

YBC Course Schedule

May 2026 – July 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	Jonathan Sanders Andrew Merrison	Wednesday 13th May 19:00 – 21:00	Jonathan: competitions@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Beginning Bridge [Red Book] Term 2/3: 10 Lessons Course Cost: £80	Azizah Clayton Linda Kitchen	Wednesday 13th May 10:00 – 12:00	Azizah: aclayton@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Beginning Bridge [Red Book] Term 3/3: 10 Lessons Course Cost: £80	Andrew Merrison	Monday 11th MAY 19:00 – 21:15	Andrew: amerrison@theyorkbridgeclub.com
Continuing Bridge [Green Book]: Part 3/3: 10 Lessons £8 per session: PAY AS YOU GO	Andrew Merrison David Moore	Monday 11th May 10:00 – 12:00	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
TADSS(+): analysis-in-the-wild £8 per session: PAY AS YOU GO	James Carpenter, Andrew Merrison, Sue Osborne, Michael Waller	Thursdays 10:00 – 12:00 (INITIALLY UNTIL 16 th JULY)	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 Bryan Boulter, Sue Osborne	Wednesdays, 10:00 – 12:00 (UNTIL 26 th AUGUST)	Mike: mbarnard@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).

Teacher: Jonathan Sanders

Start date: 19:00 – 21:00, Wednesday 13th May

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. Opening & Responding to 1NT
6. More on Play
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

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).

Teacher: Azizah Clayton

Start date: 10:00 – 12:00, Wednesday 13th May

Cost: £80 (for the whole course)

The topics are:

1. Overview of Term1 & Respnoder’s rebid with a strong hand
2. Bidding Strong balanced hand: the NT ladder
3. Declarer play technique: the finesse
4. Declarer play technique: in NT
5. Declarer play technique: in trumps
6. Defence: the opening lead
7. Defence: playing the cards
8. Competitive: suit Overcalling and responses
9. Take out double
10. 1NT overcall and responses

Beginning Bridge [Red Book]: Term 3/3

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

Teacher: Andrew Merrison
Start date: 19:00 – 21:15, Monday 11th May
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. The Stayman Convention
2. Red Suit Transfers
3. Opening 2NT and responses
4. Game force 2 Club bid and responses
5. Weak two openings in 3 suits
6. Overcalling with a long suit (weak jump overcalls)
7. 7 & 8-card Pre-empts
8. Defence against pre-emptive bids
9. Slam Bidding - Blackwood
10. Defence card play, signals etc.

Continuing Bridge [Green Book]: Part 3/3

Teacher: Andrew Merrison
Start date: 10:00 – 12:15, Monday 11th May
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 topics are:

May 11th	20	SIGNALS	
May 18th	21	COUNT	
May 25th	22	PLAYING IN TRUMP CONTRACTS	
June 1st		REVISION OF TOPICS 20 – 22	
June 8th	23	ROMAN KEY CARD BLACKWOOD	
June 15th	24	CUE BIDDING	
June 22nd	25	DEFENCE TO 1NT ((MULTI) LANDY)	
June 29th		REVISION OF TOPICS 23 – 25	
July 6th	26	COMPETITIVE BIDDING & UCB	
July 13th	27	OPENING LEADS	
July 20th	28	DUPLICATE TACTICS	
July 27th		REVISION OF TOPICS 26 – 28	

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'.

TADSS(+) (Think And Do Something Sensible)

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

Teachers Andrew Merrison & The NEW TADSS(+) Team
Dates: 10:00 – 12:00, Thursdays (initially until 16th July)
Cost: £8 per session (pay as you attend)

This session is aimed at more 'established' players (ideally in established partnerships). It is not really appropriate for novices.

Using selected hands from the Tuesday evening (CHAMPIONSHIP) 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 availability of tutors means that we will only be able to guarantee accommodating 3 tables (12 students). If you want to be sure of booking a place, e-mail Andrew (amerrison@theyorkbridgeclub.com) IN ADVANCE. Anyone who hasn't booked in advance may be disappointed.

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	Wednesdays	10:00 – 12:00	Thursdays	19:00 – 21:00
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YOUTH ACADEMY (free for children)

York Bridge Club Youth Academy meets on Wednesdays 16:30 – 18:30 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