

Schools Bridge NIBU 2020

Primary Schools

We are teaching in the following Primary Schools which are keen to try it again this year.

Eden PS Carrickfergus

They have 1 P7 class of around 30 pupils. Norma, Pat and Kate will teach with Jamie giving back-up.

St Marys Glengormley

They have 2 P7 classes again this year with around 60 pupils. Anne, Diane, Roberta, John, Jamie and Michael are the tutors.

Both schools are teaching during class time.

Strandtown

Strandtown is running an after schools club with around 20 pupils. Ken, Suzi, Liz and John are our enthusiastic helpers

New Primary Schools 2020

Park Lodge in Belfast

This PS is scheduling classes in teaching hours. They have 3 P7 classes with around 80 Pupils. Danny Brennan has approached this school and opened this door for NIBU. We need volunteers to help here. We have some interest but need more to support the project. Please contact Danny, Norma Irwin or myself if you can help. Teaching starts in January.

Cranmore Integrated PS Finaghy

They have 1 P7 classes starting in January with 30 pupils. Judy, Ray, Hazel, Sean are our team in this school.

Bangor Central Integrated PS

We are starting an after schools club in January. NIBU will run minibridge taster courses to let all the children see what bridge is about. Those who enjoy the game will progress to the after schools club. We need volunteers to support us in Bangor and District as we plan to roll out our program in this area.

Kilrea District

The following PS have been in discussion with James McAllister and have agreed to run Bridge lessons during class time.

Kilrea PS 15 pupils

St Columbas PS 30 pupils

Crossroads PS 18 pupils

Ampertaine PS 30 pupils

James has 2 volunteers to work with him. We really need 8/9 tutors to teach to these schools. If you play regularly at club level and could spare 1 or 2 hours a week on a day that would suit you please get in touch and let us know. Norma Irwin has a format for prepared lessons and NIBU will cover the cost of the equipment for all schools.

Portrush/Portstewart

Tom McKeever has contacted 2PS in this area and they have agreed to join our programme. He has some volunteers but if you are interested in helping please let us know.

Derry Schools

Pat Coull and Philip McAvoy are promoting bridge in Derry. They have contacted the following schools who have expressed interest.

Ebrington PS 60 pupils

Hollybush PS 60 pupils.

We are hopeful that these schools will start this year but again we need helpers. About 10 tutors are needed to cover these schools. We aim to teach for a couple of hours on an agreed day.

Pat has also been talking to Foyle College who are on the same site as Ebrington and would this offer a progression path in Bridge for the Primary children as they move on in their education.

Our Goal

We intend to teach 600 primary school children to learn to play Bridge in 2020.

Post Primary Schools

BRA, Carrickfergus grammar and Bangor GS are still working together and playing inter school competitions. They recently played the Ulster Schools Bridge competition and had a successful day.

16 pairs played at Senior/Intermediate level with a further 15 pairs competing at Novice level.

Bangor Grammar school has asked Sandie and Jeff Millership to come back and help with teaching again. The school plans to relaunch their bridge club under the enthusiastic leadership of Andrew Walker.

Andrew and Sandie are also helping to establish contacts with Bangor PS. We also know of Grammar Schools who have played Bridge before and intend to contact them. We plan to try and rekindle that interest.

Carrickfergus GS teach Bridge as a skill in their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Sandie and Jeff Millership have started a club in St Malachy's College. It has some teething problems and we will try a different approach in January. This is still on a learning curve and when it is working better Dominican College Fortwilliam are ready to join to play bridge.

Ballynahinch Area

These schools work together to build relationships in the Ballynahinch Area. They see the game of Bridge as a bridge which can bring communities together.

Assumption Grammar

St Colmcilles

The High School Ballynahinch

St Colmans

A meeting will be held on 12 December between the Principals of these schools and some of the NIBU team who will teach in the area.

The objectives are

To establish Bridge Clubs in each school.

To set up inter school leagues between the 4 schools

To expand this by subsequently involving local Primary Schools

To use the enthusiasm of the young people as a way to teach their parents about bridge and encourage them to learn to play.

This Post Primary section will allow about 150 young people from Post Primary Schools to enjoy playing bridge. This group are the foundation for future Youth International Players in the NIBU Peggy Bayer and Junior Camrose Teams. These teams play in the Home International Competitions and people from them are chosen to play in wider European Bridge events

Schools bridge will be working with Stirling University which have established a PHD program in Bridge. They have invited NIBU to allow them to conduct research which will enable them to identify the benefits, social and educational, resulting from learning to play Bridge.

NIBU Council is willing to work with any member club to enable them to grow Bridge in their area.

We recently started discussions in Eniskillen, Newcastle and Maghera regarding Schools Bridge