

Henry Kingdon's Bridge Classes

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Class descriptions are first. For the schedule of upcoming classes scroll down the page.

Private Lessons

In addition to the classes I teach through the community centers I am also available for private lessons for beginners and new intermediate players. With a smaller group that knows each other, lessons can be tailored more closely to the group's needs and goals. Typically lessons are at one of the group member's homes. The larger the group, the smaller the individual cost. Please contact me if you can get a group, or if you have interest in joining a group that is forming that might meet your needs.

Beginning Bridge I & II *(six weeks, and seven weeks for solid fundamentals)*

Come learn the fascinating game of contract bridge. There are many benefits to playing duplicate bridge including mental, social, and even physical (google benefits of playing duplicate bridge) but mostly it's fun!

To grow into a strong bridge player you need a strong foundation. Start at the very beginning in this thorough introduction for true beginners.

In these classes we will look at Pat Harrington's Beginning Bridge series. Using her curriculum as a guide, players will learn and practice basic bridge techniques for declarer play, defense, and bidding. For flexibility of scheduling I have broken the lessons into two six week sessions.

Every lesson contains several hands that students will play to demonstrate each new concept. Students will take turns as declarer and defender so everyone gets to try everything. There is plenty of time to talk about what worked and what didn't and why.

Common Conventions *(8 weeks)*

Using the ACBL curriculum Common Conventions in the 21st Century we will explore one or two topics each week and then play hands demonstrating those topics.

Week 1: Stayman

Week 2: Jacoby Transfers

Week 3: Major Suit Openings and Responses, including Jacoby 2NT

Week 4: Major Suit Openings and Responses, including Reverse Drury

Week 5: Minor Suit Openings and Responses

Week 6: The Subsequent Auction, including reverses and 4th Suit Forcing

Week 7: Weak Two Bids

Week 8: Strong Two Club

What are “Systems” and When are they “ON”? (5 weeks)

Finding the perfect contract over partner’s opening no trump bid is easier with these awesome tools. Explore Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, and Quantitative No Trump bids. Everyone will get a turn at defense and declarer play.

In this class we will look at the ACBL recommended course on Commonly Used Conventions in the 21st Century for both Stayman and Jacoby Transfers. We will also be looking at Quantitative No Trump bids.

Week 1: Gerber and Quantitative No Trump

Week 2 & 3: Stayman

Week 4 & 5: Jacoby Transfers

Competitive Bidding

So you and your partner can often find your 8 card fit, or play no trump at the correct level, but what happens when your opponents start bidding!? In this class we will talk about when and how to overcall after your opponents open, how to respond to your partner’s overcall, what to do when your opponents overcall, several important doubles, law of total tricks, some common cue bids, two suited bids, which bids are forcing, and more!

Week 1: Overcalling

Week 2: Responding to an overcall

Week 3: Responsive doubles

Week 4: Takeout doubles

Week 5: Preempts

Week 6: Balancing

Stayman and other No Trump Conventions

Week 1: Stayman

Week 2: Jacoby Transfers

Week 3: Quantitative No Trump

Week 4: Gerber

Bridge Defense I

Learn sound defensive strategies in this four week class on bridge defense. Increase your chances of winning more tricks by being able to choose the killing opening lead, or letting your partner know which suit to return, or how many cards you have in a suit. When do you show attitude? When do you show count? When do you show suit preference? How can you discard to gain an advantage? By using these strategies you can often hold your opponents to fewer tricks, sometimes even setting contracts that looked like a sure thing!

Some of the topics covered are:

- Opening Leads against suit contracts
- Opening Leads against No Trump contracts
- When to play Second Hand Low, and when not to
- When to play Third Hand High, and when not to
- Attitude signals
- Count signals
- Suit Preference signals
- Discards

2022 Schedule

Bridge Defense I, 4 weeks, \$120, May 5, 12, 19, 26

Thursday mornings at the Strawberry Rec Center 10:00 - 12:00

Sign up at strawberryrecreation.recdesk.com

Beginning Bridge 1, 6 weeks, \$150, Sept 13 - Oct 18
Tuesday afternoons at the Terra Linda Rec Center 2:00 - 4:00
Sign up at <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/terra-linda-communitycenter/>

Beginning Bridge 1, 6 weeks, \$150, Sept 15 - Oct 20
Thursday mornings at the Strawberry Rec Center 10:00 - 12:00
Sign up at <https://strawberryrecreation.recdesk.com/>

Beginning Bridge 2, 7 weeks, \$150, Oct 25 - Dec 13 (no class on 11/22)
Tuesday afternoons at the Terra Linda Rec Center 2:00 - 4:00
Sign up at <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/terra-linda-communitycenter/>

Beginning Bridge 2, 7 weeks, \$150, Oct 27 - Dec 15 (no class on 11/24)
Thursday mornings at the Strawberry Rec Center 10:00 - 12:00
Sign up at <https://strawberryrecreation.recdesk.com/>
