



NSW BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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To whom it may concern,

There is a perception in the community that bridge is a game for retirees, but in reality, some of Australia's best players are under 25.¹ Although many people do take up bridge later in life, either after retirement or when they have lost a spouse, almost universally these people lament that they didn't learn the game in their teens. As with most pursuits in life, the earlier you learn bridge, the easier you find it and the more proficient you become.

A representative of your local bridge club has contacted you with a proposal to teach your interested pupils to play bridge. Many of your students probably already enjoy playing card games such as 500, and would relish the opportunity to learn bridge with a group of their peers. RDFZ, one of China's top High Schools for boys and girls aged 13-18, has some 4000 students. Of these, over 20% choose to learn bridge as one of the many extracurricular activities offered.²

As bridge appeals to people of all ages and from all religions and socio-economic groups, bridge clubs represent one of the most egalitarian sections of the Australian community. Bridge is a cheap form of entertainment and many clubs allow students to play at reduced rates. As such, playing bridge represents a great opportunity for your students to become an active member of your local community and improve their social skills.

And there may be long term benefits. There is an increasing number of reports that suggest that mental exercise is an important factor in preventing or delaying the onset of some forms of dementia.^{3,4}

Although I am not in a position to comment on the teaching qualifications of the person who has contacted you, I strongly recommend that you give this opportunity serious consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Warren Lazer
Councillor of NSWBA

¹ <http://www.abf.com.au/marketing/docs/GoldCoastBulletin2012.pdf>

² <http://www.worldbridge.org/categories/juniors/varia/BridgeInChinaSchool.pdf>

³ http://www.mar-amta.org/pr/pdf/Mind_Games.pdf

⁴ http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/22/health/research/22brain.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0