

◆ Stocken Bridge: Online Schedule ◆

Summer Term 2021

MONDAY	11am ADVANCED Courses <small>[SCROLL DOWN FOR SCHEDULE]</small>		4pm INTERMEDIATE Courses <small>[SCROLL DOWN FOR SCHEDULE]</small>	5.30pm - 7pm GUIDED PLAY on BBO (INT+)
TUESDAY	10.30am - 12pm GUIDED PLAY on BBO (INT+)			
WEDNESDAY	10am IMPROVER Courses <small>[SCROLL DOWN FOR SCHEDULE]</small>	2pm 8-DEAL BBO <i>(Blackheath)</i>		5pm - 6.30pm GUIDED PLAY on BBO (Improver)
THURSDAY			5pm - 6.30pm GUIDED PLAY on BBO (INT+)	
FRIDAY		2pm 8-DEAL BBO <i>(Dulwich & Open)</i>	<i>Course lessons last about 60 mins</i> <i>8-Deal BBO sessions last about 40 mins</i> <i>8-Deal BBO & Guided Play start the week beginning 12th April</i> <i>Scroll down for course dates and further details</i>	

BEGINNER

8-week COURSE

Cost: £95

- 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 20 players
- Dates: **THE NEXT BEGINNER COURSE STARTS IN THE AUTUMN**

FREE TRIAL TASTER

Tuesday April 13th at 6pm

Intermediate Play:

Find The King

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	Apr 21st
2	Drawing Trumps	Apr 28th
3	Highest from Shortest	May 5th
4	Weak to Strong	May 12th

B. DEFENCE

1	Leading vs No Trumps	May 19th
2	Leading vs Trumps	May 26th
3	2nd Player plays Low	June 9th
4	3rd Player plays High	June 16th

INTERMEDIATE

Two 4-week COURSES

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

A. INTERMEDIATE BIDDING 1

1	Round The Table	Apr 19th
2	Opener's 2-Bid Strategy	Apr 26th
3	Responder to 1-of-a-suit	May 3rd
4	Responder to 1NT	May 10th

B. INTERMEDIATE BIDDING 2

1	Overcalling	May 17th
2	Invitational Bids	May 24th
3	Forcing Bids	June 7th
4	Big Hands & Slams	June 14th

ADVANCED

Two 4-week COURSES

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

A. CONVENTIONS

1	Weak Stayman	Apr 19th
2	Landy & Competing 1NT	Apr 26th
3	4th Suit Forcing	May 3rd
4	3-in-1 Compilation	May 10th

B. ADVANCED PLAY 2

1	Ducking & The Danger Hand	May 17th
2	The Doubleton	May 24th
3	Coping with Bad Splits	June 7th
4	Endplays	June 14th

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 June 17th.

8-DEAL BBO

WEEKLY SESSIONS

Cost: £35 Subscription
(with partial subscription available)

- 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 June 18th.

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 play: “Finesse: Find The King”. 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, and support to go and practice solo or with friends.

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 Thursdays for the following week’s sessions with players giving preference for one or more sessions. I then collate names and confirm on the Saturday. There is a pool of players and on rare occasions players miss out, but this is very unlikely if you give more than one session preference. Single players, partners and tables of 4 welcome.

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, and I talk through the ins and outs after each deal is finished.

Players log in to BBO and Zoom in good time for the start of the session (you can do this on the same device – or two - but a larger screen is better) and I give a short talk on the theme. Once play starts, we use the UNDO button and CLAIM button on BBO, and the MUTE/UNMUTE button on Zoom. Players can unmute themselves and ask me questions and use the BBO chatbox to communicate with other players.

To join the pool of players, you 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 credit, or it can be transferred to other sessions, e.g. a course.

The themed deals for the IMPROVER GUIDED PLAY sessions are different from the INTERMEDIATE+ sessions, catering for less experienced players.

8-Deal BBO

These sessions have been running continually since April 2020 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. The weekly deals are sent out on Sunday each week. You send in a screenshot of your results for me to collate, then we go through them in the Zoom session and I announce a weekly winner. It’s great fun and a good 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 courses and Guided Play.

There are two 8-Deal BBO subscriptions, up until the end of lockdown.