

PLAY & LEARN TOURNAMENT – OUR AIMS

Welcome to your next step after completing the Beginners' course. Below are our Aims.

1. Create a non-competitive, friendly and relaxed playing environment

Here you can practise, make mistakes, ask questions, improve at your own pace. You can use any aids and materials including crib sheets which we will provide. In addition, a handout will be provided, and a follow-up e-mail will announce the winners, along with some further guidance on any queries from the night. Weekly winners are celebrated in good sportsmanship and successes are acknowledged in the Club's Newsletter.

2. Support you

We are here to help and support you every step of the way on your journey to improve your game. Our tutors are highly experienced and renowned for their friendliness and approachability.

3. Raise your self-confidence

As you play in this tournament, your self-confidence will increase rapidly. You will be much more assured in your increasing command of the game and this, in turn, will make it easier to enhance your skill sets in bidding, play and defence as well as learning new concepts.

4. Strengthen the basics

We focus on the simple, essential parts of the game, so important in learning new ideas, such as:

- Opening and responding
- Basic competitive bidding
- Leading and signalling
- Counting points and suits

5. Learn every week

You will receive weekly feedback that highlights:

- Key boards
- Helpful auctions
- Simple improvements
- What to focus on next

4. Structure without stress

Although this will be a relaxed tournament with guidance there is a formal structure to follow. Structure is an important element in Bridge and will help you progress, but it's never heavy or strict.

- You will be expected to arrive and be seated by 6.50 pm for a prompt start at 7.00 pm. Initially, 12 boards at 10 minutes per board will take approximately 2 hours so you should expect not to finish before 9.30 pm. When the number of boards played increases, you will finish around 10.00 pm when other tournaments usually are completed. You must complete every single board before leaving.
- Tournament awareness (moving tables, understanding the important role of the Tournament Director)
- Decreasing dependence on notes as your confidence grows
- Maintaining rhythm so you can move forward smoothly

The natural progression from Play and Learn is to migrate into the "No Fear Tournament" where your consistency in declaring, defending, timekeeping, tournament awareness and judgement all will improve. There, you'll also received feedback and notes with commentaries. The details of this next step are on the Club's Website under "Academy".

5. Enjoy playing

Remember, this tournament is all about learning and enjoying the game — you'll improve steadily, and every board is a step forward!