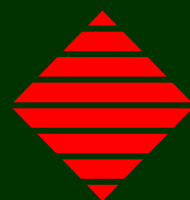


RUFFIAN



Spring 2019 Edition



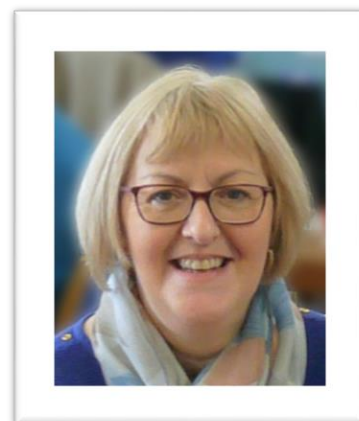
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A warm welcome

As new EBTA Manager, I am delighted to be able to share bridge news and stories with you in this latest edition of The Ruffian. I joined the EBED team in January this year, and I have taught bridge in Bristol for about 13 years. One of the things I love about teaching bridge is how I bump into people I have taught over the years and they tell how much bridge has changed their lives. A few days ago, I was walking along near my house and one of my former students who happens to live nearby, even stopped his car and walked back to tell me! He is now playing about three times a week. So, you can be sure that whatever your reason for learning, you can have a full diary of bridge games in your life and hopefully many new friends.



Very best wishes

Lorna Watson
Manager
English Bridge Teachers Association



Fantastic Weekend for Youngsters to Learn Bridge!

EBED Junior Teach-In: 30th August – 1st September 2019

The Junior Teach-In is EBED's annual residential weekend for young bridge players. There's something for everyone, from absolute beginner to members of England's Junior squads!

This is a two-night residential event with great teaching and fun competitions, with the main prize being the Arnott Davidson Trophy. This year the event will take place at the King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton – a venue with great accommodation and food which will be perfect for a packed weekend of bridge.

The whole weekend including meals, accommodation and all the bridge costs just £150 per junior, or **just £130 if you book before the 7th June**. For more information, contact David Emerson at david@ebedcio.org.uk or on 01296 317228. To book, go to www.ebedcio.org.uk/JTlbooking or use the Book Events part of your MyEBU page.



The Student Zone


We have a great new space on our EBED website for students

Enter the Zone

As a Student member of the English Bridge Union (EBU) you will have received a welcome pack including

- New members booklet ([click to download](#))
- Your EBU number
- The English Bridge magazine

Students can now log in with their own My EBU membership number and password to access our brand new Student Zone.



My EBU

Please log in

EBU No.

EBU No.

Password

In our student zone you can:

- Sign up to access a **free** 6 week trial of the full [No Fear Bridge website](#) content
- View bridge teaching videos created by an England International player. (Very handy if you miss a lesson).
- View archive versions of The Ruffian
- View archive EBU magazines

***Just click on the My EBU menu
at www.ebu.co.uk:***



Lots more content coming soon...



Try our Very Quick Quiz

What does the 2♥ bid mean in each sequence? (answers are on last page)

	W	N	E	S
1)	1♥	Pass	2♥	All Pass
2)	1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass
3)	1♠	Pass	2♥	All Pass
4)	2♥			

The case of the nasty split



Just what are the chances are your opponent's having all of the outstanding trumps? There is opportunity to use probability at all levels of the game. Here is our quick guide to the probability of card distribution.

Number of missing cards (i.e. those held by your opponents)	How they will split	Percentage of occurrence
7	4-3	62%
7	5-2	31%
6	3-3	36%
6	4-2	48%
5	3-2	68%
5	4-1	28%
4	2-2	40%
4	3-1	50%

Knowledge of how cards split will help you in your play. Very often we are playing with our 8 card fit and need to think about the missing 5 cards. The good news is that your missing 5 cards are likely split of 3-2 (68% of the time) with a 4-1 split only 28% of the time. A 5-0 split is a rare occurrence of just 4%. This table is just part of the story showing some common patterns. The chance of one opponent holding all missing cards (6-0, 7-0, 8-0 or 9-0) when you have 6 or more missing is just 1%.



Director Please!!!

Once you join a bridge club you will hear people shouting “Director”! usually in a loud and bold voice. You may think that it is best to just keep your head down and amicably sort out problems yourselves but trust me this can sometimes make things more complicated. It is always best to call the director and ask for help.

It is good to learn about the rules in your class but once you start playing in an organised session of duplicate whether it is in a Bridge Club or your village hall, then understanding a bit about the bridge laws is an advantage. There is no need to know them, as that is why the Director is there but this quick guide will help you to recognise when to ask for help by shouting “Director”!

Here are some common mistakes players make at the table.

- **Bid out of turn** – sometimes the wrong person bids. i.e. it is not their turn. The Director may ask the person their left if they want to accept the bid and give them some choices if they don’t wish to.
- **Insufficient bid** – You know that you cannot make a bid which is lower than a preceding but occasionally players do this by accident. Call the Director who will tell what your choices are to remedy the situation.
- **Revoke** – This is when a player does not follow suit when they actually do hold a card in the suit which was led. Sometimes this is the use of a trump card to win a trick when the player should have followed suit and could have. Call the Director as soon as possible as this can sometimes be corrected. The longer you leave this one the more complicated it is to sort out.
- **Lead out of turn** – Sometimes the wrong player plays a card when it is not their turn. It could be on the first trick, playing the *opening lead* or on a subsequent trick. You will need to ask the Director for help when this happens.



Be a good Defender – using signals

Almost all bridge players say that defence is harder than being declarer as you have to learn to communicate well with your partner. Here we look at

- Choosing a lead card
- Reading your partners lead
- Sending a “discouraging signal” High = encourage Low = Discourage
- Using a “Suit Preference” signal

Let’s talk about these defence techniques and how to use them:

You are East, on lead against 4♠ (or game in spades if you’re playing MiniBridge).

North simply bid and rebid spades, and South bid 2♦ and then 4♠.

♠	32
♥	AK
♦	762
♣	J97632

Searching for a good lead, the long suit club suit may not be your best option and declarer bid diamonds. Your two heart honours look certain but how can you defeat this contract? If you are fortunate enough to find your partner with the ♦A or ♣A, you could win the first two tricks in hearts, cross to their hand and they could lead you another heart to trump. If you lead the ♥A and ♥K, even if you manage to get to your partner’s suit it is difficult for them to pick up that you only had two hearts. For this reason, in a suit contract with a doubleton King and Ace, always lead the King and then the Ace, to give your partner this specific message. With any other holding you would lead the Ace first, so hopefully they will notice that something strange is going on when you play the cards in the “wrong” order.

♠	64
♥	86542
♦	A84
♣	1085

Here is West’s hand.

When you’re defending, if your partner’s first lead is an honour, you should play a low card from your hand if you don’t like that suit, or a high one if you do. So, after partner leads ♥K, play the

♥2 to discourage that suit. When they lead the ♥A next, you

should immediately notice that they have done something unusual in that they didn’t start with the top of their sequence of honours. With any luck, you might drag from the back of your mind that this shows that they **only** had the Ace and King, a doubleton. They want you to win the next trick, then lead them another heart to trump.

Tip:

Play Ace then King:

This shows a sequence and more than two cards

Play King followed by Ace:

This shows you started with just two cards

Since you have already used your first card to discourage hearts, your second card can show something different. You want it to be crystal clear to partner to lead a diamond next so that you can win that trick and give partner the all-important trump trick. Your second card can be used as what is called a “*suit preference signal*” to tell partner which suit you like. You ignore the trump suit, as it is very rare that you would want that suit to be led, so a high card asks for the higher of the other two suits and a low card asks for the lower. So if you play ♥8 second time, this time your partner should spot that as an *unusually high card* to throw away, asking for a diamond. Hey presto, they lead a diamond, you win the trick and lead a heart and the contract is off if your opponents both have three hearts (you will be able to see how many hearts dummy has which means you can work out how many declarer has).

Spotting these messages from when your partner does something unexpected when defending is the key to success.

♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠♣♦♥♠

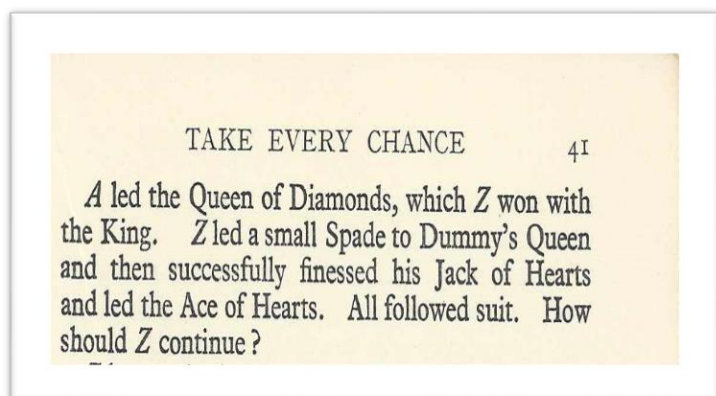
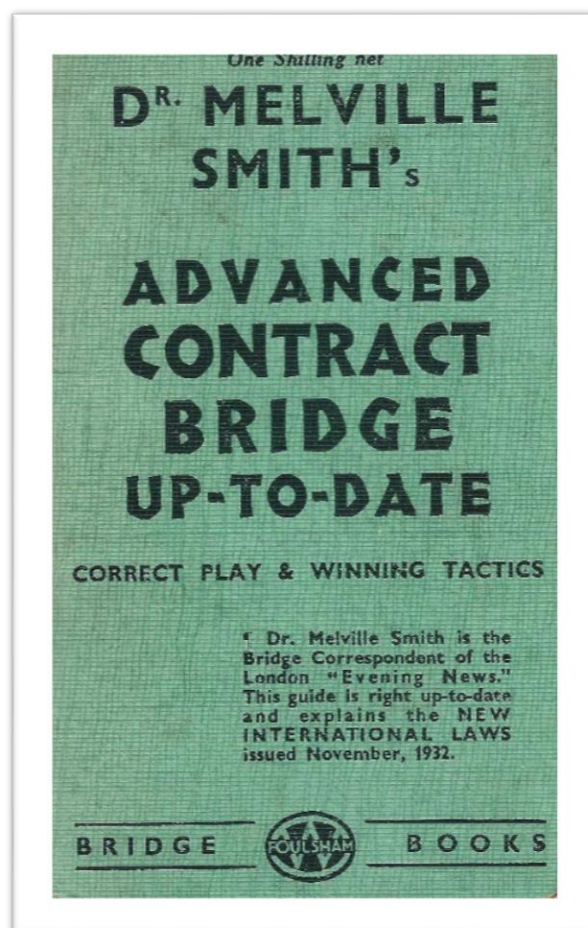
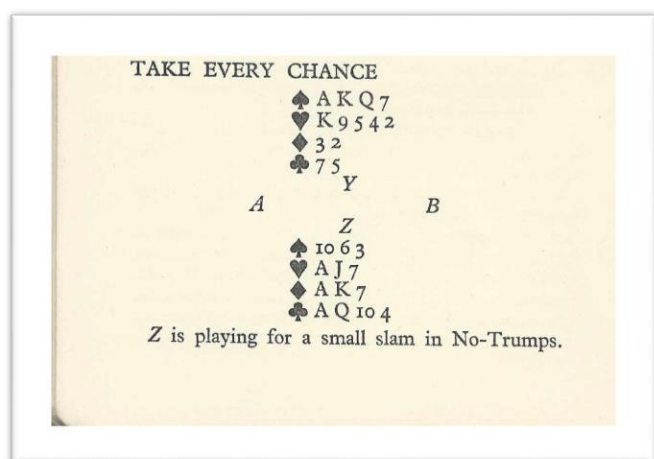
When West was A and South was Z

A little gem on the bookshelf is Dr Melville Smith's *Advanced Contract Bridge up to date*, published in 1932. This tiny book is just 62 pages and thinner than a pack of cards but has some advice which still holds good today. For the price of one shilling (1/-) you could read about opening leads, mathematical chances, and find out what a "grand coup" is! 1/- is 5p in modern currency but an average weekly wage was just a few pounds then, so books were expensive.

Terms in the Glossary include *Flag Flying* which was defined as "making a losing contract to prevent opponents getting game or a partial score". We just call this a sacrifice now. A *take out* was "making an overcall in a different suit or no trumps". We mostly use this term just for take out doubles now. A *Little Slam* is now better known as a small slam! A summary of the International Laws of Bridge is just 3 pages long! How things have changed

The big difference that any modern player would see is how the players' polarity is shown. We are all familiar with seeing auctions shown as West, North, East and South now so A, Y, B and Z takes some getting used to!

Here is a small extract from the book with slam playing advice.



Here's a little more from that slam by Z:

Z has made the first four tricks and can see seven more for certain—three Hearts, two Spades, one Diamond and one Club. That is eleven altogether, and he wants to try for a slam before parting with his Ace of Diamonds.

This is where Z should think again before hurrying to make his good Hearts at once to discard a Club and a Diamond. That is what many players would do. But he should lead a second round of Spades in the hope that the Jack will fall so that he may discard two Clubs and one Diamond.

	♠ A 7	
	♥ K 9 5	
	♦ 3	
	♣ 7 5	
A	Y	B
	Z	
	♠ 10	
	♥ 7	
	♦ A x	
	♣ A Q 10 4	

In that happy event, his ten of Spades is good and he leads the seven from dummy and makes his ten of Spades.

So, who was Dr. Melville Smith? It turns out he was one of the founding members of the British Bridge League.

THE BRITISH BRIDGE LEAGUE

The British Bridge League was founded in May 1931 by Mr. A. E. Manning-Foster, who was its first President and who has remained its President up to now. The Board of the League consists of:

President: A. E. Manning-Foster.

The Earl of Rosslyn.

Edward Mayer.

The Viscount Doneraile.

Dr. Melville Smith.

Lord Tollemache.

Capt. J. Dalton.

Sir John Rhodes.

Algeron Sladen.

Frank England.

F. E. Perry.

Admiral Sir Sydney Fremantle.

A. T. Hasler,

G. C. B., M. V. O.

and all Local Hon. Secretaries.

The aims and objects of the League are:

1. To unite Bridge Players throughout Great Britain and the Overseas Dominions for the advancement of the interests of the games of Contract and Auction ON A STRICTLY AMATEUR BASIS.



Events for Student Bridge Players

EBED, the EBU and many county bridge associations run bridge events specifically for players who are new to the game to give people a way in to regional and national competitions without having to jump in at the deep end. Why not find an event that suits you and make it a target for the end of the year or the future?



EBED Products

EBED supply books and other materials that can help your bridge learning. Special companion books with practice hands that can be used with your “Beginning Bridge” and “Continuing Bridge” books are available, as are a number of other interesting learning resources created by EBED and the English Bridge Union.



You can order online at

www.bridge-warehouse.co.uk

or telephone 01296 317217 to order from Lisa, our Education & Development Team Co-ordinator.



Share your good news! Do you have something to say?

- A story to tell
- Two or more generations learning together
- Did you win a prize?

e-mail us at info@ebedcio.org.uk.



Answers to Very Quick Quiz

	W	N	E	S
1)	1♥	Pass	2♥	All Pass

This response shows 4 card support for your partner's major and 6-9 points (HCPs)

2)	1NT	Pass	2♥	All Pass
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The 2♥ here is a weakness take out which shows a weak hand 0-10 points and a 5+ card heart suit.
(If you have learnt transfers then it tells partner to bid 2♠).

3)	1♠	Pass	2♥	All Pass
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Your 2♥ bid here, shows you have at least 5 hearts and at least 9 points.

4)	2♥
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Most players use an opening bid of 2♥ to show a weak hand with a good 6 card suit. Some players use it as a strong bid with 8 "playing tricks"

