English Bridge Education and Development Trustee's Meeting

Date 3rd August 2026. Time 9:15 to 10:40

Venue: Online

Attendees

Ian Sidgwick – Chair (IS)
Richard Croot – CEO (RC)
Andrea Knox – Trustee (AK)
Nicky Bainbridge – Trustee (NB)
Tony Cherrett – Trustee (TC)
William Bourne – Treasurer (WB)

Apologies – Lynne Ballinger

Conflict of interest declared – IS is EBU Board member

1. The minutes of our 6th July meeting were approved without amendment. The Board went through the action points arising – the comments below are where there is an update:
    1. **RC** has chosen not to follow up the House of Lords event with the Daily Telegraph this year.
    2. **L**eads from the MEI Maths Conference have not yet resulted in much, but RC will persevere.
    3. **RC** to reached out to Claire Morgan-Jones regarding attracting more charitable donations. She suggested contacting grant-giving trusts. However, they are more reluctant to give money to charities with assets. The Board thought rich bridge-playing individuals were more likely to be a source of funding, especially for youth. One idea was an annual sponsorship for a bright young bridge player.
    4. **WB** will contact LGT to make sure LB is now onboarded and to arrange a short training session for signed up trustees **(IS, WB, TC, LB**).
    5. **WB** will check whether paperwork to appoint Whitley Simpson as our new accountants is now in place. Obtaining VAT advice will be the next step after WS's initial advice, but should not be delayed long. **WB t**o send Gail's breakdown of activities to **AK**, and **AK** to put together a briefing note on VAT.
    6. **AK's** pro bono services remain formalisation.
    7. **RC** has checked all relevant employees for Class 1 insurance with one exception tbc and an ongoing monitoring system is in place thanks to Karen.
    8. **RC** confirmed safeguarding insurance policy for youth camps is now in place.
    9. **WB/AK** updated the Board on the issues delaying the Faulkner bequest. The executors' solicitor (Spires) has finally responded to AK. As it is taking so long, the executors have asked the Spanish solicitor directly for a valuation of the Spanish property at issue, which is what is needed. **AK** volunteered to visit the executors' solicitor in Norwich if needed.

2. Change to the Constitution **WB,AK,IS**

IS confirmed that the EBU raised one question about the wording of our Youth objective in our Constitution. However, altering this requires Charities Commission approval, which will take time. The Board therefore preferred to get the new Constitution passed and will aim formally to adopt it at a Members' meeting ahead of the next Trustee meeting on 23rd September. **WB** noted we will require a minimum of 5 Trustees to be present to meet the 75% hurdle.

3. CEO update **RC**

a) RC asked the Board to record their appreciation of the work which Rob Marshall has done on the new website. The Board was happy to do so.
b) RC briefly described the work his staff have done over the past year and shared a number of items with the Board:
    a. Teacher training courses – there is now a solid pipeline and the new training course is going down well
    b. Youth lessons
    c. Outline of the pre-coursework for Directors Training modules
    d. Blue Book – this is a significant item of work

He commented that getting into schools continues to be hard work, but that he has 20 new schools targeted from the MEI Maths conference and his link with the Manchester academies continues to bear some fruit. He will be following up with these leads in September.

4. Finance updates: **WB** & **AK**

These were all dealt with under matters arising (agenda item 1)

5. AOB

RC made suggestions for the Tom Bradley (non-teachers) and Alec Salisbury (for teachers) awards for work done towards Youth bridge. There was general agreement on the candidates, though we did make the point that we do not have to award these every year.

WB asked after the previous week's IT incident whether there should be a process review; i) staff should know what to do if they come across such ii) we should all learn any lessons. The Board agreed that the response by our service providers (the EBU) had been effective and a detailed report was subsequently circulated. We agreed to ask the EBU what processes are in place.

AK asked whether she could have the Board's agreement in principle to contribute to the funding the Ministry of Fun projects she is planning with Oliver Cowan and the EBU. One important benefit is to grow the bridge database. We agreed that this falls within our constitutional remit to promote and develop the game of bridge. Under our delineation agreement the EBU has primary responsibility for this area, but generally the Board did not think this should stop us contributing. **AK** was asked to put a formal application in through the grant process so that we can decide at our next meeting.

End 10:40

Next meetings

- Wednesday 23rd September (timing tbc) Central London Samaritans, 13 Salisbury Pl, London W1H 1FJ, UK- Face to face
- Monday 5th October (9:15 to 10:30) – online
- Monday 2nd November (9:15 to 10:30) – online
- Tuesday 15th December – Face to face in Aylesbury

Items to be discussed at the next face 2 face meeting

- EBED membership figures (new members, renewals, and churn) and assessment of data quality and accuracy limitations. **RC**
- Centralised risk register and governance workflows for trustee oversight. **WB**
- 'Target 500'school updated project brief with a more consolidated schedule with annual targets, project plan and budget **RC**
- How to encourage more EBTA members to upgrade their status **RC**

Matters arising from this meeting

1. **WB** to contact LGT and arrange training session
2. **WB** to send **AK** Gail's breakdown of revenue, AK to put together VAT briefing note for Whitley Stimpson and VAT specialist
3. **WB** to check whether Whitley Stimpson paperwork in place
4. **AK/WB** to pursue identification and valuation of Spanish land holding up Faulkner bequest
5. **IS** to ask EBU for sight of IT processes in place relevant to last week's experience
6. **AK** to make grant application for Ministry of Fund project