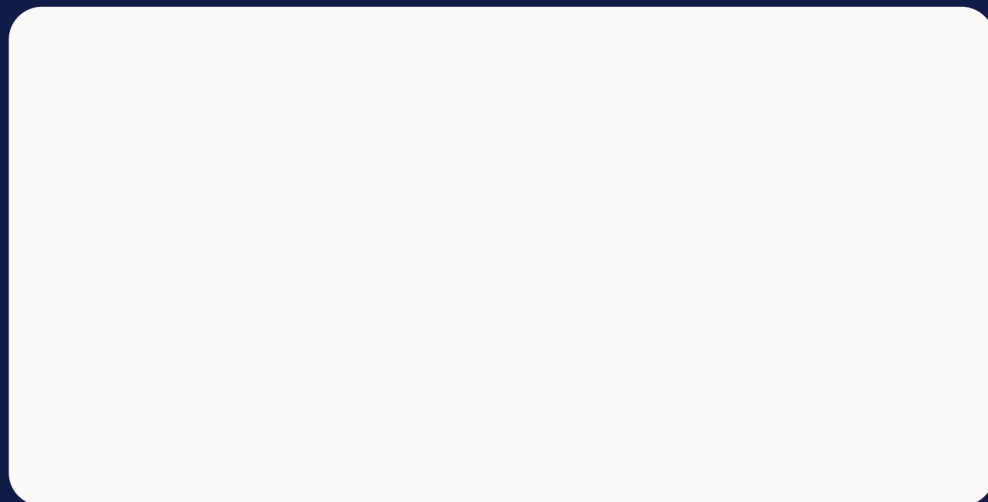


Play Bridge

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Join us - Bridge is for everyone!



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Bridge + Friendship + Fun = Happy Life + Healthy Brain

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4 People + Pack of Cards = Game of Bridge



'Oh thank Heavens! A fourth!'

Presenter Victoria Coren Mitchell has been playing Bridge since childhood: *Sporadically, enthusiastically and badly(!)*, she claims. *It is a really wonderful game, rich with twists and complexities that requires a modicum of effort but definitely rewards it. Like poker – which I'm better at – it is a coded conversation, a formal dance of a game, constantly stimulating and intriguing. Especially if you're good at remembering which suit is trumps.*

If you want to understand the appeal of bridge you only need to look at the notable names who are advocates of this compellingly addictive card game. Legendary heart-throb and bridge aficionado Omar Sharif, for example, was famous for declaring: *Acting is my profession; bridge is my passion.*

It's a sentiment echoed by Blur bassist Alex James: *Bridge is utterly compulsive once it has a hold of you; It isn't too hard to learn and the joy is that you can actually start enjoying it before you get very good. The big problem is that very soon after you start, you want to be brilliant, he adds.*

Partnership
North-South play against East-West

Count your points
Ace = 4, King = 3, Queen = 2, Jack = 1
12 points to open the bidding
6 points to reply to partner



But you don't have to be a celebrity to enjoy the game... Rachel, who plays in Winchester, says: *Bridge is a game that never repeats itself, keeps you thinking and learning, can be played at all levels, with players of any age, from all walks of life - that's the excitement of Bridge!*



In England, competitive Bridge is run by the English Bridge Union with local county information available on its website. Gordon Rainsford, the organisation's Chief Executive, encourages everyone to give the game a go. *There are plenty of opportunities to learn the game with willing volunteers in the County Bridge Associations being able to point aspiring players in the right direction, he says. There are also lots of ways to learn online. Whichever route, or combination of routes, is chosen, players will learn a game which will give them enjoyment and friendship for the rest of their lives.*



Why play Bridge?

- *It's great fun!*
- *Improve your logic, memory and lateral thinking*
- *You make new friends*
- *It breaks the age barrier*
- *You can play all round the world*
- *It's cheap and portable. You just need a pack of cards or your computer*

