



Minutes from English Bridge Education and Development Trustee's Meeting On Monday 2nd March 2026 from 9:15 to 10:15

Attendees

Ian Sidgwick – Chair (IS)
Richard Croot – CEO (RC)
Andrea Knox – Trustee (AK)
Lynne Ballinger – Trustee (LB)
Nicky Bainbridge – Trustee (NB)
William Bourne – Treasurer (WB)

Apologies - Tony Cherrett - Trustee(TC)
Minutes by LB
Conflict of interest declared - none

1) Minutes of the meeting held 18th January approved subject to small change in action on Spanish property bequest

2) CEO update **RC**

- a) Despite a minor dip in turnout at the February 28, 2026, National School Championship in Loughborough, participation is projected to increase in 2027
- b) Review of new TD Course and resourcing . The trustees noted a positive feedback regarding Sarah Amos's (SA) delivery of TD course. County TD courses should be planned and publicised 12 months in advance. Action **RC** to liaise with Gordon Rainsford about the revised 2 day TD club course as well as evaluate the course from a teaching and TD view (ask previous course leader for latter) and if confirmed that we wish to adopt and engage SA then to agree terms with trustees.
- c) Update on the for Education and Development Manager. 12 people have expressed an interest in the role and application are expected. Action **RC**.to share applications in google. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ziUhhp85qlbu-vSZHkDuV0d2qGic7MkX?usp=drive_link Action **LB** to show AK how to use the google shared area.
- d) <https://intobridge.com/>. RC is discussing a promotional 3-month free trial with IntoBridge for EBED teachers to boost membership. While trustees wish to support Intobridge, they are cautious about promoting a service with potential financial instability. Action **RC & AK** to liaise with Intobridge and identify a way forward. Action **AK** to financially track Intobridge and report any updates
- e) RC has been liaising with two new youth bridge officers (Kent and Yorkshire)

- RC has received two request for New Teachers training course (Weatherby and West Oxford Bridge club) Action **RC** to agree dates for these courses

3) Finance updates: WB & AK

- a) The trustees have approved the Cash Reserve Policy
- b) The trustees have reviewed the cost regarding independent financial advice for EBED investments at LGT. Approval is granted for the continued engagement of WB advise until his eventual retirement from EBED
- c) AK has requested information on the Spanish property bequest and is awaiting a response.
- d) Communication project and budget of £30K for 2 years with the option of extending for a further 12months has been approved

4) Communication : NB, IS & AK

- a) NB to sponsor the Communication project. Action **NB & RC** to start the recruitment process for a EBED communication manager once Education and Development Manager is in post
- b) There are three communication areas that need our current focus
 1. EBED bequests and donations
 2. Statement on who EBED are and what we do
 3. Youth Bridge

Action **NB & RC** to focus on communication in these areas over the next few months
- c) A draft communication strategy and stakeholder engagement framework needs to be placed for when the new recruit is in post – Ongoing action
- d) “Ministry of Fun” is a group of project to build a boarder Bridge community. The aim is for the English Bridge Union Ltd (EBU), Welsh Bridge Union (WBU), Scottish Bridge Union (SBU) and University of the Third Age (U3A) to work together to promote Bridge in a fun way. Action **AK** to keep the trustees updated on this project/projects
- e) To participate in the Development Group with the EBU for promoting our game and learning opportunities in the lead up to the autumn lessons. Action **NB** to liaise with Mary at the EBU to improve the microsite design; NB, AK, IS, RC via membership of the Development Gp.

5) AOB

Action **LB** to circulate trustee meeting dates

End 10:15

Actions carried forward

1. **AK** to draft paper on legal responsibilities of a trustee for induction
2. **RC & TC** Identify suitable candidates to pilot bridge as a career and identify a resource to support the identification
3. **WB & AK** to complete a review of the constitution
4. **LB** to arrange the Face-to-face meeting at Stratford upon Avon Bridge club including a pre-dinner meeting
5. **WB** to investigate if EBED should change accountants
6. **RC** to see if we can do a deal with Bridge Composer
7. **IS & RC** to collate a priority list of future cluster meeting
8. **RC** to amend the project brief for 'Target 500'school with a more consolidated schedule with immediate annual targets
9. **RC** to oversee the recruitment of the Education and Development Manager
10. **AK, NB, and RC** to develop a communications strategy
11. **NB, and RC** to draft a communication statement on who EBED are and what we do we do
12. **NB, and RC** to draft and publish an article on EBED bequest
13. **IS** will hold one-to-one check-ins with all trustees on at least an annual basis

New or updated actions

14. **RC** to liaise with Gordon Rainsford about the revised 2-day TD club course; evaluation of course and get terms approved if proceeding to then engage SA on a fixed term
15. **RC** to share applications in google share folder
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ziUhhp85qlbuvsZHKDuV0d2qGic7MkX?usp=drive_link
16. **LB** to show AK how to use the google shared area
17. **RC & AK** to liaise with Intobridge and identify a way forward
18. **AK** to financially track Intobridge and report any updates
19. **RC** to set Teachers training course at Weatherby and West Oxford Bridge club
20. **NB & RC** to start the recruitment process for an EBED communication manager once Education and Development Manager is in post
21. **AK & RC** to focus on communication in the 3 identified areas over the next few months
22. **AK** to keep the trustees updated on “Ministry of Fun” activities
23. **NB** to liaise with Mary at the EBU on improving the making “enjoy bridge” design
24. **LB** to circulate trustee meeting dates
25. **RC & LB** to upload the approved trustees meeting minutes for October, November, January and February