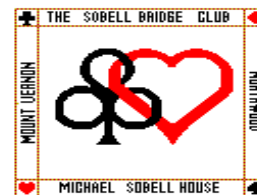


THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



Minutes of Committee Meeting No.119 held in the Friends' Meeting Room of the Michael Sobell Centre on Saturday 13th July 2024

<u>Present:</u>	Peter Cobden (PC)	Chairman
	Alan McBride (AMcB)	Treasurer
	Lynne Mathys (LM)	
	Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
	Terry Butfield (TB)	Playing Secretary
	Jane Brown (JB)	IT Manager
	Lois Hargreaves (LH)	Session Manager
	Looi Tan (LT)	Printing & Publishing Officer
	Joanna May (JM)	Secretary

PC welcomed Looi Tan to the meeting and thanked her for volunteering. She joins the Committee as Printing & Publishing Officer.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Adrienne Finch and Val Lloyd.
2. The minutes of the most recent meeting, No.118 held on 6th April 2024, were approved as a true record of the meeting.
3. Matters arising

New login and password for SumUp machine: JB agreed to let LM have this information although she admitted she was not keen to share passwords.

Action: JB/LM

Identifying payments on SumUp machine: JB will tell PC how to create codes to identify payments.

Action: JB/PC

4. Chairman's report

a) AGM

(i) Steve Curry

PC thought the AGM went well. Steve Curry had a lot of information to share in the brief time available. He has asked to come to an occasional committee meeting. PC thinks this is a good idea and will invite him to the next meeting on 12th October when he will be given a fifteen-minute slot at the beginning.

Action: PC

(ii) Next Year

There was a suggestion that we should offer food at next year's AGM. The Committee rejected the idea as it could delay the start of play thereby making the evening even longer.

b) OMT's

(i) Recent attendance

PC distributed a chart showing the breakdown of attendees and monies taken for OMT from 1st April to 10th July 2024. Recent numbers have gone down to less than four tables. Although PC always thinks positively about the OMT sessions, he realises it is getting difficult to run and he is not optimistic about the future. He suggested we continue until the end of August.

(ii) Barbara Bearman's actions

Barbara Bearman had contacted sixty people that PC had identified as people who had turned up to the sessions and did not come back, plus lapsed members. One of Barbara Bearman's family had designed a flier which has been distributed to other bridge clubs. PC will put up a copy of the flier at OMT.

Action: PC

(iii) Registration trial

The Committee decided that the OMT sessions should continue until 3rd September. Going forward from now, a system will be set up whereby members will confirm attendance at the next OMT session which will not go ahead if there are less than four tables. This email will be in a similar format to that already used for Sunday evening sessions. PC will prepare an email to go out to all members explaining the procedure. Members should reply to JB indicating whether they want to be on her list. JB will then send a follow up email to people who want to play confirming whether the bridge session is on or off.

Action: PC/JB

(iv) General

JM had indicated that setting up the bridge sessions at OMT had become too much for her. PC will approach one or two of the men who regularly play at OMT to see if they can help with setting up the room.

Action: PC

5. Playing Secretary's report

Thursday evenings are running at an average of 8½ tables. LM commented that numbers have been down for the past few weeks because Pinner players have not been coming. PC said he had spoken to David Horan who confirmed Pinner were also struggling with numbers.

EBU Charges on Sundays

Wyn Lloyd joined the meeting to explain how he scores the Sunday evening sessions and why the EBU were making a charge for more experienced people who play on Sunday evenings. A discussion ensued on what action, if any, the Club should take. The Committee agreed that the charge for playing on Sunday nights will increase to £4 per person per session from 3rd September 2024 to comply with the EBU rule.

6. Treasurer's report

AMcB said that voucher sales in the first quarter were £4,164 which is in line with attendance numbers. The surplus for the first quarter was around £5,700 benefiting from annual subscription income and no major costs apart from our annual Pianola sub (£300) and EBU insurance (£293). There was just under £14,000 in the bank at the end of June and we will be able to donate to the hospice when it is of most benefit for them.

7. IT Manager's report

As the bridgemates used at Sobell and OMT are programmed for Section A, JB suggested that members can set their bridgemate individually at the beginning of each session by putting their table number into the bridgemate.

JB has not been able to find any more scorers. It is possible that one or two of our directors may be willing to direct and score at the same time.

A new member had been unable to log on to Pianola. JB said that when a new member joins, he/she should receive an automatic invite from Pianola. If there is a problem, JB can email Pianola and ask them to send an invite.

8. Secretary's report

JM apologised for cancelling the fund-raising bridge tea on 29th September but there had been problems with making the arrangements.

Social

The Committee decided to hold a social on the afternoon of Saturday 21 September. We will ask for more sandwiches and less cakes. LT will be asked to make and print 72 tickets.

Action: LT

9. Membership Secretary's report

GC reported there is a steady trickle of new members joining up.

PC will remind people again about the behaviour that we expect at the bridge table. Directors should ask everyone to switch off their mobile phones and not use them unless it is for their medication.

10. Teaching programme

TMB's 'Brush Up on Bridge' course is going well. The cost is £5 per session. There were twenty people last Saturday. Some established club members are attending the sessions.

TMB is looking for our help in the future. She wants members to support supervised bridge towards the end of her lessons starting on ??? August.

AMcB offered to help with a couple of sessions.

11. Sunday Evenings

Nothing to report.

12. Date of next meeting

10:00 a.m. on Saturday 12th October 2024.