

YBC Course Schedule

January 2026 – April 2026

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	Azizah Clayton	Wednesday 28th January 10:00 – 12:00	Azizah: aclayton@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Beginning Bridge [Red Book] Term 2/3: 10 Lessons Course Cost: £80	Andrew Merrison	Monday 19th January 19:00 – 21:15 Friday 23rd January 10:00 – 12:15	Andrew: amerrison@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Extend Your ACOL 15 Lessons £8 per session: PAY AS YOU GO	John Guest	Weds 7th January 10:00 – 12:00	John: johnguest48@outlook.com
Continuing Bridge [Green Book]: Part 1/3: 10 Lessons £8 per session: PAY AS YOU GO	Andrew Merrison	Monday 19th January 10:00 – 12:00 Wednesday 21st January 19:00 – 21:00	Andrew: amerrison@theyorkbridgeclub.com
TADSS: analysis-in-the-wild £8 per session: PAY AS YOU GO	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
Defence 10 Lessons £8 per session: PAY AS YOU GO	Andrew Merrison James Carpenter	Thurs 22nd January 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: Azizah Clayton

Start date: 10:00 – 12:00, Wednesday 28th January

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 2/3

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

Teachers: Andrew Merrison

Start date: 19:00 – 21:15, Monday 19th January & 10:00 – 12:15, Friday 23rd January

Cost: £80 (for the whole course)

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).

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

Extend Your ACOL

Teacher: John Guest
Start date: 10:00 – 12:00, Wednesday 7th January
Cost: £8 per session (pay as you attend)

These lessons are suitable for players who have done the “Revise your ACOL” in the autumn or are established club players who wish to add specific conventions to their understandings. They cost £8 per lesson and you are only charged for the ones you attend.

There is no need to register and you don't need a partner. It is OK to come to just the topics that interest you.

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 and we can discuss them a little. After that another 10–12 boards, all illustrating the topic are circulated around the room. To receive the handouts, e-mail John Guest johnguest48@outlook.com

The topics are:

Jan 7th	Responding to partner's overcall: Bidding to the level of fit and the Unassuming Cue Bid
Jan 14th	Better defence: beyond HELD: Signals, discards, suit preference and a brief look at count
Jan 21st	Bidding in 3rd and 4th seat: The protective bid, rule of 15
Jan 28th	Specialist use of doubles and use of the redouble
Feb 4th	Revise opening strong hands: 2♣, 2NT and 19-21 hands
Feb 11th	Slam bidding, the next level: Roman Key Card Blackwood, Splinters and Cue bids
Feb 18th	4th suit forcing
Feb 25th	Showing support for partner, including Jacoby 2NT
Mar 4th	Bidding 2 suited hands: Unusual NT and Michaels cue bids
Mar 11th	When to sacrifice, bid on, pass or double?
Mar 18th	Defence to 1NT doubled: The Halmic “wriggle”
Mar 25th	Counting points and shape

Continuing Bridge [Green Book]: Part 2/3

Teacher: Andrew Merrison
Start date: 10:00 – 12:15, Monday 19th January and repeated: 19:00 – 21:15, Wednesday 21st January
Cost: £8 per session (pay as you attend)

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.

The topics are:

Jan 19th / 21st	11	Competitive Bidding:	Doubling 1NT opening
Jan 26th / 28th	12	Competitive Bidding:	Takeout Double after opponents overcall
Feb 2nd / 4th	13	Competitive Bidding:	Raising partner after Opponents double
Feb 9th / 11th	14	Competitive Bidding:	Bidding after 1NT
Feb 16th / 18th	15	Competitive Bidding:	Protective bidding (optional)
Feb 23rd / 25th		REVISION:	REVISION OF BIDDING TOPICS 11 – 15
Mar 2nd / 4th	16	Declarer Play:	Basic Declarer Technique
Mar 9th / 11th	17	Declarer Play:	Counting by Declarer
Mar 16th / 18th	18	Tidying Up:	Showing Shape
Mar 30th / Apr 1st	19	Tidying Up:	Bidding Awkward Hands
Apr 6th / Apr 8th		REVISION:	REVISION OF BIDDING TOPICS 16 – 19

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 7-High” 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!)

NB:

The nature of organising tutors means that we will always be able to guarantee accommodating 3 tables (12 students)

We should be able to accommodate 4 tables (16) students and occasionally we may be able to accommodate a 5th table.

BUT. In the unlikely event that too many people show up, there will be overspill capacity in the other room at ‘Assisted Play’.

Defence

Teachers: Andrew Merrison & James Carpenter

Start date: 10:00 – 12:00, Thursday 22nd January

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

“Without a doubt, defence is the hardest part of bridge. Every average player knows the principles of bidding and sensible ways to play as declarer [TADSS!], but when it comes to defence, players make mistake after mistake. This is often the result of insufficient information to make the right choice.” (*Wladyslaw Izdebski & Roman Krzemien*)

Given that you will spend roughly 25% of your time at the table as declarer, but 50% as a defender, it really pays to invest in acquiring good defensive habits and skills in order to markedly improve your scores (and enjoyment). This course is therefore designed for all bridge players who want to develop and improve their defensive technique.

The topics are:

Jan 22nd	Introduction: What should we consider?
Jan 29th	Counting the hand
Feb 5th	Defence vs No Trump – the lead
Feb 12th	3rd hand play – using what you think Partner holds
Feb 19th	Signalling in No Trump – what to signal and how
Feb 26th	Defence vs suit contracts – the lead
Mar 5th	2nd hand play – be a clever ducker
Mar 12th	Signalling in Suit Contracts
Mar 19th	Suit preference signals
Mar 26th	Passive or Active ...?

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 (May to October)

(no partner required, just turn up) on the **FIRST SATURDAY of the 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 (7-High) (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