



MINUTES FOR MEETING OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE EDUCATION &
DEVELOPMENT TRUSTEES

Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 10.00am until 12:10noon

English Bridge Union Broadfields Bicester Road Aylesbury HP19 8AZ

Attendance:

Ian Sidgwick – Chair (IS)

William Bourne – Treasurer (WB)

Abbey Smith – (AS)

Tony Cherrett – Trustee (TC)

Richard Croot – CEO (RC)

1. Housekeeping

Apologies None

The minutes from meeting held 6th January 2025 were approved

Conflicts of interest: (IS) and (AS) as board members, and (WB), an appointee of the EBU, declared a conflicted of interest with item 8.

2. CEO Report 10:20am

The board discussed the CEO report.

The inaugural National Junior Pairs had been a success with a small but strong field. To optimise attendance, it could be staged at the venue of another event alongside one of the minor competitions e.g. Year End Congress.

It was agreed that the EBTA fee should remain at £45 but that value for EBTA membership should be improved: more teacher cluster meeting, more app access - IntoBridge and FunBridge are offering free premium membership for EBTA members. EBTA newsletters should invite content from members. It is still a consideration as to whether EBTA should host a conference.

(RC) explained that his ideas about Holiday Club had developed. Cheltenham Bridge Club are planning a non-residential weekend in October. Sue Johnson is also looking to arrange a similar event in London. Such non-residential weekend where young people bring their own food will complement the three existing bridge camps.

Action: It was agreed that (RC) would show the board the new website at an appropriate stage in its development.

3. Office services agreement

The new Office Service agreement was discussed verbally and its broad principles were approved. The board supported the request of (RC) that he would remain employed by the EBU, as well as EBED, in order to carry the role of Designated Safeguarding Officer across both organisations. The final documents will be approved in subsequent board meetings

4. Budget for approval

The budget for 2025 was approved. It was noted that EBED would end up making a small surplus as a result of a further sum of over £100000 expected from the estate of the late Gerald Falkner. EBED has disclaimed right to the Spanish Property in the Faulkner legacy.

5. Accounts up to February 2025

No significant comments.

6. Beacons (Tony Parks) to continue produce the financial statements.

It was agreed that Beacons should continue to produce the financial statements of the accounts.

7. EBED teacher numbers (currently 595 EBTA members).

EBED teacher numbers have reduced slightly from 612 to 595. It was agreed that EBED should provide an Ask us a Question on its new website publishing the most useful questions and answers. **Action** (RC) to share the idea with the team and incorporate on the new website.

8. Joint investment in promoting the game with the EBU.

The board, in principle, agreed to jointly fund promotion the game with the EBU. The full details of the project have not been finalised.

9. Donations:

EBED would offer advice about will writing but not provide a will writing service. EBED would recognise donations on its website.

Action: WB to write a page for the new website.

10. Strategy review offer from Richard Jephcott

The board agreed to approach Richard Jephcott to present his strategic analysis for Worcestershire on a Zoom meeting (Tues or Wed 4pm 30mins + 30mins questions) **Action:** (RC) to approach Richard Jephcott.

11. IntoBridge and FunBridge

Both IntoBridge and FunBridge are offering free premium membership to U26s and EBTA members. EBED now has these two partners alongside No Fear Bridge. **Action:** (RC) to work out the details with IntoBridge and FunBridge, and include details/logo on the new website with prominence on the home page.

AOB Proposed date of next meeting

Another trustee is needed

Date of next meeting is 29 July 2025