



English Bridge Education and Development Newsletter - November 2015

In our latest update we are pleased to report that English Bridge Education and Development continues to make excellent progress across a range of fronts.

For much of the first eighteen months of EBED's existence the focus has been on establishing the charity as a distinct legal entity, ensuring it has sound financial foundations, and evaluating/building upon the work which had been carried out by its predecessor organisations. In recent months EBED has grown increasingly confident with its approach and processes, allowing a new phase of development to begin, working to increase and improve the services we can provide to bridge clubs, bridge teachers, young players and all those involved with growing bridge across the country. Below is some of the major news from the last few months.

Teaching

- We have started to work on improving the teaching materials which are available. Our focus will be the development of Bridge for All to take into account the many changes to the teaching approach for beginners which have taken place since the scheme was first introduced over 15 years ago. We are aiming to start with an evolutionary updating of the Bridge for All Book One to take into account contemporary thinking and practices - with a new edition being available for the start of lessons in autumn 2017. Our aim through this redesign is to smooth and speed the path from classroom to duplicate play.

- A preferred supplier has been identified for the development of a new, 'accelerated' learning scheme, for those wishing to go from 'zero to bridge player' more quickly than currently accommodated by standard courses. We now have an outline for how this programme will run.

- EBUTA, the national organisation for bridge teachers, has entered into an agreement with Vu-Bridge. This provides bridge teachers with free access to the V-Blue software, and offers discounted subscription for students. Vu-Bridge is an internet-based application which allows bridge students to improve their bidding and play through a sequential topic-based suite of interactive deals and quizzes. V-Blue will ultimately provide EBUTA teachers with access to a handbank of over 1500 deals, more than doubling the number currently available to teachers, as well as offering both greater consistency and quality. Likewise the access for students gives them the capacity to test their understanding while progressing at their own pace away from their formal teaching environment.

- Members of EBUTA now also benefit from a much expanded dedicated area of the EBED website, offering access to handbanks with teaching notes, self-standing teaching programs, downloads of printed material, and much more. To find out more about EBUTA membership visit <http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/ebuta>

Juniors

- The Junior Teach-In took place at Loughborough University at the end of August, with attendance up by over a third from 2014. A number of new features were introduced including a Learn Bridge in a Weekend group, led by Ned Paul, and a dedicated adult bridge programme (for accompanying adults only). We also pioneered our Junior Award Scheme at the event (see below for more information). An enjoyable weekend was had by all, with strong positive feedback and plenty of suggestions as to how we can make the weekend even bigger and better. Details of the event for 2016 will be available shortly.



- Our new Junior Award Scheme, as featured in the August issue of English Bridge, is now live and is gradually being rolled out nationally, mainly to schools where bridge is already available. The programme is designed to help build youngsters confidence and self-esteem by working to gain a set of bridge skills, dovetailing with the highly successful Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Participants work through and acquire experience with certain defined tasks toward success at six progressively more challenging levels of achievement. The JAS is available for schools and bridge teachers to introduce to students from age six upwards – please contact us for more details.

- EBED has been very encouraged by a heightened interest in progressing youth bridge activities in a number of counties and is working to build networks of support and the sharing of best practice.

Tournament Directors

• Thanks to the excellent efforts of Mike Amos and others, we continue to work towards a redesigned suite of Club Tournament Director courses which will more closely meet the needs of clubs as well as those who aspire to provide this much valued and needed service. We aim to launch the new course modules in spring 2016. Our existing courses continue to be popular and a strong programme is being offered through winter 2015/spring 2016. They are listed [here](#).



Cognitive research

• Significant work has been done towards a project researching the social and cognitive benefits of playing bridge. This has included liaising with university researchers and the charities Age UK and Alzheimer's Society. A bid for funding is now being developed working with and through well-established research institutions. In due course we hope to invite EBU members to contribute to surveys on the topic.

South Bucks Bridge Centre

• Ownership of South Bucks Bridge Centre, one of the largest EBU-affiliated clubs in the country, provides us with valuable insight and ideas for future club development. The club in its unique setting remains as popular as ever and we are looking gradually to offer more events and activities in this beautiful facility. EBED is now providing a full range of teaching courses from the centre using Bridge for All methods and will be looking to expand upon this from January.

Financial matters

• The EBED Simultaneous Pairs in September was well supported, with over 150 clubs and over 5000 players taking part. The event raised over £13,000 for EBED. The next [EBED Simultaneous Pairs](#) is in May, and we hope you, and your club, will take part.

• The EBED website has been further updated with the addition of information on the charity's grants scheme to support those looking to introduce new bridge playing activities, or looking to expand or improve existing schemes. More details are available at www.ebedcio.org.uk/grants.

New faces

• We are grateful for the contribution of two members of staff who will be leaving us this autumn. Simon Barb, as Manager, and Jon Taylor, as EBUTA manager, will both be leaving us for personal reasons, and we thank them for the work they have done. Simon in particular has contributed a huge amount to EBED's achievements so far, and Jonathan has driven forward our agreement with VuBridge. Their replacements, who will be taking us forward in this next stage of EBED's development, will be appointed in the new year.

• I am stepping down, from November 25th, as Chair of EBED, and as a Trustee; I am very pleased to announce that I will be replaced as Chair by Andrew Petrie.

You may know Andrew from his work on the EBU board, as Vice Chairman and more recently as Treasurer, and he brings a wealth of experience to the role.

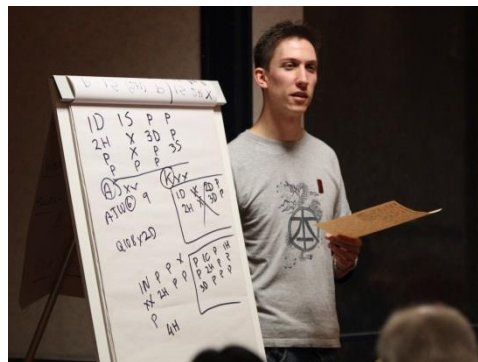


So to conclude my term as Chair, I would like to thank everyone for the help they have given the new charity in getting off the ground, putting in place a strong financial base and in making such encouraging initial progress - I am more convinced than ever that the decision to set up EBED has already been and will continue to be thoroughly good for the development of bridge - providing a focus to education, which we all recognise to be critical for the future of the game. Please continue your support.

Supporting EBED

EBED cannot rely solely on the generous support of the EBU, so needs you 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 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.



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

Jerry Cope, Chair
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