



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2016-17



While (not) waiting for 2pm

## Tournament

On November 18 we will hold a bridge event. No presentation or set hands.

Please organize yourselves into pairs and then into fours. *The fours have no significance other than ensuring that we have full tables.* Please let me know your 4 in advance.

The prize will be two magnificent 40p plastic party trophies for the winning pair.

Please ensure that you arrive early, 13:55 at the very latest, and earlier to help with setup preferred. We should finish play by 15:45, but then there will be 15 minutes whilst the results are calculated (and the room tidied away by you). At 16:00 the presentation.

Pauline and Pam can be asked to make up pairs. We have other "Experts" available if you are having difficulty getting a pair – but they will need notice so they can arrange to attend.

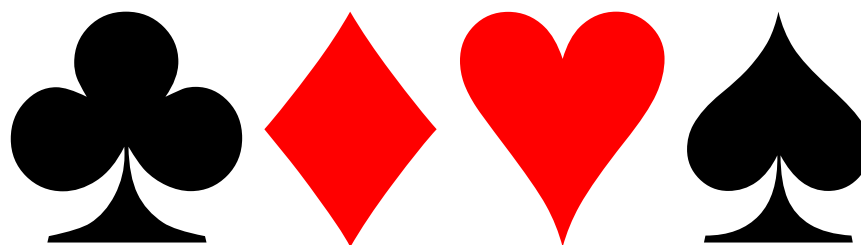
I'll answer any question on October 21.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2016-17



## Week 3 Opening Balanced Hands



Steve Bailey



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2016-17



## Week 3 Opening Balanced Hands

### Introduction

When you first remove your hand from the board/wallet, count the cards FACE DOWN.

Assuming you have 13, look at them and sort them however you like.

The method I use – which is quite quick – is to hold all 13 in my right (good) hand and "stuff" each card into my left hand in the "correct" place. The result is a mess, but once done, collapse the hand into a pack and then fan them.

Then

- CHECK the sort.
- Count the suit lengths and confirm they are valid "4333", "5521" – each must add to 13. Do NOT recount to 13 – get familiar with referring to suit lengths.
- Count the HCP.
- Adjust Pts for shape.



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## Week 3 Opening Balanced Hands

**Opening with balanced hands** (4333, 4432, 5332)

With a balanced hand, you *try* to open in No Trumps (NT).

There are several occasions when you don't, but that is your aim...

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There are **many** different schemes for opening 1NT.

The Acol Weak NT standard is "A balanced hand with 12 to 14 HCP".

Others will use a strong NT: 16 .. 18 HCP.

The Precision system uses 13 .. 15 HCP.

Some use 10 .. 13 HCP.

Others use a variable scheme depending upon the vulnerability.

With an opening 1NT (or 2NT) bid, bidder's partner **announces** the point range. *If they don't, then wait to bid until either they do or until you remind them to do so.* Thus "**Twelve to fourteen**" (or "Twenty to twenty two").

*I'm not sure if 2NT should be announce or alert.*



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## Week 3 Opening Balanced Hands

### Opening with balanced hands

The bids described today are the basic Acol bids, variations will be added in future weeks..

*Note that 5332 hands with L5major are sometimes treated differently.*

As opener with a balanced hand (4333, 4432, 5332):

<b>HCP</b>	<b>Bid</b>	
0..11	Pass	
12..14	1NT	Announce "Twelve to fourteen"
15..19	1suit	Longest suit. If 4432, choose suit as next page
20..22	2NT	Announce "Twenty to twenty-two"
23+	2♣	Alert. (Expects 2♦, then rebid 2NT)

The 2NT and 2C/2D/2NT openings can often be handled like the 1NT openings BUT with point ranges adjusted by 8 or 11.



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## Week 3 Opening Balanced Hands

Opening with balanced hands: 4432

**HCP**    **Bid**

15..19    1suit    Longest suit. If 4432, which suit?

Different sources use different schemes:

RWPB: Bid ♥ if you can, otherwise bid a minor. With 2 minors, bid WEAKER.

Traditional: Bid higher of touching suits and lower of non-touching –

♣♦ : ♦

♦♥ : ♥

♥♠ : ♠

♣♥ : ♣

♣♠ : ♣

♦♠ : ♦



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## Week 3 Opening Balanced Hands

### 5332 with L5major

There are (at least) three schools of thought on this. You need to choose and AGREE which you use with your partner.

- Ignore L5major and bid as you would for any other balanced hand.  
*A. Robson*
- Always treat L5major as more important to show than a "balanced hand".  
So bid the major suit. *EBU.*
- Study the L5major suit and see if you consider it rebiddable.
  - ♠ 97532 isn't rebiddable – treat as balanced.
  - ♠ AKJ75 is rebiddable – treat as a suited opening. *Especially if side suits are unguarded.*  
*P. Mendelson*

Example hands can be devised to show any approach working and the other approaches not working.

*My personal preference, at present, is to always bid as balanced.*



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## Week 3 Opening Balanced Hands

### Basic responses to 1NT openings (1)

In the event of an intervention, all conventions are off, all bids are natural for 1 round. Balanced responses must have stops in intervening suits.

#### Balanced

*See also "Stayman"*

0..10	Pass (unless L5suit – see unbalanced).
11..12	2NT invitational to game.
13..18	3NT game.
19..20	4NT invitational to slam (12=Pass, 14=6NT).
21..22	6NT (joint 33+ HCP) small slam.
23..24	5NT invitational grand slam (12=Pass, 14=7NT).

*Note that the 6NT and 5NT responses are the "wrong" way round.*





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## Week 3 Opening Balanced Hands

### Basic responses to 1NT openings (2)

In the event of an intervention, all conventions are off, all bids are natural for 1 round. Balanced responses must have stops in intervening suits.

### Unbalanced long **minor**

0..10 L5+♦	2♦ Weak Take Out, Opener passes.
0..10 L6+♣	2♣ (Phoney) Stayman (Announce "Stayman"), ends in 3♣ Weak Take Out. <i>With only L5♣, just pass.</i>
11..12	2NT invitational to game.
13..18	3NT.
16+ wild shape (eg 6511)	3♣♦ game force, slam invite.
19+	<i>RWPB doesn't cover this! It is a joint 31+. Look for a fit and seek a slam.</i>



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## Week 3 Opening Balanced Hands

### Basic responses to 1NT openings (3)

#### Unbalanced long major

0..10 L5+♥♠	2♥♠ Weak Take Out. Opener passes. <i>Evaluate either as 10 or as 12...</i>
11	
12..18 L6+♥♠	4♥♠ Bid game.
L5♥♠	3♥♠ Invitational to game.
L4♥♠	2♣ Stayman (Announce " <b>Stayman</b> ") Asks for any L4major. Reply 2♦=none, 2♥=L4+♥, 2♠=L4+♠ (L3-♥).
19+	<i>Look for a fit and seek a slam.</i>



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## Week 3 Opening Balanced Hands

### Opener's rebid after 1 suit opening

If responder's bid is a major fit, then agree fit and play in a suit. *Details another week.*

If responder's bid is a misfit or minor fit, then bid NT:

HCP	Bid
15..16	Raise to next NT
17..18	Jump to NT
19	3NT

The "raise" can sometimes be to 1NT and sometimes 2NT. The strength difference needed is met by responder's 6+ or 9+ criterion. Ditto for jump.

*There are more modern schemes – this scheme is **basic** Acol – such as 15..17 Raise; 18..19 Jump. You can ask what scheme your opponents are using when it is your turn to bid.*

If the opponents have made an intervening bid: Pass if your planned reply is no longer available, Pass if your NT reply has no stop in opponents' suit.



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## Week 3 Opening Balanced Hands

Opener's rebid after Weak Take Out

**Opener passes.**

*Don't even look at your cards.*



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## Week 3 Topic

### **Next sessions**

- More advanced responses to 1NT.
  - Transfers
  - Stayman & Weak Stayman



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## Week 3 Play

### Play

Divide yourselves into pairs and then into tables.

This week I may ask you to move.

NS have the pair number of their table, N has his back to the screen.

EW have the pair number of their table plus 8.

When you have played a hand, pass it to the next numbered table in sequence. The highest numbered table passes to table 1.

And one last thing – **as part of the learning process** – I would like the partner of whoever has just bid to take whatever action is **standardly required** (announcing 1NT to be 12-14 points, ALERTing a conventional bid, ...) – **AND ALSO** to give a brief **description** to the other three players on **what the bid means**.

**Any questions?**

**Tea / coffee & biscuit. (20p)**

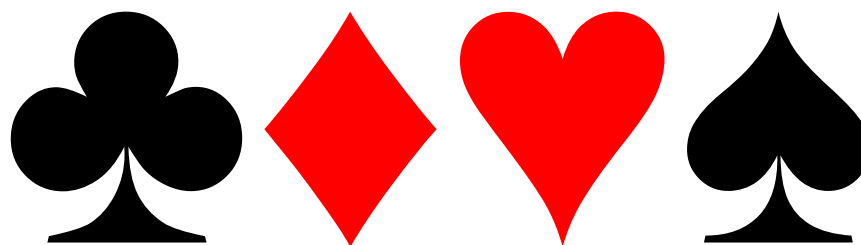
**PLAY**



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## Week 3 Opening Balanced Hands



The end

Week 3 set hand  
references follow.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge



## Week 3 Set Hands

### Set hand sources

REP2 = EBU, Really Easy Practice #2

PBB = EBU, Practice Beginning Bridge

AR:DNC = A Robson, Declaring NoTrump Contracts

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Blue results from travellers

Red results are reference results.

Boards as played are rotated compared to the book presentation (which mostly make South dealer). Rotation defined by position of A♠.





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## Week 3 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
1	N	None	REP2#S6H8			A♠=E
1	9	3NT -2	N 7	-	100	
2	10	4S-1	N 9	-	50	
3	11	3NT-2	N 7	-	100	
4	12	3NT-2	N 7	-	100	
Ref		4S=	N 10	420	-	

Only one table used Stayman to look for a major fit (and they went off – there are 7 top tricks H:AKQ D:AKQJ and 3 certain trump tricks in spades S:QJT once KS draws AS – how did pair 2 go down?)

Hands can be found to illustrate most viewpoints, but this one nicely illustrates the aim of playing in a major fit when there is one rather than in NT.



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## Week 3 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
2	E	N/S	AR:DNC#3 [H swap with S]			A♠=E
1	9	3NT+3	E 12	-	490	An excellent E result, but how?
2	10	4C=	W 10	-	130	Not in a game bid...
3	11	3NT-1	E 8	50	-	
4	12	3NT=	W 9	-	400	How is W declarer in NT?
Ref		3NT=	E 9	-	400	

How does 3NT go down with 9 top tricks? S:A H:AKQJ D:AKQJ.



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## Week 3 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
3	S	E/W	AR:DNC#40b [AD↔AH]			A♠=W
1	9	2NT=	S 8	120	-	
2	10	3NT-3	S 6	-	300	
3	11	2NT-1	S 7	-	100	
4	12	3NT-1	N 8	-	100	
Ref		3NT+2	S 11	660	-	

How does N declare NT? Only 11 HCP.

Declarer play obviously not optimal.



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## Week 3 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
4	W	All	REP2:S6H3			A♠=W
1	9	6H=	N 12	1430	-	
3	11	6H=	N 12	1430	-	
4	12	4H+2	N 12	680	-	
Ref		6H=	N 12	1420	-	

4H+2 might seem a good result when the board is played, but it is a N/S bottom here. Always contemplate a slam, rather than just "bid game then stop".

Illustrates Opening Balanced Hands, Rule of 20, 1suit openings/rebids and Blackwood.



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## Week 3 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
5	N	N/S	<i>PBB#S2H1</i>			A♠=W
1	9	2H+1	W 9	-	140	
2	10	3NT-3	W 6	150	-	
3	11	2NT=	W 8	-	120	
4	12	2H=	E 8	-	110	
Ref		2H+1	E 9	-	140	

In response to an opening 1NT (12..14), 10 HCP isn't good enough to bid 2NT (you need 11 HCP). Should be a Weak take out in L5 suit (H).

Note that 2H+1 is a top while 2H= is poor. The play matters.



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## Week 3 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
6	E	E/W	PBB#S1H1			A♠=E
1	9	2NT=	N 8	120	-	
2	10	1NT=	N 7	90	-	
3	11	1NT+2	N 9	150	-	
4	12	2D=	N 8	90	-	
Ref		1NT+2	N 9	150	-	
BadRef		1NT	N 7	90	-	

You need 11 HCP to respond 2NT to a 1NT opening. "1" shouldn't be in 2NT.

Only "3" got it right.



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## Week 3 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
7	S	All	REP2#S2H1			A♠=W
1	9	1NT-2	E 5	200	-	
2	10	2NT-3	E 5	300	-	
3	11	1NT+2	E 9	-	150	
4	12	2S+1	W 9	-	140	
Ref A		2S+2	E 10	-	170	
Ref B		4S=	E 10	-	620	(W using losing trick count.)

How did 3 tables end up in NT contracts? Play let "4" down.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2016-17



## Week 3 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
8	W	None	REP2#S1H7			A♠=E
1	9	2NT+1	W 9	-	150	
2	10	2NT-1	W 7	50	-	
4	12	2NT-1	W 7	50	-	
Ref		2NT=	W 8	-	120	

Everyone is in the right contract.

Well done to "1" for the overtrick.





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## Week 3 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
9	N	E/W	<i>PBB#S2H4</i>			A♠=W
1	9	4H+1	S 11	450	-	
2	10	4H+2	S 12	480	-	
3	11	3H+2	S 11	200	-	
4	12	4H+2	S 12	480	-	
Ref		4H+1	S 11	450	-	
BadRef		4H=	S 10	420	-	

Play was good throughout. "3" failed to bid game and got them a bottom.



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## Week 3 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
10	E	All	PBB#S1H6			A♠=N
1	9	1NT=	N 7	90	-	
4	12	1NT+1	N 8	120	-	
Ref		1NT=	N 7	90	-	(EW can easily give NS 1 more.)

Both declarers did well.