

YBC Course Schedule

September 2025 – December 2025

Course and Cost	Teaching Team	Start Date/Times	Your contact to register interest
Beginning Bridge [Red Book] Term 1/3: 10 Lessons Course Cost: £80	Andrew Merrison (subject to demand) Simon Kennedy (subject to demand)	Monday 22nd September 19:00 – 21:15 Friday 26th September 10:00 – 12:15	Andrew: amerrison@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Beginning Bridge [Red Book] Term 3/3: 10 Lessons Course Cost: £80	Azizah Clayton Linda Kitchen	Wednesday 1st October 10:00 – 12:00	Azizah: aclayton@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Revise Your ACOL 15 Lessons £8 per session	John Guest	Weds 10th September 10:00 – 12:00	John: johnguest48@outlook.com
Continuing Bridge [Green Book]: Part 1/3: 10 Lessons £8 per session	Andrew Merrison	Monday 22nd September 10:00 – 12:00 Wednesday 24th September 19:00 – 21:00	Andrew: amerrison@theyorkbridgeclub.com
TADSS: analysis-in-the-wild £8 per session	Andrew Merrison (& others)	Tuesdays 10:00 – 12:00	Andrew: amerrison@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Assisted Play £5.25 per session for members £6.25 per session for non-members	David Moore Linda Kitchen	Tuesdays, 10:00 – 12:00 Thursdays, 19:00 – 21:00	David: yorkmoores@yahoo.co.uk
Competitive Bidding 10 Lessons £8 per session	Andrew Merrison James Carpenter	Thurs 25th September 10:00 – 12:00	Andrew: amerrison@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Youth Academy (free for children)	Rowena White	Wednesdays 16:30 – 18:30	Rowena: rwhite@theyorkbridgeclub.com

Beginning Bridge [Red Book]: Term 1/3

consisting of 10 lessons, this is the first class (of three) for complete beginners

We closely follow the English Bridge Union path to learning, starting with MiniBridge.

After 1 term, learners can reasonably start playing in “Assisted Play” sessions.

After 2 terms, learners can participate in the “First Step Duplicate” on the first Saturday of the month.

And after 3 terms, the natural progression is to “Gentle Duplicate” (Friday mornings) and the “Improvers” sessions (Monday evenings).

Teachers:	Andrew Merrison	&	Simon Kennedy
Start date:	19:00 – 21:15, Monday 22nd September		10:00 – 12:15, Friday 26th September
Cost:	£80 (for the whole course)		

The topics are:

1. Getting started with MiniBridge
2. Revision & Scoring
3. Introducing declarer play and defence (opening leads)
4. Playing with Trumps (and updated scoring)
5. More on Play (be a FLUKED declarer)
6. Opening & Responding to 1NT
7. Opening 1-of-a-suit
8. New suit responses and No Trump responses
9. Opener’s rebid with a weak hand
10. Opener’s rebids with strong hands

Beginning Bridge [Red Book]: Term 3/3

consisting of 10 lessons, this is the final term in the course for beginners

Teacher: Azizah Clayton
Start date: 10:00 – 12:00, Wednesday 1st October
Cost: £80 (for the whole course)

The topics are:

1. The Stayman Convention
2. Stayman and weakness take-out
3. Opening 2NT and responses
4. Game forcing 2 Club bid and responses
5. More on 2NT/2C opening and responses
6. Weak two openings in 3 suits
7. Pre-emptive Bid (3 levels and above)
8. Defence against pre-emptive bid
9. Slam Bidding - Blackwood
10. Revision

Revise Your ACOL

These lessons are suitable for those who have done 3 terms of lessons, those who want to revise their ACOL and players who have learned Bridge elsewhere, or with a different bidding system. It is OK to come to just the topics that interest you as you are only charged for the lessons you attend. There is no need to register and you don't need a partner.

Before each lesson you will receive a straightforward handout, containing the essentials of the topic. The lesson starts with a brief introduction, then 4 boards where everyone plays the same hands with some discussion. After that another 10 – 12 boards (all illustrating the topic) are circulated around the room. To receive the handouts, e-mail John Guest johnquest48@outlook.com

Teacher: John Guest
Start date: 10:00 – 12:00, Wednesday 10th Sept
Cost: £8 per session (pay as you attend)

Sept 10th	The ACOL No Trump spine
Sept 17th	Stayman and transfers (transfers are the most important convention that the red book doesn't teach)
Sept 24th	NT play. SWOT, entries, unblocking, finesse and ducking
Oct 1st	How good is our fit? Losing Trick Count
Oct 8th	Defence: signals, discards and "where are the points?"
Oct 15th	Opening strong hands, 2♣ and 2NT: what do they mean? how should partner respond?
Oct 22nd	Weak twos: how should partner respond and how can we defend them?
Oct 29th	Bidding after opponents open: overcalls, take out doubles and "negative" doubles
Nov 5th	Slam bidding – what do we need? Blackwood and introducing cue bids
Nov 12th	Declarer play: establishing long suits and when to clear trumps
Nov 19th	Leading: how to choose a lead against NT and suit contracts
Nov 26th	Pre-empts and whether partner should bid
Dec 3rd	Bidding after opponents open 1NT: Landy
Dec 10th	Miscellaneous: 4441 hands, Forcing bids, Jump bids
Dec 17th	All the other stuff: Stop cards, Alerts, Announcements, Pianola, My EBU, the club website, time for questions

Continuing Bridge [Green Book]: Part 1/3

This is a continuation course for beginners who have done 30 lessons of Beginners Bridge Book 1 (The Red Book). Split into 3 parts over the year, it consists of 30 lessons based on Continuing Bridge Book 2 (The Green Book). The same lesson is delivered twice each week – on Mondays and Wednesdays – to allow for maximum flexibility of attendance.

Teacher:	Andrew Merrison	
Start date:	10.00 – 12:00, Monday 22nd Sept	19:00 – 21:00, Wednesday 24th Sept
Cost:	£8 per session (pay as you attend)	

The topics are:

PLANNING THE PLAY: 22ND SEPTEMBER

1. SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)

DEVELOPING THE AUCTION: STARTING 29ND SEPTEMBER

2. Losing Trick Count; **3.** Red Suit Transfers; **4.** Strong Responses; **5.** Fourth Suit Forcing

DEFENSIVE GUIDELINES: STARTING 27TH OCTOBER

6. 3rd Hand Play: signalling; **7.** Defence Skills: when declarer is on lead; **8.** Further Defence: lead through strength / lead partner's suit

COMPETITIVE BIDDING (PART 1): STARTING 17TH NOVEMBER

9. Takeout Double; **10.** A Second Double

TADSS (Think And Do Something Sensible)

an intensive 'analysis-in-the-wild' session addressing all aspects of duplicate play

Teachers Andrew Merrison & The TADSS Team

Dates: 10:00 – 12:00, Tuesdays

Cost: £8 per session (pay as you attend)

Using selected hands from the previous evening's "Improvers" session, students will bid, play and discuss multiple aspects of 4 deals, with a tutor at the table acting as a Socratic guide – constantly encouraging them to: Think And Do Something Sensible. Wherever possible, hands are chosen to potentially allow for each participant to be declarer.

After 4 boards and a coffee break, the tutors move on to a different table and the process is repeated, thereby allowing students to experience two styles of tutelage per session.

Tutors are armed with the relevant travellers from the previous evening's play so that results can be compared.
(And of course, if they can remember their own bidding and play, anyone who has already played the hands the previous evening should gain additional insights!)

Competitive Bidding

This course is for all bridge players who want to develop and improve their skills at bidding, in particular when to overcall and what to overcall. The course is largely based on the EBU “Competitive Bidding” module and consists of 10 lessons.

Teachers: Andrew Merrison & James Carpenter

Start date: 10:00 – 12:00, Thursday 25th September

Cost: £8 per session (pay as you attend)

Sept 25th	Getting Involved week 1: takeout doubles and overcalls
Oct 2nd	Getting Involved week 2: problem balanced hands and balancing
Oct 9th	Getting Involved week 3: weak jumps overcalls and pre-empts
Oct 23rd	Later doubles, negative & flexible
Nov 6th	Bidding after an opposing overcall or takeout double
Nov 13th	The LAW & bidding with a fit for partner
Nov 20th	The LAW and re-evaluating hands
Nov 27th	Two suited overcalls and conventions over 1NT
Dec 4th	High level Competitive decisions and sacrifices
Dec 11th	High level Competitive decisions – slam bidding in competitive sequences

Assisted Play

These sessions are designed for learners, both new and old, to practise their bidding, play and defence with assistance.

You can refer to your crib sheets, ask advice and have a discussion.

In some instances you may be introduced to some common conventions which have not been covered in your beginners' lessons.

The group consists of players at different levels of learning but help is always at hand and you have a relaxed and friendly atmosphere to practise your bridge.

Tuesdays 10:00 – 12:00

Thursdays 19:00 – 21:00

YOUTH ACADEMY (free for children)

Resuming in September 2025 on Wednesdays, 16:30 – 18:30 (dates will be posted on the club website).

York Bridge Club Youth Academy meets on Wednesdays to provide an opportunity for young people to learn and play bridge together

- Current members are aged between 8 and 16 although National Youth Bridge includes players up to the age of 25
- The sessions are free and include a break with refreshments
- All our teachers hold a current DBS and child safeguarding qualifications
- Bridge is taught through live play and students are encouraged to learn by problem solving
- Students begin by playing Minibridge and progress to learning basic ACOL
- A new technique is introduced each session and handouts guide students through the bidding and play
- Students also work towards the EBED Junior Awards and The Nora Penn Award

AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE COMPETITIVE AND LIKE OR WANT TO TRY DUPLICATE BRIDGE, THERE IS:

First Step Duplicate (no partner required, just turn up) on the **FIRST SATURDAY of each month (13:00 – 16:15)**

This session is aimed at those who are very new to duplicate bridge.

The format allows players time to ask for advice from teachers as well as to discuss and ask questions between boards.

Crib sheets and system notes are perfectly acceptable.

Normal session prices: £5.25 for members and £6.25 for visitors

Gentle Duplicate (no partner required, just turn up) on **Friday mornings (10:00 – 13:15)**

This session is aimed at those who have less experience or who are new to duplicate bridge.

The format allows players time to discuss boards and ask questions *between* sets of boards.

Only simple systems are allowed so that all are 'singing from the same hymn sheet'.

The session is run as a match-pointed duplicate session and results are uploaded to the EBU and club website.

Normal session prices: £5.25 for members and £6.25 for visitors

Improvers' Duplicate (partner required) on **Monday evenings (19:00 – 22:00)**

This is an opportunity for less experienced players to come along on a Monday evening and play (usually around 22 boards) in a relaxed environment, open to those who have recently or not so recently completed a beginners course.

Currently, pairs are usually expected to have a combined NGS of no greater than 16 (though this at the discretion of the TD).

If you have any queries, please contact John Guest on 01904 795595 or johnguest48@outlook.com

Normal session prices: £5.25 for members and £6.25 for visitors