“Drop-In” Classes $10
Thursdays at 9:30am or 4:15pm

Sep 24: Hand evaluation beyond HCPs

Oct 1: Declarer play of the hand

Oct 8: Defense, leads, carding

Oct 15: Etiquette & Procedures

Oct 22: Cue Bids

Oct 29: No class (Ventura Regional Oct 26-Nov 1)

Nov 5: Bridge thinking skills

Nov 12: Stayman & Transfers (Jacoby & Texas) – **EASY CLASS**

Nov 19: Rules of 7, 11, 15, 17, 22 etc.– **EASY CLASS**

Probability of how 4 cards will split between the defenders

2-2	40%
3-1	**50%**
4-0	10%

Probability of how 5 cards will split between the defenders

3-2	**68%**
4-1	28%
5-0	4%

Probability of how 6 cards will split between the defenders

3-3	36%
4-2	**48%**
5-1	15%
6-0	1%

Think before you act

Good bridge players do more than count points or follow conventions:

- Evaluate the whole hand, not just HCPs.
- Consider distribution, suit quality, controls, and fit.
- Ask what partner's bidding tells you.
- Consider the opponents' bidding and what it suggests about their hands.

1.	♠QJ32	♡QJ3	♢QJ3	♣QJ3
2.	♠KJ32	♡KQ32	♢QJ32	♣2

Both have 12 points; which is the stronger?

The Auction vs the Result

The Auction goes smoothly, it's straightforward, the opener and partner each have an opening bid and they end in 4♠.

You go down 1.

You look at the hand record, and it says you can only make 3♠.

Did anything go wrong? No!

Think ahead in the bidding

- What has partner promised?
- What information do you still need?
- Are you describing your hand accurately?
- Are you looking for a part score, game, or slam?
- Are you bidding based on partnership values or simply because you have extra points?

The bidding goes (1):

Opener	**Partner**
1♠	2♣
2♡	2♠
3♣	?

What does each bid show?

Does Opener have a singleton or void?

The bidding goes (2):

Opener	**Partner**
1♣	1♠
1NT	2♢
2♠	4♠

What does each bid show?
How many points does Opener have?
How many ♠s does Partner have?
How many points does Partner have?

The bidding goes (3):

Opener	**Partner**
1NT	2♣
2♢	2NT
Pass	

How many points does Partner have?

How many points does Opener have?

The bidding goes (4) NOT VULNERABLE:

Opener	**Partner**
2♠	2NT
3♢	4♠

What does 2NT show?

What does 3♢ show?

What does 4♠ show? Any different from 2NT?

Think before playing from Dummy

- Count your losers in a suit contract and winners in a NT contract.
- Determine how many additional tricks you need.
- Identify possible finesses, long-suit winners, and ruffs.
- Decide whether to draw trumps immediately or delay.
- Plan entries between declarer's hand and dummy.
- Consider what could go wrong with your plan.
- What should you do first?

Think like a Defender

- What does the bidding tell you about declarer's hand?
- What does the opening lead suggest?
- Which tricks must the defense take before they disappear?
- Should you continue the suit, switch suits, or play passively?
- What is partner trying to tell you through the cards played?

Think about alternatives and risk

- Compare two possible lines of play.
- Consider the likelihood of success and the consequences of failure.
- Recognize when a safe play is preferable to a finesse.
- Remember that a good decision may produce a bad result.

Should you take a finesse or play for the drop?

The contract is 4♠

You	♠AJT2
Dummy	♠K6543

The odds of the ♠s breaking 2/2 are 40%.

You're missing the Queen.

If you decide to take a finesse, do you play the King first and then a small one to the Jack or the Ace first and then the Jack?

Do you have 10 tricks without taking the finesse?

Ronnie’s key take home messages

Don't carry mistakes from one board to the next

Avoid results-oriented thinking

Survey

If you haven’t already done so, please complete the survey I sent to enable me to know what you’d like me to teach and which day and time suits you best.

Thank you. ☺

Next Thursday

Stayman & Transfers (Jacoby & Texas)

AN EASY CLASS