

Seminars for Improvers

Many bridge players are keen to improve their game, yet very few clubs offer courses for improvers. One way to help your members improve their bridge is by organising seminars. It is usually best to canvass your members before planning seminars in order to assess the degree of interest.

A number of top players around the country do offer to give seminars on particular subjects for a fee. Contact your local county association or the EBU for some suggestions as to who might be available in your area. The presenter's fee may be covered by charging for tickets, or the club may be able to subsidize a seminar out of existing funds. If the club membership is too small for this to be viable, it may be possible to pool resources with other neighbouring clubs to organise such a seminar.

Another possibility is to ask some of the more experienced club members to give one-off seminars on particular topics. These can be organised on a different evening to the club night, or short 'brush-up' seminars of half-an-hour or forty-five minutes can be offered immediately before the usual duplicate. If enough of your members agree to give seminars, you can run a series of them – perhaps one a month for a season.

If yours is only a small club, you might find that a larger club in your area provides courses or seminars which your members may be able to attend.

Below is a list of possible seminar topics. It is recommended that these are presented by EBU-qualified teachers wherever practicable. These teachers will be trained in the presentation of bridge lessons/seminars and will have available to them example hand sets for most of these subjects. (A benefit of membership of [EBUTA, the EBU Teachers Association](#), is access to a specially developed hand bank provided by the EBU Education Department.)

We have divided the topics into separate sections on bidding and play, and further subdivided them into topics broadly suitable for newer players, newer to intermediate, and intermediate to more advanced players. The list is not exhaustive and you may be able to think of additional topics.

Seminar Topics on Bidding

A) For newer players:

- 1NT Openings and Responses
- Simple Quantitative Raises
- Response of 1NT and 2NT
- Opener's Re-Bid
- Opener's Re-Bid when it is a Limit Bid
- Overcalls
- Double for Take-Out
- Stayman
- Acol-Two Opening Bids
- Pre-emptive (barrage) Hands

B) For newer to intermediate players:

- Transfers after 1NT and 2NT
- Bidding in the pass out seat
- Cue bidding and use of Blackwood
- Defending against pre-empts
- Take out and competitive doubles
- Bidding and doubling over 1NT
- Fourth suit forcing
- Limit bid responses
- Losing Trick Count
- Splinter bids and pudding raise
- Weak 2 openings

C) For intermediate to more advanced players:

- Opening unbalanced hands
- Bidding judgement
- Law of Total Tricks
- Unassuming Cue Bids
- Defending against pre-empts
- Checkback
- 2-suited overcalls

- Roman Keycard Blackwood
- Inverted Minors
- Jacoby
- Multi 2 ♦
- Lebensohl after 1NT opening
- Defence to weak 2 openings
- Bidding strategy at pairs
- Bidding strategy at teams
- Defence to strong 1♣

Seminar Topics on Play

A) For newer players:

- Declarer Play: Establishing Entries
- Declarer Play: Finessing
- Declarer Play: Make that Contract!
- Defending No Trump Contracts
- Defending Suit Contracts

B) For newer to intermediate players:

- Declarer Play: SWOT
- Defensive Play: when to cover
- Declarer Play: danger hand
- Declarer Play: counting
- Defensive signals and discards

C) For intermediate to more advanced players:

- Active or passive defence
- Opening leads against 1NT
- Which card to lead
- Opening leads against suit contracts
- Frozen suits
- Endplays
- Safety plays
- Suit combinations

- Entries and communications
- Trump management
- Play at pairs
- Play at teams
- Squeeze play

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