

u3a Beginners Bridge Programme Online

Bridge is one of the most popular u3a activities because it is fun, it keeps you mentally active, it is sociable and a great way to make friends. It is a trick-taking card game which developed from whist but it requires considerable effort and dedication to learn the basics of the game. A Beginner's course gets you off to a great start, but you will continue learning, improving and developing your Bridge for the rest of your life – it's a never-ending and rewarding journey.

The u3a Bridge Group offers you the opportunity to take a course online with the support of enthusiastic mentors from the u3a Bridge-playing community. It is a well structured programme which has been enjoyed by many members since 2022 . Much of the weekly study can be done in your own time and at your own pace, but there are weekly scheduled meetings and play sessions to support your learning.

If you are interested in learning to play Bridge and are comfortable using your computer for learning materials and for practice sessions, you may like to consider this opportunity.

The Programme

The programme is made up of:-

1. Class materials, provided by our partner No Fear Bridge, comprising handouts on each topic, videos, quizzes and exercises that you study at home (about 3 - 4 hours per week).
2. A weekly meeting online where key points are highlighted and discussed and questions are answered. (1 Hour per week)
3. Supervised practice sessions online using the Real Bridge platform, when you play hands with other class members, under the guidance of experienced mentors (3 hours per week).

The course runs for about 5 months, with two starting dates each year. By the end of that time, you will be able to enjoy social Bridge games with friends and play competitions in a novices Bridge Club. The good news is that there is no tuition fee for the programme (because it is a u3a activity, run by volunteers). Participation is limited to u3a members.

There is a small annual fee for the use of online websites and Bridge platforms.

You can test the waters!

If you want to consider how this mode of learning Bridge might suit you, the programme begins with a 3-5 week free, self-study, online opportunity to learn "Mini Bridge" which shows you the basics of Bridge and familiarises you with the computer skills you need for the programme. You can study MiniBridge at any time, so that you are ready to join the next group starting the programme. When you complete the MiniBridge lessons, you will qualify for two Certificates: then you may apply to join the u3a Beginner's Bridge programme.

MiniBridge gives you a great foundation and also enables you to decide whether you will enjoy the game and if this mode of learning suits you.