



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 2

What do you bid as Dealer North with the hand below?

What do you open? Do you Pass? (Standard Acol, vulnerability=none.)

{N}

♠ 82

♥ 92

♦ 94

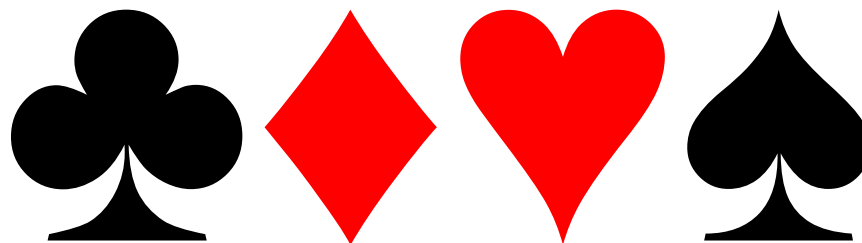
♣ AKQJ865



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Welcome



Steve Bailey



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 This week

This session's topic is **opening bids**.

But before we look at that, I wanted a recap of last session, a couple of basic items and, of course, the before 10am question.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Points

This is a review of last week's presentation.

High card points (hcp) : A=4 K=3 Q=2 J=1

Evaluated points (Pts) : hcp modified as the list below.

Length : +1 for each card over L4Suit in a **good** suit

Honour 10s : 10 in same suit as AKQJ9. +½ for each of first two 10s.

4333 : Too flat, -1

Aceless : -1

Isolated honours : 3 or 4 suits each have one isolated honour, -1

Singleton honours : A=4 K=1½ Q=1 J=½

Shortage : Only applies to suit bids once an 8+ card fit exists because it relates to advantage by trumping / ruffing.

Long Trump hand (initial suit bidder) : L2=+1 L1=+2 L0=+3

Short Trump hand (partner of above) : L2=+1 L1=+3 L0=+5

Evaluated points are "fluid" and sometimes variations may be used.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Percentages

These sessions are aimed at helping Bridge players get better at (or be confident enough to attend) a Duplicate Bridge Club.

They are intended to be fairly cerebral. You **will** need to study between sessions.

A lot of home taught Bridge players are very conservative. That doesn't win at a Duplicate Club.

Most bid schemes or play techniques use the percentages in some way. Eg: if the 'normal' play makes "X" tricks but the technique makes "X+1" 75% of the time & "X-1" 25% of the time, it is profitable to use it.

Similarly if the 'normal' result is "4S=" and you can see an overtrick in NT, "3NT+1" is a better score by 10 points. So if it works 51% of the time (3NT+1) and fails (3NT=) 49% of the time, again use it.

In other words, what I present will not **always** work. **This is expected.**



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 2

What do you bid as Dealer North with the hand below?

What do you open? Do you Pass? (Standard Acol, vulnerability=none.)

{N}

♠ 82

♥ 92

♦ 94

♣ AKQJ865

First let us evaluate the hand:

10hcp

A strong L7C, so +3 for length.

No honour tens, not 4333, not aceless, not isolated honours, no unguarded honours, no fit yet. +0. This is **13Pts**. Openable.

But using the rule of 20 (hcp + lengths of 2 longest suits), we have

$10\text{hcp} + \text{L7C} + \text{L2S} = 19$

19 is less than 20 suggesting “do not open this”.

However, if we do open with this, it would be **1C**.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 2

What do you bid as Dealer North with the hand below?

What do you open? Do you Pass? (Standard Acol, vulnerability=none.)

{N}

♠ 82

♥ 92

♦ 94

♣ AKQJ865

So evaluation suggests that the opening bid is on the borderline between **Pass** and **1C**.

However, there is a specific bid for this type of hand.

The Gambling 3NT. A standard part of Acol.

An opening bid of **3NT** shows a long (L7+), solid **minor**, at least AKQJxxx, with no more than a queen outside. Responder usually passes (with stoppers in the other suits) or retreats to 4C, asking opener to pass (with clubs) or correct to 4D.

(Some pairs allow AKQxxxx.)



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Scoring

To be able to bid accurately, you need to **know** the score for most results. NOT just be able to look it up.

Which is better for **you**, your 2S+1 or their 2Hx-1(vul)?

2S+1 / 3S= is 140 to you.

2Hx-1(vul) is 200 to you.

So leave them in 2H and double them.

From the No Fear Bridge Cribsheet.

Tricks bid and made		UnDbld	Dbld	ReDbld
Clubs & Diamonds	- Each trick	20	40	80
Hearts & Spades	- Each trick	30	60	120
No trumps	- First trick	40	80	160
	- Each subsequent trick	30	60	120
Undertricks				
Not vulnerable	- First trick	50	100	200
	- Second and third trick	50	200	400
	- Each subsequent trick	50	300	600
Vulnerable	- First	100	200	400
	- Second & subsequent trick	100	300	600
Bonuses				
Part-score contract bid and made			50	
Game bid and made	- not vulnerable		300	
	- vulnerable		500	
Small slam bid and made	- not vulnerable		500*	
	- vulnerable		750*	
Grand slam bid and made	- not vulnerable		1000*	
	- vulnerable		1500*	
For making doubled contract			50	
redoubled contract			100	

* Slam bonuses are in addition to game bonuses.

Overtricks

Undoubled - Trick value

Doubled - 100 each if not vulnerable, 200 each if vulnerable

Redoubled - 200 each if not vulnerable, 400 each if vulnerable



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Scoring

One way to work out main auction scores (for undoubled contracts) is:

N * 20	Minor tricks
N * 30	Major tricks
N * 30 + 10	NT tricks

Then add

50	Part Score
300 or 500	Game (non-vul/vul)

Then add

500 or 750	Small slam (nv/vul)
1000 or 1500	Grand slam (nv/vul)

Doubled or Redoubled contracts:

Split N into "bid" and "overtricks".

***Bid** tricks as above. Each **overtrick** is 50 (nv) or 100 (vul) *2 or *4.*

Tricks bid and made		UnDbl	Dbl	ReDbl
Clubs & Diamonds	- Each trick	20	40	80
Hearts & Spades	- Each trick	30	60	120
No trumps	- First trick	40	80	160
	- Each subsequent trick	30	60	120
Undertricks				
Not vulnerable	- First trick	50	100	200
	- Second and third trick	50	200	400
	- Each subsequent trick	50	300	600
Vulnerable	- First	100	200	400
	- Second & subsequent trick	100	300	600

Bonuses

Part-score contract bid and made	50	
Game bid and made	- not vulnerable	300
	- vulnerable	500
Small slam bid and made	- not vulnerable	500*
	- vulnerable	750*
Grand slam bid and made	- not vulnerable	1000*
	- vulnerable	1500*
For making doubled contract	50	
redoubled contract	100	

* Slam bonuses are in addition to game bonuses.

Overtricks

Undoubled	- Trick value
Doubled	- 100 each if not vulnerable, 200 each if vulnerable
Redoubled	- 200 each if not vulnerable, 400 each if vulnerable



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Scoring

Undertricks

Undoubled undertricks are:

NV: -50 per trick

Vul: -100 per trick

Doubled undertricks:

NV: -100; -200; -300 for 1, 2&3, rest

Vul: -200; -300 for 1, rest

Redoubled undertricks:

*2 * Doubled undertricks*

Also a Made Doubled contract gets an extra bonus of 50.

Redoubled 100.

Tricks bid and made	UnDbl	Dbl	ReDbl
Clubs & Diamonds - Each trick	20	40	80
Hearts & Spades - Each trick	30	60	120
No trumps - First trick	40	80	160
- Each subsequent trick	30	60	120

Undertricks

Not vulnerable - First trick	50	100	200
- Second and third trick	50	200	400
- Each subsequent trick	50	300	600
Vulnerable - First	100	200	400
- Second & subsequent trick	100	300	600

Bonuses

Part-score contract bid and made	50
Game bid and made - not vulnerable	300
- vulnerable	500
Small slam bid and made - not vulnerable	500*
- vulnerable	750*
Grand slam bid and made - not vulnerable	1000*
- vulnerable	1500*
For making doubled contract	50
redoubled contract	100

* Slam bonuses are in addition to game bonuses.

Overtricks

Undoubled - Trick value
Doubled - 100 each if not vulnerable, 200 each if vulnerable
Redoubled - 200 each if not vulnerable, 400 each if vulnerable



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Opening bids

And now on to the topic for this week

Opening bids.

It is usual when presenting bridge, to discuss an opening bid type and then continue with its responses and rebids etc.

Since this should just be revision for everyone, this presentation discusses all (most of?) the opening bid types and ignores responses and rebids until the next session.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Opening bids

Assuming that you have the **appropriate number of Points**, an opening bid is of the **longest suit**, except

- if a conventional bid is used (*eg Acol superstrong 2C*);
- if a hand calls for a NoTrump bid (*usually a balanced hand*);
- if there are two+ (*two or more*) suits of equal length, when you must choose which one.

When there are **two** equal length longest suits, bid the highest ranking suit, **except** with:

Majors L4S and L4H bid H (*You only intend to bid one suit and rebid NT. Leave space for partner to mention the other suit if he has it.*)
Minors L4D and L4C bid C

(With a L4Major and a L4Minor, bid the major first. It is more important.)

(With two L5Majors, open the higher ranking. You plan to rebid the lower ranking next, which will be interpreted as L5+S and L4+H. Similarly with two L5Minors, open the higher ranking.)



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Opening bids

Should you have **three** equal length longest suits, the **4441 shape**, bid:

if a **Red** Singleton. Open suit **below** L1 suit.

L1H, bid **D** Sh**DC**

L1D, bid **C** SH**dC**

if a **Black** Singleton. Open **middle** L4 suit.

L1S, bid **D** sH**DC**

L1C, bid **H** SH**Dc**

*(With a 4441 hand, the system WILL force you to lie. So only open as **1Suit** with **13+Pts**, rather than the normal 12+Pts, to partly compensate for the misinformation given.)*

Generally if you have to lie, prefer to lie on a minor. The scheme above makes all bids minor except one (the L1C 4441 hand). It also allows for an easy rebid without having to **Reverse** (more another week).



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Opening bids

Before making any opening bid, you should first plan your rebid.

For long suits, it will often be to rebid the suit;

For some suits, it will be to show a second shorter
(or equal length) suit.

For NT and pre-emptive openings the rebid plan is PASS.

Your planned rebid may well change in the light of opposition and partner bids.

Do not touch the bidding box until you have MADE your decision.
And, especially, **do not fiddle** with the bidding cards while you are thinking.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Opening bids

To open	You need to hold	
1NT	12..14 Pts Balanced	4333, 4432, 5332
✦	(With an L5Major 5332 hand consider 1Major rather than 1NT.)	
1Suit	12..19 Pts L4+Suit	4441 ~ 13..19 Pts
✦	(1C shows 12..19..22 Pts as superstrong 2C is unavailable.)	
2NT	20..22 Pts Balanced (or perhaps semi-balanced)	
2Suit (not C)	Basic Acol: Strong. 8..9½ tricks in your hand Often crudely summarised as 20..22 Pts.	
2C	The superstrong Acol bid Suited 10+ tricks (Game) in your own hand	
✦	or 23+ Pts any shape	
3NT	9..12hcp L7Minor headed by AKQJ	Gambling 3NT
3Suit	5..9 hcp Good L7Suit (2+ of AKQ)	Pre-emptive
4Suit	5..9 hcp Good L8Suit (2+ of AKQ)	Pre-emptive

We will consider responses another week.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Opening bids

Opening	Alert / Announce (by Partner)
1NT	Announce range "12 to 14"
1Suit	None
2NT	None
2Suit (not C)	Announce "Strong, forcing" or "Strong, non-forcing" <i>The practice of making strong bids with hands of limited high cards must be clearly disclosed.</i> <i>"Weak" bids will be covered when we do 'Benji'.</i>
2C	Alert
3NT	None
3Suit	None
4Suit	None

But even if a bid does not need to be alerted, the opposition can still ask (the bidder's partner) what it means at their turn to bid.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Opening bids

You need to have at least 12Pts or its equivalent to open the bidding, and normally as a partnership you want to have the majority of the points to play the contract.

Sacrificial bids where you expect to go down, but get a better score than allowing the opposition to make their contract, are a different matter. Also Pre-emptive bids are different, trying to prevent the opponents from finding 'their contract'.

With under 12Pts, you need very shapely hands to justify opening.

Occasionally you will get hands where each of the four players have 9, 10 or 11 Pts and no-one wants to open. A score of zero is obviously better than a negative score.

When this happens {NS} are saying they think they won't make a contract and that {EW} will. Whilst {EW} are saying the same about {NS}. One pair is bound to make 7+ tricks, but a "Passed out" hand can be the right auction.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Any questions?



Any questions?



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Play

Play

Play as if "Duplicate Pairs".

{NS} have the pair number of their table, {N} has his back to the stage.
{EW} have the pair number of their table plus 8.

Play boards in sequence. Have an incoming pile and an outgoing pile.
Pass outgoing to next lower numbered table – Table 1 to highest table.

Some boards have instructions on card. **The appropriate people should read each card at the time it says and follow its instructions.**

If you play a board twice, record the second play on the traveller using your pair numbers PLUS TEN (eg 1 v 9 becomes 11 v 19)

*If you wish to fill in a personal results card, they are available here.
They are commonly used at duplicate clubs.*

Don't forget to describe partner's bids and plays to the table.

Any questions?

Tea / coffee & biscuit. (25p)

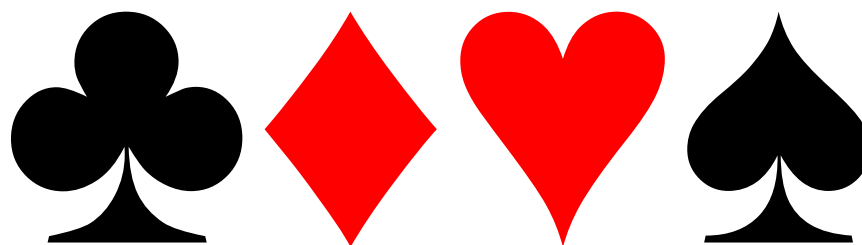
PLAY



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2



The end

Week 2 set hand
references follow.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Set hands

Set hand sources and abbreviations

BM:PQ	Bernard Magee: Play Quiz	
Dlr	Dealer	(NESW).
Vul	Vulnerability	(None NS EW All).
Rotn	Rotation	Defined by one card, usually A♠. Mostly different to source publication.
Dcl	Declarer	(NESW)
OL	Opening Lead	
Trk	Tricks	(0..13)
NS# EW#	Score for NS or EW	
NS% EW%	Percentage of NS and EW	
Ref	Reference result	(Sometimes there may be more than one)

Blue results as played.

Red results are reference results.

Few of the boards were played by more than one table.

All of the boards are tricky to play correctly. Many declarers failed.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Set hands

BdDir	Vul	Source								Rotn
1 N	None	BM:PQ#0054								A♠=N
NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%		
1 9	1NT+2	S	3C	9	150	-	67%	33%		
2 10	2S+1	N	4D	9	140	-	33%	67%		
11 19	4S-1	N	10C	9	-	50	0%	100%		
Ref	4S=	N	10C	10	420	-	100%	0%		



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Set hands

BdDir	Vul	Source								Rotn
3 S	EW	BM:PW#0058								A♠=W
NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%		
4 12	3NT-1	W	KD	8	100	-	100%	0%		
Ref	4S=	E	KH	10	-	620	0%	100%		



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Set hands

BdDir	Vul	Source								Rotn
4	W	All	BM:PW#0094							A♠=S
NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%		
3	11	3H+1	N	5S	10	170	-	0%	100%	
Ref	4H=	S	KD	10	620	-	100%	0%		



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Set hands

BdDir	Vul	Source								Rotn
6 E	EW	BM:PQ#0069								A♠=W
NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%		
1 9	3NT=	E	KH	9	-	600	50%	50%		
Ref	3NT=	E	KH	9	-	600	50%	50%		



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Set hands

BdDir	Vul	Source								Rotn
7 S	All	BM:PQ#0071								A♠=S
NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%		
2 10	3NT-1	S	7H	8	-	100	25%	75%		
3 11	3NT-1	S	7H	8	-	100	25%	75%		
Ref	3NT=	S	10H	9	400	-	100%	0%		



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2 Set hands

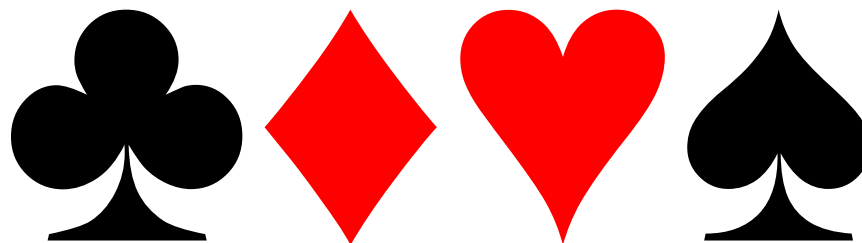
BdDir	Vul	Source								Rotn
8 W	None	BM:PQ#0070								A♠=E
NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%		
2 10	4S-1	W	KC	9	50	-	100%	0%		
Ref	4S=	W	QH	10	-	420	0%	100%		



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 2



The very end