



2026 EDUCATION PATHWAY

TOOWONG BRIDGE CLUB

THE INTRODUCTION

People play bridge in a club because it offers a structured, fair and social environment in which the game can be learned and enjoyed at its best. Clubs offer organized sessions where learning is encouraged and skill is developed through fair competition.

A strong teaching programme introduces new players to the game, through face-to-face learning, supports improving players through guided play and mentoring and provides ongoing learning opportunities for established members. In doing so, it facilitates and strengthens partnerships, builds confidence and ensures long-term sustainability of both the club and the game.

THE HISTORY

For many years Toowong Bridge Club has and will continue delivering beginners lessons twice a year. This is central to attracting new members, the lifeblood of the club, and to addressing the wider challenge facing the game of bridge of long-term sustainability in the context of an ageing membership.

THE VISION

Moving into a new era the current management committee has a vision of establishing a reputation for Toowong as an Education Hub & Centre for Excellence. To bring this vision to life a new pathway has been created.

THE PATHWAY

The Club utilizes the award-winning Joan Butts Bridge course to deliver beginner lessons and beyond. However, instead of an 8-week course as previously offered by the club, a 4-week course will be offered with the aim of simplifying the material and getting beginners PLAYING AND HAVING FUN.

The Learning Pathway is:

- Bridge In a Day/A Taste for Bridge (offered from time to time)
- 4-week Beginner lessons continuing immediately on with

- Help with Play sessions for a minimum 6 month
- Improver/Intermediate Lessons as per Joan Butts Curriculum
- Supervised Play (random boards)
- Laugh & Learn (a session running parallel to Friday Afternoon Casual session where new players will see people enjoying a game of duplicate and gain familiarity with the mechanics of the duplicate environment)
- Optional Buddy System
- Mentoring for those interested in exploring alternative systems and conventions can do so under the guidance of the mentoring team after they have mastered the basics
- Advanced lessons will be offered periodically
- Open Club Sessions & Events

If players of extreme aptitude or ability are identified, a fast-tracked programme will be available.

THE RATIONALE FOR THE NEW PATHWAY

All new beginners will be taught the same material by the teaching team. This consistency avoids confusion and makes it much easier for players to find compatible partners. One of the main reasons people stop playing is difficulty finding a partner or systemic misunderstandings and this very deliberate structured approach to Help with Play is designed to remove those barriers and support long-term participation and enjoyment.

THE 2026 PROGRAMME

Toowong Bridge Club is delighted to launch the new short format 4-week Beginner Course on 24 February with new teaching personnel. There will be another Beginners Course later in the year. Details will be announced on the website. For further information, please contact the Chair of the Education Committee: Sherrell Cardinal Tel: 0409 529 319 (please text first) Email: sherrellcardinal@me.com

All beginners are welcome. No-one is too old or too young to learn! Come and be part of our community.