

Calling all bridge players - Try Duplicate bridge – it's free

If you play rubber bridge at home or in a club golf or wherever, you may well get added enjoyment out of the great game by trying out Duplicate bridge. Bridge is bridge; but Duplicate bridge has some added features and benefits.

How is duplicate different?

In a duplicate bridge club we play in partnerships as usual, but we change opposition at the end of each round by East/West moving tables. The cards move round as well. They are held in 'boards' keeping the hands exactly the same for each partnership to play. So, by the end of an event you will have played against every pair in the room and played the same boards as all the other pairs playing in your direction, East/West or North/South. We then draw up a league table at the end of the evening to show how well you have played the hands compared to everyone else.

Bridge is unpredictable and the results are highly variable. The better players will tend towards the top on average, but they will have their evenings when it all goes wrong, and they come near the bottom. The opposite is true as well. Less experienced players will have their moment in the sun when the boards go particularly well for them and not so well for others. It frequently occurs that the person who was top last week is bottom the following week - don't know why, it just happens.

Equipment is a bit different too. We play computer-dealt hands, and enter the outcome of each hand into table top devices. We get the result the moment the last table has finished the last hand.

How do you try it out?

At Kings Sutton, Nr Banbury, our bridge club welcomes newcomers to two possible methods of trying out duplicate bridge. If you have a partner, you could come straight to the Thursday evening club nights. You need to be fairly confident you can play 24 hands in three hours to feel comfortable. If you don't have a partner why not come to the Wednesday morning supervised bridge where you can find a partner and learn the ropes in a much slower speed of play? Even if you have a partner, the Wednesday morning session is quite a good way to meet us and try things out. Your first couple of sessions are free, then our table money is £3 an evening including refreshments, surely the best value night out in the area!

That's it in a nutshell. I've not mentioned the opportunities to get better at the game. I haven't mentioned post-match analysis, playing Duplicate in Teams, mentoring or the courses we run. Come try it out and we'll tell you more. At Kings Sutton we enjoy our night out, we do our best with the cards we get, we make new friends and we have a laugh.

You can try Duplicate in three clubs in North Oxfordshire:

Kings Sutton Bridge Club www.bridgewebs.com/kingssutton

Bicester Bridge Club www.bridgewebs.com/bicester

Banbury Online Bridge club <https://www.bridgewebs.com/banbury/>

For more information Phone Ken Langdon 07850 616069