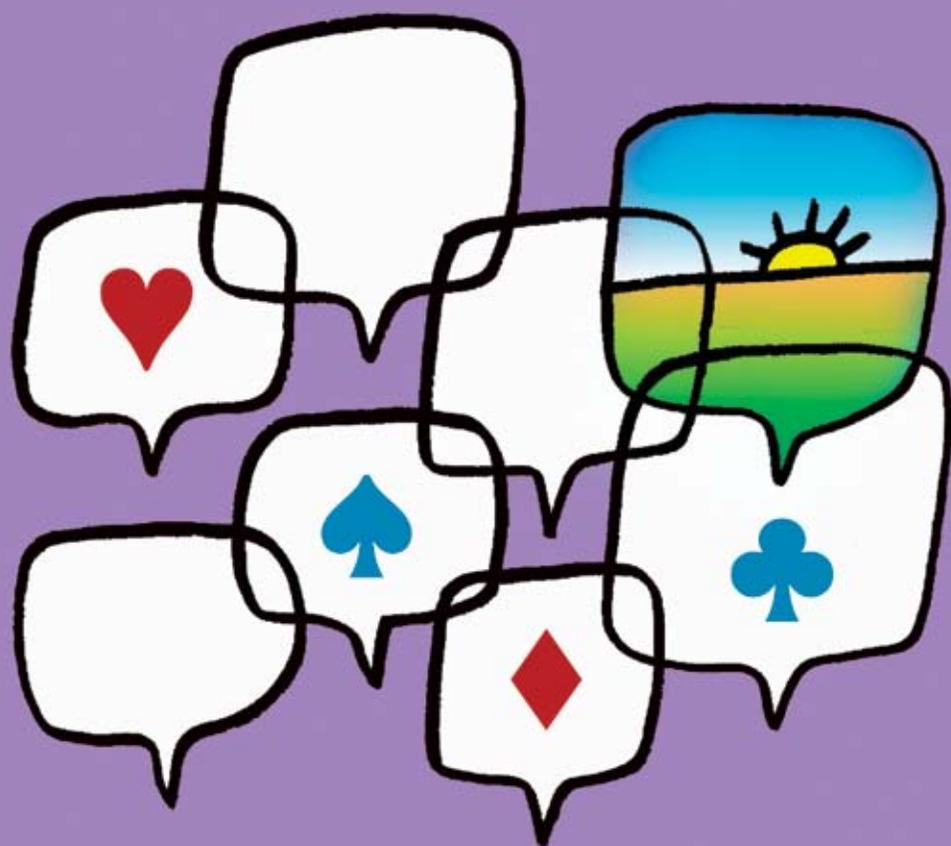


DECLARER PLAY AT BRIDGE

A QUIZBOOK

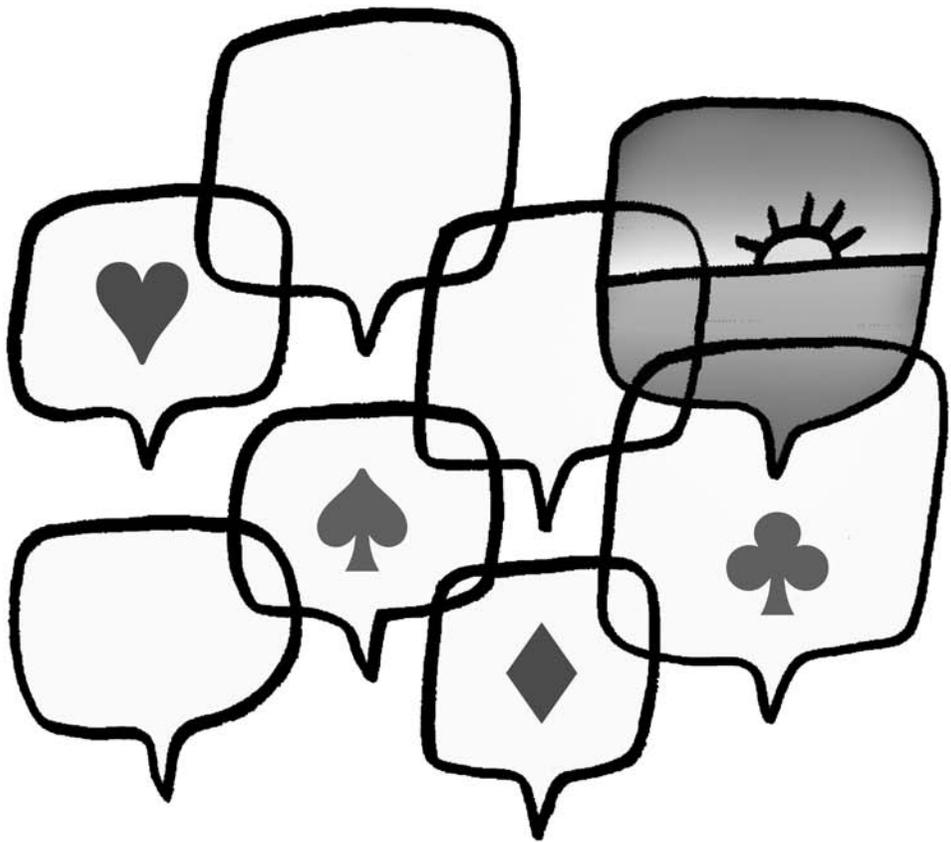


BARBARA SEAGRAM • DAVID BIRD

DECLARER PLAY AT BRIDGE

A QUIZBOOK

BARBARA SEAGRAM • DAVID BIRD



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FOREWORD

The problems in most bridge quiz books are difficult. Sometimes they are absurdly difficult and even expert players are forced to shrug their shoulders and turn the page to read the answer. Will that happen to you when you tackle the problems in this particular book? No! The solution to every problem is a relatively straightforward application of techniques such as ruffing losers, taking finesses and discarding losers. In the section on notrump play, you will also need to hold up stoppers and take some finesses into the safe defender's hand. It is very important that you make a plan for every contract. In particular, you will often have to think carefully about the entries that you need to both hands.

Perhaps there will be problems that you do not get right first time. Excellent! You will get them right the second time, also when you next encounter such situations at the table. Improving your game is the purpose of a book like this.

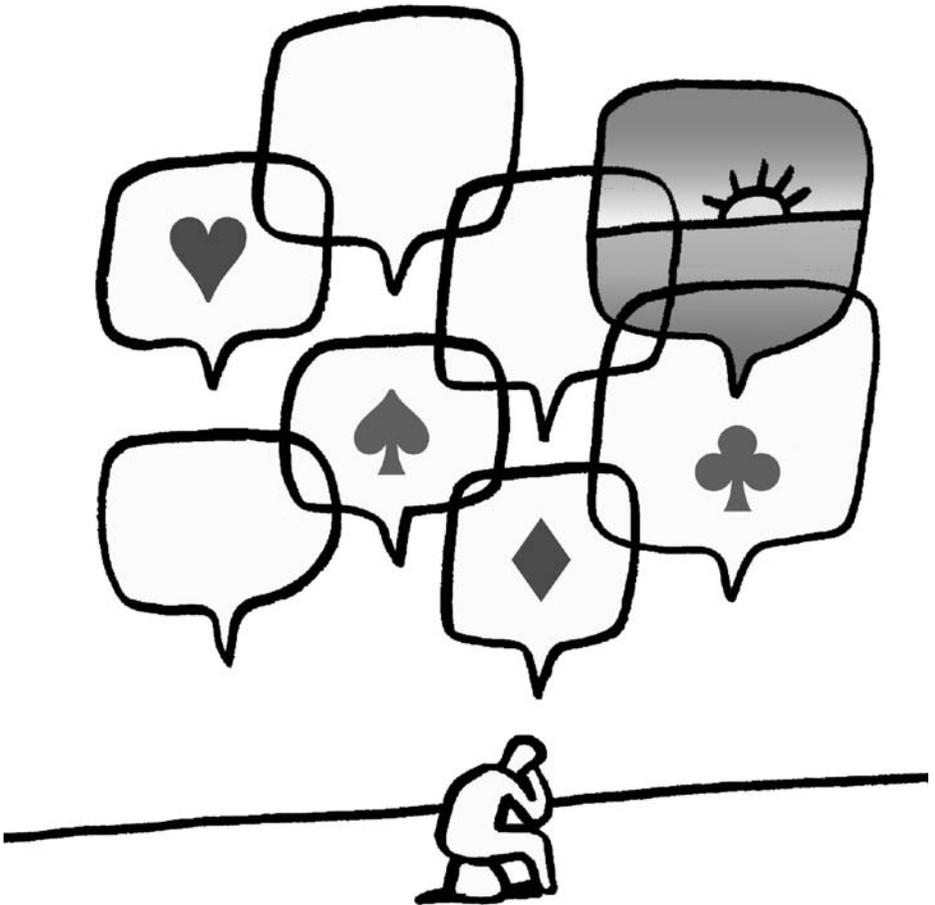
We address all the important basic techniques of play in suit and notrump contracts. Once you have mastered these, you can be sure that your play will be better than that of most of the players you face.

The time has come for you to attempt the first problem. Good luck, remember to make a plan at the start of each contract and... enjoy yourself!

Barbara Seagram and David Bird

PART 1

SUIT CONTRACTS



1

COUNTING LOSERS TO PLAN A SUIT CONTRACT

The best way to plan a suit contract is to start by counting the tricks that you might lose. You look at the hand with the longer holding in the trump suit (usually your own hand, as declarer) and — suit by suit — count the potential losers.

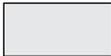
Suppose you are in 4♠ (played by South, as always in a bridge book) and have this diamond suit:

♦ 8 5 2

♦ A 10 6

You would make a note that you start with ‘two diamond losers’. The ace will win one round of the suit, but your ♦10 and ♦6 are potential losers on subsequent rounds.

Let’s say that this is your heart holding:

♥ K 9 2

♥ A 7 5

You have ‘one heart loser’. Although the heart holding in declarer’s hand (A75) contains two losers, one of them is covered by dummy’s king. You could score the ace and king on the first two rounds but would then have a loser on the third round. Although you look at the losers in your own hand (usually the long-trump declarer’s hand), you make allowance for any losers that are covered by honors in the dummy.

Perhaps you also have this club suit:

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THE FUN WAY TO IMPROVE YOUR DECLARER PLAY!

Planning the Play of a Bridge Hand, by the same author team, was named the 2010 Book of the Year by the American Bridge Teachers' Association. In this companion book, you get a chance to practice the principles on which sound declarer play is based: count your winners, count your losers, make a plan.

This is not just a series of problem hands, however. Each section contains a brief introduction to its topic, and the ideas are reinforced with carefully explained solutions and helpful tips throughout.

Improve your play and have fun at the same time!



BARBARA SEAGRAM (Toronto, Canada) is one of North America's leading bridge teachers. Her *25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know* (with Marc Smith) is the bestselling bridge book of the last fifty years.



DAVID BIRD (Southampton, UK) may be the most prolific bridge author of all time, with more than 100 books published. His most recent book for MPP was *Clever Plays in the Trump Suit*.

