



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



While waiting for 10am

**Welcome to U3A Intermediate Bridge**

**While you are waiting:**

What is your plan, as South, in 6♦, with a ♥K opening lead by W?

♠ 7 2  
♥ 8 3  
♦ K Q J 5 2  
♣ A Q 6 5

♥K

♠ A K 4 3  
♥ A 9  
♦ T 9 7 6 4  
♣ K 8

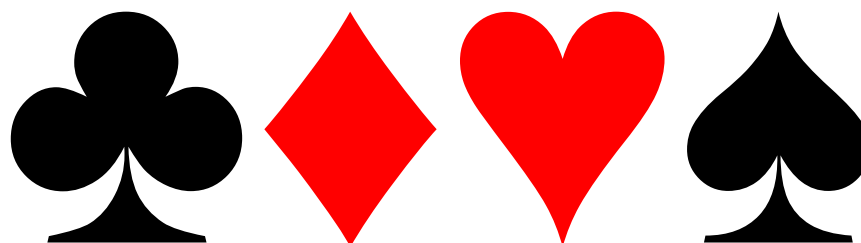
*Bridge magazine issue 175, page 20, problem 1(i).*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



Week 1 Duplicate Bridge



Steve Bailey



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♠ 7 2

♥ 8 3

♦ K Q J 5 2

♣ A Q 6 5

Top Tricks: ♠AK ♥A ♦- ♣AKQ = 6. Need 6 more

♥K

♠ A K 4 3

♥ A 9

♦ T 9 7 6 4

♣ K 8

*Bridge magazine issue 175, page 20, problem 1(i).*

**BEFORE** playing first card from Dummy, **Make a plan.**



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Top Tricks: ♠AK ♥A ♦- ♣AKQ = 6. Need 6 more  
 Extra tricks: Trump ♠43, ♦QJT9 after K→A.

♥K

♠ A K 4 3  
 ♥ A 9  
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 Losers ♥9, ♦K.

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♥K

♠ A K 4 3  
 ♥ A 9  
 ♦ T 9 7 6 4  
 ♣ K 8

Top Tricks: ♠AK ♥A ♦- ♣AKQ = 6. Need 6 more  
 Extra tricks: Trump ♠43, ♦QJT9 after K→A.  
 Losers ♥9, ♦K.

♦K→♦A is inevitable.

Discard ♥9 on third ♣ master.

*Bridge magazine issue 175, page 20, problem 1(i).*

Before playing first card from {Dummy}, **Make a plan.**



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 ♥ 8 3  
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♥K

♠ A K 4 3  
 ♥ A 9  
 ♦ T 9 7 6 4  
 ♣ K 8

Top Tricks: ♠AK ♥A ♦- ♣AKQ = 6. Need 6 more  
 Extra tricks: Trump ♠43, ♦QJT9 after K→A.  
 Losers ♥9, ♦K.

- 1) ♥K→♥A
- 2,3,4) ♣KAQ, discard losing ♥9 on ♣Q  
 (before EW are back on lead)
- 5) ♦K→♦A ♣, take forced loser now while you  
 can win any response.
- 6) Win ♠A or (♥)♦J or ♦Q or (♣)♦9
- 6..13) Make ♠AK, Trump ♠43, ♦QJT9.

*Bridge magazine issue 175, page 20, problem 1(i).*

**Before playing first card from {Dummy}, Make a plan.**





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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?

In previous year's, the presentation has often lasted 40 minutes. I have reluctantly concluded that to be a bad idea, and will limit the presentations to 20 minutes (except for videos). However that means that we are only likely to cover 2 or 3 topics in the entire academic year.

Last year we only managed "Dealing with opening balanced hands" and "Opening Leads".



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Introduction

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.

<http://www.stocton.org/bridge.htm>

(No K in stocton)

And please study and practice.

And read previous years' presentations on

<http://www.stocton.org/bridge.htm>

(No K in stocton)

FWIW, I have been playing bridge now for about 9 years.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Introduction

### Nomenclature:

On these slides and any commentaries, I 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.
- "**10**" is an honour when in a suit with any of A K Q J or 9.  
*Otherwise it is a high spot card. (SGB theory.)*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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 Waterstones £6.99 or 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  
including the previous book "Bridge for Complete Beginners"](#)



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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 eventually 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](http://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".*

The next slide lists the 10 key points. We do not have time today to discuss them and I shall go through them very quickly – please review them all at home.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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".





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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.**



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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.*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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.
- 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.
- 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.*





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Duplicate Play

### **Duplicate Play**

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



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Duplicate Play

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Example results for one board:

Table	Contract	Declarer view
1	3NT= by W	400
2	4S= by E	420
3	4S-1 by E	-50
4	5Dx-2 by N	-300

*Who did best? Who did worst?*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Duplicate Play

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Example results for one board:

Table	Contract	Declarer view	NS view	
1	3NT= by W	400	-400	<i>Handwritten as 3NT✓</i>
2	4S= by E	420	<b>-420</b>	<i>Handwritten as 4S✓</i>
3	4S-1 by E	-50	<b>50</b>	
4	5Dx-2 by N	-300	-300	

*View as NS rather than as declarer: **Best NS**, **Best EW**.*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Duplicate Play

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Example results for one board:

Table	Contract	Declarer view	NS view	
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2	4S= by E	420	-420	<i>Handwritten as 4S✓</i>
3	4S-1 by E	-50	50	
4	5Dx-2 by N	-300	-300	

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 club session has around 24 boards in 3 hours (*7.5 minutes a board*).

*We typically take 12 minutes a board.*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## 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.
- BVH has small tables, so we may be forced to do some things wrongly.*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Duplicate Play

### Playing a hand (1)

North manages the table. In this group, N has his back to the stage.

Check the board is the right way round. Count your cards **FACE DOWN**.

Place your bids in a staircase, so that the history is visible, at the **edge of the table** **where tricks taken will go**.

Use STOP card if your bid is a JUMP.

Use ALERT if your PARTNER's bid is at/below 3NT and non-standard.

ANNOUNCE PARTNER'S bids where appropriate.

**In addition, and as a teaching aid only, explain every bidding card Partner uses. Have the table discuss any discrepancies. Note you are explaining what the card means, not what partner has in his hand.**



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Duplicate Play

### Playing a hand (2)

Do not assume that a "game bid" is the end of the auction. Wait for 3 passes.  
*Do not make a fourth pass.*

Do **not** put bids away until after dummy is displayed.

The opening lead is **FACE DOWN**, leader asks "any questions partner?".

Except for disabled players, NEVER touch ANY card apart from YOUR 13.

After play, agree the result, fill the traveller in (as if you were North) and get it checked by the player to your left. PLEASE ACTUALLY CHECK THEM, letter by letter and digit by digit. *All 4 (for learning) should be identical.*

*For some reason this seems very difficult for you. Please really check them.*

**Also discuss your play and read and discuss the board commentaries.**

*There is a lot of information on each commentary, it may take many minutes.*

After play, **shuffle** your hand and replace in the board.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Play

### Play

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

EW have the pair number of their table plus 8.

Play boards in sequence. Have an incoming pile and an outgoing pile. Pass outgoing to next lower numbered table – Table 1 to highest table.

**As part of the learning process** – I would like the partner of whoever has just bid to take whatever action is **standardly required** (eg 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**.

Fill the traveller in correctly. If you would like to discuss a particular hand later, put your initials in the "Masterpoints" column as a 'vote'.

*If you wish to fill in a personal results card, they are available here. They are commonly used at duplicate clubs.*

**Any questions?**

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

**PLAY**





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Duplicate Bridge



The end

Week 1 set hand  
references follow.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge



## Week 1 Set Hands

### Set hand sources

All hands taken from Andrew Robson Bridge columns in the Times – mostly from Saturdays which are his "interesting hands" columns.

In general, my reference contract differs from his column – the experts use techniques we do not yet know.

===

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



## Week 1 Set Hands

### Hands played

Board	Pairs
1	1 5 9 13
2	1 5 9 13
3	1 2 9 10
4	2 10
5	2 4 10 12
6	4 12
7	4 5 12 13
8	4 5 12 13
12	1 9



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
1	N	None	Sat 2016-08-27	A♠=N		
1	9	5C-2	S 9	-	100	
5	13	6Cx-1	S 11	-	100	
Ref		4S+3	N 13	510	-	
AR		7Sxx=	N 13	1510	-	

This hand may be worth studying another week.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
2	E	N/S	Sat 2016-10-01	A♠=N		
1	9	5S=	E 11	-	450	
5	13	3S+1	E 10	-	170	
Ref		4S+1	E 11	-	450	
AR		4S-1	E 9	50	-	

I put the difference between Ref and AR as due to the opening lead. We do not like 4<sup>th</sup> highest to a single honour if it can be avoided. Therefore near top of rubbish hearts seemed better.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
3	S	E/W	Sat 2015-12-05			A♠=S
1	9	4C+1	S 11	150	-	
2	10	4S-3	S 7	-	150	
Ref a		5C=	S 11	400	-	}
Ref b		4S=	S 10	420	-	} Major game beats minor game
AR		4S=	S 10	420	-	



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
4	W	All	Sat 2016-04-23	A♠=W		
2	10	6NT-2	W 10	200	-	
Ref		4NT+1	W 11	-	660	
AR 1		6D=	W 12	-	1370	
AR 2		6NT-1	W 11	100	-	

My recollection of 2 v 10 is that the contract was 4NT,  
hence 4NT= not 6NT-2.

But we go by the record on the traveller...



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
5	N	N/S	Sat 2016-06-25	A♠=W		
2	10	2S-2	W 6	100	-	
4	12	3D-1	S 8	-	100	
Ref		4H-2	N 8	-	200	
AR 1		4H-2	N 8	-	200	
AR 2		4Hx-3	N 7	-	800	





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
6	E	E/W	Sat 2017-02-11			A♠=W
4	12	4S=	E	10	-	620
Ref		6S=	E	12	-	1430
AR		6S=	E	12	-	1430



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
7	S	All	Sat 2016-09-24			A♠=S
4	12	3H-3	W 6	300	-	
5	13	2S+1	S 9	140	-	
Ref a		4S=	S 10	-	620	
Ref b		4Sx=	S 10	-	790	
AR3Sxx+1			S 10	-	1080	



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
8	W	None	<i>AR:Beginning Bridge 12 (No date noted)</i>			A♠=W
4	12	3NT-1	W 8	50	-	
5	13	3NT-2	W 7	100	-	
Ref		3NT=	W 9	-	400	
AR		3NT=	W 9	-	400	



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2017-18



## Week 1 Set Hands

### Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
12	W	N/S	Sat 2017-01-28			A♠=N
1	9	5C-1	W 10	50	-	
Ref		5C=	E 11	-	600	
AR 1		5C=	E 11	-	600	
AR 2		6Cx-3	W 9	800	-	