



# English Bridge Education and Development

## Newsletter - May 2016

It has been a busy few months for EBED since we sent our last newsletter. After a period establishing the charity we are now making significant progress in a number of areas, as you can read below.

We want to emphasise that the charity was established to promote and develop bridge for everyone in England - whether established, new, or potential players. Please don't hesitate to contact our staff if there is something we can do to help you. And similarly we would love to hear from you if you are able to help us. Details on how you can support our work are at the foot of this newsletter.

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### Staff News

#### New faces

We are pleased to welcome Richard Banbury to the EBED staff. Richard has joined us as Business Manager. His tasks will be varied, but will include working with donors and on fundraising, and he will oversee the operation and delivery of some of EBED's events and ongoing activities, including developing Junior Bridge and organising the TD Training courses.



[richard@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:richard@ebedcio.org.uk)

Sue Maxwell, who was acting as interim manager, has joined us on a more permanent basis, and is working as Education Manager with particular emphasis on adult teaching related matters. She is currently immersed in the 'Fast Forward project' and the updates to Bridge for All - see below for details on both. [sue@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:sue@ebedcio.org.uk)

#### Vacancies

We will have quite a busy time over the next few months recruiting new people to help with the charity. Firstly one of our founding Trustees, Michael Krause has resigned due to pressure of work – we'd like to thank him for all the time, effort and interest he has given to the charity as an unpaid volunteer. We are therefore looking for a new trustee who can be the board's lead person on fundraising. Experience in this field would be a distinct advantage but not essential, as there is advice widely available to help trustees.

Secondly we have decided that as the national charity for bridge education we need to look at organising more teaching ourselves, on a national and regional basis. We are therefore looking for an Education and Development Officer based at Aylesbury who can be the charity's lead organiser of these courses. As part of this project we want to explore the opportunities now offered by web based systems to deliver online, interactive teaching. The person appointed will therefore need strong (but not expert) IT skills and very good

### Junior Bridge

#### Junior Award Scheme

Dozens of junior bridge players have completed one of the stages of the Junior Award Scheme since it was introduced in the autumn, with many more working towards the next level. Congratulations to all who have reached one of their goals.

The scheme is designed to stimulate enthusiasm for junior bridge among young players, parents and educators by offering graded attainment levels which the children can work towards. It breaks down the skills required to develop from raw rookie to serious contender into a set of steps and milestones which can be easily understood and evaluated in the classroom. It can also be used as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.



Upon completion of each level the children receive a certificate, and are listed in the ['Hall of Fame'](#).

See [here](#) for more information, and details on how your club or school can get involved.

#### Young Bridge Challenge

Over 100 juniors took place in the Young Bridge Challenge at Loughborough Grammar School in March. The event featured the Schools Cup, which was won by Haberdashers' Aske school, from north London, for the seventh consecutive year. There were a further 10 pairs in the minibridge event won by a local pairing from Loughborough, Kazas Li and Jeffrey Chin.

organisation and planning skills.

Both these roles will be advertised on the [EBED website](#) and in the June issue of English Bridge.

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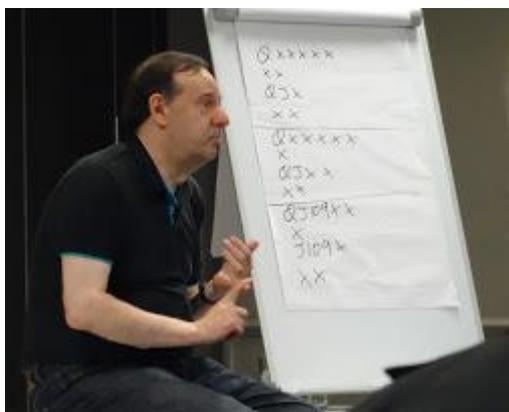
## Accelerated learning scheme project - Fast Forward!

Many teachers over the years have requested a fast-track learning publication for use in delivering short courses – a method of teaching the basic game of bridge without any bells or whistles.

Fast Forward will create an alternative launch pad for bridge students who want to get into the organised game quickly without the need to sign up for the traditional once-a-week courses currently available.

Fast Forward will be suitable for 'holiday bridge' or a 5-day summer school. Some teachers will hold courses throughout the year. Clubs particularly will benefit from a fast track option, straight from the classroom to the club room, maybe via some short-movement practice duplicate sessions.

A team of internationally top-class authors, combined with very experienced Bridge for All teachers, have started work on *Fast Forward Bridge* and we plan to publish it towards the second half of 2017.



It will be based on the familiar BfA Standard English and will contain no conventions other than the 2C strong opener.

*Fast Forward Bridge* will come in modules to enable the teacher to deliver the course material flexibly over about 25 hours of learning.

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## Health and wellbeing project

We have recently embarked on the first stages of our 'health and wellbeing project'. It will research and promote the health and social benefits of playing bridge, including combatting social isolation and cognitive decline.

As you may have read in the recent issue of English Bridge



## Junior Teach-In

EBED has started the planning phase for the September 2017 Junior Teach In (JTI) in Loughborough.

In the absence of the JTI this year, EBED is supporting the county bridge associations in Sussex and Oxfordshire, which are organising Summer Camps on 12-14 August and 3-4 September respectively. These events are open to children of all bridge/minibrige abilities. More details are available via the [Sussex website](#) and from [Joan Bennett](#) respectively.

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## Bridge for All - a fresh new look



Bridge teachers will have a nice surprise in September this year. The 'look and feel' of the Bridge for All course work books, *Beginning Bridge* and *Continuing Bridge* will look very different from the rather tired design which has been with us for many years.

There will also be some evolutionary upgrades to reflect some of the changes in club bridge over the years. Whilst the book will retain strong two opening bids, teachers will have the option of teaching the ever more popular weak two openings instead.

Other than that there are no surprises other than tweaking some of the hands and changing some of the text.

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**EBUTA news**



There are some exciting new initiatives ahead.

Often the hardest part of a teacher's work is recruiting new beginners on courses. Help is at hand with a national advertising campaign in the Daily Telegraph due to take place in August in time for the Autumn classes. Enquiries from the adverts will be directed to the nearest post codes of our participating EBUTA teachers. Teachers, and clubs which have teaching programmes, who would like to take part need to email [sue@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:sue@ebedcio.org.uk) with a name and contact details. They will then be put on

magazine (April issue, page 37), one of the charity's Trustees, Caroline Small, is working with researchers at Stirling University to look at the social benefits of playing bridge. As part of this we will be producing an online survey which we hope everyone will complete. There will also be a version of the survey for completion by non-bridge players, so we hope you will pass it on to your friends and family. The survey will be available from mid-June and the link will be circulated to all EBU members and clubs when it is 'live'.

This project is being supported in part by proceeds from the EBED Sim Pairs - see below. In addition, as the longer term funding needs of projects such as this can be significant, the Trustees are hoping to appoint an additional Trustee with fund raising experience - see above for details.

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## EBED Simultaneous Pairs

The EBED Spring Simultaneous Pairs took place earlier this month, with over 130 clubs and 2300 pairs taking part. This has raised over £11,000 which will go to our health and wellbeing project (see opposite panel). Thank you to everyone who took part, and to the clubs which hosted heats. Your support of our work is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to the winners on each evening:

- [Tuesday 3rd](#) - Graham Cox and Alleyn Erskine at Wearside BC
- [Wednesday 4th](#) - Walter Russell and Steve Lambert at Leverstock Green BC
- [Thursday 5th](#) - Anita Freeman and Reggie Kwan at Blackheath BC
- [Monday 9th](#) - Pat Barnett and Miriam Titchner at Hitchin BC

Full results are available via the links above.

The next sim pairs will take place 5th to 9th September, with the proceeds again going to our health and wellbeing project. Please support our work by taking part and/or encouraging your club to host a heat. Details on the sims are available on the [EBU website](#).

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## EBED Education Sim Pairs

The annual EBED Education Simultaneous Pairs was over a long period in early 2016 to cater for bridge students (of all ages!) at both bridge and minibridge. A total of 239 pairs took part with Shelagh Hulme and Dilys Whitelegg from Middlewich BC well ahead of the field in the bridge event with a 78% score. Matthew Anthony and Josh McGear were the leading scorers in the minibridge event with 72%.

30 schools and teaching clubs participated this year and we hope to encourage even more teachers to encourage their students to participate in 2017. The full results are available on the EBU website: [bridge](#); [minibridge](#).

the list.

Work has started on revamping the teacher training courses to make them more relevant to modern requirements.

Plans are afoot to stage a teacher's jamboree in August 2017. It will be bigger and better than ever. One of the main features will be the official launch of the new accelerated learning coursework book *Fast Forward Bridge* (see opposite panel). Details of venue and cost will be available shortly.

EBUScore is now available free to EBUTA members. See [the website](#) for details.

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## Teacher Training

We have forthcoming courses for those wishing to learn to teach bridge. See [here](#) for more details.

~~Wimbledon BC, Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th June 2016 - Fully booked~~  
Edgware, Middlesex, Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th June 2016  
South Bucks BC, Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th July 2016  
Aylesbury, Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th August 2016  
Manchester BC, Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th September 2016

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## TD Training

[TD Training courses](#) continue to be organised across the country - details of forthcoming courses are available [here](#). As part of its strategy to promote bridge, EBED believes it is essential to expand the pool of club directors available for well run events at both affiliated and non affiliated clubs.



We are always keen to hear from clubs/counties which haven't hosted such courses, so please [get in touch](#).

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## South Bucks Bridge Centre

As from 1st June 2016 playing sessions at South Bucks Bridge Centre will be returned to local control by the EBU-affiliated South Bucks Bridge Club

EBED is to keep its responsibility for providing bridge teaching at South Bucks. Lessons under EBED management will continue at the Centre and will be based on our national learning programme **Bridge for All** syllabus. Plans are well advanced for the new teaching year in September with all the regular courses retained and some new ones devised.

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## Supporting EBED

EBED cannot rely solely on the generous support of the EBU, so needs your help. Donations, whatever their size, are greatly appreciated, but we recognise that a financial donation may not be practical for many members, and you can give us your support in a number of other ways.

- **Take part:** Please encourage your local club to consider holding EBED events and, of course, we hope that you will take part yourself!
- **Spread the word:** Tell people about what we have to offer and how to find us by phone, [email](#) or [on the web](#).
- **Volunteer:** We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers who could help us to grow - you needn't make a large commitment of time. Please [email](#) us if you feel that you would like to help.
- **Talk to us:** This charity is run for the benefit of present and future bridge players, so please engage with us.
- **Donate:** You can of course help fund the work of the charity by making a financial donation or gift aid. Please visit [www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate) or contact finance manager Gail Nancarrow by [email](#) or on 01296 317210. We are also able to provide information on legacies and gifts in kind.



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Thank you for reading. We hope to hear from you, or see you at one of our activities, soon.

Andrew Petrie, Chairman  
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