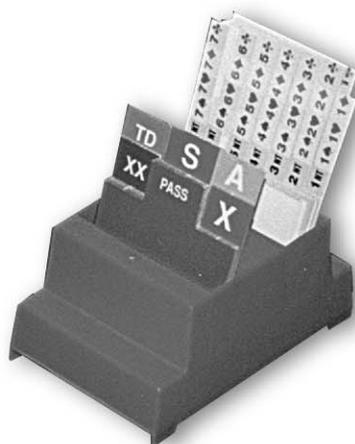


MICHAEL ROSENBERG

BRIDGE, ZIA

...and me



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To Edgar Kaplan, who represented all that is good and fair in the game of bridge. Through his writing and our memory of his words, he lives on as the most positive influence ever to touch the game we love.

FOREWORD

As you read this book, you will find, as I have discovered through some twenty-five years of friendship, that Michael has the most fascinating mind for bridge you will ever encounter.

It is a well known ‘secret’ in the expert community that, if Rosenberg can’t solve it, the problem is too difficult! So it is fair to warn you that this is not a book for the casual reader. I advise you to fasten your seat belt, for the journey will not be short — but it will be rewarding.

The scope will range enormously — he might introduce you to an innocuous-looking combination such as:

Dummy

♠ 10 5

	N	
W		E
	S	

Declarer

♠ K Q

How would you play 3NT on the lead of a spade? (Play the ten to confuse West as to the location of the nine.)

Or he might be showing you one of his fifteen ‘gems’ — frustratingly ingenious hands, many of which will give you sleepless nights. Some are so difficult that, even after reading the answer, I defy you to return to the book a week later and solve them!

As you read his story, you will soon relate to the author’s infectious love for the game. His views on ethics are frank and outspoken — but he makes no excuses for

dealing in detail with this often-neglected subject, for it is very dear to his heart.

All those who aspire to the top will not be able to do without this book, but it will provide the most pleasure for those who, like me, are happily addicted to the passion that is bridge.

Anyone can win a world championship! At the expert level today, the competition has become so fierce that there is little to choose between the top players and teams. (Just look at the results of the last ten years.) This truth makes it all the more amazing that, at the 1998 World Championships in Lille, there was one player with so great a reputation that it would have created a bigger stir if he had *not* won the gold medal, than he actually did by winning.

That player was, of course, Michael Rosenberg. That event was the World Par Contest, easily the most challenging event devised to date.

But, the label, 'greatest technician of the game' has a sterile sound, which does injustice to the versatility of his great talent.

Zia

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A FINAL WORD

MEETING ZIA

London, 1975

“Five spades.”

“Double.”

“Redouble!”

I was drawn by what Jack London (had he been a bridge player) would have named ‘the call of the slam.’ True, five spades redoubled was not a slam, but in some ways it was better, so I walked over to the table to see what was happening. The first thing I observed was a good-looking, dark-skinned young man — there was something unusually flamboyant about him.

The diamond ten had been led. Dummy was tabled, and this is what I (and he) saw: