

**Minutes of a Meeting of the SBU Board of Trustees
held on March 11 2026 at 2 pm.**

In the Chair: Sarah Gunn (SG)

Present: Alan Goodman (AG)
Jean McLaren (JM)
Ian Patrick (IP)
Mike Hodder (MH)

In attendance: Bob McKinnon (Ops Coordinator) (BM)

1. Declarations of Interest

None

2. Minutes of the last Meeting

The Trustees noted the minutes of the additional meeting to discuss the marketing campaign, held on 7 January had still to be minuted and circulated

Action: SG to circulate draft minutes for approval

The Minutes of the Trustee's meeting on 27 January were approved.

Action: SG to send to Damien for upload to website

3. Actions arising from January 2026 meeting

Action	Responsibility of:	Update
Treasurer should update the TOR for the finance committee; removing the need for a trustee to be Chair of the committee - for Trustees approval in March meeting.	LC	Financial controls and procedures updated by LC
AG and Marina Evans to start the review of district structure in February 2026 and to report on progress at the March board meeting	AG	Update see below
IP to notify the website editor of bobby Dickson's appointment to Convenor of Disciplinary Panel	IP	done

BM and SG to get final contract agreed with 52E, to agree start date and to refer to finance Committee for approval and final agreement from Trustees.	SG and BM	Included in operations co-ordinator report in agenda
SG and LC to meet with Anne Symons to discuss financial assistance funds and possible fundraising initiatives.	SG	Included in operations co-ordinator paper on international funding – in the agenda
Robyn Glynne Percy to obtain agreed final contract with StoryShop for signature	SG	Signed by both parties, end February

4. Matters arising from the January minutes, not elsewhere on the agenda

AG confirmed that the review of the current structure of the relationship between districts and clubs and districts and the SBU, had started with to date 2 meetings. A third is to take place before 19 March and AG will report in more table at the April Board meeting.

The current priority is to focus on what clubs need and 7 categories have been identified (not in order):

- a) Teaching the teachers
- b) Materials for teaching – a broader spectrum is needed that what is currently available
- c) TD training, including on scorebridge, using bridgemates, dealing with unacceptable behaviour;
- d) Governance materials – including H&S and best practice
- e) How to acquire volunteers
- f) Hardware- including cards and bridgemates
- g) Ways to attract new players

The next stage will be defining how these needs are met and the districts must be part of that support. Even if initiatives come from the SBU, districts must be part of the delivery. There is a lack of clarity of the role of districts and their part in supporting clubs.

Action: AG table a summary paper at April meeting

5. Finance

The board noted the finance committee meeting minutes of February 27th. In particular:

- **management accounts to 31 January 2026** – nothing to report of significance and within budget and forecast
- **International funding**

The trustees discussed the paper tabled by the Operations Co-ordinator and in line with the SBU mission statement, Goal 4, to ensure Scotland has an increasing reputation competitively on the international stage.

The trustees considered match funding monies raised by international players in initiatives that directly benefited other members. For example *Play with the Experts* events in clubs, *writing commentary for simultaneous pairs* etc.

The trustees were keen to support initiatives that enabled international players to connect with their local club and bridge community; thereby encouraging wider awareness of the competitions players were taking part in, representing Scotland.

The trustees were keen to overcome financial barriers that prevented some players from being able to compete. There is already in existence a fund to which players can apply for financial support. At the date of this meeting no player had yet submitted an application.

The trustees were in agreement that some financial support was needed to overcome barriers to competing. Match funding of monies raised from initiatives that benefited members of the SBU was considered to be the fairest way of supporting more members than just those competing. A total level of £5,000 annually for all vents was discussed but not finalised

Action: Operations Coordinator to suggest some guidelines and recommended practices at the next finance committee.

6. Marketing and communications report

The Trustees noted the paper produced by Robyn Glynne-Percy.

The trustees requested more information on the plans for the website development by Meraki Concepts.

Actions:

- BM to join RGP and SG at a meeting with Meraki Concepts to discuss proposal 13 March 2026.
- The website development and communications group to meet to review the proposal by Meraki Concepts (meeting arranged for 18 March)

The trustees awaited more information from Jack Shearer on updating the brand/logo/colours of the Scottish Bridge Union.

The trustees to meet again to review papers from the above actions, on 19 March 10am

7. Laws & Ethics Paper

The trustees noted the paper tabled by IP.

Actions:

The trustees approved the following recommendations:

1. The addition of 2 sub- clauses to the Disciplinary Tribunal Procedures clauses on appeals:
 - 9.2 The letter will inform the CP(s) that they have 1 week from the date of the letter to lodge an appeal after which if no appeal is lodged, the decisions of the Disciplinary Tribunal will be communicated to the membership of the SBU and the European Bridge League (EBL).
 - 9.3 The appeal should be lodged with the Chair of the Laws and Ethics Committee.

2. The following amendments to the Sanction guidelines:

Under the range of sanctions

- (iv) a ban on representing Scotland in international events for a period of 10 years where allegations of cheating are found to be proved.
- In all cases a probationary period will be applied during which any repeated incidence of reprehensible conduct will result in a more severe sanction and possibly result in expulsion from the SBU. During the probationary period the member concerned will not be considered to be in good standing and will not be eligible to represent Scotland in international events.
- Suggested length of ban before consideration of mitigating or aggravating factors. Actual ban can be outwith this range

- Verbal abuse or loss of temper at a Bridge event	6-12 month suspension
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3. The trustees approved the appeals process tabled – this will be adopted as part of the Disciplinary Procedures and included in documents available on the website. The trustees agreed a period of 2 weeks to lodge an appeal in accordance with the procedures.

8. Risk Register

The trustees noted the paper tabled by IP.

Actions:

- I) The trustees agreed to combine risks 6 and 7 as there was some overlap
- II) Various amendments tabled were agreed , including adding in the risk of cyber security and the mitigating actions; succession planning for key volunteers and the operations co-ordinator.
- III) Various risks had changes to their likelihood and impact, all of which brought the risks in general to a medium or low residual risk (RR) and no longer any high RR.

8. Operations Coordinator Update

The trustees noted the papers tabled by BM and thanked him and the OMT, for the detail and general management of the operational activities.

BM confirmed that the Stirling Pairs is to be sponsored by the Ballathie House Hotel, the prize will be awarded to the top pair on a handicap basis. It will be held online to encourage entries from all categories.

9. AOCB

Board Meeting April 15 2026 2pm

AGM – 20 May 7pm

Date of next Meeting – Wednesday April 15 2026 2pm