


School and Youth bridge

Engaging and Retaining Learners

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By: Marianne Harding, Norwegian Bridge Federation

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Myth 1 – Youngsters are not interested in learning bridge

- Truth: Most youngsters today don't know what bridge is, and thus has no prerequisite to say if they want to learn bridge or not.
- Once they try (mini) bridge, most of them love it.

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Myth 2 – Bridge is only for the smart kids

- Kids striving with maths or other school subject will benefit immensely from learning bridge
- Excellent model for exploring mathematics, also learning basic terms to catch up
- And of course: Smart kids will love the endless challenge of bridge.
- Truth: Bridge is for everyone!

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Myth 3 – Kids prefer video games

- Truth: Sure, they like videogames. Kids today have all different kinds of gadgets. That's not very special to them.
- If you spend time with them playing a game that *you* love, *that is special*, and they will absolutely love it.

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Our bridge group



- Marianne Harding (44), two kids (6,10)
- Learned bridge at age 11
- Worked for the Norwegian federation since 2009.


- 1) Kill three myths
- 2) Present our ideas and work in progress
- 3) Highlight key opportunities and challenges
- 4) Give you a challenge

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Reasons to play bridge – the package


- Socialiser (joy) – Mind Gamer (curiosity)
- Competitor (excitement) – self-improver (mastering)

Raison d'être bridge – Marianne (international player)



- Competition
- Social (social connection, observe people)
- External Incitements (travel)
- Self-improvement

Reason to play bridge – random 12 year old



- Competition
- Social (social connection, interactions, observations)
- External incitements (food, camps etc)
- Self-improvement

- If 75 % of a 12 year olds reason to play are reasons outside the game itself, we have to do more than just teach bridge technique

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Strategies NBF


1. Presence in school – all levels:
 1. Spread knowledge about bridge in the population
 2. Gain credibility
2. Build cells/environments around existing junior members
3. Educate juniors in organizational work (bridge teachers, TDs, board members)
4. Host junior events throughout the year



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Start dedicated junior clubs

- 2 hour bridge introduction in class(es). Every pupil + teacher present
- A folder with informational material to parents
- Invite everyone to an event on a specific day and time: Introduction night in the junior bridge club, serve some pizza etc
- Preparation: Build organization, get volunteers
- Challenge: Tune in the right social frame and learning progress to retain players



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Bridge Mini Summer Camps



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Key challenges

- Challenge 1: Prejudices and myths amongst bridge players
- Challenge 2: Missed one generation. Our members are too old to teach their kids, they are already grandparents
- Challenge 3: Building organizations for juniors: Challenging, time consuming, but utterly necessary
- Challenge 4: Implementing the right learning method/progress and social frame to retain learners.




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Ministry of Education Norway:

- «We can see that teaching bridge could be beneficial for students at all levels in school» January 2020.
- Teachers may choose their own methods for teaching the learning points in the curriculum
- Although definitely one of our main goals, it is not imperative to NBF to get bridge into the curriculum, as long as we may have short introduction classes during school hours

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Bridge into the curriculum

 <p>Primary school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own and run by <i>municipality</i> • A few private schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary school: Our main strategy is to fit introduction classes during school hours, and start after school activities. Offer bridge teacher.
 <p>Secondary school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own and run by <i>municipality</i> • Elective subjects – selection decided by Ministry of Education (MoE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary school: Work in progress to get bridge as elective subject. BAMSA could help with research design to test effects.
 <p>High school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own and run by the <i>county</i> • More freedom of choice. If you choose Top Sports, bridge may be your sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School: From august 2021 Top-level sports 1 Bridge (IDR3013, curriculum code IDR05-02)

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Key opportunities I


- Schools and governing bodies are positive to bridge
- **Bridge Top-level sports:** Getting bridge into the curriculum as an elective subject in high school from 2021
- Digital classes allowing students from all parts of Norway to participate



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Key opportunities II

- Enormous potential in teaching juniors to organize their own bridge events and run their own bridge clubs
- Trained to be bridge teachers, TDs and board members
- Hoping to expand this project to other countries



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Useful BAMSA research for getting bridge into schools

- Robust reasearch designs that can easily be applied to trials in schools – ideally designed to be used in several countries
- In what way will learning bridge affect learning processes in general?
- Will learning bridge enhance any of these skills: Social interaction, communication, empathy?
- Will learning bridge have an effect on abilities to problem solving in general, or improve test results?


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Our top tips for organizers wanting bridge in school hours

1. Read the curriculum – find learning points bridge may support
2. Write a curriculum for bridge. Use use the right format and terms
3. Be patient: build the organization before starting
4. Offer the full package: Game, friends, travel

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A four hour challenge for you: Try it!



- **Study the curriculum.** Besides helping the kids to learn dynamic problem solving, communication, cooperation, fair play, logical interference; find specific paragraphs where bridge can assist learning, and use these in the communication with the school principal
- **Contact your local school,** make an appointment with the principals: the bridge club has a special offer this month, a 2 hour free bridge course for the kids aged 11-12. These are the benefits: a,b,c
- **Find helpers,** local voluntairs, 1 pr 4 kids. Train them briefly.
- Run a **2 hour** mini-bridge course. Ask what the kids think.

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