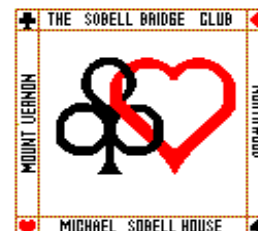


THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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 11 November, 2017

Present:

Doug Edmonds (DE)	Chairman
George Howlett (GH)	President
Lynne Mathys (LM)	Treasurer
Adrienne Finch (AF)	Secretary
Calver Townsend (CT)	
Terry Butfield (TB)	Playing Secretary
Joanna May (JM)	Weekend Organiser
Rob Pyburn (RP)	Webmaster
Val Lloyd (VL)	Session Manager
Peter Cobden (PC)	
Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary

- 1 There were no apologies
- 2 The minutes of the previous meeting No 98, held on 29 July 2017, were approved with a minor alteration to 5 (i), and will be placed on the web site.
- 3 Matters arising
All matters arising were already on the agenda under various headings.
- 4 Chairman's report
 - i) The attendances at bridge sessions at Croxley on Friday afternoons are still low, but sufficient to keep them going at the moment.
 - ii) DE reported with regret that GH our President and a constant and much valued supporter would be leaving the club as he and Dot are moving to the New Forest on November 30th. Everyone wished them well and their health was drunk and a mince pie consumed. AF had agreed to be the next President and a replacement secretary should be found. **DE**
 - iii) DE tabled a suggested diary for next year, which members were requested to enter in their diaries. It would also be put on the web site and placed on the club notice board. DE will clear it with the Friends and seek to change the date of the Christmas party to Dec 16. **All DE**
 - iv) The wine and cheese event on 13 January would be organised by PC and Anne Cobden. **PC**
 - v) The next teams event would be run on Sunday, 28 January from 1-4pm. It should not be held on the second Saturday of the month as the Pinner Club run theirs then. **TB**
 - vi) A date for the next Chicago tea needs to be decided and inserted. **LM/JM**
- 5 Treasurer's report
 - i) The main item reported by LM was falling attendance on all days as compared with the first seven months of 2016/7, there being an overall drop in table money of £3899.00, and a drop in membership fees of £320.
 - ii) LM recommended that £12,000 should be transferred to the Hospice. **LM**
 - iii) There were long discussions under a number of agenda headings on the reasons that there might be for this drop and it was agreed to set up a working party led by AF to consider the reasons and to suggest a course of action. PC, JM and LM agreed to be on the working party. Suggested dates for the meeting would be circulated by AF. **AF**
 - iv) LM mentioned that there were a number of attempts to gain fraudulent payments from the account, all of which she forwarded to the Police fraud reporting system.
- 6 Secretary's report – AF reported that she and GC, the membership secretary had been dealing with Alan Woof from the Hertfordshire committee, over the number of our members' decisions to unsubscribe from Hertfordshire Bridge emails, and that a number (who are not regular attenders) appear to have given faulty e mail addresses. Sobell appears to have the largest number of errors and Alan keeps trying to get us to correct these despite their being infrequent attenders. It was suggested that Robert Teesdale should be approached. **AF**

- 7 Playing Secretary's report.
- i) Teams had been entered in the Eccles cup, but apropos of item 6, very few of our members are interested in playing in Hertfordshire events as it would mean travelling too far, to Welwyn or Hemel Hempstead, and many did not want to drive at night.
 - ii) TB felt that we needed more dealers, scorers and directors. Hansa Chatwani had dealt once and should be approached to deal on a more regular basis. It was also suggested that Pete Davis who played on a Tuesday and was often there early should also be approached. DE would talk to Martin Isham. **DE**
 - iii) Regarding directing, JN is willing to direct occasionally, and it was suggested that Neil Frais should also be asked. **DE**
 - iv) Regarding scoring, PC and JM agreed to be trained, and Josh Ruparelia should also be approached. **LM/CT**
 - v) There was further discussion on the on going problem of the club's inability to provide classes both at the beginner and intermediate level. Teresa Murray-Bates has said that with training she would be willing to run some teaching sessions. This is to be followed up. **JN**
- 8 Webmaster's Report
- i) RP is still concerned at how dependant the club was on his expertise. PC agreed to be trained on the production and printing of tickets for events and membership cards and Josh Ruparelia should also be approached. **RP**
 - ii) The Scorebridge Licence needs renewing at the end of this month at a cost of £40. LM will replace GH. **LM**
 - iii) RP said that Club documents can be accessed via the Dropbox.
- 9 Social Matters
- i) The Chicago tea last August was well attended, and organisers received many complimentary comments. £801 was raised. The next one will be in August, next year.
 - ii) Arrangements for the Christmas party on Saturday, December 9 were discussed. The current policy is that those attending should be members. TB would direct. **TB**
 - iii) Christmas closure. The club would be closed on Sunday, Dec 24, Monday, Dec 25, Tuesday, Dec 26 and Monday, Dec 31. It will be open on Monday, Jan 1st.
 - iv) The wine and cheese party due to take place on Saturday, January 13 will be organised by Peter and Anne Cobden. The tickets need to be available by the evening of the Christmas Party. The event would be advertised immediately by e mail **PC/RP
DE**
- 10 Bridge weekends
- i) Report on Stratford. (13-16 October). There were 28 attendees giving only 7 tables despite it being a popular hotel and venue, which JM feels is the minimum number of people to make a weekend viable. There were problems as both a server and the cloths had been removed from the office where they had been placed for collection, meaning that LM and GC had had to score manually. It was agreed that whoever was directing/scoring should have a check list to ensure everything needed was present. This could not be the responsibility of JM. Despite the problems the weekend was enjoyed by all and £1050 was raised. **GH**
 - ii) Future bookings. Bournemouth at the Marsham Court Hotel April 27-30 and Brockenhurst in the New Forest, October 19-22. **JM**
 - iii) JM said that because of the difficulties she was having in getting sufficient people to attend the weekends. She would not research/organise any further weekends until she saw how the booking for Bournemouth went. **JM**
- 11 Liaison Officer's Report – There were two street lights not functioning at the entrance to the hospital. **DE**
- Members had been asking for the Hospice Christmas Cards stand to be put up. Apparently most of them have already been distributed. **JN**
- 12 Any Other Business
None
- 13 Date of Next Meeting – Saturday, 27 January, 2018 at 10:00 AM.