



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2023-24

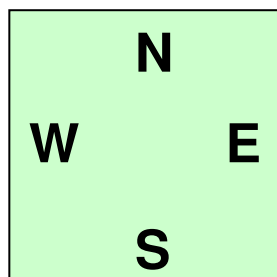


While waiting for 10am – Week 3

♠♥♣ omitted for clarity

S	W	N	E
#2NT	P	3NT	P
P	P		

♠  
♥  
♦ AK76  
♣



♠  
♥  
♦ Q  
♣

♠  
♥  
♦ 984  
♣

A simple auction. {S} had 20Pts, {N} had 8Pts.

{W} leads QD which is usually top of a sequence of 3+, so from D:QJT<sub>x</sub> perhaps.

{NS} have 8TT (Top Tricks), and need to make one XT from Diamonds.

There many entries to {S}'s hand and none beyond D:AK to {N}'s.

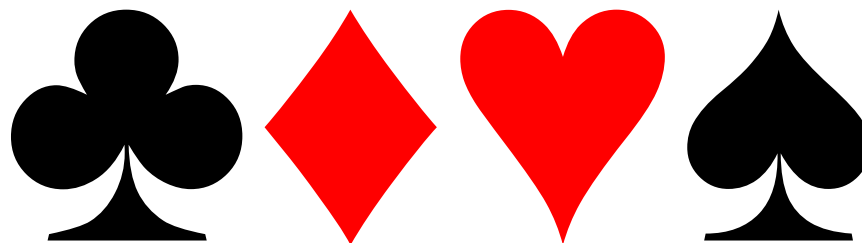
How?



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 3 Welcome



Steve Bailey



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2023-24



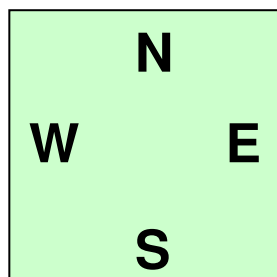
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How?



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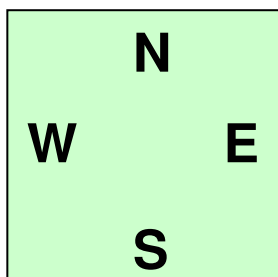


While waiting for 10am – Week 3

3NT by {S}

♠  
♥  
♦ AK76  
♣

♠  
♥  
♦ Q  
♣



♠  
♥  
♦ 984  
♣

How do you make a 9<sup>th</sup> trick from Diamonds?

If you just play it out "normally", {NS} only make the 2\*D TT.

{NS} need 3\*D tricks.

*Defenders in (parentheses).*

W1) (QD) **AD** (3D) 4D (1)

N2) **KD** (2D) 8D (5D) (2)

N3) 6D (xx) 9D (**10D**) ↓

W4) (**JD**) 7D (xx) xx ↓

So no XT playing that way.

What to do?



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2023-24



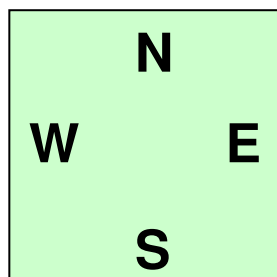
While waiting for 10am – Week 3

3NT by {S}

{NS} D:AK\_\_\_9876\_4\_\_\_,  
{EW} D:\_\_\_QJT\_\_\_\_\_5\_32.

♠  
♥  
♦ AK76  
♣

♠  
♥  
♦ Q  
♣



♠  
♥  
♦ 984  
♣

To think about the problem, imagine all the high cards together, so a 6\*D 3:3 split could be

D:QJT    D:532

in which case

(Q)>A>(2)>4	(1) TT
K>(5)>9>(T)	(2) TT
6>(3)>8>(J)	↓ PL

{EW} are now void, so later

7>(xx)>xx>(xx)    (3) XT.

providing the extra D trick, but **only** if {N} can lead 7D.

How to cross-over to {N}?



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2023-24



While waiting for 10am – Week 3

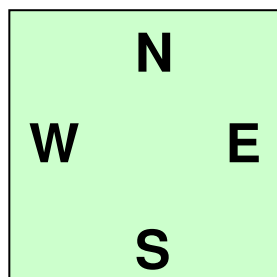
3NT by {S}

{NS} D:AK\_\_\_9876\_4\_\_\_,  
{EW} D:\_\_\_QJT\_\_\_\_5\_32.

♠  
♥  
♦ AK76  
♣

If            D:QJT    D:532  
(Q)>A    K>(T)    6>(J)    7  
providing one trick when 7D  
led.

♠  
♥  
♦ Q  
♣



♠  
♥  
♦ 984  
♣

But how to cross-over to {N} to lead the winning 7D?

To cross at trick 3, {N} must be able to beat JD, so **keep** KD.

Therefore **duck** the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> D trick.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2023-24



While waiting for 10am – Week 3

3NT by {S}

{NS} D:AK\_\_\_9876\_4\_\_\_,  
{EW} D:\_\_\_QJT\_\_\_\_\_5\_32.

Therefore **duck** the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> D trick. Eg:

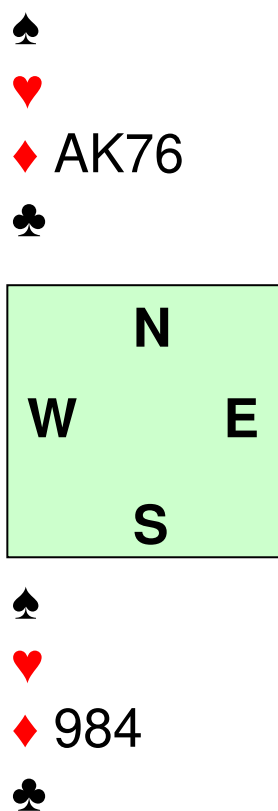
(Q)>**A**>(2)>4 (1) TT  
6>(5)>8>(T) *duck* ↓ PL

Later win in {S} and play:

9>(J)>**K**>3 (2) TT  
7>(xx)>xx>(xx) (3) **XT**.

Because {EW} (and {S}) are void at the end, they have to discard, so 7D wins.

But what if the split is 4:2?





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2023-24

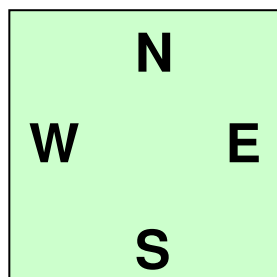


While waiting for 10am – Week 3

3NT by {S}

♠  
♥  
♦ AK76  
♣

♠  
♥  
♦ Q  
♣



♠  
♥  
♦ 984  
♣

{NS} D:AK\_\_\_9876\_4\_\_\_,  
{EW} D:\_\_\_QJT\_\_\_\_5\_32.

A 6\*D split 4:2 could be  
D:QJT5 D:32  
you will know it is 4:2 after trick  
3 when one of {EW} discard.

Imagine:  
(Q)>A>(3)>9 *throw 9 (1) TT*  
6>(2)>8>(T) *duck for 3:3*  
*and throw 8* ↓ PL  
{W} will switch. Later {S} wins.  
4>(J)>K>(xx) (2) TT  
7>(xx)>xx>(5) (3) XT.

The extra trick.

But what if {W} plays 5 instead of J?





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2023-24



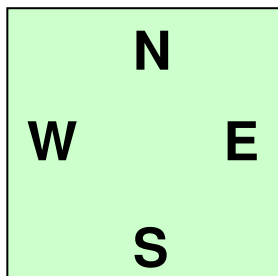
While waiting for 10am – Week 3

3NT by {S}

{NS} D:AK\_\_\_9876\_4\_\_\_,  
{EW} D:\_\_\_QJT\_\_\_\_\_5\_32.

♠  
♥  
♦ AK76  
♣

♠  
♥  
♦ Q  
♣



♠  
♥  
♦ 984  
♣

Imagine {W} ducks trick 3.  
(Q)>A>(3)>9 *throw 9 (1) TT*  
6>(2)>8>(T) *duck for 3:3*  
*and throw 8* ↓ PL  
{W} will switch. Later {S} wins.  
4>(5)>7>(xx) (2) TT  
K>(xx)>xx>(5) (3) XT.

Win the 4S with the 7S not the KS. This also crosses over to {N}. This is why the "unblocking" discards of D:98 were necessary.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2023-24



While waiting for 10am – Week 3

3NT by {S}

The key plays are:

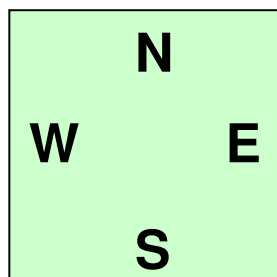
UNBLOCK, so 4>7 works  
(discard blocking 9 & 8.)

DUCK a trick to keep a TT to  
win trick 3.

Then win all the remaining TT.

♠  
♥  
♦ AK76  
♣

♠  
♥  
♦ Q  
♣



♠  
♥  
♦ 984  
♣



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 3 This week

This session's topic is **balanced bids**.

It is a review of material covered last year over several sessions.

And before we look at that, here is a recap of the last two sessions from this year, which were themselves a review of sessions from last year.

*We'll get to new material in a couple of sessions time!*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Points

**High card points (hcp)** : A=4 K=3 Q=2 J=1

**Evaluated points (Pts)** : hcp modified as the list below.

**Length** : +1 for each card over L4Suit in a **good** suit

**Honour 10s** : 10 in same suit as AKQJ9. +½ for each of first two 10s.

**4333** : Too flat, -1

**Aceless** : -1

**Isolated honours** : 3 or 4 suits each have one isolated honour, -1

**Singleton honours** : A=4 K=1½ Q=1 J=½

**Shortage** : Only applies to suit bids once an 8+ card fit exists because it relates to advantage by trumping / ruffing.

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

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

*Evaluated points are “fluid” and sometimes variations may be used.*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Opening bids

**Assuming** that you have the **appropriate number of Points**, an opening bid is of the **longest suit**, with exceptions.

When there are **two** equal length longest suits, bid the highest ranking suit, **except** with:

Both *Majors*      L4S and L4H      bid H

Both *Minors*      L4D and L4C      bid C

With **three** equal length longest suits, the **4441 shape**, and 13+Pts, bid:  
if a **Red** Singleton. Open suit **below** L1 suit.

L1H, bid D      ShDC

L1D, bid C      SHdC

if a **Black** Singleton. Open **middle** L4 suit.

L1S, bid D      sHDC

L1C, bid H      SHDc

*(Prefer to lie in a minor.)*

Before making your opening bid, plan your rebid.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Opening bids

<b>To open</b>	<b>You need to hold</b>	
1NT	12..14 Pts Balanced	4333, 4432, 5332
	(With an L5Major 5332 hand consider 1Major rather than 1NT.)	
1Suit	12..19 Pts L4+Suit	4441 ~ 13..19 Pts
	(1C shows 12..19..22 Pts as superstrong 2C is unavailable.)	
2NT	20..22 Pts Balanced (or perhaps semi-balanced)	
2Suit (not C)	Basic Acol: Strong. 8..9½ tricks in your hand	
	Often crudely summarised as 20..22 Pts.	
2C	The superstrong Acol bid	
	Suited 10+ tricks (Game) in your own hand	
	or 23+ Pts any shape	
3NT	9..12hcp L7Minor headed by AKQJ	Gambling 3NT
3Suit	5..9 hcp Good L7Suit (2+ of AKQ)	Pre-emptive
4Suit	5..9 hcp Good L8Suit (2+ of AKQ)	Pre-emptive



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Opening with a balanced hand

**The NT opening ladder** for balanced hands [4333](#), [4432](#), [5332](#)

Pass	0..11 Pts.
1NT!	12..14 Pts. (Announce "Twelve to Fourteen") <i>Weak NT</i>
1LongestSuit	15..17 Pts, rebid with a raise to Partner's bid eg: 1D - 1H - 1NT or: 1D - 2C - 2NT Do not bid higher over interventions.
1LongestSuit	18..19 Pts, rebid with a raise or jump to 2NT eg: 1D - 1H - #2NT or: 1D - 2C - 2NT Do not bid higher over interventions. So a 2NT rebid means 15..19 Pts.
#2NT	20..22 Pts. (Don't Alert.) May be semi-balanced.
#2C!	23..24 Pts, rebid 2NT.
#2C!	25+ Pts, rebid 3NT.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Responses to a 1NT opening

**This assumes a weak 1NT (12..14 Pts)**

It is all based on the Joint Point-count.

Points	Shape	Bid	JPts = Joint Points Bal or minor = Balanced or L5+Minor
0..10	No L5+(D,H,S) No L6+C	Pass.	12..24 JPts, not enough for game
0..10	L5+(D,H,S)	2(D,H,S)	Expect to go down in 1NT, but hope to go down LESS with joint 7+Card trump suit. This is a <b>Weak Take Out</b> .
11..12	Bal or minor	2NT,	23..26 JPts. Invite "game if 25..26".
13..18	Bal or minor	#3NT,	25..32Pts. Game on. Not slam.
19..20	Bal or minor	#4NT.	This is <b>Quantitative</b> , NOT Blackwood. 31..34 JPts. Invite a small slam. Opener rebids <b>Pass</b> with 12 Pts (for 4NT), <b>#6NT</b> with 14 Pts and chooses with 13 Pts.





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Responses to a 1NT opening

*Continued:*

**Points Shape**

**Bid**

JPts = Joint Points

Bal or minor = Balanced or L5+Minor

(Two responses are in the "wrong" order.)

21..22 Bal or minor → #6NT, 33..36 JPts. Small slam on.

23..24 Bal or minor → #5NT, 35..38 JPts. Invite slam choice.  
Opener rebids #6NT with 12 Pts,  
#7NT with 14 Pts and chooses with 13 Pts.

25+ Bal or minor #7NT, 37..40+ JPts. Grand slam.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Responses to a 1NT opening

### *Continued:*

This is Basic Acol, so **Transfers** are unavailable at present. In due course we will change to managing L5+Major hands with them.

<b>Points</b>	<b>Shape</b>	<b>Bid</b>	JPts = Joint Points
13+	L6+Major	#4Major	Game with 8:card fit. <i>May be followed by Slam investigation.</i>
16+	L5Major		Treat as 13+Pts L6+Major.
13..15	L5Major	#3Major	forcing to game asking 3NT/4Major. Opener bids 3NT with L2-Major. Opener bids 4Major with L3+Major support. <i>May be followed by Slam investigation.</i>
11..12	L5Major		Treat as 13..15Pts L5Major & hope.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2023-24



## Week 3 Responses to a 1NT opening

**Continued: Stayman.** (Normal Stayman)

**Points Shape**

11+ 1+L4Major

**Bid** JPts = Joint Points

2C! (Announce "Stayman")

Opener replies: 2D with no L4+Major;

2H with L4+H, any S;

2S with L4+S and L3-H.

Reply 2H if holding both L4H and L4S.

Responder rebids

P/2H/2S, see "Weak Stayman" for WTO or fit.

2NT if no fit but 11..12 Pts, game invite.

3NT if no fit but 13+Pts, game on.

See year 10 week 5  
for more details.

3H if a H fit with 11..12 Pts, game invite.

3S if a S fit with 11..12 Pts, game invite.

4H if a H fit with 13+ Pts, game on.

4S if a S fit with 13+ Pts, game on.

Investigate slam with a strong hand.

*The key here is the ability to bail out into 2NT if no fit is found: 11+Pts.*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2023-24



## Week 3 Responses to a 1NT opening

**Continued: Stayman.** (Normal Stayman)

**Points Shape**

11+ 1+L4Major

**Bid** JPts = Joint Points

2C! (Announce "Stayman")

Responder rebids

2NT if no fit but 11..12 Pts, game invite.

3NT if no fit but 13+Pts, game on.

When Opener has both L4H/L4S, he will have responded **2H** to the Stayman request.

The **2NT/3NT** rebids by Responder deny L4H and revert to NT as a fall back. So it is up to Opener to show when he has L4+S as well as L4+H. Opener should convert to **3S/4S**.

---

Also if Responder has a flat 4333 hand, ruffing is rare, there are so many cards to play before a suit is voided.

The advice is to count your weak (honourless) suits.

Use Stayman with 2 weak suits, Just bid NT with one weak suit.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2023-24



## Week 3 Responses to a 1NT opening

**Continued: Stayman.** (Weak Stayman)

There are occasions that Stayman can be used by a weak Responder. He needs to be able to handle all of the 2D/2H/2S replies.

- L4S L4H L5D                      Prefer 2S or 2H to 1NT if a fit.  
   If 2D, no fit so Pass, a Weak Take Out.  
   If 2H or 2S, Pass as you have a Major fit.
- L5S L4H / L4S L5H                If 2D, no fit so convert to L5Major as a  
   Weak Take Out.  
   If 2H or 2S, Pass as you have a Major fit.
- L6+C                                    Responder wants to play in clubs as a  
   Weak Take Out, but 2C is Stayman.  
   So go "through Stayman" and then bid 3C  
   afterwards as the WTO.  
   This is 1 level higher than S H D, hence L6.

*Here, either there a major fit is found or a Weak Take Out is selected.*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Responses to a 1NT opening

### **Summary: Responses to a 1NT opening**

It is mostly about evaluating your hand and working out your Joint Point-count.

Is it enough for game? (25+Pts)

Is it enough for a small slam? (33+Pts)

Or even a grand slam? (37+Pts)

There are some conventions that help, the main one being [Stayman](#).

The same principles also apply to stronger opening bids

2NT

2C - 2D - / 2NT

etc



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Autumn tournament

### **Autumn Tournament: November 15**

I plan to make the second November session a little different and run a tournament with freely dealt boards.

In the 2 hours we have available, it will probably be around 10 boards played. Everything will be organised as a normal Duplicate Pairs event.

So {N} will manage the tables and score the results on a single traveller, which {E} will check. And pairs and boards will move tables.

I will do the scoring before we leave the hall (it takes around 15 minutes to do), and I'll have a couple of small kid's party trophies for the winning pair.

Please find a partner. Then find a second pair to form a "table".

Please let me know as soon as possible who is with whom.

If necessary, I will seek extra players to make up the numbers.

So start organising yourselves now - maybe over coffee.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 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 here.  
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**

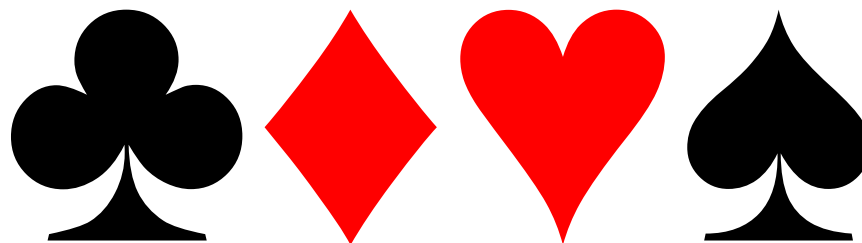




# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 3



The end

Week 3 set hand  
references follow.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Set hands

### Set hand sources and abbreviations

BM:PQ	Bernard Magee: Play Quiz
AR:R&FSF	Andrew Robson: Responder & Fourth Suit Forcing
Dlr	Dealer (NESW).
Vul	Vulnerability (None NS EW All).
Rotn	Rotation Defined by one card, usually A♠. Mostly different to source publication.
Dcl	Declarer (NESW)
OL	Opening Lead
Trk	Tricks (0..13)
NS# EW#	Score for NS or EW
NS% EW%	Percentage of NS and EW
Ref	Reference result (Sometimes there may be more than one)

Blue results as played.

Red results are reference results.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Set hands

9 N EW BM:PQ#215

A♠=N

<b>NSEW</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Dcl</b>	<b>OL</b>	<b>Trk</b>	<b>NS#</b>	<b>EW#</b>	<b>NS%</b>	<b>EW%</b>
1 9	3NT+1	N	JS	10	430	-	0%	100%
3 11	3NT+2	N	JS	11	460	-	75%	25%
Ref	3NT+2	N	JS	11	460	-	75%	25%



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Set hands

10 E All BM:PQ#195~var A♠=E

<b>NSEW</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Dcl</b>	<b>OL</b>	<b>Trk</b>	<b>NS#</b>	<b>EW#</b>	<b>NS%</b>	<b>EW%</b>
1 9	4S=	W	JC	10	-	620	50%	50%
Ref	4S=	W	3H	10	-	620	50%	50%

The variation is that this is played in "Basic Acol" with Weak take Out and not Transfers.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Set hands

11 S None BM:PQ#181~var

A♠=N

NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
2 10	3S=	S	2D	9	140	-	0%	100%
3 11	1NTx=	S	2D	7	180	-	33%	67%
Ref1	3S+1	S	2D	10	170	-	67%	33%
Ref2	4S=	S	2D	10	420	-	100%	0%

Ref1 is the "bookish" auction.

Ref2 is a risky unreasonable auction.

At table 3, doubling {NS} for penalties by {EW} was a bad result when {S} made the contract.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Set hands

12 W NS AR:R&FSF#14~var

A♠=S

NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
2 10	1NT-1	E	8H 6	50	-		100%	0%
Ref	1NT=	E	5H 7	-	90		0%	100%

The variation was swapping JD↔QD.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Set hands

13 N

All

AR:R&FSF

A♠=W

<b>NSEW</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Dcl</b>	<b>OL</b>	<b>Trk</b>	<b>NS#</b>	<b>EW#</b>	<b>NS%</b>	<b>EW%</b>
3 11	2S-2	S	9D	6	-	200	0%	100%
Ref	2S=	S	JH	8	110	-	100%	0%



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Set hands

14 E None AR:R&FSF#16

A♠=W

<b>NSEW</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Dcl</b>	<b>OL</b>	<b>Trk</b>	<b>NS#</b>	<b>EW#</b>	<b>NS%</b>	<b>EW%</b>
3 11	4S=	W	JH	10	-	420	50%	50%
Ref	4S=	W	JH	10	-	420	50%	50%





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 3 Set hands

Unplayed

15 S NS AR:R&FSF#18~var A♠=N

NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
Ref	4S=	S	AC	10	420	-	50%	50%

Variation is 9C↔10C

16 W EW AR:R&FSF#19

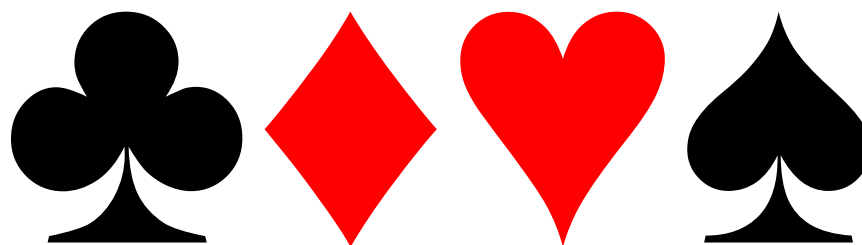
NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
Ref	4S=	N	JD	10	420	-	50%	50%



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 3



The very end