abstract Although no intermediate polar (IP) has been observed in recent years to descend into a state of low rate of mass transfer, there are candidate stars that appear to be already in intermediate and low states. V709 Cas is probably an intermediate state IP; NSV 2872 appears to be a low state IP, and will probably resemble the long orbital period IP V1072 Tau if it returns to a high state. The enigmatic star V407 Vul, which has had many interpretations as an ultra-short period binary, has many resemblances to the pre-cataclysmic variable V471 Tau, and may therefore be an IP precursor of quite long orbital period, and not yet a fully fledged cataclysmic variable.