

THE BRIDGE SCHOOL

AT GERRARDS CROSS

2026 -2027 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 inadvertently has footnote lesson 5
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

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Monday morning 9.30 – 11.30 am
Tuesday Evening 7 – 9 pm
Chalfont St Peter Community Centre

Monday dates		Tuesday dates
Autumn Term		
1	28 September 2026	29 September 2026
2	5 October 2026	6 October 2026
3	12 October 2026	13 October 2026
4	19 October 2026	20 October 2026
	Half Term 26 October	Half Term 27 October
5	2 November 2026	3 November 2026
6	19 November 2026	10 November 2026
7	16 November 2026	17 November 2026
8	23 November 2026	24 November 2026
9	30 November 2026	1 December 2026
10	7 December 2026	8 December 2026

Winter Term		
11	11 January 2027	12 January 2027
12	18 January 2027	19 January 2027
13	25 January 2027	26 January 2027
14	1 February 2027	2 February 2027
15	8 February 2027	9 February 2027
	Half Term 15 February	Half Term 16 February
16	22 February 2027	23 February 2027
17	1 March 2027	2 March 2027
18	8 March 2027	9 March 2027
19	15 March 2027	16 March 2027
20	22 March 2027	23 March 2027

Spring Term		
21	19 April 2027	20 April 2027
22	26 April 2027	27 April 2027
23	3 May 2027	4 May 2027
24	10 May 2027	11 May 2027
25	18 May 2027	18 May 2027
26	24 May 2027	25 May 2027
	Half Term 31 May 2027	Half Term 1 June 2027
27	7 June 2027	8 June 2027
28	14 June 2027	15 June 2027
29	21 June 2027	22 June 2027
30	28 June 2027	29 June 2027