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THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



Minutes of Committee Meeting No.114 held in the Friends' Meeting Room of the Michael Sobell Centre on Saturday 15th April 2023

<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
	Lois Hargreaves (LH)	Session Manager
	Joanna May (JM)	Secretary

1. Apologies for absence were received from Val Lloyd and Alan McBride.
2. The minutes of the most recent meeting, No.113 held on 14th January 2023, were approved as a true record of the meeting.
3. Matters arising
 - ii) AMcB had investigated the financial benefits of bringing the online sessions in-house. He recommended we stay with the present arrangement as the numbers did not stack up.
4. Chairman's report

Michael Sobell and Harlington House merger

PC had received an email from Harlington House and Michael Sobell Hospice stating they had legally joined together and pooled their resources. He has been invited to a presentation at the end of the May. He asked that if Committee members had any queries about the merger, they should submit them to him before the meeting.

Action: PC/Committee

PC will send an email to members informing them about the new branding and asking them to specify if they want future donations to go to Michael Sobell House.

Action: PC

PC believes Liz Crook was on the Committee at the time the new building was constructed, and he is going to ask her if she knows anything about the amount that Sobell paid towards the cost.

Action: PC

AF would like a plaque to be put up in the hall with an inscription stating that the Club built the room where we play.

Café Bridge

PC had been contacted by Adam Davis who organises Café Bridge with Suzanne Aniston and Irving Boxer. They are holding an event in Hatch End on Wednesday 17th May to raise

money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Bridge is played at 3 restaurants/cafés and the players have a meal at the final venue. The charge is £35 per person which includes a two-course set menu at the final venue.

No-one from the Committee expressed an interest in supporting the event in Hatch End although PC suggested holding a future Café Bridge event in Northwood.

PC mentioned AF's charity bridge event which is held three times a year online. AF has never asked Sobell to support her events although Pinner Bridge Club advertise the dates in their newsletters.

The Committee agreed that future charity bridge events will be advertised at Sobell by a flier on our notice board in the hall and announced at the sessions, provided that they do not clash with sessions or events at the Sobell.

PC asked the Committee to think about what we should do to appeal to a younger age group (to be discussed later).

Social Media

PC thinks that social media attracts younger people who may have Twitter or Instagram accounts. The Committee discussed having a Facebook link to the Sobell website and the setting-up of a Sobell What's App group to try and encourage younger people to visit the Club with a view to becoming members.

JM to contact the local U3A groups to see if they will allow us to advertise our bridge club and put fliers on their notice boards.

Action: JM

Competitions and Trophies

Trophies will be presented at the AGM for the winners of the Sunday evening, Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon sessions. PC to message people who last won trophies asking for them to be returned.

PC to work out and decide who has won trophies with a 50% attendance being a requirement to qualify. The results lists will be put up on the notice board after the AGM.

Action: PC/JB

AMcB will be asked to speak to KJ about getting all the non-members who have played more than three times online to become members at a fee of £10. The Club would need their contact details (although there could be a problem with data protection). This item could be part of the Chairman's report for the AGM, i.e., we are asking people who play on the Sobell website to join the Club. Bearing in mind that it is a charity

Action: AMcB

PC sought the Committee's view on opening another day. Tuesday evenings were ruled out because we might not have enough support and particularly not enough people to run the evening. The Committee felt that if we could overcome the parking problem, we could try for a mid-week afternoon session.

Alternative venues, such as Rickmansworth Golf Club and Merchant Taylor's Hall, are to be investigated for afternoon opportunities.

Action: PC/AF

Heating

Delivery of a spare part for the boiler is awaited.

JM to purchase 1 or 2 new heaters before the bridge tea on 22nd April.

Action: JM

AGM

AF has already given notice of her absence. TB agreed to deputise and open the meeting.

Action: TB

PC asked if any member of the Committee was planning to stand down at the AGM. Those present at today's meeting confirmed they would like to continue in their roles.

PC would like to find someone to take on the publicity role. Three weeks before the AGM, PC will send a note to members asking if anyone would like to join the Committee as Publicity Officer or in any other role.

The agenda for the AGM should go out ten days before the meeting.

Action: PC

5. Playing Secretary's report

TB said there was nothing to report other than the purchase of labels for boards for dealing.

6. Treasurer's report

Although AMcB was unable to attend the meeting, he had submitted a statement of income, expenditure, and cash from April 2022 – March 2023. It was noted that the sum of £920 for membership should be removed from the spreadsheet as it was a prepayment before 1st April 2023.

Action: AMcB

7. Secretary's report

Nothing to report.

8. Membership Secretary's report

GC said that 113 members have paid their membership to date; some payments were received in March as we started collecting them then. Pre-Covid, we had around 234 members.

PC has printed out blank membership cards and will now write out their names.

Action: PC

9. Teaching programme

PC reported on behalf of TMB.

TMB currently has six students doing a beginners' course. In June, TMB wants to run an improvers' course on a Saturday with the same students. Past students go to TMB's house on a Wednesday morning and the fees are passed over to AMcB.

LH has spoken to TMB's students about trying out a Sunday evening gentle duplicate but there was no interest,

TMB would like to switch her course to a Monday morning from September. She has 3 or 4 current students and 3 or 4 who play at her house who may wish to join the Club. Current students will be offered free membership and AF suggested they should also be offered two free sessions at the Club. If we were able to resolve the parking problem on a Monday morning/afternoon, established Club members would be asked to help as before. PC to discuss the parking issue with The Friends.

Action: PC

10. Webmaster's report

JB suggested we should use EBU Score and assume that it is going to work. We can try it out one night although LM suggested it may be better to try it out on a Saturday afternoon. JB needs to train Martin Tasker on the two scoring systems and then we can use whichever one we want.

AF will continue using Scorebridge until JB is confident with EBU Score. JB will then train AF.

Instructions are needed on how to use EBU Score.

Action: JB

JB to check both sets of Bridge Mates before the bridge tea on 22nd April.

Action: JB

GC has kindly agreed to score at the bridge tea.

Action: GC

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Date of next meeting – 10:00 am on Saturday 22nd July 2023.