

Maidstone Bridge Club

Improvers' Course – September/October 2018

This course is designed for people who have undertaken basic teaching in bridge and have a good working knowledge of most of the subjects listed in Beginners Courses 1 and 2.

We use the English Bridge Education & Development teaching programme (EBED) called **Bridge for All**. This is a complete learn and play programme, based on the Standard English Acol bidding system.

Students will be required to purchase the second year student workbook 'Continuing Bridge'. This can be provided at a discounted price of £20 (including p&p) through your bridge teacher, rather than individually from the EBU which would cost £29.50 (including p&p).

Future Year 1 students will be required to purchase the first year workbook 'Beginning Bridge' at the same price. Students in Year 2 are not required to purchase the first year book, although it is recommended that they do so as it has useful revision lessons and exercises.

The improvers' course will consist of:

Recap on courses 1 and 2

Weak 2 opening bids in 3 suits

Transfers over partner's opening 1NT

Overcalls: simple, weak jump, very strong, no trump

Cue bidding

Splinter bids

Bidding slams and using Blackwood wisely

Protective bidding

Planning the play and the defence

More on finessing and the danger hand

Defender's play – signals, discarding, using all the clues

The course will run from 10am-12noon on Friday mornings.

Venue: Club Committee Room, Bearsted and Thurnham Club (opposite Bearsted Green) *(please note this venue is upstairs and may not be suitable for some disabled players – please contact the course organiser if this causes a problem to see if alternative arrangements can be offered)*
(free parking available)

Cost: £75 for 10 lessons plus £20 for student workbook or £40 for both workbooks.

Recap on Beginner's Courses

Recap on Course 1

What a trick is, what we mean by trumps, order of suits, counting points
Understanding scoring
Play hands at minibridge
Understanding basic bidding and communicating with partner
Appreciate some of the ethics of the game
Opening 1NT and responses: balanced hands, unbalanced hands, weak hands
Opening balanced hands stronger than 12-14 points
Opening 1 of a suit with 12-19 points not suitable for NT – which suit to open and rebids
1NT response to partner's opening bid – the dustbin bid
Raising partner's suit
Evaluating your hand
Opening 1 of a suit with stronger hands
Bidding above the barrier
Responder's second bid
The finesse
Declarer play and defence in suit contracts
Declarer play and defence in NT contracts

Recap on Course 2

Stayman
Competitive bidding and vulnerability
1NT overcall
Take out doubles and partner's response
Losing trick count
Negative doubles
Defence – the opening lead against: suit contracts; NT contracts
Opening with strong hands – 2NT, Strong 2 and Game Force
Using 4C Gerber over NT opening and 4NT Blackwood
Pre-emptive bids
Bidding 4-4-4-1 hands
Bidding the 4th suit
Directional asking bids