

antar on outract Eddie Kantar

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1. The Hall of Shame	1
2. Can you do worse?	2
3. Smile	4
4. To ruff or not to ruff	5
5. Sorry, got to think	7
6. Not so fast	8
7. Action hero	10
8. The third opponent	12
9. Be it never so humble	13
10. Why you lose at bridge	14
11. Now you see them, now you don't	16
12. Hands off!	17
13. A sense of occasion	18
14. Hell hath no fury	20
15. The biter bit	21
16. Loose lips sink ships	23
17. Too many bogeys	24
18. Think like an expert	26
19. A delicate deal	28
20. Way to go — down!	29
21. It's OK, I've got you covered	31
22. Art, not science	32
23. A glimmer of hope	34
<i>24. The female of the species</i>	35
25. Hard to believe, but	36
26. A fishy tale	38
27. Pinochle deck	39
28. The best-laid plans	41
29. Vive le deux!	42
<i>30. The winning bet</i>	44
31. Deep freeze	45
32. Beyond belief?	47
33. Writers' choice	48
34. Bellissimo!	50
<i>35. Back from the dead</i>	52
<i>36. Sleight of hand</i>	53
<i>37. Caught stealing</i>	55
<i>38. Show me the way to go home</i>	56
39. Dazzling deception	58
40. How bad is bad?	59
41. Timing	61
42. Rise and shine	63
43. Eight is not enough	64
44. Life or death	66
45. The Threepenny Opera	68
46. Spot the mistake	70
47. One to remember	72
48. One for the book	73
49. An exercise in trump control	74



	50. Go with the odds	76
$h_{1} \pm \pm$	51. Cross wordsmiths	78
Contents	52. A forlorn hope	80
	53. MVC — Most Valuable Card	82
	54. No problem	84
	55. A technical difficulty	86
	56. Minor-suit Stayman	89
	57. The exception proves the rule	91
	58. Experience shows	92
	59. It takes a genius	94
	60. A well-read declarer	96
	61. You be the judge	97
	62. The morning after	99
	63. Four for four	100
	64. Timing again	102
	65. Stranger than fiction	104
	66. Working without a net	105
	67. Six if by train	107
	68. 'Yes, I do have that many'	108
	69. No-one appreciates me	110
	70. Try it, you'll like it	111
	71. If you can't beat them, join them	113
	72. Cardiac arrest hand	114
	73. A thing of beauty	116
	74. Femme fatale	118
	75. How to Read Your Opponents' Cards	119
	76. Gold dust	121
	77. Those that do and those that don't	122 124
	78. Do what I say, not what I do	124
	79. Playing pro	123
	80. Going down by the book 81. A Greek gift	127
	82. A rare gem	120
	83. Bravo, Benito	130
	84. Horses for courses	132
	85. Mixed Pairs	136
	86. Listen to the bidding	138
	87. And you thought four wasn't enough?	140
	88. Why me?	141
	89. Conventional wisdom	143
	90. And hope to die	144
	91. I can dream, can't I?	146
	92. Count, count, count	147
	93. Hand of the Year	149
	94. Help me, partner	150
	95. No, no, look over here	152
	96. As good as it gets	152

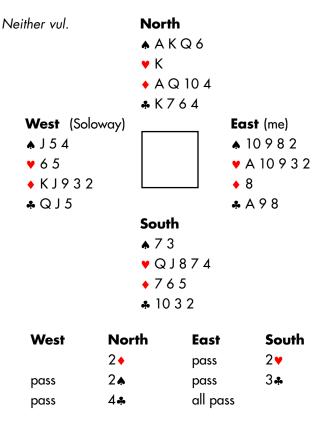
I have been writing bridge columns since my university days, and even back then I was ghosting syndicated columns, too (you don't want to know what they paid me). Then, finally, in the early sixties I got my own column in the *Valley Green Sheet*, a San Fernando Valley paper with a large circulation. Eventually though, after some years, the paper bought into a syndicate which supplied them with a bridge column, so out I went. Then I landed a column in the *Evening Outlook*, a now defunct Santa Monica newspaper. All this time I was still feeding material to several syndicated columnists who always seemed to be in need of another 'good hand'. The bottom line is that I saved all these columns over the years (never throw away a good bridge hand, there's always someone out there who hasn't seen it).

So the process of 'writing' this book was to read through all this material, toss out the losers and keep the winners. I wound up with about two hundred real winners; don't ask how many real losers I pitched. Then my publisher helped to refine the list even further, to the *crème de la crème* that you will find in these pages. There's been some discreet editing, too, of course: we all had a good laugh over the column that originally described Benito Garozzo as a 'promising new young player'.

In making the final selection, I hoped to combine equal amounts of humor and instruction, along with some great stories and great bridge hands. But most of all, I wanted it to be something people would enjoy reading. So — enjoy! Introduction

Eddie Kantar

Bridge players like to set records. Well, here's one Paul Soloway and I set that we would both like to forget.



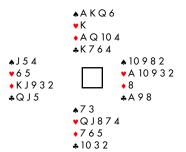
Opening lead: \$5

Are you impressed with the contract? Perhaps an explanation is in order.

North-South were playing a Roman 2 opening which showed a powerful three-suited hand with 17-24 HCP, the short suit unknown. South bid 2, telling North that if hearts was one of his suits, 2 would be a wonderful contract. North's bid of 2 showed heart shortness. South decided that it would be better to play in clubs rather than spades and bid 3; North didn't get the joke and raised. So now you know.

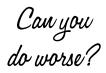
The best lead against one of these auctions is usually a trump so Paul decided to lead the five from the &Q-J-5.

The Hall of Shame

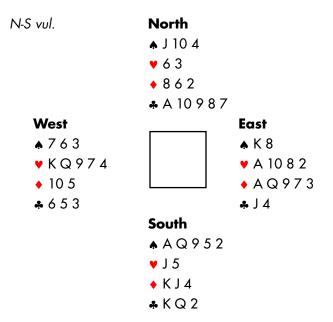


Dummy played low and I cleverly inserted the *8 which lost to the ten. At Trick 2 declarer led a heart to the king and ace. Never dreaming that Paul had underled the queen-jack of clubs, and under the delusion that South had four of them, I exited with the ace and a club.

And so it came to pass that Paul and I, with a combined defensive trump holding of the AQJ985, took one trick! Surely this record will stand forever. Oh yes, we still managed to beat the bloody hand one trick. Two people who had never played bridge before in their lives would have beaten it two or three tricks.



How many times has your partner started with ten tricks and ended with less? How does starting with twelve and ending with eight grab you? It's called a multiple compression play.



West	North	East	South
		1 🔶	1 🛦
pass dbl!	2 ▲ all pass	pass	4♠
Opening	lead: 🔶 10		

South, Harvey Cohen, Los Angeles bridge expert and stockbroker (in that order — until this hand) was faced with playing 4, doubled by West.

'What could West possibly have for his double?' mused Cohen as East rose with the ◆A at Trick 1 and returned the ◆9 to Harvey's jack. Certainly he must have the ▲K and a high heart honor, but what else? Well, if West has three spades headed by the king, the hand is hopeless. West will win a spade finesse and lead a heart over to East to get a diamond ruff.

Cohen hatched a plan. He would try to sneak a spade by West. Cohen led a low spade towards dummy. If West has the king and ducks, dummy's jack wins, a spade can be led to the ace and clubs started. If West has at least three clubs, one heart can be discarded before West can ruff in with the &K. It was a wonderful plan...

A low spade was led and when East won the king, Cohen turned purple. East returned a diamond, West ruffed and two hearts later Cohen was down 500. As the cards lie, declarer can actually take twelve tricks! Say Cohen enters dummy with the A at Trick 3 and takes a winning spade finesse by leading the jack. A low spade is led to the ace and when the king appears, Cohen wins the ace, cashes the king and queen of clubs and enters dummy with the A10, chucking both of his hearts on winning clubs.

Harvey swears that his advice on stocks and bonds does not match his play of this hand.

GENERAL INTEREST

Everyone's favorite bridge writer!

Eddie Kantar scores again, this time with a collection of some of his best pieces from more than forty years of writing. In this treasury of short articles, you'll find

- Great stories
- Great bridge hands
- · Some of Eddie's greatest bridge disasters
- Tips to help your own game
- Problems to test your play and defense

...and much., much more.



EDDIE KANTAR: World Champion, many times National Champion, Bridge Hall of Famer, is the author of dozens of books on bridge. He is a regular contributor to numerous bridge magazines, and frequent bidding panel member. He is also much sought-after as a lecturer and teacher, and frequently hosts bridge cruises. His most recent books have included *Modern Bridge Defense, Advanced Bridge Defense, Topics in Declarer Play* and *Classic Kantar*.

