



Wishing all Bridge Clubs across the County a Very Merry Christmas

We would like to start by congratulating all Worcestershire Bridge Clubs for offering the opportunity for people to play bridge. Not only five days of the week, but multiple times per day, both Face to Face and Online. This allows everyone to be included and gives everyone a choice of where and how they play.

What a great county we are, and this would not happen without the many dedicated organizers who give up their time to make it happen.

So, from Worcestershire County Bridge Association, we say thank you.

On another very positive note, our teachers across the county also need to be congratulated, because without them the next wave of Bridge players wouldn't be coming through.

With this in mind, we need all of you to encourage anyone you know that is thinking about learning to play, or anyone you think would enjoy and benefit from learning to play to engage with our teachers.

I have compiled a list below of teachers who cover the areas around the county, but please, if you wish to discuss anything regarding your learning then either contact them directly or talk to Mike Vetch, mike1958v@mail.com or 07812 746204 our Education Lead.

If you are interested in learning, please contact the teachers below

Bewdley Area	Eileen Oakley	eileen@oakleydevelopment.co.uk	07974 743575
Bromsgrove/	Mike Willoughby	mike.willoughby@btinternet.com	0121 447 8283
Redditch Area:	Adam Waide	adamrfwaide@hotmail.co.uk	07531 021650
Bromsgrove/	Eve Doyle	evedoyle@blueyonder.co.uk	07746 789514
Droitwich/Redditch:	Brian Gravelsons	bpgravelsons@gmail.com	
Stourbridge Area:	Dave Philpott	davidjphilpott@aol.com	07598 499910
	Roy Withers	crwithers@sky.com	0121 550 2318
Droitwich/Worcester:	Steve Simmons	stevensimmons2@gmail.com	07982 058467
Worcester area:	Mike Vetch	mike1958v@mail.com	07812 746204
Worcester area	Yvette Waide	yvettewaide@hotmail.com	07581 531371
	Louise Wilson	iwilsoncmk@icloud.com	
Schools in Worcs	Richard Jephcott:	richardjephcott@outsideinsight.co.uk	07831388509

All these contacts can be found on our website under Learning Bridge.

Two courses will be starting in January 2026, one at WI house in Hallow, and one just North of Worcester venue being finalized - please contact Yvette Waide for further information: 07581 531371.

Bridge is played regularly at U3A groups across the county, there are teachers and coaches to help you get started and to improve your game, please look up your local group for more information.

Gentle Bridge: We are running sessions of “gentle bridge” (try-duplicate) at several venues across Worcestershire. These are for players who have been taking lessons, either beginners' course, or a further course and want to continue to improve their bidding and play. The sessions, usually, but not always, run alongside an established bridge club session. Gentle Bridge players play the same boards as the experienced bridge players, but fewer boards are played, so the pace of play is slower. Gradually the speed of play increases, and if the players want, they can transition into the main bridge club and enjoy playing there. The sessions are fun, informative, and sociable. If you want to know more about these sessions, please contact Yvette at yvettewaide@hotmail.com

Malvern Congress: The Malvern Congress was another great success. The Swiss Pairs was won by Daniel McIntosh & Alistair Catchpole. Worcestershire players did well with Pete Cole & Malcolm Hunt finishing 2nd, Nick Forward and Steve Allerston equal 3rd. The Swiss Teams was won by Jack Terry, Ian Walsh, Rob Lawy & Stefan Lindfors. Worcestershire players did well again with John Sansom, Richard Jephcott, Steve Allerston & Nick Forward finishing equal 2nd with Mick Willoughby, Stewart Fishburne, Chris & Joyce Taylor.

Café Bridge – raising money for Stroke Association: In 2025, we have successfully run 3 Café Bridge events in Barnt Green, Pershore and Worcester. We raised over £2,000.00 and had a very enjoyable, sociable game of bridge. Thank you to everyone who organized these events and most of all thank you to the participants who helped raise so much money for such a good cause.



Half Term Children’s Introduction to Bridge: This was an initiative from Bewdley Bridge Club. It was an incredibly successful day; with 16 children participating in the morning and 11 in the afternoon. They all had a taste of using the Bridge Mates, scoring, playing NT hands and in a suit contract. They showed maturity and respect for their younger players and, as one of the children said in delight after winning some tricks. **‘Victory is ours!’** and that was how the day felt for all the organizers.

Bewdley Bridge Club intends to continue the theme of Introducing Children to Bridge by offering another day during February Half Term and once a month promoting a Family Bridge session. All these up-and-coming events can be found on the Bewdley website or contact Eileen Oakley 07974 743575.

Bridge in Cafes: In January 2026, you will start seeing bridge being played across the county in local cafes to promote the game. Players in Bewdley, Bromsgrove (Barnt Green, Aston Fields), Pershore and Worcester will be enjoying coffee, cake and a chat whilst playing a few hands of Bridge. This initiative is to promote and make people aware of our local clubs and what we have to offer to both new players and people coming back into this game. Please support this if you can.

Bridge in Schools: Attracting children’s interest at a young age could lead to some fabulous players for the future, and the future of the game. Both Kings School Worcester and RGS Worcester have had introductory sessions facilitated by Richard Croot of EBED and Richard Jephcott. We are hoping to start small bridge clubs in the New Year as a result. King Edwards of Stourbridge are also due to have the same introductory session in January 2026. In addition to these Schools, Pershore High and Bromsgrove School have also been approached.

Please check our website Worcestershire contract bridge association for upcoming competitions

Wishing you all a Happy New Year