

YBC Course Schedule

April 2024 – July 2024

Course and Cost	Teaching Team	Start Date/Times	Your contact to register interest
Beginning Bridge 1 10 Lessons Course Cost: £70	Andrew Merrison, Ruth Mattingly	Starting w/c 29 th April Thursday 19.00–21.00	Mark: secretary@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Beginning Bridge 3 10 Lessons Course Cost: £70	David Moore, Linda kitchen	Monday 8 th April 11.45–13.45	David: yorkmoores@yahoo.co.uk
Beginning Bridge 3 10 Lessons Course Cost: £70	Andrew Merrison	Wednesday 10 th April 18.45–21.00	Andrew: amerrison@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Continuing Bridge 1 15 Lessons £7 per session	Azizah Clayton, Linda Kitchen Andrew Merrison	Tuesday 9 th April 10.00–12.15	Azizah: aclayton@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Assisted Play £5 per session for members £6 per session for non-members	David Moore	Tues 9 th April 10.00–12.00	David: yorkmoores@yahoo.co.uk
Assisted Play £5 per session for members £6 per session for non-members	David Moore	Thursday 4 th April 19.00–21.00	David: yorkmoores@yahoo.co.uk
Duplicate Replay & Analysis Guided Play £7 per session	Mike Barnard Morris Gregory	Weds 10 th April 10.00 –12.00	Mike: fulfordit@yahoo.co.uk
Intermediate Plus £7 per session	Iain Crockatt James Carpenter	Thursday until 9 th May 10.00–12.00	Azizah: aclayton@theyorkbridgeclub.com

"Beginning Bridge 1" (1 out of 3), consisting of 10 lessons, is the first class for complete beginners. We closely follow the English Bridge Union path to learning, starting with Minibridge. After 1 term, learners can start playing in "Assisted Play" sessions and after 3 terms, learners can participate in the "Gentle Duplicate" as well as the "Improvers" sessions. Teachers are Azizah Clayton, Andrew Merrison, Linda Kitchen and Ruth Mattingly (TBC)

Start date: Thursday 2nd May: 19.00-21.00

Cost: £70 (for the course)

The topics are:

1. Getting started with MiniBridge
2. Playing with trumps and no trumps
3. Introducing declarer play and defence
4. Opening 1NT
5. Responses to 1NT
6. One-of-a-suit opening
7. New suit responses and NT responses
8. Opener's rebid with a weak hand
9. Opener's rebids with strong hands
10. Playing Lesson - putting it altogether

"Beginning Bridge 3" (3 out of 3), consisting of 10 lessons, is a continuation course for beginners. Teachers are David Moore, Andrew Merrison & Linda Kitchen.

Start date: Monday 8th April: 11.45-13.45 & Wednesday 10th April: 18.45-21.00
Cost: £70 (for the course)

The topics are:

1. 8/10 Apr - The Stayman Convention
2. 15/17 Apr - Opening 2NT and responses
3. 22/24 Apr - Game force 2 Club bid and responses
4. 29 Apr / 1 May - Weak two openings in 3 suits
5. 6/8 May - Overcalling with a long suit (weak jump overcalls)
6. 13/15 May - 7 & 8-card Pre-empts
7. 20/22 May - Defence against pre-emptive bids
8. 27/29 May - Overcalls re-visited
9. 3/5 June - Slam Bidding - Blackwood
10. 10/12 June - Defence card play, signals etc.

"Continuing Bridge 1 (CB 1)" (1 out of 2), is a continuation course for beginners who have done 30 lessons of Beginners Bridge Book 1 (The Red Book). Split into two parts (CB 1 & CB 2), it consists of 30 lessons based on Continuing Bridge Book 2 (The Green Book). CB 1 and CB 2 each comprise 15 lessons. Teachers are Azizah Clayton, Linda Kitchen & Andrew Merrison.

Start date: Tuesday 9th April: 10.00-12.15

Cost: £7 per session (pay as you attend)

The topics are:

PLANNING THE PLAY: 1. SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)

DEVELOPING THE AUCTION: 2. Losing Trick Count; 3. Red Suit Transfers; 4. Strong Responses;
5. Fourth Suit Forcing

DEFENSIVE GUIDELINES: 6. Third Hand Play: signalling; 7. Defence Skills: when declarer is on lead;
8. Further Defence: lead through strength / lead partner's suit

COMPETITIVE BIDDING: 9. Takeout Double; 10. A Second Double; 11. Doubling 1NT opening;
12. Takeout Double after opponents overcall; 13. Raising partner after double of opening bid;
14. Bidding after 1NT; 15. Protective bidding (optional)

“Duplicate Play and Analysis”

Introducing a new guided play session by Mike Barnard, Morris Gregory and a group of helpers.

Start date: Wednesday 10th April: 10.00-12.10 (for 14 weeks)

Cost: £7 per session (pay as you attend)

After a 15 minute introduction on a topic (chosen by those attending the previous session), you will replay the boards that were used two days earlier at the Monday evening “Improvers” session. We suggest that each table bids, plays and discusses the boards, with help on hand. Underneath the boards there will be a “Bid Traveller”, a removable paper strip showing the ideal contract for that board, which you can look at and discuss after it has been played.

The classes will be useful to those who played the boards the previous Monday “Improvers” Duplicate” session, so they can have a closer look at the bidding and play. But it will also be useful to those players who are seeing the boards for the first time.

"Assisted Play" - with David Moore

These sessions are designed for learners, both new and old, to practise their bidding, play and defence with assistance. You can refer to your crib sheets, ask advice and have a discussion.

In some instances you may be introduced to some common conventions, which have not been covered in your beginners' lessons.

Resuming Thursday 4th April 2024 from 19.00-21.00

Resuming Tuesday 9th April 2024 from 10.00-12.00

The cost is £5/£6 per session for members and non-members respectively.

The group consists of players at different levels of learning. But help is always at hand and you have a relaxed and friendly atmosphere to practise your bridge.

For those who are competitive and like or want to try duplicate bridge, there is also:

"Gentle Duplicate" on Friday mornings at 10.00

(where you can always ask for assistance)

"Improvers' Duplicate" on Monday evenings at 19.00

(where you can arrange to have a mentor for a number of weeks to ease you into playing duplicate)

“Intermediate Plus” - with Iain Crockatt

The focus of this course is on card play. Although there will be plenty of opportunity to practise, it is generally expected that those attending will be comfortable with their bidding. The course is open to everyone but is specifically aimed at those with a few years' experience who wish to develop their card play and strategies for competitive play including teams' competitions, where it will be especially useful. Typically, people will have played in some of the club's competitive sessions.

Start date: Continuing Thursday 4th April (until 9th May), 10.00-12.00

Cost: £7 per session (pay as you attend)

The topics are:

Weeks 13-15 (4th - 18th April)

Declaring and defending with No Trumps


Time to put some of the skills we've acquired to good use with suit combinations, safety play, discovery and avoidance.

Weeks 16-18 (25th April - 9th May)

Declaring and defending with Trumps

Trump control, bad breaks, cross-ruff, trump promotion, eloping, ruffing finesse, dummy reversal, trump force, uppercut, ruff and discard, trump coup ... don't you just love playing with trumps!

Here's an example of a defensive problem from the course:

♠ K 2	♠ Q 7		
♥ A 9 7 2	♥ J		
♦ 10 8 5	♦ K J 9 4		
♣ 10 6 4 3	♣ A K Q 8 5 2		
			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 ♣	3 ♠	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

You lead the ♠K and your partner plays the ♠9 and declarer the ♠4. What next and why?

So come along on Thursday mornings for the solution to this and many more bridge problems.