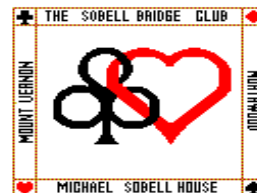


THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



Minutes of Committee Meeting No 106 held at the Michael Sobell Centre on Saturday 16th November 2019

<u>Present:</u>	Doug Edmonds (DE)	Chairman
	Lynne Mathys (LM)	Treasurer
	Alan McBride (AMcB)	Secretary
	Terry Butfield (TB)	Playing Secretary
	Peter Cobden (PC)	Publicity Officer
	Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
	Lois Hargreaves (LH)	Session Manager
	Calver Townsend (CT)	Session Manager

- 1 Apologies for absence were received from Jane Brown, Joanna May, Adrienne Finch and Jacquie North.

- 2 The minutes of the previous meeting, No 105, held on 21st July 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

- Bank Mandate – Still needs to be signed.
- Personal Hygiene – DE had let this matter lie as he thought it had improved. Unfortunately other reports suggest this is not the case, so DE will now speak with the person concerned. On a related topic, it was suggested that members suffering from colds and other seasonal ailments should be discouraged from attending when their attendance might cause a risk of infection to other members, particularly the more elderly ones. DE to write to members about this.
- Scorer – This remains a problem as we still don't have a volunteer to score regularly on Thursdays. The rota idea has not yet been progressed (AMcB offered to be trained and assist occasionally. JB would also be happy to help on an occasional basis). DE to consider further.

LM

DE

DE

4 Chairman's report

DE advised that the hospice is due to reopen on 14th December and will be holding an open day. It is believed that the charity has sufficient funds for up to 2 years, but once the hospice is open a renewed push for additional funding is to be expected.

DE had previously circulated a proposed club timetable for 2020, and this was agreed, subject to the July committee meeting being on 18th, and the Stratford weekend being 16th – 19th October. The AGM is scheduled for Sunday May 17th. DE will book the hall.

DE

5 Treasurer's report

- Accounts - LM reported that table money for the first 7 months from April to October is around £500 up on last year. The cheese and wine party and the Thame weekend had both made positive contributions, but the greatest success of the year has been the income from tuition (£5,431).

A discussion about training and Monday afternoon sessions ensued. It was agreed that the Monday sessions could be promoted more widely.

PC

- Vouchers – are proving very popular and are now used by about 75% of members. It is proposed to introduce a £3 voucher for Friday and Sunday sessions. LH welcomed the idea. Peter will discuss with Sue Ganney and design a suitable voucher.

PC

6. Secretary's report
There was nothing to report.
7. Membership secretary's report.
GC said that we now had 251 paid up members and a further 40 who had not paid to renew, who were being chased. There are around 20 free of charge members from training too. **GC**
- HBA are now communicating properly from an official HBA email address.
8. Teaching Programme.
PC reported that the beginner's course started in October with 22 students signed up at £120 each. There has been good assistance and support from members – with usually around 5 at each session. The improvers course starts in January and the test will be to see how many convert and continue on from the beginners. The supervised bridge sessions on Mondays include brief lessons on specific topics, e.g. weak two's, transfers etc.
- PC added that the new EBU club liaison contact, Jonathan Lillycrop will be visiting on 2nd December. PC will encourage him to write about us in the EBU magazine. **PC**
- In future, Theresa wants to run one course per year, with the next beginners course proposed for around September 2020. This was felt to be sufficient.
9. Publicity.
PC circulated a list of publications where Sobell Bridge Club has been advertised or promoted, together with some example ads for all to see. This was considered impressive. PC report that most of the recent students had heard about the course via Optima magazine. PC also asked for ideas for additional publications. **All**
- LH asked if PC could advertise / promote that on Sundays it was possible to attend without a partner, just like Fridays. **PC**
- PC proposed a ¼ page ad for the club generally and he will also investigate the possibility of producing A5 flyers. **PC**
- PC also proposed we look into booking Andrew Robson for a seminar in future (bookings may be up to a year ahead). Issues around parking were raised, so a weekend date would be necessary. Care would be needed to ensure it was pitched at an appropriate level for a cross section of attendees. PC will investigate further. **PC**
10. Playing Secretary's Report.
- Teams – TB said that these events are still struggling to get good numbers. July had 5 tables, September was cancelled and November had 6. It was suggested that we could test doing these on a Saturday instead of a Sunday. Alternatively, we may have to drop these events if numbers don't hold up. TB to keep under review. **TB**
 - SIMS – TB reported that these events also continue to have poor take up. They're also difficult to organise as downloading the hands is quite complex. Due to a problem in this area, the last event had to be cancelled, but only 3-4 pairs had wanted to play it anyway. DE reaffirmed our policy of charging £2 extra for these events, to go towards the additional EBU costs. As we won't subsidise these, they will either survive or die. **TB**
 - Tuesday attendances – In 7 months, Tuesdays are £500 up in table money, so whilst the change of start time is not ideal for some people, it doesn't appear to have had a negative impact overall. It was agreed that we'll keep with the new 7.30 pm start time, but continue to monitor it. **TB**
 - Number of boards dealt – A discussion was had about the number of boards dealt for each session being in excess of those used / played by all, and whether it created any bias. It was confirmed that the hands created by dealing machines are totally random and that as the actual hands played by any player are a random subset of the hands dealt, and they are only scored on hands actually played, there is no bias. A more likely cause of bias is

not having randomised seating. However, as many members choose the same position each time, it was felt that it would be difficult to change this.

11. Webmaster's Report.

In her absence, it was confirmed that JB had updated the website. JB had also submitted a question about buying Canon ink cartridges for the printer, or cheaper generic ones. It was agreed that we should keep to the proprietary Canon ones.

JB

12. Social Matters.

- The wine and cheese evening went well and generated a surplus equivalent to around £4 per head. It was suggested that the ticket price for future events may be increased slightly to allow for a glass of wine on arrival.
- The Christmas event is on 14th December. An announcement about this has been drafted for circulation and will include a plea for everyone to arrive by 6.15pm on the evening. It was reasserted that the Director won't allow latecomers to play.

DE

We need to promote that raffle tickets are on sale from next week. This is to be announced by the Director at each session.

PC

13. Bridge Weekends.

- Oxford JM had submitted a report about this, which was noted, as was the profit on the weekend.
- Bournemouth is booked for 1st to 4th May 2020
- Stratford Manor is booked for 16th to 19th October 2020

JM

14. Any Other Business.

- Difficulties had been experienced with the chain for the car park. It was agreed that we could fund the purchase of a new one.
- GC advised that her email address has changed. She asked that this be amended on the website.
- LH asked the committee to note her disappointment that bridge on Sunday 8th December has to be cancelled due to the Light up a Life ceremonies that day.

DE

JB

15. Date of Next Meeting – Confirmed as 11th January 2020.

Signed as a true record of the meeting;

Chairman Date