6.4 FROM COURSE TO CLUB

One of the main problems for bridge clubs is how to make people taking bridge courses to start coming to the club’s competitions. This is true for juniors too. The process of going from the course to start playing at the local bridge club is long and complicated. For some, it may need a few weeks, but for many it takes years or does not happen at all.

First of all, we must show **patience**, and we must realize that our efforts here are **long-term**.

The juniors from a course will not want to try and compete until:

1. They think they know enough about bridge, and
2. Have started to like the game so much that they want to test themselves

There are methods to make this process go quicker.

One activity is the “Pizza Bridge,” which has been mention under 6-3. It may motivate them to come to the club after school. Another similar thing is to arrange small training camps for a group of juniors, where they can meet, play, and have fun together.

It may also work very well to send them to the spring and autumn training camps arranged by the Swedish Bridge Federation. The junior living arranged during the Bridge Festival is another possibility.

In short, make sure they have fun when they play bridge. Once they start playing regularly, you will have to find out how to inspire them to start playing junior competitions more actively.