



**Minutes of the Trustee Meeting for English Bridge Education & Development CIO
Held at Young Chelsea Bridge Club, 54 Goldhawk Road, London, W12 8HA
on Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 12:30pm**

Present:	Andrew Petrie (AP)	Chairman	(joined the meeting late)
	Mike Hill	Trustee & Treasurer	
	Gary Ames (GA)	Trustee	
	Jeremy Dhondy (JD)	Trustee	
	Bernard Eddleston (BE)	Trustee	
	Caroline Small (CS)	Trustee	
	David Waxman (DW)	Trustee	
	Peter Stockdale (PS)	(minuting the meeting).	
Apologies:	Rob Lawy (RL)	EBU Representative	
	Barry Capal (BC)	General Manager EBU & EBED	

JD chaired the early stages of the meeting as AP had been delayed. The agenda was therefore not covered in numerical order.

2. Minutes of the meeting 1st March 2017

2.1 Accuracy

The minutes were approved as accurate.

2.2 Matters arising

4.1 – It was confirmed that the updated version of the 2017/18 budget had been circulated.

7 – DW confirmed that the Education Advisory Group had met, and had approved the report which was produced for the Trustees. He noted that one recommendation was to add a degree of kudos to the teacher training courses by offering certification. He agreed to make a preliminary approach to City and Guilds to explore possibilities.

4. Finances

4.1 Treasurer's Report & 2017/18 Budget

MH had circulated end of year figures for 2016/17 which he advised were "very provisional". He highlighted two areas of significant difference from the budget – the revenue and profit from tuition at South Bucks Bridge Club, and the significant underspend on 'projects'. MH advised that no major changes to the figures were expected, but they had yet to be seen by the auditors. One issue which would be raised with the auditor concerned work undertaken on Fast Track Bridge (FTB) in the last financial year, but for which the invoice was received in this financial year. As it was budgeted for this year it would most likely stay in this year's accounts, rather than being moved to last year, but the advice of the auditor would be taken.

MH added that whilst figures for the first three months of the 2017/18 year may be available in late July, and he would try to give a short report, priority would be given to finalising the 2016/17 accounts unless there was a matter than needed immediate attention.



JD asked whether the apparent health of the accounts meant that the reduction in donation from the EBU for this year was tolerable. MH confirmed that it was, though noted that the situation could be affected by a significant change in the expenditure on 'projects'.

8. Communications

PS apologised that his workload with the EBU had meant that he had been unable to produce an EBED newsletter during May as intended. He said he would prioritise producing one this month.

7. Research projects

AP joined the meeting shortly after the start of this item

CS reported that the application to the Research Council which had been made with Stirling University had been unsuccessful. It was understood that this was due to a perception by the Council that the supervisor in question had too many students currently under their supervision, and it was not a reflection on the application itself. CS and Prof Sam Punch (SP) at Stirling University had, however, been keen to continue the relationship between the two organisations. A project proposal had therefore been put forward which followed on from some of the previous work and the survey which was undertaken last year. CS had circulated the proposal.

It was recognised that scientific research was necessary to provide the sort of robust data and references that would be required by donors or funding bodies. PS also noted that any future marketing/promotional campaign would benefit from the availability of the sort of information produced by this project. Additionally it was recognised that, as the work could be seen as being for the general benefit of the game, if not specifically for a project which EBED could identify at present, then it would fall within EBED's remit to make a grant to support such an endeavour.

Funding for the project was approved.

CS had circulated a formal application for funding from Imperial College for the project which would undertake fMRI scanning of 15 bridge players, and 15 members of a non-bridge playing control group. This would allow for the analysis of the difference in the way the hippocampi of the two groups respond. She explained that she would complete the ethics application for the project, and screen the potential participants. Imperial College would then undertake the scanning and analysis of the results.

She advised of the potential for an over-run in the costs if the initial scans did not produce appropriate results. She also advised the Trustees that she was aware of possible 'flaws' in the project. These two areas were discussed.

CS explained that 15 participants was sufficient to act as a pilot study, and it would reveal how many would need to be scanned for the results to be statistically significant. By completing this pilot study, and potentially combining it with the results from the other project approved earlier in the meeting, it would then be possible to make approaches to receive funding for the full study.

That CS worked at Imperial College, and would be involved with the project, was raised as a possible conflict of interests. AP stated that as the Trustees had asked CS to undertake this work, rather than the other way round, then there was nothing to address. It was also recognised that in order to



receive 'c stream funding' there were stringent checks on the suitability of the project, and these had all been completed, thereby again eliminating any concerns.

It was agreed that BE's brother, who has experience of reading project proposals, would read the proposal and make comments to improving the proposal and project. The level of reimbursement for the costs incurred by the participants was agreed.

PS outlined an additional project for which SP was hoping to receive funding from the European Bridge League – a project to look at the different approaches that may be required to successfully market bridge to different groups.

3. Chairman's Report

AP reported that there had been an excellent response to the advert for the position of Chief Executive (CE). A shortlist of five had been produced, and these would be interviewed on 27th June. AP added that Gordon Rainsford (GR) would be taking over BC's role as General Manager of EBED until such time as the CE was in place.

AP highlighted three areas which he hoped the CE would address – the EBED website, South Bucks Bridge Club, and issues of 'quality' relating to the teacher training courses.

AP notified the Trustees that RB had dealt with some safeguarding issues – one from an EBED event and another relating to EBU activities. JD stated that he was happy with how they had been handled.

JD advised the Trustees that new data protection regulations were being introduced in May 2018, and that it could have significant implications. It would be discussed at the next EBU Board Meeting, and AP would talk to the CE about it in due course.

5. Fundraising Proposal

DW explained that he knew of Third Sector Consultancy (TSC) before he became a Trustee, and when he was tasked with looking at fundraising opportunities he made an approach to them. DW declared that John Harris (JH) of TSC was a friend, but as AP had been involved in the discussions with him the Trustees were happy that there was no conflict of interests.

DW and AP had talked and emailed with JH, and he had offered to perform an initial search at no fee. This revealed several hundred possible funders. He had then put forward a costed proposal as to how EBED and TSC could move forward.

The proposal included producing an application to approach Awards for All to seek funding for developing an online supervised bridge system. AP explained that this was to fund a pilot scheme which would allow people to play at home for free, enabling those who were less mobile to play, or learn to play, bridge. Once the pilot scheme was shown to be successful an application could be made for funding a large-scale roll out of the scheme. JD advised that the EBU may be going in to partnership with FunBridge to provide online games with 'robot partners', and FunBridge may therefore be able to provide a platform which could be used.



This part of the proposal was approved, as was TSC's proposal that they carry out a detailed database search for appropriate trusts and foundations which could provide funding. Once this task was completed it would then be possible to move on to another part of the proposal – making applications to the trusts and foundations. The Trustees accepted CS's offer to work with TSC on the grant applications when that point was reached.

6. Youth Matters

6.1 Junior Teach-In

BE reported that the JTI was now being advertised.

BE reported that there was to be a new junior event held as part of a Mind Sports Academy competition in Stoke. There had been very few entries to date, and he reported that the event would not go ahead if there was insufficient interest.

6.2 Youth Advisory Group update

BE reported that the YAG had met in March. He was pleased that progress was being made in developing a 'schools pack'. He also reported that he hoped a school from Surrey would contribute an article about bridge to First News - a magazine circulated to children aged 7 to 14.

It was noted that TSC were hoping to use information on how playing bridge has been found to have benefits for school children. BE hoped that some may be available from a number of different groups, though it was recognised that this was likely to be only subjective and 'anecdotal'. There was awareness of a few articles which had been written in the past, but they had not been easy to find, and it was thought they may be too old to be of use. The possibility of commissioning a quantitative study to look at these benefits was raised. The Trustees were concerned, however, that for the children involved this may detract from the fun of learning – sitting 'an exam' at regular intervals could make it feel like a punishment rather than a game. It would be considered fully at a later date, however, as it was recognised that it could be an important part of the 'evidence base'.

DW reported on a possible project involving schools in Sheffield. Once the scheme was formally confirmed then efforts would be made to promote it, and encourage other schools to do something similar. BE agreed to look at whether more could be done to promote bridge as an activity within the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

The Trustees gave their thanks to the YAG for the work they are doing.

9. Education

9.1 Teacher Training

Recent feedback of the Teacher Training course, and the implications of the matters raised, were discussed.

Revision of the course had begun, but was not progressing as expected. It was agreed that the matter should be addressed by the CE as a high priority, but in the interim it would be necessary to identify key ways in which the course could be improved in the short term.



9.2 TD Training

i) Standard Course

AP raised concerns regarding the amount of time being spent organising and administering TD training courses. He asked for clarification from JD as to EBED's obligation to the EBU with regard to TD training. JD advised that EBED runs training courses for club TDs, and that the higher levels were run by the EBU, though some of the administrative burden for this may fall to EBED. It was agreed that the CE would be asked to conduct a review. The possibility of charging the host club a flat fee, and that they then take responsibility for the administration of the course (taking bookings, etc), was raised.

It was confirmed that the standard club TD training course was to be reduced from four days to three days. MH noted that the courses were continuing to be successful and profitable.

ii) Changes to the Laws

It was understood that courses covering the changes to the laws were being arranged, but no further information was available at present.

iii) New 1-day course

The Trustees endorsed the establishment of a new 1-day course which would be aimed at providing club players with the basic knowledge to run a standard club session. This would then be removed from the club TD training course, facilitating the reduction from four to three days. Some concern was expressed at this, and that it would be necessary to ensure that potential TD's moved on to complete the full course, and not just rely on the knowledge gained on the 1-day course. It was agreed that during the one-day course it would be necessary to cover other key areas as well as 'the laws', such as movements and scoring. JD advised that a new manual for EBU Score had been produced, and the final draft was being proof read. It was expected that this should help those who currently struggle with scoring, and EBU Score should be promoted as part of all the TD training courses.

9.3 Fast Track Bridge

i) Review meeting

JD reported that he had led the review meeting, and it was believed that everything was on track for an autumn release as planned. JD was thanked for his work keeping the project on track, and for his proof reading.

It was understood that SM would be filming a short promotional video on the 17th August. The budget for this project had been approved.

ii) Trials

GA reported that FTB had been trialled at two weekend courses. These had gone well, and had received good feedback. Neither course had completed all the modules – so it hadn't proven to be 'bridge in a weekend' – but one had finished the materials on subsequent evenings, and GA was happy that no major changes were required. He suggested that if only part of the course would be completed, then it may be suitable for the participants to join a 'traditional course' towards the end of the second term and then going on to complete the third term – running FTB courses in February



could fit in well with this. He was interested to note that of the nine on his course, only one would likely have completed a 'traditional course', and it was a younger age group than at 'traditional courses'.

AP asked how information was to be shared between those who run FTB courses. GA said this would be shared with those who were running training courses for them to pass on, but it was also agreed that feedback should be written up and made available on the website.

iii) Regional briefings

GA advised that regional briefings had been arranged for August, and so far over 60 people had signed up. It was likely that all the briefings would go ahead.

It was confirmed that at the briefings the books would be sold at a discount, and also a single copy to use on the day could be bought at a significantly reduced cost. The attendees would also be given the teachers' notes.

It was recognised that something may be needed to help people who had learned to play through FTB to transition to playing 'club bridge'. It was recognised that the online supervised play which may be funded through TSC may offer this to those who were not part of a club which already offered 'supervised play' sessions.

10. EBED & rubber bridge

GA had produced a discussion document, giving his opinions on EBED's relationship with rubber bridge, following an enquiry as to why EBED only worked to develop and promote duplicate bridge. It was recognised that the publically stated objectives of the charity related to duplicate bridge, so it would not be appropriate to focus on the promotion of other types, however all were in favour of EBED recognising that other forms of bridge could be used as an introduction, or teaching or practice method. This would include all 'non-duplicate' versions of the game, including rubber, Chicago, and minibridge. This would not, however, be a publically stated policy, but merely information which could be used by staff and Trustees when appropriate.

It was confirmed that all teaching materials, and teaching training courses, were aimed at the student specifically going to on play 'duplicate bridge', rather than simply 'bridge' in general – an example was given that the new FTB books introduce 'boards' in an early chapter. It was also noted, however, that learning through Bridge for All would not be unsuitable for those only interested in playing rubber bridge in a social context.

11. Any other business

None