



**Minutes of the Trustee Meeting for English Bridge Education & Development CIO  
Held at The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, 12 Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1A 2LP  
on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Present:	Jerry Cope (JC)	Chairman
	Andrew Petrie (AP)	Trustee & Treasurer
	Gary Ames (GA)	Trustee
	Jeremy Dhondy (JD)	Trustee
	Bernard Eddleston (BE)	Trustee
	Michael Krause (MK)	Trustee
	Caroline Small (CS)	Trustee
	Barry Capal (BC)	General Manager EBU & EBED
	Simon Barb (SB)	Education & Development Manager, EBED
	Jon Taylor	EBUTA Manager
	Peter Stockdale (PS)	(minuting the meeting).

The meeting opened at 11:00am

**1. Minutes of the Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015**

**1.1 Accuracy**

The minutes were approved without amendment.

**1.2 Action Points Arising**

1.2 - AP reported that these costs were now reflected in the accounts.

3.4 – The 'Relief of Poverty' policy had not yet been drafted, but would be done so soon, and made available on the website.

3.5 – It was confirmed that the information on grants is now available on the website.

7.1 – BC reported that the issue of intellectual property rights had not yet been resolved.

10. SB reported that issue of child safety had been handled very carefully at the Junior Teach-In. All staff and volunteers have been sent the Youth Protection Policy, and all had responded to the formal request to acknowledge that they had received and read the policy. Advice had been taken that DBS checks were not required. All adults had adhered to the policy throughout the event.

12. JC reported that the newsletter had been circulated. Another would be produced for distribution in November.

**Update:** The newsletter was received by 27,958 EBU members. It was opened 11,103 times (43% of recipients), with 821 clicking links (2.9%).



## **2. Approval of Accounts**

AP had circulated the accounts prior to the meeting. He advised that it had been difficult to separate some of the EBU's financial activity from that of EBED. Whilst these figures did not represent a complete separation of activities, they were an adequate representation of the 'arms-length' relationship with the EBU. He hoped that in November he would be able to circulate management accounts which would show the full cost accounting.

All were happy to approve the accounts. Likewise all were happy to approve the annual report which had been written by JC and circulated prior to the meeting.

### **2.1 Treasurer's report to end July 2015**

AP had circulated his report prior to the meeting. He noted that the unrestricted balance had increased as the EBU owed money to EBED at the end of the financial year which had now been added to the account.

It was agreed that to increase transparency a link would be given in the accounts to a fuller set of figures for South Bucks Bridge Centre and a fuller footnote would be added. Accounts from SBBC would be provided to the Trustees regularly.

## **3. Update on 'Business as Usual'**

SB had circulated his report prior to the meeting.

He reported that an order had been placed for 3,000 copies of the first Bridge for All book to be printed. This represented 18 months' stock, so should last until Spring 2017, by which time the new edition should be ready. This new version of the book has been partially budgeted, and SB expressed his intention to report on its progress in due course.

SB confirmed that the JTI had gone ahead in August, and did well when compared to relatively low expectations. The attendance was up by a third, and the event broke even on the cost of the venue, though not when factoring in transport and staff costs. SB expressed his intention to provide a fuller report in future, which would enable a discussion on the future of the event, however he gave an overview of his thoughts for consideration in the intervening period.

## **EBUTA**

JT reported on the work he had undertaken in his first months in the position. In a number of instances this had involved continuation of on-going work, including liaising with vubridge (covered in item 7). He had also put a particular emphasis on communicating with the members to find out what they wanted from EBUTA. He reported that there was some confusion regarding the differences, and links, between EBU/EBED/EBUTA/Bridge for All/etc. He was also conscious of a lack of 'multi-channel' communication. To that end, the possibility of arranging a 'get-together' for EBUTA members, to allow face-to-face interaction and a sharing of ideas, was discussed. JT had received positive feedback on the idea from members, however the logistics may prove to be difficult. It was agreed that to do so on a national scale may not be possible, but doing so on a smaller scale – perhaps involving the counties and/or county working groups – may be practical.



JT also noted that there were a number of different 'types' of teacher, each with different goals and expectations, and likewise their students would have different goals and expectations. He commented that at some point it may be necessary to address these differences, consider the costs involved, and contemplate where EBED's priorities should lie.

In conclusion JT stated a belief that it would be necessary to establish a consensus way forward in relation to the following:

- Agreeing an understanding of the market for learning bridge and the support required for teachers in meeting that market.
- Increasing in the involvement of teachers in running the association.
- Facilitating an increase in peer-to-peer and mentor-based knowledge exchange and skills development.
- Establishing a financial model and pricing model for the association's activities
- Ensuring data capture and manipulation for key areas to support decision making and performance management
- Reviewing the current EBUTA "Qualifications" with a view to widening participation, better reflecting development of teaching skills, removing overly tight links to BfA, and recognising special interest groups (eg youth teaching, intermediate skills teaching).

It was agreed that these points would be developed in to an overarching proposal for how EBUTA may move forward, with a timescale outlined. Some of these could then be instigated immediately, whereas others may need a 'sub-proposal' when Trustee approval, or a significant budget contribution, was required.

#### **4. Sponsorship/Benefactor Reports**

SB reported on progress with the Cutler Trust, and added that there had been no activity with the Milton Damerell Trust.

JD reported that a reply from Erasmus+ should be received in October.

#### **5. Projects**

##### **5.1 Schools**

BE reported that the funding application for the schools project had not been successful. He advised that Gloucestershire were continuing their work, albeit in a limited capacity, and Surrey and Kent were also running schemes.

SB reported that the 'schools pack' now available to schools was now in the form of a flexible grant of up to £50 in value towards the purchase of the necessary equipment to establish a bridge club.

SB gave an overview of the Junior Award Scheme. He explained that it was designed so that it could be used as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, and that it emphasised teamwork and personal achievement over academic or sporting proficiency. He gave examples of the assessment cards and certificates. It was agreed that a list of recipients would be included on the EBED website in due course.



The possibility of a 'youth officer' to act as a 'project for the scheme was discussed. It was agreed that SB would put together a list of jobs which could be undertaken by a youth officer, along with projected costs and outcomes, and the Trustees would consider at a future meeting whether such a person should be funded in a future financial year.

## **5.2 Accelerated Learning**

GA reported that applications had been invited, and this had led to a few enquiries but only one real expression of intent.

It was agreed that the 'consortium' which had expressed intent would be asked to put forward a detailed outline of the initial stages, so that an operational plan could be established. This plan would ideally give a five year strategy to ensure that the right first steps were taken. It was recognised that it would be necessary to have someone act as 'project manager' once the work was underway.

## **5.3 Cognitive benefits**

CS outlined the possible research proposal. This would combine a qualitative study – through interviews relating to the 'happiness' derived from playing bridge – with data gathered through brain scans. She reported that she intended speaking to organisations who may have the suitable scanning equipment, and that this may be arranged in early 2016 with a view to starting in September 2016. She was encouraged to proceed with these enquiries.

The survey could start much sooner than that, however, and she explained that she had given consideration to the possible methodology. Suitable questions relating to 'happiness' had been obtained from Age UK, and she had spoken with a statistician on the number and type of participants that would be required – both bridge players and a 'control' group representing the non-bridge-playing population. She believed, however, that 'academic credibility' would be necessary for this research, so it would be necessary to work with a social scientist. This could potentially culminate with a paper in the British Medical Journal to report on the findings of the survey.

It was agreed that CS should look at the cost and logistics of undertaking the survey, probably through an online resource such as Survey Monkey, setting up an account if necessary. She would also establish the cost of a Cochrane Analysis being undertaken in to the existing literature relating to the cognitive benefits of playing bridge.

## **6. South Bucks Bridge Centre**

BC gave an overview of how the club was progressing, noting it was operating well and making a profit.

SB advised that teaching at the centre had been advertised, and would start the following week. The numbers were similar to last year.

## **7. Vubridge proposal**

JT outlined the proposal, explaining that EBUTA members would get free membership to Vubridge, and would be able to offer a discount to their pupils. This would more than double the number of



example hands and lessons available to EBUTA members. The expanded content on Vubridge would all be available by the end of 2016, and would be accessed via the EBUTA zone of the EBED website. In exchange for this EBED would promote Vubridge via the website, Accolade, etc.

## **8. Communications**

As discussed earlier in the meeting, it was agreed that a new newsletter would be sent out later in the year – probably in November.

## **9. EBUTA Subscriptions**

A proposal relating to EBUTA subscriptions had been circulated prior to the meeting and the proposed pricing structure was approved.

## **10. AOB**

CS agreed to find out the cost of a Cochrane Analysis regarding whether playing bridge was proven to be beneficial to children's academic performance and/or mental capacity.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 12:30pm.