

## Youth Bridge and Minibridge

Minibridge is a simplified version of the game of bridge and is the route into bridge recommended by the English Bridge Union for anyone who has never played the game before.

Minibridge was first developed in France and the Netherlands as an introduction to bridge for schoolchildren and was soon acknowledged as an excellent game in its own right. It can be taught to any age; from pupils and students in primary, secondary and tertiary education right through to adults. It is widely used as a precursor to learning bridge for all ages and is universally found to be both effective and enjoyable.

A study commissioned by the EBU at St Paul's School in Manchester showed that bridge and Minibridge taught skills in numeracy, problem solving, probability, speaking, listening, education, rule following, team building, mental capacity and much more.

Minibridge has added benefits for younger learners. Card playing helps children to identify numbers, colours, similarities and sequences. By the age of six or seven, many children own or have access to a computer in the home or at school, and the first thing they often try to do is play the free card games that are available. Children love being clever and working things out – and winning. These are all possible when children learn to play Minibridge, but because it is a partnership game they will also learn the need to co-operate, share information and combine as a team to beat the opposition.

The English Bridge Union believes strongly in supporting and encouraging young bridge players, as the lifeblood and future of the game. It has launched a funded scheme to bring Minibridge into the primary school classroom. This has been made possible since our [Youth and Education charitable trust](#) received a donation from the Milton Damerel Trust.

So what can you do at club level to help? If you or any of your members are primary maths teachers or know a primary maths teacher or maths adviser who might be interested in helping their pupils' maths skills by introducing Minibridge at their school, please contact the EBU Education Department on 01296-317217 or [Minibridge@ebu.co.uk](mailto:Minibridge@ebu.co.uk).

The club or some of its members may have links with a local primary or secondary school, college or university and might be able to persuade the principal or head of maths to allow club members to start bridge teaching there. The EBU helps with such teaching through:

- [The EBU Schools Programme](#)
- [Free School Minibridge Starter Kit](#)

Each County Bridge Association has a Youth Officer who can offer assistance with youth bridge projects. These would also welcome any help and assistance that your club could offer.

- [County Youth Officers](#)

The EBU organises various competitions and events for young players. Support for these and encouragement of young players to take part is another area where your members could help. For details see the [Youth Bridge section of the EBU website](#).

Last but not least, your club could encourage its members to teach their children and grandchildren (and friends!) Minibridge in the home, as a first step on their way to learning the full game later on. Minibridge is very easy and fun right from the start.

Some clubs run occasional short Minibridge sessions to show their members how it works. Full details of how to play Minibridge are available on the EBU website:

- [How to play Minibridge](#)
- [Really Easy Bridge](#)

## **Checks for youth workers**

In order to work with young people, organisations ask for new workers to apply for “disclosure” – a document containing information held by the police and government departments – from the Criminal Records Bureau (an agency of the Home Office). The CRB checks are necessary these days but should not present an applicant with any problems.

Disclosures may only be provided to organisations registered with the CRB or through umbrella bodies acting on behalf of an organisation. The procedure for obtaining a disclosure is that the individual whose

background is being checked must themselves apply for the disclosure, but the request is submitted through the EBU. As a service to members, providing the person concerned is applying as a volunteer, the EBU covers the costs. If an applicant will receive a tax-declarable payment for their services, the EBU will not cover the costs.

To initiate the process for obtaining a disclosure on yourself, you need to call the EBU Education Department on 01296-317218. You will be sent a form which you complete according to the guidelines in the accompanying leaflet and then return to the EBU. Once the form goes to the CRB the process takes between three and six weeks to complete in most cases.

If you have any questions on the disclosure process, please contact the Education Department on the above number or send an email to [john@ebu.co.uk](mailto:john@ebu.co.uk) putting Disclosure in the subject line.

You may also wish to refer to the EBU's [Youth Care and Safety Policy and Good Practice Guide](#).