Lesson Content
Overcalls – both suit overcalls and 1NT overcall
Basic Scoring

Main Points to Emphasise
Suit quality is most important for an overcall
Overcalls suggest a lead and can be either constructive or obstructive.
Generally an overcaller’s partner should not bid on without a fit
1NT overcall must have a stopper in opener’s suit

Lesson Progression
Who is the opener? Who is the responder? Who is the overcaller?
Overcaller is the name given to the player who bids after an opponent has opened
Why overcall? – elicit this from the class
Obstruct the opponents
Win the contract (constructive)
Suggest a lead

What an Overcall shows
Must be a 5+ suit with a minimum of 2 honours
An overcall need not have opening points (12+) – but must be close at the 2-level
1NT overcall shows 16-18 and must have a stopper in opener’s suit

Overcaller’s Partner
Discuss what makes a fit – partner only needs 3+ cards to support, as overcaller has 5+.
The overcaller generally has only one good suit.
Therefore, if you have no fit with this suit, it is unlikely there is another fit, so don’t show
your own suit (unless fantastic)
Discuss responses to an overcall as shown in the notes

The 1NT Overcall
Shows a strong 16-18 hand with a stopper in opponent’s suit.
Explain the meaning of a ‘stopper’
The responses are identical in meaning to those over a 1NT opening, but responder
needs 4 points fewer because the 1NT overcaller is stronger.
Emphasise it is not the same as the opening 1NT of 12-14 HCP - that is not good
enough!

Play hands 1-4 then a long awaited coffee break

Bridge Scoring
There are 2 parts to scoring:
- Trick value – for what you make
- Bonus – for what you bid

Discuss Undertrick scoring as per Tip #6 - How to Score.
Don’t worry about doubled and redoubled scores.
Scoring is easy if they do it often – each person should carry a personal score card to
get used to recording their own scores for every hand.

Play the remaining hands