

Henry Kingdon's Bridge Classes

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Class descriptions are first. For the schedule of upcoming classes, enrollment links, and phone numbers please 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.

Drop In Rubber Bridge

Everyone is welcome, even if you have zero experience at the bridge table. It's OK to show up late, leave early, just watch, or just visit, or pair up and play a few hands. This is just a chance to play and practice keeping score while there's an experienced player around to help answer questions.

Introduction to Modern Bridge Fundamentals (six weeks)

And More Modern Bridge Fundamentals (six more weeks)

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. We 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 Counting Losers for Declarer's Plan

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

Introduction to No Trump Conventions

Week 1: Gerber and Quantitative No Trump

Week 2: Stayman

Week 3: Jacoby Transfers

Week 4(if calendar allows): What is a good result?

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

2026 Schedule

Drop in **Rubber Bridge** on the second (usually) Friday evening every month from 6:30 - 9:00 at the Terra Linda Rec Center, 670 Del Ganado Rd, San Rafael, 94903. Come play casual, social bridge, with an experienced player nearby that can answer questions. There is an optional \$5 donation that is waived for current students. AND there are home made cookies! And tea.

Jan 16 (3rd Friday!)

Feb 13

Mar 13

Apr 10

May 8

June - no game

July - no game

August - no game

Sept - Dec likely 2nd Friday, room not yet secured

My **Beginning Bridge** series will run at the times below.

Typically the first six lessons are Introduction to Modern Bridge Fundamentals, and the second six lessons are More Modern Bridge Fundamentals, followed by three lessons on No Trump conventions.

Lesson 1: welcome, tricks, declarer, dummy, declarer planning, opening lead

Lesson 2: Playing in No Trump, Playing in a trump suit, Choosing a contract

Lesson 3: Introducing Bidding and hand evaluation

Lesson 4: 1NT Opener and responses

Lesson 5: Opening one of a major suit, and responding

Lesson 6: Opening one of a minor suit, and responding

Lesson 7: Dummy Points, Counting Losers

Lesson 8: Responder bids No Trump

Lesson 9: Opener Bids No Trump

Lesson 10: Takeout Double

Lesson 11: Preempts

Lesson 12: Strong Two Clubs

Lesson 13: Quantitative No Trump and Gerber

Lesson 14: The Stayman convention

Lesson 15: Jacoby Transfers

Lesson 16: If the calendar allows a 4th lesson we will explore: What is a good result?

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Henry's 2026 classes starting in January are

Classes by Location

These classes are Monday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 at the Mill Valley Rec Center

Sign up online at <https://www.millvalleyrecreation.org/>

Or call 415-383-1370

Intro to Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$210, Jan 12 - Mar 2 (no class 1/19, 2/16)

More Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 4 weeks, \$140, Mar 9 - Mar 30

No Trump Conventions, 6 weeks, \$210, April 13 - May 18

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

Sign up online at <https://strawberryrecreation.recdesk.com/>

Or call 415-383-6494

Intro to Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$190, Jan 13 - Feb 17

More Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$190, Feb 24 - Mar 31
No Trump Conventions, 4 weeks, \$130, Apr 7 - Apr 28

These classes are Tuesdays 1:30 - 3:30 at the Ross Art and Garden Center
Sign up online at: <https://www.rossrecreation.org/all-programs>
Or call 415-453-6020

Intro to Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$190, Jan 13 - Feb 17
More Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$190, Feb 24 - Mar 31
No Trump Conventions, 4 weeks, \$130, Apr 7 - Apr 28

These classes are Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 at the Terra Linda Rec Center
Sign up online at <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/terra-linda-communitycenter/>
Or call 415-485-3344

Intro to Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$190, Jan 13 - Feb 17
More Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$190, Feb 24 - Apr 7 (no class 3/31)
No Trump Conventions, 4 weeks, \$130, Apr 14 - May 12 (no class 5/5)

These classes are Thursday afternoons from 2:00 - 4:00 at the Margaret Todd Senior Center
Sign up online at: <https://www.novato.org/government/parks-recreation-community-services/registration>
Or call 415-899-8290

Intro to Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$158, Jan 15 - Feb 19
More Modern Bridge Fundamentals, 6 weeks, \$158, Feb 26 - Apr 2
No Trump Conventions, 4 weeks, \$108, Apr 9 - Apr 30

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Henry's Classes by Topic Jan - May 2026

Intro to Modern Bridge Fundamentals

Mill Valley, Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30, Jan 12 - Mar 2
Strawberry Tuesdays, 10:00 - 12:00, Jan 13 - Feb 17
Ross Tuesdays, 1:30 - 3:30, Jan 13 - Feb 17
Terra Linda Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30, Jan 13 - Feb 17
Margaret Todd Thursdays, 2:00 - 4:00, Jan 15 - Feb 19

More Modern Bridge Fundamentals

Mill Valley, Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30, Mar 9 - Mar 30
Strawberry Tuesdays, 10:00 - 12:00, Feb 24 - Mar 31

Ross Tuesdays, 1:30 - 3:30, Feb 24 - Mar 31
Terra Linda Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30, Feb 24 - Apr 7
Margaret Todd Thursdays, 2:00 - 4:00, Feb 26 - Apr 2

No Trump Conventions:

Mill Valley, Mondays, 6:30 - 8:30, April 13 - May 18
Strawberry Tuesdays, 10:00 - 12:00, Apr 7 - Apr 28
Ross Tuesdays, 1:30 - 3:30, Apr 7 - Apr 28
Terra Linda Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8:30, Apr 14 - May 12
Margaret Todd Thursdays 2:00 - 4:00, Apr 9 - Apr 30