

The Complete Book of

BOLS

Bridge Tips

edited by Sally Brock



The **COMPLETE** Book of



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MASTER POINT PRESS

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The person who put in all the work over the years acting as a liaison between BOLS and the bridge world has been Evelyn Senn Gorter. She has become a well-known personality at international bridge events. Apart from her assistance in setting up this project, she also spent hours sorting through early IBPA (International Bridge Press Association) Bulletins to find the original entries. Patrick Jourdain was also helpful in a similar way, providing the IBPA Bulletins that contained the more recent tips.

I searched far and wide to come up with as many photographs of the tipsters as possible. I was helped to quite a large extent by the tipsters themselves, many of whom sent in both photographs and autobiographical details. However, special thanks must be given to Tony Sowter at *International Popular Bridge Monthly*, Jan van Cleeff of the Dutch *IMP Magazine* and Mark Horton at *BRIDGE Magazine*, several of whose photographs were taken with Kodak's new digital camera.

As mentioned above, many of the autobiographical details were supplied by the players themselves but the *Official Encyclopædia of Bridge* was also an indispensable aid in this respect.

Finally, there is everyone who has read through this book in an attempt to make it error-free. No doubt we will not have succeeded totally in this aim, but my thanks anyway to: Mark Horton, Raymond Brock, David Mills, Norman Selway and Steve and Georgia Ray. Every error is my fault; but for their help there would be more.

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Foreword to this edition

We are proud and delighted to be associated with the North American publication of one of the most interesting and important bridge collections ever compiled. For a fledgling company to be able to claim as authors the contributors to this volume is heady wine indeed! 'The Complete Book of BOLS Bridge Tips' is a welcome addition to the *Master Point Press* list of bridge titles.

Ray Lee
Linda Lee
Toronto, 1998

Foreword to the original edition

This is Chess & Bridge's first venture into the world of book publishing.

What better way to start than with the definitive collection of the outstanding advice of the world's leading players and writers in the famous 'BOLS Bridge Tips' series? World Champion Sally Brock co-ordinates and links the ideas together to form a unique work of reference with something for everyone, from beginner to expert.

Malcolm Pein
Henry Mutkin
London, 1997

Introduction

When BOLS launched their first competition in 1974 I was twenty-one years old and an enthusiastic and ambitious young player. I was a voracious reader of bridge books, magazines and newspaper columns. I still remember the excitement I felt when I read something new and that was the case with many of the first crop of BOLS tips. The one that made a particular impression on me was Chagas's 'The intra-finesse' ([see page 115](#)). This seemed like magic to me. Here were holdings, say A8x facing Q9xx where I had always thought two losers inevitable if the king lay over the queen. Suddenly there were so many new possibilities. I probably lost an awful lot of tricks in my next few duplicates by trying out the intra-finesse at all available opportunities!

I was disappointed when the competitions ceased at the end of 1976 but it was interesting how often they were referred to over the next ten years or so. I was delighted when they started up again in 1987 and greatly honoured when, in 1988, I was actually asked to provide a tip. I felt I was being invited to join some bridge players' 'Hall of Fame'. They continued until 1994 and the standard of tips was remarkable even at the end when it may have been thought difficult to come up with anything original. Many of them have been adopted so universally that the plays themselves are now considered commonplace; some of them are put into practice every day. You can't watch a bridge match on VuGraph without hearing expressions such as: 'If he doesn't cover he hasn't got it', 'The five level belongs to the opponents', 'Eight never – nine ever' and so on.

The first three years of tips have been published previously as *Bridge Tips by World Masters*, edited by Terence Reese. Then the years 1988–90 were covered in *The Second BOLS Book of Bridge Tips*, edited by André Boekhorst. The years 1991–4 have not been published in book form. In my view all the tips contain such useful advice that they deserve to be published together, all in one volume, and here it is.

They have been divided into four sections: Tips on Bidding, Tips on Defence, Tips on Play and General Bridge Tips. Wherever possible I have also included some autobiographical material and a photograph of each tipster. In the main body of the book I have made very little reference to what year each tip was written or where it finished in that year's competition. I have tried to turn a series of articles into one book. However, the information about each year's competition is provided at the end of the book along with a simple index.

Part One

Tips on Bidding

Contributors to Tips on Bidding

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David Bird (<i>England</i>)	8
Larry Cohen (<i>USA</i>)	10
Jeremy Flint (<i>England</i>)	14
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Zia Mahmood (<i>Pakistan</i>)	17
Ed Manfield (<i>USA</i>)	23
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Since the bidding precedes the play, it seems a good place to start. The 'Tips on Bidding' cover a wide range of subjects: some general, some more specific; some for inexperienced players and some for old hands.

The first few tips all deal with the issue of whether or not to bid on marginal hands.

The very first, by Mark Horton, deals with the thorny problem of how strong a hand you need in order to respond to a one-level opening bid.

Don't be afraid to respond

Mark Horton (*England*)



MARK HORTON is in his mid-forties and of no fixed abode, such is the extent of his travel because of bridge. Originally of a legal background, he is now Editor of BRIDGE Magazine and no international tournament is complete without his presence as Bulletin Editor. As a player he has won most English tournaments and represented England in several Camrose matches; now he dashes all over the world, playing in and reporting on international tournaments.

ALL the textbooks tell you that you need six points to respond to your partner's opening bid. However, my advice is to bid as often as you can.

Why is this a good idea? Firstly, let's take a look at this deal from the 1993 Spingold Final:

♠ 7	♠ A 4 3 2	♠ Q J 10 9 5
♥ A K 9 8 3	♥ J 4 2	♥ 10 7
♦ Q 7 6	♦ J 10 8	♦ 5 4 3
♣ K 8 7 5	♣ A Q J	♣ 10 6 2
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> N-S Game Dealer W </div>		
♠ K 8 6	♠ K 8 6	
♥ Q 6 5	♥ Q 6 5	
♦ A K 9 2	♦ A K 9 2	
♣ 9 4 3	♣ 9 4 3	

In the Open Room the bidding followed a predictable course:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Deutsch</i>	<i>Nickell</i>	<i>Lall</i>	<i>Freeman</i>
	1♥	Pass	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Nickell made a good start with his opening lead of the ace of hearts but then continued with a low heart. Deutsch won with the queen and took a club finesse. He returned to hand with the king of spades and repeated the club finesse.

Now he cashed the ace of clubs and overtook the jack of diamonds with the ace. When a spade to the ace saw West discarding a heart, he exited with a heart to endplay West into leading away from the queen of diamonds, and so scored +600.

Had Nickell continued with king and another heart after cashing the ace, declarer would not have been able to throw him in and would have had to go down.

When the board was replayed West was not called upon to find the killing defence.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Meckstroth</i>	<i>Martel</i>	<i>Rodwell</i>	<i>Stansby</i>
	1♥	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	All Pass	

East's decision to respond One Spade left one of the world's best pairs with no obvious way into the auction. A misdefence allowed Martel to score seven tricks but with undertricks costing only 50 points a time he was on to a winner in any event.

So you can see that by responding on a sub-minimum hand you may make it very difficult for your opponents to enter the bidding – and even if they do they may not reach their best contract.

THERE is another compelling reason why you should strain to respond when your partner opens the bidding; it may enable to you to reach your own best contract. Here is a simple example:

♠ J 9 7 4 2
♥ 8
♦ 10 6
♣ Q 10 9 7 3

**E-W Game
Dealer S**

♠ 5
♥ A K 7 4
♦ A Q J 8 3
♣ A K 6

Here, 3NT and Five Clubs are playable contracts and Five Diamonds has its chances. On a good day you might even make Six Clubs! However, this all becomes mere speculation if North fails to respond to South's opening bid of One Diamond.

ON many hands a sub-standard response will allow you to reach a better partscore. Here's a typical example from a Wales v England match:

♠ 7
♥ 9 8 7 5
♦ 7 5 4
♣ A 10 7 6 3

**Game All
Dealer S**

♠ A J 8 5 3
♥ A K 6 2
♦ A J
♣ 8 4

North-South can reach a heart contract only if North responds to South's One Spade opening.

STILL not convinced? Here is an example from an international tournament in Holland:

	♠ K 5	
	♥ A K Q 10 9	
	♦ A Q J 7 6 5	
	♣ —	
♠ A J 8 6	E-W Game	♠ 10 9 2
♥ J 8 3	Dealer S	♥ 6 4 2
♦ 8 4		♦ 10 3 2
♣ K J 9 3		♣ A Q 8 2
	♠ Q 7 4 3	
	♥ 7 5	
	♦ K 9	
	♣ 10 7 6 5 4	

After two passes, both Norths opened One Diamond. At one table South was happy to pass but less cheerful when twelve tricks were made.

His opposite number responded One Spade and North rebid Three Hearts, in their methods showing a very strong hand with at least four hearts. South gave preference with Four Diamonds and North continued with Four Hearts. When South bid Five Diamonds, North reflected that his partner hadn't bid 3NT over Three Hearts and had failed to make a cue-bid in clubs. Having decided there were no wasted values in clubs, he went on to Six Diamonds.

So, there you are, as a steady and sometimes spectacular, points earner, my BOLLS bridge tip is:

Don't be afraid to respond to an opening bid.

This tip refers to the very specific case of responding to an opening bid. In more general situations opinion differs as to how much you should bid. The following advice suggests caution initially, but later...

Let the opponents tell the story

Aavo Heinlo (*Estonia*)



IT sometimes happens that you have a hand that is too weak to enter the auction on the first round, or maybe there are other reasons for an initial pass. Nevertheless you would like to know if you have a fit with partner. Often the opponents' bidding will provide useful clues and you can enter the auction later on.

length in East's suit, there was no reason to bid on the first round. So I passed for two rounds to hear what East-West had to say. Well, West showed fewer than four spades and East probably only one or two, so the 4-4 fit for us was established. It seemed that West had some stopper in spades as he made a game-try of 2NT, but what were they really afraid of? No doubt their real concern was diamonds so we must have a good fit in that suit as well. This left our side with only three possible losers, one in each suit except clubs.

My jump to game was a real shock to West and he was very quick to double. I ruffed the opening club lead, crossed to the ace of spades, ruffed another club, cashed the king of spades and started to cash diamonds. West ruffed the third diamond in anger and gave an overtrick by leading hearts. There were only a few positive scores on the North-South side of the scoresheet, mainly for defending against no-trumps, so +990 was really off the scale.

HISTORY repeated itself eleven years later. My partner, a guest from Finland, and I had agreed to bid naturally with four-card majors. This was the deal:

♠ Q J 10 ♥ A 2 ♦ Q 5 ♣ Q 9 8 7 6 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Game All Dealer E </div>	♠ 9 3 ♥ Q J 10 3 ♦ J 3 ♣ A K J 10 3	♠ A 7 5 4 ♥ 8 5 ♦ K 10 8 7 2 ♣ 5 2
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Love All Dealer N </div>		♠ K 8 6 2 ♥ K 9 7 6 4 ♦ A 9 6 4 ♣ —

♠ K Q 8 ♥ K J 7 6 ♦ A K 3 ♣ 10 8 6	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Love All Dealer N </div>	♠ 10 ♥ Q 10 8 4 ♦ Q 10 9 6 5 2 ♣ A 4	♠ A 9 6 2 ♥ A 9 5 3 2 ♦ J ♣ K 9 7
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Love All Dealer N </div>		♠ J 7 5 4 3 ♥ — ♦ 8 7 4 ♣ Q J 5 3 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	1NT	Pass	1♥ ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Pass	2♣
4♠!	Double	All Pass	3♣

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass	2NT	Pass	2♦
3♠	Double	All Pass	3♦

¹ canapé ² club fit

Inspecting my cards as South I found good distribution and some good controls but, with

Maybe 5-5 distribution and four high-card points are worth positive action in a natural system but I didn't like it at Pairs with a void

The winners

In the original three years of tips, only the first three places were made known publicly.

1974				Marks
1	Terence Reese	<i>England</i>	The discard tells the story	425
2	Gabriel Chagas	<i>Brazil</i>	The intra-finesse	384
3	Tim Seres	<i>Australia</i>	Give declarer enough rope	377
	Giorgio Belladonna	<i>Italy</i>	Hold up the ace of trumps	
	Charles H Goren	<i>USA</i>	Try the duck	
	Robert Hamman	<i>USA</i>	Build up a picture of the unseen hands	
	Rixi Markus	<i>England</i>	Lead low from a doubleton honour	
	Bobby Wolff	<i>USA</i>	Check out the distribution	

1975				
1	Jean Besse	<i>Switzerland</i>	Nurture your trump tricks	472
2	Howard Schenken	<i>USA</i>	Take your time at trick one	429
3	Pietro Forquet	<i>Italy</i>	Count the hand and then play intelligently	428
	Jeremy Flint	<i>England</i>	Consider whether to lead an honour	
	Pierre Jaïs	<i>France</i>	Extend your distributional signals	
	Jim Jacoby	<i>USA</i>	Beware bridge players bearing gifts	
	Anna Valenti	<i>Italy</i>	Don't rush to draw trumps	

1976				
1	Jeff Rubens	<i>USA</i>	Honour thy partner	662
2	Dorothy Truscott	<i>USA</i>	Show attitude to the opening leader's suit	618
3	Tony Priday	<i>England</i>	Practise the art of camouflage	514
	P-P Assumpção	<i>Brazil</i>	The secret is in the timing	
	Billy Eisenberg	<i>USA</i>	Play low from dummy	
	Benito Garozzo	<i>Italy</i>	Against a slam contract, attack!	
	Michel Lebel	<i>France</i>	Duck when you don't have the ace!	
	Sam Lev	<i>USA</i>	Third hand low	
	P-O Sundelin	<i>Sweden</i>	Be bold when you are defending	

It is interesting that none of the tips in the first three years of the competition contained advice about the bidding. Perhaps it shows that the emphasis has shifted over the twenty year period from the play to the bidding.

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1	Steen Moller	<i>Denmark</i>	Discovering distribution	476
2	Gabriel Chagas	<i>Brazil</i>	The value of small cards	312
3	Ed Manfield	<i>USA</i>	The five level belongs to the opponents	290
4	Hugh Kelsey	<i>Scotland</i>	Guard your honour	278
5	Pietro Forquet	<i>Italy</i>	Always be ready to change your plan	238
6	Terence Reese	<i>Great Britain</i>	Fear the worst	200
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1988				
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2	Max Rebattu	<i>Netherlands</i>	The high cards will be with the length	94
3	Bep Vriend	<i>Netherlands</i>	Look out for minus points	84
4	Dick Cummings	<i>Australia</i>	Avoiding the gong	78
5	Dirk Schroeder	<i>Germany</i>	Use the free space	78
6	Patrick Jourdain	<i>Wales</i>	Play off your long suit early	70
7	Phillip Alder	<i>USA</i>	Don't be impulsive – consider the alternatives	62

				<i>Marks</i>
8	Matthew Granovetter	<i>USA</i>	Picture the original shape	60
9	Sally Brock	<i>England</i>	Conceal the queen of trumps	50
10	Eric Kokish	<i>Canada</i>	Make the 'one for the road' a double	50
11	Jeremy Flint	<i>England</i>	Don't cry before you are hurt	48
12	José le Dentu	<i>France</i>	Tip for the pip	40
13	Alfred Sheinwold	<i>USA</i>	Don't think	34
1989				
1	Zia Mahmood	<i>Pakistan</i>	Roll over, Houdini	358
2	Tony Forrester	<i>England</i>	The power of the closed hand	336
3	Eric Rodwell	<i>USA</i>	Danger hand high	210
4	Terence Reese	<i>England</i>	Unfriendly play	189
5	George Rosenkranz	<i>Mexico</i>	Direct the opening lead during the auction	100
6	Sandra Landy	<i>England</i>	Trump leads	99
7	Rixi Markus	<i>England</i>	Keep it simple	98
8	Jean-Paul Meyer	<i>France</i>	Build your own algorithm	70
1990				
1	Gabriel Chagas	<i>Brazil</i>	Don't spoil your partner's brilliancy	323
2	Jim Jacoby	<i>USA</i>	Save the deuce	267
3	Derek Rimington	<i>England</i>	The king lives, long live the king	253
4	Kitty Munson	<i>USA</i>	The Trappist rule	234
5	Jens Auken	<i>Denmark</i>	The kill point	202
6	Barry Rigal	<i>England</i>	Defenselectivity	142
7	Joyce Nicholson	<i>Australia</i>	Move an important card	110
8	Anton Maas	<i>Netherlands</i>	Reversed splinter bids	87
1991				
1	Chip Martel	<i>USA</i>	Play with all 52 cards	430
2	Andrew Robson	<i>England</i>	Play a pre-emptor who leads his suit for a singleton trump	356
3	Berry Westra	<i>Netherlands</i>	Don't follow your partner's signals blindly	252
4	Anders Brunzell	<i>Sweden</i>	Don't relax when dummy is strong	182
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6	Bobby Wolff	<i>USA</i>	Your tempo is showing	152
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1992				
1	Eric Crowhurst	<i>England</i>	Second hand problems	382
2	Robert Hamman	<i>USA</i>	When in Rome	274
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