**♠ Peninsula Bridge Club ♥**

Beginners Bridge Lessons

Report 2010 – 2011

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| Class | Number started | Cost | Number Completed |
| Beginners 10 week course August - October 2010  Tuesdays 2.30 - 500pm | 10\*  \*2 did not turn up & I had limited 1st class to 12 | $95 per person included lessons, book, notes, and light refreshments | 10 |
| Practice Play  Tuesdays 2.30 – 4.30 | Varies between  3 - 15 | $6 per player per session | On-going, drop-in |
| Beginners 10 week course  April – June 2011  Mondays 9.30 – 11.30 | 6\*  \*2 from August Beginners course attended but group of 4 pulled out day before | $100 per person included lessons, book, notes, and light refreshments | 6 |
| Beginners 10 week course  April – June  Wednesdays 9.30 – 11.30 | 12 | $100 per person included lessons, book, notes, and light refreshments | 11\*  \*Death in Family |
| Improvers/Refresher Classes  Wednesdays 9.30 – 11.30  June – July 2011 | 4 + 12 + 10 + 13 + 12 + 12 | $7 per player per session | Pay as you go, drop-in |
| Convention Workshops  Wednesdays 9.30 – 11.30  August 2011 | Maximum is 24  10 | $7 per player per session  *New training materials* | Pay as you go, drop-in |
| Beginners 10 week course  August – October 2011  Fridays 9.45 – 12.00 | 20 maximum  (pre-paid) | $100 per person includes lessons, book, notes, and light refreshments | n/a |
| Beginners 10 week course  August – October 2011  Mondays 7.00 – 9.00pm | 12\*  \* Includes drop-out from April – June Wed course | $100 per person included lessons, book, notes, and light refreshments | n/a |
| Book a Table  Practice Play  Wednesdays  9.30 – 12.00 | Limited to 4 | $7 per player per session  *New training materials* | Pre-register |
| Professional Guest Workshops | Limited to 40 | Club susidised | Pre=register |

Table 1: Summary of training courses offered by PBC 2010\*

*\* Comments from Evaluation Feedback included at end of Report.*

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In 2010, the President of PBC mentioned to me that the Club had lost its Beginners Bridge Teacher and queried whether I would be interested in taking up the role.

I previously had taught a table of beginners in Melbourne and I have worked as a teacher and trainer and thought this would be a good way for me to be involved in my Club and the local community, so I agreed.

I had discussions with Colin, in his role as President and teacher, and with David Farmer, who conducts teaching at Manly Leagues Bridge Club, about resources, costs and timing. It was decided for uniformity on the Northern Beaches that I would use Derrick Browne’s Beginners Book.

I advertised the course details at PBC, in the Manly Daily, Peninsular Living and Pittwater Life magazines. I took over 100 calls & emails for the first course. It became evident that whilst people were interested in learning bridge, family responsibilities, holidays & ill health prevented many from being able to commit to a course on particular days or times. The availability of PBC was a determining factor on times available.

Eventually I had enough to start our 1st course on a Tuesday afternoon after the morning duplicate session. Callers who expressed interest but were unable to attend on a Tuesday were placed on a waiting list with their preferred days & times for future courses.

All 10 attendees completed the course & then wanted to continue playing – but where and when was a problem. We solved that by continuing on with the lessons/play on Tuesday afternoons and this has now developed into a “Practice Play” (supervised session). I select some of the easier set boards that have already been played that morning or the day before and mark how the bidding might go on the hand records for them to take home & review. We also have a mini lesson/review of a topic, eg leads, the finesse, relevant to the boards selected to play that day.

In the first half of 2011 I took approximately 5 calls/emails a day when we advertised a new beginners’ course to start in March. I thought a maximum of 12 was best when I was starting out & added a 2nd course with the overflow. When all the participants completed those courses, the question again was where could they play and practice what they had learned? One attendee had heard of supervised sessions in local retirement villages & reported back on his visit. I went & checked out several places so I could recommend to beginners where they could practice if they could not come to the Club’s Tuesday afternoon Practice Play session. I also had discussions with 1 retirement village that was interested in setting up a duplicate session about what they would need. I also agreed to run some lessons on conventions for beginners who wanted to know about stayman, doubles etc. which became the Wednesday Improvers/refresher class. I create notes on the particular topic on the weekend & email it to interested players. I set 5 boards of 4 hands, as well as extra “lucky dip” boards for the faster tables, to practice what I teach (approximately 24 – 30 boards).

In the second half of 2011 I am conducting a morning and an evening beginners’ class – which requires me to set 20 - 25 boards. In an attempt to reduce the time setting boards, as well as accommodate the growing numbers of beginners keen to practice and learn more bridge, I asked the PBC Committee to allow me to purchase some teaching materials. I was overwhelmed with their unanimous vote of support and encouragement and a financial contribution of $300. I have purchased training packs for conventions and bidding & play (“Wednesday Workshops”) as well as two Beginners Sets to cater for some additional supervised sessions (“Book a Table”).

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**Outcomes**

In the year that I have been doing this, I have paid to PBC $1,768.

I have also recommended 5 new members from training sessions to PBC.

We developed a Mentor project to encourage developing beginners into a duplicate session. Special thanks to our 3 volunteer mentors: Colin Chase, Colin Mingay, and Sue Riley.

PBC conducted four free computer presentations: “Introduction to the BBO”. Beginners learned how to practice online and members were shown how to play bridge online with other people and robots as partners. Special thanks to Bev Craw for showing us around the BBO website.

PBC Training subcommittee (Michael Hanvey, Colin Chase, Martin Beech, Vivien Eldridge and Cath Whiddon) organized 6 subsidised workshops for members with Professional Guest Teachers: John Roberts (x2) Ron Klinger (x2) Derrick Brown, and Gay Allen & Greg Eustace.

Next Steps

* Club policy on “graduates” and supervised play?
* Supervised duplicate alongside regular duplicate sessions?

**Some feedback & comments from PBC students**

**Completed Evaluation Forms show:**

* 100% of students strongly agreed the classes well organized, and the presenter well prepared and encouraged questions. And the training met/exceeded their expectations.
* 100% of students either strongly agreed or agreed that the presentations were clear and understandable with helpful examples.
* 10% of students did not find the handouts useful or wanted more handouts.
* 25% of students asked for more time to practice or a longer course to consolidate learning.

As a result of the feedback, additional beginners’ training materials have been purchased to improve current training materials and consolidate learning outcomes.

**Other comments from students:**

*Learn 1 week & revisit the next, instead of going on to next lesson? (I kept forgetting what I had learned the previous week)*

*I would like to thank you for your excellent teaching throughout the ten weeks.This also continues with the Supervised Play sessions and Refresher Classes.   Your patience, dedication, encouragement and positive attitude are very much appreciated, and I would recommend your classes to anyone wishing to learn Bridge or those wanting to renew their Bridge playing skills.*

*I loved the playing the best – need more practice.*

*Some thoughts on bridge lessons: I can't believe how much I have learned in this time due to your generosity of time, extreme patience, sense of humour and your availability always to listen to queries.  I know I have such a long way to go but thank you for a great grounding.*

Cath – my feedback: the bridge classes  - practising to improve your partnership held Tuesday afternoon -  reviewing the basics of the game held Wednesday morning are invaluable tools for both beginners and those wanting to return back to the game of bridge I am one of those returning after an absence of 10 years and I want to congratulate Peninsula Bridge Club for hosting such classes and giving people the opportunity to improve their game  
I want to especially say a big thank you to you –please pass on to PBC:  
- Cath does a remarkable job teaching us all and she does it with such grace and patience  
- Cath is a loving person and a great teacher and such a joy in the classes  
For me it has been a great experience and I am really looking forward to getting back to playing bridge on a regular basis  
 Very enjoyable – and challenging

My apologies for not attending bridge lately but everything & anything seems to be happening on Tuesdays at the moment. I have decided to give bridge a miss for the time being but hopefully will return at some future date. I would like to thank you Cath for your time & patience I did enjoy the experience & in fact felt I was beginning to get an understanding of the game.

So much to learn, my brain was fogged by the end of the class.

I really miss the classes. I am not bowling this coming Tuesday and would love to attend. Sorry I missed overcalls and doubles. Hope to see you on Tuesday.

*I think I need to redo the beginners course to confirm things in my own mind?*

*Bridge is way more complex than anticipated – more practice def needed….*