

Article for DBC Slam Magazine

Minibridge in Schools

Minibridge was introduced into Claypotts Castle Primary in Dundee in October 2015 by Graham Bullock and a team of helpers drawn from Central District bridge clubs. Graham and his team did a wonderful job, working with pupils from P6 and P7 over lunchtime. This culminated in a successful Minibridge Tournament for Primary schools around Scotland, held in Dundee Bridge Club in March. This has been reported in previous Slam editions.

Minibridge is a form of bridge where the bidding is replaced by players announcing the number of points in their hand, and Declarer, from the pair with most points, decides on seeing Dummy whether to play in NT or a Suit, and also whether to go for Game or Part-score. Play then proceeds as normal. There have been several research studies showing the benefit of bridge learning for young people, and the transferable skills they can bring to help their learning in other subjects.

This school session sees Graham's initiative extended into three Dundee schools: Claypotts Castle Primary on Tuesdays during the lunch break, from 12.35 - 1.15, with a team led by Irene Fyfe; Craigie High on Mondays, 12.20 - 1.10, timetabled into the school day as an Elective for last year's P7 pupils from Claypotts, led by myself; St Peter and Paul's Primary on Thursdays, again in curriculum time, 2.15 - 3.15, led by Graham Bullock. The numbers in each group range from 13 - 18 pupils.

We would love to hear from any Central District members who might be prepared to help any of the above groups (which is why I gave the days and times!). The sessions are informal, with minimum whole-group input, and with one helper looking after each table of four pupils. They play prepared hands, usually 3/4 per session. All adult helpers complete a simple PVG Disclosure form to allow clearance to work with young people. There is no charge for this. If you would be interested in hearing more, or would like to come along and observe a session, please contact Irene, Graham, myself, or Joan as Central District representative. This is not a weekly commitment, as we have flexible rotas to fit in with individual time available. Your involvement can be at just the level that suits you. We still go our holidays!

Anne Griffiths