

# THE BRIDGE SCHOOL

## AT GERRARDS CROSS

### 2025 -2026 Beginning Bridge Course Syllabus

This course is designed for total beginners and takes you step by step on your journey to becoming a bridge player. Each term is for 10 weeks and there are 3 terms in the year. Many people do actually join us with a little bit of knowledge already but the course helps to re-enforce what they know and build upon this knowledge.

To consolidate your knowledge we also run a supervised play session on a Thursday morning where you can practise what you have learned.

Lesson	Topic
1	Introduction, How to count points. What is a trick? Rules of Minibridge, Basics of scoring. How cards are placed on table (soldiers and corpses). No trumps only
2	Revision of Lesson 1. Playing in trumps. How to choose a trump suit. Balanced and unbalanced hands Summary of bridge scoring and under tricks
3	Planning the play - Unblocking. Cashing short hand first. Establishing a suit
4	Opening Leads
5	Responding to opening leads
6	1 NT opening bid and balanced responses <small>inadvertently has footnote lesson 5</small>
7	1 NT opening bid and unbalanced responses
8	Revision of 1NT opening and responses - no notes revision session
9	Opening 1 of a suit
10	Limit bid responses
Xmas Break	
11	Change of suit responses
12	Opener's rebid unbalanced weak hands (barrier) and responder rebids
13	Opener's rebid unbalanced strong hands (reversing) and responder rebids
14	Opener's rebid balanced (NT)
15	Revision of Opener rebids (12, 13, 14)
16	Planning Declarer Play SWOT The finesse, Unblocking
17	SWOT No Trumps – The Rule of 7. Playing long suits. Holding up
18	SWOT Trumps – Draw trumps early, discarding losers, ruffing in short hand
19	More on Opening Leads and responding to opening leads
20	Revision on declarer play and duplicate session
Easter Break	
21	1 NT Overcall and more on Scoring – Vulnerability
22	Suit Overcalls – Bidding to the Level of Fit
23	Suit Overcalls – Unassuming Cue Bid
24	Takeout double
25	Revision of Overcalls (21, 22, 23, 24)
26	Duplicate session
27	Stayman convention
28	2NT opening
29	2 Club opening
30	End of Year Quiz and duplicate session

# THE BRIDGE SCHOOL

## AT GERRARDS CROSS

<b>Tuesday Evening 7 – 9 pm</b>
<b>Tuesday morning 9.30 – 11.30 am</b>
<b>Gerrards Cross Community Centre</b>

<b>Tuesday dates</b>	
<b>Autumn Term</b>	
1	30 September 2025
2	7 October 2025
3	14 October 2025
4	21 October 2025
	<b>Half Term 28 October</b>
5	4 November 2025
6	11 November 2025
7	18 November 2025
8	25 November 2025
9	2 December 2025
10	9 December 2025

<b>Winter Term</b>	
11	13 January 2026
12	20 January 2026
13	27 January 2026
14	3 February 2026
15	10 February 2026
	<b>Half Term 17 February</b>
16	24 February 2026
17	3 March 2026
18	10 March 2026
19	17 March 2026
20	24 March 2026

<b>Spring Term</b>	
21	21 <sup>st</sup> April 2026
22	28 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
23	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
24	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
25	19 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
	<b>Half term 27<sup>th</sup> May</b>
26	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026
27	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
28	16 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
29	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026
30	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2026