

AIBC Education Report April 17

Adults

U3A class has split into 2 groups mainly due to large numbers. Margaret Telford assisted by Sheena Dunn has taken 24 advanced learners on the Mondays the U3A group do not meet.

About 32 people including some beginners have been attending the U3A group and there is a short waiting list for beginners next season. Since Margaret and Sheena left, we have recruited John Copland and Leo Longmore, David Barbour and Isla Thom continuing to assist.

Ness Club have run a short 10 lesson beginners class this term lead by Cath Mackay

There have been several requests from clubs including Ness Club for a shorter course.

On 30 th May there is a National workshop in Stirling. Sam Punch will give a presentation on benefits of learning bridge with an accent on how to target advertising for clubs, Maureen Rennie will report on the new EBU 20 lesson course and the training required to access. Gill and George Roberts will present the Perth Club's new 20 lesson course. A great deal of work has gone into the production of this course which includes, lesson notes, power points, flashcards and quizzes in addition to hands to play. This will be made available to any club wishing to trial the 20 lessons.

The workshop will include discussion groups for both adults and youth bridge followed by District level discussions on use of resources including personnel, and finally a plenary session to present conclusions to Council. I hope some people from Highland will attend.

Schools Work

Due to circumstance Tim and I have been unable to do quite as much and have concentrated on the Black Isle. We have however revisited Balloch Primary and have a very good relationship with the school there. Both Ronnie and Franz assisted there. We have taught large classes there for 3 years and my objective next year is to capitalise on that and try to access Culloden Academy. We have accessed one new school, Avoch Primary with great success. Ronnie, Val, Liz Watson, and Dougie Munroe all assisted here teaching a class of 40 p6 children. We subsequently started an after -school club with a small but keen group.

Despite the fact that the minibridge competition clashed with the Spey valley Music Festival, which meant 3 schools in Spey valley were unable to attend and the fact that the coordinator in Elgin was away on a 3 month cruise, we had 24 teams at the minibridge competition. Grateful thanks are due to players from all over the District turned out to assist in the running of this event which was won by Mulbuie Chicken Dinners!

For the future, we need to recruit more bridge players to teach bridge in the secondary schools into which our primaries feed. I do have some more volunteers for primary schools in Inverness.

I will continue as Highland coordinator, but nationally Tim has agreed to take over the minibridge development and I am still hoping to find someone to take over the adult bridge activities.

Bronze and Silver Level

Bronze prizes have been issued at some national and District events.

A heat of the National Simultaneous Bronze teams was held in Grantown this year, but more heats could be held in the District and this is a good way to introduce new members to competitive bridge.

Thanks to all who have assisted this year.