

Overview of Supervised Play

Supervised play is a place for players who have learned how to play bridge and now want to continue but who are not yet comfortable with competitive, open play. It is a place to develop your skills in bidding, cardplay and defence in a competitive but friendly environment. You can come as regularly or irregularly as you like.

- An experienced bridge teacher will be on hand to run the movement and to give advice, comments and guidance during the bidding and play.
- The cost for a supervised session is the same as regular play - \$15 for nonmembers, \$12 for full members and \$10 for concessional members.
- You can attend with a partner or on your own, the teacher will organise the movement in such a way that everyone will get a game.
- The rate of play is generally slower than that in open play (we aim to get through 15-16 boards in a session compared to 24 in the open sections).

Pre-game Lectures (30 minutes prior)

There is a short lecture commencing thirty minutes before session time and occasionally the hands during the session will be “seeded” with a few example hands to reinforce the theory. In the vast majority of cases though, the hands are randomly generated. The lectures are entirely optional and the notes are available for download from the website for those unable to attend in person.

The lectures are available to anyone who is interested, so if you wish to move up to open play (either permanently or for just a trial week) you are welcome to continue attending the lectures for as long as you find them useful.

Assistance during the bidding and play

The teacher will be available throughout the session to answer questions or to provide advice as to the bidding, the play or defence on each hand. Feel free to utilise this as much or as little as you like. Some people prefer to ask for advice regularly, others to ‘sink or swim’ and to debrief afterwards. There is no wrong approach and we will tailor the teaching and advice provided to suit you.

We would encourage you to not grow too dependent on the supervised element. One of the uncomfortable realities of bridge is that one is *never quite sure* what the ‘correct’ play is. Getting used to that uncertainty is part of the challenge and indeed the fun of bridge! It can be tempting as a beginning player to think “I’m going to keep asking questions and checking myself until I’m not making any mistakes” and sadly this approach is doomed. The writer has been playing bridge for thirty years and *still* makes several errors every session.

A note on scoring

During the supervised sessions we tally the results and generate scores, just as we do in our open sections. However, due to the vagaries of the bridge scoring system, there are quite often wildly disparate scores. I would caution you not to read too much into the results – they are really tracked just to get newer players used to the mechanics of scoring and using the bridge mates, not to rank players in any meaningful way. (Also, be aware that a 50% result at bridge is not too bad – it’s not like school or university! You should expect to get below 50% around *half the time*).

There are many reasons that make the scores of a supervised section wildly unpredictable; there are generally quite small numbers of tables, we don’t play many boards, partnerships are often switched around and changed on a week by week basis. All of these factors tend to result in very high (and very low!) scores. In addition, sometimes the teacher will use a hand to illustrate a point and rating a hand where the teacher has guided declarer to a winning play at one table but not the other is hardly a “fair” determination of skill.

The main, underlying goal of our supervised classes is to share the fun and joy of playing bridge. We think it’s a great game and we want you to think so too! If you have any suggestions or constructive criticism to provide, please feel free to share such with the teacher. We can’t always accommodate suggestions, but we will always listen to what up-and-coming bridge players are looking for.