



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 5

Hand evaluation is partly a matter of hand-waving judgement.

I have endeavoured to create a method of getting values somewhat similar to those the experts use. However, even then, sometimes the values need to be fudged: perhaps $+1/2$ if some feature is mediocre rather than the full +1 or perhaps +0 if very poor.

+hcp +length +honour_10s -4333 -aceless
-isolated_h unguarded_L1h +shortage_if_a_fit

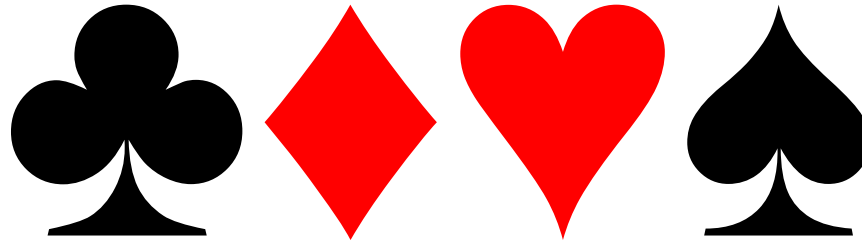
On your chairs are a list of hands to evaluate **initially** and then, for some, to **re-evaluate** in a stated context.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Welcome



Steve Bailey



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 5

Hand evaluation is partly a matter of hand-waving judgement.

I have endeavoured to create a method of getting values somewhat similar to those the experts use. However, even then, sometimes the values need to be fudged: perhaps $+1/2$ if some feature is mediocre rather than the full +1 or perhaps +0 if very poor.

+hcp +length +honour_10s -4333 -aceless
-isolated_h unguarded_L1h +shortage_if_a_fit

On your chairs are a list of hands to evaluate **initially** and then, for some, to **re-evaluate** in a stated context.

I am not going to go through each hand now, instead I have an answer sheet that I'll give out at the end for you to review at your leisure at home.

If you disagree with any of my answers, send me an email.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 5

Hand evaluation

Some aspects that I haven't (yet) fully resolved:

+hcp	ok
+length	What is mediocre (+1/2), what is poor (+0)
+honour_10s	Up to 2*h10 at +1/2 each
-4333	-1 ok
-aceless	-1 ok
-isolated_h	-1 How do honour 10s affect this? What about 2 or 3 isolated Aces?
-unguarded_L1h	-half_hcp. If partner shows this suit, restore whole value.
+shortage_if_a_fit	When to count more than one L2Suit?

Your views on these would be appreciated.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 This week

More ways to improve your Suit bidding

This week I want to look at some additions to your bidding kit.

- Fourth Suit Forcing
- Showing Preference
- Reverse

(I don't understand why it is called this.)



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Fourth Suit Forcing

Fourth Suit Forcing

Often, with apparent misfits, **Opener/Responder/Opener** bid three different suits as their first 3 bids.

Normally, Opener is showing L5+OSuit1 and L4+OSuit2, while Responder is showing L4+RSuit1.

Responder didn't support OSuit1 on his initial response as he didn't have a L4 fit. Sometimes, with an L3OSuit1, he will know of a fit at his second rebid, and sometimes not.

Even if responder has an L4RSuit2, he will not want to explore a fit in this 4th suit. Indeed, with a good RSuit2 he tends to NT contracts.

But what if Responder has enough points to bid game, but has a poor RSuit2 and so doesn't feel 3NT suitable? He assumes that the two suits bid already by Opener are ok for 3NT - because they were bid by Opener. But now needs to know if Opener has a stopper in the remaining suit. This is when he uses **Fourth Suit Forcing**.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Fourth Suit Forcing

Fourth Suit Forcing is a bid of the fourth suit and asks Partner to describe his hand "some more". 90% of the time it is asking "Do you have a stopper in the fourth suit as I do not".

This bid of the fourth suit does not show that suit and so is alertable. It is forcing to Game. **Do not use without Game values.**

The recommended replies for **Opener** describing **more** about his hand:

- 1) With L3RSuit1, raise it. (Extra length.)
- 2) With L5OSuit2, raise it. (Extra length.)
- 3) With L6OSuit1, raise it. (Extra length.)
- 4) Bid **NT** with a stopper in the fourth suit but no extra length.
- 5) With a good L2RSuit1, raise it. (Confused with description 1.)
- 6) With a good L5OSuit1, raise it. (Confused with description 3.)

Show extra length first.

Show NT possibilities.

Show good suits.

Don't forget to bid on until Game is reached.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Fourth Suit Forcing

After **1H** - **1S** - / **2C** - **2D!** Opener would bid:

S:Q85 H:AK982 D:5 C:QJ75

2S Extra length in RSuit1.

S:Q H:KQ982 D:A5 C:KQ863

3C Extra length in OSuit2, 5:5.

S:85 H:AJT92 D:KQ C:QJ86

2NT No extra length, but a stopper in the fourth suit D.

S:KQ H:AJT92 D:85 C:QJ86

2S No extra length, no D stopper, but a good L2RSuit1.

S:KQ H:AQT972 D:8 C:QJ86

2H Extra length in OSuit1.

S:AQ5 H:AK982 D:5 C:QJ75

#3S Extra length in RSuit1.
The jump shows 16+Pts.

Note that all the above have L5+H (OSuit1) and L4+C (OSuit2), so there are only 4 cards remaining to place.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Showing Preference

Showing Preference

Sometimes with a weak hand, it proves better to play in a Part-score contract than in Game.

Exactly what happens depends on your Joint Point-count.

You may only have 6Pts but if your Partner has 19Pts that is 25 JPts (Joint Points), enough to bid a major or NT Game.

What level is wise to bid to?

Minimal (Showing preference - promises nothing extra)?

Game invitational? (More points.)

Game? (Game points even if Partner is minimum.)

Sometimes your evaluation will be on a border. In that case look at the raw hcp to decide whether to nudge "up" a bid or "down" a bid.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Showing Preference

Showing Preference

Opener bids a Suit	1H	12..19Pts, L4+H
Responder replies	1S	6+Pts. L4+S. L3-H or would have supported the H major.
Opener rebids	2C	L5+H, L4+C, L3-S or would have supported the S major.

So at this point we have an apparent misfit.

Opener:	S:xxx	Responder:	S:XXXX
	H:XXXXX		H:xxx
	D:?		D:?
	C:XXXX		C:?

XX = at least this many cards. xx = at most this many cards.

If Responder really has L3H, he now knows of a fit & can re-evaluate his hand and bid 2H, or even 3H or 4H, depending upon his Pts.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Showing Preference

Showing Preference

1H (-) 1S (-) / 2C

But what if Responder only has L2H & Opener happens to have L2S?

Opener:	S:XX	Responder:	S:XXXX
(5431)	H:XXXXX	(4432)	H:XX
	D:XX		D:XXXX
	C:XXXX		C:XXX

Now there are no fits. There is little point in showing the L4D, a useful fit there is unlikely.

Now is the time to show preference.

UNLESS SecondSuit is 2+ longer than FirstSuit, prefer to go with the FirstSuit which is longer in Opener's hand. Here, S are not worth a rebid, so you chose between Opener's H & C. With L2H & L3C, bid 2H.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25

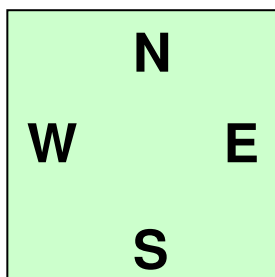


Week 5 Showing Preference : Example

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

♠ A74
 ♥ AQJ98
 ♦ QJ43
 ♣ 5



♠ K863
 ♥ 95
 ♦ 76
 ♣ K6432

N	E	S	W
1H	P	1S	P
2D	P	?~2H	

1H ~ 12..19Pts, L4+H
 1S ~ 6..9Pts, L4+S, L4-H
 2D ~ 12..19Pts, L4+D, L5+H

{S} knows of no fits (there are none). Therefore he just shows preference for one of Opener's suits. A rebid at the lowest level promises no extra points.

{S} has L2H and L2D, so he chooses Opener's FirstSuit and bids 2H.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25

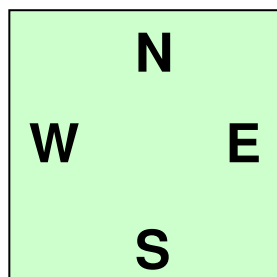


Week 5 Showing Preference : Example

Dealer={N}

Vul=None

♠ A74
 ♥ AQJ98
 ♦ QJ43
 ♣ 5



♠ K863
 ♥ 95
 ♦ 76
 ♣ K6432

N	E	S	W
1H	P	1S	P
2D	P	?	

Note that the first 3 bids are each of a different suit here, so this is a situation where Fourth Suit Forcing might be contemplated.

However, {S} only knows of $12 + 6\frac{1}{2} = 18\frac{1}{2}$ Pts. This is not enough for a game forcing bid, so 4SF can't be used.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Reverse

Introduction to a Reverse

When you open **1Suit**, it has a wide point-count range: 12..19Pts*, this covers an 8Pt range.

One of the things that you would like to do, is to let your partner (Responder) know which half of that you are in.

Are you 12..15Pts or 16..19Pts, both covering a 4Pts range.

One method for doing that is the Reverse.

If you make a "Reverse bid", then you are telling partner that you have a strong hand (16..19Pts).

Of course that means that if you do not have a strong hand, having only 12..15Pts, then the "Reverse bids" are unavailable to you.

* 1C is 12..19..22 because a "Strong 2C" isn't available. 2C being used for the Acol superstrong 23+ bid. 1C has to cover a strong hand too.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Reverse

Introduction to a Reverse

Let's look at that "Showing Preference" pair of hands again, but this time swapping the two red suits...



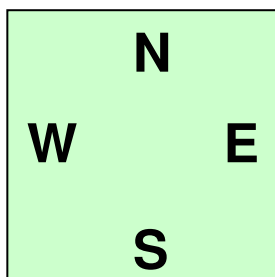
U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Reverse : NOT An Example

Dealer={N} Vul=None
Previous 2 hands but H & D swapped.

♠ A74
♥ QJ43
♦ AQJ98
♣ 5



♠ K863
♥ 76
♦ 95
♣ K6432

N	E	S	W
1D	P	1S	P
2H	P	?~3D	

1D ~ 12..19Pts, L4+D
 1S ~ 6..9Pts, L4+S
 2H ~ 12..19Pts, L4+H, L5+D

{S} knows of no fits (there are none). Therefore he just shows preference for one of opener's suits. A rebid at the lowest level promises no extra points.

{S} has L2H and L2D, so he chooses Opener's FirstSuit and bids ~~2D~~ oh!!! 3D.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Reverse

Reverse

Because of the order of bidding the suits this time, to show preference, {S} has to bid at the 3:level. {S} may only have 6Pts for his 1:level response, so if {N} has just 12Pts then the 3D preference bid is a step too far.

This is "fixed" by requiring Opener to have more points (16+) when he bids with suits in an order that forces Responder to show preference of the first suit at the 3:level.

There are only about a dozen sequences that this applies to, but each case is easy to determine.

If Opener's rebid is above [2OSuit1](#), then showing preference may be a problem.

(It won't be a problem if Responder isn't weak, but then it is unlikely to be "Showing Preference". And it won't be a problem if Opener is strong either.)



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Reverse

What is a Reverse?

When you open **1Suit**, imagine a barrier created at **2Suit**.

A Reverse is a **non-jump rebid of a new suit above the "barrier"** with a **strong hand (16..19Pts)** and a **longer first suit than second suit**. (*If the two suits are equal length, you just open the higher ranking first. There are surprisingly few reverses possible.*)

Example of Opener's rebid:

1D	-	1S	-	2C	2C is below the barrier of 2D. Not a reverse.
				2D	2D is not a new suit. Not a reverse.
				2H	2H is above the barrier of 2D. A reverse.
				2S	2S is not a new suit. Not a reverse.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Reverse

A complete list of Opener's Reverses in Acol.

A non-jump bid of a new suit above this barrier is a reverse and shows a strong hand (16..19Pts) and a shorter OSuit2 than OSuit1.

1C - 1H - 2D

1C - 1S - 2D

1C - 1S - 2H

1D - 1S - 2H

1D - 2C - 2H

1D - 2C - 2S

1H - 2C - 2S

1H - 2D - 2S

1H - 2D - 3C

1S - 2D - 3C

1S - 2H - 3C

1S - 2H - 3D

Apparently you can also reverse after a 1NT response.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Reverse

What isn't a Reverse.

If Responder makes a higher bid than a raise of your opening suit, then it isn't a reverse, you have been forced up a level.

This could happen if Responder chooses to make a Jump Shift and shows strength.

1C - #2D - / 2S Although a new suit above 2C, not a reverse.

It can also happen if the opposition intervene with an overcall.

1C (1H) 2D - / 2S Although a new suit above 2C, not a reverse.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Reverse

What isn't a Reverse.

If Responder makes a higher bid than a raise of your opening suit, then it isn't a reverse, you have been forced up a level.

This could happen if Responder chooses to make a Jump Shift and shows strength.

1C - #2D - / 2S Although a new suit above 2C, not a reverse.

It can also happen if the opposition intervene with an overcall.

1C (1H) 2D - / 2S Although a new suit above 2C, not a reverse.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Reverse

What if you aren't strong enough to Reverse?

Playing a Reverse is a good way of informing Partner about:

- your strength (16..19Pts)

- OSuit1 being longer than OSuit2

and is a non-jump bid.

So what to do if you have L5D and L4H, but only 12..15Pts?

In that case, you can't bid **2H (2OSuit2)**, and must rebid **2D (2OSuit1)**.

This is another reason that you need to plan your rebid before making the opening bid.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 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 5 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)

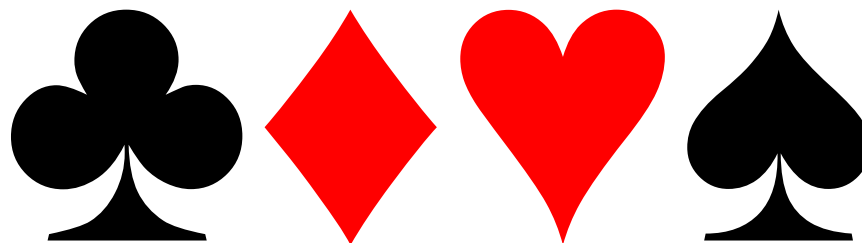
PLAY



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5



The end

Week 5 set hand
references follow.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Set hands

Set hand sources

RWPB	Paul Mendelson: Right Way to Play Bridge
PBB	EBU: Practice Beginning Bridge 2005
PBB	EBU: Practice Continuing Bridge 2005
CMHAT	Andrew Robson: Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them
BL~R&FSF	Andrew Robson: Bridge Lessons~Responding and Fourth Suit Forcing
SGB	"Home made" hands - may have flaws!



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Set hands

Set hand abbreviations

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 5 Set hands

Set hand averages

Just for amusement sake, here is the average for each pair along with whether they sat NS or EW.

It isn't particularly meaningful as tables played a mix of boards, Table 3 had five players with partnerships that kept changing, and there was no movement between the tables.

Rank	Pair	Seats	Average over all the boards
1	1	NS	75%
2	11	EW	58%
3	Ref	EW	55%
4½	2	NS	50%
4½	10	EW	50%
6	Ref	NS	45%
7	3	NS	42%
8	9	EW	25%



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Set hands

9 N EW RWPBpg53+Deal A♠=N

NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
1 9	1NT=	S	3S	7	90	-	50%	50%
2 10	2S+1	N	10D	9	140	-	100%	0%
3 11	1S=	N	8H	7	80	-	25%	75%
Ref	2S=	N	JD	8	110	-	75%	25%
Bad	2H-3	N	JD	5	-	150	0%	100%

{W} S:K543 H:K72 D:Q95 C:QJ7

{E} S:T2 H:AT86 D:JT2 C:AT98



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Set hands

10 E All PBB#S4H4

A♠=E

NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
2 10	5C+1	W	QD	12	-	620	0%	100%
3 11	4C=	E	5H	10	-	130	100%	0%
Ref	5C=	W	AH	11	-	600	50%	50%



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Set hands

11 S None CMHAT#14

A♠=S

NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
1 9	4H=	S	5C	10	420	-	100%	0%
3 11	4H-1	N	3D	9	-	50	0%	100%
Ref	3H=	S	7D	9	140	-	50%	50%



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Set hands

12 W NS

BL~R&FSF#36

A♠=E

NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
1 9	2S+2	E	AC	10 -		170	100%	0%
Ref	4S	W	AC	10 -		420	0%	100%



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Set hands

13 N All SGB_20241022a A♠=S

NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
1 9	4H+1	N	KD	11	650	-	50%	50%
2 10	4H+1	N	KD	11	650	-	50%	50%
Ref	4H+1	N	KD	11	650	-	50%	50%

{N} S:K H:AK52 D:T92 C:AK643

{W} S:JT765 H:J63 D:AJ65 C:Q {E} S:Q2 H:94 D:KQ743 C:T752

{S} S:A9843 H:QT87 D:8 C:J98

The {N} hand is a variation of one found online.



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5 Set hands

Hands not played

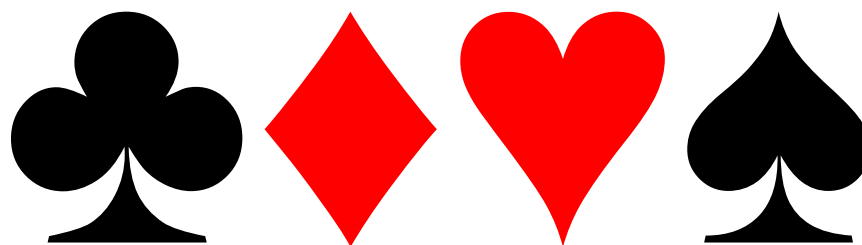
14 E	None	SGB20241022b A variation on 13.	A♠=W
15 S	NS	PCB#S9H7 var Variation was in auction. Not bidding to slam.	A♠=N
16 W	EW	PBB#S4H3	A♠=S



U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 5



The very end