

THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



The MINUTES of the 29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Sunday 4th June 2023 in the Michael Sobell Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Peter Cobden Chairman
Alan McBride Treasurer
Terry Butfield Playing Secretary
Joanna May Minute taker

Also present:
36 other members

1. Terry Butfield, on behalf of Adrienne Finch, the President, declared the meeting open and thanked everyone for coming. He said that Adrienne was away but sent her best wishes.

Terry commented that it was nice to see so many people at the meeting. The Club is starting to function quite nicely again.

He would like to get a new publicity officer and if someone were interested, they should contact the Chairman about it.

He thanked Peter Cobden for his tireless efforts for the Club and the enormous amount of time he devotes to it.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Adrienne Finch, Geoff Foley, Germaine Hanstead, Keith Jones, Ann Paris, Catherine Stafford, and Gwen Western.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the 28th AGM held on 15 May 2022
Proposed: Anne Edmonds , Seconded: Anne McConnell.
4. Chairman's report

Peter expressed his personal thanks to the following people:

- a) Terry Butfield for his valued advice and for keeping the Club well stocked up with playing cards and equipment.
- b) Adrienne Finch, in her absence, for her support and valued views and ideas.
- c) Adrienne Finch, Joanna May, and Ann Paris for coming in on three occasions to clear out the cupboard.
- d) Alan McBride for being a link with Keith Jones regarding the Sobell Monday night online sessions on BBO. Peter also congratulated him on his first year as Treasurer.
- e) Keith Jones in his absence.

- f) Joanna May in her role of Club Secretary and Session Manager on a Saturday afternoon.
- g) Jane Brown, our Webmaster, for her endless work sorting out problems with the dealing machine, the temperamental SumUp machine, and for researching whether EBU Score would be of benefit to the Club.
- h) Val Lloyd and Lois Hargreaves for keeping the Sunday sessions going. They have implemented a system whereby Val sends out an email on Sunday evenings checking on numbers for the following week. If less than 12 people respond positively, the session is cancelled.
- i) Gwen Cozens for her work on the membership and her support for the Scorers.
- j) Pete Davis for his devotion to the Club and for being the sole dealer and regular Scorer alongside Adrienne
- k) Lynne Mathys for her ongoing support and contribution to the Committee and for standing in at the last moment to help on a Saturday session when either a Director or Scorer was needed.
- l) Catherine Stafford in her absence for her work as the Thursday Evening Session Manager and for selling playing vouchers and tickets for events.
- m) To all the Directors – Howard Atkins, Michael Baker, Martin Isham, Alan McBride, Alan Marks, and Harry Silverman (who no longer comes to the Club as he lives too far away).
- n) Teresa Murray-Bates for the work she has put into the teaching programme. We did not get as many students as we had wanted this time, only 5 or 6. Thanks also to Teresa's helpers – Chris Woodley, Ashley Murray-Bates, Beryl Herlihy, and Pat Newton.
- o) Mair Bird and Judy Walshe for organising the Christmas party, and Ann Paris, Anne Edmonds, Adrienne and Joanna who assisted them. Thanks to Anne McConnell for her tireless efforts with the raffle.
- p) My wife and playing partner for her support and eagerness to sell playing vouchers and tickets for events.
- q) Thanks to everyone who attended the Club sessions, I hope you enjoyed yourselves and continue to play at our sessions.

The last year

I was very pleased with the success of the weekly Saturday afternoon sessions, initially set up for members who do not want to drive of a night-time. The attendance is up to 6-7 tables. 28 different people have come top. Similarly, on a Thursday evening, 26 different pairs have come top. On Sunday evenings, where there is a smaller group, 17 different pairs have come top.

10% of our current membership have moved up 1 place in their EBU ranking and 1 person has moved up 2 places. People at the Club are courteous with a good standard of play.

There has been a merger between Michael Sobell Hospice and Harlington Hospice where they have legally joined together and pooled their resources. As part of the rebranding the Inpatient Unit, Michael Sobell Hospice is now known as The Michael Sobell Centre. Peter has been assured that our donations will go directly to the Inpatient Unit, The Michael Sobell Centre, as normal. Please go to www.harlingtonhospice.org/merger-news for further details.

We have not forgotten those members who passed away since our last AGM: Ken Baldwin, Jane Harris, Dot Howlett, Dorothy Rauch, Anju Tanna, and Alan Wilkie.

5. Treasurer's report

Alan McBride distributed the report and accounts for year ended 31 March 2023 to the attendees. This was his first year as Treasurer. He thanked Lynne for her support when he took over the role, for helping him with the administrative changes that were needed and for leaving a clean position.

He also thanked Howard Atkins for doing the audit.

	£
i) Income to 31 March 2023	16,095
ii) Expenditure to 31 March 2023	2,847
iii) Surplus to 31 March 2023	13,249
iv) Balance carried forward as at 31 March 2023	7,467
v) Donation to Michael Sobell Centre in March 2023	12,000

The Chairman added that the Club had donated over £900,000 to the Hospice since it was founded.

Tony King asked whether a comparison was available to what the Club had raised in 2019. Alan said he did not have these figures with him, but our contributions were down. JM to add to these minutes the amount of the surplus that was given to the hospice charity in 2019.

Action: JM

6. Motion that the accounts be accepted

Proposed: Gwen Cozens, Seconded: Lois Hargreaves.

7. Election of Honorary Auditor

Proposed: Anne Edmonds, Seconded: Barbara Bearman.

8. Secretary's report

Joanna has updated the Club's data on the EBU website. She deals with enquiries from members, from the EBU and from non-members wishing to play on Sobell BBO on Monday nights.

9. Election of Committee

Peter acknowledged that as there was no-one who had put themselves forward to join the Committee, and the Committee as listed on the agenda should be elected. A vote was taken which was unanimously in favour.

Proposed: Howard Atkins, Seconded: Ellen Collins.

10. AOB (including matters raised by members during the meeting)

Martin Isham – currently, we have four sessions, and it would be nice if there were a trophy for each session. There is a trophy for Thursday evenings and for Club member of the year. Could we award a trophy for Monday evening and for Saturday afternoon sessions? It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Committee.

Action: JM

Alan McBride - will be talking to Keith Jones about Monday evening sessions and whether non-members of the Club who play on Sobell BBO would consider paying a subscription for the year.

Action: AMcB

Anne McConnell – suggested we increase the ticket cost for social events. It was agreed on a show of hands that the charge per ticket will increase to £10 in the future.

Peter Cobden – confirmed that table money will not be increased this year.

Barbara Bearman – asked if the Club was planning to open any more sessions. Terry commented that the present number of sessions are settling down well. To run more sessions, we would need other members to score and direct as the Committee feels it is as stretched as it can be in this area. Another afternoon session would do very well, but it is very difficult to park at Michael Sobell House on weekdays. We will not have another evening session unless our members increase by a large number. As regards the sourcing of an alternative venue for afternoon play, we do not have any plans. However, we are open to suggestion if someone is willing to take this on as a project.

Pete Davis – asked whether the dealing machine should be reprogrammed as the hands dealt are getting more hard and more unbalanced. Lynne commented there was an option to have random or fixed hands when we purchased the machine, and we chose random hands. Jane Brown was asked to have a look at it.

Action: JB

Presentation of Trophies

Thursday evening trophy

1 st Place	Jane Brown and Michael Baker
2 nd Place	Lynne Mathys and Anne McConnell

Saturday afternoon trophy

1 st Place	Lynne Mathys and Anne McConnell
2 nd Place	Martin Isham and Sally Lewis

Member of the Year

Pete Davis

The overall results for each competition will be displayed on the notice board at the Club.

The meeting was closed at 7:00 pm.