



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE EDUCATION &  
DEVELOPMENT TRUSTEES**  
**Monday 6 January 2025 at 10.15 AM until 12.15pm**

**Broadfields  
Bicester Road  
Aylesbury, HP19 8AZ**

**Attendees**

Ian Sidgwick – Chair (IS)  
William Bourne – Treasurer (WB)  
Tony Cherrett – Trustee (TC)  
Richard Croot – CEO (RC)

Minutes by WB

**1. HOUSEKEEPING**

Welcome & introductory remarks (IS) IS opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

Apologies were received from Abbey Smith

Minutes from meeting held on 3rd November 2024 were agreed and accepted subject to an amendment under SAFEGUARDING. The recommendation that all squad leaders should take first aid training was deleted, and the note that training records be kept was strengthened to a recommendation to RC that a formal training log be maintained. **ACTION RC**

Conflicts of interest - No Conflicts of Interest were declared

**Trustee Resignation**

The Board formally recognised the resignation of Milly Sutton as a Trustee.

**Actions from the last meeting**

The Board went through the action points from the last meeting. WB had reported back on Trustee training modules from the Charities Commission and more time consuming ones from ICAEW. IS volunteered to try one of the ICAEW modules to see how much value it added. **ACTION IS.**

Other action points have either been completed or were discussed under other agenda items at this meeting.

**2. CEO Report**

The Board took RC's paper as read and RC gave an update on activities since the minutes were distributed. Yorkshire have in principle agreed to hold a one day camp at York Bridge Club to be the fourth EBED camp. He noted that U3A have reached out to him for a teacher and the Board discussed how best to co-operate with them. The most recent Thursday afternoon on-line youth bridge club has doubled in numbers, which was encouraging.

The Board asked to add i) more teacher training sessions and ii) more roadshows to the list of priorities RC has identified for 2025. It is encouraged by both the level and breadth of EBED activity and also the response since RC took over the CEO role.

### **3. Draft Budget forecast 2024/25 and Budget for 2025/26**

At the November meeting the Board asked for early sight of the 2025/6 Budget and updated forecasts for 2024/5. The Treasurer explained that the 2025/6 Budget results in a deficit of £66,000 on the assumption that no more money is forthcoming from the Faulkner bequest, about £40,000 greater than the current FY forecasts. Most of this is due to higher salary costs for Youth, partly a reallocation of salaries to reflect greater time spent on that side, and partly because RC is working 5 days a week compared to his predecessor's 4.

The Board takes the view that the substantially higher level of activity represents good use of the bequest received in the current FY in line with its charitable remit. It considered the importance of metrics to demonstrate EBED's activity and these are considered under agenda item 8.

The Treasurer explained that there is in fact good reason to expect a further distribution of £100,000 from the Faulkner bequest in 2025/6, which would mean the Budget resulting in a surplus of £34,000. While nothing is included in the draft budget, there remains a distinct possibility that more will be received.. RC added that two other substantial legacies have been received from Brian Crack and...and the Board discussed what their policy should be to attract other legacies. The Treasurer agreed to write a "straw man" proposal for other members to comment on ahead of the next Board meeting. **ACTION WB**

The Board challenged the budget on the following:

- whether it was consistent to budget for a small increase in income from selling student materials but a much larger increase in the income from teacher training (and hence presumably more students) .
- whether the income from training courses was set too low – the Board aspired to more.
- why the marketing expenses for the three/four camps were close to zero.
- Whether the future increase in NI contributions is in the Budget.

RC will discuss these internally before finalising the Budget for the March Board meeting.

### **4. WEBSITE**

The Board was asked to approve the proposal for a new EBED Website to fulfil its current functions and act as a single site for Youth Bridge while moving it from Drupal to Wordpress. The Board discussed a range of options and favoured setting up the EBED website separately from the Hub or New Tricks. They noted the need additionally to i) have a separate bridgewebs website in the background to post results ii) enhance the usefulness and user-friendliness of the Hub.

RC explained there was a budget of £5000 to do this and said the final figure would partly depend on how much is done in-house or outsourced.. The Board approved this proposal but suggested adding a contingency amount to the budget, as it is essential that the resulting website is of high quality.

### **5. HOLIDAY CLUBS**

RC explained the concept of providing one week (or longer) day only activity clubs during the summer and focusing on bridge sited at large bridge clubs. He would run one in the next financial year as a trial, and if successful look to roll it out country wide. The Board was supportive and approved adding this to the overall EBED strategy

## **6. FUNDING REQUEST FROM EXETER BRIDGE CLUB**

Exeter BC had contacted RC with a proposal that EBED should co-fund a regional bridge venue in Exeter with a view to increasing numbers in the region, and particularly at Exeter University. The Board discussed the proposition, but considered that this would result in an excessive concentration of its assets in one property and was unable to accede. RC will go back to EBC with proposals to work together to start bridge again at Exeter U.

## **7. PROPOSAL TO CREATE VIDEOS TO AID TEACHING**

The Board was asked to consider the proposal to create 60 video lessons, one for each lesson in the Red and Green Books. A sample lesson has been prepared internally, but the proposal is to contract this out to an outside party.

After discussion, the Board agreed the purpose of these would be to provide support for face to face lessons (e.g. revision, students who missed lessons could catch up) and they should not be considered as a separate on-line learning. The Board approved this project for videos to accompany the 30 chapters of the Red book, on the basis that a sample lesson is requested from the contractor before the go-ahead is given for all 30. The Board felt that the in-house sample, while functional, is not of sufficient quality to roll out more widely. It also agreed to see how useful the Red Book videos prove to be before proceeding with the Green Book.

## **8. EBED PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

The Board discussed RC's ten proposed measures to measure EBED's performance. They are designed to be hard metrics which are easy to derive and would help EBED justify the results of its expenditure. The Board clarified that these measures are separate from the EBED CEO's performance measures, and agreed they should not be over-complicated. The Board questioned whether some of the measures duplicated each other, but agreed to go ahead with them wef 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 (using 2024 as a baseline) and refine them as needed later.

## **9.AOB**

We agreed to hold our next Board meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April at the Spring Camp near Shrewsbury.

TC suggested creating an app to help Tournament Directors with decisions at the table. The Board agreed with the idea, but considered it to be an EBU responsibility, as EBED's remit only involves training TDs.

The Chair asked why only one club teacher training session is on the website. The Board noted that there are in fact four scheduled over the next three months, but they are not on the website. RC will investigate why.

The Board discussed on-line learning. Our view is that different people wish to learn in different ways and at different times, and EBED needs to offer a wide spread of methods. We also discussed how best to encourage pupils and teachers to use the resources offered by EBU and EBED. One action is to encourage all pupils to register with the EBU – at the moment that seems to be a gap.

After the meeting's close at 1215, the Board had lunch with EBED staff.