

# ◆ Stocken Bridge: Online Schedule ◆

## Spring Term 2021

MONDAY	<b>11am</b> <b>ADVANCED</b> <b>Courses</b>		<b>4pm</b> <b>IMPROVER</b> <b>Courses</b>	<b>5.30pm - 7pm</b> <b>GUIDED PLAY</b> <b>on BBO</b>
TUESDAY	<b>10.30am - 12pm</b> <b>GUIDED PLAY</b> <b>on BBO</b>			<b>6pm</b> <b>INTERMEDIATE</b> <b>Courses</b>
WEDNESDAY	<b>10am</b> <b>BEGINNER</b> <b>Course</b>	<b>2pm</b> <b>8-DEAL BBO</b> <i>(Blackheath)</i>		<b>5pm - 6.30pm</b> <b>GUIDED PLAY on</b> <b>BBO (Improver)</b>
THURSDAY			<b>5pm - 6.30pm</b> <b>GUIDED PLAY</b> <b>on BBO</b>	
FRIDAY		<b>2pm</b> <b>8-DEAL BBO</b> <i>(Dulwich &amp; Open)</i>	<p><i>Course lessons last about 60 mins</i></p> <p><i>8-Deal BBO lasts about 40 mins</i></p> <p><i>8-Deal BBO starts the week beginning 4th January</i></p> <p><i>Guided Play starts the week beginning 11th January</i></p> <p><i>See below for course dates and further details</i></p>	

## BEGINNER

8-week COURSE

Cost: £95

NEXT BEGINNER COURSE  
STARTS IN APRIL

- Eight week course for absolute beginners, starting from scratch
- Offline videos and online guided play on bridgebaseonline (BBO)
- Includes four Beginner Course booklets sent in the post
- Lesson summaries and extra support for out-of-lesson play
- Course limited to 16 players
- Dates: **Jan 20th & 27th; Feb 3rd, 10th & 24th; Mar 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th**

## FREE TRIAL TASTER

Tuesday April 20th at 6pm

**Intermediate Bidding:**

**Round The Table**

*Please email for further details...*

## IMPROVER

Two 4-week COURSES

Cost\*: £45/course or £85 for both  
[£36 or £68 to 8DB subscribers]

### A. IMPROVER PLAY

1	TEE up for No Trumps	Jan 18th
2	Drawing Trumps	Jan 25th
3	Highest from Shortest	Feb 1st
4	Weak to Strong	Feb 8th

### B. DEFENDING

1	Leading vs No Trumps	Feb 22nd
2	Leading vs Trumps	Mar 1st
3	2nd Player plays Low	Mar 8th
4	3rd Player plays High	Mar 15th

## INTERMEDIATE

Two 4-week COURSES

Cost\*: £45/course or £85 for both  
[£36 or £68 to 8DB subscribers]

### A. INTERMEDIATE EXTRA

1	Responding 1NT	Jan 19th
2	Overcalling 1NT	Jan 26th
3	Opening 6+ card Suits	Feb 2nd
4	Responding 6+ card Suits	Feb 9th

### B. INTERMEDIATE PLAY

1	Suit Combinations	Feb 23rd
2	The Importance of Entries	Mar 2nd
3	Find the King	Mar 9th
4	Find The Queen	Mar 16th

## ADVANCED

Two 4-week COURSES

Cost\*: £45/course or £85 for both  
[£36 or £68 to 8DB subscribers]

### A. OVERCALL CONVENTIONS

1	The Unassuming Cue-Bid	Jan 18th
2	Michaels Cue-Bid	Jan 25th
3	The Unusual No trump	Feb 1st
4	3-in-1 Compiation	Feb 8th

### B. ADVANCED PLAY

1	Dump 'em or Trump 'em	Feb 22nd
2	Establishing Side-Suits	Mar 1st
3	Ruffing Finesse	Mar 8th
4	Cross-Ruff	Mar 15th

## GUIDED PLAY

WEEKLY SESSIONS

Cost\*: £40 for 4 sessions  
[£32 to 8DB subscribers]

- 90 minute live BBO + Zoom sessions
- Themed deals, shared out, expert guidance
- Ask questions, have undos
- Weekly pre-booking for the following week
- For all players already playing on BBO
- Runs weekly until March 25th.

## 8-DEAL BBO

WEEKLY SESSIONS

Cost: £39 Subscription

- Upload 8 deals to BBO, play duplicate-style.
- Email in your results, then see how you fared on the weekly Zoom run-through. Great fun while learning all the tricks of duplicate.
- Intermediate+ players
- Runs weekly until March 26th.

# How Does it All Work?

## Free Trial

I am running a Free Trial Taster in the week before the courses start (see schedule) to give new players a chance to see how it works, as well as answer any questions you may have. This session is an Intermediate standard on essential bidding: "Round The Table". Please tell your friends about it.

## Beginner Course

Beginners need to get playing so this course takes place on Bridgebase Online (BBO), the world's number one free playing site. Before the course starts, I send out links to four short Beginner Videos so that players can familiarise themselves with the mechanics of a game of bridge. I set up usernames and passwords for everyone and then you log in to BBO and Zoom at the appointed hour and we get playing. We play set deals and I guide you through with my all-seeing eye.

Players receive my four Beginner booklets before the course starts as well as summaries of each themed lesson.

## Other Courses

Subscribers receive a course sheet to work through a few days before the weekly scheduled Zoom class. In the class I share my screen and talk through the topic and set deals through a PowerPoint presentation - with questions and answers. Players are muted, but use the Zoom chat-box to interact.

There are four set deals each week to accompany the topic, which you can upload to BBO and play at your leisure with friends.

## Recordings

All sessions (except for the Beginner Course and Guided Play) are recorded with a link to the recording sent out later in the day, so you won't miss out if you can't make the live session. The recording is available for a few days for players to watch or download (and keep). Players are enjoying this feature as they can then watch the lesson (pause, rewind etc.) at their own pace.

## Technology

To the uninitiated and those less familiar with technology, this may all seem like rocket science but everyone, of all ages, who has tried it has found it to be straightforward. It works best on a computer (Mac or PC) but tablets work well too. It is possible on phones (for Zoom chat) though the bigger the screen the better for bridge. I will be on hand to assist at the beginning of classes, so come and give it a go!

## Guided Play

Guided Play sessions are pre-booked and pre-paid. I send out a 'survey' email on Thursday evenings for the following week's sessions, then collate names and confirm on Saturday. There is a pool of players and some weeks one or two players miss out, but they won't miss out again until everyone else has missed out once too, in rotation.

During the 90 minute sessions we play 8 themed deals, shared out equally. Players are guided to the intended contract with some guidance for defence and play. It is very much a lesson. It is vital for the success of the session that I have full tables. Players who cancel at the last minute or don't arrive at all will still be charged. I do have some stand-ins but they are not always available at the last minute.

It is important that players are familiar with BBO and Zoom and can log in to both (you can do this on the same device - or two - but a larger screen is better) - in good time for the start of the session. Once play starts, we will use the UNDO button and CLAIM button on BBO, and the MUTE/UNMUTE button on Zoom. Players can unmute themselves and ask me questions but there is no extraneous chat. BBO chatbox can be used if players want to communicate with other players.

To join the pool of players, you will need to purchase a 4-session carnet. I then tick a session off each time you attend. If you decide to discontinue I would refund left over money or it can be transferred to other sessions, e.g. a course.

The themed deals for the new IMPROVER GUIDED PLAY will be different from the other three sessions, catering for less experienced players.

## 8-Deal BBO

These sessions have been running continually since April and are now a staple of the week. Your pre-arranged four has a few days to find time to upload and play 8 random (but duplicated for the group) deals on BBO. You send in your results for me to collate, then we go through them in the Zoom session and I announce a weekly winner. It's good fun and a great way to improve your duplicate skills.

You can of course play these BBO Deals (or the BBO course deals) with non-subscribers, but only subscribers can join the Zoom sessions and a minimum of two subscribers at each table is needed to send in results. The Wednesday session is pre-dominantly for Blackheath players, the Friday for Dulwich players and non-club players.

8-Deal BBO subscribers can enjoy a 20% discount on 4-week courses and Guided Play. 8-Deal BBO subscription is for the whole term, up until the Easter break.