

Join us for a Special Online Bridge Course

"Become an Expert Defender"

Wednesday Evenings, April 7 - June 2, 2021



Four-time National Champion **Zach Grossack**, the youngest Grand Life Master in ACBL history, will join Kim Gilman's online classroom each week to share how experts think about defense. Don't miss this chance to learn the valuable tactics that allow Zach to bring down declarers over and over again.



We are on defense half the time in bridge. Once you learn how to deny Declarer any possible gifts, and work with your partner to maximize the tricks for your side, you too will win more often! See for yourself how the experts win on defense! **Class time is 7:00 - 8:50 PM Eastern.**

Course fee for all 9 sessions is \$225 or \$400 for a partnership. Single classes will be available for registration on our websites for \$30.

For more information
or to register, visit:

www.zgbridge.com or
www.bridgewithkim.com

Dates & Topics:

April 7 — Expert Opening Leads

Sometimes the best opening lead is the one that does the least damage to the defense. Zach will discuss situations for a "passive lead." On other deals, we want to attack Declarer's biggest weakness, so we lead more boldly. We'll present some expert guidelines on not only choosing the right suit, but also the right card.

April 14 – Expert Signals

This lesson will focus on the suit preference signal, and many of the opportunities for telling your partner where your high card(s) are. For example, do you know how much information you can give your partner while Declarer is drawing trumps? Take your signals to the next level. We will also cover the advantages and implications of upside-down carding.

April 21 – Choose Your Discards Wisely

This is one of our most requested lessons — how in the world do we know what to keep when Declarer is running a long suit? Learn about “parity” and other principles that will help you decide. We will also cover the optimal ways to signal your partner through your discards.

April 28 – Promote your Lower Trumps to Winners

This lesson will cover two highly rewarding defensive ploys: the “trump promotion” and the “uppercut.” These are more common than you think! Suppose you have J32 in the trump suit and Declarer has the AKQ. Looks bleak? Not necessarily! If your partner is on the same wavelength as you, you just might end up scoring that Jack for the setting trick!

May 5 – Deplete Declarer’s Trumps

In this lesson, your goal will be to end up with more trumps than Declarer, thereby taking control of the hand and rendering Declarer helpless to ruff losers. This expert strategy can be quite deadly. We’ll show you where to look for opportunities to undertake this so-called “Forcing Defense,” and how to execute it beautifully.

May 12 – Lead-Directing Doubles

Did you know that the best defense often starts in the bidding? We will take a look at a variety of situations where you can - and MUST - double for the right lead from partner. You’ll be pleasantly surprised at how effective you can be in getting your partner to launch an expert and deadly defense!

May 19 – Count Declarer’s Tricks

Expert defenders seem to know exactly what’s in Declarer’s hand — including their honor cards and shape. You don’t need to develop a complete picture to gain an edge — but you do have to know how to count Declarer’s sure tricks. When you discern that they are about to make their contract, you may have to make a bold play!

May 26 — Make A Defensive Plan

This lesson on defensive strategy will take us inside Zach's mind as he considers the dummy, his partner's lead or signal, and the bidding. Like all top players, he doesn't play a card until he has formulated his plan for the defense. Learn how to "look into the future" and anticipate where the defense will get their tricks.

June 2 — Practice your Defense

Here's a chance to put it all together! Many of the tactics you've learned over the past eight weeks will help you defeat the contracts in this popular practice session. You'll have to decide which ones to use, but we'll go over each deal after you play it to show you the right moves by an Expert Defender.



Questions & Answers about our Online Bridge Classes

What Do I Need to Join In?

For our bridge classes you will need: a computer, laptop, or tablet; a good Internet connection; and the ability to comfortably use Zoom and an Internet window at the same time. We will provide free computer and Zoom training prior to the start of this course.

What Level are the Lessons?

"Become an Expert Defender" is for Intermediates and up. Even advanced bridge players will learn amazingly useful techniques and tips. Zach will teach you how experts think at the table in competitive bridge, so you should have some duplicate experience; or having played for several years, are ready to become more ruthless on defense.

You Say We Play Bridge Hands During the Lesson?

In all our classes, students play hands online to practice what you're learning. After each deal, we "replay" it showing all four hands, so you can see the correct techniques. You receive full hand write-ups after class.



Zach Grossack became a Life Master at the age of 12, and was just 17 when he and his brother Adam won their first Open National Championship in 2014. Since then, he has won three more national titles and at the age of 23 became the youngest Grand Life Master in ACBL history. Zach is also a pro at teaching the game to those who are learning and improving. He engages students with memorable bridge tips, combined with fascinating real-life examples and humor.



Kim Gilman has been playing tournament bridge for almost two decades and has won numerous sectional and regional championships. She is a Sapphire Life Master and an ACBL-certified instructor whose students love her interactive, fun, and easy-to-understand lessons. She is thrilled to have bridge star Zach Grossack as co-teacher for “Become An Expert Defender.” E-mail questions to kgilman11@gmail.com.