

# County News - October 2014



One item that was raised at the County Chairman's meeting in July of this year was the matter of communication.

A number of chairmen said they wished that there was more regular information from the EBU to them so they were better informed. This newsletter is aimed at addressing some of this concern. It will go to all County Chairman and County Secretaries but please share it with any other County Committee members you think appropriate. Feedback is welcome to [jeremy@ebu.co.uk](mailto:jeremy@ebu.co.uk) including suggestions for future topics to be covered in this newsletter.

## Scoring and the NGS

In July the ability to include multiple teams and Swiss teams in the NGS was introduced. There was difficulty for clubs who used the then current Scorebridge version as it was not compliant. Stephen Bligh, the author, has now written and tested a compliant version which is available. His new version is compliant for multiple teams but anyone wanting to score a Swiss Teams and have the results used for NGS purposes will need to use SwissTeamsScorer. Most counties already use TeamsScorer written by Jeff Smith and this is fully compliant (and free). It also deals well with formats such as teams of eight.

## Tournaments

Entry fees for the Corwen and Pachabo are often paid for by the relevant County Association. From 2015 onwards prize money for these two events is discontinued. Medals for leading competitors will be introduced in the same style as the Tollemache. In return the entry fee for these competitions has been cut (in the case of the Corwen from £53 to £46 per player and in the case of the Pachabo from £240 to £206 per team).

## Simultaneous Pairs

Several counties run Simultaneous Pairs in their county. If you want it scored for you then the EBU offer a service which is competitive. Please contact Michael Clark [michael@ebu.co.uk](mailto:michael@ebu.co.uk) for details.

Our existing SIMS Fridays were only attracting a small field and from October these have been discontinued.

The first annual prizes for the SIMS will be presented at the AGM this year.

Information on the Sims events organised by the EBU for 2015 are available at:

<http://www.ebu.co.uk/documents/official-documents/club-bulletin-sim-pairs.pdf>

## County Chairmans Meeting 2015: Early notice



This will be held in London on Wednesday 1st July 2015 with lunch available from Middyay.

## Bridge for All



Now that many matters of education are run by the Charity EBED the opportunity to review our practices has been taken.

The cost of the Bridge for All Book 1 (which most students buy through their teacher) was reduced on 1st April from £20 to £17.50. All of the book stock has been donated to the Charity. When the scheme started a modest payment of £3 was made to the county for each joining student. It is the intention of the EBU to remove this payment as from 1st April 2016.

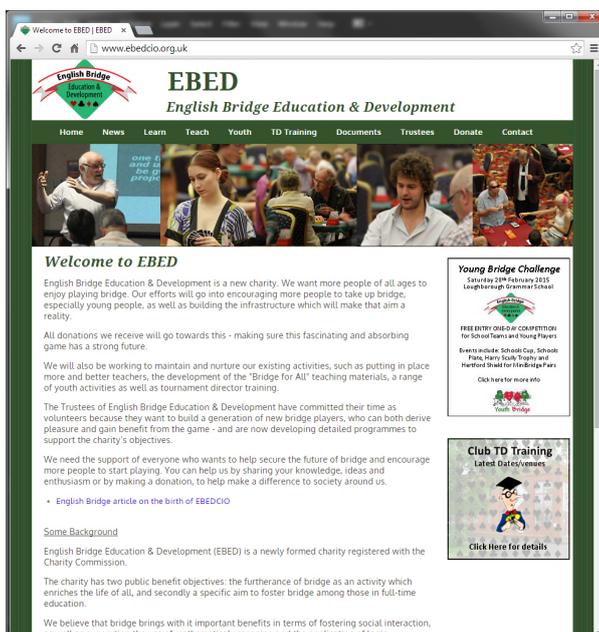
## EBED: Activity from April to September 2014 and a Request for Help



The new charity English Bridge Education and Development (EBED) has now been running operationally for 6 months. To remind you, EBED has been set up to give greater focus to getting new players for duplicate bridge, whilst taking advantage of the financial, tax and fund-raising benefits which being an official charity brings.

A huge amount of work has been going on behind the scenes, of which some highlights are:

- We are talking to a number of potential funders (mainly charitable trusts) about support for some of new strategic projects as well as working with us to invest in our ongoing commitment towards excellence in bridge education across all age groups.
- We have now developed our first statement providing a persuasive and informative 'Case for supporting EBED' which we aim to use with potential funders and sponsors; if you know of individuals who you believe would be interested in knowing more about our aims and objectives and who might be interested in helping us financially, please let me know.
- The volunteer Trustees have decided to focus our resources upon 3 new and significant initiatives based around each of our strategic areas, with Trustees being assigned to lead and secure funding for each area personally:
  - ❖ A project starting with a regional pilot to roll out schools co-ordinators in order to replicate and build on the work successfully undertaken in Oxford and Bucks & Berks
  - ❖ The development of an accelerated multi-channel learning program which will enable motivated students to learn the game sufficiently to be playing in duplicates within 10 weeks
  - ❖ A study of existing research into the value of bridge and other mind sports in maintaining the quality of life among people over the age of 60 (e.g. improved cognitive function, social inclusion)
- We have arrested the decline in delegate numbers for the flagship Loughborough Junior Teach-in, with a well-run event over the August bank holiday weekend;
- Our first highly successful Sims event was held in September, raising £15k for the charity



- Our website [www.ebedcio.org.uk](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk) has been designed and is now fully user-ready - this has been a major piece of work – with much new material and other relevant material transferred and updated from the EBU website
- The website also has a Donate section offering the facility to accept donations, set up regular contributions as well as providing information on legacies and gifts in kind
- The Bridge for All teaching program continues to grow, with revised and improved 2014 editions of our course books now available
- We continue to provide a record number of Club Tournament Directors courses across the country with new venues and a strong 2015 program already taking shape

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In addition, we are holding a number of important events over the next 6 months, where we are determined to significantly boost numbers relative to recent years, and, as appropriate, enhance and improve the events themselves through improved formats and communication. These include:

- ❖ Education Simultaneous Pairs (March/April) – designed to give learners from our Bridge for All program a first taste of competing across a big field and seeing their names on the webpages. We are also featuring a Minibrige section for school learners.
- ❖ Young Bridge Challenge (Saturday, February 28) – a wonderful opportunity for all school-age youngsters to play in a free Swiss-teams event held at Loughborough Grammar School
- ❖ Under- 19 Pairs : an exciting testing ground for juniors seeking to pit their wits against others their own age and perhaps catch the eyes of our squad selectors for mentoring, or to take part in a training camp – this event is held in London as part of the London Easter Festival



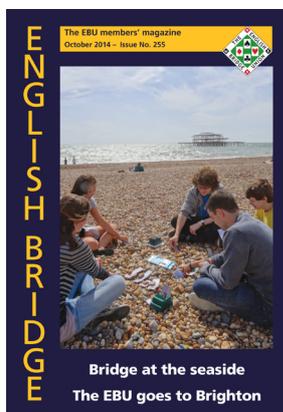
**With very limited people resource, we are now looking for additional enthusiastic VOLUNTEERS who could help our Manager, Simon Barb, research, promote, persuade and bring these events the success they richly merit and need for our future growth. Please email Simon at [simon@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:simon@ebedcio.org.uk) if you feel that you would like to help the team or could find someone ready for the challenge.**

A newsletter containing this information will be sent to all EBU members next week.

## Magazine Changes

The magazine changed size in October. The majority of the feedback to this has been positive (a selection of the comments will be published in the December Magazine). Under the current Royal Mail regulations this gives rise to a very considerable saving each year.

The Editor of English Bridge would like pictures of more County Events. These need to be of decent quality i.e. print quality needs more pixels than web quality. If you have a person responsible for taking photographs at County Events please ensure they know about this.



## EBU Logo

We invite all counties and affiliated clubs to have the EBU logo displayed on their websites.



The logos can be downloaded from <https://www.ebu.co.uk/media/logo> and include a logo with the text 'Affiliated club' for use by such clubs.

If you have any queries please contact [peter.stockdale@ebu.co.uk](mailto:peter.stockdale@ebu.co.uk)

## Shareholders

All counties have shareholders. The number depends on the number of members and the register is updated on the basis of membership figures as of 31st March each year. There seems a variation in how counties treat their shareholders. Some elect them and others appoint them. A county can mandate their shareholders to take action at the AGM or other shareholders meeting and can also ask them to raise matters of concern. Most counties ask their shareholders to report back at a subsequent county committee meeting. If your county does not do this it would be recommended as good practice. Similarly having their names on the County website is also recommended so members can see who they are.