



# Setting Up A School Bridge Club

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Bridge Improves Results in Other Subjects

Dennis Backer – Youth Bridge, Welsh Bridge Union

# Why have a Bridge Club?

Bridge develops a very wide range of skills

Academic

Counting, Mental arithmetic,  
Calculation of probabilities

Problem-solving

Analysis, Reasoning, Planning,  
Testing/Observation/Re-planning

But it's much broader than that:

Memory

Teamwork, Communication & Collaboration

Respect for others

Putting yourself in other people's shoes

Welcomed for DoE Award, hobby for Cubs/Brownies

➤ Learning bridge improves results in other subjects

... and Bridge is fun!

# What can we do to Help?

We can provide:

Volunteer bridge teachers & helpers

Free training for your school teachers

‘Taster sessions’ as a toe in the water – see next slide

Useful stuff for schools: packs of cards, results charts, ...

Useful stuff for learners: websites on which to play,  
Young Bridge magazine, ...

Useful stuff for teachers: Resource Pack, set hands,  
MiniBridge handouts, web membership, ... & lots more

Competitions: within your school,  
Welsh Schools Cup, inter-area matches;  
National Junior Award Scheme

# Free MiniBridge Taster Sessions

Varies by school, but usually we run a MiniBridge intro for all pupils in one year:

- A double lesson for each class
- A bridge teacher takes 3 consecutive classes
- Info provided for pupils and parents if helpful

Bridge Club starts the term after Taster Session

Needs a school teacher to act as champion for both  
Taster Session & Bridge Club

# Further Information

## Dennis Backer

Youth Bridge, Welsh Bridge Union

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## Useful websites

WBU Junior Bridge    <https://juniors.welshbridgeunion.org/>

Bridge4Kids            [www.bridge4kids.co.uk/](http://www.bridge4kids.co.uk/)

Bridge4Schools        [www.bridgewebs.com/bridge4schools/](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridge4schools/)

# Bridge Improves Results in Other Subjects

Research 2001-04 in US by Christopher Shaw

101 students, 15 of whom learned bridge

Given Iowa Standard Test of Basic Skills (ITSB):

measures how skills are improving with age

‘Bridge kids’ scores improved much more than rest:

Science	39.3% more
Maths	24.2% more
Social Studies	22.7% more
Reading	20.7% more
Language	13.4% more