



♦ AB - Bridge Puzzles



This article was derived from Bridgefeed puzzle article,

Augie Boehm

Augie Boehm

Challenge Hand 1 (Play)

North (D)	Your contract is 4♠ after you successfully pre-empt 4♠ in 3rd seat. West leads the ♥A, then continues with the ♥K
♠ A975 ♥ QJ ♦ 43 ♣ A9876	
South	How do you plan to make your contract?
♠ KQJT864 ♥ T ♦ K2 ♣ K32	

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Bridge is primarily a game of language and logic. Of course, judgment and empathy play large roles, as does luck, at least in the short term. These puzzles feature language and logic. The idea is to deduce a significant amount of information from the bidding and opening lead.

You and your partner bid as follows:

Std Bidding	
South	North
1♦	1♥
1♠	3♠
4♠	All Pass

Your combined club holding is ♣J42 in hand facing ♣Q86 in dummy.
 Wests opening lead is a non-club.
 What is the likeliest location of the missing club honours?

Solution

Most likely,
 West holds the ♣A and East the ♣K.

Clubs is the one unbid suit, so a club lead is normally expected. If West had both top honours, or neither, a club lead is natural, absent a compelling lead in another side suit, such as a singleton.
 If West holds the ♣K, it is still quite normal to lead the suit: "Don't lead away from a king" is a discredited notion.
 Only the unsupported ♣A should dissuade West from attacking clubs in a suit contract.
 Once we deduce that the ♣A is probably with West, it follows that East must hold the ♣K.

Sitting East, you witness the following auction by your opponents.

Std Bidding	
South	North
1NT	2♣
2♥	3NT
4♣	All Pass

West, your partner, leads the ♣2, fourth best, and below is the club position:

North (dummy)

♣ Q5

East (you)

♣ K974

Declarer calls for dummy's ♣5.

Three questions:

- What is South's distribution?
- Where are the missing club picture cards?
- What do you play to trick one?

Solution

- South's shape is 4-4-2-3. South showed 4-4 in the majors responding to Stayman, and partner's ♣2 lead means declarer started with three clubs, hence exactly two diamonds.
- South holds the ♣AJx or ATx; West wouldn't underlead an ace against a suit contract, which places the ♣A with South. If South started with ♣Axx, he would try the ♣Q from dummy at trick one as the only legitimate way to score the ♣Q if the leader holds the king. Therefore, South holds the ♣J or ♣T as well as the ♣A.
- c. Finesse your ♣9. Playing the ♣K is futile and could hand declarer three club tricks. By withholding the ♣K at trick one (and covering the queen if led), the defenders save a club trick when opening leader is considerate enough to supply the ♣T or ♣J.

You are defending against the following auction.

Std Bidding	
South	North
1♦	1♥
1♠	1NT
All Pass	

A relevant question is what N-S tend to open holding 3-3 in the minors — they answer 1♣. How many diamonds is South likely to hold?

Solution

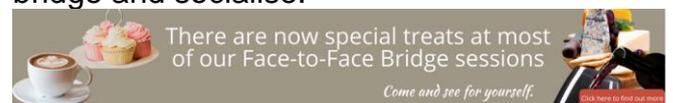
Four or five diamonds. South has shown four spades and at most three hearts. With at least seven minor suit cards, the opening was 1♦, not 1♣. With 4-3-3-3 distribution, systemically opener would have started with 1♣. If South had six diamonds, he would presumably have rebid 2♦ over 1NT. Opener's possible distributions are:

- 4♠=3♥=4♦=2♣,
- 4♠=2♥=4♦=3♣,
- 4♠=1♥=4♦=4♣,
- 4♠=2♥=5♦=2♣,
- 4♠=1♥=5♦=3♣,
- 4♠=3♥=5♦=1♣.

(Note that the = symbol means suits are in the order specified. For example, 4-3-3-3 means the four-card suit can be any, but 4=3=3=3 means four spades and three each of the other suits.)



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♦ PO – Loser on Loser

Solution to Challenge Hand 1

 <p><i>Pat O'Connor</i></p>	<p>Loser on Loser</p> <p>It is from my book <i>A Second Book of Bridge Problems</i>.</p>
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North (D)	Standard Bidding			
♠ A975	West	North (D)	East	South
♥ QJ		Pass	Pass	4♠
♦ 43	All Pass			
♣ A9876	Bidding Notes			
South	4♠	5 loser, little chance of slam		
♠ KQJT864	Pass			
♥ T				
♦ K2				
♣ K32				

- T1 West leads the ♥A, ♥J, ♥2 (count), ♥T
 T2 West follows with the ♥K.

Plan the play.

Analysis

There are four losers. One would go away if East had the ♦A, but you know it won't be that way because this is a bridge problem!

East is the danger hand here. Can you find a way to set up club tricks without East getting on lead to skewer your ♦K?

Full Deal

	North (D)	
	♠ A975	
West	♥ QJ	East
♠ 3	♦ 43	♠ 2
♥ AK987	♣ A9876	♥ 65432
♦ A8765		♦ QJT9
♣ 54		♣ QJT
	South	
4♠/S	♠ KQJT864	Vul Nil
Lead ♥AK	♥ T	Dir: N
	♦ K2	
	♣ K32	

You could draw trumps, lead the ♣6 from dummy and duck it in your hand if East plays low. This would lose the lead to West who is the safe hand. As you see this would not work here because I have given East the ♣QJ10!

This is a classic situation that you need to recognise at Trick 1, or Trick 2 at the latest. The solution is t:

T2 West plays ♥K, ♥Q, ♥3, and dummy to throw a small club ♣2 on the ♥K!

T3 Now West remains on lead and a diamond lead from West cannot cost you two tricks.

Then you can draw trumps and set up the clubs for diamond discards. After this neat play at Trick 2, the only way that East could get on lead is with the ♦A which, as we know, would not be a problem.

You can survive even if clubs are split 4-1. Just go to dummy twice and ruff two clubs in your hand.

This is known in the trade as a “loser on loser” play.

Key Point

A “loser on loser” play can keep a dangerous opponent off lead.

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♦ PH –Raising Opener’s minor.



Pat Harrington

This article was based on a Bridge feed article “[Raising opener’s minor](#)” by Pat Harrington.

Raising opener’s minor suit after a takeout double

The auction proceeds: 1♣ by partner, double by right-hand opponent. Redouble shows at least 10 high-card points. Unless you have other partnership agreements, **after a takeout double, raises of opener’s suit do not show strength – not even jump raises.** Suppose you hold:

♠97 ♥743 ♦QJ97 ♣K754

Partner’s 1♣ opener bid is **doubled**. You have 6 HCP and can scrape up a bid. Had RHO passed, you might have bid 1♦, but your goal now should be to make communication more difficult for the opponents. A 1♦ bid won’t do the job. The opponents can easily show either major at the one level.

What if you bid 2♣? Some players are overly cautious, and you might talk doubler’s partner out of bidding. Are you concerned about whether you even have a club fit? Chances are you do. Partner is much more likely to have four or five clubs than only three. In competition, you want to describe your hand while making it as difficult as possible for the opponents. Pass or 1♦ won’t do it. Bidding 2♣ might not bother them either, but it’s the best you can do. A nice side effect of your bid is that it may allow partner to compete higher. Here’s another hand:

♠654 ♥9 ♦QJ73 ♣K9874

Again, partner’s 1♣ is doubled by RHO. You probably feel comfortable with a 2♣ bid now, and it might make the opponents slightly uncomfortable, but there is still a lot of room for them to bid. You can do better. Because partner is quite likely to have four or even five clubs, you can raise to 3♣. You are using the law of total tricks. The law suggests that you can compete for as many tricks as your side has trumps. It’s reasonable to

expect there to be a nine-card club fit, so you compete for nine tricks on that basis. Partner will not take you for a good hand (you didn’t redouble). Your 3♣ raise is weak and pre-emptive. Here is a complete deal that illustrates our topic.

North	Standard Bidding			
	West	North	East	South (D)
♠ 92				1♣
♥ 43				
♦ 9873	X	3♣	?	
♣ AT982				
South	Bidding Notes			
♠ QJ3	1♣	3+C, opening hand		
♥ AT97	X	Takeout		
♦ 64	3♣	Pre-emptive Raise		
♣ KQJ5	?			

	North	
	♠ 92	
	♥ 43	
	♦ 9873	
	♣ AT982	
West		East
♠ AT85		♠ K765
♥ KJ62		♥ Q85
♦ AKT5		♦ QJ2
♣ 6		♣ 743
	South	
	♠ QJ3	
	♥ AT97	
	♦ 64	
	♣ KQJ5	
3NT/S Lead ♦6		Vul Nil Dir: S

West’s double is not perfect, but he does have adequate support for all unbid suits. East has a nice hand with 11 HCP. Had North not taken up so much room, East would be able to show this hand. East could jump in a major, but a better plan is to cue bid 2♣. Advancer to a takeout double uses the cue bid to show at least invitational strength and doubt about the best denomination. After North’s jump to 3♣, a 2♣ “cue bid” isn’t possible. East could jump to game in a major or cue bid 4♣ to ask partner to choose. He could also bid a somewhat conservative 3♥ or 3♠ or make a responsive double (showing a desire to bid but with no clear direction) if the partnership uses that convention.

Whatever East does, some guesswork will be involved, and there are several ways for East–West to go wrong. They are okay in 3♣, but they might bid game and go down or get to 3♥ (also down). North’s 3♣ bid makes life harder for East–West.

On occasion, North–South will play in 3♣ doubled. That’s down one, minus only 100 points — less than East–West can make in the correct contract. Using a pre-emptive jump raise after the opponent’s takeout double puts pressure on your opponents. When you make them guess, you have a better chance of getting a good score.

♦ JF – Hand Analysis

 <p>Julian Foster</p>	<p>Julian Foster (many times NSW representative) analysing (bidding & play) on an interesting hand from a club session. Sourced SBC Wisdom articles.</p>
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Part scores

	North		Dealer: West Vul: EW
	♠ KJ92		East
West (D)	♥ 8		♠ AT43
♠ 75	♦ Q976		♥ QT
♥ KJ9652	♣ KQ74		♦ JT52
♦ A84			♣ A86
♣ J3	South		
	♠ Q86		♣♦♥♠NT
11	♥ A743		N 3 - - 2 -
9 11	♦ K3		S 3 - - 2 -
	♣ T952		E - - 2 - -
9			W - - 2 - -

This Board is a typical part-score battle with the points evenly spread. The first decision is East’s. A couple of tables opened 1♦. I would be tempted as well – you have some 10s and two As and getting into the bidding first tends to be an advantage. But it’s hardly a crime a pass as well.

If East does open 1♦ the bidding is likely to continue

West	North	East (D)	South
		1♦	Pass
1♥	X	Pass, 1♠, 1NT	

North should make a takeout double holding clubs and spades. East will probably pass having opened such a complete minimum! Or they might rebid 1♠ or 1NT (depending on style)

West	North	East (D)	South
		1♦	Pass
1♥	X	Pass, 1♠, 1NT	2♣
2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass or 3♣

South will no doubt now bid 2♣, West will probably compete to 2♥ and that might be it, although there’s a case for South to bid onto 3♣ – especially if East did rebid 1NT. Why?

- We can almost “see” partner’s singleton heart – East is balanced so has at least 2, West rebid the suit vulnerable so almost certainly has 6. With our 4 that only leaves 1 for partner.
- We have the ♠Q which rates to fit with partner’s implied spade suit from their takeout double.
- Our ♦K may be well placed after the 1♦ bid, on our right.
- We are not vulnerable so even if we go off we may well score better than a heart contract making their way.

An alternative auction starts

West	North	East (D)	South
		Pass	Pass
2♥	X	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass or 3♥	Pass

North should make a takeout double over this. Yes, partner is a passed hand but we have perfect shape and could well want to compete – especially at favourable vulnerability. The hand with the shortage in the opponent’s suit should tend to be the one that stretches to act. South will then bid 3♣ (see advanced section for more discussion on how South can distinguish between good and bad hands here).

East has a close decision to Pass or 3♥ (Vul). Good defensive values, so pass is usually better.

3♣ by South might make, but in practice might go off. Declarer normally will only have 2♠, 1♥, 1♦ and 3♣ plus one ruff in the other hand (either a ♥ in North or a ♦ in South). That’s only 8 tricks. They either need some more ruffs (i.e. they don’t draw all the trumps) or they finesse against East’s ♠T (which is basically seeing through the back of the

cards!) But even 3♣ going 1 off for **-50** is a good score because EW can make their heart contract. (**-140**)

Most tables were in 2♥ by West (twice by West and once by East after a 2♦ multi opening). All 3 tables made 9 tricks, declarer losing one trick in each suit. I'd probably lead the ♣K but declarer will often take both black aces, 5 hearts and will set up 2 diamonds if they lead the ♦J from dummy (if South covers, declarer wins and leads towards the ♦T later, otherwise declarer runs the ♦J to North and later the ♦A will drop South's ♦K to again set up the ♦T).

Accurate defence can hold 2♥ to 8 tricks though – how? At first glance the answer is a diamond ruff. Suppose North leads a diamond to the ♦TK and ♦A. South wins the ♥A and can now play a diamond to North's Q and get a ruff. This seems better but still isn't quite good enough because the winning ♦J is still now in dummy and can later discard one of West's black suit losers. So, declarer loses 1 black suit card, ♥A, ♦Q and ♦ ruff. See advanced section for what the defence actually need to do!

Key points to note

- Opening the bidding tends to give your side an advantage. It's worth getting in even with 11 point hands provided they are reasonable.
- If you are short in the opponent's suit, you should be the one that may need to stretch to act in a competitive auction.
- Cards in suits your partner has implied in the auction tend to be good features in your hand and should encourage bidding further.
- "Lebensohl" is a very useful convention when responding to takeout doubles of weak twos (see advanced section).
- Sometimes you have to be patient in defence and wait to take your aces at the right moment (see advanced section).

More advanced

Firstly let's discuss an auction where partner doubles a weak two bid and it's passed back to us. There is a very wide range of hands we

could have and in many cases, we will have to start bidding at the 3 level (the only exception is 2♥ X P where we still have a 2♠ bid available). Suppose you had the shape of the South hand here but you had 0 points. You would have to bid 3♣ over partner's double of 2♥, it's just your longest suit. But now suppose you had the same shape but this time had 10 points. If you **ALSO** bid 3♣ with that sort of hand it makes life impossible for partner.

Imagine North is sitting with about 16 points. Opposite 0 points they obviously don't want to do any more – but opposite 10 points they might make game! How can they tell whether to bid more or not? They can't. The answer is the OTHER hand needs to help somehow. The solution is a convention called **Lebensohl**. This says that a bid of 2NT in response to a takeout double of a weak two is an artificial bid showing a **BAD hand** (usually about 0-7 points). Over that partner nearly always bids 3♣ (the only time they don't is when they had doubled with a really big hand to start with and can't afford for partner to pass 3♣). After 3♣ South simply passes or bids their own suit.

By starting with 2NT on all hands in the 0-7 range it means that an immediate bid of a suit at the 3 level can now show some values (usually about 8-11). So on the hand here South could bid 3♣ showing 8-11 instead of 0-11. That makes no difference here as North has a minimum double and won't go any further anyway but if North had about 16 points, now they know they are close to game.

So, what does South do with hands that might have wanted to bid 2NT naturally? The answer is usually to either pass the double and convert it to penalties (which they might do if their trumps were good) or to just bid 3NT and hope! Defence is difficult so 3NT frequently makes even when it theoretically shouldn't – hence this tends to be a winning tactic. Yes, occasionally you will end in 3NT 1 off instead of 2NT making. But that's a small price to pay for being able to more accurately evaluate all the other part-score and game going hands.

Returning to the problem of defending 2♥,

- T1 I suggested the play start is a diamond **♦6** to the **♦T**, **♦K** and **♦A**,
- T2 West a heart to south **♥A**
- T3 Followed by a diamond to the Norths **♦Q**
- T4 North gives a diamond ruff.
- T5 Now South switches to a black suit.

Advanced North defenders should be signalling which suit they want with a suit preference card as they give the ruff (it's academic on this hand but they should be signalling spades not clubs, the reason being it may be critical for partner to lead a spade through declarer's **♠Q**; the same isn't true for clubs which they can play safely themselves).

But declarer gets in with one black ace, draws the remaining trumps, crosses back to the other black ace and discards a black suit loser on the winning **♦J**. Still making 9 tricks! So what does the defence need to do? The solution is for South to think ahead and be patient. They need to **DUCK** the first round of trumps and win the second. Now when declarer wins the first black ace in dummy they can't get back to hand quickly to draw the last trump. If they try losing the black suit trick, North can win and play the 4th diamond so South can ruff the **♦J** away. Now there is no discard and declarer will eventually lose the other black trick as well.

Even if South doesn't project the play forward completely (and most of us wouldn't!) it's good general principles to win the 2nd round of trumps here and not the first for two reasons:

1. It helps cut declarer's communications (and this time that does prove key because declarer is 2632; if declarer had a black suit singleton and that was the one the defence switched to they could ruff back to hand to finish drawing trumps then later return to dummy with the other black ace to discard that loser on the **♦J**); and
2. It allows partner to make a discard and signal to us (not so relevant on this hand since it doesn't matter which black suit we play but on many hands this signal could be critical).

A lot of the time in bridge it pays to be patient and not rush in with our aces and kings! Duck

♥A of trumps on the 1st round and win the 2nd round to exhaust dummy of trumps. That was to allow them to continue to force declarer.

Julian Foster (many times NSW representative)

♦ Bridge Lessons.



Jessica Brake

Jessica Brake has been teaching **Bridge Basics Online** since April 10. These are a follow on to Anita's Introduction to Bridge Classes. **Zoom is Mon 9.30am** and practice Wed 7pm.

Bridge Basics - Online using Zoom 9:30AM	Mondays
Developing a long suit for extra tricks and planning the play in a No Trump contract	1st May
Overcalling and the Takeout Double	8th May
Counting losers, playing and defending a suit contract	15th May
Play in your Major when you have a fit, more bidding when partner opens 1NT	22nd May
Making the best of your high cards, the fine art of Finessing	29th May
Being Competitive, getting into the bidding after an opponent has opened	5th June
Defending well, the hardest part of the game.	12th June
Bridge Basics - Face-to-Face @ East Lindfield 10am	Tuesdays
Making the best of your high cards, the fine art of Finessing	2nd May
Being Competitive, getting into the bidding after an opponent has opened	9th May
Defending well, the hardest part of the game.	16th May

Link to [Website Teaching Basics](#)



Liz Wilkinson

Liz Wilkinson is teaching **Bridge Basics** on Tuesday mornings. This is a follow-on course to Introduction to "Introduction to Bridge" but others are welcome to join.



Anita Curtis

Anita Curtis is teaching her popular **Develop your Skills & Broaden your Game**. See [website for more details](#).

NSBC Develop Your Skills May/June 2023 Program ONLINE THURSDAYS at 9.30am with Anita Curtis



Develop Your Skills (DYS) is aimed at players who have completed the Build on the Basics course or who have been playing for at least one year. Bidding, declarer play & defence are all targeted, as well as hand analysis to consolidate skills learnt. These lessons will be held **on-line**. You can watch the video at any time or participate in the zoom session (9.30-11.30am). You can also play the hands on [Realbridge](#) after the lesson at your convenience.

Date	Lesson Topic
May 4	Bidding Slams in No Trumps (bidding)
May 11	Forcing or not forcing (bidding)
May 18	No lesson
May 25	Card Combinations missing 1 honour – part 1 (declarer play)
June 1	Advancer's Options in the competitive auction (bidding)
June 8	Unblocking in defence (defence)
June 15	Hand Analysis 2 (all skills)
June 22	Cross ruffing (declarer play)
June 29	Life after transfers (bidding)

Visitors \$25; Members \$20

For more information or to register, email Anita: ac210927@bigpond.net.au

NSBC Intermediate/BYG May 2023 Program ONLINE WEDNESDAYS at 9.30am with Anita Curtis



Broaden Your Game (BYG): aspiring intermediate players who play in Rookies or Restricted.

Intermediate: aspiring open players or those with considerable experience in Restricted.

Date	Lesson Topic	Description
3 May	Eddie Kantar's No Trump Defence	BYG/Intermediate defence. Using Eddie Kantar hands, we explore more principles of NT defence to make you a better defender.
10 May	Roman Keycard Blackwood – Tools for major suit success	BYG/Intermediate bidding. Why switch to RKCB? How will it help your slam bidding?
17 May	No lesson	
24 May	Gentle Hand Analysis 2, 2023	BYG/Intermediate all skills. Hand analysis gives you the chance to practise declarer play, defence & bidding with 8 new hands.
31 May	So you think you know Standard?	BYG/Intermediate bidding. This important lesson highlights problem areas for the intermediate player in Standard bidding and suggests solutions.

Visitors \$25; Members \$20

For more information or to register, email Anita: ac210927@bigpond.net.au

◆ Our RB Almost Winter Teams Congress

With Maitland bridge club cancelling their Congress, we have stepped in and created an Open & a separate **Restricted Teams** opportunity on May 28th.

New "Almost Winter" Swiss Teams Congress
Winter Online Restricted Swiss Teams

Sunday 28th May on RealBridge

10:00am Start 2 Sessions – Swiss Teams (IMP/VP) Event

Prize Pool: Generous, but dependent on Entries

Convenor, queries & partnership advice: Gary Barwick 0413 884 805

Director: Mathew McManus

Entry Management: Enter by MyABF

Pre-Payments: Visitors use MyABF Credits & NSBC Members to select "Club PP System"

Player Fees (pp) \$30pp

◆ Our Novice & Restricted Teams Congress @ EL

Our Clubs first Festival Event - Novice & Restricted Teams congress is being held at East Lindfield on Saturday the 17 June.

Last year the winners:

Ven	T	Grade	NSBC Festival Restricted & Novice Swiss PAIRS Congress in June	Sponsor
EL	8	Restricted	David Hagley, Robyn Rogers, Michael Clarey, Penny Clarey	2men & a Truck
		Novice	John Simmonds, Sachiko Cathcart, Simon Hunter, Susan Eason	

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Rookie/Restricted Pairs

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9th Novice & Restricted Teams Festival – Novice & Restricted Teams

Saturday 17th June (2 sessions)
10am Start– 9th Restricted & Novice Teams
Prize Pool: Generous Prize Pool (Dependant on Entries)
Convenor, queries & partnership advice: Mike Prescott 0435 528 872
Director: Ronnie Ng
Entry Management: Enter by MyABF Website
Pre-payments: Visitors –Please Pay using ABF Bridge Credits, Members Choose “Club PP System”
2022 8th Restricted Winners: David Hagley, Robyn Rogers, Michael Clarey, Penny Clarey
2022 8th Novice Winners: John Simmonds, Sachiko Cathcart, Simon Hunter, Susan Eason

Player Fees (pp) \$45 (Light lunch and snacks provided) Why not join? Remote Members just \$35/year

6th Novice & Restricted Pairs Festival – Novice & Restricted Pairs

Sunday 18th June (2 sessions)
10am Start– 9th Restricted & Novice Pairs
Prize Pool: Generous Prize Pool (Dependant on Entries)
Convenor, queries & partnership advice: Mike Prescott 0435 528 872
Director: Ronnie Ng
Entry Management: Enter by MyABF Website
Pre-payments: Visitors –Please Pay using ABF Bridge Credits, Members Choose “Club PP System”
2022 5th Restricted Winners: Jay Novak & Richard Carter
2022 5th Novice Winners : Sandra Belcher & Joe Camilleri

Player Fees (pp) \$45 (Light lunch and snacks provided) Why not join? Remote Members just \$35/year

◆ Our Novice & Restricted Pairs Congress @ EL

Our Clubs second Festival Event - Novice & Restricted Pairs congress is being held at East Lindfield on Sunday the 18 June.

Last Years Winners:

Ven	T	Grade	NSBC Festival Restricted & Novice Swiss PAIRS Congress in June	Sponsor
EL	10	Restricted	Jay Novak & Richard Carter	2men & a Truck
		Novice	Sandra Belcher & Joe Camilleri	

TWO MEN AND A TRUCK

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◆ Beginner Bridge Lessons

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NEXT DATES

- Start Date: **6th May 2023**
- Lessons on Saturday mornings at 10.00am
- Practice Sessions Monday evenings at 7.00pm