



# English Bridge Education and Development Newsletter - Summer 2015

English Bridge Education and Development (EBED) has been operational for just over a year, and, as we promised, we are keeping you up-to-date on the progress which has been made by the charity in developing and promoting the game of bridge.

We are grateful to everyone who has supported our work in the last year, be it financially, through a donation of time and effort, or simply by taking part in one of the events we have organised. We hope that those who are yet to engage with our work will do so soon - details on how you can support us is at the foot of this newsletter.

## Why was English Bridge Education and Development established?

The simple answer is to help and encourage as many people as possible to play duplicate bridge in England

The establishment of a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for duplicate bridge, distinct from the EBU, has enabled us to focus single-mindedly on the advancement of bridge education and the promotion of well-being through duplicate bridge. In some instances our work has been a continuation of activities started by the English Bridge Union and other Trusts; in other areas we are undertaking new initiatives.

The charity's independent status brings a number of financial advantages; in particular the ability to draw financial support from a much wider range of sources including grants, sponsorship and commercial activities which are not open to the EBU. In addition, CIOs are subject to favourable legislation with regard to taxation and the application of Gift Aid. Of course, the charity continues to draw very heavily upon the support of the EBU and works closely with the EBU towards common objectives. At the same time, the charity continues to explore other funding opportunities which will, over time, reduce its reliance upon the EBU and its Members.

## Why should EBED be important to you?

*At provincial club level the average age of bridge players is now believed to be approaching seventy and rising steadily.*

On the one hand, the duplicate game needs to recognise this change and adapt to meet the changing nature of the demand for duplicate bridge. In short, this means creating an environment which meets the needs of a generation of bridge players who are coming, or returning, to the game later in life. On the other hand there is a need to attract new, younger players to the game, to ensure it is sustained for many decades to come – we therefore need to encourage, and cater for, those playing at school and university, and also those juggling work and family commitments.

The immediate need is for an increased number of qualified bridge teachers and Tournament Directors leading to a vibrant bridge community built around the many new players who have been taught, (we hope) in full classes with a varied demographic. You may not be directly involved in the schemes we run – though we hope this is something which will be of interest to you – but we certainly believe you will experience the benefits indirectly, as English bridge and your Club receives an injection of new enthusiastic players.



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## What are EBED's goals?

The goals of English Bridge Education and Development can be summarised under three headings:

- Learning Bridge
- Teaching Bridge
- Youth Bridge

We are pleased to report positive developments in all three categories in our first year of operation.

## Learning

EBED is looking to attract new players through our successful Bridge for All programme.

- We have recently taken the first steps towards upgrading the Bridge for All teaching method.
- We have started working towards a 'fast-track learning scheme', which will enable motivated new players to be playing in duplicate games within a matter of a few months.
- We are working with software providers to make available resources for those who wish to learn online. This will hopefully make bridge more appealing to some of those who may start to learn, and make the number of people completing a course, and going on to play in clubs, much higher.

EBED's work in encouraging more people to learn isn't just focused on those wanting to play – it also includes those who want to teach (see below), or act as a Tournament Director. During its first year EBED has commissioned work on new TD courses, to be launched progressively from August this year, which will be better suited to the needs of clubs as well as more appealing for delegates attending. We have also been able to expand the number of courses on offer, as shown on the Map below (click to enlarge).



Our overall objective here is to ensure that a well run game is a fun and enjoyable game.

Work has started towards commissioning quantitative research on the health benefits of playing bridge and the positive relationship between playing bridge and a strong and healthy cognitive function. Whilst this will be a longer term project, the aim of the study is to generate greater interest in bridge amongst those who fund and support activities in the recreation, education and healthcare sectors. Active Government and charitable support would undoubtedly lead to an increase in opportunities to learn and play bridge,

## Teaching

EBUTA, the association for bridge teachers, previously within the EBU, has now been incorporated into EBED. A new EBUTA Manager has recently been funded and recruited, with the goal of increasing the quality and quantity of bridge teaching in England. The aim is to develop the work which EBED has started in its first year, as well as developing new projects to help support new, and existing, bridge teachers.



EBED has been able to increase the number of teacher training courses, with the 2015 programme including events in the South West, North West, North East, and South Midlands, with further courses for East Anglia, East Midlands and Home Counties planned for the coming months. These courses will help those who wish to run lessons at their club, either to teach beginners thus generating new members, or for those already at the club, increasing their skill and enjoyment of the game. The courses we have recently held are shown on the map below (click to enlarge).



And of course, the more people who are teaching bridge, the more opportunity there will be for people to learn; and the more people who want to learn, the more opportunity there is to teach.

## Youth

Investing in attracting young people to bridge is not only important to ensure the survival of the game. There is also the wider benefit to society that we believe can come from young people playing bridge – mathematical and analytical skills are enhanced, and they have an opportunity to learn important personal and social skills; most importantly learning bridge can increase a young person's sense of self-worth and achievement. One of EBED's core public benefit objectives is to increase the number of young people playing bridge.



**Junior Teach-In:** In its first year EBED has organised a number of successful events for young bridge players. But we are working to make them bigger and better events in future. [The Junior Teach-In](#), which will be held in Loughborough in August, is our flagship event, and will be improved further this year, with an accelerated learning program for teenagers who want to go from 'novice to player' in a weekend, and the launch of a new Junior Awards Scheme. If you know a young person or a school who would be interested, please tell them about the event – or why not come along with them: we aim to hold a full play programme for adults at this year's event!

**Junior Awards Scheme:** The Junior Awards Scheme is being introduced to offer children the opportunity to reach attainment targets as they develop in their bridge experience. This allows youngsters the chance to monitor their progress, rewards them for the development they make in their game, and gives an incentive to carry on learning. This Scheme will form an important part of introducing young people to bridge in bridge clubs, schools and organised bridge events.

In its first year EBED has worked to help encourage the development of youth teaching schemes around the country. This has been with schools, clubs and counties, and EBED will continue to support efforts to introduce bridge to a wider young audience.

and thus more people taking part in the duplicate game – many of whom we hope will become EBU members.

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## Thank you to our donors

EBED has received a number of donations and all the contributions are greatly appreciated.

In January, Laurie Champniss made the donation of South Bucks Bridge Centre. The centre, in Burnham, between Slough and Maidenhead, was donated to help Mr Champniss achieve his goal of securing the future of this unique club for the coming decade and beyond. EBED and the EBU would like to thank Mr Champniss and their family for this great generosity and pledge to continue the club's tradition as a first-rate centre for playing and learning bridge.

A generous donation was made by the Norfolk Bridge Circle, after the association ceased activities following the death of Professor Peter Aston. It's activities largely concerned running bridge lessons and events on a not for profit basis in Norfolk, and its constitution provided that any surplus be donated to a like minded charity. EBED is very grateful for the donation, and will seek to continue their good work.

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## How can you get more from EBED?

EBED relies on two things – money and support. For EBED to realise its ambitious plans, we cannot rely solely on the generous support of the EBU. We have already received a number of bequests and gifts which are helping us build our organisation and our programmes. Donations, whatever their size, are greatly appreciated, showing confidence in the work we are doing, as well as giving something back to the game which enriches so many people's lives. We recognise that a financial donation may not be practical for many members, and you can make a difference simply by giving us your support in a number of other ways.

- **Take part:** We were very encouraged by the number of clubs taking part in our two [SIMS events](#) and we will be working to increase the number of clubs taking part in future events. Please encourage your local club to consider holding heats of EBED events and, of course, we hope that you will take part yourself!
- **Spread the word:** Help us to inform people who are outside the EBU-family since these are often the people we most need to attract and are hardest to reach. Golf and tennis clubs, U3A Groups, schools and even chess clubs are all fertile grounds for attracting new players to the game. Tell people about what we have to offer and how to find us by phone, email or [on the web!](#)
- **Volunteer:** With very limited 'people resources', we are looking for additional enthusiastic volunteers who could help us to research, promote, persuade and develop our programmes needed to assure our future growth. You needn't make a large commitment of time, or take on a large project – although please do so if you wish; you can make a difference simply by doing something within your club or local area. Please [email](#) us if you feel that you would like to help the team or could find someone ready for the challenge.
- **Talk to us:** This charity is run for the benefit of present and future bridge players, so please engage with us. If you like something you've done, tell us how it has worked. If you can see an opportunity to help the game develop, let us know. If you come across a possible source of funding, put us in touch with them.
- **Donate:** You can of course help fund the work of the charity by making a financial donation or gift aid. Please visit [www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate) or contact finance manager Gail Nancarrow by [email](#) or on 01296 317210. We are also able to provide information on legacies and gifts in kind.



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Thank you for reading. We hope to hear from you, or see you at one of our events.