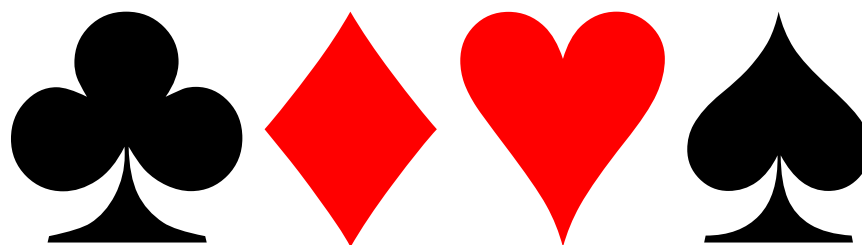




# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 10 Welcome



Steve Bailey



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



While waiting for 10am – Week 10

## Travellers.

The "While waiting for 10am" slide was of the 4 travellers for last session's Board#10.

I think that Boards #7 & #8 were worse, but by the time I decided to present this, I had corrected one sheet each for my records and disposed of the other 3.

The reason that I ask you to write the contract with result, the number of tricks and the score is so that when there is an inconsistency, the 3 fields can "vote" and allow 2 similar fields to win.

Eg      3NT-1   10      430      is not self-consistent  
But      3NT+1   10      430      is.

Similarly, if with four travellers I can see that declarer was

Eg      N S N N      then I can guess that declarer was {N}.

Scores etc are awarded depending upon how the travellers are read, not by what actually happened - **which I do not "know"**.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Slams

There are four categories of slams:

Small suited slam

6C 6D 6H 6S

Small No Trump slam

6NT

Grand suited slam

7C 7D 7H 7S

Grand NT slam

7NT

Today we will look at bidding No Trump slams.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Slams

For a Small No Trump slam, **6NT**, you want **33+hcp**.

Nominally that is "all 40 hcp except for an AK".

As long as the missing Ace and King are in different suits, you can reasonably hope to lose to the missing Ace but to beat the missing King with your Ace.

For a grand No Trump slam, **7NT**, you want **37+hcp**.

Nominally that is "all 40 hcp except for a K".

You can reasonably hope to beat the missing King with your Ace.

*You also have to work out where the cards are and **play** them in the right way.*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 10 Slams

With 33..36hcp, bid 6NT

With 37+hcp, bid 7NT

Note that if you **jointly** hold

S:AK H:AK D:AK C:AK

that is only 28 points, 8 Top Tricks, but is nowhere near 12 tricks for a small slam. Quacks (Queens and Jacks) are important in NT.

33Pts does not guarantee 6NT✓.

37Pts does not guarantee 7NT✓.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Slams

When looking at hands most bids use "evaluated points" rather than "high card points". This makes slam evaluation slightly harder.

That means it is possible for there to be more than 40Pts in a Deal.

Having said that, length points are valuable in NT.

Honour 10s are valuable and more valuable than spotcard 10s.

4333 shape has no length to improve, so decreasing your Pts for it remains reasonable.

Acelessness affects control and makes successful play harder than with Aced hands.

Isolated honours have the same problems as with a suited contract.

And shortages have no benefit in NT.

So we conclude that using evaluated points and seeking Joint Points of 33..36 and of 37+ remains good. It is just not quite as categorical as when using hcp.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Hand evaluation recap

This is the **Hand Evaluation** scheme I am recommending for use at U3AIB, it is prescriptive rather than hand-waving (which I cannot cope with).

You don't have to use this scheme, but you need some method of hand evaluation. *We will look at the Losing Trick Count in the future.*

*This recap includes a couple of refinements introduced since week 1.*

The core of the scheme uses "high card points" ([hcp](#)):

4 for an Ace, 3 for a King, 2 for a Queen and 1 for a Jack.

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)*. For L5 suits, +1 if 2+honours or 1+ of AKQ; +1/2 if 0 of AKQ and 1 of JT; +0 if 0 of AKQJT.

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 honour 10 and 1 Point for 2+ honour 10s.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Hand evaluation recap

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+ suits each have one isolated honour.

But not for A A A. Include honour 10s in isolation determination.

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.

They revert to full value if Partner makes a natural bid of that suit.

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

Generally only add shortage points for the first 2 of 3 short suits. You are unlikely to ruff all 3 short suits.





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Hand evaluation recap

Try to memorise this list:

*+hcp*

*+length*

*+honour 10s*

*-4333*

*-aceless*

*-isolated\_h*

*-unguarded L1h*

*+shortage if a fit*



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Opening bids with a balanced hand

*From a previous week.*

<b>Point range</b>	<b>Opening bid</b>	<b>Planned rebid</b>
0..11	Pass	Pass
12..14	1NT! ( <i>Weak NT</i> )	Pass
15..17	1(Longest suit)	Raise in NT
18..19	1(Longest suit)	2NT
20..22	2NT ( <i>No alert</i> )	Pass
23..24	2C!	2NT
25+	2C!	3NT

1NT is announced by partner as "Twelve to fourteen".

Note the **modern ranges** for **1(Longest suit)**

2NT is neither announced nor alerted.

2C! (here) is the *superstrong* Acol convention. It should be alerted not announced.



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## Week 10 Needed for a No Trump slam

Opening bid(s)		For a small slam	For a grand slam
1NT	12	+21 = 33	+25 = 37
	\		
	14	+19 = 33	+23 = 37
1C 1D 1NT	15	+18 = 33	+22 = 37
	\		
	17	+16 = 33	+20 = 37
1C 1D #2NT	18	+15 = 33	+19 = 37
	\		
	19	+14 = 33	+18 = 37
1D 2C 2NT	15	+18 = 33	+22 = 37
	\		
	19	+14 = 33	+18 = 37

You don't need to memorise these, just do the sum each time. If partner has 15..17 & I have 17, a joint 32..34. 6NT Slam is "may be".



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Needed for a No Trump slam

Opening bid(s)		For a small slam	For a grand slam
2NT	20	+13 = 33	+17 = 37
	\		
	22	+11 = 33	+15 = 37
#2C! 2D 2NT	23	+10 = 33	+14 = 37
	\		
	24	+9 = 33	+13 = 37
#2C! 2D #3NT	25	+8 = 33	+12 = 37
	\		
	...		

You don't need to memorise these, just do the sum each time. If partner has 20..22 & I have 14, a joint 34..36. 6NT Slam is on, not 7NT.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Bidding a No Trump slam

So, your partner has suggested that a NT contract might be the way to go.

If you have not yet agreed this and have a balanced hand then, presumably, you are about to do so.

If you think a suited contract will be better, then don't agree NT.

If you have enough points for a NT slam (of either kind), just bid it.

*By all means go "gulp" silently as you do so.*

Remember, if your partner has shown many points, you will not need "so many".

If you **may** have enough for a slam, invite. Use the lowest NT bid that isn't a shutout as a quantitative asking bid for a small slam. Use the next one up for an asking bid for a grand slam.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Bidding a No Trump slam

After:	If you have:	Jointly:	Ask / Bid:
1NT (12..14)	11Pts	23..25 JPts	2NT (ask game)
1NT (12..14)	13Pts	25..27 JPts	#3NT (bid game)
1NT (12..14)	18Pts	30..32 JPts	#3NT (bid game)
1NT (12..14)	19Pts	31..33 JPts	#4NT (ask small slam) →Pass or #6NT
1NT (12..14)	21Pts	33..35 JPts	#6NT (bid small slam)
1NT (12..14)	23Pts	35..37 JPts	#5NT (ask grand slam) →6NT or #7NT. <b>Do not Pass.</b>
1NT (12..14)	25Pts	37..39 JPts	#7NT (bid grand slam)

With the asking (quantitative) bids, the question is are you "maximum" or "not", rather than are you "maximum" or "minimum".

Eg 12..14 + 11 = 23..25 JPts. You want to know if opener is 14 or not.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Bidding a No Trump slam

### A second example

After:	If you have:	Jointly:	Ask / Bid:
1C 1D #2NT (18..19)	7Pts	25..26 JPts	#3NT (bid game)
1C 1D #2NT (18..19)	13Pts	31..32 JPts	#3NT (bid game)
1C 1D #2NT (18..19)	14Pts	32..33 JPts	#4NT (ask small slam) →Pass or #6NT
1C 1D #2NT (18..19)	15Pts	33..34 JPts	#6NT (bid small slam)
1C 1D #2NT (18..19)	18Pts	36..37 JPts	#5NT (ask grand slam) →6NT or #7NT. <b>Do not Pass.</b>
1C 1D #2NT (18..19)	19Pts	37..38 JPts	#7NT (bid grand slam)

With the asking (quantitative) bids, the question is are you "maximum" or "not", rather than are you "maximum" or "minimum".

Eg 18..19 + 14 = 32..33 JPts. You want to know if opener is 19 or not.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Bidding a No Trump slam

There is more to it than just this, but working out your Joint Point Count and comparing it with 33 and 37 (and 25) will get you a long way.





# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 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)**

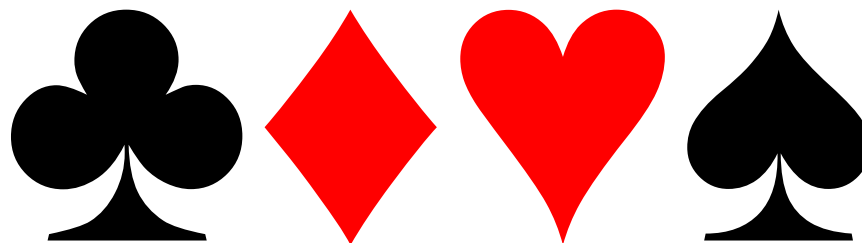
**PLAY**



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 10



The end

Week 10 set hand  
references follow.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Set hands

### Set hand sources

AR:BL~BBH      Andrew Robson: Bridge Lessons ~ Bidding Big Hands

AR:BL~DNC      Andrew Robson: Bridge Lessons ~  
                        Declaring No Trump Contracts

VB:PD              vubridge.com: Passive Defence

BMB:BS~1NT\_defend  
                        Bernard Magee: Big Seminar ~ 1NT defend

Boards 15 & 16 were left over from the last session on Frozen Suits.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 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 10 Set hands

<b>BdDir</b>	<b>Vul</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Rotn</b>
15 S	NS	VB:PD#6	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	1NT+1	N	KD	8	120	-	75%	25%
3 11	1NT-1	N	3D	6	-	100	0%	100%
Ref	1NT+1	N	KD	8	120	-	75%	25%



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Set hands

<b>BdDir</b>	<b>Vul</b>	<b>Source</b>							<b>Rotn</b>
16 W	EW	BM:BS~1NT_defend							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	1NT+1	E	6S	8	-	120	10%	90%	
2 10	1NT-2	E	6S	5	200	-	100%	0%	
2' 10'	1NT-1	E	6H	6	100	-	70%	30%	
3 11	1NT=	E	6S	7	-	90	40%	60%	
Ref1	1NT-1	E	8S	6	100	-	70%	30%	
Ref2	1NT+1	E	4D	8	-	120	10%	90%	

At each table it was suggested that the deal might be played again (with the same contract) but with an opening lead of the other colour to show what effect the opening lead has on the results. Only Table 2 (and the Reference) chose to do this.



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## Week 10 Set hands

**BdDir** **Vul** **Source** **Rotn**  
 1 N None AR:BL~BBH#23 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	6NT=	N	3S	12	990	-	75%	25%
2 10	4NT+1	N	10H	11	460	-	25%	75%
3 11	6NT=	N	3S	12	990	-	75%	25%
Ref1	6NT-1	N	10H	11	-	50	0%	100%
Ref2	6NT=	N	10H	12	990	-	75%	25%

Ref1 plays the wrong finesse first.

Ref2 plays the finesse with more options first.



# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



## Week 10 Set hands

BdDir	Vul	Source	Rotn					
2 E	NS	AR:BL~DNC#39	A♠=E					
NSEW	Contract	Dcl	OL	Trk	NS#	EW#	NS%	EW%
2 10	6NT-2	E	JH	10	100	-	75%	25%
3 11	6NT-2	E	10C	10	100	-	75%	25%
Ref	6NT=	E	JH	12	-	990	0%	100%

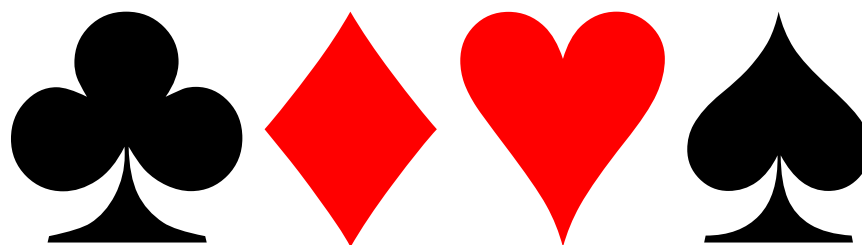




# U3A Intermediate Bridge 2024-25



Week 10



The very end