

YBC Course Schedule April 2025 – July 2025

Course and Cost	Teaching Team	Start Date/Times	Your contact to register interest
Beginners Beginning Bridge 1 10 Lessons Course Cost: £80	TBC	Week beginning 5 th May	Azizah: aclayton@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Beginners Beginning Bridge 2 10 Lessons Course Cost: £80	Azizah Clayton, Linda Kitchen, Ruth Mattingly	Wednesday 30 th April 10.00–12.00	Azizah: aclayton@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Beginners Beginning Bridge 3 10 Lessons Course Cost: £80	Simon Kennedy, Mike Barnard Andrew Merrison	Friday 9 th May 10.00–12.00 Monday 12 th May 19.00–21.00	Simon: simonjdkennedy@gmail.com 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
Assisted Play £5.25 per session for members £6.25 per session for non-members	Mike Barnard (& others)	Wednesday 30 th April 10.00–12.00	Mike: mbarnard@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Declarer Play 10 Lessons £8 per session	James Carpenter, Azizah Clayton, Andrew Merrison	Thurs 17 th April 10.00–12.00	Azizah: aclayton@theyorkbridgeclub.com
YOUTH ACADEMY FREE FOR CHILDREN	Azizah Clayton, Ruth Mattingly, Linda Kitchen	Resuming 13 th April 2 SUNDAYS PER MONTH 14.00–16.00	Azizah: aclayton@theyorkbridgeclub.com

"Beginning Bridge 1" (1 out of 3), consisting of 10 lessons, is the first class for complete beginners. We closely follow the English Bridge Union path to learning, starting with MiniBridge. After 1 term, learners can start playing in "Assisted Play" sessions and after 3 terms, learners can participate in the "First Step Duplicate", "Gentle Duplicate" as well as the "Improvers" sessions on the first Saturday of the month, Friday morning and Monday evening respectively.

Teachers are still to be confirmed.

Start date: TBC

Cost: £80 for 10 lessons

The topics are:

1. Getting started with MiniBridge
2. Playing with Trumps and No Trumps
3. Introducing declarer play and defence
4. Opening 1NT
5. Responses to 1NT
6. One-of-a-suit opening
7. New suit responses and NT responses
8. Opener's rebid with a weak hand
9. Opener's rebids with strong hands
10. Playing Lesson - putting it altogether

"Beginning Bridge 2" (2 out of 3), consisting of 10 lessons, is a continuation course for beginners.

Teachers are Azizah Clayton, Linda Kitchen and Ruth Mattingly.

Start date: Wednesday 30th April (10.00-12.00)

Cost: £80 (for the course)

The topics are:

1. Overview of Term 1 - Responding to a suit opening
2. Bidding strong balanced hands - the NT ladder
3. Declarer play technique - the Finesse
4. Declarer play technique in NT
5. Declarer play technique in trumps
6. Overcalls and responses
7. 1NT overcalls and responses
8. Take out doubles and responses
9. Defence - opening lead
10. Defenders play the cards

"Beginning Bridge 3" (3 out of 3), consisting of 10 lessons, is a continuation course for beginners.

Teachers are Andrew Merrison (Mondays) & Simon Kennedy (Fridays).

Start date: Monday 12th May (19.00-21.00) & Friday 9th May (10.00-12.00)

Cost: £80 (for the course)

The topics are:

1. The Stayman Convention
2. Opening 2NT and responses
3. Game force 2 Club bid and responses
4. Weak two openings in 3 suits
5. Overcalling with a long suit (weak jump overcalls)
6. 7 & 8-card Pre-empts
7. Defence against pre-emptive bids
8. Overcalls re-visited
9. Slam Bidding - Blackwood
10. Defence card play, signals etc.

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

Teachers are Andrew Merrison & others.

Dates: Tuesdays (10.00-12.00)

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

Using hands from the previous evening's "Improvers" session, students will bid, play and discuss multiple aspects of each deal, with a tutor at the table acting as a Socratic guide - constantly encouraging them to apply Andrew's trademark mantra of: Think And Do Something Sensible. (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!)

"Declarer Play" - with James, Andrew and Azizah

We have covered "Defence" and "Competitive Bidding" in the last 6 months. "Declarer Play" will consist of boards to reinforce the concepts learnt in the last 6 months. The principle is to build on what has been learnt previously, incorporating "Bidding" and "Defence" into declarer card play. This 10 week course is for members who are at the intermediate level of bridge playing. The topics are based on the EBED intermediate course "Polish Up Your Play" consisting of:

Start date: Thursday 17th April (10.00-12.00)

Cost: £8 per session

1. Avoiding the Danger Hand
2. Making a Plan - SWOT
3. Playing in NT
4. Counting by Declarer
5. The Finesse
6. Playing with Trumps
7. Pitfalls in Suit Play
8. Dummy Reversal and Cross Ruff Plays
9. Playing with the Odds
10. Deceptive Plays

"Assisted Play" - with David Moore

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

"Assisted Play" - with Mike Barnard

These sessions use the boards played on the previous Tuesday evening, so players can compare their results with the actual results on the YBC website. Two experienced players are available to give advice about bids, opening leads, and discussions when the hands are laid out at the end of the play. The sessions are relaxed and friendly. Players stay at their table and Bridgemates are not used.

The sessions start on Wednesday 30th April from 10.00 to 12.00 and end on Wednesday 20th August.

The cost is £5.25/£6.25 per session for members and non-members respectively.

Just turn up (no partner required).

YOUTH ACADEMY

Resuming in April 2025: twice monthly on Sundays, 14.00-16.00

Dates will be posted on the club website.

**** FREE FOR CHILDREN ****

And for those who are competitive and like or want to try duplicate bridge, there is also:

"First Step Duplicate" (no partner required) on the **FIRST SATURDAY** of each month (13.00-16.15)
where you can always ask for assistance

"Gentle Duplicate" (no partner required) on Friday mornings (10.00-13.00)
where you can always ask for assistance

"Improvers' Duplicate" (partner required) on Monday evenings (19.00-22.00)
where you can arrange to have a mentor for a number of weeks to ease you into playing duplicate