

THE SOBELL BRIDGE CLUB

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



Minutes of Committee Meeting No. 122 held at the Michael Sobell Resource Centre on Saturday 29th March 2025

<u>Present:</u>	Peter Cobden (PC)	Chairman
	Adrienne Finch (AF)	President
	Lynne Mathys (LM)	
	Gwen Cozens (GC)	Membership Secretary
	Terry Butfield (TB)	Playing Secretary
	Jane Brown (JB)	IT Support
	Lois Hargreaves (LH)	Session Manager
	Looi Tan (LT)	Printing & Publishing Officer
	Lynda Nye (LN)	Conduct Officer
	Joanna May (JM)	Secretary
	Steve Curry (SC)	CEO, Harlington Hospice
	Martin Isham	Playing Director

PC thanked Martin Isham for coming to the meeting. PC thought it would be a good idea for the playing directors to come along.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Val Lloyd and Alan McBride.
2. The minutes of the most recent meeting, No.121, held on 4th January 2025, were approved as a true record of the meeting.
3. **Matters arising:**
 - a) JB has not yet reprogrammed the MSC Hall computer to accept two sides for competitions. She intends to do this immediately after the meeting.
Action: JB
 - b) JM will attach the EBU 'Best Behaviour at Bridge' code to the application form for membership.
Action: JM
 - c) Reference the proposal to increase the session fee either to £4.50 or £5.00. After reading old minutes, PC said the session fee was increased to £4.00 in 2014. The equivalent now would be £5.40. Most of the extra monies will be going to Sobell. PC to put a recommendation to the AGM.
Action: PC

4. Chairman's report:

Club history document

PC had made a precis of Stan Nicholls' words and circulated it to the committee. It was agreed that this document called "The Sobell Bridge Club: A History" should be put on to the website. In addition, the document giving the history of the building and hall (called "Sobell Hall Bridge Club History" previously circulated to the Committee by PC on 31st May 2024) will be put on to the website.

Action: PC/JB

AF said she would like a blue plaque to be displayed in the hall with an engraving reflecting the link between the bridge club and the hospice. AMcB had intimated that in 2028 we will have raised £1 million. It was suggested that the plaque be erected in the hallway or outside the door. SC kindly offered to investigate.

Action: SC

Cashless Payments

JB said we have two SumUp machines up and working. LH confirmed she will use the SumUp machine for Sunday evening sessions after she has announced the decision at the next Sunday session.

Action: LH

AMcB had sent a note to the committee asking the members to consider making cashless payments in future by bank transfer. PC suggested we defer discussion on this topic until the next meeting when AMcB should be present.

Action: AMcB

PC will send a note to all members stating that from the beginning of the new financial year, we will only accept cashless payments.

Action: PC

AGM Date

PC would like to see as many Committee members as possible at the AGM which will be held on Sunday 8th June at 6:00 pm. A duplicate bridge session will follow the formal business, probably starting at 7:00 pm.

All Committee members present at today's meeting were willing to put themselves forward for re-election next year.

PC will send an email to all members asking if they would like to stand for office.

Action: PC

5. Steve Curry

SC gave an update on what has been happening during the year. It has been challenging because of inflation and hospices are in financial difficulty as costs have gone up.

SC is leaving his role on 31 March 2025 but will stay on a little longer to focus on a project he has been working on. The hospice needs more beds. A site has been identified where there is a possibility of developing the land and building a unit with up to 60 beds.

The Hospice Board and Executive Committee met a month ago to discuss strategy. They want to grow the organisation with more in-patient beds and introduce a programme to support people at home. Currently, there are 160 staff on the payroll. The Finance Director left a short while ago. She has not been replaced. Her role has been redefined and shared between other members of the Executive Committee.

6. Conduct Officer - Disciplinary Procedures Update

PC commented that it was useful to have provision for resolving issues, although we have only had one formal hearing since he became Chairman. He thanked LN for going through the policy document and updating it; also, for tightening aspects of conduct procedure. PC to circulate the new policy document to the Committee for comment.

Action: PC

Should it ever become necessary to convene a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee, the Executive Committee will be the Chairman, the President, and the Conduct Officer.

7. IT Support's report:

Nothing to report.

8. Playing Secretary's report:

TB and PC had received a note from someone who runs a small bridge club in Canterbury asking if we would like to have a match online. Although it was decided not to pursue this enquiry, it prompted a discussion about bridge competitions. TB will investigate the possibility of returning to the Eccles Cup and other Club level Hertfordshire competitions.

Action: TB

9. Treasurer's report:

AMcB had submitted his financial summary to the Committee prior to the meeting.

There was a surplus this year of over £10,000. A donation of £12,500 was made to the Hospice this week. We were 'pledgers' in the 'Big Give' project last Christmas and the Hospice received another £7,500 resulting from our pledge.

10. Secretary's report:

Nothing to report.

11. Membership Secretary's report:

GC has not yet heard from AMcB with the list of members who have paid their subscriptions by Direct Debit. Once she has received this list, GC can prepare an update showing who has not renewed their membership/or paid their subscription.

Action: GC/AMcB

PC has left the new membership cards in the top drawer of the office desk. He will distribute them once AMcB confirms payments by members for 2025/26.

Action: PC

12. Teaching programme:

LT has been coming to the Hall on Saturday mornings when TMB is running her course. There has been up to 17 people attending the course and LT has been giving a hand.

TMB asked LT to do a teachers' course, but LT does not know if she can commit to it.

A refreshers' course is due to run from 26th April to 12th July. LT had produced a flier for this course which was circulated to the Committee.

LT has placed advertisements in the Northwood & Ruislip + Pinner 'My Local News' magazines. It was suggested that the flier should also be put up in local libraries, bridge clubs, Sobell charity shops, supermarkets (e.g. Tesco and Waitrose), and placed on the Pinner railings. It should also be emailed to Hertfordshire Bridge Association.

PC will email the flier to all Club members, and JB will put it on the website.

Playing directors will be asked to announce the course at the beginning of each session. A copy of the flier will be displayed in the MS Hall.

PC said that supervised bridge sessions are planned in the future on Saturday mornings. LT is willing to run them with the assistance of AMcB and others. A dividing panel could be put up in the Hall between TMB's class and the supervised players.

PC suggested a Working Party be set up with TMB to create a future teaching programme. PC will talk to TMB. LT and AF offered to form part of the Working Party.

Action: PC/TMB/LT/AF

13. Sunday Evenings:

LH reported that there were 30 people last week, but they had to cancel this week due to the lack of support.

14. Any Other Business:

April 5th Social Event

PC confirmed that non-members would be welcome at this event.

LH and VL will be standing at the door to welcome members.

Ann Cobden will contact people regarding food contributions.

TB will direct.

JB will score.

15. Date of next meeting: 10:00 a.m. on Saturday 24th May 2025.