

THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



Minutes of Committee Meeting No.110 held on Saturday 2nd April 2022

<u>Present:</u>	Adrienne Finch (AF)	President
	Peter Cobden (PC)	Chairman
	Lynne Mathys (LM)	Treasurer
	Terry Butfield (TB)	Playing Secretary
	Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
	Jane Brown (JB)	Webmaster
	Joanna May (JM)	

1. Apologies for absence were received from Alan McBride, Calver Townsend, Lois Hargreaves & Val Lloyd.
2. The minutes of the most recent meeting, No.109 held on 8th January 2022, were approved as a true record of the meeting.
3. Matters arising

As regards the “all member” emails sent out from Pianola that some members were not receiving, JB said that it was not an issue for the Club or Pianola to resolve. She suggested those members should contact their network provider and take it up with them.

LM finished her role as Treasurer on 1st April but the handover to AMcB has not yet been done. LM was asked to prepare a job description and sort out outstanding bank issues.

Action LM/AMcB

PC reported there had been no drop in numbers attending Thursday night sessions even though Saturday afternoon sessions had started recently. A core of people is coming on a Thursday evening and a number of people who have not come for two years have appeared on a Saturday afternoon. Martin Isham is happy to direct on a Saturday afternoon. There can be a problem with the scoring with only a few tables. TB commented that we must persevere with our efforts and keep going as otherwise people will drop away.

The credit card machine seems to be working provided we keep it plugged in; the system worked when it was checked out. However, it does not differentiate between payments and AMcB will be asked to investigate this.

Action AMcB

A thank you letter was sent to Harry Silverman for directing the Thursday sessions free of charge.

Theresa Murray-Bates' (TMB) next beginners' course is due to start on 23rd April.

PC said he had left some lottery pamphlets out on the tables. He asked JB to put something about the pamphlets on the website with a link.

Action JB

4. Chairman's report

Masks

The Committee discussed the issue of masks in some detail. PC sought the opinion of each member as to whether (a) we continue with the current rule that masks must be worn; or (b) we abandon that rule and revert to the optional wearing of masks. A vote was taken and the motion under (a) was carried. We should continue to stress to members that they should not come to the Club if they are feeling ill or have a cough.

AGM

PC said that the AGM will be held on 15th May. Because of the mask rules, the Committee felt it was inappropriate to cater for the AGM. All members, including the regular Sunday night players, will be invited and a bridge session will follow. The Committee decided that the AGM should start at 6:00 pm.

PC will use a similar agenda to the last AGM. The agenda will be circulated to all members a minimum of ten days beforehand. A suggestion was made to hold future AGMs at a different time but before a decision can be made, the Club's constitution should be checked to see when the AGM can be held.

Action PC

JB will try to locate a set of the last AGM minutes and put it on the web. LM commented that accounts cannot be opened on the web and JB was asked to investigate this.

Action JB

LM will get Howard Atkins to inspect the accounts prior to the AGM.

Action LM

PC proposed that Tony King should be made Club Member of the Year at the AGM. This was agreed by the Committee.

5. Treasurer's report

LM circulated a summary sheet for 2021/2022 which showed a profit of £3,505.66. She said we have donated £6,000 to the Hospice this year as we had money in abeyance. The voucher system is working well, and she has not had to go to the bank for the past two years.

6. Secretary's report

Nothing to report.

7. Membership secretary's report

After a brief discussion, it was decided that an email will be sent to all members (and put on the website) stating that there will be no membership renewal fee this year; however, members will be encouraged to donate to the Hospice. Members will be able to pick up their new membership cards when they come to the Club. A list of members and their EBU numbers will be retained in the office. A joining fee for new members will continue to be charged.

Action GC

8. Teaching programme

TMB is currently finishing off a course at £20 per person before the new beginners' course starts on 23rd April; this will last for 11 weeks and cost £125 per person.

PC reported that the courses had been advertised in local free news magazines in Northwood and surrounding areas. AF requested that future advertising of courses should include an insertion in the Pinner Villager.

Action PC

TMB has dedicated herself to teaching bridge for the past four years. There is still the problem of integrating the new players into the Club. PC reported that the students view playing at the Club as too competitive. A number were playing elsewhere and only rubber bridge. Some years ago, we had organised a successful Chicago tea session on a Saturday afternoon. He suggested to the Committee that we consider changing the format of Saturday afternoons by offering a parallel session of rubber bridge or Chicago ~~session~~. TB offered to discuss this with TMB.

Action TB/TMB

9. Playing secretary's report

The three members who participated in a director's course are awaiting their results. They are very keen to start and plan to set up a rota.

10. Webmaster's report

Nothing to report.

11. Any Other Business

PC told the Committee that he had received a letter from CT offering his resignation from the Committee. He will prepare and send a thank you note to CT.

Action PC

12. Date of next meeting – 10:00 am on Saturday 2nd July 2022.