

Caloundra Bridge Club

CUE BIDS

July 2026

A "Cue Bid" is a Bid of the Oppositions Suit.

Cue Bids can be used to in a variety of situations, and depending on the situation, can have quite different meanings. However, one thing they have in common is they are asking Partner to Bid. Don't leave a Cue Bid in, Partner does not want to play in the Opposition suit!

As with a Double, you can Pass when there has been an Interfering Bid, otherwise Partner is expecting you to Bid.

Cue Bids are considered "Self Alerting". Whatever their meaning, there is no need to Alert a Cue Bid. Opposition are expected to ask if they want an explanation.

UNASSUMING CUE BID

(Very Basic Version)

When P **OPENS** 1 of a Major we know they have at least 12 points, and with a fit, we have set Responses.

6 – 9	2H
10 – 11	3H
12+	We change Suit and Rebid 4H

All very predictable and safe!

However when P **OVERCALLS** 1H (or 1S) they promise 8 – 15. A wide range. With a Fit and 8-9 points, we (the Advancer) Bid 2H. But what do we do when we have 10, 11 or even more points. If we jump to 3H and our Overcalling Partner only has 8 points, we could find ourselves in 3H with as few as 18 points between us.

Solution: The Unassuming Cue Bid

With a Fit and 10+ simply bid the Openers Suit. This is the UCB.

1C Opener, 1H Overcaller, P (or even 1S) Responder, 2C* Advancer. 2C is the UCB and says:

“Partner, I have a Fit with your Hearts and 10+. Tell me how strong you are.”

With the bare 8 – 11, Overcaller bids minimally, 2H.

Now we are in only 2H with perhaps a minimal 18 points.

Safe! Advancer knows P has a max of 11 points, checks their points and either passes or bids on if they think Game is still possible.

With Opening points, 12-14, Overcaller answers with 3H.

Again Advancer now knows their position and bids accordingly. If Advancer only had the 10 points, they would Pass, safe in the knowledge they are in 3H with at least 22 points.

With 15 or more, Overcaller would bid straight to Game, confident of a Fit and 10+ from Partner, giving the Partnership a Fit and 25 points.

The UCB makes this investigation of Overcaller’s hand very accurate and safe!

A side benefit of the UCB is you have used the opposition’s suit, making it very hard for them to repeat to show extra length, or for their Partner to come in with a late supporting bid.

14	9	6	11
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N	E	S	W
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1H	1S	P	2H
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P	2S	P	P
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P

Contract: 2SE

Lead: 6H

North (D)

 **A7**

 **A8754**

 **A62**

 **Q63**

West

 **J842**

 **QT9**

 **KQ98**

 **K9**

Deal
UCB1

East

 **KQT93**

 **KJ3**

 **T7**

 **T82**

N Opens 1H and E Overcalls 1S. W has a Fit and 11HCP's but does not know E's strength. 2H UCB asks how strong is P's Overcall. Being less than an Opening hand, E keeps the bidding to a minimum answering 2S.

South

 **65**

 **62**

 **J543**

 **AJ754**

10	13	12	5
N	E	S	W
	1C	1S	P
2C	P	3S	P
P	P	P	

Contract: 3SN
Lead: AD

North	
 T932	
 AQ	
 Q782	
 Q82	

West	
 A7	
 J87543	
 63	
 T63	

Deal
UCB2

East (D)	
 65	
 K6	
 AJ54	
 AJ754	

Here S answers the UCB with an inviting 3S confirming an Opening Hand. However not good enough for N who has exactly 10. Game not there!

South	
 KQJ84	
 T92	
 KT9	
 K9	

3	10	12	15
N	E	S	W
		1D	1H
P	2D	P	4H
P	P	P	

Contract: 4HW
Lead: JD

North	
 652	
 62	
 J543	
 Q754	

West	
 J8	
 AJT754	
 A	
 AJ98	

Deal
UCB3

East	
 KQT93	
 Q93	
 T72	
 K2	

South (D)	
 A74	
 K8	
 KQ986	
 T63	

Once Partner does the UCB confirming a fit and 10+, W with 15HCP proceeds confidently straight to game!

13	3	11	13
N	E	S	W
			1C
1D	P	2C	P
4D	P	5D	P
P	P		

Contract: 5DN
Lead: TC

North	
 K76	
 KJT7	
 KQ632	
 2	

West (D)	
 AQT4	
 82	
 97	
 AK763	

Deal
UCB4

East	
 J983	
 Q6543	
 8	
 T54	

W Opens 1C and N O'calls 1D. S with 12 points and a good D Fit, does the UCB, 2C. N adds their points. 15 Total points so JUMPS to 4D. S, with 13 Total points, Bids Game, 5D!

South	
 52	
 A9	
 AJT54	
 QJ98	

12	12	10	6
N	E	S	W
	1D	1H	2D
3D	X	3H	P
P	P	P	

Contract: 3HS
Lead:TD

North	
 A53	
 Q73	
 KJ	
 Q7543	

West	
 JT9	
 982	
 A7652	
 J6	

Deal
UCB5

East. (D)	
 KQ8	
 JT	
 Q984	
 A982	

Even with interfering Bids,
the UCB does its job safely. N
needs to be a little stronger
when forcing the Bidding to
the 3 level.

South	
 7642	
 AK654	
 T3	
 KT	