

## ACBL “PLAY” COURSES

### Booklets and E-Z Deal Cards

The ACBL “Play” courses supplement the original ACBL Bridge Series courses. Each APlay@ course offers enough material for a teacher to present a four-week supervised play course with eight deals a week. These mini-courses were designed for students to practice what they have learned and to help teachers move their students to the next course and into duplicate.

The spiral-bound booklets that come with each of the APlay@ courses contain a discussion of the suggested bidding and play for each of the thirty-two deals. Each deal has a traveler showing the results when the deal was played in an actual duplicate game. The students love seeing the various results that are possible on each deal. Since many students don=t think they are good enough to play anywhere in public, using the “Play” course tools which simulate a real duplicate game, they are pleased to find that they sometimes get the best result. The “Play” courses are very effective in increasing a student’s confidence.

The APlay@ courses offer a smorgasbord of deals where the key to the problem is something studied in the course the students have just completed. The E-Z Deal cards for each course allow the 32 hands to be dealt at the table. In the Bidding (Club) APlay@ course, the deals are arranged by topic, so you can provide a structured review session of the material learned in the *Bidding in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* course. The first eight deals cover bidding over a 1NT opening. The next 16 deals involve suit opening bids and the last eight deals cover competitive bidding. Pointers for bidding and play reinforce the rules presented in the *Bidding* course.

The Play of the Hand (Diamond) and the Defense (Heart) APlay@ courses follow the material covered in the *Play of the Hand in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* and *Defense in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* courses. In these courses, the bidding, play and defense topics are randomly ordered to keep the more experienced students from predicting what the deals will be demonstrating. The APlay Course for the Advancing Student B 1" and the APlay Course for the Advancing Student B 2" offer more practice for students on everything learned in the first three courses. This extra practice helps prepare the students for their first course on conventions.

Pat Harrington has designed three “Play” courses for the ACBL that provide students with the opportunity to practice on material covered in *Commonly Used Conventions* and *More Commonly Used Conventions*. Sufficient practice is provided on each topic to allow students to thoroughly understand how to use the bids and conventions in a variety of situations, including when the opponents interfere. These booklets also provide the student with a summary at the start of each of the four sessions of the conventions demonstrated in the practice hands. For the teacher, there is a teacher manual for each of these three “Play” courses, available at the ACBL web site for FREE download.

These three courses are: **The Modern Notrump Bidding APlay@** course which provides 32 practice hands on 15 to 17 notrumps and a 20-21 2NT opening, Jacoby Transfers and using Stayman with transfers and slam bidding. **The Major Suit Raises 1 “Play”** course which provides 32 practice hands on weak raises of opener’s major suit

including Help Suit Game Tries and the “weak freak” bid, limit raises and using Jacoby 2NT as a strong major suit raise. **The Major Suit Raises 2 “Play”** course contains material covering Splinter Bids, 1NT Forcing and Drury in 32 new practice hands.

In addition to using the APlay@ courses as four-week supervised play courses, the deals can be played as a game if there are several tables of students, selecting a winning pair in each direction. The students may also use the cards and booklets to practice on their own.

Here’s how the “Play” courses work:

Students can learn bidding and the basics of play in the *Bidding in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* course,

Review it in the Bidding “Play” course,

Examine declarer play in the *Play of the Hand in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* course,

Review it in the Play of the Hand “Play” course,

Look at defense in the *Defense in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* course,

Practice what was learned in the Defense “Play” course,

Review everything that has been learned in the “Play” Course for  
the Advancing Player, 1 and 2,

Begin studying conventions in the *Commonly Used Conventions* course,

Practice in the Modern Notrump Bidding “Play” Course, the Major Suit  
Raises 1 and 2 “Play” Courses.