Hi All

Once the cold weather has arrived and chased us all in doors until the ski fields open, we are planning to start this year’s beginner Bridge lessons.

As you have all shown a little interest in bridge, I thought I should give you a rundown of the lessons so you will know what to expect if you decide to commit to lessons.

You will also see that I will cover the **“But what if”** questions by the end of the 10 weeks.

Acol Bridge is a game of 2 parts.

1. The Playing of the cards – The easy bit, especially if you have played 500 or Euchre in the past.
2. Learning a new language - Talking to your partner by ‘bidding’ to get into the:
   1. ‘Right contract’ - by finding a ‘fit’ (choosing the right suit to play in) or no trumps.
   2. ‘What level to play at’ (part- score, game, or slam) all words you will learn about over the 10-week course.

Each lesson is 3 hours long. The 1st 20 mins is a brief explanation of today’s lesson followed by playing 8 boards. (Games). 8 packs of Cards are dealt to relate to today’s lesson.

Everyone will get to be the ‘Declarer’, (play the hand) ‘Be dummy’, (partner of the declarer) and Defend.

At the end of the night, you will take home the student notes and homework I have prepared that we will go over at the next lesson.

We usually play from 6pm – 9pm, in the meeting room, level 1 at the events centre on Thursday evenings. Hoping to start 22nd May 2025 but will confirm once finalized.

The cost for lessons will be $160.00. This is to cover your annual club membership and materials. Then $5.00 table fee each week to cover the hire of the room.

Still keen????

**OVERVIEW**

**LESSON 1 – Intro to bridge:**

**LESSON CONTENT:**

                Brief description and vocab of the 2 parts of the game.

                The mechanics of play – tricks, trumps, no trumps, dealer, declarer, dummy.

                Suit ranking, high card points (HCP) Finding a fit.

*Play & Defence tip 1 – Opening Leads.*

**LESSON 2 – 1 Level opening bids:**

**LESSON CONTENT:**

                Auction, ranking of suits.

                Opening at the 1 level – **SUITS ONLY –** what do you need? Opening rules. (NT in lesson 5)

*Play & Defence tip 2 – Play of the hand - Trumps!*

**LESSON 3 – Responder’s limit bids:**

**LESSON CONTENT:**

                Responder’s choices.

                Openers rebids in support of responder.

**LESSON 4 – Responder’s new suit bids:**

**LESSON CONTENT:**

                If a limit bid is not possible, responder’s changes suit.

                Rules for new suit response.

                Values for new suit response.

                Openers rebid after a new suit response.

**LESSON 5 – Balanced Hands:**

**LESSON CONTENT:**

                1 NT – a special case. Limited to 12 – 14 HCPs.

                Stronger balanced hands of 15 – 19 HCPs.

*Play & Defence tip 3– Establishing a side/long suit*

**LESSON 6 – Responder’s Rebids:**

**LESSON CONTENT:**

                Responders second bid.

                Choice of suit or no trumps.

                Choice of level.

*Play & Defence tip 4 – Ruffing in Dummy.*

**LESSON 7 – Overcalls & Scoring:**

**LESSON CONTENT:**

                Overcalls – both suit overcalls and 1NT overcall.

                Basic scoring.

**LESSON 8 – Takeout Double:**

**LESSON CONTENT:**

                The Takeout double and what it means.

                The responses to a takeout double.

**LESSON 9 – Pre-emptive Openings:**

**LESSON CONTENT:**

                This covers all levels from weak 2s to 4-level openings & Responses. (Opening with less than 12 HCPs but a long suit.....)

*Play & Defence tip 5– Finesse*

**LESSON 10 – Strong Openings:**

**LESSON CONTENT:**

                All hands with 20+ HCPs.

                2NT 20-22 HCPs balanced.

                2 Club 23+ HCPs and GERBER/BLACKWOOD

Phew... that took a while... None of this will mean anything to you now but by the end of our lessons you will be able to begin your bridge journey....

Decision time... If you just want to play cards, then stick to 500. You will ***never*** be able to play bridge without 1st attending all the lessons and learning the language (bidding).  Promise I won’t be offended if you decide not to learn. However, once you have the basics you will never look back.

Regards

Lynnette McLennan

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