



**Minutes of the Trustee Meeting for English Bridge Education & Development CIO
Held at Baker Tilly Management Limited, 2 Bloomsbury St, London
On Wednesday 9th April 2014**

Present:	Jerry Cope (JC)	Chairman
	Andrew Petrie (AP)	Trustee & Treasurer
	Jeremy Dhondy (JD)	Trustee
	Bernard Eddleston (BE)	Trustee
	Gary Ames (GA)	Trustee
	Michael Krause (MK)	Trustee
	Barry Capal (BC)	General Manager EBU & EBED
	Simon Barb (SB)	Education & Development Manager, EBED

The meeting opened at 12:30pm with a brief welcome by Jerry Cope, followed by self-introductions from all present.

1 JC reaffirmed reasons for setting up the charity, as per EBEDCIO Constitution:

- People not taking up duplicate bridge
- Perception that there is a need to focus on Bridge Education
- Belief that applying money and focus will bring more people into the game

The Trustee Board will focus on matters of governance and strategy, and specifically:

- Can we access funds through our charitable status
- What do we need to do to attract funding?

The objectives of this first meeting are

- Bring all parties up to speed
- Agree early priorities
- Establish accountabilities

2 JC explained that the 2006 Charities Act allowed the inclusion of Mind Sports, but EBU was disqualified from adopting charitable status due to its funding of elite individuals (i.e. international players).

The funding of young people in need was not excluded from the charitable aims and EBED's two charitable objectives are:

(1) the advancement of amateur sport by promoting the game of duplicate bridge for the public benefit.

(2) the advancement of the education of young persons in full time education in the playing of duplicate bridge.

The Constitution could be changed subject to needs with the agreement of the Trustees.

The EBU currently has approximately 300 junior members. GA also drew the meeting's attention to the need to retain people playing in clubs.

BC explained that historically the EBU has prioritised getting Bridge included within the National Curriculum.

There was also anecdotal evidence that suggest that playing bridge may be positive in reducing the onset of Alzheimer's.

JD confirmed that the focus has been primarily on youth matters via:

- Youth & Education Trust
- Educational Trust for British Bridge (running 25 years)
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It was agreed unanimously that the constitution (including the issue of quorums) would be reviewed around end of 2014.

- 3 There was a discussion regarding the role of the Trust vis-à-vis the EBU.

Bridge Education came within the EBU's remit under its Memorandum of Association.

Rob Lawy, recently appointed to EBU Board, has responsibility for Education (formerly held by Sally Bugden).

JD will work to avoid duplication between EBED and EBU. Grey areas will need to be clarified.

Charity is not seeking to promote EBU membership per se – Tournament Director Training under the EBU was only available for affiliated clubs. This could now be widened to non-affiliates.

- 4 AP explained that the current budget has been established by lifting the operations of the EBU Education Department out of the EBU accounts and placing it within EBED. Income budget is broadly in line with history and maintaining the Status Quo (i.e. Low Risk).

Restricted monies (e.g. designated for MiniBridge) should be used first where possible.

It was noted that we will need to develop a reserves policy in due course.

It was agreed that the operations previously within the remit of the EBU Education Department (and now largely transferred to EBED) would continue to operate “business as usual” pending the development of a business plan for EBED. AP proposed a six-month timescale for developing a more considered business plan for EBED.

MK requested a summary of what constituted “Business as usual”. **(Action SB)**

Note that EBED is not VAT registered since most of its activities are VAT exempt.

As an ad-hoc measure, EBED has adopted the EBU Procedures for Authorisation of Expenditure (as per handout). This is subject to future revision.

- 5 The Autumn SIMS (September 8th - 12th) is being run as a fund-raising event for the benefit of EBED (EBU are the agent). Fund raising competitions are VAT exempt. The publicity for the SIMS needs to be carefully considered and reviewed. **(Action SB)**

JC has written an article for June Edition of English Bridge introducing EBED. JD agreed to try to arrange for an article in June edition of Mr Bridge magazine. **(Action JD)**

With regards to the EBED website (www.ebedcio.org.uk), it was agreed that EBED needs to show an independent identity and that pending a fuller discussion of this subject (and development of the business plan), the website will largely be populated by uplifting/referencing pages from the EBU website. **(Action SB)**

In terms of further publicising EBED, this will be done via EBU Shareholders Meeting **(Action JC)**, EBU County Chairman’s Meeting **(Action JD)**, and a letter to county chairmen content to be decided. **(Action BE)** Additionally it will be highlighted in the Club Management Focus July Newsletter. **(Action: Peter Stockdale via SB)**

There will be a series of articles on grandparents introducing bridge to children starting from June issue of English Bridge.

AP drew the meeting’s attention to the recent article in the Sunday Times regarding the Chess Charity (Chess in Schools and the Community). It was unanimously agreed that we need a Communications Plan, stemming from the Activity Plan.

6 Future Timings

- Strategy should be developed pre-Xmas. This should include the Communications element.
- Should not rule out opportunistic efforts, but ensure that business continues to run.
- Useful to establish an early record of accomplishment (use existing success stories – e.g. Oxford minibridge).

- Could aim to undertake a pilot project (i.e. case study of things that work well)

Next meeting will be devoted primarily to first-cut of Strategy document. Our initial key strands were agreed to be;

- A. Approach to funding (MK/BE)
- B. Activities for
 - i. Schools/young people (BE/MK)
 - ii. Older people (GA/MK)
- C. Communication (JC)
- D. Structure (interaction with counties) (BE/JD)
- E. Business as usual (AP/BC)

SB will act as conduit for coordination/dissemination of information. Each lead is expected to present some initial thoughts to the next meeting (see item 8).

Note that Ron Millet (EBU Board Member) is looking for existing research on dementia and cognitive benefits from playing bridge.

BC apprised the group of the fact that the Worshipful Company of Card Makers are poised to make a donation towards minibridge in response to a bequest.

Next Meeting to be held 1st July 2014 at Baker Tilly starting at 12:15 pm. Agenda and papers to be circulated ten days in advance. (Action SB)

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 16:00