

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. Individual coaching is also an option.

Beginning Bridge I & II *(six weeks, and six 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.

Week 1 : Introduction to the Game of Bridge

Week 2 : Hand Evaluation and Bonus Contracts

Week 3 : Opening Bids

Week 4 : Responding to No Trump Opener

Week 5 : Responding to One of a Major Suit

Week 6 : Responding to One of a Minor Suit

Week 7 : Dummy Points and Hand Re-evaluation

Week 8 : When Responder Bids No Trump

Week 9: When Opener Bids No Trump
Week 10 : The Takeout Double
Week 11 : Preemptive Bids
Week 12 : Opening 2 Clubs for a Big Strong Hand

No Trump Conventions

Week 1: Gerber and Quantitative No Trump
Week 2: Stayman
Week 3: Jacoby Transfers

Finding the perfect contract over your partner's opening no trump bid is easier with these awesome tools. Explore Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, Gerber, and Quantitative No Trump bids. Everyone will get a turn at defense and declarer play. The main topics each day will be 4/13: Gerber & Quantitative No Trump; 4/20: The Stayman convention; 4/27: Jacoby Transfers.

Gerber and Quantitative No Trump: Use Gerber to ask you No Trump opening partner how many aces are in their hand so you can pick the right slam contract. Use a Quantitative No Trump bid to safely explore for marginal slams in No Trump.

Stayman: We all know an 8 card fit usually plays better in a trump contract than a no trump contract. Use the Stayman convention to find those 4 - 4 major suit fits.

Jacoby Transfers are a powerful tool after a no trump opener that allow the responder to do each of the following:

- Force to game with a 5 card major.
- Force to game with a 6+ card major
- Invite to game with a 5 card major
- Invite to game with a 6+ card major
- Place the contract in a partscore in any suit

The Basics of Stayman, a great first convention for everyone (one class)

Stayman is a convention used to find a 4 - 4 major suit fit after an opening No Trump bid. The focus of this class is how Stayman can be used by responder to:

- Force to game with 4 cards in one or both of the major suits.
- Invite to game with 4 cards in one or both major suits.

Or rarely, under very special circumstances, rescue partner from a bad no trump contract

This class will also show how opener and responder navigate the continuing auction.

The Basics of Jacoby Transfers, make the most of your partner's no trump hand (one class)

Jacoby transfers are used to show a long suit. They are additionally useful because they allow responder to more accurately show the length , i.e. exactly 5 vs 6+, and they prevent the contract from being 'wrong sided' allowing the stronger hand to remain hidden and receive the opening lead. Jacoby transfers can be used by responder to

- Force to game with a 5 card major.
- Force to game with a 6+ card major
- Invite to game with a 5 card major
- Invite to game with a 6+ card major
- Place the contract in a partscore in any suit

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

Slam Bidding

Learn some of the bedding conventions and techniques that make hard to find slams easier to find and dangerous slams easier to avoid. Four weeks.

- Quantitative No Trump
- Gerber
- Control Showing bids
- 1430 Blackwood
- Jacoby 2 No Trump
- Splinters

2024 Schedule

My Beginning Bridge series will run in the spring at the times below and very likely again in the fall.

These classes are Thursday mornings from 10:00 - 12:00 at the Strawberry Rec Center

Beginning Bridge 1, \$180, Jan 18 - Feb 29

Beginning Bridge 2, \$192, Mar 14 - May 9

No Trump Conventions, \$110, May 16 - May 30

Sign up online at <https://strawberryrecreation.recdesk.com/> drop-ins OK, just come early enough to register at the office.

These classes are Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 at the Terra Linda Rec Center

Beginning Bridge 1, \$175, Jan 18 - Feb 29

Beginning Bridge 2, \$175, Mar 14 - May 9

Sign up online at:

https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/cityofsanrafael/activity/search?onlineSiteId=0&activity_select_param=2&activity_keyword=bridge&viewMode=list