



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 8

**{W} is in 6NT. {N} leads JS. Make a plan for {W}.**

♠ J

♠ KQ

♠ A84

♥ AKQ

♥ J543

♦ KQJT9

♦ 8652

♣ 762

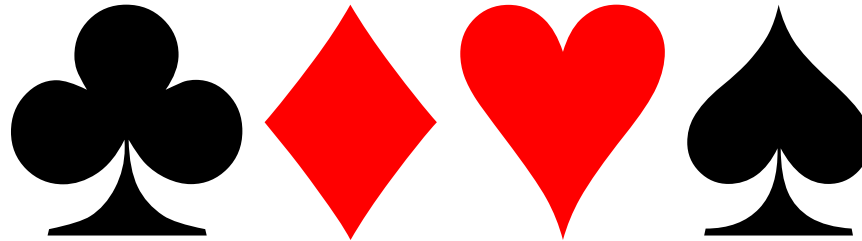
♣ A4



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 8 Welcome



Steve Bailey



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Topics (1)

*Some topics we want to cover. Brown already done. Eventually get to Benji.*

Hand evaluation

Opening bids

Gambling 3NT

Responding to NT

Quantitative 4NT

Stayman

*Modified Baron*

Opening unbalanced hands

Responding to 1 Suit openings

Jump shift

Showing preference

Fourth suit forcing

Reverses

Making a plan in a NT contract

Making a plan in a suit contract

Opening leads (rank)

Opening leads (suit)

Frozen suits

Bidding boxes

System cards

Alerting & Announcing



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Topics (2)

Competitive bidding

Overcalls

Doubles

Penalty

Take out

Lead directing

Negative

Re-Opening

Blocking & Unblockings

Finesses

Discards

Losing Trick Count

**Benjaminised Acol**

**Weak twos**

Michaels

Unusual 2NT

Jacoby

Signals

Attitude

Count

Suit Preference

Suit Game Tries

NT Stopper showing Game Tries

Unassuming Cue Bid

Acol 4NT opening

Borrowing a King

Transfers

Slams & various Blackwoods

Italian cue bids

Cue bids

Gerber (*only over NT*)

Splinters



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Plan with ATTITWDE

Aim

Top Tricks

Increase Tricks (eXtra Tricks)

Worry about Defence (Losers too)

Entries / Execution



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Plan with ATTITWDE

Aim

12 tricks

Top Tricks

S:AKQ H:AKQJ D:- C:A = 8 TT

eXtra Tricks

S: none (all TT)

H: none (all TT)

D: Lose KD→AD, Win D:QJT9 = 4 XT

C: Lose 4C



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♠ J

♠ KQ

♠ A84

♥ AKQ

♥ J543

♦ KQJT9

♦ 8652

♣ 762

♣ A4

Plan with ATTITWDE

Worry about Defence

Losers KD ~ inevitable

4C ~ discard on 5<sup>th</sup> D

Entries / Execution

Obvious Entry to {E} is AC.

QS is a TT, so {E} must not overtake QS with AS.

JH has no {W} lead to reach it.

Therefore **must play** S:KQ H:AKQ **before** AC.





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 8

{W} is in 6NT. **Without the plan.**

**Play this out with real cards.**

♠ J

♠ KQ

♠ A84

For example:

(JS) [>4S] >KS (1)

♥ AKQ

♥ J543

Establish D.

KD >(AD) [>2D] ↓

♦ KQJT9

♦ 8652

(KC) >AC [>2C] (2)

♣ 762

♣ A4

8S >QS (3)

Standard play, taking extra tricks first

QD [>5D] (4)

JD [>6D] (5)

10D [>8D] (6)

9D [>4C] (7)

AH [>3H] (8)

KH [>4H] (9)

QH [>5H] (10)

Now {W} realises he is blocked with only C:76, leaving AS and JC isolated.

7C [>(QC)] [>JH] ↓

(JC) [>6C] [>AS] ↓

Contract failed. 6NT-2.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 8

{W} is in 6NT. **Using {W}'s plan.**

**Play this out with real cards.**

♠ J

♠ KQ

♠ A84

♥ AKQ

♥ J543

♦ KQJT9

♦ 8652

♣ 762

♣ A4

Now all the blocking cards are unblocked.

AS & JH remain as masters. Establish D.

Win whatever {NS} lead

And take S winner.

And H winner.

And established D winners.

Discard losing 4C

Contract made. 6NT=.

For example: (JS) [>4S] >KS (1)

QS [>8S] (2)

AH [>3H] (3)

KH [>4H] (4)

QH [>5H] (5)

KD [>2D] >(AD) ↓

Eg: (xC) >AC [>2C] (6)

AS [>6C] (7)

JH [>7C] (8)

5D >QD (9)

JD [>6D] (10)

10D [>8D] (11)

9D [>4C] (12)



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While waiting for 10am – Week 8

{W} is in 6NT. {N} leads JS. Make a plan for {W}.

♠ J

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♠ A84

♥ AKQ

♥ J543

♦ KQJT9

♦ 8652

♣ 762

♣ A4

Plan with ATTITWDE

Worry about Defence

Losers KD ~ inevitable

4C ~ discard on 5<sup>th</sup> D

Entries / Execution

Obvious Entry to {E} is AC.

QS needs to be a TT, so cannot overtake QS with AS.

JH has no {W} lead to reach it.

**Unblocking: Therefore must play S:KQ H:AKQ before AC.**



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Opening Lead ~ Rank

Today's topic is Opening leads.

Last time we looked at which rank card to lead within a suit.

This summary is of **default lead card ranks for each length & type of suit**. It does not have any bearing on whether you should be leading that suit - that is a separate decision (today's video).

As with everything else in bridge there are occasions when you should do something different to the norm.

Often the same principles apply when mid play and leading the first card of a new suit.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Opening Lead ~ Generalities

Longer suits are usually more valuable than medium/short length suits.

Often the "defaults" say 1+honours preferring 2+honours. This is as 1 honour could be a "frozen suit" and give away a trick. Avoid where possible.

Leading short suits may be because you want to trump the suit later.

Singletons in a trump contract can be good.

Doubletons are too slow to often work.

Honour headed sequences:

Suit contracts ask for 2+. After 2 tricks, 8 cards there are only 5 still out and someone will be trumping further tricks.

NoTrump contracts ask for 3+. After 3 tricks, often the opponents will be void in the suit thus establishing "all the small cards" remaining in your long suit.

Often whether a particular card is a "high spot" or a "low spot" card can only be determined by viewing all the cards in hand and on the table and by considering the auction.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Opening Lead ~ Suit Contract

### Overarching statements.

Do not underlead an Ace. *If you must lead the suit, lead the Ace.*

A low spot card promises an honour in that suit. A high spot card denies one.

If leading trumps, ignore the list below and just lead a low one.

When leading Partner's suit, use the list below, not 'Top card' of your holding.

**List**     *This is sorted by suit length, not by "priority":*

- 4+     Near top (occasionally top) of rubbish (no honours).
- 4+     Fourth highest of longest and strongest to 1+ honour (2+ preferred).
- 3+     Top of an honour headed sequence of 2+.
- 3     Low to 1+ honour (2+ preferred).
- 3     MUD (Middle Up Down) if no honours.
- 2     Top of doubleton (except bare AK then lead K).
- 1     Lead singleton. *Allows ruffs of the suit.*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Opening Lead ~ NoTrump Contract

### Overarching statements.

You may underlead an Ace. In NT you are trying to establish long suits (your's or partner's). 3+ rounds are required to do that.

A low spot card promises an honour in that suit. A high spot card denies one.

When leading Partner's suit, use list below, not Top card of your holding.

**List**      *This is sorted by suit length, not by "priority":*

- 4+      Near top (occasionally top) of rubbish (no honours).
- 4+      Fourth highest of longest and strongest to 1+ honour (2+ preferred).
- 4+      Top of an honour headed sequence of 3+ (Hhh)  
(or broken Hh\_h; or interior (h\_Hh)
- 3      Low to 1+ honour (2+ preferred).
- 3      MUD (Middle Up Down) if no honours.
- 2      Top of doubleton (except bare AK then lead K).
- 1      Singleton. *Rarely a good lead in NT.*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 8 Opening leads

This week we will watch Part 1 of Bernard Magee's free covid seminars on Opening leads. Each is about 20 minutes. There are four of them.

They are:

- BMOS~003\_OpeningLeads-Part1(Level)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEBVN\\_tsNG0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEBVN_tsNG0)
- **BMOS~004\_OpeningLeads-Part2(Suit)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7MuF67nFlw>
- BMOS~005\_OpeningLeads-Part3  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXcjvcE7pjk>
- BMOS~006\_OpeningLeads-Part4+FrozenSuits  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45doevBNBPY>





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 8 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)**

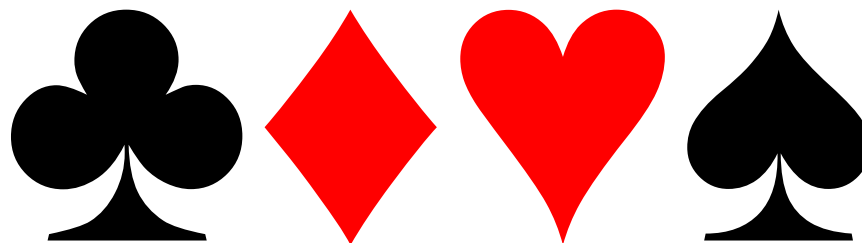
**PLAY**



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 8



The end

Week 8 set hand  
references follow.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 8 Set hands

### Set hand sources

AR:BL~OL	Andrew Robson: Bridge Lessons ~ Opening Lead
BM:LQ	Bernard Magee: Lead Quiz
BM:EH	Bernard Magee: Easier Hand
PM:WWPYC	Paul Mendelson: Winning Ways to Play Your Cards
PM:RWPB	Paul Mendelson: Right Way to Play Bridge
BMOS~nnn	Bernard Magee Online Seminar ~ nnn

Note that these set hands are designed to fail. If the defenders get it wrong, then declarer will get a good score (typically contract making). If the defenders get it right, then declarer's score will be worse, often just by one trick.

After their auction, each table was asked to play using the **reference auction**.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 8 Set hands

### Set hand abbreviations

Bd	Board	Number of the board. Rarely may include a colour! Eg 5red or 5blue.
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 8 Set hands

BdDir	Vul	Source								Rotn
2	E	NS	AR:BL~OL#1							A♠=E
NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%		
1	9	3NT-1	W	5D	8	50	-	50%	50%	
2	10	3NT=	W	5D	9	-	400	0%	100%	
3	11	3NT-1	W	7H	8	50	-	50%	50%	
Ref	3NT-2	W	8S	7	100	-	100%	0%		



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 8 Set hands

**BdDir** Vul **Source** **Rotn**  
 4 W All PM:WWPYC#34 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>
2 10	4S=	E	KH	10	-	620	25%	75%
3 11	4S=	E	KH	10	-	620	25%	75%
Ref	4S-1	E	KH	9	100	-	100%	0%



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 8 Set hands

<b>BdDir</b>	<b>Vul</b>	<b>Source</b>							<b>Rotn</b>
6 E	EW	PM:RWPBpg187							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>	
2 10	2S=	E	QH	8	-	110	0%	100%	
Ref	2S-1	E	QH	7	100	-	100%	0%	



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## Week 8 Set hands

<b>BdDir</b>	<b>Vul</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Rotn</b>
9 N	EW	BM:EH#229	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	2D=	N	JC	8	90	-	50%	50%
3 11	2D=	N	QS	8	90	-	50%	50%
Ref	2D=	N	QS	8	90	-	50%	50%





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 8 Set hands

**BdDir** Vul **Source** **Rotn**  
 11 S None AR:BL~OL#20 A♠=S

<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+1	(N)	JD	11	450	-	100%	0%
2 10	4S-1	N	QD	9	-	50	25%	75%
Ref	4S-1	N	KH	9	-	50	25%	75%

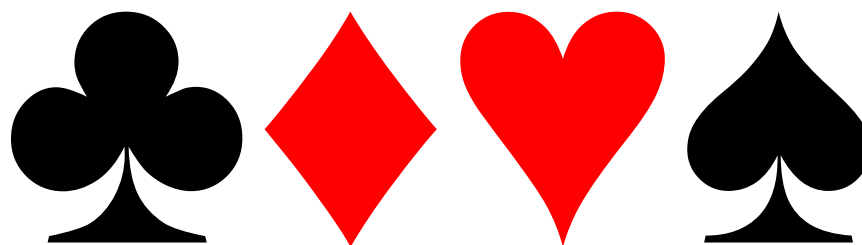
*(Table 1 recorded 1v9 as {E}, but gave game points to {NS}.  
 "Corrected" here.)*



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Week 8



The very end