



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 1

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

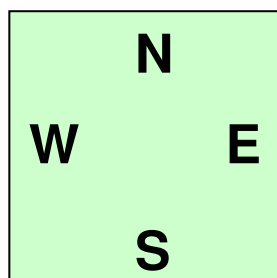
N

E

S

W

♠ AK72
 ♥ KT
 ♦ 98
 ♣ JT943



♠ J8
 ♥ A765
 ♦ KQJ52
 ♣ Q2

How should the whole auction be bid if both pairs are using Basic Acol?

{EW} pass throughout.

Weak 1NT (12..14)

Weak Take Out not Transfers.

Strong Twos not Weak Twos.

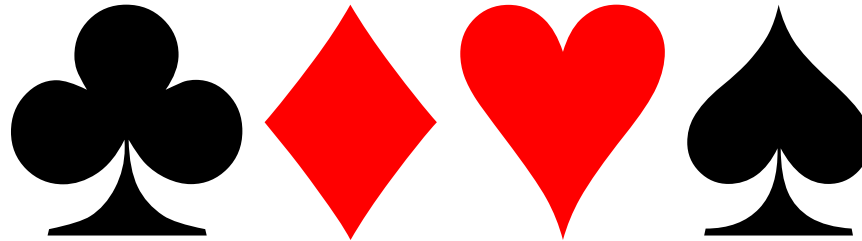
2C is the superstrong bid.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Welcome



Steve Bailey



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Introduction

Today:

- Introduction.
- Duplicate play, bridge etiquette and U3A Intermediate Bridge traditions.
- **This week's topic: Hand evaluation.**
- Answer to the "waiting for 10am" question.
Normally this is the first item in the presentation.
- Refreshment break - feel free to take cups to the tables but **DO NOT PLACE CUPS DIRECTLY ON THE CLOTHS.**
Use a CD coaster or put it on the "chair being a mini table".
- **Play of set hands.**



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Introduction

I have been playing bridge, for around 16 years now, in a fairly lackadaisical way. I am NOT an expert at bridge, but I believe I can gather published experts' teachings and present them to you.

Note also that as I learn things, some presentation material may change slightly. **There is an example in this presentation with shortage points for L2Suits.**

These sessions are very much about learning bridge, with **Duplicate Pairs** as the main thrust and **Duplicate Teams** a lesser aim. "Playing bridge" is incidental, though obviously we do it. It is intended to be very cerebral. You will **need to study** between sessions, it cannot all be taken in at the session in person.

The sessions do not cover Rubber or Chicago bridge at all.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Introduction

Most sessions will be a presentation followed by set hands.

Each presentation, along with the results of the set hands, will be uploaded to

www.stocton.org/bridge.htm *(there is no K in stocton.)*

over the weekend after each session.

Occasionally some other structure will be used. Eg: if there are enough group members, we may do one or two sessions as standard duplicate tournaments.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Administration

For several weeks we will NOT be doing Weak Twos, Transfers, Benji, Gerber or other conventional bids..

- As part of starting the year off, I am presenting each of you with two copies of the "No Fear Bridge cribsheet". Both the 2006 and the 2017 issues, along with a separate list of U3AIB modifications.

The main difference between 2006 and 2017) is:
Strong Opening Twos / Weak Twos.

- A sheet of all the masterpoint values (Pairs) and International MasterPoints (IMPs) (Teams) on the rear.

- A registration card: Please fill it in now, **legibly**, (use CAPITALS). On the back please list any clubs you play at.

- Also please consider a £1 contribution towards the stationery costs for the year.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 What is Duplicate Bridge

In **Duplicate bridge**, the hands are dealt before the start of the session and placed in **boards** to keep the hands intact.

Duplicate Pairs: The objective is to do better than other pairs holding the same hands. The scoring system for pairs is such that extra tricks "matter". Whether they are overtricks or "going down" less than others. If {NS} get a "top" score, then {EW} get a "bottom" score & v.v. .

Duplicate Teams: Two teams of 4 play the same deal. Your {NS} against their {EW} and your {EW} against their {NS}. The scoring is different here, derived from adding the results at the two tables. If both tables play identical contracts with the same result, then both teams will get zero. Here making your contract is the key and struggling for (risky) overtricks is not recommended. However taking risks to make/defeat a contract is worthwhile. Bidding and making game is generally a good strategy.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Duplicate bridge

On a full sized bridge table, the board is placed and remains in the middle of the table to keep the 4 hands separated. North may slide it, without rotating, a little for convenience.

During the auction, place your bids in a staircase along the edge of the table so that the other 3 players can see them.

Stop is placed "elsewhere".

Alert is "waved".

Leave the staircase in place until **after** Dummy has been put down. Once it has, collect the bidding cards up and place them back in your box.

Dummy is placed with the trump suit, if any, on Declarer's left. (Dummy's right), and the other suits at Declarer's choice. Each suit must be in descending order. Leave room for the cards from taken tricks to be placed where your staircase of bids was.

To help Declarer remember what has been played, do not tidy Dummy up as cards are played - the gaps are a help.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Duplicate bridge



A full sized table

Bidding boxes and individual result cards and convention/system cards.

Staircase bids along the edge. The card in play **and facedown played tricks** also go here.

Dummy

The board (North marked).

The opening lead.

(At BVH, the tables are too small and exceptions have to be made.)



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Duplicate bridge

During **play**, place your played cards along the edge of the table with the long side pointing to the pair that won the trick.

At no point should any card other than your own 13 be touched.

Dummy plays Dummy's cards after a verbal request from Declarer.

Dummy plays the requested cards in the space between his displayed hand and the table edge.

At the end of the play, agree the result BEFORE collecting your hand up. Only then shuffle your cards and replace them in the correct slot in the board.

{N} fills in the traveller and {E} checks it.

*At Intermediate Bridge, we fill in four travellers, so that everyone gets practice at doing it. Get the player to your left to check yours. Check the traveller of the player to your right. They should all be **IDENTICAL**.*

*Note that the columns are {NS} and {EW} **not** {Us} and {Them}.*



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Duplicate event

At a Duplicate event, each deal comprises four separate stages:

- {N}, who is the table "coordinator", confirms that the right people and correctly aligned boards are present. (He also does all the paperwork.)
- The auction (bidding) occurs to determine the contract.
- The play occurs.
- The result is agreed and the score recorded and checked.

Note also that the opening lead should be made **face down** and opener's partner asked if he has any questions about the auction.

"Any questions partner?"

If the answer is "no", then turn the card face up.

This also provides an opportunity for any player to say "It isn't your lead".



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Introduction

The bridge system we will be using initially is **modern Basic Acol** with **only a few** conventions before eventually changing to **Benji Acol** (formally "Benjaminised Acol") with **several more** and some altered conventions.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Alert, Announce and Stop

- ✦ Please **ALERT**, **ANNOUNCE** and **STOP** in accordance with EBU definitions.

ALERT/ANNOUNCE: Partner's bid is not natural / Specify bids with multiple possible meanings. Most non-natural bids are alerted.

However 1NT range, opening 2Suit bids, Stayman and Transfers are announced.

Do not Alert/Announce bids over 3NT except in the first bidding round.

STOP: My bid is a jump bid. The bid is placed on the staircase **immediately** after the STOP is placed somewhere on the table. It remains on the table for 10 seconds and is then removed. That "long pause" allows all the players to mull the significance of the jump bid. Bidding is not permitted whilst STOP is visible.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Nomenclature

In the presentations and set hand commentaries, I use many abbreviations to reduce the amount of text:

Letters in braces are players {N} {E} {S} {W}.

+ (plus) means "**or more**" eg 12+ *twelve or more*.

- (minus) means "**or fewer**" eg 5- *five or fewer*.

C D H S are suits ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠.

h is short for honour, so 2+Hh is "2 or more Heart honours".

T is used for Ten (10) when a single character is needed.

L means Length. Thus L2 is doubleton, L1 singleton, L0 void.

L4+S means "Length 4 or more spades".

! (exclamation mark) means alert (*partner shows the blue alert card to the opposition*) or announce.

(hash) means a jump bid (*use the red stop card*).



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Bidding systems

Note that each bid can mean completely different things in the various systems.

For example an opening 1C:

✦ In Basic Acol this means "12..19..22 points and at least 4 Clubs".

In Precision, it is a conventional bid meaning "Any shaped hand with 16+ points".

You may never play Precision yourself, but you need to be aware of its existence and of other systems which you are likely to meet at Duplicate Pairs play. Hence Alerting and Announcing are essential.

✦ At your turn, you can ask the partner of a bidder to explain what the bid card means. It is not **required** that the bid be "true".

Note that most systems have **dozens of minor variations**.

For example most UK Basic Acol players use a weak 1NT (12..14hcp). But some use a strong 1NT (15..17hcp or 16..18hcp) or even a variable 1NT.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Hand Evaluation

Bridge bids are made after evaluating the worth of each hand. This value can change as other bids are made.

Some (many?) aspects of evaluation are personal / subjective.

The core of the scheme uses "high card points" ([hcp](#)) based on 4 for an Ace, 3 for a King, 2 for a Queen and 1 for a Jack.

Eg ♠:AJ72 ♥:J98 ♦:K983 ♣:QJ has 12 hcp (AJ=5 J=1 K=3 QJ=3)

More advanced evaluation modifies the hcp depending upon the **shape** of the hand, the hand above has shape 4432.

In general I use shape descriptions in decreasing order of suit length.

Sometimes it can be useful to use in order of suit ranking ♠♥♦♣, in which case the hand above would be described as SHDC:4342.

Add 1 **Point** for every extra card in a suit longer than L4, *unless you feel the extra cards won't make an extra trick (eg D:76432 in a weak hand).*



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Hand Evaluation

10 (T) is deemed an honour when in a suit which also has any of A,K,Q,J or 9.

Add 0.5 Points for one h10 and 1 Point for 2+ h10s.

Deduct 1 Point for 4333 shaped hands (which have no shortages and so cannot trump, and have no long suits for establishing tricks).

Deduct 1 Point if Aceless.

Deduct 1 Point if 3 or 4 suits each have one isolated honour.

Unguarded non-ace honours are only worth half their usual value.

A=4 K=1.5 Q=1 J=0.5

while Ax=4 Kx=3 Qx=2 Jx=1



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Hand Evaluation

Once a FIT (*8+ cards in a suit between the partnership*) has been found, add **Points** for trumpable shortages.

Long Trump hand (initial suit bidder) : L2=+1 L1=+2 L0=+3

★ Short Trump hand (partner of above) : L2=+1 L1=+3 L0=+5

However consider how many tricks have to be lost before ruffing can be effective. Eg in a 7222 hand, 6 tricks must be lost before the third suit is ruffable.

Generally only add shortage points for the first L2suit.

*I refer to these as "evaluated Points" or just **Points (Pts)**, cf *hcp*.*

+hcp

+length

+honour 10s

-4333

-aceless

-isolated_h

-unguarded L1h

+shortage if a fit



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Joint target ranges

A deal of bridge is played by two pairs of people. Remember at all times to include your partner's bids and plays in your thinking.

To make a contract, you usually need to be within some joint range of points. These are not guaranteed and may only, say, 75% work.

Part Score 19..24 less than 19 & you go down too often.

Game (Major or NT) 25+

Game (Minor) 27+

Small Suited Slam 30+ **Pts** can often be far fewer **hcp**.

Small NT Slam 33..36

Grand Suited Slam 35+

Grand NT Slam 37+

When bidding, the usual priority for finding a contract is:

Major suit *Most preferred*

No Trumps

Minor suit *Least preferred*



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 1

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

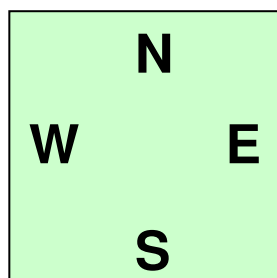
N

E

S

W

♠ AK72
 ♥ KT
 ♦ 98
 ♣ JT943



♠ J8
 ♥ A765
 ♦ KQJ52
 ♣ Q2

How should the whole auction be bid if both pairs are using Basic Acol?

{EW} pass throughout.

Weak 1NT (12..14)

Weak Take Out not Transfers.

Strong Twos not Weak Twos.

2C is the superstrong bid.

How do we start?



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 1

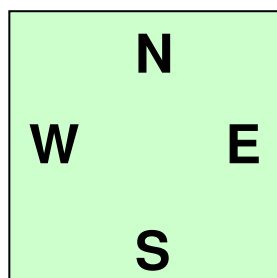
Dealer={N}

Vul=None

N E S W
?

♠ AK72
♥ KT
♦ 98
♣ JT943

First evaluate each hand
(and re-evaluate when earlier
bids cause changes to an
existing evaluation.)



+hcp
+length
+honour 10s
-4333
-aceless
-isolated_h
-unguarded L1h
+shortage if a fit

♠ J8
♥ A765
♦ KQJ52
♣ Q2

*Speak out if any of the next
few slides seem unexpected.*

So evaluate {N}'s hand...



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 1

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

N E S W
?

♠ AK72
♥ KT
♦ 98
♣ JT943

5422
11hcp
13Pts

W N E
S

♠ J8
♥ A765
♦ KQJ52
♣ Q2

+hcp
+length
+honour 10s
-4333
-aceless
-isolated_h
-unguarded L1h
+shortage if a fit

{N} has 5422 shape, unbalanced.
S:AK(7) H:K(3) D:-(0) C:J(1)

Total = 11hcp

Evaluated points:

+1 L5C

+1 2*h10 (10H 10C)

Total = 13Pts

12+Pts says open the bidding.

Rule of 20:

11hcp + L5C + L4S = 20,

suggests opening the bidding.

...?



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 1

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

N

E

S

W

?

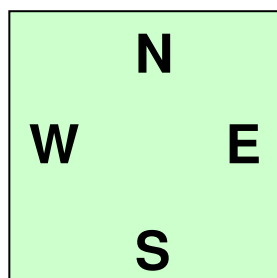
♠ AK72

♥ KT

♦ 98

♣ JT943

5422
11hcp
13Pts



♠ J8

♥ A765

♦ KQJ52

♣ Q2

{N} has 5422 shape,
unbalanced.

S:AK(7) H:K(3) D:-(0) C:J(1)

Total = 11hcp

Evaluated points:

+1 L5C

+1 2*h10 (10H 10C)

Total = 13Pts

12+Pts says open the
bidding.

Rule of 20:

11hcp + L5C + L4S = 20,

suggests opening the bidding.

1C (12..19..22Pts, L4+C)



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 1

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

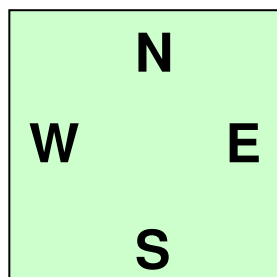
N	E	S	W
1C	P	?	

♠ AK72
♥ KT
♦ 98
♣ JT943

5422
11hcp
13Pts

Next, evaluate {S}'s hand.

...?



♠ J8
♥ A765
♦ KQJ52
♣ Q2



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 1

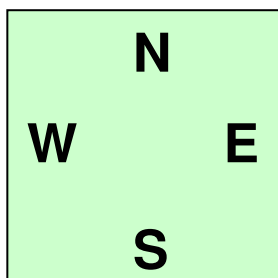
Dealer={N}

Vul=None

N	E	S	W
1C	P	?	

♠ AK72
 ♥ KT
 ♦ 98
 ♣ JT943

+hcp
+length
+honour 10s
-4333



-aceless
-isolated_h
-unguarded L1h
+shortage if a fit

♠ J8
 ♥ A765
 ♦ KQJ52
 ♣ Q2

5422
13hcp
14Pts

{S} has 5422 shape, again unbalanced.

S:J(1) H:A(4) D:KQJ(6) C:Q(2)

Total = 13hcp

Evaluated points:

+1 L5D

Total = 14Pts

You need 6+Pts to respond at 1:level, 10+ at 2:level.

...?

Response is usually in the longest suit. L4Major at the 1:level, not L5Minor at 2:level.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



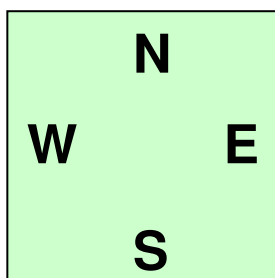
While waiting for 10am – Week 1

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

N	E	S	W
1C	P	1D	

♠ AK72
 ♥ KT
 ♦ 98
 ♣ JT943



♠ J8
 ♥ A765
 ♦ KQJ52
 ♣ Q2

5422
13hcp
14Pts

{S} has 5422 shape, again unbalanced.

S:J = 1hcp
 H:A = 4hcp
 D:KQJ = 6hcp
 C:Q = 2hcp **Total = 13hcp**

Evaluated points:
 +1 L5D **Total = 14Pts**

You need 6+Pts to respond at 1:level, 10+ at 2:level.

1D *1:level L5Minor is ok.
 Work up rankings if a choice.*

*{N} hears "6+Pts, L4+D.
 Says nothing about C."*



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 1

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

N

E

S

W

1C

P

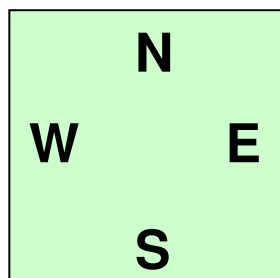
1D

P

?

...?

♠ AK72	5422
♥ KT	11hcp
♦ 98	13Pts
♣ JT943	



♠ J8
 ♥ A765
 ♦ KQJ52
 ♣ Q2



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 1

Dealer={N}

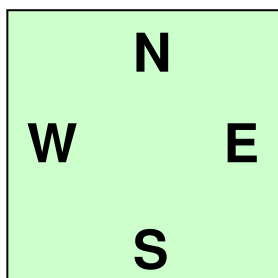
Vul=None

N	E	S	W
1C	P	1D	P
?			

♠ AK72
 ♥ KT
 ♦ 98
 ♣ JT943

5422	
11hcp	
13Pts	19+JPts

{NS} have no fit *yet*, so still 13Pts. {N} knows {S} has 6+Pts. 19+ Joint Pts.



♠ J8
 ♥ A765
 ♦ KQJ52
 ♣ Q2

A first response of a new suit is forcing for one bid. So {N} must bid something.

Showing a second suit promises L5+FirstSuit and L4+SecondSuit.

Note LC here is greater than LS.

...?



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 1

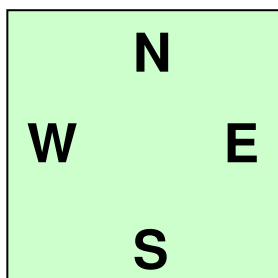
Dealer={N}

Vul=None

N	E	S	W
1C	P	1D	P
1S			

♠ AK72	5422	
♥ KT	11hcp	
♦ 98	13Pts	19+JPts
♣ JT943		

{NS} have no fit *yet*, so still 13Pts. {N} knows {S} has 6+Pts. 19+ Joint Pts.



A first response of a new suit is forcing for one bid. So {N} must bid something.

♠ J8
 ♥ A765
 ♦ KQJ52
 ♣ Q2

Show a second suit, which promises L5+First Suit and L4+SecondSuit.

Note LC here is greater than LS.

1S (L5+C, L4+S, 12..19..22)



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



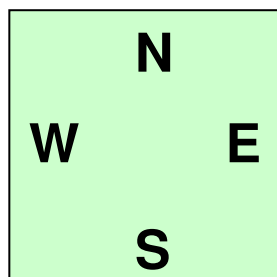
While waiting for 10am – Week 1

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

N	E	S	W
1C	P	1D	P
1S	P	?	
...?			

♠ AK72
 ♥ KT
 ♦ 98
 ♣ JT943



♠ J8
 ♥ A765
 ♦ KQJ52
 ♣ Q2

5422
 13hcp
 14Pts



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



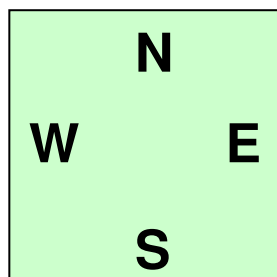
While waiting for 10am – Week 1

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

N	E	S	W
1C	P	1D	P
1S	P	?	

♠ AK72
 ♥ KT
 ♦ 98
 ♣ JT943



♠ J8
 ♥ A765
 ♦ KQJ52
 ♣ Q2

5422
13hcp
14Pts 26 JPts

{S} knows {NS} have a misfit.

{S} works out Joint Points as
14Pts + 12+Pts = 26+.

...?



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



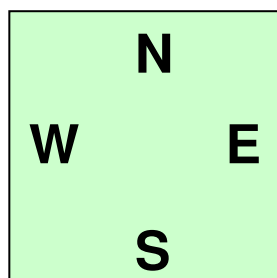
While waiting for 10am – Week 1

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

N	E	S	W
1C	P	1D	P
1S	P	#3NT	

♠ AK72
 ♥ KT
 ♦ 98
 ♣ JT943



♠ J8
 ♥ A765
 ♦ KQJ52
 ♣ Q2

5422
13hcp
14Pts 26 JPts

{S} knows {NS} have a misfit.

{S} works out Joint Points as
14Pts + 12+Pts = 26+.

The misfit says try NT. The
Joint Points are enough for
Game. So bid it.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 1

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

N	E	S	W
1C	P	1D	P
1S	P	#3NT	P
P	P		

♠ AK72	5422	
♥ KT	11hcp	
♦ 98	13Pts	19+JPts
♣ JT943		

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J8		
♥ A765		
♦ KQJ52	5422	
♣ Q2	13hcp	
	14Pts	26 JPts

{S} knows {NS} have a misfit.

{S} works out Joint Points as
14Pts + 12+Pts = 26+.

The misfit says try NT. The
Joint Points are enough for
Game. So bid it.

{N} agrees with {S} and does
not "correct" to 4S.

... Everyone then passes.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 U3A Intermediate Bridge group

Whilst playing the set hands, please **explain every bid your partner makes** to the table - and discuss it if anyone at the table disagrees. This tends to make the play "noisy".

It is also good during the play to explain what meaning your partner's card may have when it has significance.

- This week's hands are non-trivial and **you may wish to play them 3 times**.
 - Once as your auction.
 - Once as the Reference auction.
 - And a third time as the Reference auction but with cards face up (as four Dummies) while following the Reference play.

Record the results of the first two plays on the traveller.

If pair 1 is playing pair 9, record your auction as 1v9 and the reference auction result as 11v19 (add 10 to the pair numbers).



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1 Play

Play

Play as if "Duplicate Pairs".

{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.

Some boards have instructions on card. **The appropriate people should read each card at the time it says and follow its instructions.**

If you play a board twice, record the second play on the traveller using your pair numbers PLUS TEN (eg 1 v 9 becomes 11 v 19)

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

Don't forget to describe partner's bids and plays to the table.

Any questions?

Tea / coffee & biscuit. (25p)

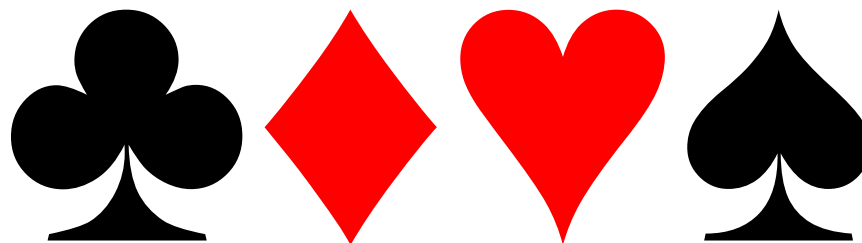
PLAY



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 1



The end

Set hands not listed this week.