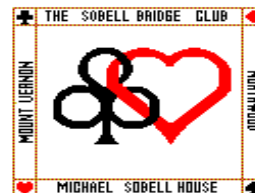


# THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



## Minutes of Committee Meeting No 105 held at the Michael Sobell Centre on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2019

<u>Present:</u>	Doug Edmonds (DE)	Chairman
	Lynne Mathys (LM)	Treasurer
	Alan McBride (AMcB)	Secretary
	Terry Butfield (TB)	Playing Secretary
	Joanna May (JM)	Weekend Organiser
	Peter Cobden (PC)	Publicity Officer
	Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
	Lois Hargreaves (LH)	Session Manager
	Jane Brown (JB)	Webmaster
	Jacquie North (JN)	Session Manager

1 Apologies for absence were received from Adrienne Finch and Calver Townsend.

2 The minutes of the previous meeting, No 104, held on 31 March 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting. JB will put them on the website.

JB

### 3 Matters arising

- Scorer - Pete Davis has not followed through with the idea of becoming a scorer. Calver doesn't want to do the scoring twice per week, so additional help is required. Steve Pink and Judy Walshe seem happy to assist. The idea of having a few people on a rota was also suggested as it can be onerous to volunteer for a regular weekly slot. Peter and Anne can help with scoring on Mondays or Tuesdays to free up Doug if he wants to score on those nights. AMcB offered to be trained and assist occasionally. JB would also be happy to help on an occasional basis. DE/TB will speak with Calver and ask him to carry on whilst Steve, Judy and others are trained.
- Sunday coding - has been sorted. The sessions are occasionally chargeable when more experienced players are present. LH believes this will be sporadic and DE confirmed that the cost is fine.
- Mrs Miller – DE reported that no reply had been received.
- Table numbers – have been purchased. TB will also be ordering some new cards from Mr Bridge.

DE/TB

TB

### 4 Chairman's report

DE gave a detailed update on the hospice situation, including the various interested parties and likely future maintenance requirements, which could be significant. He believes there's a good chance that the hospice could be open by Christmas. He added that the hospice charity will shortly be recommending PR for additional support.

### 5 Treasurer's report

- Vouchers – LM reported that £3,372 worth of vouchers had been sold in their first 8 weeks of use and that they were becoming very popular.
- Accounts - LM reported that table money for Q1 is very similar to last years (just slightly down), tuition income of £2,451 was very good and the summer party made an excellent surplus of £872. LM proposed donating £12,000 now to Michael Sobell and this was agreed. She confirmed that after this transfer, we'd still have a retained surplus of around £6,000.
- Bank Mandate – LM reported that this was out of date and no longer practical as most payments are made online. As she's not authorised to make online payments, her payments are made via telephone banking. It was agreed that the mandate be updated and that AMcB and JM will be given online access and added as secondary signatories. LM will sort the paperwork.

LM

LM

6. Secretary's report  
AMcB reported that he'd responded to club information requests from the EBU and the HBA. Communications from HBA regarding their events should be forwarded to TB **AMcB**
7. Membership secretary's report.  
GC said she was ignoring an email from HBA regarding members email addresses. She reported that of the current 290 members, around 70 had not yet paid to renew this year. She added that some people pay to renew even though they're no longer active with the club, but remain happy to support it. A letter will be going shortly to those who haven't yet paid. **GC**
8. Teaching Programme.  
PC reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> improvers' course is just about to finish and he's keen to integrate the 17 students into the club. He added that of the 18 students last year, around 8 have become fairly regular players, which is way above the national average conversion rate of only 5%. Students are invited to become automatic club members after the course finishes. Application forms need to be completed and returned to GC. **PC**
- Some student have been invited to observe play on normal club nights and in the past some have partnered more experienced players for an evening. DE advised that the experienced players can act as mentors in this way without their NGS score being damaged whilst a student is playing their first 150 boards. PC will be writing shortly to invite / request mentors for August this year. **PC**
- Theresa Murray-Bates (TMB) plans to run supervised Chicago sessions for improvers on Mondays from 10-12pm, before her new course starts in October. It was suggested that past SIMS hands could be used for these sessions and that we could run supervised bridge sessions on a Friday or Sunday. DE commented that TMB has a lot on her plate and may need some assistance. Jennifer Hay assists her at times and both PC and DE are willing to help too, as would be others.
- Next courses are Beginners from 14<sup>th</sup> October (with a free taster session on 7<sup>th</sup> October), and Improvers from 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020.
9. Publicity.  
As a continuation of the last topic, PC advised that courses are now listed on our web site as well as those of the HBA and Hillingdon Council. PC is proposing to take a quarter page ad in Optima and TB offered to assist with a free ad in the Northwood Hills Echo. PC is continuing to promote us in local shops and libraries etc. **PC/TB**
- DE thanked PC and also asked him to thank TMB on behalf of the committee for her work and make it clear that if she needs any help at all, she should ask and we'll arrange it. **PC**
10. Playing Secretary's Report.
  - Teams – TB said the hardest time of year to get teams for a tournament is usually July and that's proven true again this year, with 5 teams versus the usual 7 or 8. Future teams dates are to be publicised. **TB**
  - SIMS – The next event is Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and "we'll see how it goes." We're sticking to the policy of charging £2 extra for these events, to go towards the additional EBU costs.
11. Webmaster's Report.  
JB reported that she is obtaining a free printer from her work. Membership numbers on Pianola and Scorebridge are being brought into line but this has been awkward because we use club membership numbers rather than EBU numbers. She added that some members emails get sent to their junk folders. DE asked JB to update the committee page on the website. JB asked AMcB to supply her with a photo. **JB/AMcB**
- PC mentioned Google reviews. If you Google "Bridge clubs near me" you can find Sobell and write a review. He will encourage recent students and others to write reviews there for us. **PC**

12. Social Matters.
- The summer party had gone very well and Mair and her team were super efficient. A complaint had been received about a late arrival (not for the first time). TB explained why he was allowed to stay on this occasion.
  - The wine and cheese evening date needs to be changed and 28<sup>th</sup> September was agreed. DE is organising this and will promote the date change. The charge will be £7.50 and PC is making the tickets. **DE /PC**
  - The Christmas event is on 14<sup>th</sup> December. As Mair did the summer event so well, DE will ask her if she can do the Christmas one or ask for her thoughts about it. **DE**
13. Bridge Weekends.
- Oxford is booked for October 18-21 and we have 34 attendees. JM ideally wants 36 to make 9 tables and will advertise for 2 more. **JM**
  - Bournemouth is booked for May 1-4, 2020 and JM feels we can get a good number for this one as it's a popular and convenient location.
  - Stratford Manor is still available for the October 2020 and the terms on offer have been improved. As a result, it was agreed that JM should make the booking and pay the initial £500 deposit. A more concrete decision can be made once we are aware of the timing of the second payment. A discussion was had around the topic of sessions being optional or compulsory, people bringing non playing partners and people being paired up. It was agreed that JM should ensure people are aware that non playing partners can attend. **JM**
14. Any Other Business.
- A personal hygiene concern was raised about one member and DE agreed to speak with the person concerned. **DE**
  - JN mentioned a problem with the lights on a couple of occasions. This seems to have been resolved with an electrician coming out.
15. Date of Next Meeting – Confirmed as 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

**Signed as a true record of the meeting;**

Chairman ..... Date .....