



# The Sobell Bridge Club



## The MINUTES of the 23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Sunday, 17 May 2013 in the Michael Sobell Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital at 6 pm.

**Present:**

George Howlett	President
Doug Edmonds	Chairman
Sheena Edgar	Secretary
Lynne Mathys	Treasurer

Also present:  
60 other members

1. George Howlett, the President, welcomed all. He particularly mentioned those normally playing on Friday afternoons and Sunday evening. George also thanked Doug for all his hard work over the last year.
2. Apologies for absence: Marion Sweet, Sue Ganney, Colin and Diane Campion, Ruth Allenby, Ian Dent.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the 2012 AGM: Proposed: Martin Isham, Seconded: Robert Teasdale
4. Chairman's report.
  - i) Doug thanked all those who supported the club with particular mention of the committee; Ian, Ken, Ruby and Ruth who ensure the club is ready for play; Susan and Stephanie for managing Friday afternoon; Marion Sweet for running the bridge classes; Gwen for her work on the raffles, scoring and money collection; Martin for managing the board dealing and for directing; Mike for his work as scorer and Anne Edmonds for organising much of the catering.
  - ii) He reiterated the two main objectives of the club: to provide a venue where people, particularly those recently bereaved could play in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere; and secondly charitable, to raise funds to support the Hospice.
  - iii) Doug paid particular tribute to two members who have died this year, to Dorsey Gimpel a lady of great charm and generosity who had been a member for many years; and to Bob Cozens who in the short time he was with us made a huge contribution. He organised our Christmas Party, managed the Thursday evening sessions and helped with money collection. One could always go to him for help and advice and he always responded willingly and with great good humour.
  - iv) Rod Lacey the Chair of the Friends apologised for his absence but stressed how greatly appreciate they appreciate our efforts.
  - v) Doug thanked George for his work in directing, dealing and scoring, but also for the sound advice that he gives on so many occasions.
5. Treasurer's report:
  - i) The net surplus for 2014 is up by 29% (£10,738.85) to £45, 896.84 enabling a total donation of £45,000 to Michael Sobell House.
  - ii) Expenses were up by £1134.60, primarily due to purchase of new cards.
  - iii) Money received for tuition was up by 915% due to the courses run by Marion Sweet. Many of those students subsequently joined the club for Sunday evenings.
  - iv) Weekends away raised less this year because of the cancellation of the Cambridge weekend due to flooding.

- v) Simultaneous pairs continue not to be charged.
- vi) Bridge suppers continue to be popular with good income from the raffles.

Lynne said that taking into consideration the economic climate this was a satisfactory result. Brian Simmonds suggested that this should be changed to 'excellent'.

6. Motion that the accounts be accepted: Proposed by Ellen Collins and seconded Terry Butfield
7. Election of Honorary Auditor: Howard Atkins was proposed by Anne MacConnell and seconded by Anne Edmonds.
8. Secretary's report: Sheena thanked Shirley Tucker (membership secretary) and Adrienne Finch (minutes secretary) for their hard work. She was grateful that there had been no need to use the formal Disciplinary Procedure this year.
9. Election of committee members: Apart from Liz Crook those currently in post were prepared to stand again. Adrienne Finch had agreed to take on an additional role as Liaison Officer and they were elected unanimously. Proposed by Calver Townsend and seconded by Ken Stone.

10. AOB

- i) Doug made a small presentation to Liz Crook to thank her for her many years of hard work for the club.
- ii) Doug announced that the 'member of the year' is Marion Sweet for her hard work in running the tuition courses.
- iii) Doug said that the issue of 'grubby cards' could be solved by anyone noticing them, taking the board number and telling a committee member. The club holds plenty of replacement packs.
- iv) Up to this time bridge ladders had been published quarterly. It was now possible to obtain the information instantaneously via the Pianola system. Quarterly publication would cease.
- v) Martin Isham mentioned the continuing problem of noise, due not only to members making essential remarks and the normal social chat, but also because of the design of the room. He suggested that investigations should be made of sound absorbing tiles and replacement of the blinds that were becoming very shabby. The meeting agreed.
- vi) Ruth Allenby and Ian Dent had proposed that a new Bridge Mate system should be bought as the current ones had sticky keys and were sometimes difficult to operate. A new system would cost between three and five thousand pounds and the advantages were not great. There was a full discussion of the pros and cons and a vote taken. The meeting voted by a very substantial majority that the purchase should not be made. However it was stressed once again that problems with a particular machine should be reported to a committee member and Rob Pyburn would deal with the problem. The situation will be reviewed in a year's time.
- vii) A Thursday evening session manager is now needed as well as someone to run the Christmas Party
- viii) Ken Short accepted the post of Vice President of the Club.

11. The meeting closed at 18.50, when Howard Atkins introduced the annual prize giving.

## PRIZEWINNERS 2014

Broughton Trophy -	Hanna Broomberg & Mike Gentry
President Trophy -	Brian Simmonds & Philip Vernon
LR Trophy –	Anne McConnell & Jane Rogers
Graham Trophy-	Robert & Beverley Teesdale
Lucy Rees Trophy –	Stephanie Hughes & Sue Ganney
Lucy Rees Cup- -	Stephanie Hughes
Member of the Year-	Marion Sweet.