- GC will send an email to those members who have not paid to find out whether they wish to renew their membership. GC will then delete any members who has not paid since 2017.
- DE mentioned that the signed agreement between the EBU and the Sobell Bridge Club on the privacy policy is still outstanding.
- JB was asked to put a link to the privacy policy on the Sobell website.

GC

JB

8 Teaching programme

- TMB expressed thanks for all the help she has had; and in particular to PC who did a fantastic job on marketing. She signed up 20 beginners and has between 16-18 regulars.
- TMB would like to put in an extra session thereby making it a 12-week programme rather than 10.
- TMB has told her students about the event on Tuesday 16 October but she would like them to have more practice before they take part in it i.e. she would like her students to have two opportunities of playing with more experienced players in a duplicate session. She has some Sobell members in mind to approach to play with the beginners on a Monday morning in September. TMB to liaise with PC about the dates. PC will then check the availability of the Club House with The Friends.
- TMB will start the Part II lessons in October. She may need 1 or 2 new people to make up the numbers for this course as 1 or 2 of her existing group are unlikely to register for Part II (for health reasons or a need to redo Part I). PC to check the availability of the Club House for the rest of 2018 with the Friends.
- TMB is considering starting another Part I course in January 2019. In addition, she said she would be happy to teach the Part 1 'intensive approach' course in the autumn of 2019.
- JN has offered to go back to supervising on Sunday nights.
- TMB said she was not happy with the dealer hands available from the EBU and was having difficulty in finding hands. It was suggested she contact Tessa Templeton, who teaches at Chalfont. Tessa has many dealer hands that she has prepared for her students and may be willing to share them with TMB. JB will make the first approach.
- JM suggested that membership of the Club should be included when registration starts for the next Part I course. This was agreed. In addition, the existing beginners' group will be given membership at the end of their course.

TMB/PC

PC

JB

TMB/GC

9 Publicity Officer's report

- PC reported that the posters he had prepared were put up in the windows of the three Hospice shops and at local golf clubs, libraries and stores. The Club had received good coverage on What's App. But only one person registered for the beginners' course from the advertisement in 'My Local' which had cost £149.00. PC said he had received good co-operation from the staff of the Hospice charity.
- PC had prepared a flier for the Chicago Tea event which was distributed to the same people and by AF at her bowls club. Because of the publication of Optima magazine yesterday, JM had received one enquiry for tickets for the Chicago Tea. PC said we should offer a free voucher to anyone else who may enquiry about the event given its cancellation.

- PC suggested that members be encouraged to use their vouchers.
- PC needs to contact HBA about their 'Relaxed Duplicate Pairs' event on Tuesday 17 October. **PC**

#### 10 Playing Secretary's report

- TB reported that there will be 7 teams for the Teams' Event to be held tomorrow 22 July. TB was a little disappointed at the lack of support but that could be due to several reasons. His original plan was to arrange more frequent Teams' events in the winter. The next one is due in October, so he will fix the date nearer the time. **TB**
- The next SIMS session is on Monday 23 July. TB explained the EBU charge £2.80 on top of what they usually charge, and 3 tables are needed to hold the event. We agreed an extra £2 be paid by our SIMS players at subsequent events. **TB**
- TB has ordered more scoring cards. **TB**
- Members have complained that the red bidding boxes are not secure and come undone at the bottom. TB and helpers will move the plastic bidding cards from the red boxes to the green boxes which should alleviate this problem. **TB**
- Sobell is signed up to host a Hertfordshire sponsored event called 'Relaxed Duplicate Pairs' on Tuesday 16 October at 1:30 pm. This will be aimed at beginners including TMS's students. TMB will arrange some practice duplicate sessions with her students and club members beforehand. **TMB's students**

#### 11 Webmaster's report

- JB said there were two current issues to be addressed - the printer and the website.
- As regards the printer, the Committee agreed to the purchase of a new Wi-Fi Laser double-sided printer at a cost of £149.00. **JB**
- JB has changed the front page of the website as she felt that most of what was on it should not have been there. She does not think members really use the website other than for their results. She believes the front page should information to prospective members and she is working with PC on modernising the website and zipping up some of the data. **JB/PC**
- JM mentioned the continuing problem with the weekend computer. It had been impossible to run the score bridge programme during the last two weekends. JB said she would like to have a look at the weekend computer and JM will arrange to get it to her. **JM/JB**

#### 12 Social Matters

- DE reported that the profit made from the summer party was £700.00 for the tickets and £300.00 from the raffle.
- He said that although his wife Anne was happy to cook the salmon, she wanted someone else to do the rest of the organisation. DE to contact Mair Bird and Judy Walshe to see if they are willing to take on this task. **DE**
- JM reported that the Chicago Tea event scheduled for 4 August had been cancelled due to lack of support.

#### 13 Bridge Weekends

- Brockenhurst – this is now closed with a total of 44 players. DE will take 12 tables. Rosemary White is unlikely to participate in the weekend, so DE would then not need to give anyone a lift. DE offered to direct one session at Brockenhurst. Other members who may agree to direct are Neil Fraiss and LM. GC kindly offered to score. **DE**
- Details of next year's weekends are:
  - May 10-13, 2019: View Hotel, Eastbourne
  - October 18-21, 2019 – Belfry Hotel, Oxford

- The profit from the weekend at the Marsham Court Hotel, Bournemouth from 27 to 30 April 2018 was £1,688.80.

14 Liaison Officer's Report

- JN has arranged with Fundraising to order our milk when they order their own.
- JN reported that there was no cold water last Monday in the taps and ladies' toilets. Fundraising confirmed there is a big water problem which has affected the whole hospital and they will keep us informed.

15 Any Other Business

- Repair of fans – LH/VW reported that most of the fans in the office did not work and they suggested we dispose of those that do not work. DE and others offered to check the fans at the end of the meeting.

**DE**

16 Date of Next Meeting – Saturday 17 November 2018 at 10:00 AM.

The meeting ended at 12:15 p.m.