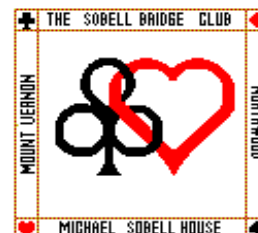


THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



Minutes of Committee Meeting No 103 held at the Michael Sobell Centre on Saturday 19 January 2019

Present:

Doug Edmonds (DE)	Chairman
Lynne Mathys (LM)	Treasurer
Calver Townsend (CT)	Session Manager
Terry Butfield (TB)	Playing Secretary
Joanna May (JM)	Weekend Organiser
Peter Cobden (PC)	Publicity Officer
Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
Jacquie North (JN)	Session Manager
Lois Hargreaves (LH)	Session Manager

- 1 Apologies for absence were received from Jane Brown, Adrienne Finch and Theresa Murray-Bates (who was due to join the meeting for item 8).
- 2 The minutes of the previous meeting No 102, held on 17 November 2018, were approved. JB will be asked to put them on the website. **AF/JB**
- 3 Matters arising
 - Friday afternoon bridge at Croxley – this has now settled down in its new venue where we are paying a rental of £20 for three hours.
 - There is a need for another scorer for Tuesday nights (see AOB).
- 4 Chairman's report

Liaison Officer

 - JN has stood down as Liaison Officer as she feels there is no longer a need for this role. DE thanked her for her service.

Privacy Policy

 - The document that AF had circulated prior to the meeting was discussed with the comments made by JB. DE circulated a list of key users i.e. people with access to the computer room, for checking and updating. AF has volunteered to update the privacy policy on her return from holiday. **AF**

The Hospice

 - Discussions about the reopening of the Hospice in-patient unit are proceeding well. DE was hopeful of a positive outcome.
- 5 Treasurer's report

Playing numbers have improved on every day of the week. We have donated £15k to the Hospice so far this year. The Committee approved LM's proposal that we donate another £10k. As at the end of December 2018, our profit was £31k. **LM**

LM said she would like help with the banking as the money bags were so heavy. JN kindly offered to do this. LH suggested that a ticketing system be introduced as this could lead to less coinage for banking. Members would buy tickets in advance for cash or cheques. Such tickets would need to be laminated for security reasons. LM/PC are to work out a plan and submit it to the next Committee meeting. **LM/PC**
- 6 Secretary's report

In AF's absence, JM said there was nothing new to report. The search for a new Secretary is ongoing. PC will have a word with the new players to see if anyone is interested. **PC**

- 7 Membership Secretary's report
- Re membership renewals, GC undertook to tell DE when to email members in advance of the 1st May renewal date. **GC/DE**
- The 'Bring a Friend' vouchers had not been a success.
- 8 Teaching programme
- TMB had circulated an update on bridge teaching to the Committee.
- PC had spoken to TMB at the beginning of January about the original plan whereby 'new players' from the Improvers' Class would play at the Club on Tuesdays. TMB thought it would be better to organise supervised sessions on Mondays. The group were keen to play at the Club on other nights. PC was asked to find the original list of experienced players who had offered to play with 'new' players and get their comments. **PC**
- TB said we need to decide for how many weeks experienced players would be partnering a new player. People would not mind doing this occasionally but not on a regular basis.
- JM (on behalf of AF) asked whether the grading on Pianola could be altered when an experienced player partnered a new player. DE offered to speak to Bev Purvis, Club Liaison Officer of the EBU, and report back. **DE**
- DE said the Committee fully supported TMB's efforts for the Club. PC said that TMB is happy to commit one day a week to Sobell. She is also keen to run bridge classes' weekends for those who are still working. A long-term plan should be developed for teaching and support at the Club and PC will discuss this with TMB. To be placed as an agenda item for the next committee meeting. **PC/TMB/AF**
- 9 Publicity
- 18 people have enrolled for the new' beginners' course.
- PC was disappointed that the Sobell Hospice shops did not promptly display the posters the Friends had distributed on his behalf. He will ask the Friends if they would object to him talking with the shops when he sees them not doing as requested by the Friends. **PC**
- 'Optima' magazine seems to be a good source for recruiting new members. The cost of the last advert was £70 + VAT (£90); this fee includes 120 words in an advertorial.
- Local Residents' Associations in Northwood, Eastcote and Ruislip have been engaging in giving us publicity.
- All current playing sessions are on the Hillingdon Council website, and any events such as the recent Training Taster are shown as they arise.
- PC contacted Three Rivers Council just before Christmas which resulted in them putting posters on 41 of their notice boards. Three Rivers Council publish a paper in the spring and autumn, they have accepted an article from Sobell of 300 words aimed at people who play social bridge and the article includes photographs from the Christmas party to capture the feel of the Club.
- PC will prepare a poster for the new Croxley venue. **PC**
- 10 Playing Secretary's Report
- We had 5½ tables for SIMS on 14 January.
- The Teams event on 13 January went well. Several people had dropped out at the last minute due to sickness but thanks to the efforts of Joan Butfield, there were 8 Teams in the end.
- A suggestion was made that there should be a Cup for Sunday night duplicate. It could be for attendance as opposed to results. LH to discuss with VL. **LH/VL**
- 11 Webmaster's report. Nothing to report.

12 Social matters

The Christmas Party raised nearly £1,500; £1,000 of which was from the raffle.

DE thanked PC and Ann Cobden for their efforts which resulted in the Christmas Party being such a success. JM suggested that the list of raffle winners be emailed to all members after future Christmas Parties. PC and Ann Cobden are happy to organise all aspects of the Christmas Party next year but don't want to be responsible for the catering.

DE to suggest to Mair Bird who is organising the Summer Party that we have a conventional raffle with prizes. Anne McConnell has several items that were donated but not used for last year's Christmas Party.

The next Teams' event is on Sunday 3 March.

There is a Wine & Cheese evening on Saturday 16 March. PC was asked to print 100 tickets @ £7.50 each.

PC

13 Bridge Weekends

JM had sent an email to all members at the beginning of the week providing details of the next weekend which is at The View Hotel in Eastbourne from 11-14 May 2019. She has 18 bookings so far.

Details of other weekends:

From 18-21 October 2019 at The Belfry Hotel in Thame (this hotel is now owned by Hilton and has just undergone a £5m refurbishment);

From 1-4 May 2020 at the Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth.

JM had made a preliminary booking at The Stratford Manor Hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon in October 2020; however, the hotel had insisted on a large deposit at the time of signing the contract. Because of the current uncertainty regarding the Hospice, it was decided not to proceed with this booking. JM will review the situation when the position re the Hospice becomes clearer.

JM

14 AOB Re the need for another scorer, LM will speak to Pete Davis to see if he is interested.

LM

15 15 DONM: Saturday 30 March 2019 at 10:00 a.