



**Middlesex County Bridge Association is proud to announce the launch of its Minibridge Summer Camp for children aged 6-16.**

The Summer Camp will take place each **Monday afternoon, starting on 24<sup>th</sup> July**, at Pinner Bridge Club, 103 Marsh Road, Pinner, HA5 5PA, **and will last for six weeks.**

There will be **three one hour sessions a day, starting at 13:00, 14:15 and 15:30** with fifteen minute breaks for refreshments. **Come to as many or as few sessions as you wish and all are free to enter!**

Minibridge is a simplified version of the game of bridge and helps children to identify numbers, similarities and sequences whilst introducing concepts of analysis, deduction, counting and probability. It is both challenging and fun but of course children just love being clever and working things out! [www.ebu.co.uk/minibridge](http://www.ebu.co.uk/minibridge)

Minibridge is a fun, social game and **we warmly welcome children aged 6-16, especially those new to playing cards, to join us during the summer.**

Leading the team of volunteers will be MCBA Vice Chairman Harish Patel, with teaching under the tutelage of MCBA President Paul Wilson and MCBA Committee member Harold Schogger, all three of whom are DBS checked.

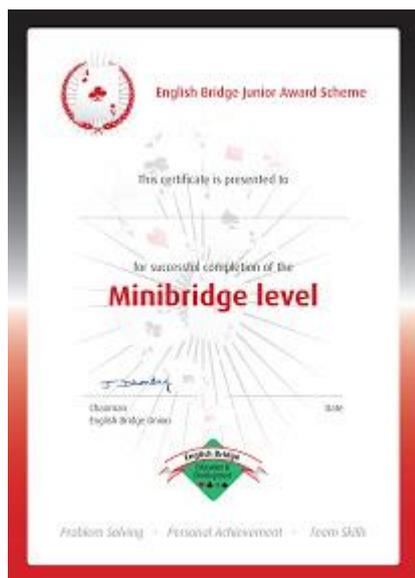
Harold and Paul are EBTA Professional bridge teachers, with over 60 years experience between them and will be utilising an accredited course from the English Bridge Education & Development (EBED) to teach Minibridge skills necessary to attain EBED Junior Award Certificates [www.ebedcio.org.uk/junior-award-scheme](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/junior-award-scheme)

**All enquiries to: Harish Patel, MCBA Vice Chairman**  
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**Further details and registration at: [www.middlesexbridge.co.uk](http://www.middlesexbridge.co.uk)**

*Middlesex County Bridge Association wishes to thank the members of Pinner Bridge Club for donating their premises for this event free of charge*

## EBED Junior Award Scheme for Minibridge



<http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/junior-award-scheme>

### **The aim of the scheme**

Our aim is to give young people positive reinforcement, confidence and a sense of Achievement through monitoring and encouraging the student's progress along their bridge learning journey.

Pupils at Weald Community Primary School in Sevenoaks got the bridge bug - you can read about them [here](#).

The scheme breaks down the skills required to develop from raw rookie to serious contender into a set of steps and milestones which can be easily understood and evaluated in the classroom. These skills (covering bidding, play and defence) are grouped into six progressive levels of attainment: Minibridge, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond. Each level requires the satisfactory 'demonstration' of about twenty increasingly difficult elements of technique.

EBED is the national charity for the promotion and development of bridge.

<http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/>

*'The charity has two public benefit objectives: the furtherance of duplicate bridge as an activity which enriches the life of all, and, secondly, a specific aim to foster duplicate bridge among those in full-time education.'*

*We believe that bridge brings with it important benefits in terms of fostering social interaction, as well as supporting the use of mathematical reasoning and the application of logic'.*

The MCBA Minibridge Summer Camp leads to many pupils being awarded the EBED Minibridge Junior Award Certificate for demonstrating the following skills:

- *Deciding the contract*
- *Be able to count the points correctly*
- *Know the correct suit order*
- *Say what is trumps (or NT) and who is declarer/'boss'*
- *Know the number of tricks needed for game or part score*
- *Identify a hand suitable to play in NT*
- *Identify a hand suitable to play in a suit*
- *Identify whether to call game or part score in a suit*
- *Playing the cards*
- *Count the total number of winners*
- *Knocking out high cards to establish winners*
- *Drawing trumps in a suit contract*
- *Count the points to work out where the outstanding cards lie*
- *Take a finesse against an outstanding card*
- *Playing*
- *Take part in an in-class competition*
- *Show respect for your partner*
- *Work out and record the score*

EBED [www.ebedcio.org.uk](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk) is the national charity for the promotion and development of bridge, supported by the English Bridge Union [www.ebu.co.uk](http://www.ebu.co.uk)

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## **'A game of bridge could be your trump card'**

**Anne Hutchison**

*19th February 2016*

As a teacher, I am always looking for new and exciting ways to engage my students and I think that I have found their new passion: bridge.

I had been intrigued by an article about teaching mini-bridge to children, which suggested that it had been proven to improve pupil concentration and social interaction; I'd also learned that Microsoft's Bill Gates was interested in this apparently most complex of card games. Anything that gets kids using higher-order thinking skills is a winner in my book, so I decided to get in touch with a local club.

This led to our very own bridge whizzes, Kevin and Hamish, coming in every Wednesday to teach my P6 class. It didn't take long to dispel any notion that bridge is strictly for the older generation. The game had the children engrossed and now they all fist pump when they see Kevin and Hamish.

There are many benefits. I have found that the game has improved mental agility as the children continually have to count the cards and work out the complicated scoring. Also, the strategic and logical thinking required helps them in maths and in social interactions. I have found, too, that children who struggle in maths have come on leaps and bounds through playing bridge; their confidence in the subject has soared.

Mini-bridge was actually created for educational purposes. Children sit in tables of four, divided into two partnerships. The aim is to win as many tricks from your opponents as you can. Things can get pretty complicated, but we all know that children love a challenge. As one boy, Harry, says: "I feel proud every time I play bridge."

The children love bridge so much that it has become a golden-time activity in school, with my class starting to teach younger children – and this in an age when we are often told that children would happily spend all day on their iPads.

Bridge appeals to children who play computer games. Another pupil, Tommy, says: "I love it because it's tense and you need to be good at strategy games." He even prefers bridge to games on his iPad because he gets to play with his friends.

Many children have taught other family members, and we are determined that this will be a sustainable activity in our school. The children are keen to run an after-school bridge club for members of the local community.

I urge other teachers to give it a go. My children rate each lesson we do and, when asked what they would give bridge, replied: "All the aces – and the trump cards!"

*Anne Hutchison, a teacher at Carmyle Primary in Glasgow, was named teacher of the year at the 2015 Scottish Education Awards.*