

# Lessons – Modern Competitive Bidding

## When?

Alan Dundas will provide a series of eight lessons on Tuesday mornings **starting 9.30am 7 May and continuing through until 25 June**. Lesson duration is around 2¼ hours and the cost is **one blue \$6 game token per lesson**.

## What's covered?

The modern game of bridge has become much more competitive. Those pesky opponents keep overcalling, pre-empting, bidding our suit or doubling to disrupt the smooth flow of our auction to our best contract. The course provides techniques that we can use to mitigate the effect of such intervention and give us the best chance to find our optimum contract.

Similarly, sitting back and letting our opponents comfortably bid to a safe contract will often deliver us a poor score, especially when those sitting in the same direction are making life difficult for the opponents at their table. The course provides techniques for how we can become pesky ourselves and safely disrupt the opponents' bidding.

The next page provides more detail on the content for those who are interested.

## Is it for me?

The course is classified as **intermediate** and is thus not suited to newer players. As a guide, you should have been **playing regularly for at least two years**, have a reasonable grasp of bridge fundamentals and be ready to address the tactics involved in routine competitive auctions.

The course will appeal to a range of players:

- The course is ideal for experienced players who haven't done any structured lessons on the principles of competitive bidding.
- If you've done the course before, you'll probably find that your game has progressed and that you're now ready for more of the topics covered.
- Players well experienced in competitive bidding may find that the course provides good revision and some prompts for discussion with their partner.

## What's the lesson format?

Each lesson focusses on a couple of key principles. Much of the time is spent on working through quizzes and looking at "when should you", "when shouldn't you" and "how should you" situations. Lessons conclude with some practice hands. Comprehensive workbook notes are provided.

## What if I miss a lesson?

No problem. The workbook covers the main info and has comments on the practice hands.

## How do I find out more?

Contact Alan at the club or 0418 945 763 (after 14 April) or [akdundas@bigpond.net.au](mailto:akdundas@bigpond.net.au)

**Please sign up early at the club (or on our website) so that we can plan for the appropriate class size.**

Regards,  
The Education Committee

## Course Content

- When we overcall:
  - Controlled aggression when overcalling.
  - The value of the cue raise.
- Countering opponents overcalls, including:
  - The negative double - essential.
  - How to penalise an overcall.
- Partscore strategies:
  - Balancing (not selling out cheaply).
  - Tactical “overbidding” guided by the Law of Total Tricks.
  - Knowing when you’ve already done enough.
- More uses for the double and how to double for penalties.
- Pre-emptive openings and overcalls:
  - How the combined vulnerabilities affect your decision.
  - Responding to pre-empts.
  - Sacrificing.
- Dealing with the opponents’ pre-empts.
- Contested 1NT auctions:
  - Competing over their 1NT (and what changes vs a weak 1NT).
  - When they bid over our 1NT.
- When to look for penalties (and what’s different vs partscores, games, slams & sacrifices).
- And much more!