



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2016-17



While waiting for 2pm

Welcome to U3A Intermediate Bridge

While you are waiting:

what would your opening bid and planned rebid be with:

♠ 7 6

♥ A K 8 7

♦ Q 9 4

♣ A K 4 3

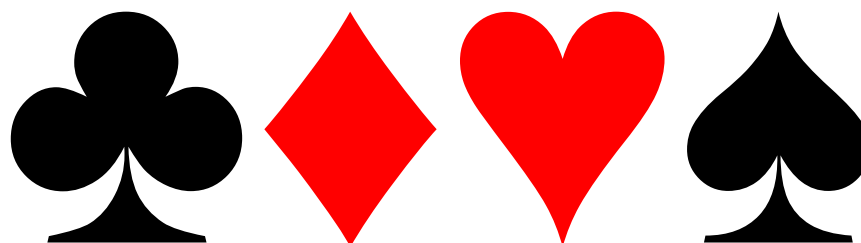
Bridge magazine issue 162, page 1, problem 2.



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Week 1 Duplicate Bridge



Steve Bailey



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While waiting for 2pm

While you are waiting:

what would your opening bid and planned rebid be with:

♠ 7 6

♥ A K 8 7

♦ Q 9 4

♣ A K 4 3

Evaluate your hand: 4432 – balanced. 16 HCP.

Opening bid: 1 of a suit – which suit of two L4? H preferred. **1H**

Planned rebid: Raise in **NT** (ie 1NT after 1S, 2NT after 2level bid) showing 15..16 HCP.

Bridge magazine issue 162, page 1, problem 2.



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Week 1 Introduction

About these sessions

These sessions are all aimed at improving your play at Duplicate Bridge.

You do not need to know what that is – it will be covered – but you do need to be happy about it. The sessions do not cover Rubber bridge at all, and I have no knowledge of the subject which has a completely different strategy.

There is far more material to cover than there is time for. If you are going to improve then, you will have to work, study and practice. If you are not willing, maybe this is not the right group for you?

This is the start of not just a new academic U3A year, but also of going through the course's Bridge Book – more on that later. The last run through took 4 years and glossed over many topics, on top of which I want to cover several extra topics.



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Week 1 Introduction

This week's presentation is mostly an introduction – one I sincerely hope will be shorter than typical presentations, some of which run to over 45 minutes. *(It wasn't – it was another 45 minute presentation.)*

I hope we will get 90 minutes of playing in today.

Today's presentation is a repeat of things you have already seen and an overview explanation of how duplicate bridge works. Better details in the weeks to come.

Please read each presentation after the session – I'll put each up on my website over the following weekend.

And please study and practice.



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Week 1 Introduction

About us

I, Steve, have been playing for 8 years now.

I play regularly at the Guildford Institute Bridge Club (Saturday evenings in Ward St), and at the Elite Bridge Club (*a tongue in cheek name for a group of five who meet weekly to play and discuss (self-improvement) hands*).

Pauline or another "expert" will often be here to advise. Pauline started Guildford U3A's bridge groups back in the late 1980s and all has grown from there. She has been playing for about 80 years.

Along with two other U3A members, Pam P, who leads Bridge Masterclass, and Shirley R, we entered the U3A Swiss Teams tournament representing Guildford U3A last May, we came 13th out of 32.

I am hoping at least four of you will form a team and enter in 2017.



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Week 1 Introduction

Nomenclature:

On these slides and any hand written comments, I often use abbreviations:

- "+" means "or more": "16+ HCP" = "16 or more HCP".
- "-" means "or fewer": "5- HCP" = "5 or fewer HCP".
- "L" means "length":
 - L0H = Length 0 in hearts = Void in hearts.
 - L1C = Length 1 in clubs = Singleton in clubs.
 - L4+S = Length 4 or more in spades.
- "T" can mean "Ten" or "Trump" depending on context.
- "HCP" is "High card points" from A K Q J.
"Pts" are "Points" and include shape.



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Week 1 Course Book

This group studies Bridge using a course book.

Please get yourself a copy of

The Right Way to Play Bridge

Paul Mendelson

It is available from Amazon for £5.99.

Other sources are also used, both to expand on topics in the "green book" and to cover extra topics. [Buy \(and study\) if you want to progress:](#)

[Bridge magazine from Mr. Bridge](#)

[Bernard Magee DVDs \(Available to borrow from me, £30 deposit\)](#)

[Bridge Lesson books \(20 off\) by Andrew Robson](#)

[Other books by Paul Mendelson](#)



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Week 1 Entry Knowledge

About this group

This is an Intermediate bridge group. Therefore it is assumed that you have all reached (at least) a level of competent beginner. If you are not comfortable with 10 key bridge points, then should you be here? *It doesn't matter if there is one topic that you are rusty on – we will cover it all. But if more than that, perhaps you should consider redoing a beginners course.*

As an **intermediate** bridge player, you are expected to be familiar with everything on the **No Fear Bridge crib sheet**(*).

(*) www.nofearbridge.co.uk/crib_sheet_new.pdf

That doesn't mean you have to play "it" – you may have advanced beyond this list and play more advanced techniques – but you must understand "it" and be "able" to play "it".



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Week 1 Entry Knowledge

As an **intermediate** bridge player, you are expected to be familiar with everything on the No Fear Bridge crib sheet. In particular:

- 1) Be able to evaluate hand value and use the Rule of Twenty.



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Week 1 Entry Knowledge

As an **intermediate** bridge player, you are expected to be familiar with everything on the No Fear Bridge crib sheet. In particular:

2) Know bidding sequence(*) as opener with a balanced hand and ANY number of points from 0 to 25+.

(*) Opening bid and any relevant rebid.



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Week 1 Entry Knowledge

As an **intermediate** bridge player, you are expected to be familiar with everything on the No Fear Bridge crib sheet. In particular:

3) Know standard responses to 1NT, including Weak Take Outs and normal "Stayman".



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Week 1 Entry Knowledge

As an **intermediate** bridge player, you are expected to be familiar with everything on the No Fear Bridge crib sheet. In particular:

4) Be able to score all made, undoubled part or game contracts and any undoubled contract with undertricks **without looking anything up.**



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Week 1 Entry Knowledge

As an **intermediate** bridge player, you are expected to be familiar with everything on the No Fear Bridge crib sheet. In particular:

5) Know standard "Blackwood", asking and replying.



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Week 1 Entry Knowledge

As an **intermediate** bridge player, you are expected to be familiar with everything on the No Fear Bridge crib sheet. In particular:

6) Know all 5 strong "opening 2" values, (4 suits and NT), and negative values and responses to them.



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Week 1 Entry Knowledge

As an **intermediate** bridge player, you are expected to be familiar with everything on the No Fear Bridge crib sheet. In particular:

7) Know requirements to overcall at the 1 or 2 level in suit or NT.



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Week 1 Entry Knowledge

As an **intermediate** bridge player, you are expected to be familiar with everything on the No Fear Bridge crib sheet. In particular:

8) Know value of "1suit" opening bid and promised rebid.



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Week 1 Entry Knowledge

As an **intermediate** bridge player, you are expected to be familiar with everything on the No Fear Bridge crib sheet. In particular:

9) Know meaning and point requirements of opening "3suit" bids.



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Week 1 Entry Knowledge

As an **intermediate** bridge player, you are expected to be familiar with everything on the No Fear Bridge crib sheet. In particular:

10) Know functional difference between Take Out and Penalty doubles. Know which doubles are which, *allowing that there are some awkward borderline cases.*



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Week 1 Duplicate Play

Duplicate Play

This type of bridge uses fixed hands that are played by everyone(*) at the event. The objective is not to get a positive score – though that is nice – against the other pair at your table. The aim is to do better than other pairs sitting in the same seats as you when they play the board.

Example results for one board:

a	3NT= by W	400
b	4S= by E	420
c	4S+1 by E	450
d	5Dx-2 by N	-300

Which is the best E/W pair? Which is the best N/S pair?

At Duplicate, there are several "rounds", each of a few boards, after which pairs move to a new table to play other opponents. A typical session has around 24 boards in 3 hours (*7.5 minutes a board*).

(*) *Almost everyone*



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Week 1 Duplicate Play

At a duplicate club:

The table will be cluttered with

- A board in the middle. *It STAYS THERE to form a barrier between each 13-card hand.*
- Bidding boxes. Most folk place them in the corner to their right, but some (eg left-handed people) may want them on the left.
- Table numbers and movement cards. *Generally with North.*
- Cards already played. Longways, pointing at the pair who won the trick. *Leave them in situ **until AFTER** the result has been **AGREED** by **ALL FOUR**.* Put them along your edge of the table. *In this group, I recommend leaving them in situ until after the traveller is completed.*
- Visible cards – the ones being played to this trick and dummy's hand. *And any penalty cards.* Play your card for this trick well inside **YOUR** quadrant.
- Individual results sheets, convention cards, pens and drinks on coasters.



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Week 1 Duplicate Play

Playing a hand (1)

Check you are at the right table in the right seats, with the right board in front of you. North is responsible for organising things.

Check the board is the right way round. Remove the cards from the board and, **in case there is a problem**, count them **FACE DOWN**.

Sort your cards and prepare to bid. The player labelled “Dealer” by the board starts the bidding. Communication between a partnership, other than by bidding or play is not allowed.

Make your bid. Form a staircase of your bids so that the entire history can be seen. Place the bids at the edge of the table where the tricks will go – then they can stay there until replaced into the box.

If your bid is a jump bid, place the STOP card on the table followed immediately by your bid. Then count at a normal speed to ten and put the STOP card away. The next player **may not bid until after that**.



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Week 1 Duplicate Play

Playing a hand (2)

If your partner's bid is not natural then you wave your alert card briefly (two or three seconds). The next opponent may (will?) ask you to explain the bid you alerted.

The bidder **must remain silent** during alerter's explanations – even if alerter has got it wrong.

A few bids are “announced” rather than alerted by bidder's partner. Eg the point range of an opening 1NT bid. Eg a level 2 opening (*bidder uses the STOP card*). Eg Stayman. Eg Transfers.

In addition to “announcements”, **as a teaching aid only**, you are all asked to explain every bid or pass that your partner makes. Have the table discuss any discrepancies.

Note that the explanations are of the meaning of the card bid & are NOT an explanation of the cards the bidder actually holds. Please understand the difference.



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Week 1 Duplicate Play

Playing a hand (3)

Just because someone bids game, do not assume the bidding has ended. Wait for 3 passes. *And note that the last player to make an active bid **should not** try to make a final PASS.*

Leave the bids on view on the table. **Do not move them yet.**

Agree the contract and who declarer is. Optionally record it on your personal record sheet.

The initial lead is made **FACE DOWN**, at which point leader says “any questions partner?”. At this point, **with the card still hidden**, questions about the bidding may be made. Such as “East, what did West’s 4NT bid mean” *expecting an answer such as Blackwood or Roman Key Card Blackwood.*

I repeat: the initial lead is made **FACE DOWN**.

I repeat: the initial lead is made **FACE DOWN**. **Remember to do this.**

Answer “No questions” or with a question or procedure issue, say “STOP”.



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Week 1 Duplicate Play

Playing a hand (4)

Then the initial lead is exposed and placed about four inches from the table edge in the leader's quadrant. It is placed flat on the table and not fingered. It is not placed so that it is obscured by coffee cups, hands, bidding boxes or by the pile of boards on the table.

Then dummy's hand is placed on the table – which may be done with the bids still along the edge of the table. The central board may be moved a few inches by North to ease this process. **It must not be removed, nor may it be rotated.** Do not place dummy's cards more than about 4 inches from your table edge – keep them away from declarer.

Now all the bidding cards are put back into the bidding box. Some folk use one bidding card as a flag to remember the contract.

And declarer makes a plan.

Then declarer asks dummy to play the card of declarer's choice. **Declarer does NOT touch Dummy's cards.** (Disabled players excepted.)



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Week 1 Duplicate Play

Playing a hand (5)

Play of the cards follows.

At the end of trick 13, agree the result (3S-1 or whatever). *In this group, I recommend leaving the cards in situ until after the traveller is completed.*

When you do pick your 13 cards up, **shuffle them** and put them back in the board in the same slot they came from. *Shuffling is particularly important if a board was passed out.*

You can record the score on YOUR results sheet. North also writes the result 3 times on the traveller: as a contract with over/under tricks, as number of tricks made, and as a score. All 3 should match. When done North shows it to East **who checks it**. **East does not look at the other results and say “ooh someone bid 6NT and made it”**. He **checks the newly written entry**. After which, a **quiet** discussion of the other plays **sometimes** occurs.

As a teaching aid, we have 4 travellers in a board so everyone learns to fill them in. Show it to the player on your **left** for checking. You check the traveller from your right – that one and your traveller should be identical.

Why are they not?



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Week 1 Duplicate Play

Playing a hand (6)

Place the board just played in an “outgoing” pile and take the next in sequence from the “incoming” pile. At a club it may be one pile in the middle of the table – move from the top to the bottom.

-----FOR U3A INTERMEDIATE BRIDGE ONLY-----

Most boards will have a commentary attached. **As a teaching aid**, discuss the hand amongst yourselves and **read the commentary**.

During play, it may be beneficial to talk out loud your thought processes. *Not all together – when it is your turn.*

“So that is 7 trumps played. Left hand opponent opened, so he has at least 12 points. We have 25, so that leaves Right hand opponent with 3 at most, so he can’t have the A♣. So a finesse would do better leading through dummy.”

“My partner led an Ace – that means I need to signal my third round control. We play ‘reverse attitude’ and I don’t have the queen or a trumpable doubleton follow-up, so I must play a high spot card.” *and so on.*



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Week 2 Topic

Next session

- Hand evaluation.
- Opening with a balanced hand – any number of points
 - And the most basic follow-ups to it.

And then

- Bernard Magee's "Responding to 1NT" DVD. (2 sessions)



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Week 1 Play

Play

Divide yourselves into pairs and then into tables.

This week I will 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. *(It was 6 last year.)*

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

See next slide



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Week 1 Summary

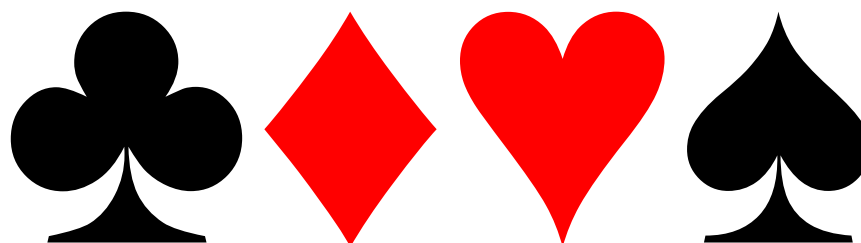
- 1) Be able to evaluate hand value and use the Rule of Twenty.
- 2) Know bidding sequence as opener with a balanced hand and ANY number of points from 0 to 25+.
- 3) Know standard responses to 1NT, including Weak Take Outs and normal "Stayman".
- 4) Be able to score all made, undoubled part or game contracts and any undoubled contract with undertricks without looking anything up.
- 5) Know standard "Blackwood", asking and replying.
- 6) Know all 5 strong "opening 2" values, (4 suits and NT), and negative values and responses to them.
- 7) Know requirements to overcall at the 1 or 2 level in suit or NT.
- 8) Know value of "1suit" opening bid and promised rebid.
- 9) Know meaning and point requirements of opening "3suit" bids.
- 10) Know functional difference between Take Out and Penalty doubles. Know which doubles are which, *allowing that there are some awkward borderline cases.*



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Week 1 Duplicate Bridge



The end

Week 1 set hand
references follow.



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Week 1 Set Hands

Set hand sources

CMHAT = A Robson, Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

REP2 = EBU, Really Easy Practice #2

PBB = EBU, Practice Beginning Bridge

PCB = EBU Practice Continuing Bridge

AR:BAO = A Robson, Bidding As Opener

===

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 1 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source				Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.
1	N	None	CMHAT#7				A♠=E
1	9	1NT-4	N 3	-	200	Poor defence	
2	10	1NT-2	N 5	-	100	Very poor defence	
4	12	3D+1	E 10	-	130		
Ref a		2H-2	S 6	-	100		
Ref b		1NT-6	N 1	-	300	Proper defence, NT is awful	

"2" and "Ref a N/S" came top.

Illustrates opening with a balanced hand (1NT) and Weak Take Outs, which although they may not make are usually better than letting the opening 1NT play. NOBODY played the WTO!



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Week 1 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
2	E	N/S	REP2#S6H1			A♠=N
1	9	4H=	E 10	-	420	
2	10	3NT=	E 9	-	400	
Ref a		4H=	E 10	-	420	
Ref b		3NT-1	E 8	50	-	

Illustrates opening with a balanced hand (1NT) and Stayman.

If Stayman is not used, expected result is 3NT going down.

I wonder how "10" made 3NT?



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Week 1 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
3	S	E/W	PBB#S3H8			A♠=W
3	11	3NT+2	W 11	-	660	
4	12	3NT+1	W 10	-	630	
Ref a		3NT+3	W 12	-	690	
Ref b		5D+1	W 12	-	620	Playing in NT is better.

Illustrates 1suit openings/rebids and scoring of simple contracts.

Despite having used this EBU hand, I am not happy with their commentary on the deal. This would stand further study.



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Week 1 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
4	W	All	PCB#S5H9			A♠=E
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 Hand evaluation, Rule of 20, 1suit openings/rebids and Blackwood.



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Week 1 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.
5	N	N/S	<i>PCB#S7H2</i>	A♠=N

Not played.

Illustrates 1suit openings/rebids and Doubles.



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Week 1 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
6	E	E/W	PBB#S7H1			A♠=W
2	10	1S+2	S 9	140	-	Only 9 tricks is poor declarer play.
Ref		2S+2	S 10	170	-	

Illustrates Hand evaluation and Rule of twenty, Overcalls.



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Week 1 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.
7	S	All	PCBV#S3H9	A♠=E

Illustrates Strong 2 openings.

Not played.

♣♦♥♠ U3A Intermediate Bridge 2016-17 ♣♦♥♠

Week 1 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.
8	W	None	AR:BAO#29	A♠=E

Illustrates pre-emptive opening 3suit.

Not played.



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Week 1 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source				Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.
9	N	E/W	PCB#S10H5				A♠=N
2	10	3NT-2	S 7	-	100		
4	12	3NT+1	? 10	430	-	Traveller confused if N or S	
Ref a		3NT=	N 9	400	-		
Ref b		3NT-1	S 8	-	50	<i>Bad bidding</i>	

Illustrates 1suit openings/rebids

All four travellers should be identical – here we had two saying "4" was played by "S" and two saying "N".