

VOLUNTEERING WITH THE U3A BRIDGE GROUP

At the heart of the u3a ethos "by ourselves, for ourselves" we are a dedicated team of volunteers supporting u3a Bridge players and clubs across the UK. Led by Steve Carter, Bridge Advisor for the Third Age Trust, we believe that "many hands make light work." We are always eager to welcome new volunteers to help us run and grow the group.

What Skills and Knowledge Do You Need to Volunteer?

- **Passion for Bridge:** A love for the game and a desire to help others enjoy it.
- **Time:** Whether you can spare a little or a lot, every bit of time you give makes a difference.
- **No Need to Be an Expert:** You don't need to be a top player or a Bridge teacher to contribute. Enthusiasm and a willingness to help are what matter most!

Roles Available for Volunteers

1. Mentors

- Support online classes by attending Real Bridge sessions, where you'll sit with a group of four players and offer guidance. We provide you with a copy of hands with a commentary in advance of each session. Don't worry if you're new to mentoring—being "one step ahead" is perfectly fine!

2. Helpers

- Assist new players unfamiliar with online play. You'll help them get started with Real Bridge in the early weeks, ensuring everyone has a smooth experience.

3. Administrative and Technical Support

- Help us with essential tasks such as:
 - Keeping online records up to date
 - Sending emails and promoting events
 - Assisting with meetings and managing the website

4. Bridge Teachers

- We especially welcome u3a members who teach Bridge, either face to face or online. Some volunteer to make presentations, while others contribute behind the scenes by designing programmes, selecting hands, and advising on course materials.

5. Tournament Directors

- If you're experienced in running online duplicate Bridge, we need your expertise to set up play sessions, score games, and manage competitions for the group.

What Are the Rewards of Volunteering?

- **Making a Difference:** Volunteering lets you contribute to a cause you enjoy while helping others experience the joy of Bridge.

- **Personal Growth:** Volunteering can deepen your own understanding of Bridge. As the saying goes, "You never really know a subject until you teach it." Many of our Mentors have found that teaching others helps them improve their own game.
- **Access to Learning Materials:** Mentors receive free access to No Fear Bridge materials and can study and play hands for free on Real Bridge.
- **A Vibrant Community:** Volunteers meet bi-monthly to discuss programmes, share ideas, debate options and engage in stimulating conversations. It's a great opportunity to be part of a supportive, lively network.

How to Become a Volunteer

Simply fill out and submit the volunteer form, and we'll get in touch to discuss available roles and see what would suit you best.