



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2013-14



Week 6 Overcalls



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Week 6 Travellers

Some of the things wrong with last week's travellers.

In general they were again somewhat better – but not yet correct.

Board numbers have been changed to protect the guilty.

Using “_” to indicate an empty box.



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Week 6 Travellers

NS	EW	Contract	By	Tricks	NS+	EW+
6	12	3H+2	—	11	150	—

Who was declarer?

5 H tricks is $5 \times 30 = 150$, then add 50 for the part score = 200.



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Week 6 Travellers

NS	EW	Contract	By	Tricks	NS+	EW+
6	—	NT✓✓	N	8	70	—
6	12	1NT+1	—	2	70	—
6	12	1NT+1	N	9	70	—

Who were E/W?

What contract is NT✓✓?

Who was declarer?

1NT+1 is 8 tricks not 2.

Score is 2 NT tricks at $40+30 = 70$, plus part score bonus of 50 = 120.

1NT+1 is not 9 tricks.

Did you actually CHECK your RHO's record?



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Week 6 Travellers

NS	EW	Contract	By	Tricks	NS+	EW+
6	12	2C-3Doubled	—	5	—	300

You write the contract as “2Cx-3” *or perhaps as* “2C*-3”

This was board 4 where all are vulnerable.

1st undertrick	200	
2nd undertrick	300	
3rd undertrick	300	Totalling 800



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NS	EW	Contract	By	Tricks	NS+	EW+
6	12	3NT	—	3	600	—

Write “3NT✓”.

From the other travellers, I gathered declarer was E

It is 9 tricks not 3.

In which case the score goes to EW not to NS.

Sadly not much correct about that entry.



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Week 6 Travellers

NS	EW	Contract	By	Tricks	NS+	EW+
6	12	3NT	E/W	8	50	—
7		-1				

You mustn't stray onto the row below with the "-1".

Please write who declarer was, not which pair. (Apparently W.)



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Week 6 Overcalls

Paul Mendelson – The Right Way to Play Bridge – Chapter 9.

I am going to try to cover overcalls swiftly. That means Many details and examples will be omitted and you will have to read and reread the chapter (and any other books you have).

It will be worth your while laying hands out at home and contemplating how they should be bid.

The No Fear Bridge Crib sheet provides an excellent summary.

If this is a shorter presentation than normal, you should get more play in...



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Week 6 Overcalls

When do you want to consider an overcall?

Obviously only once someone has opened. It doesn't matter if dealer opened and you are second to bid or whether the fourth player opened and you are 7th to bid, that is the 3rd player.

So you can consider overcalling even if you have already passed.

You can consider overcalling even if both your opponents have bid.

One example of this is

N	E	S	W
P	1♣	P	1♦
1♠	...		

The initial Pass simplistically shows 11- HCP. The 1♠ overcall shows 8+HCP and L5+♠, so you have 8..11 HCP.



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Week 6 Overcalls

Overcalls are usually a weak bid.

As a weak bid they are trying to make life hard for Opener / Responder by removing bidding space and forcing them to guess – perhaps wrongly.

As a weak bid they are suggesting a good lead to partner.

Occasionally you may have a strong hand – there are overcall bids to cover that.



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Week 6 Overcalls

None of below...	Pass
6..10 Pts, Good L7+suit	Pre-emptive overcall, double jump. If vulnerable suit to be very good.
8..15 Pts, Good L5+suit	1suit
11..15 Pts, Good L5+suit	2suit (Bid 1 if available)
12..15 Pts, Very good L6+suit	Jump overcall
16..18 HCP Bal + 2 Stoppers	1NT <i>Other books only say 1 stopper</i>
16+ Pts, L6+suit	Double On next bid, bid the L6+suit
19+ HCP Bal + 2 Stoppers	Double On next bid, bid NT

Doubles and Responses to Overcalls will be covered another day.



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Week 6 Overcalls

Things to note:

Unless you have 16+ HCP, to overcall you MUST have L5+suit.

You may have had a 1NT opening bid (12..14 HCP, 4432 shape) – you **can't overcall** with it.

After a 1NT opening bid, you can overcall with 11+ HCP and L5+suit.

Often an overcall will result in a sacrificial bid. If your opponents were going to bid and make a vulnerable 4♥ game (score 620), and you can steal the contract from them for 4♠-2 (score 100) you have done exceedingly well.

If your suit is ♠, it is easiest to be obstructive.



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Week 6 Overcalls

All the books give a slightly different definition of what a good and a very good suit is. RWPB's view is:

L5+suit with 3 of top 5 honours, of which at least 1 of top 2 honours,
eg AJTxx KQTxx AKQxx

For a 2 level bid, 11 HCP needs L6+suit, 12..15 HCP are ok with L5+suit.

Most other books say

“2 of top 5 honours, of which at least 1 of top 2 honours”.

The longer the suit, the fewer honours you need in it – which brings us to Andrew Robson's SQOT evaluation.



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Week 6 Overcalls

Andrew Robson's SQOT (Not in RWPB)

To determine at what level you can overcall, meet all the previous requirements and then check SQOT

Suit Quality Overcall Test

Add the length of you proposed suit to the number of honours (AKQJT) in that suit. You can bid at the level equal to that many tricks.

Thus

AJxxx	= 5 + 2 = 7	Can overcall at the 1 level
AQTxx	= 5 + 3 = 8	Can overcall at the 2 level
KJxxxx	= 6 + 2 = 8	Can overcall at the 2 level



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Week 6 Overcalls

Vulnerability matters, especially when you are trying to impede your opponents in a potentially sacrificial way.

Favourable (You non-vul, They vul) is best

Equal (Same for both pairs)

Adverse (You vul, They non-vul) requires care and thought.



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Week 6 Overcalls

To recap

None of below...	Pass
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Week 6 Play

Play

Divide yourselves into pairs and then into tables. Fill in table slips.

NS have the pair number of their table.

EW have the pair number of their table plus 6.

N has his back to the screen.

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 as 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. (20p)

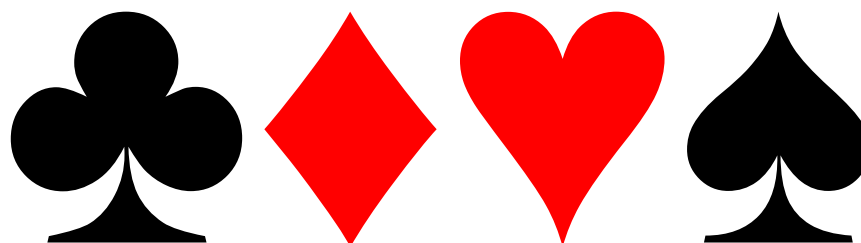
PLAY



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Week 5



The end

(Set hand references follow.)



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Week 6 Set Hands

Set hands

All from Paul Mendelson "Bridge – Winning ways to play your cards"

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.
1	N	None	REP2 Set 3 Hand 1	
2	E	N/S	REP2 Set 3 Hand 2	
3	S	E/W	REP2 Set 3 Hand 3	
4	W	Both	REP2 Set 3 Hand 4	
5	N	N/S	AR:DNC #31A	

REP2 = English Bridge Union : Really Easy Practice volume 2

AR:DNC = Andrew Robson : Declaring NoTrump Contracts