



Your Move from Classes to Competitive Bridge

You have finished the Welsh Bridge Union Bridge classes. It's time to expand your experience of playing bridge. What can you do to ease your transition into competitive bridge?

Here is some advice written under the following headings.

- What you can do.
- What your club can do.
- What your Area Association can do.
- What "Your WBU" can do.

What you should do

You've finished Bridge classes and now it's time to expand your experience of playing bridge. What might you do to develop as a bridge player?

- What you must do is to start playing Bridge regularly, at least once or twice a week. Play lots of bridge in a mixture of environments.
- It might be at home in the company of like-minded friends where you can have a good social evening and practice your system.
- Start playing in a club. Morning, afternoon and evening most days, there will be somewhere you can play Bridge. Play at the club where you took lessons. Hopefully there will be a session that suits your level of ability. If not, ask a committee member if the club could organise one.
- In smaller clubs where extra sessions are not practical, try badgering the regular players to come round to your home, perhaps once a month to play some bridge. They should keep you playing at a reasonable speed. You can discuss hands with them – not just play but bidding and defence. They can help you understand what tactics and strategy to adopt to make a good score.
- Play in events that use computer-dealt hands and ask for hand records. This will let you look over the hands afterwards and compare your results with others.
- Play in events with better players. You will begin to notice how they don't make bidding easy for you. You will see how they can make more tricks both as declarer and as defender. You will in time start to use their ways in your play.
- Play with a better player as partner. You may feel self-conscious at first but you will find that it both improves your understanding of the basics of Bridge and develops your play.
- Play in events run by your Area. There are many tournaments throughout the year, and the WBU is committed to introducing more events for those leaving classes and wishing to develop their competitive experience. Look out for events for beginners and for improvers.
- Start to play with a regular partner.