

Teaching at Basingstoke Bridge Club



From a membership of over **200**, we have a teaching group of **9**. It is very much a team effort, with slightly different teams for different courses.

Our 4 current courses are:

- ❖ **Fast Track** F2F,
- ❖ **Beginners** F2F,
- ❖ **Improvers** Online RealBridge,
- ❖ **Beginners** Online RealBridge for Central Yarnton Bridge Club.

All courses make extensive use of:

- ❖ EBED Beginning Bridge Book 1 (Red Book),
- ❖ EBED Continuing Bridge Book 2 (Green Book),
- ❖ EBED Hand Bank.

However, teachers mainly like to produce some of their own material rather than teach someone else's course.

Fast Track

- ❖ New venture for late 2022 and 2023. Comprises two weekends including lunch. Club members made numbers up to 2 tables.
- ❖ Starts with MiniBridge.
- ❖ Much emphasis on learning by playing lots of deals.
- ❖ Informal supervised competition at end of second weekend.
- ❖ Now reached extra practice in readiness for gentle club events. Important not to lose confidence.
- ❖ Quick format is appealing, also allows more than one cycle per year.
- ❖ Notes and crib sheet given, invited to buy Red Book.

Beginners F2F

- ❖ Usually 1 or 2 tables.
- ❖ From complete beginners, though some may have some experience.
- ❖ Daytime course.
- ❖ Homework and No Fear Bridge.
- ❖ Mixed ability and not optimum numbers.
- ❖ Students like a supervisor sitting at the table and then going through the required thought processes as the hand proceeds.
- ❖ A separate play and discuss session proved very popular.
- ❖ As always, keep it enjoyable.

Improvers Online RealBridge

- ❖ Usually 2 or 3 tables.
- ❖ Last year's beginners plus other club members. Players also participate in restricted regular club events (NGS ~ 46%).
- ❖ Formula is no more than half an hour of talk, including group exercises, then 8 deals, roughly 2 hours in total.
- ❖ A regular team of 3 supervisors. Supervisors normally spectate but will play to make up numbers.
- ❖ RealBridge is a good environment for all to see what transpired at every table. Teachers can then pick up common faults and expound better technique next time.

Beginners Online RealBridge for Central Yarnton

- ❖ Usually 5 tables.
- ❖ Players had some experience before but no formal learning, so starting from the beginning with EBED Red Book.
- ❖ Afternoon group so older students, very friendly. Concepts perhaps not grasped first time or remembered, so needs a lot of repetition.
- ❖ Very favourable feedback at end of first term. Having a supervisor at every table is very popular. Students are noticing improvements within their club games.
- ❖ Occasional computer technical problems detract.

SAMPLE

♠ Q 9 7 5
♥ A J 6 4
♦ A 3
♣ K 7 6

1NT - 2♣
2♥ - 3NT
4♠

Here is an extra facet of Stayman that is worth knowing. You open 1NT and partner bids 2♣. You rebid 2♥ to show the 4-card suit and partner jumps to 3NT.

Well, your hearts did not hit the jackpot, but partner must have 4 spades on this auction to bother with Stayman. So you bid 4♠ confidently.

SAMPLE

8	♠ 6 3 ♥ 10 5 ♦ J 9 8 6 ♣ K 9 8 6 5	
♠ K Q 7 5 ♥ K J 8 6 ♦ A 10 2 ♣ 10 7		♠ A 10 8 4 ♥ Q 7 ♦ K Q 7 5 ♣ Q 3 2
	♠ J 9 2 ♥ A 9 4 3 2 ♦ 4 3 ♣ A J 4	

Recommended bidding

West	North	East	South
1NT	P	2♣	P
2♥	P	3NT	P
4♠			

This hand is suitable for Stayman. If West responds 2♠, raise to 4♠, otherwise bid 3NT.

West now reasons East must have a motive for bidding Stayman. It isn't a heart suit, or the long club type we saw earlier, so it must be a spade suit. So West confidently bids 4♠.

Discussion Points

- ❖ Split of teaching and play: students always want more play.
- ❖ All teaching is strongly linked to deals about to be played. Handouts for lessons and deals played.
- ❖ Average student is not young. Need to reinforce and repeat.
- ❖ One supervisor per table is very popular.
- ❖ How much to put right or let them make their own mistakes; need to learn but still enjoy playing; not being told what to do.
- ❖ Finding students, advertising, friends of members.
- ❖ Free first session (see if they like it).

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Contacts

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