



# The Sobell Bridge Club



## MINUTES of the 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Sunday, 21 May 2017 in the Michael Sobell Centre, Mount Vernon Hospital at 6 pm

**Present:**

George Howlett	President
Doug Edmonds	Chairman
Joanna May	Secretary (standing in for Adrienne Finch)
Lynne Mathys	Treasurer

Also present:

54 other members

1. George Howlett, the President, welcomed all. He said that it had been another very successful year when the objects of the Club of providing an opportunity to those who are bereaved or lonely to meet socially, whilst at the same time raising monies for Michael Sobell House, had been met.

With regret, he said there was a blot on the year when in January the EBU's Guidelines on 'Best Behaviour at Bridge' were not met. However, he was pleased to say the matter was speedily dealt with and the Club as a whole learned from it. We must always remember that those who help run the Club are volunteers.

George's final remark concerned Doug. He said we were fortunate indeed to have Doug as Chairman; and Doug is worthy of the highest praise with all that he does for the Club.

2. Apologies for absence: Adrienne Finch, Terry Butfield, Gwen Cozens, Lois Hargreaves, Val Lloyd, Jacquie North, Calver Townsend and 28 other members.
3. Motion to approve the minutes of the 2015-2016 AGM  
Proposed by: Ellen Collins, Seconded by: Rosemary White,
4. Chairman's report
  - i) Doug told the meeting that the cumulative donations of the Club now amount to £¾ million and Sobell is the 24<sup>th</sup> largest bridge club in England. These achievements don't happen by accident. The Committee continues to work hard on behalf of the members. Particular thanks were due to Lynne who continues to act as Treasurer and Chief Cashier; and to Robin for his sterling work on the computer including rescuing one evening's results after a power cut. More importantly, he has guided the Club through the introduction of our new website.

Other Committee members continue with their duties:

- Shirley Tucker as Membership Secretary. Gwen Cozens has now taken over because Shirley has been obliged to step down. We will refer to Shirley's work at the end of the formal meeting.
- Terry Butfield who continues to direct, organise team and Sim Pairs and procure our supplies.
- Joanna for her unstinting work before and during the bridge weekends resulting in a very successful weekend at Cheltenham.
- Lois and Val for organising Sundays.
- Calver, together with Robin, Mike, Lynne and George for their work on scoring
- Jacquie North as our Evening Steward and Liaison Officer
- Calver and Audrey for the Christmas Party and our kitchen supplies
- Joanna and Adrienne for their secretarial duties
- Welcome also to Peter Cobden whom we are proposing should join us on the Committee.

Other members deserving thanks for their able support:

- Ruby and Ken for opening up and table money collection
- Martin for managing board dealing
- Anne for catering for our parties, particularly for our Summer Party, ably supported by Anne McConnell, Gwen and others

- Sue and Stephanie for organising Friday afternoons
- Sylvan and others for their work as Directors

ii) Doug paid tribute to three members who had passed away this year, Gerald Williams – one of our early stalwarts, Eve Kushin and Maurice Freedman.

iii) Doug apologised for the vicious ramp on the drive which will be with us for some months.

iv) Doug informed members of the date of the Summer Party which is June 24 and the Chicago Tea event on August 5.

v) Doug is planning to reintroduce bridge teaching.

vi) Doug's final remarks concerned the 'Club Member of the Year' and the presentation of the award. He said it had been a unanimous decision to present the award to George for his hard work and commitment to the Club. George attends every Committee meeting, he helps with the directing, dealing and scoring and his sound advice is sought on many occasions.

5. Treasurer's report: (the account comparisons are attached to these minutes)

i) The net take for the year 2016-2017 was down by £1,576.55 (3.8%) from last year. The net surplus is £39,959.02.

ii) General expenses were down by £1,184.77 – a good improvement.

iii) Bridge suppers continue to be popular with good income from the raffles. Cheese and wine evenings have also been introduced.

iv) The profit from weekends was £593.44.

v) We are still not charging any extra table money for Simultaneous Pairs.

vi) There were no tuition costs this year.

6. Motion that the accounts be accepted: Proposed by Anne McConnell and seconded by Brenda Cherkas.

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

8. Secretary's report: Nothing to report.

9. Election of committee members: Those currently in post were prepared to stand again and there being no other volunteers their continuance in post was proposed by Howard Atkins and seconded by Sylvan Hunte.

Doug Edmonds	Chairman	Jacquie North	Liaison Officer
Adrienne Finch	Club Secretary	Gwen Cozens	Membership Secretary
Lynne Mathys	Treasurer	Terry Butfield	Playing Secretary
Rob Pyburn	Webmaster	Lois Hargreaves	Session Manager (Sunday)
Joanna May	Weekend Organiser	Val Lloyd	Session Manager (Sunday)
Peter Cobden		Calver Townsend	

9. AOB There was no other business

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

## PRIZEWINNERS 2016

Broughton Trophy (Monday pairs)

President Trophy (Tuesday pairs)

LR Trophy (Thursday pairs)

Lucy Rees Trophy (Friday afternoon pairs)

Lucy Rees Cup-(Friday afternoon individual)

Member of the Year

Suzanne Benson & Philip Vernon

Geoff Foley & Gwendoline Western

Catherine Stafford & Harry Silverman

Susan Ganney & Stephanie Hughes

Susan Ganney

George Howlett

Sobell Bridge Club  
Income Expenditure Comparisons 2016/2017

	2015/2016	2016/2017	Difference	%
<b>Table Donations</b>				
Sunday	3928.00	3708.00	-220.00	-5.60
Monday	12797.00	12665.00	-132.00	-1.03
Tuesday	9609.00	9650.00	41.00	0.43
Wednesday	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thursday	11414.00	11101.00	-313.00	-2.74
Friday A	2006.00	2216.00	210.00	10.46
Friday E	1375.00	0.00	-1375.00	-100.00
Saturday	525.00	687.00	162.00	30.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>41654.00</b>	<b>40027.00</b>	<b>-1627.00</b>	<b>-3.90</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Pay to Play	-4175.28	-4151.40	-23.88	-0.57
Expenses	-4906.02	-3721.25	-1184.77	-24.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>-9081.30</b>	<b>-7872.65</b>	<b>-1208.65</b>	<b>-11.02</b>
Joining Fees	280.00	220.00	-60.00	-21.42
Subscriptions	3310.00	3130.00	-180.00	-5.43
Other Donations	28.00	19.65	-8.35	-29.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>3618.00</b>	<b>3369.65</b>	<b>-248.35</b>	<b>-6.86</b>
<b>Suppers</b>				
Gross	1445.00	2314.16	869.16	60.14
Expenses	-568.09	-763.54	-195.45	-34.40
<b>Net</b>	<b>876.91</b>	<b>1550.62</b>	<b>673.71</b>	<b>76.82</b>
<b>Weekends</b>				
Gross	22240.00	18850.00	-3390.00	-15.24
Expenses	-20651.44	-16668.00	3983.44	19.28
<b>Net</b>	<b>1588.56</b>	<b>2182.00</b>	<b>593.44</b>	<b>37.35</b>
<b>Tuition</b>				
Gross	2118.00	0.00	-2118.00	
Expenses	-66.67	0.00	66.67	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2051.33</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-2051.33</b>	<b>-100.00</b>
<b>Simultaneous Pairs</b>				
Gross	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Xmas Nibbles</b>				
Gross	1065.27	1070.00	4.73	0.44
Expenses	-237.20	-367.60	-130.40	54.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>828.07</b>	<b>702.40</b>	<b>-125.67</b>	<b>-15.17</b>
<b>Surplus on year</b>	<b><u>41535.57</u></b>	<b><u>39959.02</u></b>	<b>-1576.55</b>	<b>-3.80</b>
Donations to FO MSH	46000.00	34000.00	12000.00	-26.09

**Comparisons with 2015/2016**

- 1 Table monies were down by £1627.00 (3.90 %). Mainly due to Friday evenings ceasing through lack of support.
- 2 General expenses were down by £1184.77 so a good improvement
- 3 Bridge suppers continue to be popular with good raffle results  
Cheese and wine evenings have also been introduced
- 4 Weekends were up again this year by £593.44
- 5 We still did not charge any extra table money for Simultaneous Pairs
- 6 We unfortunately didn't have any tuition this year
- 7 The net surplus for 2016/2017 is down £1576.55 by 3.8% to £39959.02

We made purchases of new Bridgemates £4081.50 and computer £298.99 this year so we couldn't donate the full amount of profit