



PRESS RELEASE

Fun way for children to develop their maths will be introduced to primary schools

Primary school teachers are to be given the opportunity to develop their pupils' maths skills further by introducing MiniBridge. The three year initiative has been set up by the English Bridge Union (EBU) through their youth and education charitable trust after a donation from the Milton Damerel Trust.

The EBU's initiative comes at an exciting time for maths education after a Government review promised to ensure that every UK primary school has a maths specialist in the next ten years. Sir Peter Williams, the review's author, said that 'teaching reforms were needed to ensure that every child left primary school without a fear of maths, having mastered the basics by the age of 7.' The review also recommended a greater focus on making maths fun by using games – such as MiniBridge - to apply mathematical concepts.

As well as developing schoolchildren in their mathematical abilities, MiniBridge improves their social skills too. A study commissioned by the EBU at St Paul's School in Manchester showed that bridge and MiniBridge taught skills in numeracy, problem solving, probability, speaking, listening, education, rule following, team building, mental capacity and much more. At the time of the study, David Miliband, then Minister of State for Schools Standards said, 'Innovations such as MiniBridge are to be encouraged...it was a pleasure to witness primary school children's complete concentration, whilst so obviously enjoying playing a game that is proven to improve their school learning ability.'

The EBU project team will be led by General Manager, Barry Capal and will look at the most effective distribution of the funds and involve the schools. Mr Capal said, 'I am very excited by this project. MiniBridge is a fantastically enjoyable way for all children to improve their maths skills and I am pleased that children are going to be given this opportunity.'

For further information on this press release and interviews with EBU personnel, please contact Matt Betts, Communications Officer on 01296 317 200 or by email, Matt@ebu.co.uk.

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Notes to editors:

Press

Further information on the EBU, MiniBridge and bridge can be found at the Media section of our website, please click [here](#). Pictures of bridge playing can also be provided.

About the EBU Youth and Education Trust

The EBU's Youth and Education Trust was created in 2008 to advance the education of young people in the game of bridge and to help them develop their skills. For more information on the Y&E Trust or to donate, please click [here](#).

About Bridge

Bridge is one of the most enduring and popular games in the world; for over 100 years, people of all types and from all walks of life have been fascinated by the game. It is one of the most popular leisure activities in Britain, with around 300,000 people playing on a regular basis. Bridge is a trick-taking card game of skill and chance. It is played by four players who form two partnerships (sides); the partners sit opposite each other at a table. The game consists of the auction (often called bidding) and play, after which the hand is scored. Please click [here](#) for more information on bridge.

About the English Bridge Union

The English Bridge Union Limited (EBU) is a 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

