

THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



Minutes of Committee Meeting No.117 held in the Friends' Meeting Room of the Michael Sobell Centre on Saturday 13th January 2024

<u>Present:</u>	Adrienne Finch (AF)	President
	Peter Cobden (PC)	Chairman
	Alan McBride (AMcB)	Treasurer
	Lynne Mathys (LM)	
	Jane Brown (JB)	Webmaster
	Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
	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.116 held on 14th October 2023, were approved as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising

PC confirmed that all actions had been completed apart from the following:

- i) AMcB had not contacted Chorleywood U3A regarding advertising on their noticeboard.
Action: AMcB
- ii) JB is trying to allocate scorers to a specific day.
Action: JB
- iii) PC had not yet contacted Tony Staw to find out if he had any players who would like to play at Sobell in the Sunday night sessions.
Action: PC
- iv) JB to program codes on SumUp so that we can identify expenditure.
Action: JB

4. Chairman's report

a) AGM Date

PC proposed Sunday 9th June at 6:00 pm. He is going to invite the Chairman of Michael Sobell Hospice to give a short talk about the Hospice and its long-term future, which should also answer LM's expressed concern about the long-term future. Committee members were asked to think about issues to be raised at the AGM. PC said he felt happy with what the Club is doing at present and trying to achieve for the future.

b) OMT's 10th January wash-up

AF had prepared a list of responsibilities at OMT – see below. JM will take on the role of Session Manager and AF will take on the role of Scorer (whenever they are able to come to OMT).

At Start of Session

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Take boards from MS to OMT, ensuring there are three sets of boards at OMT. | Action: PC |
| Signing-in sheet for participants and all present, including non-players. To be given to Director. | Action: SM |
| Moving tables and all equipment from store room to playing room. | Action: PC/Colin |
| Setting up room, tables, cloths, chairs, bidding boxes, payment folders. | Action: SM |
| Distributing boards. | Action: Director |
| Distributing bridgemates. | Action: Director |
| Director not to give the OK to start until the bridgemates are ready. | Action: Director |
| Scorer to ensure all players are on the system. | Action: Scorer |

Close Down

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Boards to be put in case and when complete taken back to MS. | Action: Scorer to oversee |
| The number on the used boards' case being taken back from OMT to MS should be well crossed out. | Action: Scorer to oversee |
| Bridgemates to be properly closed and put back in order in case. | Action: Scorer to oversee |
| Bridgemate case not to be closed or removed until router is in; then to be put on trolley. | Action: SM |
| Bidding boxes and cloths to be put on trolley. | Action: SM |
| Tables to be folded ready to go to store room. | Action: SM |
| Tables to store room. | Action: SM |
| Scores to be finalised and uploaded if possible. | Action: Scorer |
| Computer closed, put in case with mouse and all connectors; then put on trolley and taken down to store room. | Action: Scorer |
| Trolley to storeroom. | Action: SM |

Final check to ensure that everything has been put away, there are no coats in the cloakroom and nobody left behind in the toilets.

Action: SM

Committee's comments after first session at OMT

More space should be allowed between the tables.

The tables should be set up so that the sun does not affect players.

Find out about:
Fire Regulations for the building.
First Aid box

A list of players is needed for each session.

A person should stand outside and help people to park. Colin has said that disabled permit holders can park on the double yellow lines outside the building.

There should be separate boards for MS and OMT. It was agreed we should have four sets of boards for MS and three sets for OMT.

Tell Colin that there was no soap in one of the dispensers in the ladies' toilet and no handle on the soap dispenser.

Wednesday 24th January – first non-members' session

PC had received an email that the School Governors will be using the hall on 24th January. After discussing the issue with Colin, they came up with plan B. The School Governors will use our space and we will play at the far end of the hall.

PC had put an advert in the Bushey and Northwood local magazine about bridge sessions at OMT. The local magazine offered to do an advertorial for the Club which was to be included in the latest issue; however, there was a typo in the Northwood edition stating that bridge started at 7:30 pm. The advertorial for the Bushey area did not go out and the Northwood January edition will include a correction to inform its readers. PC said he will go to OMT on the evening of 24th January in case anyone turns up for bridge.

Action: PC

LH had notified golf clubs and other organisations of Sobell's new venture at OMT.

5. **Webmaster's report**

JB said that if anyone believes that parts of the website need updating, they should let her know.

PC asked if anyone would be interested in attending an EBU course on scoring and bridgemate skills which will be held on 14th February; there was no interest.

JB cautioned against training too many people to score due to the lack of opportunity for them to get enough practice. It is better to have a specific person to score on a set evening.

Pete Davis is the main Saturday afternoon scorer with AF and the McBrides as reserves.

Martin Tasker is being trained up as a scorer, and PC will produce a sheet outlining how the directors should interact with the scorers to give clarity, especially for the newer scorers.

6. Playing Secretary's report

Nothing to report.

7. Membership Secretary's report

(i) GC said the total of the current membership is 150. She will go through the list of lapsed members at the end of March and delete those whose membership has lapsed.

Action: GC

(ii) Subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st April. The joining fee of £10.00 was abolished on 1st January 2024, the subscription fee is £10.00. It was agreed that a vote should be taken at the AGM on whether to raise the subscription fee to £12.00, with visitors being asked to pay £6.00 per session.

Action: PC

(iii) PC to send out email in March (like last year) reminding members that subscriptions will be due for renewal on 1st April.

Action: PC

8. Treasurer's report

AMcB distributed a schedule showing Income, Expenditure, and Cash from April 2023. The cash balance for Quarter 3 was £16,026.00.

AMcB said he has difficulty in identifying payments made on SumUp. JB to see if she can program codes to identify different types of expenditure.

Action: JB

AMcB to speak to PC in March regarding the size of the donation we will make to the Hospice. The sum of £3,750.00 was donated in Quarter 2.

Action: PC/AMcB

9. Secretary's report

Nothing to report.

10. Teaching programme

TMB joined the meeting to give her report.

There are two beginners' groups. One started at the beginning of January 2024; they are playing Chicago on a Wednesday morning. The other group come to Sobell on a Saturday morning. TMB hopes to bring the two groups together. The plan is for them to start playing Chicago or duplicate with existing members who can help them with their bidding etc. This should happen in 12/14 weeks' time. AF said she would be happy to help the students.

AMcB said he would be happy to help with the new group or teach something to existing members. He offered to give a seminar once a month before play on a Thursday evening on conventions that members may not be familiar with, e.g. weak 2s. PC to discuss with AMcB with a view to deciding in April.

Action: PC/AMcB

11. Any Other Business

(a) Trophy for Monday night bridge

It was agreed that a trophy will be awarded at the AGM. PC said that he cannot see all the data from the Monday night online sessions. JB will have a look into this, although it may be due to the way Keith Jones loads up the results.

Action: JB

Gwen Cozens offered a silver cup for the winners of the Monday night bridge sessions. This will be engraved with the words 'Bob Cozens Trophy'.

Action: GC

(b) Number of hands played on BBO

LM said that when we started playing online, it was agreed we would play 24 boards. Recently, we have been playing 18. AMcB to ask KJ why we are not playing 24 boards.

Action: AMcB/KJ

(c) Christmas Party

LH suggested there should be runners to speed up the distribution of raffle prizes.

LM thanked PC for his efforts and said it was incredible what he had achieved.

PC expressed his thanks to his wife Ann and the Gills for doing an excellent job.

PC will talk to the Friends about the cooker not working.

Action: PC

GC offered to supply a corkscrew as we do not have one.

Action: GC

LH commented that guests who attended the Christmas Party and were not on the computer system were slow in coming forward. They did not seem to know their Club or EBU membership number; therefore, the computer screen showed 10-12 empty boxes. Next year, when we sell tickets and ask people what food they are planning to bring, we should add a column to the sheet asking people to provide their Club and/or EBU membership number.

Action: PC

PC to provide the committee with a rudimentary calendar for 2024 at the next meeting.

Action: PC

(d) Next social event

This will be held on Saturday 27 April in the afternoon.

12. Date of next meeting

10:00 a.m. on Saturday 6th April 2024.