



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2016-17



While waiting for 2pm

U3A National Swiss Teams Tournament

Towards the end of May each year, the U3A (Basingstoke) organize a bridge tournament, usually held in Hook. Typically a Saturday with around 30 boards played during the day and a pleasant lunch.

It makes for a good bridge day out.

Last year Guildford entered one team, Basingstoke has 7 or 8. So multiple teams are fine.

Why don't 4 (or even 8) of you get together and plan on entering.

Details available for 2017 in January.

See

<http://s222350980.websitehome.co.uk/U3A/Bridge/mtswiss.html>



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2016-17



Comment on the session after the event.

The talk took longer than anticipated, it was only 16 slides. It actually took, including all the questions and answers 75 minutes.

That left only 45 minutes for play.

Therefore only half the boards were played in the time available.

I therefore plan to reuse the same boards at the next session. I will have to decide if it remains sensible to show the second half of the "Responding to 1NT" DVD (Stayman) or not.

The results so far are at the end of this presentation. I plan to make all the hands available to you now, so that you can study them if you desire. That way when you see that the reference contract and result is (say) 3NT+3, you can work out in advance how to achieve it.

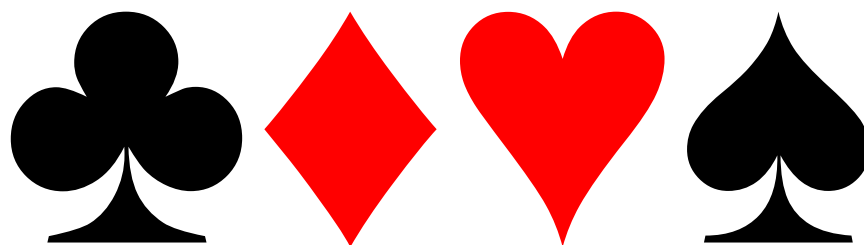
This may make next times results "better".

Also most of the travellers (4 per board) were flawed. I shall circulate the flawed travellers with each board so that you can see the things done wrong.

Please take care when filling in travellers and please check them carefully.

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

Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised



Steve Bailey



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

Bidding objectives

Simplistically, the purpose of the bidding is to determine which partnership has the majority of the points and to determine how many points and thus what level of bid and what suit(s) a fit is in.

Generally the target on any bidding is:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) Play in a joint L8+ major suit fit | <i>liked</i> |
| 2) Play in NT | <i>liked almost as much</i> |
| 3) Play in a joint L8+ minor suit fit | <i>disliked</i> |

Note that the dislike of minor suit contracts no longer applies once at the slam level.



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

Opening with balanced hands – Weak No Trump

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

HCP	Bid	
-----	-----	--

0..11	Pass	
-------	------	--

12..14	1NT	Announce "Twelve to fourteen"***
--------	-----	----------------------------------

15..19	1suit	Longest suit*. Rebid NT at relevant level.
--------	-------	--

20..22	2NT	Announce "Twenty to twenty-two" (or Alert?)
--------	-----	---

23+	2♣	Alert. (Expects 2♦, then rebid 2NT)
-----	----	-------------------------------------

The 2NT and 2♣-2♦-2NT openings can often be handled like the 1NT openings BUT with point ranges adjusted by 8 or 11.

*4432: With L4H, bid 1H. Otherwise with L4minor bid 1Minor.
With two L4minors, bid 1WeakerMinor

**5332: With L5major and the suit being rebiddable could open 1Major.
PM~RWPB says "if rebiddable suit", as does Bernard Magee.
Andrew Robson says "always open 1NT".

If you open "NT" you are **limiting** your hand to a small range of points.



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

4333 hands

4333 hands are as flat as is possible. There is no length to help make tricks in a long suit. In a suit contract, with all suits being L3+, there is no likelihood of being able to trump.

Therefore some (including Bernard Magee) recommend subtracting 1Pt from your evaluation for 4333 hands – especially ones with single honours in each suit rather than clusters in one (or two) suit(s).



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

4432 – Why bid the weaker minor?

"With two L4minors, bid 1WeakerMinor"

This is because the expectation is that you will end up playing in NT, not in the minor. The fact that you have bid the suit will discourage the opponents from making an opening lead in the weak suit. They will not be readily able to tell from the bidding that it is a hand with two L4Minors.



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

You don't need to memorise this – just be aware that some folk play this.

There is one set hand today that I ask you to play using this – it comes with notes.

Opening with balanced hands – Strong No Trump

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

HCP	Bid	
-----	-----	--

0..11	Pass	
-------	------	--

12..14	1suit	Longest suit. Rebid 1NT or simple suit raise or pass.
--------	-------	---

15..17	1NT	Announce "fifteen to seventeen"
--------	-----	---------------------------------

18..19	1suit	Longest suit. Rebid 2NT or jump in partner's suit.
--------	-------	--

20..22	2NT	Announce "Twenty to twenty-two"
--------	-----	---------------------------------

23+	2♣	Alert. (Expects 2♦, then rebid 2NT)
-----	----	-------------------------------------

Similar suit selection criteria.



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

Opener's NT rebid

With a balanced 15..16 HCP rebid NT at the lowest level, often 1NT. When 2NT it is "ok" because partner's bid pushing the raise up to "2" supplies the extra points.

If partner doesn't have the required points, he shouldn't bid. His points will be HCP plus length points. Excludes shortage points.

Intervention

If your opponents overcall, do not raise your bid in response to THEM. Work out what you should bid if they hadn't bid – if the bid is available, make it. If it isn't, then pass.



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

Responding to 1NT *The table in RWPB on page 28 is good.*

Leaving out Stayman until next time, we have:

0..10 HCP L4-AllSuits Pass

0..10 HCP L5+Suit Weak Take Out: 2♦ 2♥ 2♠ No ♣ WTO.

Transfers: 2♦(Tfr to ♥) 2♥(Tfr to ♠)

L6+Minor Transfers: 2♠(Tfr to minor, Opener bids 2NT)

11..12 HCP Bal 2NT

11..12 Pts UnBal *Not covered in the table...*

Transfers: 2♦(Tfr to ♥) 2♥(Tfr to ♠)

13+ Pts L5+Major 3Major Game force. Opener bids 3NT/4Major)

Transfers: 2♦(Tfr to ♥) 2♥(Tfr to ♠)



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

Responding to 1NT *The table in RWPB on page 28 is good.*

Leaving out Stayman until next time, we have:

13+ Pts L6+Major

4Major (Must be a fit.)

Transfers: 2♦(Tfr to ♥) 2♥(Tfr to ♠)

13..18 HCP Bal

3NT

13..18 Pts L5+ Minor

3NT (Include length points)

16+ Pts L5+ Minor

3Minor Game force, Slam interest.

19+ HCP Bal

4NT/6NT/5NT Quantative/To play/Quantative



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

Responding to 1NT

Hopefully the previous two slides held nothing or little new. The most likely surprise is the 3Minor response being "game force, slam interest".

It is likely to contain significant shortages and long minors (L5+ or more extreme) and many points.

If you aren't interested in a slam then almost always bid 3NT instead.

If Opener has a fit (L3+Suit) try 4Minor. Otherwise Try 3NT.

The following is me, not any Expert – beware.

Responder may well answer the 4Minor with an ace asking 4NT.

Responder may well answer 3NT with a quantitative 4NT.

Unsure how to proceed is Responder wants to Ace ask after 3NT.



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

4NT

Whether you play Blackwood, KeyCard Blackwood or Roman KeyCard Blackwood, after a suit is agreed (explicitly or implicitly) 4NT is Ace asking.

After a NT bid by partner, it is quantitative, asking min or max for the range you have already quoted. Pass if minimum, Raise/Jump to 6NT if maximum.

Steve and Pauline play 4♣ is "Ace asking Gerber" ONLY after a NT bid by Partner, and ONLY when ♣ have not been bid naturally. Generally experts frown on this.



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

Cue bids or not

Experts recommend using Cue bids when investigating slams. In that case a raise to 4AgreedMajor shows a lack of Aces/Controls.

If you don't play cue bids then 4AgreedMajor (or 4AgreeingMajor) probably shows some decent cards and maybe controls. Partner may well choose to continue with Blackwood.



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

Transfer to minors

The recommended route is

2♠ (Announce Transfer to Minors) – 2NT – 3Minor.

This has the disadvantage that the suit is played by Responder.

I have come up with a scheme that gets round this [that has not found favour](#) – but I still see nothing wrong with it.

In WTO bridge, you use 2C (Stayman) – 2D/2H/2S – 3C to make a WTO in clubs. I propose in Transfers to extend this to

2C (Stayman) – 2D/2H/2S – 3C (Transfer to Diamonds) – 3D

And then

2S (Transfer to Clubs) – 3C

Experiment with it if you like – and let me know.

End result: 2C tfrs to D, 2D to H, 2H to S, 2S to C.

Jump bids are not transfers.



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

Stayman

We will leave Stayman and all its variations for a later week. I include "[Modified Baron](#)" over a 2NT opening in that category. We covered that last year, so some of you will know it. Play it if you wish.



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Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised

Before you start to play

Agree your system with your partner

Weak Take Out or Transfers

5332 rebiddable L5major opens 1NT or 1Major

B Magee Minor Transfers or SGB's separated ones

Cue bids or not

What type of Blackwood

Stayman or Modified Baron over 2NT

Weak 1NT or Strong 1NT

Also signals and discard systems.

Also other conventions – but you probably won't need them today.

Later on in spring we will look at making a convention card (aka system card).



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2016-17



Week 7 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**.

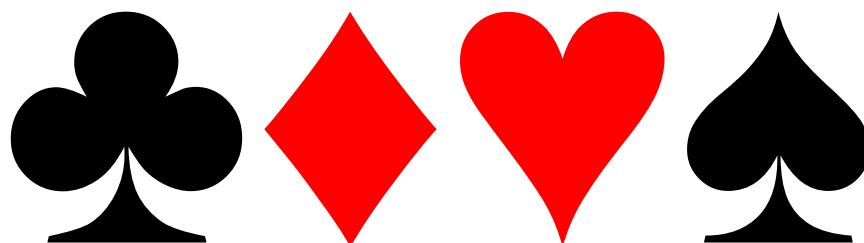
Any questions?

Tea / coffee & biscuit. (20p)

PLAY

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

Week 7 Opening Balanced Hands Reprised



The end

Week 7 set hand
references follow.



U3A Intermediate Bridge



Week 7 Set Hands

Set hand sources

PBB = EBU, Practice Beginning Bridge

PCB = EBU, Practice Continuing Bridge

===

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♠.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2016-17



Week 7 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
1	N	None	PBB#S1H2			A♠=S
1	9	3NT+1	N 10	430	-	
4	12	3NT+1	N 10	430	-	
Ref		3NT+3	N 12	490	-	



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Week 7 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
2	E	N/S	PBB#S1H3			A♠=E
1	9	3NT-1	E 8	50	-	
Ref		3NT+1	E 10	-	430	



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Week 7 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
3	S	E/W	PCB#S11H8			A♠=N
1	9	6S+1	S	13	1010	-
2	10	6S+1	S	13	1010	-
Ref		6S=	S	12	980	-

I am curious as to how declarer made the overtrick.



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Week 7 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
4	W	All	<i>PBB#S1H8</i>			A♠=E
1	9	3NT-2	W 7	200	-	
2	10	3NT-1	W 8	100	-	
Ref		3NT-1	W 8	100	-	



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Week 7 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
5	N	N/S	<i>PBB#S3H1</i>			A♠=N
2	10	3NT+1	N 10	630	-	
3	11	3NT+1	N 10	630	-	
Ref		3NT=	N 9	600	-	

I am curious as to how declarer made the overtrick.



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Week 7 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dlr	Vul	Source	Dlr = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
6	E	E/W	PCB#S6H5			A♠=E
2	10	6D=	W 12	-	1370	
3	11	4NT=	E 10	-	630	
Ref		6D=	W 12	-	1370	

Pair 10 used the 3D strong long minor response with slam interest.

Pair 11 used a quantitative raise of 4NT with a balanced hand.

This shows the benefit of the strong long minor jump.



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Week 7 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
7	S	All	PBB#S1H5			A♠=S
3	11	3NT-1	S 8	-	100	
Ref		3NT=	S 9	600	-	



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Week 7 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
8	W	None	PCB#S5H4			A♠=W
3	11	6S=	S 12	980	-	
4	12	4S+2	S 12	480	-	
Ref		6S=	S 12	980	-	



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Week 7 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
9	N	E/W	<i>PBB#S7H5 [S↔H, D↔C]</i>			A♠=N
3	11	3NT=	E 9	-	600	
4	12	3NT=	E 9	-	600	
Ref		3NT=	E 9	-	600	