



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2015-16



Week 11 Modified Baron



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U3A Intermediate Bridge 2015-16



Week 11 ... of the week

Procedure of the week:

An **Announcement** is made by Bidder's partner to a few selected common bids at or below 3NT.

An **Alert** is made by Bidder's partner to (roughly) any other non-natural bid at or below 3NT. The player to bid may ask an Alerter to explain the meaning of the alerted bid.

Stop is used by Bidder with any jump bid – thus confirming that the bid was intentional. (*STOP, make bid, count to ten, put Stop away. Next player may now bid.*)



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Week 11 Modified Baron

RWPB Chapter 11

We have already met many conventions:

- Strong opening 2♣

- Fourth Suit Forcing

- Stayman (11+HCP, L4major)

- Stayman (Weak, L5onemajor L4othermajor)

- Blackwood

- Roman Key Card Blackwood

- Unassuming Cue Bid

and a few others.

Today we are looking at the one presented at the start of Chapter 11 of RWPB

Modified Baron

(we will look at the rest of the chapter later).



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Week 11 Modified Baron

Modified Baron

This is a cross between Stayman and Baron.

Stayman you know (but we'll review it on the next page) – it allows you to find a major suit 4-4 fit with partner after their opening **1NT** (2♣), after their opening **2NT** (3♣) (if you have agreed this), and after their **1NT overcall** (2♣) (again if you have agreed this).

I expect you do not know Baron. This was an alternative to Stayman over a **2NT** opening.

Modified Baron aims to find major suit fits of 4-4 or of 5-3 after a **2NT** (or stronger NT) opening bid by partner.

Opening 2NT shows 20..22 HCP balanced

Opening sequence 2♣, (P), 2♦, (P), 2NT shows 23..24 HCP balanced.



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Week 11 Modified Baron

Stayman summary

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1NT		12..14HCP Balanced <i>Announce "12 to 14"</i>
	2♣	I have L4major, do you? <i>Announce "Stayman"</i>
(2♦ 2♥ 2♠		No, L3-♥ & L3-♠
		Yes, L4+♥ & maybe L4+♠
		Yes, L3-♥ but L4+♠

Then responder can bid game if a fit has been found, offer his L4♠ if no ♥ fit, or return to NT if no fit is possible.

Standard Stayman requires 11+ HCP, meaning a game contract is possible (likely). There are variants where you can use it with fewer points and game is NOT the objective. *See previous years.*



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Week 11 Modified Baron

Modified Baron

A 2NT opening shows 20..22 HCP and a distribution of
5332, 4432 or 4333

Use Modified Baron to see if it is 5332 and we have a L5/L3 major fit.

If we do, we prefer playing in the major suit to playing in NT.

===

After a 2NT (or stronger NT) opening, with **enough points to make game a possibility** (4+ HCP) respond with Modified Baron **whenever** you have a L3major or L4major.

If you have L5+major, just bid that suit.

===

Modified Baron starts with a response to 2NT of 3♣.



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Week 11 Modified Baron

Modified Baron

Modified Baron summary

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comment</i>
2NT		20..22HCP Balanced <i>Announce "20 to 22"</i>
	3♣	Do we have a major fit? 4+ HCP, L3/L4major. <i>Alert & explain if asked.</i>

Responder with 4 .. 12 HCP thinks "game", with 13+ HCP "slam".

<i>Ask from top down</i>	⎛	3♠ <i>(Have I 5 spades?)</i>	L5+♠, L3-♥
		3♥ <i>(Have I 5 hearts?)</i>	L5+♥, L3-♠
		3♦ <i>(Have I 4 of a major?)</i>	No L5major, one+ L4major
		3NT <i>(Otherwise)</i>	L3-♥ & L3-♠ (No L4+major)

What next? Mostly just "normal" replies!



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Week 11 Modified Baron

Modified Baron : 3♠ Opener reply

Modified Baron summary

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comment</i>
2NT	3♣	
3♠		L5♠, L3-♥

Make the obvious responses:

With L3/L4♠, go for “Game+” in ♠. If a possible slam, consider 4NT Blackwood / RKCB, or other slam enquiry method.

Otherwise go for game in NT: 3NT, or if strong enough bid a 6NT slam. *SGB suggestion: Since 4NT is Blackwood/RKCB, use 5NT as a Quantitative NT min/max question; Opener passes or 6NTs.*

Opener has L5♠, showing 5332 shape, he cannot have L4♥.



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Week 11 Modified Baron

Modified Baron : 3♥ Opener reply

Modified Baron summary

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comment</i>
2NT	3♣	
3♥		L5♥, L3-♠

Make the obvious responses:

With L3/L4♥, go for “Game+” in ♥. If a possible slam, consider 4NT Blackwood / RKCB, or other slam enquiry method.

Otherwise go for game in NT: 3NT, or if strong enough bid a 6NT slam. *SGB suggestion: Since 4NT is Blackwood/RKCB, use 5NT as a Quantitative NT min/max question; Opener passes or 6NTs.*

Opener has L5♥, showing 5332 shape, he cannot have L4♠.



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Week 11 Modified Baron

Modified Baron : 3NT Opener reply

Modified Baron summary

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comment</i>
2NT	3♣	
3NT		L3-♥, L3-♠

Make the obvious response:

Go for game in NT: Pass 3NT, or consider a NT slam (eg 4NT quantitative).



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Week 11 Modified Baron

Modified Baron : 3♦ Opener reply

Modified Baron summary

<i>Opener</i>	<i>Responder</i>	<i>Comment</i>
2NT	3♣	
3♦		No L5major, one+ L4major
	3NT	4..12 HCP, Has no L4major
	4NT	13..14 HCP, No L4major
	6NT	NT Slam enquiry: Pass/6NT.
	3♥	15+ HCP, No L4major. I have L4♥, do you?
	3♠	I may also have L4♠ I have L4♠, do you?

With a fit Opener bids 4♥♠, with no fit 3NT.

With points, responder thinks “slam” and uses normal “gadgets” to determine whether it is on or not (Blackwood, RKCB, Cue bids, Quantitative NT).



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Week 11 Play

Play

Divide yourselves into pairs and then into tables.

This week I do not plan to 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 6.

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)

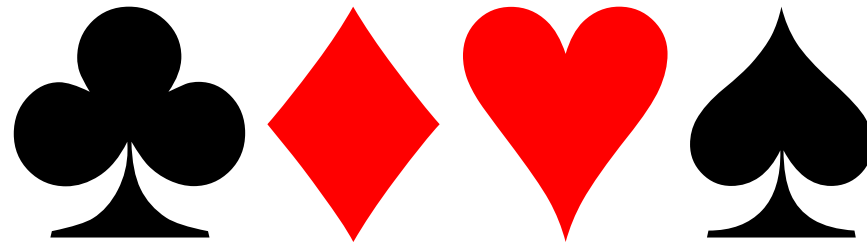
PLAY



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Week 11 Bits and Pieces



The end

Week 11 set hand
references follow.



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Week 11 Set Hands

Set hand sources

Q+ = Hand dealt by Q-Plus bridge program (8 digit reference).

Bridge = Bridge Magazine by Mr Bridge.

AR:DNC = Declaring No-Trump Contracts by Andrew Robson.

MPD = Making a Plan as Declarer DVD by Bernard Magee

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.

If any member of the U3A Intermediate Bridge Group wants details of the hands for study, let me know and I'll email them to you.



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Week 11 Set Hands

Set hands

Dlr Vul Source Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.

1 N None Q+ 1470-1250 (J♥ ↔ 9♥) A♠=N

This hand was played twice at each table. Once using Stayman and once using Modified Baron as a demonstration. An email discussing the hand was sent out after the session.

Stayman

1	7	3NT+1	N	10	430	-	How was this achieved
3	9	4S-1	N	9	-	50	Opener bid 2S, not 2NT.
4	10	3NT-1	N	8	-	50	Reference result
Ref		3NT-1	N	8	-	50	

Modified Baron

1	7	4S=	N	10	420	-	Good but not a top
4	10	4S-2	N	8	-	100	Poor play?
Ref		4S+1	N	11	450	-	



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Week 11 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
2	E	N/S	Bridge#153 pg23			A♠=S
1	7	3NT-1	E 8	50	-	
2	8	3NT-1	E 8	50	-	
Ref		3NT=	E 9	-	400	

Why did both declarers failed to make the contract?



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Week 11 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
3	S	E/W	Q+ 1471-1174			A♠=S
1	7	4NT+2	S 12	490	-	
2	8	6S=	S 12	980	-	Well done.
Ref		6S=	S 12	980	-	

This particular hand reaches the same contract with either Stayman or Modified Baron.



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Week 11 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.			
4	W	All	AR:DNC#12				A♠=W
Deal as AR#12, Bidding differs.							
1	7	3NT-4	W 6	400	-		What can I say?
2	8	3NT+1	W 10	-	630		Excellent
3	9	3NT+1	W 10	-	630		Excellent
Ref		3NT=	W 9	-	600		

Not sure how 10 tricks were made, but well done.



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Week 11 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
5	N	N/S	AR:CNC #37a			A♠=S
2	8	3NT+1	N 10	630	-	
3	9	3NT-2	S 7	-	200	S was declarer?
Ref		3NT+1	N 10	630	-	



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Week 11 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
6	E	E/W	Q+ 0003-1592			A♠=E
2	7	3NT=	E 9	-	600	
3	9	3NT+2	E 11	-	660	
4	10	3NT+3	E 12	-	690	
Ref		6NT=	E 12	-	1440	



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Week 11 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
7	S	All	AR:DNC #40a			A♠=S
3	9	3NT+3	S 12	690	-	
4	10	4NT+1	S 11	660	-	
Ref		6NT=	S 12	1440	-	



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Week 11 Set Hands

Set hands

Dlr Vul Source Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.

8 *Not played*



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Week 11 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
9	N	E/W	AR:DNC#6			A♠=S
3	9	3NT-1	N 8	-	50	
Ref		2NT=	S 8	120	-	