



Kent school to receive a visit from a member of the House of Lords

CHILDREN as young as 6 and 7 are being encouraged to play cards in class to help them improve their Mathematics and English.

A three year initiative devised by the English Bridge Union (EBU) has seen youngsters learn to play Minibridge; a trick taking game similar to whist as part of the school curriculum or after school clubs.

Kent teacher at Pembury School, Mrs Cindy Cole, has been teaching Year 5 and 6 pupils on how to play this game since September and on 8 July 2010 the children will have a very special visit from a member of the House of Lords - Lord Skelmersdale. During his visit the children will show him Minibridge and discuss the various skills they have gained from the game.

Lord Skelmersdale is a member of the All Party Parliamentary Bridge group and the House of Lords bridge team, and has taken a keen interest in the many benefits of Minibridge for children.

A recent study commissioned by the EBU showed that bridge and Minibridge improved pupils' skills in numeracy, problem solving, probability, team building and much more. It also has a number of links to the National Curriculum.

The study was welcomed by government ministers who believe innovations such as Minibridge "are to be encouraged."

Mrs Cole said: "I am really looking forward to introducing Lord Skelmersdale to the children and letting them show how much they enjoy Minibridge. I've seen the children gain very important skills from the game, and this initiative has been very important to the school."

Later in the year, some of the pupils will be invited to the House of Lords for a tour and to meet some of the other bridge playing MPs and Lords.

Press

We would like to invite press to come to the school from 2.30pm, so that they can meet Lord Skelmersdale, Mrs Cole and the children, and see them play. Photos can be taken during the session. Pembury School is at: Lower Green Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2. Please contact **Matt Betts**, the EBU's press and communications officer, on **01296 317 200/07723307674** or email **Matt@ebu.co.uk** for more information and to attend.

Minibridge?

A study commissioned by the EBU showed that Minibridge taught skills in numeracy, problem solving, probability, speaking, listening, rule following, team building, mental capacity and much more. Finally, the game has a number of good links to the National Curriculum. Primary Schools who want to take part in this free initiative should visit: www.ebu.co.uk/minibridge for more information.

About the English Bridge Union

The English Bridge Union was formed on 23 May 1936 and is a non-profit making membership-funded organisation committed to promoting the game of duplicate bridge. It is also a National Bridge Organisation in its own right affiliated to the European Bridge League and the World Bridge Federation. New players are the lifeblood of the game and the EBU are keen to encourage them. For more information on the English Bridge Union please visit: www.ebu.co.uk/media/pressresources.htm

Who plays bridge?

Microsoft chairman Bill Gates, tennis legend Martina Navratilova, actor Omar Sharif and the world's top investor, Warren Buffett...to name just four. In this country an estimated 150,000 people play bridge regularly in hundreds of clubs in cities, towns and villages up and down the land.