

THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



Minutes of Committee Meeting No.111 held on Saturday 2nd July 2022

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

1. Apologies for absence were received from Alan McBride, Lois Hargreaves & Val Lloyd.
2. The minutes of the most recent meeting, No.110 held on 2nd April 2022, were approved as a true record of the meeting.
3. Matters arising
 - i) LM and AMcB have completed the handover of the Treasurer's role.
 - ii) The software for the credit card machine has been updated. The machine is working and turns itself off.
 - iii) PC and decided not to create a link to the lottery pamphlets on the website.
 - iv) PC said he had checked the Constitution regarding setting the date of the next AGM, this states the meeting can be held at any time after the end of March until the end of June.
 - v) PC confirmed that all AGM minutes are now on the website.
 - vi) PC confirmed that Howard Atkins has inspected the accounts and passed them.
 - vii) GC had received enquiries about membership cards although none will be issued this year. She had also received enquiries about training and was asked to forward such requests to PC.
 - viii) PC had contacted the Hatch End bulletin regarding placing an advert for our training courses. He was told he had missed the deadline for the Spring issue, but we can insert something in the next issue.
 - ix) PC confirmed he had written a thank you letter to Calver Townsend.

4. Chairman's report

a) Training Directors as Scorers

PC said the new directors have been doing a particularly good job. Alan Marks and AMcB would like to learn about the scorer's role and would be willing to do occasional scoring. JB suggested we set up a rota of scorers as we have done for directors. GC was asked to organise this rota for the next three months with AF doing scoring on one day and PD (Pete Davis) on the other (JB offered to score on a Thursday evening to help).

Action: GC

JB offered to talk to PD about which instructions need clarification. **Action: JB/PD**

TB suggested that the 4 scorers (JB/GC/PD/AF) and LM meet before normal play to discuss what needs to be changed in the instruction sheet. Suggested date: Thursday 7 July at 6:45 pm before play begins.

Action: JB/GC/PD/AF/LM

TB felt that we should get the existing scorers properly trained before thinking about training the new directors.

GC was asked to provide information to the new directors about how the scoring programme operates.

Action: GC

(b) Sundays

PC said that LH, VL and her husband Wyn have become increasingly frustrated over the course of this year. Since they restarted the Sunday sessions there have been three occasions when the attendance has been so low that they have had to send people home. LH is looking after a relative who lives far away so she has limited availability. They decided to keep Sundays going and agreed with the Sunday players that in future people who want to play on a Sunday must email VL by 8:00 pm the previous Wednesday. With three or more tables, play will go ahead. With less than three tables, VL will ask JB to put a note on the web saying that play is not going ahead that week. In PC's opinion, this is the right decision.

Action: VL/JB

On Sunday 17 July, the Sunday team will all be away and have arranged for someone to run the session for them. A member of the Committee is needed to unlock the premises that evening. AF/JM to check their diaries and confirm their availability to VL.

Action: AF/JM/VL

JB to train JM on how to put messages on the website.

Action: JB/JM

5. Treasurer's report

Although AMcB was unable to attend the meeting, he had prepared a summary from the spreadsheets as follows:

Cash at start of year on 1 st April 2022		£6,218
Receipts April – June	£2,984	
Expenditure April – June	£ 912	
Surplus April – June		£2,072
Cash balance 30 th June		£8,290

Expenditure in the quarter included annual fees for Pianola and club insurance.

a) SumUp

PC said that although there had been issues with the credit card machine, it was now working properly.

6. Secretary's report

JM had received an email from Brook Hotels (based in Sutton Coldfield) inviting her and a partner to come and stay as their guests at any Brook Hotel over a weekend. JM said she had acknowledged the email but not fixed a date as she was doubtful of organising a bridge weekend soon. PC said that Watford Bridge Club are holding a weekend in Bosham (near Chichester). LM suggested that we should consider arranging a weekend away together with another group. TB suggested it was advisable not to go with another bridge club as that might

result in Sobell losing members, but we could consider making a group booking with a bridge company e.g., Mr Bridge or First for Bridge.

7. Membership secretary's report

Nothing to report.

8. Teaching programme

PC reported that a beginners' course started in early February and is being run by TMB every Saturday morning. There are eight new learners and four others who did not finish the course because of Covid; they are paying less for the supplementary lessons. The fee for the full course is £120.

TMB runs Real Bridge sessions for her students every Thursday.

Her efforts have raised over £1,000 since February.

An improvers' course will run from September 10 – November 19 at a charge of £120.

9. Playing secretary's report

TB reported that Thursday and Saturday sessions are stable in terms of numbers. On Thursdays, we have a core of 24-26 players and overall, we average 6½ tables. On Saturdays, we started off with 7 tables, but the recent average is 4; that is not good. TB suggested that we keep running the Saturday afternoon sessions for as long as people want to come. Martin Isham does most of the directing and TB will (a) ask Martin to continue to direct on a Saturday; and (b) ask the other directors to cover when Martin is not available.

Action: TB

TB said there are different movements depending on the number of tables. He offered to go through each movement card with the number of tables we get on a Saturday and work out which movements we should use that correlate with our computer system. One table would be identified as a N/S table for players who did not want to move. JB offered to help TB resolve the Saturday issues.

Action: TB/JB

a) Saturdays

PC commented that play does not run smoothly on Saturday afternoons. LM said that most of it was to do with scoring. She suggested we limit the number of people who are allowed in the office at one time. PC was asked to prepare a laminated notice saying, "Nobody but the scorer and the director to enter here".

Action: PC

Members who wished to purchase vouchers should do so outside the office before play commenced and this would also particularly apply to Thursday sessions.

Action: PC

Saturday afternoon play is to be reviewed at the next Committee.

Action: JM

10. Webmaster's report

JB reported on the debate as to whether we continue with ScoreBridge. We could move to EBUScore which would mean that GC and LM would have to be retrained. TB suggested that we try to get the current system working with an experienced group of people. If it still does not work, we could then consider EBUScore.

11. Any Other Business

PC told the Committee that he and JB had received a letter from Trainline suggesting that they link on to our website. PC will write and decline.

Action PC

12. Date of next meeting – 10:00 am on Saturday 1st October 2022.