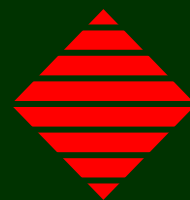


RUFFIAN



The electronic newsletter for students from the EBU studying using the Bridge for All scheme

Autumn 2010

volume 13 issue 1

Welcome to the first edition of the new Ruffian. From now on it will only be available as an electronic edition.

If you only want to print out the lesson then just print pages 4 and 5.

Personnel at the Aylesbury Office

At the moment there are two full time members of staff who work at the Aylesbury Office in the Education department:

Lisa Miller – Bridge for All administrator. Contact Lisa on 01296 317217 lisa@ebu.co.uk for any help regarding *Bridge for All* membership, books and stationery

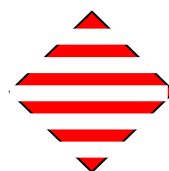
John Pain – Education Manager. Contact John on 01296 317218 john@ebu.co.uk for anything else in bridge education.

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BRIDGE for ALL



John's thoughts

The autumn is traditionally the starting point for most bridge students. The long balmy summer days are over and the thoughts turn towards finesses, balanced hands and smiling at partner when they do something daft.

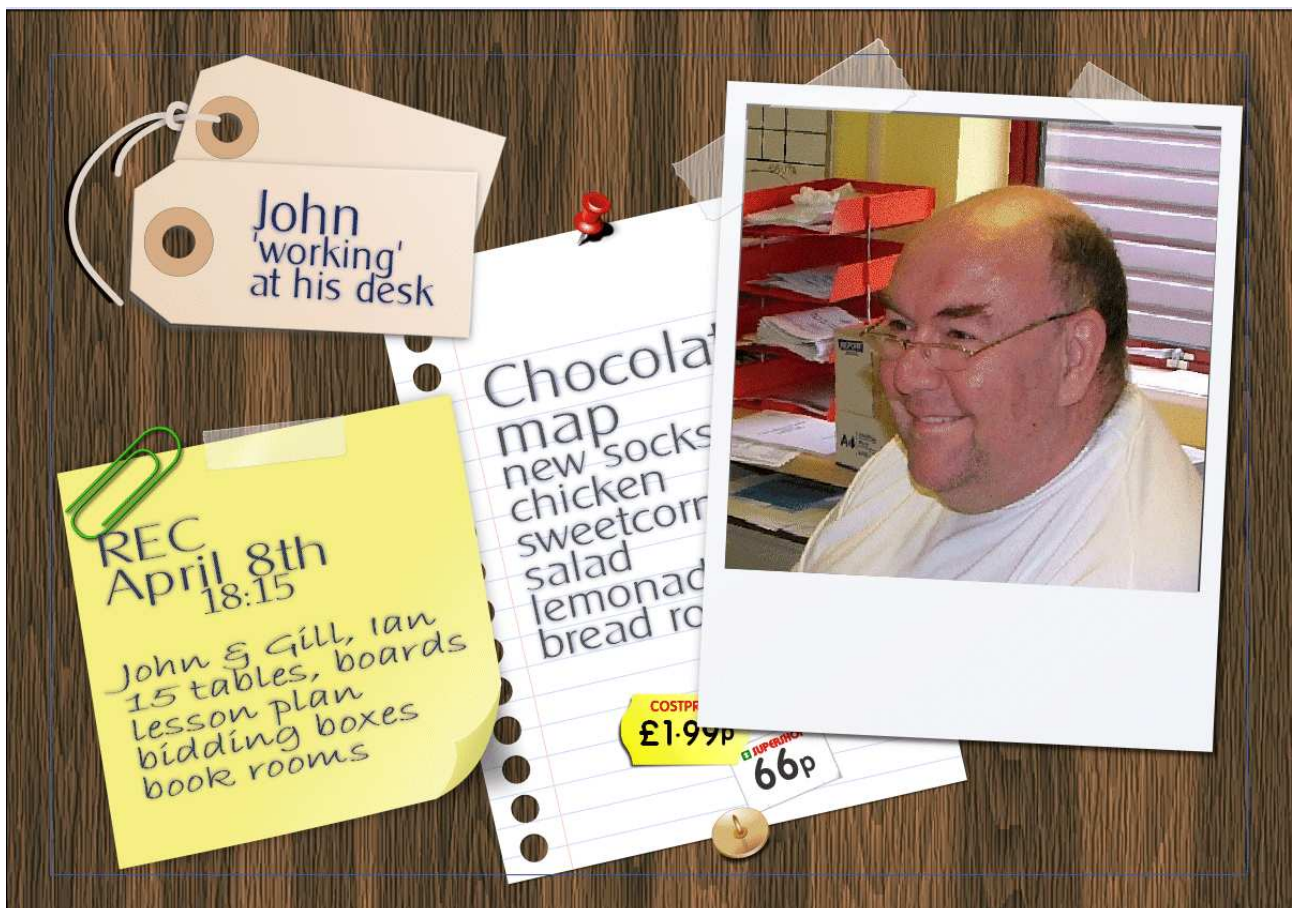
We welcome all those just starting out on their bridge careers – they have already received their introductory Ruffian by post.

This is the first time that the Ruffian will be available only as a download either by email or from the website. You don't have the joy of getting a magazine through the post but you will be able to see it in full colour. By doing it this way we save close to £2000 in printing and postage costs.

Pay to Play

We need to know when you move over to playing in an affiliated club. Whilst your results and master points will be uploaded automatically Lisa and I need to know that you moved from being a student to being a full EBU member. Please send Lisa an email (lisa@ebu.co.uk) to say that you have done this. In the future we hope to be able to generate a message automatically but for the present we cannot do that.

John Pain – Bridge for All Manager



Practice Beginning Bridge

I like to highlight some of the books in the Really Easy series and Practice Beginning Bridge is a book designed to accompany the large red book – Book 1: Beginning Bridge. The book provides opportunities for you to practice at home some of the techniques you learn in class. So there is a set of hands on opening 1NT and balanced hand responses. Each set has 9 hands which you can set up and play with your friends.

Set 1 1NT and balanced hand responses
Set 2 Suit responses to a 1NT opening
Set 3 Limit responses to an opening bid
Set 4 Opener's rebid with a weak hand
Set 5 Opener's rebid with a stronger hand

Set 6 Bidding strong balanced hands
Set 7 Overcalling in a suit
Set 8 Double!
Set 9 Overcalling in no trumps
Set 10 Planning the play as declarer
Set 11 A mixed set

Here an example from Set 3 on limit responses

Set 3 Hand 5 Dealer North, North/South vulnerable

<p>♠ 8 ♥ K Q 8 7 6 ♦ J 8 5 4 ♣ 8 5 3</p>	<p>♠ J 6 4 ♥ A 4 2 ♦ 10 6 3 ♣ K 7 4 2</p>	<p>♠ A K 3 2 ♥ J 10 9 5 ♦ K Q 9 ♣ A Q</p>
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Bidding

West	North	East	South
	pass	1♥	pass
2♥	pass	4♥	all pass

Suggested Lead: ♣J

Contract			Score		mp	
N/S	E/W		N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
	1♠	✓		80	8	0
	2NT	+2		180	6	2
	3NT	✓		400	4	4
	4♥	+1		450	1	7
	4♥	+1		450	1	7

What should we have done?

East, with a balanced hand but far too strong to open 1NT, should open with a one level suit bid. With two 4-card majors the best bid is 1♥. Unless West supports hearts or bids 1♠, East will rebid 3NT to show the hand's strength. If East opens 1♠, partner may have a 4-card heart suit but be too weak to respond at the two level. As happens here if East opens 1♠, West is not strong enough to bid 2♥ so bids 1NT which East with 19 points raises to 3NT. 3NT makes losing two clubs and two red aces, but does not score as well as 4♥.

Once 1♥ is raised to 2♥, East goes straight to game with 19 points. Declarer should have no difficulty making an overtrick. Win the club lead and play ♥J straightaway to drive out ♥A. When trumps are drawn East drives out ♦A by leading ♦K and claims eleven tricks.

The rule about opening hearts with both hearts and spades only applies to a holding of two 4-card majors in a balanced hand. With 5-5 the opening bid is 1♠ and the rebid is in hearts.

To make sure a 4-4 major fit is not lost, open 1♥ with 4-4 in the majors on a balanced hand with 15+ points. With 12-14 points open 1NT.

This book will show how sensible bidding and play should lead to sensible contracts and results. This typical hand shows that several contracts are possible. You are aiming to play in the highest scoring one.

Bidding over the barrier



When you open 1 of a suit you create a barrier of two of your suit. You should bid above the barrier only if you have a good hand or a fit with partner. So if you open 1♦ the barrier is at 2♦.

<p>♠ A 8 4 2 ♥ A ♦ K J 8 5 2 ♣ J 7 6</p>	<p>You open 1♦ and partner responds 1♠. With a minimum hand a 4-card support for spades you can raise to 2♠. Although above the barrier of 2♦ it just shows support for partner.</p>
<p>♠ A 2 ♥ A Q J 10 7 4 ♦ K Q 7 ♣ 10 5</p>	<p>You open 1♥, partner says 1♠. You can jump to 3♥ to show the 6-card suit and extra strength.</p>
<p>♠ A ♥ K J 9 6 ♦ A Q 10 9 5 3 ♣ A 3</p>	<p>This time you open 1♦, partner says 1♥. With 18 points you know you have enough for game even if partner is a minimum six points so you can jump straight to 4♥.</p>
<p>♠ A Q ♥ 7 2 ♦ A J 6 4 ♣ K 10 4 3 2</p>	<p>You open 1♣ and partner says 1♥ or 1♠. What should you bid now? This is where the barrier starts to come into operation. You can only bid above 2♣ if you have a strong hand (you don't) or you have a fit for partner (you don't) so the only thing you can say is 2♣.</p>
<p>♠ A 2 ♥ K Q 9 6 ♦ A Q 10 9 5 ♣ K 3</p>	<p>This time you <i>do</i> have a strong hand. You open 1♦ and partner says 1♠. You have the strength to bid 2♥. This is called a reverse and forces your partner to bid again. If partner prefers your diamonds he has to bid them at the 3-level and that is part of the reason why you need the extra strength.</p>
<p>♠ A Q ♥ 7 2 ♦ A J 6 4 ♣ K 10 4 3 2</p>	<p>Look at hand 4 again – do you really want to play in 3♣? You might have to if you had mistakenly bid 2♦. Bidding 2♦ here is called 'reversing by accident' and commits the partnership to a contract that is likely to be too high.</p>

So the moral is make sure you have your rebid in mind when you make your opening bid. On the next page is a hand from the 1970s where the good English pair of Boris Schapiro (East) and Martin Hoffman (West) bid a marginal slam which came off. Well that's why they were top class players.

<p>♠ K43 ♥ 9754 ♦ 75 ♣ J876</p> <p>♠ Q652 ♠ AJ1098 ♥ AKQ108 ♥ 3 ♦ 108 ♦ AQJ92 ♣ 93 ♣ AK</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ J62 ♦ K643 ♣ Q10542</p>		<p>Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>6♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>This hand demonstrates why the simple 1♠ - 3♠ - 4♠ won't get you to marginal slams. West judged that his hand was just too powerful to support spades directly so began with 2♥, planning to jump to 4♠ next time round. With 19 points East has a hand good enough for a reverse - 3♦. West asks for aces using Blackwood (if you haven't met it yet you will!) – East shows three aces with his 5♠ bid and West settled for 6♠.</p>				<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																						
		1♠	Pass																						
2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass																						
4NT	Pass	5♠	Pass																						
6♠	All Pass																								

South led a heart which was won with the ace. Prospects? Well it needs at least one of the missing kings to be in the North hand, which is a 75% chance. West led the ♦8 and finessed losing to the king (carefully playing ♦9). A club was returned to the ace. The carefully preserved ♦2 to the 10 provided an entry to dummy. The spade finesse was taken by leading ♠Q first, then small to the jack and 12 tricks were made.

♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠

Bridge in poetry

I have a wonderful book full of verses more or less related to bridge called **Bridge Without Sighs** dating from around 1934 written by Reginald Arkell. Some of the text reflects that bygone age but here are a couple I particularly liked.

The Singleton

I feel that justice should be done
To that fine card – the singleton
It is so solitary and small,
It never takes a trick at all.
So solitary and undismayed
It dies as soon as it is played.

And yet in has not died in vain,
For, when those Clubs are led again,
You trump them, gaily, once or twice
And justify the sacrifice.
Two tricks, observe, instead of one,
Thanks to the little singleton.

Cards Never Forgive

This story you will scarcely credit:
A card once bit the hand that led it;
Though, later, it was heard to say,
It only bit the hand in play.

Cards have their feelings. They resent
The wicked waste, when they are sent
To play some ignominious part,
They know is hopeless from the start.

*Lady, but now I hear you say,
In your frank, modernistic way:
'What lousy cards!' I would you knew
What those same cards might say of
you.*

Really Easy Summer Congresses

Brighton – August

The high point of the Really Easy year are the 2 congresses that we run at Brighton. The Brighton Congress is the largest and most fun congress of the year running for 10 days during August at the Hilton Metropole. Once the first weekend is over we welcome the Novices and Students to the congress – they play from Monday to Wednesday, with the Next Step group playing from Tuesday to Thursday. This year we had over 30 tables playing at the two events.

A number of people have been coming for several years now and moved into the Next Step group this year and we hope they will eventually complete the move into the main congress.

One of the aims of both events is to give people the chance to experience the different types of bridge tournament that can be played, so we don't just play duplicate pairs which is what you normally play at the club. On Tuesday evening we play a teams event and on Wednesday we play a Swiss Pairs event.

Swiss Pairs is one of the most popular forms of bridge played with a large number of people. In normal pairs you play two or three boards against your opponent and then move on to another. In Swiss Pairs you play more boards against your opponent (a match is typically between 5 and 8 boards) and the result is calculated immediately. You score in the normal way but the TD (well, the scoring program) shares out 20 points between you and your opponent depending on how well you have done over your match. You might easily win 20-0 or just win 11-9. Of course you can lose as well maybe 2-18. At the end of the round all the scores are put in order and your next opponents will be someone who is doing as well or as badly as you are.

Swiss Pairs is often played at county One Day events and is a great way to move into the larger world, so keep an eye open for one in your area.



General scene of industrious play



Titch Glenday helps two of the students during her workshop

Next years Really Easy Congresses will be
Novices and Students
Monday 15 August to Wednesday 17 August
Next Step
Tuesday 16 August to Thursday 18 August
Entry fee for either event is £30



Other staff at the congress
- Mel Czapski (who played in the first Really Easy),
Gill Pain, Eddie Williams
and John Pain



SCBA president Shirley Pritchard (left) presenting an engraved salver to John and Philippa Cadge at the Leatherhead Bridge Club for their outstanding, long standing and continuing contribution as teachers at Claremont Fan Court School in Esher.



Bridge Twinning Visit – Bath and Aix en Provence

From July 6th to 10th, ten visitors from Aix en Provence (twinned with Bath) came to see the sights and play some bridge. Two Bath bridge clubs, and our bridge school (Bridge and Games – Bath) invited the French visitors to come and play at our clubs during their visit.

On Wednesday evening our students hosted the welcome reception. Pimm's was served, Boule was played in Queen Square, our students had all brought contributions for a Michelin style buffet, and then the bridge tournament was played. Due to the amount of Pimm's that had been consumed – it was a very sociable occasion.

To try to make the field a little more balanced, our students were divided into two groups; the first year (beginners) played in the blue section and the improvers played in the green section with our visitors. It has to be said that our visitors were pretty good bridge players.

Our visitors and guests were placed E/W and our students played N/S. This avoided most problems with language and scoring. This is a good time to point out that in France 4 Hearts is 4 Coeur (written 4C), and 3NT is 3 Sans Atout (written 3 SA), so can cause much confusion for the poor scorer.

[Editor's note – on the continent they usually write the suit symbol on the score sheet to avoid any confusion. In French clubs are Trèfle, diamonds are Carreau, hearts Cœur, spades Pique and NT Sans Atout. French cards are different as well with the court cards known as As, Roi, Dame and Valet.]



We had 17 tables in play and it was a sight to behold as our first year students coped with a Mitchell skip and our Improvers battled against strong NT, multi 2D and various other conventions they had never heard of before. However, everyone coped admirably and it was a lot of fun. One student wrote to say it was the best party he had been to this year.

Next year, the Aix players have invited the Bath players, including our students, for a return visit and we have already marking our diaries.



17 tables at play:
Bridge and Games - Bath



Boule before bridge



Christine MacFarlane (left) presents prizes to the winners

Christine MacFarlane
Bridge and Games – Bath
www.bathbridge.com

Some Do's and Don'ts on etiquette at the bridge table when you start playing duplicate at an EBU affiliated club

Going to the club the first few times can be a bit daunting and people who have played for many years can often be set in their ways so the following list of tips from Barbara Herold might help. I know you've already got enough to do remembering when to bid and counting trumps but most of these are common sense things. Barbara is from Hastings and is one of our most experienced teachers.

The first two lists of Do's and Don'ts are a list of things for everyone. The Further Advice can probably be left for another day – but it is still sound advice.

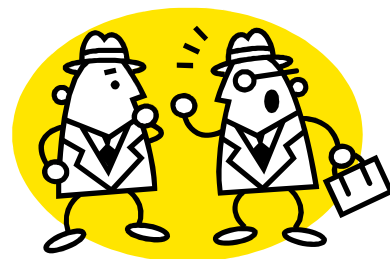
Do's

- Do count your cards face down before looking at them to make sure you have thirteen cards.
- Do make the opening lead before filling in your personal score card
- Do put dummy down as soon as the opening lead is made
- Do leave the board being played in the middle of the table. This is to prevent the cards being placed back in the wrong slot.
- If you are declarer, please thank your partner for his hand when he places it on the table, even if it is rubbish and not at all what you expected.
- Do come to the club suitably dressed. Check with the club whether shorts are permitted
- Do turn off your mobile phones before play starts. If you are expecting an urgent call, let the director know and switch it onto vibrate.
- Do compliment your opponents when they have played well, also don't forget to compliment your partner when they have played well
- Do remember to use the STOP card if you make a jump bid
- Do remember to use the ALERT card if your partner makes a conventional bid that is below the level of 4 clubs
- Do call the director if you are unsure about anything or if your opponents are less than kind to you. He is there to help you.
- Do make up your mind about what you are going to bid before touching your bidding box.



Don'ts

- If you get a good result against your opponents, DON'T GLOAT.
- If you don't make a contract that everyone else has made, it is far nicer to say "Well defended" to your opponents rather than "I must have played that really badly"
- Don't discuss the hand you have just played in a loud voice as you will be overheard by the table who is next to play it.
- Don't criticise your partner or your opponents for their mistakes. Partner's usually know when they have made a mistake and telling them in front of the opponents will only knock their confidence and they are unlikely to play the next hand any better.
- Don't offer advice unless you are asked for it
- Don't touch anybody else's cards but your own. If the dummy hand is arranged in such a way that you find it difficult to see then ask declarer if he would mind re-arranging it.
- Don't kick your partner under the table or give any other signals to him.
- Try not to look at your partner as your facial expressions may well indicate to him that all is not well.



Further Advice

If you pull out the wrong bid by mistake, please call the director immediately, you will probably be allowed to change it to the correct one but not if you change your mind.

If your partner gives the wrong explanation to a conventional bid, don't correct him, you have to suffer the consequences of his subsequent mistaken bidding.

Don't give messages to the opponents or your partners, such as, "Well I don't know what to do now" or "I really don't understand your bid". And remember, the answer is rarely on the ceiling.

If you are on opening lead you may ask for explanations of your opponents bidding before you select your opening lead. If you have no questions, then select your opening lead and place it face down on the table and ask partner if he has any questions.

If you are dummy and your partner does not follow suit you may check with him that he has not revoked.

If you are declarer you may check with either defender if they do not follow suit.

If you are a defender you may check with your partner if he does not follow suit.

If you are declarer and your partner has given the wrong explanation to a conventional bid you should tell your opponents before they make the opening lead.

If you are a defender and either you or your partner has given the wrong explanation to a conventional bid you must say nothing.

Events for students in 2011

Really Easy Summer Congresses at Brighton

The 8th Really Easy Congress

Following on from last year's successful experiment we will again split the event into two congresses

Novices and students – Monday 15th to Wednesday 17th August
Next Step – Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th August

The **novices and students** will be expected to play Standard English Acol and playing sessions will be between 15 and 21 boards. There will be two instructional sessions on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. You will probably still be in your first year of learning or be part way through the second year. You may have had some experience of a supervised bridge session at the club but are probably not a regular club player yet.

For the **Next Step event** students will be able to use their own familiar system and the more boards will be played – 21 to 24 boards per session. The emphasis will be more on play and there will only be one instruction session for this group. You will probably have been playing at a local club for a few months but may not have tried a County or EBU event before.

Both events are still priced at only £30 for the bridge, but players have to make their own arrangements regarding accommodation and refreshments.

You can make your entry by ringing Peter or Dawn in the EBU Competitions Department – 01296 317203/219.

You can book rooms at the Metropole Hotel by ringing 01273 775432 and choose Group Bookings from the menu. Then mention Brighton Summer Meeting. You may find you can get better rates by booking directly online.

Or for alternative accommodation in Brighton please visit www.visitbrighton.com.



	Novices & students	Next step
Monday 9th	2pm-4pm Lesson 4pm Free time 7.30-10.30 Play session 1	
Tuesday 10th	10am Lecture 11.30am Free time 2.30pm Play session 2 5.30pm Free time 7.30-10.30 Play session 3	2.30pm Play session 1 5.30pm Free time 7.30-10.30 Play session 2
Wednesday 11th	10.30am Play session 4 – Swiss Pairs 3.30pm Final results and departure	10.30am Play session 3 – Swiss Pairs 3.30pm Free time 7.30-10.30 Play session 4
Thursday 12th		10am Lecture 11.30am Free time 1.30 Play session 5 4.30pm Final results and departure

We are pleased to announce that in addition to the usual staff of Gill Pain, Ian Mitchell and myself the guests tutors for 2011 are Christine MacFarlane and Tessa Templeton.

Bridge for All Breaks Spring 2011



Really Easy Spring Break – The Midland Hotel, Derby – April 8th to 10th 2011

We are returning to our popular spring venue of the Midland Hotel. This attractive hotel is right opposite Derby Railway station. We can take up to 60 people for the weekend, which is suitable for both 1st and 2nd year students. Subject to suitable numbers, the event will be divided into 2 groups according to ability for Friday and Saturday, with everyone playing together on Sunday. There will be four playing sessions Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and evening and an extended session on Sunday either side of a light lunch. There will be an instructional session on Saturday morning.



The hotel package of two nights dinner, bed and breakfast is £130 per person. There is no single person supplement. Hotel bookings should be made direct with the hotel on 01332 345894.

The bridge fee of £34 per person (which covers the four bridge sessions, teaching session, tea and coffee breaks and the Sunday light lunch) is payable to the EBU in the usual way.

All our events use duplimated boards with hand records and the latest Bridgemate technology for scoring.

You can make your entry for either event by ringing Peter or Dawn in the EBU Competitions Department – 01296 317203/219.



Marge – “Which part of the morning paper are you reading Homer?”
Homer – “The bridge column...[laughing] Oh, that south – you never know what he’ll do next”.

Do you have any news about your own bridge learning experiences or what it was like when you went to the club. I would love to hear your news about anything bridge related. Please email john@ebu.co.uk with any snippets that you think others would like to read about.

A final verse from **Bridge Without Sighs**

And when the last long game is played;
The final trick is lost and made;
You’ll hear the two of diamonds say:
‘Thank God, they’re finished for the day.’

**Easy-Bridge Weekend
Branksome Place,
Haslemere, Surrey
Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd
April 2011**



An enjoyable event for Beginners, Improvers Novices and Up-coming players. Easy-Bridge participants will play Standard English Acol (weak no trump and limited conventions).

Those who have been learning through the EBU Bridge-for-All scheme or with other teaching programmes will be most welcome. Also welcome are players with a few years experience. The emphasis is on having an enjoyable time in a relaxed and friendly environment with players of a similar standard.

Bridge Directors are Trevor Livesey and Douglas Wright, both of whom are qualified Bridge-for-All tutors with a wealth of experience.

The event is EBU licensed with Masterpoints and small prizes.

Bridge sessions are held in a comfortable bridge room. Tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits are available continuously.

Sherry Reception Friday evening at 5:00 pm. Five sessions of bridge and two Saturday morning seminars. Finishing on Sunday at 4:30 pm.

All bedrooms are ensuite with TV, hospitality tray and high-speed Internet Access.

Price includes accommodation, breakfast and dinner taken in the restaurant. Players may make their own arrangements for Saturday and Sunday lunch.

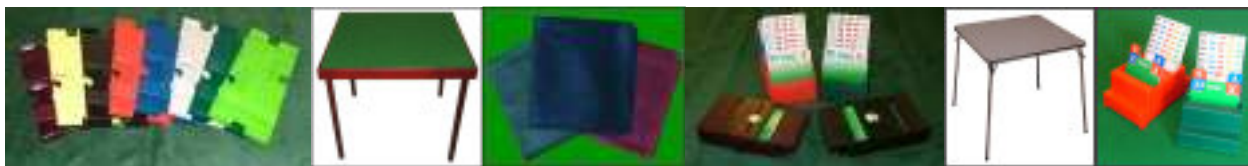
Residential half-board tariff: £165.00, no single supplement.

Non-residential tariff for players living locally: £60.00 for five bridge sessions and Saturday morning two-topic seminar session. Pro rata for fewer sessions. Dinner, if required, Friday and/or Saturday £20.00 each.

For Brochure and Booking Form, contact:
Trevor Livesey, Easy-Bridge
50a South View Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 5ND
Phone: 01268 569615 trevor@easy-bridge.co.uk

On-line request for brochure and booking form at: www.easy-bridge.co.uk

Use classroom equipment at home ***Available from the Bridge Shop***



Pellisier tables - folding wood tables

798mm square; Mahogany coloured frame; folding for easy stacking

Club tables - folding plastic tables

Black with metal legs; top 34 inches square

Corded velvet table covers - Green, wine or blue

Bidding boxes, set of four - Red or green

Bidding buddies, set of four – Red, green or dark blue

Card holder (semi-circular, sits on the table)

Plastic card holder (circular, hand held, set of 4: red, green, yellow, blue)

Carta Mundi Superluxe playing cards (supplied per dozen)

Black Jack cards Large figures for easy reading (Min. order 2 packs)

Presentation Packs of Cards (2 packs)

Plastic wallets (set of 16)

Books in the ***Really Easy Series***

Really Easy Bidding

Really Easy Play in No Trumps

Really Easy Play with Trumps

Really Easy Defence

Really Easy Mistakes

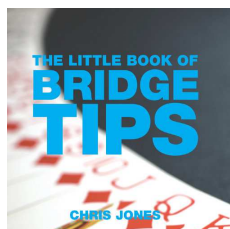
Really Easy Competitive Bidding

Really Easy Modern Acol

Really Easy Slams

Practice Beginning Bridge

Practice Continuing Bridge



Little Book of Bridge tips

Standard English System Summary Card

Useful Conventions Summary Card

Carriage costs will be added to orders.

Prices on application from the Bridge Shop – they often have special deals

How to order: Telephone 01296 397851 between 9am and 5pm and ask for the Bridge Shop, or send an email to bridge.shop@ebu.co.uk.

Alternatively, an order can be faxed (01296 317220)

You can pay by credit card or we can send you an invoice with your goods.