



## **Introducing Minibridge in Schools**

### **Introduction**

The Cutler Trust, the charity of the Makers of Playing Cards Livery Company, has agreed to work with the English Bridge Educational Development charity (EBED) and the English Bridge Union (EBU) to introduce Minibridge into junior and secondary schools. This note summarises the concept of Minibridge and the benefit opportunities for school children.

### **What is Minibridge?**

Minibridge, a simplified version of Bridge, is an introduction to Duplicate Contract Bridge. It was developed in and introduced to the UK from the Netherlands. In Minibridge, the 52 cards in the pack are dealt equally to four players, playing in two partnerships. Each player has initially to calculate the value of his cards. The partnership with the largest value determines the trump suit and contract to make a certain number of tricks, before playing out the hand.

Accordingly it is a partnership activity that helps children to cooperate, share information and combine as a team to win against the opposition.

### **Educational Advantages of Minibridge**

Independent studies have shown that Minibridge helps children with many aspects of their development including teaching aspects of:

- (a) Maths, especially basic numeracy, working with unknown numbers and probability.
- (b) Thinking skills, both logical and lateral thinking, handling key data, strategic reasoning and problem solving.
- (c) Communication skills, by asking relevant questions, justifying actions, listening and responding and participating in group discussion, and
- (d) Social and emotional aspects of learning, such as negotiating, taking turns, handling pressure, coping with winning and losing, complying with rules, and trusting a partner's decisions.

### **Introducing Minibridge into Schools**

The EBED have experienced Facilitator Bridge Players who run introductory training sessions for schools. The Cutler Trust has agreed to fund the availability of this training at selected schools or groups of schools.

These introductory sessions can be aimed at Teachers, Parents, Educators or Administrators who are interested in bringing Minibridge into schools. They can involve interested Pupils and consequently it is hoped that initial demonstration sessions can be included as well.

Already Minibridge has been introduced variously within the school curriculum, as part of "after school clubs" and as extra curriculum activities.

### **Further information**

For more details about Minibridge please look at the EBED website [www.ebedcio.org.uk](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk) or at <http://www.ebu.co.uk/minibridge/educational-implications>

To find out more about arrangements for these introductory training sessions, contact either Mark Ladd of the Makers of Playing Cards Company at [mandrladd@btinternet.com](mailto:mandrladd@btinternet.com), or Simon Barb of the EBU Education Charity at [simon@ebedcio.org.uk](mailto:simon@ebedcio.org.uk)

### **Postscript**

Minibridge has been established in a number of schools for many years now such that there are annual inter-schools competitions for Minibridge as part of the EBU Young Bridge Challenge. The Makers of Playing Cards Company are providing prizes to the winners of this competition.