

THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



Minutes of Committee Meeting No.113 held in the Friends' Meeting Room of the Michael Sobell Centre on Saturday 14th January 2023

<u>Present:</u>	Adrienne Finch (AF)	President
	Peter Cobden (PC)	Chairman
	Alan McBride (AMcB)	Treasurer
	Lynne Mathys (LM)	
	Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
	Jane Brown (JB)	Webmaster
	Lois Hargreaves (LH)	Session Manager
	Joanna May (JM)	Secretary

1. Apologies for absence were received from Terry Butfield and Val Lloyd.
2. The minutes of the most recent meeting, No.112 held on 8th October 2022, were approved as a true record of the meeting.
3. Matters arising
 - i) PC asked for views on whether we should be looking to bring our online bridge sessions in-house. He accepted that the online bridge sessions were going very well. Currently, we get £75-100 per month from Keith Jones (KJ). From April 2022-January 2023, there have been 1,152 players. As a result, KJ donated £775 to the Hospice. This equates to 67p per person at an online session.
 - ii) PC will email all directors asking if anyone is interested in directing the online sessions if we brought them in-house. The EBU have people who will direct tournaments but the Club would have to pay. AMcB will investigate the financial benefits of bringing the online sessions in-house and will ask KJ whether he would be prepared to cut the cost of the Monday night online sessions as the Club is a charity.
Action: AMcB/KJ
 - iii) LH confirmed that emails had been sent to Theresa Murray-Bates' (TMB) students inviting them to come to a Sunday night session. There had been no response to date, so they will try again this month. PC suggested that LH speak to TMB about this after the Committee. TMB and her students would be welcomed at a Sunday evening session. Alternatively, they might be interested in joining a Saturday afternoon session or play with supervision from volunteers from the Club.
Action: PC/LH/TMB
4. Membership secretary's report

GC suggested we send an email to all members late April with the Club's Bank details so that they can renew their memberships via Bank transfers. When renewing, members will need to add their club membership number and name to the reference section of the Bank transfer. Members who actively play at the Club can pay at the session.

GC will give a list to AMcB so that he can mark off those members who have paid. AMcB will update GC at the end of each month.

GC will send a letter to members who do not have an email address.

If members want to pay by cheque, they will be asked to send their renewal requests to AMcB.

The position will be reviewed in July. Members who have not responded by September will be deleted from the file.

Action: GC/AMcB

The membership subscription will remain at £10 for the coming year. At the next AGM, there will be a proposal to increase the subscription.

PC will prepare blank membership cards so that the member's details can be added by hand when payment is received. These will be given out with new parking permits. PC will print and leave blank membership cards in the office drawer for use by the stewards when members attend a session and wish to renew at a playing session.

Action: PC

5. Chairman's report

PC said that a presentation on EBU Score was given on 19 November. The group who attended were shown how the system worked.

GC told the meeting that those who attended had decided to leave things as they were.

JB suggested that EBU Score is more user friendly. It is a free programme and we do not need a licence to use it. It was agreed that JB would download it although it will not be run in parallel with Scorebridge. Instead, JB will train one of the existing scorers on EBU Score and then a decision will be made on which system is preferable.

Action: JB

AMcB said he would like to learn how to score; Martin Tusker has already agreed to be trained as a scorer in the future.

AF said the existing instructions on scoring with Scorebridge are not clear. GC will prepare more explicit instructions.

Action: GC

The date of the 2023 AGM was fixed for Sunday 4 June. JM to book the hall. The meeting will start at 6:00 pm followed by a duplicate bridge session.

Action: JM

The 2022 Christmas party raised £800, of which £400 came from the raffle. PC said the helpers had done a good job and had been thanked for their efforts.

It was agreed that a champagne/tea event would be held on Saturday 22 April provided we can get the hall. JM to book. PC will ask Mair Bird and Judy Walshe to run it. AF suggested that it should be announced at bridge sessions for the first two weeks after the tickets go on sale, thus giving regular playing members the first opportunity to buy tickets as some of these players had missed out on the last event. After two weeks, PC will send out an all users email about the event. Club members should be asked to donate gifts to the raffle.

Action: JM

Action: PC/MB/JW

The Summer Party will be held on Saturday 29 July. JM to book the hall.

Action: JM

PC raised the issue of putting Committee meeting minutes on the Club website. It was agreed there was no reason why this should not be done. JB will send a Dropbox link to JM and AMcB so that they can add missing minutes to the website.

Action: JB/JM/AMcB

6. Playing Secretary's report

PC reported on behalf of TB. We have seen good attendance since we came back after Christmas.

7. Treasurer's report

AMcB produced a spreadsheet (attached) showing a surplus of just over £9,000 for the period from April to December 2022. PC said that the Charity had planned to operate a 'pledge system' whereby a pledged donation would be doubled by an outside sponsor. This has been postponed. PC to find out the position on whether the Charity has found sponsors for matching payments this financial year. We can then decide when to make the payment/pledge. AMcB suggested we donate/pledge £12,000.

Action: PC/AMcB

AMcB said he receives a list of the payments made on SumUp but with no details. To enable AMcB to identify the payments other than voucher payments, JB will show Ann Cobden and Catherine Stafford how to mark them on SumUp.

Action: JB

8. Secretary's report

JM receives regular notifications from the EBU and updates. She deals with requests for information about the Club and its officers.

9. Teaching programme

PC reported on behalf of TMB.

TMB intends to run a beginners' course from 4 March. The existing beginners' course has been kept going as the class did not feel confident about moving on. An improvers' course will be run in the summer. PC to prepare suitable advertising for these courses.

Action: PC

PC/LH will talk to TMB after the Committee about TMB's class trying out a Sunday evening session.

Action: PC/LH/TMB

TMB has asked to use the office laptop. JB to discuss with her after the Committee.

Action: JB/TMB

10. Webmaster's report

JB needs to find out more about an issue with the Dealer 4 machine.

Action: JB

11. Any Other Business

JM had received an email from the Marsham Court hotel in Bournemouth asking if the Club would be interested in booking a weekend during 2023 or 2024. JM said she would be happy to run a bridge weekend provided there was a good response.

AMcB will ask KJ if the Chiltern Bridge Club would be interested in joining us.
GC will ask players at her Eastcote Club if they are interested.

JM will find out from the Marsham Court hotel if they have bridge tables.

Action: AMcB/GC/JM

LH, also on behalf of VL, expressed thanks to JM for putting messages on the website about Sunday night play.

12. Date of next meeting – 10:00 am on Saturday 15th April 2023.