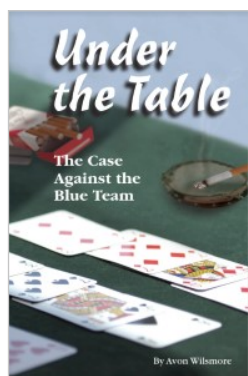


Under the Table

A history of cheating past and present and a riveting read



Under The Table

by Avon Wilsmore
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 \$44.95 post-paid,
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 Paul Lavings stall at
 NSWBA

Recently, with the help of BBO videos, many stars of the game have been found to be cheating, using all sorts of elaborate and involved methods. Avon Wilsmore takes us back in time to the days of the Italian Blue Team and has analysed hundreds of World Championship deals in an attempt to prove that many of their actions were suspect.

The author points out that their unusually conservative or aggressive actions almost always seemed to match their partner's hand. What would you do on this hand for instance:

Dealer N | Vul E-W

- ♠ AQJ743
- ♥ A
- ♦ AKT
- ♣ Q87

W	N	E	S
	3H	P	P
?			

With a strong 2♣ opening you are probably thinking about slam and you might double first as a prelude to bidding 4♠. Second choice would be a jump to 4S to at least make sure you reach game. On board 82 of the 1966 Bermuda Bowl Final Pabis-Ticci made the remarkable underbid of 3♠ and made exactly 9 tricks when partner held 10962, 10532, 542, J6.

Look at this situation from the 1963 Bermuda Bowl Final:

Dealer E | Vul N-S

West / Garozzo ♠ A54 ♥ T65 ♦ KQ32 ♣ 943	East / Forquet ♠ KJ63 ♥ A3 ♦ AT75 ♣ QT8
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W	N	E	S
<i>Garozzo</i>		<i>Forquet</i>	
		1S	P
1NT	3C	P	P
3D	//		

What would you do as West when 3♣ comes back to you? 3♦ is not a call that you or I would even dream of but it happens to match partner's hand perfectly.

With the help of extensive research the author claims that governing bodies such as the WBF and ACBL have always hushed up cheating scandals and tried to minimize the fall-out and are a major part of the problem.

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