

# THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



## Minutes of Committee Meeting No.118 held in the Friends' Meeting Room of the Michael Sobell Centre on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### Present:

Peter Cobden (PC)	Chairman
Alan McBride (AMcB)	Treasurer
Lynne Mathys (LM)	
Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
Lois Hargreaves (LH)	Session Manager
Joanna May (JM)	Secretary

1. Apologies for absence were received from Jane Brown, Terry Butfield, Adrienne Finch, and Val Lloyd.
2. The minutes of the most recent meeting, No.117 held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2024, were approved as a true record of the meeting.

### 3. Matters arising

None.

### 4. Chairman's report

#### a) Calendar 2024

PC distributed a draft calendar for the coming year (attached).

#### b) OMT's

PC reported that the numbers started off quite well at OMT. There have been a number of players who have attended and only played once or twice. PC suggested that it might be because less experienced and very experienced find the gulf between levels too great.

PC had prepared a document showing a breakdown of the number of players since 10<sup>th</sup> January when we started the OMT sessions. The average number of tables was 4½ which is not sustainable; however, the table monies raised over the twelve sessions was £896.00.

LH offered feedback from those Sunday players who had played at OMT's. She said that the feedback was that people playing at OMT's were rude and unfriendly. PC expressed surprise and listed a number of regular pairs at OMT's who are obviously friendly characters.

PC will mention OMT at the AGM. Prior to the AGM, he is proposing to send an email to people who came once and did not come again.

**Action: PC**

LH asked whether there were enough volunteers willing to continue running the sessions. PC confirmed he will attend all sessions and that AF and JM are committed to doing so.

PC will prepare a new rota of directors for OMT's.

**Action: PC**

LH queried whether we should refine our target market as there are players who want master points and others who just want to try it. PC said we really want the less experienced players coming along so that they can get used to it; but we cannot exclude people from OMT.

LH suggested members use Pianola Partner Finder to find a partner for OMT.

c) The MSC Hall

PC told the meeting about recent issues with The Friends regarding the availability of the hall. He said people had lost sight of the history and that this could be exacerbated through the new set up with Hayes & Harlington Hospice.

PC had read the old Sobell Bridge Club's AGM minutes and Special Meeting's notes and has pieced together the history. He will share the paper with the Committee Members after final editing, but essentially the Sobell Bridge Club had first use of the hall of an evening and at weekends, but that has been forgotten.

PC/AF are going to have a meeting with Anne Purdey, the Secretary of The Friends. In future, they will have to ask us to use the hall.

**Action: PC/AF**

d) AGM

Steve Curry, Joint Chief Executive of Harlington Hospice, has been invited to the AGM to talk about future plans for the Hospice. PC will have an informal meeting with Mr Curry beforehand. The Committee suggested that Mr Curry's speech should be first thing on the agenda.

**Action: PC**

A motion will be put to members to increase subscriptions from £10 to £15 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. Members will be encouraged to bring guests to events.

**Action: PC**

Prior to the AGM, members will be invited to stand for election into the existing Committee Roles or as a Committee Member without a dedicated role. All Committee Members present at today's meeting agreed to stand for re-election:-

**Action: PC/JM**

5. Webmaster's report

Prior to the meeting and in her absence, JB had submitted a written report to the Committee.

LM said one of the directors had complained that the movement cards did not match the Bridgemates. PC said he had spoken with JB. We had prescribed movements for Scorebridge, but we do not have them for EBU Score. PC liked the idea of following the Bridgemates' directions.

JB had submitted what she thought was a more modern looking logo, but the Committee voted to keep the existing logo.

Regarding SumUp, JB should inform the Treasurer and the payment administrators (Ann Cobden, Lynne Mathys, Joanna May, and Catherine Stafford) of the 'new' login and password.

**Action: JB**

JB to provide the Treasurer and payment administrators with a written guide on identifying payments and the codes she has set up.

**Action: JB**

JB to provide training for the scorers and help with troubleshooting should something go wrong.

**Action: JB**

The award of the Monday night trophy will be deferred until 2025. The collecting of statistics for Monday night play only started from October 2023. PC confirmed we will not be including non-members' results in this competition. PC to inform Martin Isham who raised this issue at the 2023 AGM.

**Action: PC**

Prior to the bridge tea on 27<sup>th</sup> April, it is necessary for TB and JB to sort out the mechanism for playing two sides as none of the scorers have experience of EBU Score-with two sides.

**Action: TB/JB**

If we need the Bridgemates from OMT's in order to play two sides on 27<sup>th</sup> April, LH suggested that for the session at OMT on 24<sup>th</sup> April, travellers could be used rather than cancelling the session, as the results can be loaded up to Pianola. LH will talk to Wyn Lloyd who has a program for loading the travellers' data to Pianola.

**Action: LH**

JB's query about using all the Bridgemates was deferred to the next Committee meeting.

**Action: JB/JM**

PC will send out the following message to all members about the 27<sup>th</sup> April session:

- (i) to remind them they must arrive for a bridge session well in advance and to sit at their chosen seat no less than 10 minutes before the session is due to start.
- (ii) to ensure they know for certain what their club number is.
- (iii) to inform them that a bell will be rung 15 minutes before the start of play.

In addition,

- (i) a printed list of members should be available on the day to ensure the smooth running of the bridge session.
- (ii) the scorer to ensure that visitors fill in their table number and position correctly on the table slips.

**Action: PC/Directors & Scorers**

The Committee agreed that JB will have the title of IT Manager.

It was suggested that we should seek a back-up IT person at the AGM, i.e. someone who is computer literate and able to support JB.

**Action: PC**

6. Playing Secretary's report  
Nothing to report.

7. Treasurer's report

AMcB distributed a schedule showing Income, Expenditure, and Cash from April 2023 to March 2024. The cash surplus for Quarter 4 was £5,575.00.

AMcB also distributed a schedule showing Sobell attendances for 2023/24. Voucher sales totalled £12,340.00.

In March 2024, AMcB donated £12,250 to the Hospice bringing the total of donations for the year to £16,000.

AMcB reiterated that he is having difficulty reconciling the daily reports from SumUp as he does not know what the payments represent. JB to create codes and share them with AMcB and the payment administrators.

**Action: AMcB/JB**

8. Secretary's report

Nothing to report.

9. Membership Secretary's report

- (i) GC said there is a membership list in the top drawer of the filing cabinet in the office where you can mark off subscriptions that have been paid.
- (ii) Completed new members' forms should also be put in that drawer.
- (iii) GC will produce a new list showing those members who have not paid their subscriptions.

**Action: GC**

- (iv) JM will amend the new membership form and add the sentence "Where did you hear about us?"

**Action: JM**

10. Teaching programme

TMB joined the meeting to talk about her teaching programme. This year, she has run a beginners' and improvers' course. She does not feel that money is the guiding force as she needs to go over things with her pupils; and sometimes, they need longer than the allocated number of weeks for the course. But TMB aims to finish the courses by the end of May.

In June, TMB is planning to write to everyone who has participated in one of her courses offering them a quick revision course followed by 'getting into' duplicate sessions.

**Action: TMB**

TMB wants to keep people engaged and to re-engage with people she has not heard from. Amongst her current class, she has people who have card sense and she feels will need less tuition to become players at the Club.

TMB has had several approaches from Pinner Bridge Club about her group. They are currently running a gentle duplicate night on Tuesday evenings. They play eleven boards, supported by Club members. They are planning a second group with more able people so they will then have two groups running on a Tuesday evening.

TMB felt that there is no way of successfully integrating the new players; other than working at it.

TMB will continue to teach on Saturday mornings. She is proposing the summer revision course followed by gentle duplicate sessions starting in September. Existing members who offer to help will be offered a free session. It may be possible to hold gentle duplicate sessions at OMT on Wednesday mornings.

**Action: TMB**

11. Sunday evenings

LH distributed a table prepared by Wyn Lloyd which analysed Sunday attendance since the lockdown.

In 2021, the average number of tables = 3  
In 2022, the average number of tables =  $2\frac{1}{2}$   
In 2023, the average number of tables =  $2\frac{3}{4}$

In 2024 from 07/01 to 31/03 (12 sessions), the average =  $5\frac{1}{2}$  tables.

LH said there has been an issue playing with 'dealt' boards. To resolve this issue, LH will ask Pete Davis, who has become a regular Sunday night player, if he is willing to deal boards for Sunday night play.

**Action: LH**

12. Any Other Business

PC announced the death of Joan Scoles, a long-standing member, at the age of 107.

13. Date of next meeting

10:00 a.m. on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024.