



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE EDUCATION &  
DEVELOPMENT TRUSTEES**  
Monday 26 July 2025 at 10.15 AM until 12.45pm

Juniper Hall,  
Old London Rd  
Mickleham  
RH5 6DA

**Attendees**

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

Minutes by WB

**1. HOUSEKEEPING**

IS opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

There were no apologies.

The meeting noted with regret Abby Smith's decision to resign from the Board (effective 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025) and wished to thank her for her services. It was noted that she will carry on with her role monitoring Safeguarding. The Board discussed the appointment of new Trustees under item 7.

Minutes from meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were agreed and accepted.

Conflicts of interest - RC declared that he had worked in the past with Bernard Magee (item 2). IS subsequently declared a potential conflict as he is an EBU Board member (item 4).

**2. CEO Report**

The Board discussed RC's update on activities and commended the various initiatives currently under way. The Youth focus, with the active support of the two new Youth Officers, will focus on secondary schools and universities. One lesson from the successful House of Lords day was to brief media outlets in good time so they can make space for articles.

The Club Teacher Training course was broadly successful, but the feedback was that the clarity and delivery could be improved.

The website refresh is now under way after a delay.

The Board discussed the teaching product suite including hands, google slides and the more formal red book. We agreed much of it looks tired and needs to be upgraded. There was a substantial discussion on the merits of producing a revised set of better material or whether with the advent of AI to rely on pointing teachers to the best 'open-source' material.

The Board also discussed relationships with a number of partners we currently work together with.

### **3. Target 500 report**

RC updated the Board on his plan to start bridge clubs in 500 schools (i.e. approximately 1 for every 100,000 of population) after a successful pilot in Gloucestershire. RC attended the Maths Teachers Conference, which turned out to be particularly useful for making contacts (e.g. a meeting with one one Academy specialist maths teacher in the North West resulted in ten potential school contacts).

### **4. Finance Update**

WB presented the draft 24/25 report and accounts for approval. If income from legacies is excluded, expenditure was about £50,000 higher than income. We view this as being sustainable and in line with our objectives. The section on Performance and Achievements still needs to be written, but the Board approved the report and accounts subject to that being amended. The Board discussed the process of producing them in the light of the EBU's change of accountant, but preferred to maintain the current arrangements.

As part of the explanation WB asked the Board to confirm that the donation to Cancer Research as part of the EBU's 'Bridge – It's a Big Deal' campaign in autumn 2024 was in line with the Charity's stated objectives. The Board believed it was justified on the basis that the campaign had been successful in promoting bridge, which is one of the Charity's objectives. It will scrutinise future such requests with care. The question was raised about other similar judgements, such as EBED supporting Welsh or Scottish projects. The Board strongly wishes to be co-operative and collaborative with other similar organisations, and the CEO was encouraged to refer to the Board if he was uncertain in any specific case.

The Board noted that the final major obstacle to winding up the Faulkner bequest has been removed, and the charity can expect the final distribution later in the course of this year.

WB also presented the management accounts to June 2025. There is a surplus of about £40,000, largely due to unrealised profit on investments. The Board asked WB to explore showing this separately from General Income to distinguish operational performance from investment income.

### **5. Franchising project**

TC presented his vision of EBED launching a franchising project whereby individuals at whatever stage in their careers could make a living from bridge using the EBED name. The Board raised a number of issues, but was in principle supportive of the suggestion. TC was asked to put a more detailed proposal together.

### **6. Public relations**

The Board noted that the area of communications, PR and marketing was a weakness. We have offered financial support to the EBU's project in this area, but that has been slow to take off and our money has not yet been drawn down. We recognised from the strategy meeting which followed this meeting that improvements here would probably have more impact than anything else.

### **7. Strengthening the Trustee Board**

WB presented a proposal to advertise for new Trustees using Reach. The Board agreed in principle, and WB will circulate an advertisement for finalisation.

## **8. Tom Bradley and Alec Salisbury Awards**

The Board agreed nominations for these two Boards.

## **9.AOB**

RC asked the Board to approve safeguarding policies which he had previously circulated. The Board consider them comprehensive and pragmatic and approved them..

The meeting closed at 1245pm and the Board was given a brief tour of Juniper Hall where it is proposed to hold the Autumn Camp. In the afternoon the Board held a three hour strategy session to help it decide its strategic objectives and prioritise its actions in order to reach them.

## **OUTSTANDING ACTION POINTS**

Item 2 – review club training course delivery to improve clarity **RC**

Item 4 – Write Performance and Achievements section for the 2025 Report **IS and RC**

Item 4 – Explore separation of investment income in Management accounts **WB**

Item 5 - Create more detailed project plan for Franchising Project **TC**

Item 7 – Create, approve, and publish advertisement for new Trustees - **WB**