

## 3 Counties Bridge



## Balmer Lawn Teachers Learning Weekend, New Forest

**23, 24 and 25 February 2018**

Douglas Wright & Laura Porro invite you to a challenging weekend of bridge at Balmer Lawn, a classic Country House Hotel set in the very heart of the New Forest National Park. Your bridge and teaching techniques will improve as Douglas & Laura host a series of seminars aimed at teachers and good 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 Advanced Bidding with a series of specially created instructional set deals, using various teaching techniques. There are specific Seminars, with guest speakers on how and what to teach different levels of students and optimising the use of new technologies. No Partner Necessary.

**DUPLICATE BRIDGE:** You are invited to take part in Duplicate Play Sessions.

## TEACHERS LEARNING WEEKEND ITINERARY

### Friday 23 February

**2pm** Early Bird Afternoon Duplicate

**6pm** Drinks reception

**6.30pm** Three Course dinner

**8.00pm** Duplicate Bridge

### Saturday 24 February

**10am – 12am** Session one – Responder's rebids

Focus on responder's options, the most common bidding tools which are essential to set up a forcing auction at a low level. Find out more about opener's shape and strength and to 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** Teaching Surgery Session (Optional – book times) – Laura and Douglas will be available to answer specific questions about your teaching plans and how to overcome any issues that you may have. Please share any concerns that you have so that Laura and Douglas may give you suggestions on how to make your teaching 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, in a forcing way
- What to do when using Blackwood/RKCB is not an option

**6.30pm** Three Course dinner

**8.00pm** Duplicate Bridge

### Sunday 25 February

**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

**12.30** – Sunday Lunch

**2pm – 3pm** Session four – Technologies available for teaching (including BBO, No Fear Bridge, use of apps)

**3.15pm – 4.15pm** Session five – How and what to teach 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> year students and new players to Duplicate clubs

**4.30pm- 5.30 Panel Discussion** Speakers:

Guest Speaker - Professional teacher & player

Titch Glenday – Club Teach Trainer & Education Advisory Group

Laura Porro – Professional teacher & international player

Douglas Wright – Professional teacher

Guest speaker – Youth teaching

**5.30pm** Formal Learning weekend concludes

**8pm** Duplicate Bridge for those staying Sunday night

Enjoy the hotel leisure complex and depart at your leisure

## PRICES AND BOOKING INFORMATION

Cost per person based on standard room double occupancy – 2 nights £349

Cost per person based on standard room single occupancy – 2 nights £374

Cost per person based on standard room double occupancy – 3 nights £389

Cost per person based on standard room single occupancy – 3 nights £414

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 or Three nights' four-star hotel accommodation, including breakfast
- Three Course dinner on Friday
- Three Course dinner on Saturday
- Sunday Lunch
- Duplicate bridge sessions
- Full use of Balmer Lawn leisure facilities, including swimming pool and gym



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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 .....

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Telephone .....

Mobile .....

Email .....

Signed .....

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.