



The Sobell Bridge Club



The MINUTES of the 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Sunday, 20 May 2012 in the Michael Sobell Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital at 6 pm.

Present: George Howlett President
 Doug Edmonds Chairman
 Sheena Edgar Secretary
 Lynne Mathys Treasurer

Also present:
66 other members

1. George Howlett, the President welcomed all. He particularly mentioned those normally playing at Croxley Green. He regretted the death of Len Turner at Christmas. He thanked the Chairman for all his hard work.
2. Apologies for absence: Hazel Jesson, Ian Dent, Ann Paris, Margaret Goldsmith, Irene Willis, Thelma Charlton
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the 2011 AGM: proposed by Catherine Stafford, seconded by Ken Short.
4. Chairman's report. A switch had been made to computer-generated hands in the summer of 2011. Thanks go to Robin Pyburn, Martin Isham, George and others for their work in installing and understanding the software. George, Dot and Martin are shouldering the burden of board generation. When we had a week in the annex it was noted how unusual hand-dealt boards could be!

There were 38 new members.

The Christmas party was a great success, thanks to George Howlett and Liz Crook who wish to make this their finale. Volunteers are needed for the next one in December.

Terry Butfield's efforts to involve the club in county events have had some success. We were second in the Eccles cup when competing with eleven other teams and our team reached the last eight of the Humble cup. But despite these successes the club's interest in county competitions remains luke warm. This coming year we will have two Wednesday evenings devoted solely to Teams' competitions, but Wednesday evening duplicate received insufficient support.

Some memorial pots are to be placed at the entrance to the Hospice in Len Turner's memory.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for all their hard work, particularly to Bob Cozens who has taken over stewarding on Thursday evenings and to Gwen for her work on the computer. He also thanked Sheena for supervising the few disciplinary matters.

5. Treasurer's report. The net surplus for the year was up by 1.8% to £32,302.37, with attendances rising and once again £32,000 has been donated to the hospice. The committee has agreed that as of next year, 2013, the annual subscription will be increased from £5 to £10. Table fee income rose by 5.4% but expenses also increased by 13.25%.

Profit from Bridge suppers have increased from £479.80 to £998.40 with the 'Xmas nibbles' making £504.76 despite this being a non profit even. This is mainly due to the successful raffle. Weekends remain popular and have netted a profit of £1511.87. Profit from Sim Pairs and the Humble Cup increased from £186 to £489.

Thanks were given to Michael Tucker, assistant treasurer for his untiring work and to Howard Atkins for auditing the accounts.



The Sobell Bridge Club



6. Motion that the accounts be accepted: Proposed by Terry Butfield and seconded by Brian Simmonds.
7. Election of Honorary Auditor: Howard Atkins was proposed by Doug Edmonds and seconded by Calver Townsend.
8. Secretary's report: Sheena thanked Shirley Tucker (membership secretary) and Adrienne Finch (minutes secretary) for their hard work. There had been no need to use the formal Disciplinary Procedure this year.

The Hertfordshire Bridge (HBA) had reduced its P2P levy on members from 8p to 6p from April 2012 which has offset the 2p increase in EBU P2P levy coming into effect at the same time.

The HBA has decided to set up a meeting of Chairs for all affiliated Clubs in the county to encourage closer working relationships between Clubs and County. Doug will be attending the meeting in June.

The EBU has changed the P2P exemptions for Charity events for this year, which now means that Sobell Bridge Club can run two Charity events per year which will be P2P exempt so that all the money raised can go to the charity.

9. Election of committee members. Those currently in post were prepared to stand again and they were elected unanimously.
10. Vote on the motion: 'that the Sobell Bridge Club should continue to be affiliated to the English Bridge Union' was carried by a substantial majority
12. AOB
 - a) The next simultaneous pairs events would be held on Monday 30 July and Thursday 11 October
 - b) The next Teams event would be held on Wednesday 5 September
 - c) The next two weekends would be at Bournemouth's Mayfair Hotel on 7-10 September, with the closing date on May 25, and at the Hilton, Tewkesbury on 26-29 October.
13. The meeting closed at 18.35, when Howard Atkins introduced the annual prize giving.