

The background of the entire image is a collage of playing cards. In the top section, several cards are visible, including one with the number '2' and another with a heart symbol. The middle section is a solid purple band containing the title text. The bottom section features a large, central card with '6 NT' printed on it. Other cards are scattered around it, including one with '9 NT' and another with '1' and a club symbol. The bottom left corner has a purple box with the author's name.

Somehow we landed
in **Six Notrump**

David **Bird**



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7

13 12 11 10 09

The background of the entire image is a collection of scattered, overlapping playing cards. Some cards are clearly visible, showing numbers like '2', '6', and '9', and symbols like hearts and clubs. The cards are rendered in a light, semi-transparent style, creating a textured, layered effect.

Somehow we landed
in **Six Notrump**

6
NT

6 NT

1

*For our 2-year-old grandson, Daniel, who has already given us so
much pleasure*

INTRODUCTION

I have always regarded 6NT as the most enjoyable contract to play. As with any slam contract, a couple of the suits may be solid and this allows you to focus your mind on the remaining suits and the best way to play them. A wealth of cardplay techniques are at your disposal, including avoidance plays, safety plays, throw-ins, unblocking plays, deceptive plays and all sorts of squeezes.

Believe it or not, you hold in your hand a book that contains nothing but 6NT contracts! I have divided it into two halves — fact and fiction. The first half of the book features the world's finest players at work, tackling all manner of 6NT contracts — some commendable, some truly awful. You will have a chance to plan your play in these contracts yourself, before seeing what fate befell the original declarer. The second half of the book contains humorous short stories, featuring many of the characters that I have written about over the past 30 years. You will find the bridge-crazy monks of St. Titus Monastery, including the self-centered Abbot; the nuns of St. Hilda's Convent are there, as are the Rabbi and his entourage. There is further action from the masters and boys of Cholmeley School, and from the missionaries, Brother Tobias and Brother Luke, whose main task in life is to convert the Bozwambi tribe to the Acol bidding system. Finally, there are some tales involving Robin Hood, the Sheriff of Nottingham and the much-maligned Sir Guy of Gisburne. Throughout this entertainment only one contract will be found — you guessed it, 6NT. Although some of these stories have been published in bridge magazines around the world, none of them has appeared in any of my books.

Do you sometimes feel cheated when you pay good money for a book and then find several pages that are mostly white space? It will not happen here. Whenever half a page of white space would have occurred, I have filled it with a play problem set in 6NT. The recommended answer to each quiz will be overleaf, or as near as is possible without it appearing on the facing page. There are 32 such 6NT problems, some relatively easy and some that will cause you to sit back in your chair for a while.

By the time you have finished this book, you will surely consider yourself a world expert on 6NT contracts and look forward to playing there as much as I do. You may even be tempted to steer the auction towards 6NT when you should be in a suit slam or playing safely in a game contract. You can tell your partner that it's all my fault!

Enjoy the book.

David Bird

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PART ONE
6NT - Fact

1. RON ANDERSEN'S 6NT

The USA's Ron Andersen sat South on this deal from the final round of the 1990 World Open Pairs semi-finals in Geneva. Barry Goren (USA) was North.

<p>♠ Q 9 6 4 ♥ 3 2 ♦ J 10 2 ♣ J 9 6 5</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p><i>Neither Vul.</i> <i>Dealer E</i></p> </div>	<p>♠ A K J 10 8 ♥ Q 5 ♦ A 7 3 ♣ Q 4 3</p>	<p>♠ 3 2 ♥ J 10 9 8 4 ♦ Q 9 5 4 ♣ K 10</p>
	<p>♠ 7 5 ♥ A K 7 6 ♦ K 8 6 ♣ A 8 7 2</p>		

West	North	East	South
<i>Mayer</i>	<i>Goren</i>	<i>Wright</i>	<i>Andersen</i>
pass	6NT	pass	1NT
pass	6NT	all pass	

South's 1NT showed 15-17 points. That was 14 points for the two aces and two kings, plus another 1 point because they needed some tops to qualify for the final. When Malcolm Mayer led the ♦J, Andersen won with the ♦K and took a successful finesse of the ♠10. He continued with the ♥Q and ♥A and then led a low club, the five appearing from West. How would you have viewed the situation after this start?

Andersen reasoned that Mayer, sitting West, could count him for five spade tricks and at least six top winners in the other three suits (three or more hearts, two or more diamonds and one club). That was a total of at least eleven and possibly twelve top tricks. Would a world-class pairs player dream of ducking the ♣K if he held it, possibly handing declarer an overtrick on a plate?

Andersen thought not and backed his judgment by playing low from the dummy instead of calling for the queen. East won with the ♣10 and returned a diamond. When a club to the ace dropped East's king, Andersen had only to repeat the spade finesse and twelve tricks were his. A near-top pairs score resulted.

Andersen's inference on the lie of the club suit could not have been drawn in a team-of-four environment, where an overtrick means relatively little.

2. ELY CULBERTSON'S 6NT

Do 6NT contracts mature pleasantly with age? You can judge for yourself as you absorb this deal described by Culbertson in 1935. (In those heady times, bridge books sold in quantities that are unimaginable nowadays. Culbertson's *Blue Book* on bidding was the first and only bridge book to head the USA's non-fiction bestseller list.)

<p>♠ J 10 9 8 5 2 ♥ 4 3 ♦ 9 7 ♣ Q 5 4</p>	<p>♠ K 7 4 ♥ A Q J 10 8 ♦ A J 6 ♣ K 3</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p><i>Neither Vul.</i> <i>Dealer S</i></p> </div> <p>♠ A Q 3 ♥ 9 7 ♦ K 8 4 2 ♣ A J 7 2</p>	<p>♠ 6 ♥ K 6 5 2 ♦ Q 10 5 3 ♣ 10 9 8 6</p>	
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West	North	East	South
			1♣
pass	1♥	pass	1NT
pass	4NT	pass	6NT
all pass			

No bidding was given when the deal was published, so I have added a plausible modern auction. West leads the ♠J against 6NT. You win with the ace and run the ♥9, losing to East's king. How will you continue when East returns the ♣10?

East is unlikely to be switching from the ♣Q. If he holds ♣1098xx, West's ♣Q will fall doubleton and you can therefore make a case for withholding the ♣J on the first round of the suit. In the play as Culbertson described it, declarer did cover with the ♣J, drawing the ♣Q and ♣K. How would you have continued from this point?

Declarer cashed the two remaining spade winners, followed by three more rounds of hearts. This was the end position that he reached:

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Can you make twelve tricks?

The stories and anecdotes in this collection have one thing in common: in every case, the contract is 6NT! The first half of the book features the world's finest players at work, tackling all manner of 6NT contracts — some commendable, some truly awful. You will have a chance to plan your play in these contracts yourself, before learning what fate befell the original declarer. The second half of the book contains humorous short stories, featuring many of David Bird's well-loved characters: the bridge-crazy monks of the St. Titus Monastery, the nuns of St. Hilda's Convent, and the Rabbi and his entourage. There is further action from Cholmeley School, from the missionaries whose main task in life is to convert the Bozwambi tribe to the Acol bidding system, and even some tales involving Robin Hood, the Sheriff of Nottingham and the much-maligned Sir Guy of Gisburne. Although some of these stories have been published in bridge magazines around the world, none of them have previously appeared in book form.



DAVID BIRD (Southampton, UK) is one of the world's best-known bridge authors, with more than eighty books to his credit. Recent titles for MPP include *Bridge Endplays for Everyone* and *25 Ways to be a Better Defender* (with Barbara Seagram).

