

THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



Minutes of Committee Meeting No.112 held on Saturday 7th October 2022

<u>Present:</u>	Adrienne Finch (AF)	President
	Peter Cobden (PC)	Chairman
	Alan McBride (AMcB)	Treasurer
	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 Lois Hargreaves & Val Lloyd.
2. Linda Moore, a Trustee of Michael Sobell Hospice, and Interim Director of Fundraising, who was due to address the meeting was unable to attend the meeting owing to a fall. The Committee sends their best wishes for a speedy recovery.
3. The minutes of the most recent meeting, No.111 held on 2nd July 2022, were approved as a true record of the meeting.
4. Matters arising
 - i) GC has updated the scoring instructions and organised a rota of scorers.
 - ii) JB spoke to PD about the scoring instructions that needed clarification.
 - iii) VL is now sending a weekly email to the Sunday players requesting that they let her know by 8:00 pm the following Wednesday whether they want to play. JB then puts a note on the website saying whether play is going ahead that week.
 - iv) JB trained JM (via a Zoom link) on how to put messages on the website.
 - v) Martin Isham has done most of the directing on Saturday afternoons. Numbers on Saturday afternoon have been a little patchy. Thanks to TB, LM and AMcB for helping in an emergency.
 - vi) Limiting the number of people in the office has been appreciated by the scorers.

TB said that everyone, especially PC, had made a great effort to keep the club running. He suggested that whoever is directing should state the rules of the club at the beginning of each session. New members are wanted but they need to fit in with our principles. TB offered to put out a short note to directors suggesting what should be said at the beginning of each session.

Action: TB

5. Chairman's report

a) EBU Score

PC said we had spoken about EBU Score on many occasions in the past. He and LM had visited Harry Silverman's club to see the EBU Score system from start to finish. LM

felt quite positive about this system and considered it was better than ScoreBridge particularly on a Saturday when people did not know their membership numbers.

The main advantage is in the cost - £50-£60 per year, whereas Pianola is £300 per year.

TB suggested we look at Bridgewebs to see whether there are weaknesses in that system. He agreed that making a change could mean a lot of work and be massively complicated.

JB was not keen on leaving Pianola as the change would result in a massive amount of work for her. She felt that people who use the system should decide what is best for the club. In her view, the support on ScoreBridge is not good and there is a lot going on in the background. Our scorers would have to be retrained on the new system.

PC commented that, as a matter of urgency, we need to train more members become to become scorers.

JB said she had trained JM via a Zoom link so that JM could edit the club's website. This was successful and proved that a Zoom link can be used for initial training.

On 19th October at 10:00 a.m., Jonathan from the EBU is visiting the club to demonstrate EBU Score to those involved with directing and scoring.

AMcB, Alan Marks and Martin Tasker have volunteered to learn the scoring system.

(i) Fire Regulations

TB reminded the committee of a procedure which has not been conducted since the club closed for the pandemic. Originally, the fire regulations stated that members had to sign in when they arrived at the club. That rule was waived on condition that whoever was scoring the bridge session would provide a list of players and give it to the director. The director could not start the second round of the bridge session until the scorer had produced the list. TB requested that this rule be re-implemented with immediate effect, and he agreed to notify all the club directors by email.

Action: TB

(ii) Fire Extinguishers

It was noted there are only two sets of fire extinguishers, these are in the hallway of the club house and adjacent to the fire exit in the hall. PC to pursue the issues of fire extinguishers and fire regulations with Anne Purdy of the Friends.

Action: PC

(iii) First Aid Box

The club's first aid box is eight years old and out of date, PC had spoken to Ros Lewis, our resident GP. She said that bandages really don't go out of date, but that we should look to be getting a new first aid box or updating our current one. An accident book should also be purchased. JM to implement.

Action: JM

PC to ask the Friends why they do not have a defibrillator on site.

Action: PC

(b) Sunday Sessions

VL/LH decided that they would give up running the Sunday sessions if three in a row were cancelled for lack of support. VL now sends an email to her Sunday players each week to check their availability and will only go ahead with a minimum of three tables. This new arrangement is working.

PC will speak to TMB to find out why her pupils do not support the Sunday night sessions which are run on a 'gentle' duplicate basis.

Action: PC

AMcB suggested that we offer a couple of free entries for friends and family of learners coming out of a training course. PC said that he had printed out vouchers for friends and family of Sunday players but they were not taken up.

PC said he is going to speak to TMB and ask her for the email addresses of all her pupils for the last three years. He will forward the data to VL/LH so that they can contact these people and encourage them to try out a Sunday evening session.

Action: PC/VL/LH

PC plans to put up posters in Council noticeboards in the area advertising the Sunday sessions. A free voucher could be offered for the first session.

Action: PC

PC to invite TMB to attend a Sunday night session. A lift could be provided for her and any pupils she may want to bring along.

Action: PC

© Dealer 4 Machine

JB said the machine had been sent away for repair (a new circuit board was fitted) and it was returned to the club about six weeks ago. PD has reported other issues over the last week or two. JB contacted the agents who have agreed to look at it again. If it is a small repair, they will do it free of charge. Unfortunately, the machine was not overhauled last time.

A new machine will cost £3,000. A Club member offered to pay for a new machine if we needed it and that offer is still open.

We will have to hand deal boards if the machine does not come back before we run out of dealt hands.

6. Playing Secretary's report

Dealt with above.

7. Treasurer's report

AMcB produced a spreadsheet (attached) showing a surplus of £4,000 for the second quarter of 2022. The cash balance at the end of September 2022 was £12,346. AMcB said he had had problems with the Barclays mandate but hoped they would be resolved shortly.

It was agreed that PC would give any surplus vouchers to AMcB so that only a minimum number would be kept in the office.

Action: PC/AMcB

It was agreed that we would defer a payment to the Michael Sobell Charity. The charity is currently looking into sponsors for matching payments and may not be ready to proceed until February 2023.

8. Secretary's report

a) JM had updated the club's entry on the EBU website with the current list of officers, directors, and scorers. Some data was still incorrect, so JM was proposing to ring the EBU next week to get these issues addressed.

Action: JM

- b) JM together with AF and Ann Paris have now spent two sessions clearing out the 'cupboard' next to the office. Several items were disposed of as they could not be reused. Some surplus bridge equipment will be passed to TMB and/or offered to club members for their home use. A third clearing up session is fixed for 30th October.

Action: JM/AF

9. Membership secretary's report

Eight new members had been enrolled this year.

PC suggested that membership renewals be added to the agenda for our next meeting.

Action: JM

AMcB to speak to Keith Jones, who runs our Monday online sessions, to ask him to add a line to his instructions asking people who play on the website to donate to the Michael Sobell Hospice.

Action: AMcB

It was reported that Keith Jones has cut the money he is paying the club for online bridge (we only receive £75 from Keith as numbers have gone down).

LM commented that if we had our own director, we would get more benefit from it. TB will ask Jonathan (the EBU representative), at the meeting on 19th October, how members can be trained to become online directors of the club. 2/3 people will need to know how to direct when one is away. AMcB suggested the EBU might be able to provide director(s).

Action: TB

10. Teaching programme

PC reported on behalf of TMB.

Six new people should complete the beginners' course, four people, who did not complete the beginners' course due to Covid, are taking it again; and two people have returned from earlier courses.

TMB has taken £770 in fees to date.

She has decided she wishes to continue in the role of trainer for the club

PC will prepare and send a note of thanks to the two ladies (Beryl and Pat) who have been helping TMB run her courses.

Action: PC

11. Webmaster's report

Dealt with above.

12. Any Other Business

The Committee agreed to hold a Christmas Party on Saturday 10 December starting at 2:00 pm. Wine and soft drinks will be provided and members will be asked to provide cakes. The cost of a ticket will be £8. PC to ask Mair Bird and Judy Walshe if they will help run the event together with JM/AF/Ann Paris.

Action PC

13. Date of next meeting – 10:00 am on Saturday 14th January 2023.

