

Teachers at the YBC, all members of the English Bridge Teacher Association (EBTA), listed below are:

- passionate about bridge and want to instil this enthusiasm in others
- passionate about teaching and are very good communicators
- enthusiastic bridge players at their own levels



***Mike Barnard***

I started playing knockout whist as a young boy (many years ago!), then on to partner whist, and then bridge at university. Until 2019, I played mostly social bridge, and then I started playing duplicate twice a week with the u3a. I joined York Bridge Club in 2022 and currently play two or three times a week. Before I retired, I worked in IT where I had the opportunity to do some technical teaching, including speaking at conferences. In 2023 I started assisting Andrew and John with the classes they run and really enjoyed it. So I've taken the leap and done the teaching bridge course run by the national body EBTA and I'm now looking forward to starting to teach my first course in summer 2024.



***James Carpenter***

I've been a keen bridge player since learning to play at school back when the world was young. Having been a member of York Bridge Club for almost as long, I'm pleased to be joining the club's teaching team to help grow the membership. I am a qualified Tournament Director, regularly running sessions at York, and a member of the EBU national TD panel. I've had some modest successes as a player, twice obtaining gold points, although I've never won a food processor [cf. Iain Crockatt's bio]. As a keen reader, I've always enjoyed studying the game, and I look forward to sharing my experience and knowledge with aspiring players.



***Azizah Clayton***

Azizah has spent her working life teaching and lecturing; the passion to share knowledge has always been paramount in her life. Having taken up the game of bridge late in her retirement, she quickly acquired a teaching qualification with the EBED. She initiated the "Bridge into Schools" project with a group of YBC buddies (helpers), which came to a halt because of Covid. However, the lockdown gave her an opportunity to start some teaching in the online Play and Learn sessions; and becoming a trustee of YBC gave her the opportunity to take a lead in organising the teaching scheme at the YBC. The YBC is planning to make our teaching delivery second to none – a huge task and an exciting one.



***Iain Crockatt***

My Grandmother, a keen player and YBC member, taught me to play bridge when I was a teenager, which means I haven't been playing long 😊 ... well, it isn't if you take out the 20 odd years I didn't play much, too busy with work and child raising 😊. I achieved some moderate success in my youth, 2<sup>nd</sup> in an U25 national pairs (I got to meet the great Rixi Markus) and I once won a food processor – yes! A food processor! – beating a field which included internationals of the day (in fact, my partner went on to represent Scotland). Anyway, I'm playing again now and I can't believe how quickly I've fallen back in love with the game. Let me see if I can get you to enjoy the game as much as I do.



### ***Morris Gregory***

Morris is the third of our new recruits. Morris was introduced to bridge during his student days but it wasn't until retiring that he returned to the game. Through the excellent tuition received at York Bridge Club he discovered what he had been taught previously was well out of date and needed to be relearned. Now, just a few years later, he enjoys playing in club sessions and taking part in league and other competitions. Morris is keen to build upon that experience by becoming part of the teaching team. When not playing bridge Morris likes to immerse himself in photography and to keep active through playing table tennis.



### ***John Guest***

John has been playing Bridge since the age of 10 and serious Bridge for the last 20 years. He started offering a revision and improvement class for intermediate standard players in 2017 and also looks after the Monday evening "Improvers" session for the club. He is a wonderful bridge teacher, an excellent communicator and has the patience of a saint. He will be delivering "Revise your ACOL" and "Extend your ACOL" over the winter of 2023/24.



### ***Linda Kitchen***

Bridge and bridges, in many guises, have featured in my life for over fifty years. First as a Civil Engineer involved in the design and construction of Motorway bridges; then – after a period of raising children – the inspection, repair and replacement of Railway bridges. My introduction to the *game* of Bridge was in a design office, where I was often invited to make up a fourth when the "lads" were missing a player for lunch break bridge. Hence, I was never taught properly. Fast forward to retirement: I learned to play Bridge at very good classes provided by The York Bridge Club. Thus began a new Bridge challenge! That was some seven years ago and I am still learning. It is a brilliant game and I am keen to encourage, teach and help others to learn and increase their enjoyment in a sociable and social environment.



### ***Ruth Mattingly***

My working life consisted of two very different careers. Firstly I joined Harrods as a trainee buyer where I discovered a love of shopping but left when I had my son. Secondly when my son started school I retrained as a social worker and became a team manager of a Child Protection Team in London. Then my husband and I moved to York 28 years ago when I became a Guardian *ad Litem* [expert independent child witness in local authority care proceedings] working for the Lord Chancellor's Dept. My interests are mostly in music; I belong to 3 different choirs and I am learning to play the saxophone. I first learned to play bridge when I retired. I absolutely loved it, got hooked and started teaching bridge to a York U3A group, which sadly ended with Covid lockdown. I am thrilled to have done the Teacher Training course in 2022 and I look forward to being part of the YBC teaching team and sharing my enthusiasm and love of bridge as well as making good friends.



### ***Andrew Merrison***

Andrew was taught Bridge in 1985 by his A-level Physics teacher (13+ points to open, strong 2s, and a variable No Trump). In 1986, he founded the Bridge Club at Trent Polytechnic and subsequently attended Junior Camps of the World Bridge Federation in 1987 (The Netherlands) and 1989 (Poland). In 1989, Andrew was one of the very first four recipients of the WBF Youth Awards. As well as lecturing in Linguistics for over 20 years (Conversation Analysis, Social Inter-Action, Semantics and Pragmatics), he also regularly taught extra-curricular Bridge. Andrew only joined YBC in June 2022, but since then he has certainly played A LOT (more sessions than there have been days of play) – and already with over 80 members! He has been a committed committee member since 2022 and represents YBC in both face-to-face and online Yorkshire Leagues. He is also a (pretty competent) viola player. He (currently) owns 19 animal-face T-shirts. Oh – he also has a diagnosis of autism (surprised?).



### ***David Moore***

David spent his working life as a university teacher. He took up bridge as a beginner about 9 years ago. He runs “Assisted Play” sessions at the bridge club, which is immensely popular with learners. He is another of our newest teacher recruit. He has a dry sense of humour, which makes his lessons fun and friendly. He has been part of the “Bridge in Schools” project. He also worked as a tennis coach for many years before old age took over.

## ***Mentors***

In addition, we have “mentors”, club members who are not teachers. Mark Dunkley has been busy matching up learners and “mentors” who partner learners at “Improvers” sessions on Monday evenings and at other “Social” sessions.

They guide learners who come to duplicate bridge from their learners’ courses to give them confidence outside of the class environment.

Learners who would like the guidance of a mentor please get in touch with [secretary@theyorkbridgeclub.com](mailto:secretary@theyorkbridgeclub.com)