

YBC Course Schedule

September 2024 – December 2024

Course and Cost	Teaching Team	Start Date/Times	Your contact to register interest
Beginning Bridge 1 10 Lessons Course Cost: £70	Azizah Clayton, Mike Barnard, Linda Kitchen, Ruth Mattingly, Andrew Merrison	Starting w/c 23 rd Sept TBC	Mark: secretary@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Beginning Bridge 2 10 Lessons Course Cost: £70	Andrew Merrison & Ruth Mattingly	Thursday 19 th Sept 19.00–21.00	Andrew: amerrison@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Continuing Bridge 1, 10 Lessons Course Cost: £70	David Moore & Linda Kitchen	Monday 16 th Sept 11.45–13.45	David: yorkmoores@yahoo.co.uk
Continuing Bridge 1, 15 Lessons £7 per session	Andrew Merrison	Wednesday 18 th Sept 18.45–21.00	Andrew: amerrison@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Continuing Bridge 2 15 Lessons £7 per session	Andrew Merrison & Linda Kitchen	Tuesday 17 th Sept 10.00–12.15	Andrew: amerrison@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Assisted Play £5.25 per session for members £6.25 per session for non-members	David Moore & Linda Kitchen	Tues 3 rd Sept 10.00–12.00 Thurs 5 th Sept 19.00–21.00	David: yorkmoores@yahoo.co.uk
Introduction to Defence 10 Lessons £7 per session	Azizah Clayton James Carpenter Andrew Merrison	Thursday 19 th Sept 10.00–12.00	Azizah: aclayton@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Revise Your ACOL 14 Lessons £7 per session	John Guest	Wednesday 11 th Sept 10.00–12.00	John: johnguest48@outlook.com
Duplicate Replay & Analysis Guided Play £7 per session	Mike Barnard	Wednesday 11 th Sept 10.00–12.00	Mike: mbarnard@theyorkbridgeclub.com
YOUTH ACADEMY FREE FOR CHILDREN	Azizah Clayton & Rowena White	Sunday 8 th & 22 nd Sept 2 SUNDAYS PER MONTH 14.00–16.00	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: (TBC) Azizah Clayton, Mike Barnard, Linda Kitchen, Ruth Mattingly & Andrew Merrison
Start date: W/C 23rd September TBC (2 sessions Monday evening / Friday morning)
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 2" (2 out of 3), consisting of 10 lessons, is a continuation course for beginners.

Teachers: Andrew Merrison & Ruth Mattingly
Start date: Thursday 19th September, 19.00-21.00
Cost: £70 (for the course)

The topics are:

1. Overview of Term 1 - Responding to a suit opening
2. Bidding strong balanced hands - the NT ladder
3. Declarer play technique - the Finesse
4. Declarer play technique in NT
5. Declarer play technique in trumps
6. Overcalls and responses
7. 1NT overcalls and responses
8. Take out doubles and responses
9. Defence - opening lead
10. Defenders play the cards

"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). In full, CB 1 and CB 2 each comprise 15 lessons. (NB: David Moore will be teaching 10 weeks of CB 1, while Andrew will be teaching 15 weeks.)

Teachers:	David Moore & Linda Kitchen	Andrew Merrison
Duration:	10 weeks	15 weeks
Start date:	Monday 16 th September, 11.45-13.45	Wednesday 18 th September, 18:45-21.00
Cost:	£70 (for the course of 10 weeks)	£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)

"Continuing Bridge 2 (CB 2)" (2 out of 2), is a continuation course for beginners who have done 30 lessons of Beginners Bridge Book 1 (Red Book) and 15 lessons of Continuing Bridge 1 (Green Book). CB 2 consists of 15 lessons to complete Continuing Bridge Book 2.

Teachers: Azizah Clayton, Linda Kitchen & Andrew Merrison

Start Date: Tuesday 17th September, 10.00-12.00

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

The topics are:

DECLARER PLAY: 16. Basic Declarer Technique; 17. Counting by Declarer

TIDYING UP: 18. Showing Shape; 19. Bidding Awkward Hands

DEFENDER'S PLAY: 20. Signals, Discards; 21. The Count Signal on Declarer's Lead;
22. Making Tricks with Trumps

SLAM BIDDING: 23. Blackwood Convention/Roman Key Card Blackwood; 24. Cue Bidding

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN: 25. Defence to 1NT: Landy; 26. Bidding 4-4-4-1 Opening Hands;
27. The Unassuming Cue bid (UCB); 28. Signals in the Trump Suit; 29. Duplicate Tactics

END OF YEAR: 30. End of Year Files

"Introduction to Defence" - with Azizah, James and Andrew

This new course is for all bridge players who want to develop and improve their skills as defenders. Defence is often considered as the most difficult part of the bridge game. But we defend more than 50% of the time, so it is important that we have the basics of how to defend well. Initially the course will consist of 10 lessons.

Start date: Thursday 19th September, 10.00-12.00

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

The topics are:

1. Introduction: What should we consider?
2. Defence vs NT - the lead
3. 3rd hand play
4. Signalling
5. Suit preference signal
6. Defence vs suit contracts - the lead
7. 2nd hand play
8. Signalling
9. Count
10. Passive or Active ...?

Revise Your ACOL - with John Guest

A course designed for those who have completed 3 terms of Beginners' courses, those who want to revise their ACOL and players who have learned Bridge elsewhere, or with a different bidding system.

Start Date: Wednesday 11th September, 10.00-12.00

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

The topics are:

1. Sept 11th - The ACOL NT Spine
2. Sept 18th - Stayman and Transfers
3. Sept 25th - NT play. Entries, unblocking, finesse and ducking
4. Oct 2nd - Weak 2s and how partner should respond. How to defend against them
5. Oct 9th - Defence: signals, discards and "where are the points?"
6. Oct 16th - Opening strong hands: 2Clubs and 2NT. What do they mean? How should partner respond?
7. Oct 23rd - Leading. How to choose a lead both against NT and suit contracts
8. Oct 30th - Pre-empts and whether partner should bid
9. Nov 6th - Bidding after opponents open. Overcalls, take out doubles and "negative" doubles
10. Nov 13th - Slam Bidding. What do we need? Blackwood and introducing cue bids
11. Nov 20th - Declarer Play. Establishing long suits and when to clear trumps
12. Nov 27th - How good is our fit? Losing Trick Count
13. Dec 4th - Bidding after opponents open 1NT: Landy
14. Dec 11th - All the other stuff:
Stop cards, Alerts, Announcements, Pianola, my EBU, club website, time for questions

“Duplicate Play and Analysis” - with Mike Barnard & helpers

Start date: Wednesday 11th September, 10.00-12.10

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

We will be replaying the boards that were played the previous Monday evening. There is time for each table to bid, play and discuss about 6 to 8 boards in detail. We aim to have one helper for each table.

“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. 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.

Resuming Tuesday 3rd September from 10.00-12.00

Resuming Thursday 5th September from 19.00-21.00

The cost is £5.25/£6.25 per session for members and non-members respectively.

Just turn up (no partner required).

YOUTH ACADEMY

Resuming in September: twice monthly on Sundays, starting 8th then 22nd September, 14.00-16.00

Further dates will be posted on the club website.

**** FREE FOR CHILDREN ****

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

"Gentle Duplicate" on Friday mornings, 10.00-13.00 (no partner required)
where you can always ask for assistance

"Improvers' Duplicate" on Monday evenings, 19.00-22.00 (partner required)
where you can arrange to have a mentor for a number of weeks to ease you into playing duplicate