



The Sobell Bridge Club



The MINUTES of the 27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Sunday, 19 May, 2019 in the Michael Sobell Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital at 6 pm.

Present: Adrienne Finch President & Secretary
Doug Edmonds Chairman
Also present:
38 other members

1. Adrienne Finch as President welcomed all and thanked them for attending. She said that the AGM is the occasion when the membership accepts joint responsibility for the accounts and legitimizes the actions of the committee over the year. She said that the Club endeavours to meet its objectives of providing a relaxed venue for its members to play bridge in a friendly environment whilst supporting Michael Sobell House. Adrienne said that the membership should acknowledge the enormous amount of time, energy and commitment that Doug gives to the club.
2. Apologies for absence: Lynne Mathys, Jane Brown, Joanna May.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the 2017-2018 AGM: Proposed: Calver Townsend, Seconded: Gwen Cozens.
4. Chairman's report.
Doug thanked Adrienne for her kind remarks.
 - i) Doug thanked all those who supported the club, particularly the committee. He thanked:
 - a) Gwen Cozens continuing her excellent work as membership secretary and coping admirably with the burdens imposed by the Data Protection Act.
 - b) He was especially grateful to Lynne for all of her work as Treasurer and cashier. We plan to introduce a voluntary voucher system for table monies in order to lessen the load of coins needing to be paid into the bank.
 - c) Jane Brown has very capably taken over as Webmaster from Robin Pyburn who carried the workload for many years.
 - d) Terry Butfield continues his work as our playing secretary – organising the simultaneous pairs and our supplies. In particular he has succeeded in establishing 'Teams' as a vibrant part of our calendar.
 - e) Joanna has stabilised our weekend offerings. We now run two well-attended events a year. Brockenhurst was a great success, Eastbourne was enjoyed by the 26 who attended but that number is really too low. The next event is in October at Thame. Numbers attending will be monitored as the work involved in running a weekend is substantial.
 - f) Calver, Lynne and Mike for their scoring, this is an area where further volunteers are really needed.
 - g) Sylvan, Lynne, David, Terry, Neil and Geoff for directing.
 - h) Lois and Val, Sue and Stephanie for their organisation of Sunday and Friday sessions including the move for Fridays to the church hall in Croxley Green.
 - i) Catherine, Jacquie, Calver and Audrey for their work as stewards.
 - j) Calver and Audrey for organising the kitchen supplies.
 - k) Joanna and Adrienne for acting as secretaries.
 - l) Anne Cobden for leading a team of dealers including Martin, Sally, Peter, Doug and Anne. More volunteers would be welcome
 - m) Ruby and Ken for opening up and collecting table monies.
 - n) All those who supported the organisation of our social events.
 - o) Mair and Judy for volunteering to run this year's Summer Party.
 - ii) Doug especially mentioned Peter Cobden. He has revitalised the Club's publicity, has been instrumental in dealing with our printing requirements and has been attracting people to our new teaching courses. He and Anne ran the summer and Christmas parties and organised a superb raffle.
 - iii) Special thanks were extended to Theresa Murray-Bates. Together with a team of regular helpers, she has attracted about 20 students to each of her courses, both beginners and improvers, run supervised bridge sessions on a regular basis and has succeeded in getting students to continue their engagement with the club. This has had an excellent effect on the club's finances and she was awarded the 'club member of the year' as a sign of the club's gratitude.
 - iv) Doug's final vote of thanks went to Howard Atkins who continues to act as our auditor (saving us a substantial amount this year due to finding an error in billing at one of the hotels we use) and also organises the prizes.

- v) Doug summated the current situation of the hospice. It has finally been agreed that there should be an in-patient facility. Although the detail of the contract has still to be agreed it has been awarded to Harlington. It was hoped to have a facility for 16 beds, with 8 being contracted to Hillingdon. The actual time scale is not yet known.

5. Treasurer's report: (the account comparisons are attached to these minutes and form part of the record).

In the absence of Lynne Mathys our treasurer the report was presented by Howard Atkins.

- i) The net surplus for the year 2018-2019 was £40856.65p, a rise of £5426 principally because of the revenue from the teaching programme.
- ii) Table monies were down by £673.00.
- iii) Expenses were down by £333.10 partly due to the reduction in Pay to Play because of falling attendance
- iv) Social events continue to be popular, with good raffle income.
- v) Week ends away profit increased by 2%.
- vi) Simultaneous pairs registration is now charged.
- vi) We donated £36,000 to Michael Sobell, holding some back because the situation of the hospice was so uncertain

6. Motion that the accounts be accepted: proposed by Catherine Stafford and seconded by Anne McConnell.

7. Election of Honorary Auditor: Howard Atkins was proposed by Mike Gentry and seconded by Terry Butfield.

8. Secretary's report: There was little to report apart from the normal distributions of information from the EBU and the HBA. The committee were grateful that there had been no need to use the formal Disciplinary Procedure.

9. Election of committee members: Apart from Adrienne Finch who resigned as Secretary and Jacquie North who felt that there was no longer a need for a specific liaison officer all committee members had agreed to stand. A new member Alan McBride had agreed to stand as Secretary, was duly proposed and seconded. The election of the committee en masse was proposed by Howard Atkins and seconded by Ellen Collins.

Doug Edmonds	Chairman	Jacquie North	Steward
Alan McBride	Club Secretary	Gwen Cozens	Membership Secretary
Lynne Mathys	Treasurer	Terry Butfield	Playing Secretary
Jane Brown	Webmaster	Val Lloyd/Lois Hargreaves	Session Manager (Sunday)
Joanna May	Weekend Organiser	Calver Townsend	
Peter Cobden	Publicity Officer		

The committee were duly elected. Proposer: Howard Atkins. Second: Mike Gentry

10. AOB

- i) In order to try to decrease the weight of coins Lynne has to take to the bank, a system of payment vouchers will be introduced in July for regular players at a cost of 5 tickets for £20. It would be voluntary.
- ii) Simultaneous pairs would continue to be played as long as there was a minimum of 3 tables. If there was insufficient interest then they would be discontinued.
- iii) For a three month trial period, starting in July, Tuesday evening session would also start at 7.30.
- iv) A diary of whether NS or EW sat out would be kept to ensure equality.
- v) Tickets for the summer party were available from Anne McConnell and Anne Cobden. An appeal was made for raffle prizes.
- vi) Membership fees would be waived for those members aged 100 and over.
- vii) Efforts are being made to minimise the use of plastic in the kitchen. Paper cups had replaced plastic ones for coffee.

The meeting was closed and Howard Atkins introduced the annual prize giving.

PRIZEWINNERS 2018-19

Broughton Trophy (Monday pairs)	Mike Gentry & Hanna Bromberg
President Trophy (Tuesday pairs)	Mike Gentry & Catherine Stafford
LR Trophy (Thursday pairs)	Catherine Stafford & Harry Silverman
Lucy Rees Trophy (Friday pairs)	Susan Ganney & Stephanie Hughes
Lucy Rees Cup-(Friday individual)	Jennifer Hay.
Sunday	Janice Thiel
Member of the Year-	Theresa Murray-Bates