

OXFORD BRIDGE CLUB



Registered Charity 1155820

Playing Bridge at Oxford Bridge Club CIO 2016

Information for Members, Visitors and Learners

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More information available from: www.oxfordbridgeclub.com

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Welcome to Oxford Bridge Club

This leaflet is for members, visitors and learners to help everyone understand the sessions that we run and the teaching that is available at the club.

One of the goals of OBC is to enable as many players as possible at all levels to enjoy the game at OBC within the limitations of the playing space available.

If you are a visitor, new member or learner we encourage you to review the material on the sessions that we run so that you are able to select events of an appropriate standard for your skill and experience.

We encourage beginners to follow a structured bridge course. Our **Bridge for All** course for beginners is a course written by the EBU and runs annually starting in October. Players of all abilities are encouraged to consider attending additional courses to gain greater insight into the intricacies of this most enjoyable game. There is always more to learn. Contact education@oxfordbridgeclub.com for more details of advanced courses or see the details on the web at: <http://www.oxfordbridgeclub.com/education>.

Learners and inexperienced players can start to play duplicate bridge at weekly Learn and Play sessions on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings. The pace at these sessions is adapted to suit the players present. Confident beginners, visitors and also less experienced Members may play at these sessions.

Other club sessions are run at normal pace but the standard varies for each session. The description on the following pages is intended to help members and visitors find and play in sessions from which they can gain maximum enjoyment. Where sessions become overcrowded we may operate some controls on which partnerships may play. This arrangement operates already for the Tuesday morning sessions and is also used for the Thursday evening Gentle Duplicate. In the event that other sessions become full, then a similar approach will be adopted.

The sessions are colour coded to reflect the approximate average standard of those attending using the EBU National Grading Scheme (NGS) as the guide. A figure of 50% indicates the countrywide average of all duplicate bridge players. [See www.ebu.co.uk/ngs/ for details]

Less experienced players are advised to play with a more experienced player when selecting a session with a standard that is substantially above their individual grade.

Visitors are welcome at all the sessions.

Finally, please help to make Oxford Bridge Club a friendly place to play bridge and make friends, and a welcoming place for new members, students and visitors.

Enjoy your bridge!



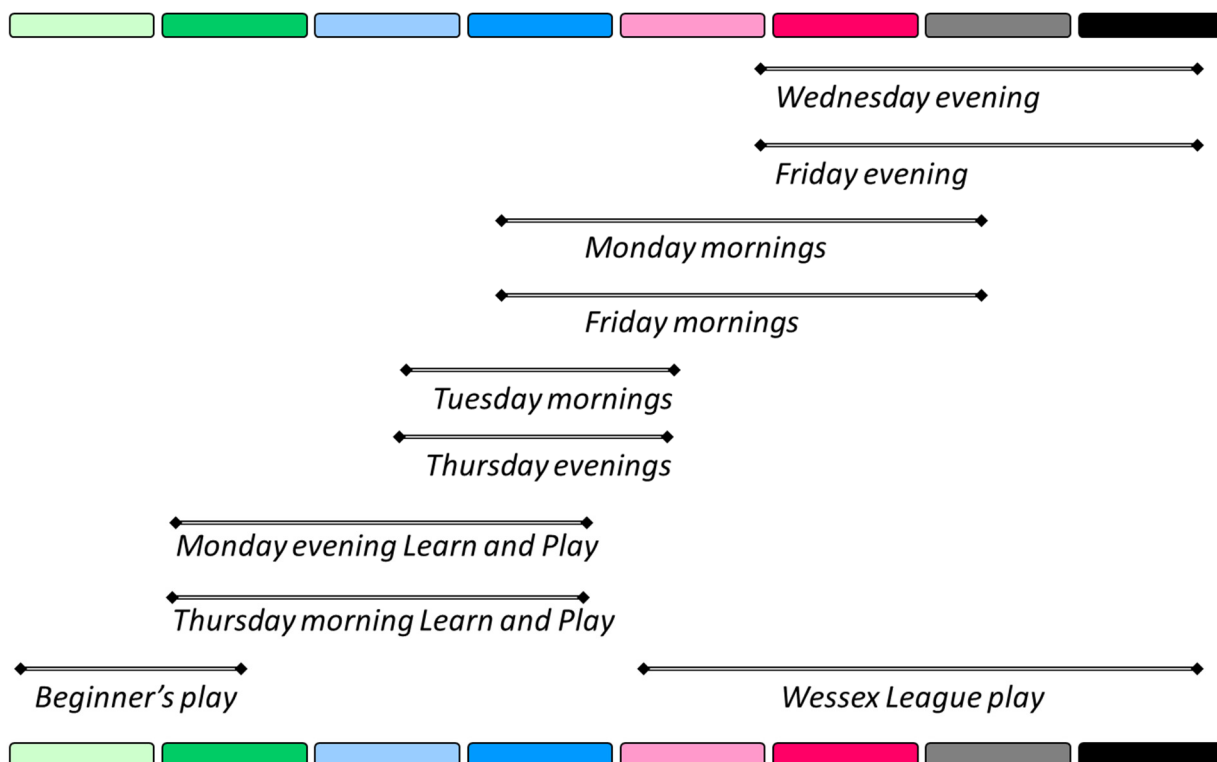
Roadmap for bridge players: new learners through to competitive duplicate players

	Event	Characteristics	Master points awarded?	Guide to Average NGS %
1	Beginners play (First year learner)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paced to suit players • Help with all aspects • No time pressure • Informal direction 	No	N/A
2	Supervised play (Second year learner)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paced to suit players • Focused on learners • Assistance available when needed • Director present who can help with bidding and play 	No	N/A
3	Novice sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal playing conditions • Timing to suit player ability • Director present • Bidding systems to suit participants 	Yes	N/A
4	Relaxed sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal playing conditions • Limited time pressure • Director present • Usually Level 2 conventions only • Strong partnerships restricted 	Yes	45%
5	Club sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal playing conditions • 7 minutes per board • Director present • Normally Level 4 systems permitted 	Yes	48%
6	Full sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal playing conditions • 7 minutes per board • Director present • Normally Level 4 systems permitted 	Yes	52%
7	Competitive environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal playing conditions • 7 minutes per board • Director present • Normally Level 4 systems permitted 	Yes	56%
8	EBU Competitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition playing conditions • 7 minutes per board • EBU Director present • Few system restrictions 	Yes	56+%

Timetable of Sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10.00	10.00-12.45 Duplicate 20-21 boards	10.00-12.45 Duplicate 18-20 boards		10.00-12.30 Learn and Play	10.00-12.45 Duplicate 20-21 boards
11.00					
12.00					
13.00					
14.00				14.00-17.00 Rubber Bridge	
15.00					
16.00					
17.00					
18.00					
19.00	19.15-21.45 Learn and Play		19.15-22.30 Duplicate 24 boards (Teams on 1st Wednesday)	19.15-22.00 Duplicate 18-20 boards	19.15-22.30 Duplicate 24 boards [Teams on 3rd Friday]
20.00					
21.00					
22.00					
23.00					

Session map



Session characterisation

Non-members welcome at ALL sessions

Key

♥ = Session is hosted – no partner required

♣ = Restrictions on experienced partnerships

Monday Morning Club session

Duplicate session playing 20-22 boards under normal playing conditions. Tea/Coffee available.

Monday Evening Learn and Play ♥♣

This session is for those in the first stages of playing duplicate bridge. The pace is adapted to suit those that are attending and assistance is available from the Director supervising the session. The session is hosted so you may attend without a partner. Tea/Coffee available.

Tuesday Morning Relaxed session ♥♣

This session is designed as a less competitive session for inexperienced players. It is a duplicate session playing 18-20 boards. Players with more than 5000 master points may only play if they are in partnership with a player below that threshold. Tea/Coffee is available. The session is hosted so you may attend without a partner.

Wednesday Evening Full session ♥

This is a weekly competitive duplicate session. The session is hosted so you may attend without a partner. The 1st Wednesday of each month is a Teams night (not hosted). Tea and coffee are available during a short half time break. The bar is open.

Thursday Morning Learn and Play ♥♣

This session is for those in the first stages of playing duplicate bridge. The pace is adapted to suit those that are attending and assistance is available from the Director supervising the session. The session is hosted so you may attend without a partner.

Thursday Afternoon Rubber Bridge

Come for an informal afternoon of Rubber Bridge in the company of friends. Tea/Coffee is available. Visitors and members of all standards are welcome.

Thursday Evening Gentle Duplicate ♥♣

This session is designed as a less competitive session for inexperienced players. It is a duplicate session playing 18-20 boards. Players with more than 5000 master points may only play if they are in partnership with a player below that threshold. Tea/Coffee is available. The session is hosted so you may attend without a partner.

Friday Morning Club session

Duplicate session playing 20-22 boards under normal playing conditions. Tea/Coffee is available.

Friday Evening Full session ♥

This is a weekly duplicate competitive event. The session is hosted so you may attend without a partner. The third Friday of each month is a Teams night (not hosted). Tea and coffee are available during a short half time break. The bar is open.

Finding a Partner

Some sessions are hosted as noted above and you can attend these without a pre-arranged partner. To pre-arrange a partner for these or any other sessions you can ask the Partnership Secretary to advertise for a partner. Email partners@oxfordbridgeclub.com with your contact details and the session for which you would like to find a partner. Alternatively you may use the partner finder facility on our Pianola system by logging in to your account at <http://app.pianola.net/> and clicking on the Partner Finder tab.



Competitions

On some Wednesday and Friday evenings there may be a Sim Pairs event or other competition. Details can be found on the web site or the notice board at the club. Some club competitions are held on Sundays.

Best Behaviour at Bridge

Bridge is an extremely enjoyable game. Courteous behaviour is an exceptionally important part of that enjoyment.

This guide serves as a brief reminder of the Club's expectation of behaviour at the bridge table. We are sure that all players naturally follow this code of conduct but there are times when concentration and pressure can take their toll and it is for these situations that we provide this as a reminder.

- Greet others in a friendly manner prior to the start of play on each round
- Be a good "host" or "guest" at the table
- Make your convention card readily available to your opponents and fill it out completely
- Make bridge enjoyable for yourself, your partner and your opponents
- Give credit when your opponents play well
- Ensure that your phone is turned off or set to silent mode and do not use it at the table

Remember that it is rude to criticise your partner or opponents in public, to be less than polite at the table, to gloat over good results, to object to a call for the tournament director, or to dispute or argue about a director's ruling.

Please call the director if you think that you have been affected by bad behaviour. You will be helping others as well as yourselves.

As in all games that are governed by formal rules, bad behaviour will be penalised. If a player at the table behaves in an unacceptable manner, the director should be called. Annoying behaviour, embarrassing remarks or any other conduct which might interfere with the enjoyment of the game is specifically prohibited. The Director has the authority to impose penalties.

Etiquette Reminder

- ✓ Do not put your bidding cards away until the initial lead has been made.
- ✓ When you are making the initial lead, play your card before you write down the contract or enter the details in the Bridgemate. (Three people are waiting!)
- ✓ As dummy, lay out the cards as promptly as possible before you write down the contract or enter the details in the Bridgemate. (Three people are waiting!)
- ✓ After playing a card, allow other players time to see it before turning it over.
- ✓ When the hand has been completed, North should fill in the score on the traveller or Bridgemate immediately. East or West must check it carefully before confirming that it is correct.
- ✓ Do not hold long post-mortems unless you are clearly well ahead of the other tables.
- ✓ Thank your opponents at the end of the round and move quickly to your new table.

Member Communications at Oxford Bridge Club

Most of the club's communication with members is electronic. This reduces the workload of the club officers and provides more timely communication with members.

Currently about 92% of members have provided an email address. If you are willing to act as a "buddy" for a member who is not able to be online and pass on to them messages that are relevant, please let the Membership Secretary know.

To summarise the club uses several methods to provide information:

- The club website at www.oxfordbridgeclub.com
- The Pianola system at www.pianola.net (logon at <http://app.pianola.net/>)
- Notices on the boards at the club
- Emails from officers to those who register an email address in the Pianola membership records
- The mailing list for course information so that new information about education is sent as soon as it is available. To join, click on the link that you will find on the website at <http://www.oxfordbridgeclub.com/education>
- Occasional letters posted to those who have not registered an email address but these will cover only essential AGM and EGM notices, and membership renewals.
- A printed copy of emails that are sent to all members posted on the club notice board

Oxford Bridge Club uses a software system called Pianola to manage information about members. Each individual member can:

- directly edit their own membership record
- see an analysis of each occasion that they play at the club
- see analysis of performance as declarer, defender and dummy
- see statistics of performance over time
- advertise for a partner

You become an active user by responding to an invitation sent to you when triggered by the Membership Secretary. You select a user id and a password and then you have access to all the facilities described above.

Feedback to the Club

The club has more than 300 members. If you have a particular view, or a suggestion or want to provide feedback then please make sure your view is heard in one of the following ways:

- Talk to a Trustee or to an Officer in person
- Send an email to one of the officers. You can find a list of club email addresses in the printed Information Leaflet or at www.oxfordbridgeclub.com under "About the club"/"CIO Trustees and Officers"
- Send an email to club@oxfordbridgeclub.com
- or fill in one of the pink feedback forms available at the club

We are always looking for more assistance to run aspects of the club – please volunteer to help.

Updated information

The information in this leaflet is correct as of October 2016. It may of course go out of date as circumstances change. Please check the club website for the latest information at www.oxfordbridgeclub.com.



OXFORD BRIDGE SCHOOL

Learning Bridge - adults

The club wants as many people as possible to enjoy the game of bridge. We welcome enquiries from anyone of any age.

We provide courses for everyone. If you have never played the game then we can help. Please review the course information at <http://www.education.oxfordbridgeclub.com>.

We run a mailing list for course information so that new information is sent to you as soon as it is available. To join, go to the website at <http://www.learn.oxfordbridgeclub.com>, click on the “Info signup” button, then provide your contact details and select the options you want.

Junior Bridge

There is a lively community of bridge playing school children starting from the age of 8. Many of the club members act as teachers at local schools and there is a regular weekly event open to all school children which is held on Sunday afternoons in Summertown.

Further details can be found at <http://www.bridgewebs.com/bridge4schools/> or send an enquiry email to juniorbridgeoxford@gmail.com.

Notes
