

Bridge (Beginners and Social Class)

A course for complete beginners, those wanting a refresher, or to learn a bidding system (ACOL). Social Bridge for those wanting to play Chicago or Rubber Bridge or needing to practise to improve their skills in order to join the Duplicate Group or a local club.

1. Introduction and mini bridge.
2. 1NT opening and responses including Stayman.
3. 1 of a suit opening (rule of 20) and responses.
4. Pre-emptive openings and responses.
5. Overcalling.
6. Doubles.
7. Opening leads.
8. Weak 2s (2D, 2H and 2S).
9. Strong 2s (2C and 2NT) (recap).
10. Slam bidding including Blackwood (and Roman Keycard Blackwood).
11. Splinters.
12. Signals and Discards.
13. Losing Trick Count.
14. Bridge scoring.
15. Other systems mentioned e.g. 5 card majors.
16. Opening 3rd or 4th in hand when others have passed.
17. 'Beware of the danger man'.

Bridge Intermediate Class

Follow on from Beginners. Revision of modern style ACOL and several conventions using a course book, presentations and set-hand duplicate style play with the aim of improving confidence and experience. No partner necessary.

The course book used is 'The Right Way to Play Bridge' by Paul Mendelson. Also used are the 'No Fear Bridge Cribsheet', books by Andrew Robson, and Bernard Magee DVDs. Sessions are normally a presentation followed by set hand play with much talking. The presentations are available after the session, including ones from previous years. The course is about to start again.

1. Hand Evaluation: HCP, Length points, Fit shortage points, SQOT, Losing Trick Count.
2. Opening 1NT, 1 suit, Light opening.
3. 1NT response: Limit raises, Weak Take outs, Strong hands, Stayman.
4. 1 suit response: New suit, Support suit, NT response, Jump Shift.
5. Rebid: Balanced, Limit raises, 1 suited, 2 suited, 3 suited. Reverse. 4441 hands. Major suit Trial bids, Minor suit stopper showing bids.
6. Responder's rebid: Showing preference, Game? Fourth suit forcing, Reverses.
7. Pre-emptive openings: Weak 3, Weak 4, Responses.
8. Strong opening: 2NT and responses, 2C and responses, Strong 2 openings and responses.
9. Overcalls: Simple, vulnerability, responses. Jump overcalls, Pre-emptive overcalls, 1NT overcall, Unusual NT overcall.
10. Doubles: Take out, Penalty, Negative/Re-opening and responses.
11. Unassuming Cue bid. Michaels Cue-bid. Redoubles.
12. Slams: Jump Shift, Blackwood, Keycard Blackwood, Roman Keycard Blackwood.
13. Quantitative NT, Gerber in NT only, Cue-bids.
14. Other Conventions: Modified Baron over 2NT.
15. Balancing and Deferred Kings.
16. Play: opening lead. Tricks by force, length. Frozen suits. Finesse.

17. Signalling: Attitude on opening ace. Discard.
18. Transfers.
19. Weak 2 (in the majors), Benji.
20. Splinters. Pudding raises. Deferred game raises.
21. Conventions generally. Alerting and Announcing. Stop card. Etiquette. Scoring.
22. Travellers. Score cards. Making a system card. (Movements).

Bridge Masterclass

Improve your Defence and Declarer play to make extra tricks that count. A structured approach to difficult hands. Competitive bidding strategies, useful conventions. Set hands. Partners not necessary.

Good Defence

Establish that correct STANDARD leads are known and used in order to have a good defence.

Discards and Signals – STANDARD – High encouraging – in order to play all the set hands for this course.

Variations of Signals and Discards.

Good Declarer Play

Managing trumps. Ruffing losers, drawing trumps. Avoidance play. Setting up a long suit.

Ducking as declarer. Strip and throw in end play. Safety play. Card reading and inferences.

Bidding

Bid your hand in the Correct Way.

Doubles of ALL TYPES. Responding to partner's double. Counteracting opponents' doubles.

Cue bidding for slams. Fourth suit forcing. Directional asking bids.

Defensive bids to opponents' No Trump bids. Transfers. Rules of eleven and seven.

All topics and questions that crop up are discussed. Will take requests from students.

All the set hands are challenging and enjoyable. 'Post mortems' are aided by printed information on the correct play for each hand.