

# THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



## Minutes of an Emergency Committee Meeting No 107 held at the Michael Sobell Centre on Monday 13th September 2021

<u>Present:</u>	Adrienne Finch (AF)	President
	Lynne Mathys (LM)	Treasurer
	Alan McBride (AMcB)	Secretary
	Terry Butfield (TB)	Playing Secretary
	Peter Cobden (PC)	Publicity Officer
	Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
	Calver Townsend (CT)	Session Manager
	Jane Brown (JB)	Webmaster
	Joanna May (JM)	

1. Apologies for absence were received from Lois Hargreaves & Val Lloyd.
2. The minutes of the most recent minuted meeting, No 106 in November 2019, were not reviewed or discussed as this meeting had been called to deal with the current situation.
3. Adrienne Finch took the Chair and opened the meeting with a minute's silence for all present to mark the untimely passing of our Chairman Doug Edmonds.
4. Doug Edmonds' role and responsibilities were discussed (these extended beyond the actual Chairmanship role and TB had helpfully produced a list for us to consider). It was agreed that:
  - a. Responsibility for external communication, e.g. with EBU, HBA, Michael Sobell House and Trust etc, should be transferred to PC, with any communications also cc'd to the Secretary for good order. **Action PC**
  - b. The Monday online sessions and Thursday live sessions should be continued. Catherine Stafford (CS) has agreed to do the stewarding role on Thursdays and be responsible for opening up and closing the centre, as well as setting up the equipment. PC agreed to liaise with Catherine regarding table set ups etc. **Action PC**
  - c. AF asked AMcB to prepare a circular to members with any key decisions from this meeting and to advise that on Thursdays, due to the use of the room by others, members attending may be asked to help with setting up and clearing away the bridge tables. **Action AMcB**
  - d. PC confirmed that he (and Ann) were happy to continue with the dealing of hands. TB agreed to keep a rota of dealers, to include PC and others. (JM, AF and AMcB all offered to learn how to deal and to assist with dealing). PC agreed to arrange some training. **Action TB & PC**
  - e. CT confirmed that he was happy to be a regular scorer on Thursday evenings but that he wasn't available every Thursday. It was noted that Mike Gentry wouldn't be available in person to be a scorer but was happy to provide remote assistance in the event of queries. JB offered similar remote help with getting results onto the website. GC is willing to be a standby scorer and AF is willing to be trained in scoring. TB agreed to keep a rota / register of scorers. **Action TB & CT**

- f. Directing is currently our weakest area, with a number of previous and existing Directors unlikely to be available for varying reasons. AF commented that as the club had paid for directing courses for Neil Fraiss and Vinod Khanna, she would ask both of them to be available to direct if needed, say once a month. **Action AF**
  - g. TB agreed to Direct for the next 2 Thursdays and wants to do more but explained that it may not be possible for him to Direct regularly, especially in the winter months. TB agreed to liaise with the EBU regarding the cost and availability of Director training, either externally or in house at Sobell, where we may be able to share the cost with other clubs. AMcB will seek volunteers for Director training (and Directing) in his member announcement. **Action TB & AMcB**
  - h. PC will contact some other known Directors who are members and encourage them to be volunteer Directors at Sobell on a rota basis **Action PC**
5. Treasurer's report - LM Confirmed that the March 2020 accounts had been completed by her and examined by Howard Atkins. They show that we donated £40,000 to Sobell in the year.

The March 2021 accounts had just been completed too, but not yet examined. They show a £1 deficit for the year, which was considered very reasonable given the lockdown. No donations had been made to Sobell in the year unfortunately. Both years accounts will be tabled at the next AGM.

**Action LM**

Given the absence of donations this year, it was agreed we should encourage members to consider their own direct donations in lieu of last year's subscription. AMcB can include this in a member announcement but PC agreed to check first whether this could be better timed for Sobell, given that we last asked members to do this in Nov 2020 **Action PC & AMcB**

LM / JB commented on the plan to take payments electronically. The first machine purchased is not ideal for our requirements, so it was agreed that a new machine be purchased for £120. Ongoing costs will be the 1.69% transaction fee, but this will avoid cash handling, trips to the bank and the attendance of the treasurer to sell vouchers. LM will ask CS if she is willing to assist with voucher sales on Thursdays. AMcB will warn members of the need to pay in this way in future. **Action LM & AMcB**

- 6. Membership Secretary's report – GC proposed to reintroduce the £10 annual subscription from April 2022 and also suggested asking members for a £5 voluntary contribution in respect of 2021/22 and to encourage ad hoc donations. This was agreed. **Action GC**
- 7. Next AGM – The proposed dates are May 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022. PC will enquire about the hall availability. It was noted that we will have missed 2 AGM's and this was considered acceptable given the lockdowns. **Action PC**
- 8. Committee Roles - AF proposed, and it was unanimously agreed, that PC should be co-opted as Chairman, acting until the next AGM (and hopefully thereafter). This takes effect from the end of this meeting. **Action PC**

LM announced that she would like to stand down as Treasurer as from the next AGM. AMcB agreed to take her role in lieu of the Secretary role, which JM agreed take on. These transitions will commence in the next couple of months so that AMcB and JM are familiar with their new roles before standing for election at the AGM

**Action AMcB & JM**

- 9. Doug's Funeral – AF reported that this would be at Breakspear crematorium. Attendance may be limited but it was likely that someone from the club (e.g. AF or TB) would attend and speak if that was agreeable to Anne. AF will liaise with Anne **Action AF**
- 10. Any other business – AF reported on a suggestion from a member that all attendees at face to face sessions should have masks available but need only wear them at the request of the

opposition. There was also a suggestion that we could run some sessions for mask wearers (where masks were compulsory) and other sessions without masks. In the short term it was agreed that this could be too complicated and also impact our ability to have enough Directors and attendance. It was agreed to leave things as they are for the next few weeks and to reconsider in the light of the continuing impact of Covid.

**Action AF/PC**

11. Date of Next meeting – 6pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at the Michael Sobell Centre.