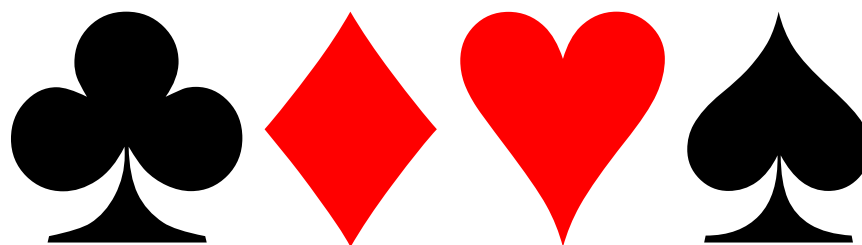




U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 16 Welcome



Steve Bailey

This week is a summary of what we did rather than a "presentation".

Most of the session was a brief finishing off of Cue Bidding and a discussion of topics of interest to the participants. This left more time for the set hands.



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Week 16 This week

"Whilst waiting for 10am", we looked at a couple of bidding questions.

Then we finished off Cue bidding, answering questions such as when is a bid a Game Try and when a Cue bid.

We discussed Reverses.

During the set hands, it became apparent that there are some fundamentals to some have not yet grasped.

Therefore this pdf is a summary of what happened, both during the Q&A session and during the set hands. It includes reminders of bridge etiquette and traditions.

Don't forget that this is Acol. Lots of pairs play other systems, and that is one of the reasons why you can ask, at the appropriate time, what bids mean.



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

U is You, P is your Partner. The opposition never bid in this summary, (it makes the basics easier, and the set hands are rigged so it should work that way.)

But folk still try to overcall with too few points and without a L5Suit. Que sera!

Loads of procedure and etiquette in these slides.

- 1) Evaluate your hand. "hcp" and "evaluated points".
I am suggesting using "hltfaiu(s)" to help you achieve this. *This is my way of converting the hand waving that experts do into a set of "rules" - it is flawed!*
Every time the auction affects your hand, re-evaluate.
Typically:
 - If a fit is found in a Non-NT situation, include shortage points.
 - If P bids your unguarded suit, restore the missing 50%.

Pts is evaluated points.

JPts is Joint Pts for the pair.

"hltfaiu(s)" = hcp length tens flat aceless isolated unguarded (shortage).



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

2) At the table, North is the coordinator (not East, not South, not West).

North ensures that the correct people and the correct board are present. He points the board with N to the North.

(Unless it is arrowswitched, when the movement says to point N to some other chair, perhaps E. Then everyone passes their metaphorical hats round appropriately.

EG East chair is wearing N hat, South chair is wearing E hat, West chair is wearing S hat and North chair is wearing W hat.

Results are recorded according to the board (aka the hats). This does mean that if normally NS is pair 4 and EW pair 12, for this round use row 12 for NS and add EW as pair 4. Make sure the results go in the columns as defined by the board/hats.)



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

- 3) Take your cards out of the board. DO NOT LOOK AT THEM.
Do NOT LOOK at the traveller (until after the play is completed).
Count your cards face down. Call the director if anyone has other than 13 cards.

Now you can look at your cards, sort them as you wish, and
EVALUATE your holding.

The empty board should stay in the middle of the table.

At BVH, the tables are too small and the board may be removed by North (hat) once the opening lead has been made. It is replaced after play by North (hat) who ensures it is correctly aligned.

Do not touch any card except for YOUR thirteen.

Keep all hands separated (this is one function of the mid-table board). (Another is to inform the players of who is non-vulnerable and who vulnerable.)



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

- 4a) Some folk were unsure of what point range each bid declares.
These slides go thru those typically needed in today's set hands.

An opening 1NT shows 12..14 Pts and a balanced hand.

An opening 1Suit shows 12..19 Pts and L4+Suit.

It is quite common for people to incorrectly say 12+Pts and "probably" L5Suit. There is an upper limit (normally 19Pts as there are "strong" bids available above 19). And whilst "probably L5Suit" is often true, it isn't accurate, so just say L4+Suit.

Note that when an opening bid of #2Suit (use the stop card) is a conventional bid, eg the Acol "superstrong" bid, 2C, then the 1Suit bid (1C) has to **also** take on the extra point range that a **natural** #2C would have covered. I usually then artificially describe that as

1C: 12..19..22Pts, L4+C.



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

4b) Bidding progresses around the table:

U open 1Suit.

If

P responds 1NT

6..9Pts and no better bid,
the rubbish bin bid.

It does not promise a balanced hand.

Don't forget P needs 10+Pts to respond at the 2 level with a new suit.

U often passes, but may bid on if strong.



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

4c) Bidding progresses around the table:

U open 1Suit.

If

P responds 2Suit

6..9Pts, L4+Suit.

EXCEPT when L3Suit **if** the only
alternative response was 1NT†,
so it could be
6..9Pts, L3+Suit.

U often passes, but may bid on if strong.

† The rationale behind this is that when the only two bids available are

1NT rubbish bin bid

and 2Suit weak support of Suit with a short L3Suit

and since both bids cover the range 6..9 Pts, then the 2Suit bid is generally
more helpful to the original Suit bidder.

When supporting with a L4+Suit, P has a fit, so RE-eval before bidding.

When supporting with L3Suit, an 8-card fit is not YET known. So no RE-eval
until U shows L5+Suit.



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

4d) Bidding progresses around the table:

U open 1Suit.

If P responds #3Suit

L4+Suit, RE-eval before bidding.

(Stop card) 10..12Pts, L4+Suit.

10..12Pts is the 'nominal' reply, however it has been "adapted" to 10+Pts with the added meaning that, if 13+Pts, P is not averse to slam investigation.

See #4Suit responses for 13+ when slam averse.

Thus 1Suit (Pass) #3Suit

shows 12..19 + 10+ = 22+..29+ JPts.

This could easily be 30+ JPts if U has 18+Pts. In that case U will RE-eval and then continue bidding with some form of slam investigation.

EG 1Suit (Pass) #3Suit (Pass)
#4NT

Blackwood or variant.



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

4e) Bidding progresses around the table:

U open 1Suit.

If

P responds #4Suit

L4+Suit, RE-eval before bidding.
(Stop card) 13..15Pts, L4+Suit.

This shows a hand that is happy to play in game (when Suit is a major) but that has NO interest in a slam.

A typical hand might be flat, suggesting little ruffing opportunity with most points outside Suit.

When P has 16+Pts, different schemes are used. *(This is a cop out, we haven't covered what to do when responding with 16+Pts.)*



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

5) Is Slam worth investigating?

When a fit has been found and there are 30+JPTs† then a slam should be investigated.

† sometimes will be "almost" 30JPTs. Hard to cope with.

It is assumed that the partnership has "control" of Suit (Trumps).

To bid a slam "control" is also needed of the other THREE suits.

Control being	Ace	1 st round control
	Void	1 st round control
	King x	2 nd round control
	Singleton	2 nd round control

You shouldn't use Blackwood with a void.

If U have this control (and do not have a void), you can use your Blackwood variant.

U3AIB is recommending Keycard Blackwood asking about the 4 Aces and the King of Trumps.

Otherwise you must see if P has control of the weak suits.

Italian Cue bidding can be used for this.



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

6) Italian Cue Bidding

You "hate" Cue bidding, so don't do it on a whim. Only when there is a reason. So your partner can tell 'something' is going on.

Bid the lowest available suit at the lowest available level (for a major fit, or above 3NT for a minor fit) for a suit for which you DO have control, **Ace Void King_x Singleton**.

If you skipped any suit, that is denying control of that suit.

It is easy to forget about voids being a control.

Partner can then also Cue Bid and show control of his bid suit AND of any suit you skipped. If he skipped any suits, he does not have control of it.

If Partner has no such controlled suit, he bails out into a 4MajorSuit game.

Minor suit slams are harder to bid.

If a controlled suit was shown and it is now known that all suits are controlled, THEN Blackwood may be used.



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

7) Keycard Blackwood

4NT asks how many of the 4 aces and King of the agreed Suit (Trumps) are held. The replies are

5C	0 or 4	<i>(Determine which from context.)</i>
5D	1	<i>(In theory could also be 5.)</i>
5H	2	
5S	3	

Before bidding Blackwood work out ALL the possible replies, in case at some level you are in a problematic situation.

EG If U have 2 of the 5 keycards.

If P has 3	investigate a grand slam
If P has 2	bid a small slam
If P has 0 or 1	bail out into 5Suit.

And equivalently for other keycard holdings.

We have not yet looked at grand slam bidding. For now, just bid a small slam but aim and plan, if you can, for 13 tricks.

Duplicate Pairs - overtricks are important. Duplicate Teams - make contract.



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

8a) NOT Keycard Blackwood

Occasionally the expected 4NT Blackwood bid will not be made.
WHY?

The most likely reason is that U has a void and "isn't allowed" to bid Blackwood. In that case he carries on Cue bidding showing more suit control - perhaps 2nd round control here.

EG	1S	(Pass)	#3S	(Pass)	(Suit is spades here)
	4C				Cue Bid, shows C control
		(Pass)	4D		Cue Bid, shows D control.
				(Pass)	
	4H				Has continued Cue bidding rather than expected 4NT.

All suits are controlled, yet U did not use 4NT nor did he bail out to 4Suit. What can the problem be? Perhaps a void?

So P can help by bidding Blackwood "for U".



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

8b) NOT Keycard Blackwood

Sometimes this Cue bidding goes above 4NT "naturally". When that happens, continue Cue bidding showing 2nd round controls to try to determine if a slam is on with using Blackwood at all. This can be hard.

A second Cue bid of a suit shows both 1st and 2nd round control.



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

9) After Keycard Blackwood

You already worked out what your planned response was, just bid it.
No thinking required.

Then let us assume the auction then concludes

(Pass) Pass (Pass) *(Not discussing lead directing doubles.)*

Next is the Opening lead.



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

10) Asking about the bids

During the bidding, when your turn to bid, you may ask about a particular bid of the partner of the bidder. It is best to ask with a bland statement such as "What do you understand by that 4NT bid?".

You may want to know if it was basic Blackwood, Keycard Blackwood or Roman Keycard Blackwood. However if you ask that as detail, it may assist the opposition should the bidder's partner reply "Oops I thought it was a quantitative bid".

(I think) Anyone may ask about the auction after the three final passes. Obviously the opening leader has the time to do this, he can just delay leading. To ensure that opening leader's partner has the opportunity to ask his questions, opening leader chooses his card and places it FACE DOWN on the table and says "Any questions partner?". Often the response will be "No". Sometimes it will be a question. And sometimes it allows the others at the table to exclaim "It's not your lead", with no problem as the card is FACE DOWN.



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

11) The Opening Lead

I'm not covering anything to do with what card to lead. Just some comments on procedure. Apart from the opportunity to ask questions, and the placing of the lead card FACE DOWN, there are other procedures to follow.

No one should disturb their staircase of bids (yet) - opening leader is likely to want to study them. The board should still be in the middle of the table, so that opening leader can view the vulnerabilities.

Once the card has been turned face up and placed near the edge of the table, then...

At BVH, the board may be removed - this is abnormal.

The bidding cards may be put back in the bidding box.

Dummy places his hand on the table with each suit in descending order of rank, with the trump suit on dummy's right and with all the other suits in whatever order DECLARER wants them.

Leave enough space for the played cards to be laid out.

Dummy normally says "Good luck partner" to Declarer.

Declarer normally says "Thank you partner" to Dummy for the cards.



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Week 16 Slam bidding summary

12) Declarer makes a plan

BEFORE Declarer asks Dummy to play a card, he makes a plan.

We use ATTITWDE:

A	Aim	Contract? Contract+2? Contract-1?
TT	Top Tricks	A, AK, AKQ, AKQJ ... Easy wins.
IT	Increase Tricks	(eXtra Tricks), find ways to win more: Force (high cards), Length, Technique. Eg Ruff in the SHORT Trump hand. Finesse. Squeeze. Endplay...
WD	Worry about the Defence	Contemplate your losers and how to get rid of them ~ Discard, ruff... Worry about awkward suit splits, eg you can manage 4:3, but what if it is 5:2? Etc.
E	Entries and Execution.	Check your ideas will work and formulate the "plan".

Then ask Dummy to play the first card.

Play on...



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Week 16 Reverses summary

Reverses are an integral part of Acol (and many other systems).

However a significant proportion of players don't understand them or use them. They are part of the system for a reason.

Again **U is You** and **P is your Partner**. The opposition never bid in this summary, (it makes the basics easier, and the set hands can be rigged so it works that way.)

There is lots of information about playing Reverses on the web, but it is remarkably hard to find anything that describes what to do if you play Reverses (the standard situation) but the auction does NOT require/allow a Reverse.



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Week 16 Reverses summary

- 1) **Showing preference.** This is a situation where U bid two suits and a weak P doesn't fit with either.

In that case, P wants to suggest playing a part score contract in the suit in which U & P jointly have the most trumps.

Imagine this auction:

1D (Pass) 1S (Pass)
2H (Pass) 3D

U bids two suits, 1D and 2H, showing L5+D and L4+H.

U's 1D opening bid shows 12..19Pts.

P's 1S shows L4+S and 6+Pts.

When P has 6..9Pts and L2-S (misfit) and L3-H (misfit), he wants to **Show Preference**. Here he chose to suggest the first bid suit, D, as his preference.

But this has a problem. Weak P has bid at the 3-level which could well be too high.



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Week 16 Reverses summary

2) Let's imagine a pair of hands where that auction could occur.

1D (Pass) 1S (Pass)

2H (Pass) 3D

U S:xx 5422 shape
 H:QJxx 13hcp
 D:AKxxx 14Pts (+1 L5D)
 C:Kx

P S:Kxxx 4432 shape
 H:xx 7hcp
 D:xxx 7Pts
 C:Axxx

U opens 1D (12..19Pts, L4+D)

P responds 1S (6+Pts, L4+S)

U has no S fit, so tries his second suit, 2H (?Pts, L5+D, L4+H)

P sees only misfits, and having such a weak hand has no desire to aim for game. P works out joint lengths as D~ L5+ + 2 = 7+ and H~ L4+ + 3 = 7+. Both 7 cards, but the 5:2 split is more powerful than the 4:3 split. So P bids 3D. But that is at the 3-level with just 21 JPts.



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Week 16 Reverses summary

- 3) 1D (Pass) 1S (Pass)
 2H (Pass) 3D

The fix is to use a Reverse.

Opener's first bid shows 12..19Pts.

That can be divided into two halves: 12..15Pts and 16..19Pts.

Opener fixes the auction by only bidding 2H (which forces a D preference to be at the 3-level), when he has 16..19Pts.

Those extra 4Pts make the 3-level bid viable.

If Opener's rebid is a new suit at the 2-level, it forces a preference for the first suit to be at the 3-level. This is allowed by the extra 4Pts.

If Opener's second suit is below the first suit, there is no problem.

If Opener only has 12..15Pts, he must not "reverse". Instead he should rebid his first suit at the 2-level, again showing L5+FirstSuit.

I have no idea why it is called a reverse.



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Week 16 Reverses summary

- 4) So we have a weak P responding to a wide ranging U's bid.
U shows 12..19Pts which may be 12..15 or may be 16..19.
P responds showing 6..9Pts
- Either U repeats OSuit1, showing L5+OSuit1.
This is NOT forcing.
P can now Pass.
- Or U shows a second suit. L5+OSuit1, L4+OSuit2, 16..19Pts.
U's strong rebid is FORCING for P to rebid, Pass is not a choice.
P will decide between OSuit1 (at the 3-level) and OSuit2.
- But if U bids 2 suits and a P re-bid of OSuit1 is not at the 3-level,
P's re-bid is NOT forced, and P may opt for OSuit2 by Passing.

This is not particularly clear, but I struggled to describe the goings on...



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Week 16 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)

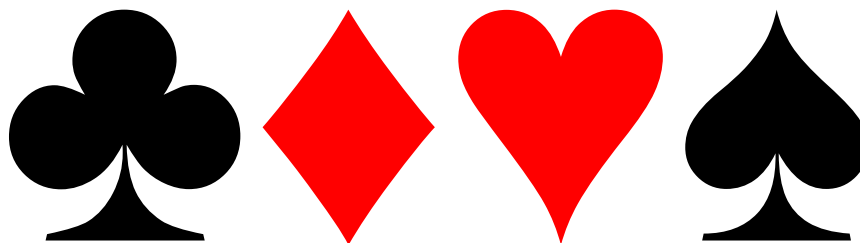
PLAY



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Week 16



The end

Week 16 set hand
references follow.



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Week 16 Set hands

Since boards 1 & 4 were each only played once last time, and by separate tables, I included them both as if board 4, inviting a table to play the one they hadn't played last time. Board 1 was arrowswitched to move the North hat to the West seat. Previous result recorded with x suffix after pair numbers to show different people. The normal boards were red. These two reused boards were yellow and are named 1YL and 4YL.

Set hand sources

TBB2	Drina Vanner: The Bridge Bug, vol 2.
AR:BL~S	Andrew Robson: Bridge Lessons ~ Slam
AR:IYBG	Andrew Robson: Improve Your Bridge Game



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Week 16 Set hands

Set hand abbreviations

Bd	Board	Number of the board. Rarely may include a colour! Eg 5YL (yellow board 5)
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.



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Week 16 Set hands

Bd Dlr Vul Source Rotn
1YL N None TBB2pg139#1+Deal A♠=N
This board was arrowswitched, board {N} pointing at {W} seat.

NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
1x 9x	4S=	N	2D	10	420	-	0%	100%
11 3	4S+1	N	3C	11	450	-	50%	50%
Ref	4S+2	N	6H	12	480	-	100%	0%



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Week 16 Set hands

Bd	Dir	Vul	Source	Rotn
5	N	NS	AR~BL:S#9var	A♠=S

I haven't recorded what the variation was... It could be worked out.

NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
2 10	6S=	N	4C	12	1430	-	75%	25%
3 11	4S+2	N	JH	12	680	-	0%	100%
Ref	6S=	N	JH	12	1430	-	75%	25%



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Week 16 Set hands

Bd	Dlr	Vul	Source	Rotn
6	E	EW	AR:IYBG#83	A♠=N

NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
2 10	3C+2	E	2S	11	-	150	50%	50%
3 11	6C-1	E	QS	11	100	-	100%	0%
Ref	5C=	E	QS	11	-	600	0%	100%



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Week 16 Set hands

Bd Dlr	Vul	Source	Rotn
7 S	All	AR~BL:S#35var	A♠=S

NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
2 10	6S=	S	9C	12	1430	-	50%	50%
3 11	6S=	S	7D	12	1430	-	50%	50%
Ref	6S=	S	QC	12	1430	-	50%	50%



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Week 16 Set hands

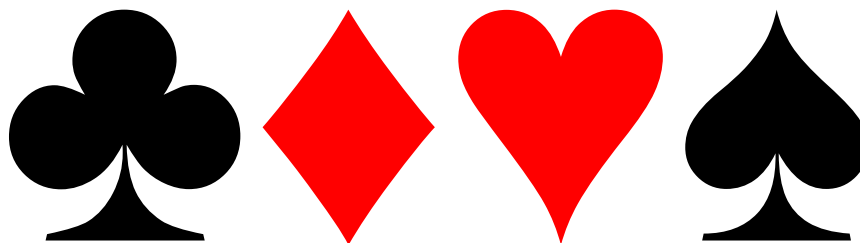
BdDir		Vul	Source					Rotn	
8	W	None	TBB2pg141b+Deal					A♥=W	
NSEW		Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
3	11	4H=	W	8D	10	-	420	100%	0%
Ref		5H=	W	9C	11	-	450	0%	100%



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Week 16



The very end