

My syllabus is based on the Junior U26 and U21 training programmes - I'm sure you can agree that is a decent standard. To focus on more specific areas:

Card play percentages and suit combinations. Boring, but necessary. There is no excuse for not knowing your combinations in top level bridge, some players haven't been introduced to them. They serve as a warm up to a good weekend (consider basic examples like AK9x opposite Qxxxx, cashing the Ace here is wrong).

Combining Chances and [separately] Psychological plays in no hope contracts. AQxx [in dummy] opposite xxxx for instance is a classic. Best to lead low from AQxx - very tricky to duck from Kx here, and almost certainly a flicker.

Testing Defence - trusting partner more than declarer. It is essential that we can't let declarer trick us with tactics in the play (imagine leading J from JTxxx, Qxx in dummy [plays the queen], partner the king and declarer the ace - can you rely on declarer to really have at least 2 in the suit?)

In essence, top level bridge is simply about "seeing the hands" before. My job will be to expose players to the most common (and useful) tricks in the book. I'll also offer some judgment bidding coaching - my objective is not to change the system that your players use, but to ensure they understand what information they are giving their partner. High level decisions are always entertaining but not as useful as the low level stuff. I aim to find out what costs the most IMPs in team matches - the most common area is misunderstanding doubles. I'll go through a worksheet and provide some principles to ensure that we don't have misunderstandings in that area.