



English Bridge Education and Development Trustee's Meeting

Date 13th April 2026. Time 9:15 to 10:45

Attendees

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

Apologies - None

Conflict of interest declared – IS is on the EBU board

1. Minutes of the meeting held 2nd March

- a) approved subject to small change in communication action
- b) Action closed, 4,7, 13,15,18,19,22,23,24,25
- c) Actions on the agenda, 2, 5,9,10,11,12,17,20,
- d) Actions move to the next Face 2 face meeting, 1,16,21
- e) Action to carry forward,3,6,8,14

2) CEO update **RC**

- a) Josh Santinelli (JS) Clarke has been appointed as the Education and Development Manager. He starts on 14th May 2026.
- b) Jonathan Bennett is to receive EBED support as a Professional Bridge Teacher Action **All** to identify how can we support him
- c) Review of new Streamlining TD Course . Sarah Amos & JS to work together on piloting the course.
- d) New Tricks is designed for independent learning. **RC** to confirm if parental consent is required for students to create username. Teachers can monitor their students' progress on New Tricks. This should not cause any safeguarding concerns, if this limited to schoolteachers and their pupils.
- e) New EBED Year 1 materials are nearly all drafted. Each of the 20 topics have a bidding and a play theme. Each topic has a presentation that can be delivered in about 20 minutes and 6 hands . From 30 to 20 weeks may be controversial and will need careful presentation and explanation.
- f) The reduction from 30 to 20 weeks could be controversial and careful discussion.
- g) The Youth Strategy meeting is scheduled later in the day. They will be reviewing the new 'Target 500' project brief during the session.

3) Finance update **WB & AK**

- a) The 2026/27 budget has been formally approved, including an investment in youth bridge this year of about £100,000 financed from the recent generous bequest.
- b) IS has posed questions to the EBU board regarding the principles of EBED/EBU Shared Services and associated interorganisational costs. These principles will be discussed at the next meeting before specific cost elements are allocated. Action **IS** to update the trustees at the next meeting.
- c) Spanish Bequest. A response from the solicitors has been received but requires follow up, Action **AK** to request access to the file.

4) Communication updates: **NB, IS & AK**

- a) Joint EBED/ EBU proposal link to Mary's revised document . This is to promote the Bridge lessons in the Autumn. 50/50 split funding up to £12k each on the condition they submit a formal application and more rigorous impact monitoring. Action **IS** to go back to EBU.
- b) **RC** committed to providing a briefing document on EBED for trustees to use at congresses and other networking events.

5) AOB – all

- a) **AK, RC** are to work with the EBU to review our collective insurance arrangements. The goal is to clarify the scope of our cover and verify that all necessary risks are adequately protected.
- b) RC advised that parents/grandparents attending camps cannot be DBS checked due to GDPR restrictions on 'excessive' vetting. Safeguarding at camps will continue to rely on robust supervision and safer recruitment policies for staff.
- c) VAT registration for EBED was discussed. Book sales are zero-rated but not exempt and means turnover needs careful oversight. **AK, WB, RC** to draft an email to Tony Parks to ask for the justification for not being VAT registered up till now. It was agreed to engage external VAT specialists to ensure full compliance and provide assurance on our current tax position. This expertise will also guide the development of tax-efficient joint-service arrangements between EBED and EBU.
- c) The proposal to provide free textbooks to U3A (University of the Third Age) groups was discussed. It was decided not to proceed at this time, as providing free materials to one group would be inequitable to the many bridge teachers and affiliated clubs who currently purchase these resources to support their students.

Actions carried forward to next meeting in Stratford upon Avon

1. **AK** to draft paper on legal responsibilities of a trustee for induction
2. **WB, AK & RC** to complete a review of the constitution
3. **LB** to show AK how to use the google shared area

Actions carried forward

4. **RC** to amend the project brief for 'Target 500'school with a more consolidated schedule with immediate annual targets

New actions

5. **All** to identify how we can support Jonathan Bennett in his new role as EBED Professional Bridge Teacher
6. **RC** to confirm if parental consent is required for students to create username on New Tricks
7. **AK** request access to the file on the Falkner Spanish bequest
8. **IS** to confirm 50/50 funding split with EBU for Autumn lesson recruitment. Approval is subject to a stricter framework for monitoring and reporting on the project's impact
9. **RC** committed to sharing his standardized talking points for promoting EBED at bridge congresses and events
10. **AK, WB, RC** are to work with the EBU to review our collective insurance arrangements
11. **AK, WB, RC** to draft an email to Tony Parks to ask for the justification for not being VAT registered
12. **AK and WB** to engage external VAT specialists
13. **IS** to give feedback to the trustees on the EBU board discussion on EBED/EBU Shared Services and associated interorganisational costs