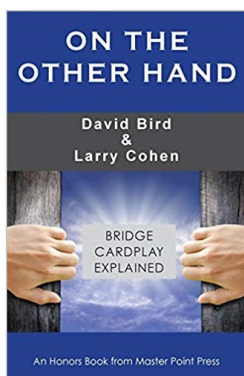


On the Other Hand

Plan your play on each deal



On the Other Hand

By David Bird & Larry Cohen
(Masterpoint Press, Toronto, Canada, 2019, soft cover, 226 pages)

\$32.95 post-free or \$28.00 from Paul Lavings stall at NSWBA.

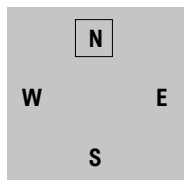
Two famous authors present a novel way of instruction, 100 pairs of hands, one from each author, on a similar theme. It is left to the reader to find the best line of play on each deal. Again and again the authors make the point that you must never ever play a hand without a plan.

These two hands illustrate this:

53A
Larry's deal

♠ AQ64
♥ JT965
♦ 854
♣ 7

♠ 872
♥ Q
♦ Q2
♣ AKQT986



♠ K5
♥ 874
♦ AT976
♣ J32
♠ JT93
♥ AK32
♦ KJ3
♣ 54

W	N	E	S
	1C	P	1H
P	2C	P	3NT
//			

The declarer won the first trick with the ♥Q and played ♣A. When both defenders followed, the club suit was good for seven tricks. Declarer played another club and then paused to take stock – too late!

There was no way to make the contract after this start. Declarer had to keep all their spades and was hopelessly squeezed on the run of the clubs to finish an ignominious one down. Again and again the authors make the point that you must never ever play a hand without a plan. You must count your winners in notrump and your losers in a suit contract.

All is well if you make a plan at the start. It's okay to win the ♥Q and play ♣A. If East happens to show out, you can play a diamond to the jack, setting up an entry to finesse against West's remaining ♣Jxx. When both defenders follow to the first club, you should still play a diamond to the jack. Whether the defenders win the first diamond or not, at least nine tricks are guaranteed.

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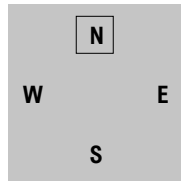
(Continued from page 1)

53A

David's deal

♠ 72
♥ K
♦ KT9
♣ AKQT983

♠ AT54
♥ JT986
♦ J42
♣ 4



♠ KQ6
♥ 7532
♦ A83
♣ J52

♠ J983
♥ AQ4
♦ Q765
♣ 76

W	N	E	S
	1C	P	1S
P	3C	P	3NT
//			

Again West leads ♥J. If you win with the ♥K and pause to make a plan, you will be sitting in your chair for a long time. If you play a diamond from dummy at trick two, East will rise with the ♦A and switch to ♠K, giving the defenders another four tricks there.

To make the contract, you have to hope the clubs are not 4-0. You must overtake ♥K with ♥A at trick one and score at ♥Q as your ninth trick, then you rattle off seven club tricks for your contract.

The authors also make the point that if you play a round of golf three times a week, you will gradually improve. If you practice one shot only for an hour at a time, your progress will be much greater. This book falls into that category, concentrated practice. For those players of about 2-3 years standing, this book is a Godsend with many different techniques and tactics on display. Highly recommended.