

3 Counties Bridge



Balmer Lawn Learning Weekend, New Forest

23, 24 and 25 February 2018

Douglas Wright & Laura Porro invite you to a fabulous weekend of bridge at Balmer Lawn, a classic Country House Hotel set in the very heart of the New Forest National Park. Your bridge will improve as Douglas & Laura host a series of seminars aimed at social and duplicate players, together with several opportunities to play bridge.



BALMER LAWN: Set against the timeless backdrop of Europe's oldest and largest surviving medieval forest, the Balmer Lawn Hotel nestles into ancient woodlands on the outskirts of the charming village of Brockenhurst. Built originally in the mid 1800's as a hunting lodge, the hotel has been host to English and Russian royalty and even an American President!

ACCOMMODATION: Our 54 rooms range from traditional country house to modern/contemporary, so we can suit all requirements from leisure guests, families to business travellers. No two rooms are the same, each is individually designed and decorated, but with all the modern touches you would expect from a quality 4 Star Hotel. Our front facing and balcony rooms affording great views across the cricket lawn to the Forest beyond. We have an extensive range of leisure facilities – 2 squash courts, tennis court, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, fully equipped gym, Finnish Sauna and spa bath.

BRIDGE SESSIONS WITH DOUGLAS & LAURA: Sessions last 2 hours as you are guided through Competitive Bidding techniques with a series of specially created instructional set deals from Laura's international experience on competitive bidding, bidding tools and sacrificing. No Partner Necessary.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE: You are invited to take part in Duplicate Play Sessions (Chicago optional).

LEARNING WEEKEND ITINERARY

Friday 23 February

6pm Drinks reception

6.30pm Three Course dinner

8.00pm Duplicate Bridge (Chicago bridge optional)

Saturday 24 February

Breakfast

10am – 12am Session one – Responder's rebid

Focus on responder's options with strong balanced hands: the most common bidding tools which are essential to set up a forcing auction at a low level. This is useful to find out more about opener's shape and strength and place the final contract accurately. This session will include:

- Advanced use of fourth suit forcing
- Agreeing a trump suit in a forcing way

Free time to relax and explore – enjoy the New Forest or the hotel delights and leisure facilities.

3pm – 4pm System Surgery Session – Laura will be available to answer specific questions about your system, please bring your convention card along and Laura will give you suggestions on how to make your system more effective.

4pm – 6pm Session two – Minor suit slams

Bidding minor suit slams is a challenge, because most bidding systems are geared to find major suit fits effectively. This session will focus on:

- The strategic thinking behind deciding to explore a minor suit slam
- How to agree a minor suit in a forcing way
- What to do when using Blackwood/RKCB is not an option

6.30pm Three Course dinner

8.00pm Duplicate Bridge (Chicago bridge optional)

Sunday 25 February

Breakfast

10am – 12am Session three – Serious and non-serious slam tries

Cue bids are an essential tool of accurate slam bidding. A more advanced version of cue bids differentiates between serious and non-serious slam tries. This session focuses not only on the bidding technique, but also on nuanced hand evaluation:

- How the information unveiled by partner's bidding affects the playing potential
- How to assess the strength of one's hand in the bidding context

12.30pm Three Course lunch

Enjoy the hotel leisure complex and depart at your leisure

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PRICES AND BOOKING INFORMATION

Cost per person based on standard room double occupancy	£349
Cost per person based on standard room single occupancy	£374

Please ask if you would like details of upgrades or if you would like to attend the weekend as a non - resident.

Cost includes

- Drinks reception on Friday evening
- Two nights' four-star hotel accommodation, including breakfast
- Three bridge seminars with Douglas and Laura
- Three Course dinner on Friday
- Three Course dinner on Saturday
- Sunday Lunch
- Duplicate bridge sessions with optional Chicago sessions
- Full use of Balmer Lawn leisure facilities, including swimming pool and gym



Booking

Please fill out booking form below, including £50 deposit per person.

Full payment is due on 2 February 2018. Reservations are made on a first come first served basis. Please note that deposits are non-refundable.

Contact Please contact Douglas Wright at 3 Counties bridge on 07801 989630 with queries or email douglaswright@3countiesbridge.com

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Booking Form

Please fill in this form and return it to Laura Saka, 3 Counties Bridge, Lothlorien, Barley Mow Hill, Arford, Hampshire GU35 8AB, together with your deposit cheque made payable to "3 Counties Bridge" for £50 per person. To pay directly online, please make a bank transfer to:

Barclays 3 Counties Bridge 33705560 20-31-06

1. I would like to book ____ person(s) on the weekend:

Name

Room type
(single/double/twin)

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.....
.....
.....

2. Please note any supplementary requirements below, e.g. vegetarian meals, allergies etc

3. Please complete the following:

Address

.....

.....

.....

Telephone

Mobile

Email

Signed