ADVANCED TIPS

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<tr><td>1</td><td>In card play there is the rule "8 ever 9 never", whereby if you have only eight cards in suit and you are looking for the Queen it is best to finesse and if you have 9 then you play for drop. Larry Cohen has turned this rule on its head for COMPETITIVE BIDDING and the rule he has come up with is totally the opposite. In competitive bidding 8 never 9 ever- when you and your partner are known to hold only an eight card trump fit don't compete to 3 level when the opponents are pushing you up But with a 9 card fit then take the push to the 3 level- further examples of this can be found in his Bols tip</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>If declarer or dummy has bid two suits and you are strong in one of the suits then lead a trump. The reason for this is that declarer could very easily try and ruff this suit out and by leading a trump you are removing two trumps.</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>If you have made a limit bid, then be respectful and leave all decisions to partner - Don't bid again unless forced or invited</td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td>If you think you are in a good contract don't now be silly and go for an overtrick when making your contract is going to produce all the Match points. The corollary applies that if you think you are in lousy contract, maybe 3NT and you think everybody else will be in 4S making an overtrick, Now you have to go for that overtrick in order to compete for some sort of reasonable score.</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td>1. If you have Axxx in dummy and KJTx in the closed hand and you are looking for the Queen- try leading the Jack from the closed hand, and you will be surprised how many people will cover. If there isn't a cover come up with dummy's Ace and finesse on the way back</td></tr>
<tr><td>6</td><td>If you are trying to place cards in a CRITICAL suit and one opponent is already known to be long in another suit that he may have bid or led then in the CRITICAL suit assume that the same opponent will be short in this critical suit, particularly helpful when looking for a Queen and you have a two way finesse available.</td></tr>
<tr><td>7</td><td>Sitting over a KQT holding in dummy and you hold the Ace try ducking it more often and you will be pleasantly surprised when
a) declarer uses up valuable entry to return to hand to finesse again
b) he now finesses the Queen assuming the other defender had missing Ace and now you partner scores the Jack. If you go up with the Ace immediately declarer will have no choice but if you duck you give him losing option.
in situations like this
<table>
<tr><td></td><td>dummy</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>KQT</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>J54</td><td></td><td>A82 (you)</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>9763</td><td></td></tr>
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Now when the king holds declarer is bound to assume west has missing Ace. it is even more satisfying if you can do this with a doubleton Ace holding very SMOOTHLY</td></tr>
<tr><td>8</td><td>If you have shaky trump holding with maybe only 7 trumps between hand and dummy, try ducking a round and you will be surprised how less often you will lose control of the suit e.g.
with AKxx opposite xxx you have loser anyway so ducking can't cost and it can only gain when the suit break 42</td></tr>
<tr><td>9</td><td>Every time you make LIGHT OVERCALLS think of your bid as LEAD DIRECTING and then you will not overcall on trashy suits.eg
Overcall on AQxxx or KQTxxx or AJT9xx but not on Jxxxx or Qxxxx as it's meaningless!!</td></tr>
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<tr><td>10</td><td>If the opponents bid and raise a suit and stop at the 2 level be quick to bid in the Pass out seat eg. if bidding goes N E S W
1♥ NO 2♥ NO
NO ?
as East holding ♠ 865432 ♥ T ♦ A72 ♣ K43 compete 2♠
or holding ♠ 85 ♥ T53 ♦ KJ62 ♣ AQ74 compete 2NT UNUSUAL (believe it or not !!)</td></tr>
<tr><td>11</td><td>With a 6-5 pattern in touching suits, bid the higher ranking suit first if the suits are weak and you are minimum in high card points, whether you are opener or responder
e.g.♠ AQ764 ♥ J87432 ♦ - ♣ KQ open1♠ and then you will get the chance to show both suits</td></tr>
<tr><td>12</td><td>The 5 level Belongs to the Opponents. In a highly competitive auction when the opponents have ventured into the 5 level. - Let them be. You have probably pushed them to a level higher than they wanted to be and if you now bid on you run the risk of a penalty when their contract was going off.</td></tr>
<tr><td>13</td><td>Partner leads from his 4th highest and the bidding has suggested that declarer has a certain stopper in the suit, sometimes it is correct to withhold your Ace in third seat and play your Queen instead if you have it. If partner has led from an original King holding then your queen will hold and if not it will be much more difficult for declarer to now hold up. In fact it might be too dangerous to hold up. More details of this can be witnessed by reading Shmuel Lev's tip "WHEN YOU HAVE A HOLDING SUCH AS A-Q OR A-J IN THE SUIT LED BY PARTNER, DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY PLAY ‘THIRD HAND HIGH."
in situations like this
<table><tr><td></td><td>dummy</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>85</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>JT732</td><td></td><td>AQ9 (you)</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>K64</td><td></td></tr></table>Play the Queen. There are very few declarers who will duck this. Now communications between you and your partner will be kept open. If you had merely contributed your Ace at trick one. Followed by your Queen declarer will have no problems in holding up will he?</td></tr>
<tr><td>14</td><td>Playing Splinters is all well and good and can get you to good slams. But, also try and understand the inferences when partner doesn't splinter. If partners don't splinter then you know their holding is probably 5422 or 4432 as they didn't try and Splinter. Now you know there is much more chance that an outside suit can have 2 losers off the top. e.g.
♠ KQ98 ♠ AJ43
♥ AQJ52 ♥ K43 4 is limit of the hand maybe 5
♦ A2 ♦ K654 LACK OF SPLINTER
♣ Q 4 ♣ 32 should alert you to this fact.
1♥ 1♠
4♠
BUT with less points the splinter allows you to bid the cold small slam
♠ KQ98 ♠ AJ43
♥ AQJ52 ♥ K43
♦ A32 ♦ K654
♣ 4 ♣ 2
1♥ 4♣
Now you are certainly interested!!!!!</td></tr>
<tr><td>15</td><td>As declarer when an opponent has preempted assume that all the outstanding key cards such as any Queens and Jacks you have missing to be in the other player's hand, since the pre-emptor should really have nothing outside his long suit. Now a lot of your 2 way finesses will no longer be mere guesses.</td></tr>
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16	Elimination Play can be very easy if you practice it even on the hands where an elimination play is not necessarily needed. In order to put an elimination play into play you must follow the following guidelines. a. draw trumps. b. Take out a complete suit. c. Take out another complete suit. d. Now let them in and watch as they hopefully open in the crucial suit or give you a ruff and discard. Maybe an elimination play is not necessary but by getting into good habits when it does come along and you pull it off you will have a rather wonderful feeling!!!
17	If you do not know what suit to play next try holding up so that partner can give you a signal on the following trick!!
18	If between the 2 hands you hold A J T and 2 low cards and the opponents lead this suit against your 3NT contract there is no need to hold up as you will get 2 tricks in this suit if you are patient. Some players hold up when they do not need to!! e.g. J3 N Q9542 W E K87 S AT6 When the 4 is led and East contributes the king at trick one there is no need to duck. Try it and see!! If you duck you will only obtain 1 trick instead of your rightful 2!! T's and 9's are much more important than you generally think.
19	Don't be lazy MAKE NO COST CUE BIDS when you can. e.g. ♠ Q76 ♥ 76 ♦ AQ5 ♣ AQ32 After opening 1NT partner replies 3♠ bid 4♣ Cue-bid agreeing the Spades and showing MAX If you take this on board then every time your partner doesn't cuebid you will know they won't have an ace on the way!!
20	a) If you partner opens and next hand overcalls 1NT if you have 8/9 points then make a PENALTY DOUBLE immediately to show that you have balance of power. b) If you bid on after partner opens and the opposition overcalls 1NT you are now showing less than 8 points and could compete on all sorts of rubbish, either supporting partner or freely bidding your own goodish 5 card suits or 6 six card suits
21	If partner leads an Ace and there is singleton in dummy, then there is little point in making an attitude signal so make a SUIT PREFERENCE Signal at trick 1. Playing a very high card would be asking for a switch to a higher suit and a particularly low card would be saying switch to lower ranking suit. Don't be a slave to signals as sometimes partner is known to hold nothing on the auction so he might not be able to signal anything!!!!
22	If there seems to be no way to generate an extra trick, then try a dummy reversal, whereby the short hand will eventually become the dominating trump drawing hand because you have done sufficient ruffing in the long hand that the short hand now has more trumps than the long hand originally started with.
23	Even if you are not going to try an endplay it is often good technique to get rid of as many suits as possible from both hands before letting the opposition in and then maybe you will get a pleasant surprise when one of the defenders might give away a trick when they get in

24	Partner has led a suit in which you have a potentially blocking situation, so seriously consider unblocking at trick 1. Partner leads King promising Queen and Jack and you have A6, you need to play that Ace to avoid blockage or if partner leads the Queen and you have King doubleton again throw away that King on the King immediately.
25	Don't take your aces too quickly when you defend, especially in second seat even if there is a singleton in the dummy and you are afraid your Ace might disappear. Declarer will often go wrong when finessing if you are patient with those Aces you are not supposed to hold.
26	Covering Honours and not covering honours is not always easy. If you can see all the touching honours in dummy then don't bother to cover. If there are two touching honours you can cover the second one, but not the first.
27	In third seat try to hold back your honour to cover dummy's honour so in situations like this : Q64 T32 AJ9 K875 Partner leads the 2 and dummy plays low play your 9 and hope for the best. If declarer has all the remaining high cards it makes no difference BUT IF partner has the T you will now maintain two tricks for the defense rather than the tricks to declarer
28	Counting your losers as well as your winners sometimes pinpoints hidden dangers on the hand. Where you thought you had an easy ride suddenly you see that there could be a problem. Now you can act on it and maybe keep one of the opponents off lead.
29	A ruffing finesse is often better than a simple finesse, because even if it fails you have been able to chuck a loser whilst doing it!!
30	If you have to make a decision about whether to take ruffing finesse or simple finesse the decide which "nasty" opponent you don't want to get the lead and then take the appropriate finesse through them so, AQJT: a. If East is the safe hand and West the "nasty" opponent do the simple finesse. b. If West is the safe hand and East is now the nasty opponent does the ruffing finesse.
31	Playing Match Point Pairs, if partner offers two suits and the first suit is a Major promising five cards, prefer to give "False preference" to the first suit holding two cards in the first suit and three in the second. You want to be playing in the 5:2 Major fit rather than the 4:3 Minor fit.
32	If you think that there might be a chance that you will be over ruffed throw away a loser elsewhere instead-loser on loser. Now you retain all your trumps and the other loser disappears.
33	Before tackling trumps sometimes it is a good idea to try finesse elsewhere to decide how to actually play the trump suit. If your finesse outside has worked then you can take the safety play in trumps, if the finesse has failed then you might need to take a straight finesse in trumps too avoiding any possible safety play.
34	Don't double borderline part scores that might only go one off. If they make you have given away a certain bottom and if they go off you will still get a relatively good score.
35	If you drop high honour on partner's Ace lead it shows either a singleton, and, of course you could not help yourself or that you hold the honour below it. If partner leads Ace and you have QJ64 play the Queen and then partner knows you have Jack and if need be he could underlead his remaining King to get you in. (You are telling him you have an entry)
36	After the opposition makes an informative Double you as partner of the opener should now be prepared to make weak raises in openers' suit so now: 1♥ - Double 2♥ shows 4-5 points 1♥ - Double 3♥ shows 6-9 points 1♥ - Double 2NT should now show good raise in partner's suit

37	A direct raise of 1♠ to 4♠ or 1♥ to 4♥ should be done with WEAK DISTRIBUTIONAL hands two five card suits and no more than 6/7 points. The aim of the bid is two fold. Firstly, you might make the contract. Secondly, you might cut the opposition out if the contract might belong to them should they have the balance of points.
38	Don't finesse empty honours. If you have J65 opposite AQ42 lead the low one towards the Queen. Leading the unsupported Jack will just mean the opposition will cover to promote their T or 9.
39	If the opposition has found a fit at the 2 level make sure you balance as you cannot afford to let them make +110
40	Use Culbertson's Law of Distribution. If your hand and the dummy hand is very distributional with a singleton in either hand then expect the opponents' hands to be distributed strangely too. Expect your trump suit to break 3:1 and not 2:2.
41	Choice of ruffing finesse or simple finesse then it's probably best to go for the ruffing finesse because even if ruffing finesse fails you can still throw away a loser from the other hand while you are doing the ruffing finesse
42	If you have a vulnerable holding that you do not want the defenders to lead through eg K65 opposite 432 you do not want the defenders to be leading through your king (you want to be last person to play) so when playing other suits, try to lose the lead to the safe hand
43	When the defenders try to make you ruff in the long hand and seriously deplete your trump holding consider discarding instead and maintaining your trump length.
44	In order to keep communications open between your hand and dummy, when you have the Ace with two or three small cards facing a doubleton try ducking the first round of the suit.
45	Be prepared to hold up your Ace more often even if a singleton is showing in dummy. Declarer who might have KJ in the closed hand will very likely now finesse the Jack not expecting you to hold up. If declarer has all the winning cards (KQJ) by holding up the suit, it is not yet established. Going in with the Ace straight away just helps declarer out more.
46	Follow partner's defense especially if they make a strange switch. Continue their suit and get a pleasant surprise when they ruff because they switched to a less than obvious singleton.
47	If you do a direct cue-bid over their opener it is of course Michaels Cue Bid. However if you DOUBLE JUMP CUE BID then its saying please bid 3NT if you have stopper in opener's suit- I have good hand and good source of tricks. Maybe the bidding has gone 1♥ and you have ♠ K7 ♥ 54 ♦ AKQJ764 ♣ A5 You fancy your chances in 3NT as long as partner has a Heart stopper so jump to 3♥ now.
48	You have all winners left bar one try ending up in the closed hand at trick 12 and maybe the opponents will save the wrong card.
49	Dummy has a singleton and partner has led an Ace make sure you now give a SUIT PREFERENCE signal. No point in encouraging or discouraging or giving the count so best to say what suit you want your partner to switch to now ☺
50	Really stuck for a lead in No Trumps, and nothing appeals, then lead dummy's second suit and very often you will find a delighted partner sitting over dummy with a good holding in that suit.
51	Partner opens with weak 2♠ and next player says Double be prepared to rush the auction with jump to 4♠ and be disruptive further.
52	Fourth suit forcing says “TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR SHAPE” do you now have 5 or even 3 card support for one of my suits. Bid your shape out

53	Not sure which way to take you two way finesse with AJT95 in one hand and K832 in the other if the Jack is in the closed hand why not start with the Jack- you will be surprised how many people will cover (even if they shouldn't) and if they don't cover then go with dummy's King and finesse on the way back- it's not guaranteed but it's better than nothing ☺
54	=53
55	If you overcall then your side will be in a good position to know when to take a viable sacrifice- Why give them a free run?
56	Partner bids 4NT followed by 5NT confirming all key cards are held in the partnership and you have a good secondary suit such as KQ765 of a suit you can go directly to the Grand Slam now as partner is unaware that you are handing partner 5 tricks outside on a plate.
57	If you are short in opponents' suit by overcalling you are more likely to induce them to bid one more, defending 3♥ is better than defending 2♥
58	When you are strong in an Opponent's Suit you pass without any tracings, hesitation or for that matter any reaction whatsoever. so with: ♠ KQT86 ♥ AJ2 ♦ AQ3 ♣ 76 you PASS when they open 1♠ There is no other bid known to man or bridge player and don't even dream of bidding 1NT
59	Minor suit partials and slams are fine even at Matchpoints if they give you a chance of a positive score. Sometimes the field goes overboard and end up minus trying for un-makeable games or stop in Games when you are bidding onto the Minor Suit Slam. On the other hand Minor suit games are seldom correct as 9 tricks will materialize in 3NT when only 10 tricks were available in the Minor suit
60	Squeeze play is not particularly easy. So if trumps are not relevant why not play off all the remaining trumps and see how the opposition squirms and they might not be able to guard the crucial suit between them.
61	Not sure what to play next why not duck the Ace and declarer might miss guess where the Ace is
62	If opposition outbids you and the contract belongs to you don't forget to DOUBLE THEM!!
63	Partner leads an Ace and in dummy there is a singleton makes sure you make a SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNAL at trick one. There is no point in making any other signal now. So a high card will ask for a switch to the higher of the remaining two suits (barring trumps) and a low card will ask for a switch to the lower of the two remaining two suits (barring trumps).
64	If you play Trial Bids (see tip above) then this frees the bid of 3♥ or 3♠ to be used destructively. Therefore the sequence 1♠ - 2♠ - 3♠ is now used pre-emptively to distress the opposition and to stop them from easily balancing especially if your suit is Hearts and you no longer give them the breathing space to come in with 2♠. They might be reticent to do so over the sequence 1♥ - 2♥ - 3♥ ☺
65	To create a trick for partner by covering an honour played, partner will generally need to have three or more cards in the suit. If he is marked with less by the bidding it rarely pays to cover especially in the trump suit in situations like this :- Q 7 4 2 A K 8 5 J T 9 6 3 Here it would be fatal to put you King on dummy's Queen crashing partner's singleton Ace
66	Not sure if you hand is worth a 2♥ or a 3♥ response use the Losing Trick Count to sway you one way or the other. It often solves difficult decisions
67	To judge whether a hand is worth a Game try then use Tony Forrester's brilliant tip from Secrets of My Success " That if you can give partner two specific cards totaling 6HCPs and Game is a good bet then you should make a Game try by using a trial bid but if that is not enough then do not invite Game

68	You can support opener's suit with three card support if you have ruffing values or partner is promising five card BUT to SUPPORT Opener's SECOND Suit you should now have 4 card support since Opener's suit might only be a four card suit
69	Sometimes you will need to give FALSE PREFERENCE especially if you are playing Match Points so with: ♠ K J 6 4 ♥ 4 2 ♦ Q 7 2 ♣ 7 6 5 when partner opens 1♥ you reply 1♠ then partner rebids 2♦ you should put partner back to 2♥ because partner must have bid his longest suit and now you would prefer to play in the known 5-2 fit rather than the 4-3 fit as Hearts scores better than Diamonds +110 or +140 ids so much better than +90 or even +110
70	1NT - 3♣ or 3♦ reply of course is very strong Game Forcing BUT SHOULD DENY Four or five cards Major otherwise responder could have gone the Stayman route or a transfer route first so when partner opens 1Nt and you have prefer to use Stayman to begin with ♠ K 9 6 4 ♥ A 2 ♦ A K Q 7 5 2 ♣ 7
71	Partner jumps to 3 ♠ after you open 1NT and you have ♠ K 9 6 don't forget to make ADVANCED CUE BID and say 4♦ to show Diamond Ace and fit ♥ A 2 in spades. It would be very lazy just to go bidding 4 says you are very happy to have ♦ A K 5 2 a dialogue in possible slam ♣ 7 5 4 3
72	If an opponent voluntarily drops an honour then the other defender is twice as likely to have the other missing honour and using restricted choice theory you should now finesse the other player in situations like this :- A K 9 5 queen falls when you play the Ace- now disregard the J 8 6 Q eight Ever nine never rule and come back to hand T 7 4 3 2 and finesse West for missing Jack
73	You and your partner bid a Minor and the opposition overcalls in a Major. You still fancy chances of 3NT. Use DAB Directional Asking Bid i.e. you bid the opposition's suit looking for a stopper in that suit - if partner has the necessary stopper than can now bid 3NT.
74	If a Minor suit has been agreed such as 1♣ 3 ♣ then the introduction of new suit is looking for 3NT or possible slam. Partner with values in an unbid suit at three level to bid that suit so you can bid 3NT next. you have ♠ 6 4 ♥ K 9 4 ♦ A K 2 ♣ A K 9 8 7 you open 1♣ and partner goes 3♣ so now bid 3 looking to partner to bid 3♦ and then you can bid 3NT You do not really want to bid in 3NT with the opponents taking the first 5 tricks in Spades do you?

75	If you have strong support for opener's second suit and not sure what to bid next use fourth suit forcing as a means to an end ♠ A T 7 5 2 ♥ K J 9 4 ♦ A 4 ♣ 7 6 4 You reply 1♠ to partner's opening bid of 1♦ and then of miracles they rebid 2♥ you should now rebid 3♣ to see what partner does next.
76	Play the Gambling 3NT opening bid which shows a solid seven card Minor with no outside defensive tricks so with ♠ 5 2 ♥ 9 4 ♦ A K Q J 8 6 5 ♣ 7 6 Open 3NT and be an unfriendly destructive opponent.
77	With 11 or 12 playing tricks needing partner to have specific Ace Open 4NT which says NAME THAT ACE. so with: ♠ ♥ K Q J T ♦ A K Q J T 6 5 ♣ A K Open 4NT - if partner has Heart Ace and bids 5♥ you can bid 7♦ if they have no Ace (5♣) you can bid 6♦ and if they have two Aces (5NT reply) you can bid 7NT.
78	When declarer leads low towards dummy's KQT and you are sitting over dummy with A87 duck the first round when the King wins and declarer might very well finesse your partner again for the missing Ace and now you can put on the Ace and maybe partner's Jack will be promoted when the cards are around the table as follows :- KQT J32 A87 9654
79	Looking for a queen and you have a two way finesse available, if one person has already shown considerable length in a different suit (maybe they pre-empted or bid a suit twice or partner showed out in that suit, then they are likely to be short in your crucial suit where the finesse needs to be taken and the longer hand is twice as likely to have the Queen, so, if in doubt and for no other reason, finesse that person for the missing Queen.
80	Before committing to a play in a suit test the waters elsewhere. If a finesse in another suit is working then you may be able to take a safety play in the first suit. If it doesn't work then you may have to take finesse in the first suit as well.
81	You have top cards in one suit opposite a singleton but need to establish the suit, try taking one top card then ruffing a small card. The other top cards can always be enjoyed later.
82	When the bidding goes 1♥ 2♣ NO NO then it is incumbent on Opener to reopen the bidding at all costs with a Double, especially if they have just one or two Hearts. Partner might just be waiting to say Double for Penalties and you will be doing it for him!!!!!
83	When the bidding has gone 1♠ 2♣ NO NO it is incumbent on Opener to reopen the auction at all costs with a DOUBLE especially if they have 1 or less clubs. Partner could easily be waiting to CONVERT your reopening Double.
84	Try to RUFF with the WEAKER trumps and use the TOP TRUMPS for DRAWING TRUMPS
85	Defend Slams by attacking while Game contracts can be defended passively.

86	Don't be a slave to Signals THINK FOR YOURSELF - don't stop thinking when partner signals see Barry Westra's Bols (53) tip (1) don't follow partner's signals blindly
87	Once the opponents have opened with a weak 2 or a weak 3 if you overcall then you cannot pre-empt too. All your bids should be up to scratch. You can't pre-empt a pre-emptor
88	If you have an overwhelming amount of trumps in one hand then look for a trump reduction play to generate an extra trick particularly if you are unable to finesse an opponent's trump Queen or King.
89	A defender with trumps (maybe 4 or more) should not attempt to shorten his trumps. In fact he should try and shorten declarer's trumps by leading and persevering with his long suit as much as he can.
90	Not sure what to discard throw away what you don't want and woe betide the partner who gets in and plays that suit back J.
91	After an Opening bid of 4♠ Double should be for penalties and 4NT should be Take-out but over other 4 Openers Double should be take-out - if agreed you and your partner might ;like to play it the other way around but you do need to agree it beforehand.
92	Doubles of freely bid slams and 3NT contracts should be LIGHTNER DOUBLES calling for an unusual lead- if you think you can defeat the contract by one trick any way and do not want an unusual lead then don't double otherwise partner will lead the wrong suit and the contract might still make. (No good being greedy for one trick)
93	If as a Passed hand you jump in a new suit this says I have a FIT in YOUR SUIT and a fairly reasonable hand that was almost an Opener in first place.
94	As partner of the overcaller (the advancer), adopt COMPETITIVE DOUBLES to show good values and interest in the remaining suits especially if responder has only just given a mediocre weak reply in Opener's suit in situations like this :- N E S W 1♥ 2♦ 2♥ DBL Double will now show 8+ points and interest in Spades and clubs, the unbid suit
95	As dealer try and Open the bidding especially if you want a suit led ♠ A T 6 ♠ Q J T ♥ 8 or ♥ K J 9 5 4 ♦ K 9 3 ♦ A 8 7 6 ♣ K J 9 8 6 2 ♣ T Do not hesitate. You should open as dealer on both hands.
96	Playing 5 card Majors even if you have a fit in the Major with 4333 hand you can still sometimes rebid 2NT or 3NT as there might be no advantage to being in No Trump
97	In desperate situations don't telegraph your problem to the opponents or they will punish you with a double or bid and find their best contract, If you are really courageous with ♠ J 5 ♥ 4 3 ♦ Q 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ 8 7 2 reply 3NT immediately to partner's 1NT (weak) Last person will find it hard to double or compete with 14 points ☺ see Jeremy Flint's Bols Tip Don't Cry Before you are hurt
98	Instead of overruffing try discarding a loser elsewhere and then set up your ruff in a different suit later. a) you cut down the risk of a trump promotion b) you keep control of the trump suit

99	Partner makes a trial bid of 2♠ over the sequence 1♥ 2♥ if you cannot help in the Trial Bid suit you should of course retreat to 3 of the agreed suit BUT IF you can show some other feature that is less than 3 of the agreed suit then attempt to show it so ♠ T 5 or ♠ 9 4 ♥ Q 8 6 5 ♥ K J 9 5
100	Avoid 2NT reply showing 11/12 points balanced as it's a horrid stifling reply. Adopt Jacoby 2NT reply which shows a good hand and a fit and asks partner to show shortage.
101	In 4th seat with 17/18 points PASS when the bidding comes around to you 1♥ NO 2♣ ? as you know opener has 13 points and responder has good 8+ points so your partner has Zilch- can you remember to say No0 Bid under these circumstances
102	If you can give declarer enough rope he might hang himself- so with J105 in dummy you see 962 drop the J10 and if declarer has AKQ2 in closed hand he might think the suit is breaking badly and play low to the 9 and waste an entry unnecessarily. For more details on this tip and the whole hand where declarer goes wrong see "Give Declarer Enough Rope by Tim Seres" (1)
103	You are not sure what to bid after there has been intervention over your partner's Opener then NEGATIVE DOUBLE is probably the answer so if the bidding goes N E S W 1♣ 1♦ ? and you, North, have ♠ Q 7 6 2 ♥ A K 6 5 ♦ 5 4 ♣ A 8 Bidding in a new suit is unlimited and forcing and so is a Negative Double.
104	If partner Overcalls and you have good fit and 10 or more points then use UCBS Unassuming Cue Bids so with ♠ Q 7 6 ♥ 8 2 ♦ A K 7 4 3 ♣ K 9 8 Bid 2♥ when partner has overcalled their 1♥ bid with 1♠. The corollary of this is that if you actually raise partner's suit you will be weak - see Intermediate Tip 104 above
105	Choice between a ruffing finesse and a simple finesse most of the time its correct to go with ruffing finesse because even if it's wrong you are ditching a loser from the other hand. Also when considering a ruffing finesse and simple finesse you should check who the safe hand is and who the danger hand when doing so is.
106	If you have a good hand and partner has bid 2 suits do not just give support for the second suit create a forcing bid of some sort- best way to do this most of the time is to bid Fourth Suit Forcing.
107	If you want to play simple two suited overcall over their 1♣ Opening bid then you could try Truscott defense to 1♣ where each suit bid shows that suit and the suit above it and it works like this 1♦ = Diamonds and Hearts
108	With K54 opposite 632 or Q54 opposite 632 Arrange to be last person to play and not the second with either your King or Queen. This is known as an avoidance play. You need to let the lead come all the way around to your king or Queen to give it some chance of making.

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<tr><td>109</td><td>A Reverse is forcing for one round and cannot be Passed. However bad your hand is, you must either give preference to partner's first suit, raise partner's second suit, repeat your suit or bid NT with a sub minimum hand, but you cannot Pass.</td></tr>
<tr><td>110</td><td>If the opponents come in on your auction, and you would still like to be in No Trumps and are worried about their suit use DAB (Directional Asking Bid) by bidding their suit asking partner to bid No Trumps with at least Qxx or Jxx in the opposition's suit as you have half a stopper yourself.</td></tr>
<tr><td>111</td><td>When using the 4th suit forcing convention prefer to bid out your distribution rather than bidding NT, just because you have stopper in the 4th suit so with
<table>
<tr><td>♠</td><td>A Q 6 4 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>♥</td><td>Q 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>♦</td><td>K Q 9 4 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>♣</td><td>2</td></tr>
</table>
1♠ 2♣
2♦ 2♥
after the bidding has gone: prefer to bid 3♦ showing 5-5 shape rather than 2NT just because you have ♥Q</td></tr>
<tr><td>112</td><td>In 3rd and 4th seats after partner has Passed you can pre-empt 4 of a MAJOR* suit with a good hand if you no longer think Slam is possible.</td></tr>
<tr><td>113</td><td>If there is a choice between taking finesse (50% chance) or playing for a dummy reversal - needing their trumps to break 3-2 (68% chance) - then take the dummy reversal line for your extra trick.</td></tr>
<tr><td>114</td><td>Once the auction is underway what suit do you bid next with these 4441 hands- bid the suits up the line.</td></tr>
<tr><td>115</td><td>In a competitive auction whereby you have decided to take a sacrifice, if you want a different suit led to the one that you are both bidding then bit in on the way if you can bid 5♣ before going on to 5♥ (the agreed common suit) if Clubs is the suit you want led.</td></tr>
<tr><td>116</td><td>When they Double you try and alternative another contract might be better. Don't lie Down and</td></tr>
<tr><td>117</td><td>With two way finesse available with AT54 opposite KJ32 lead the Jack from the closed hand and see if you can tempt a cover from the opposition.</td></tr>
<tr><td>118</td><td>If you have already made a limit bid DO NOT BID AGAIN - that's completely undisciplined- leave it up to partner</td></tr>
<tr><td>119</td><td>Because so many players are now playing wide ranging 2NT rebids to show 17-19 points and they might have opened 2NT with 20 then a rebid of 3NT to show a traditionally Balanced 19 points is almost redundant therefore it is recommended that after a sequence 1♣ – 1♥ a rebid of 3NT should be on a hand with a long Minor and a great source of tricks such as:
♠ K J 5
♥ 7 3
♦ K 7
♣ A K J 8 7 5</td></tr>
<tr><td>120</td><td>If you think partner has led from shortage, maybe a Doubleton don't rush to go in with your Ace. If you wait one round and partner plays the suit again now you can take the Ace and now give him his ruff.</td></tr>
<tr><td>121</td><td>VERY occasionally you can overcall at the One Level with a four card suit if the suit is headed by AKQ or KQJ - it would meet the Suit Quality Test (honours plus cards in suit need to equal tricks required i.e. 4+3 =7) and would suggest a good lead to partner. What you lack in length you certainly make up for in quality,</td></tr>
<tr><td>122</td><td>Don't be Afraid to respond Bid 1♠ with:
<table>
<tr><td>♠</td><td>Q J T 9 5</td></tr>
<tr><td>♥</td><td>T 7</td></tr>
<tr><td>♦</td><td>5 4 3</td></tr>
<tr><td>♣</td><td>T 6 2</td></tr>
</table>
And watch how Standby and Martel kept the opponents out of a cold 3NT contract.</td></tr>
</table>

123	If you want to win the first trick and partner has bid and you have K62 in partner's suit lead the unsupported King and hope partner has the Ace
124	If in Doubt, at all costs, Try to re-open auctions with a Double just in case partner is lurking with a Penalty Double in situations like this ♠ A K 9 8 6 3 ♥ Q 9 8 ♦ K J 9 ♣ 5 3 N E S W 1 ♠ 2♣ NO NO DBL rather than just repeating 2♠
125	After a 2♣ Opener, if partner makes any sort of positive bid then slam is likely and thereafter you should BID SLOWLY to get the best out of your auction. You only bid quickly when you know where the hand is going
126	You are involved in a very competitive auction and are about to take a save in against their 4♠ contract but you want a Diamond led then bid 5♦ on the way, as a lead directing action, just in case the opposition do in fact take the push to 5♠
127	An essential key to competitive bidding is for the hand with shortness in the opponents suit to take action and either Double or id a suit rather that passively Passing,
128	Playing MP Pairs, Partner offers you two suits, sometimes you will have to give false preference to the Major suit rather than playing in a possible 4-3 fit so with, especially as the Major suit scores better ♠ 9 5 after bidding has gone 1♠ NO 1NT NO ♥ 5 3 2 2♦ NO ? ♦ Q J 5 ♣ K J 7 5 4 you must now bid 2♠ just about preferring to play in 5-2 Spade fit
129	If you are playing transfers and a weak No Trump consider breaking transfers in the following manner after 2♦ and 2♥ transfer (with your regular partner after a full discussion) :- a) with a Fit and a minimum hand raise the agreed suit to the three level pre-emptively b) with a fit and a Maximum hand and 4333 bid 2NT c) with a fit and 4432 bid 3 of your Doubleton and partner can then judge where the best contract will be.
130	Don't give the correct count in a suit if you think it will be helping declarer more than it will help partner- weigh up your opponent. So with K762 play the 2 (normal count showing odd) if your method is count and you think declarer is watching hard.
131	Your partner makes a Lead of an Ace and in dummy there is a singleton, when you follow suit at trick one make sure you play a SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNAL on partner's lead. There is no point in encouraging or discouraging. There is no point in giving the count. BUT there is a lot of point in saying what suit your partner should switch to at trick 2. If you follow with a lowish card you want the lowest suit (excluding the trump) and if you follow with a highish card you want the higher suit again barring the trump suit
132	Looking for the opponents Queen and not sure which way to finesse in a situation like this :- (2 way finesse) ?????? AJT54 opposite K932 ???????? Where you can finesse either player for the missing Queen then try playing a Jack from the closed hand.

	Since so many people cover honours with honours even when they shouldn't if the Queen appears (great) and if it doesn't go up with the King and finesse on the way back the other opponent - More on this from Zia's Tip (2)
133	A short suit lead is a good lead if you have trump control such as A65 in the trump suit.
134	If you make a Weak two in Spades against their 4♥ contract with the following hand and want to indicate what you want played next try making a suit Preference signal with your lead. ♠ K J 8 6 4 2 ♥ Q 7 2 ♦ 6 4 ♣ A Q 2 lead ♠2 to ask for a Club Switch, if you had wanted Diamonds you would lead the ♠8
135	Whenever declarer appears to have no more losers remaining in the side suits (suits other than trumps) then the defenders should try and create an extra trick from an UPPERCUT (trump promotion) if there is any chance of defeating the contract.
136	Your partner leads an Ace and in dummy there is a singleton remember to give a suit preference signal at trick one on the first trick. So if partner leads the Heart Ace against 4♠ if you hold ♠ 9 2 Play the 9 to say you want partner to switch to a Diamond ♥ 9 7 2 ♦ A K 9 4 ♣ 7 5 3 2
137	If you do an immediate DOUBLE JUMP CUE BID of the Opponents' Suit it is saying I have great source of tricks PLEASE BID 3NT if you have stopper in Opener's suit so with ♠ 9 2 Overcall 3♠ when the opposition Opens 1♠ ♥ A 6 ♦ A K Q J 9 6 5 ♣ K 4
138	The only reason you should be repeating a five card suit is because you do not wish to bid beyond your barrier bid and you are not strong enough to Reverse. If this is not the case then you have made an incorrect bid from the off. You should have opened 1NT at your first opportunity and then you would not have this problem now.
139	If you are on the cusp of deciding whether or not to go onto a Slam, then as a secondary check, why not use the Losing Trick Option. Under these circumstances I find the Losing Trick Count comes into its own
140	Once either of you has made any sort of limit bid then after that. ALL DOUBLES should be deemed to be for PENALTIES. If you stick to this rule Two be tide any opponents coming in unwisely.
141	The reason you should count LOSERS as well as Winners is that sometimes this pinpoints where you need to be careful. Suddenly what looks like an easy hand could be problematic if the wrong defender got in and cashed a trick (loser to you) that you should have disposed of earlier in the hand.
142	If there is a chance that you will be overruffed, then don't ruff at all, but throw a loser instead. This is known as a LOSER ON LOSER PLAY and cannot cost. You are exchanging one loser for a different loser.
143	If you need an extra entry to dummy and there is not an obvious one then look to the trump suit itself so with AKQJT83 opposite 97 needing an entry to the right hand be aware of the power of that 9 and 7 and retain the 8or 3 to get over to it.
144	Leave a high trump in the short hand, usually dummy as you might need it as an entry to get to dummy later.

145	Only make a JUMP SHIFT if a) you have 16+ points and a self-supporting suit of your own or b) you have 16+ points and a FIT with partner.
146	ACTIVE AUCTION - ACTIVE DEFENCE, PASSIVE AUCTION- PASSIVE DEFENCE. If the bidding has confidently gone 3♣ 3NT you know they have a good source of tricks so you should be doing ACTIVE DEFENCE and probably leading an Ace AND SEE WHAT IS GOING ON. If the bidding has hesitantly gone 1NT- 2NT 3NT and you know they barely have 25/26 points between them then PASSIVE DEFENCE is key trying not to give anything away and certainly not giving them a ninth trick on a plate.
147	Your partner leads an Ace and at trick one dummy has just a singleton, you, the other defender must make a suit preference signal at trick one. You follow suit with a high card you want the higher of the two remaining suits (exclude trumps) and if you play a low one you want the lower suit so with :- ♠ 9 7 2 . ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ 9 6 5 2 ♣ A K 6 Follow suit with the 2 when partner leads Spade Ace and there is a singleton Spade in dummy. The Spade Two asks for a Club switch
148	1. Bid slowly when you don't know where the hand is going and you need to exchange information to get to the best possible fit. 2. Bid quickly when you know where the hand is going and you have found your fit. 3. Bid quickly with weak hands and a fit to take valuable bidding space away from the opposition.
149	Play off that last trump and be pleasantly surprised when the next player is being squeezed at trick 10 or 11.
150	Never make the 2NT or 3NT direct replies to 1 of a suit as they stifle Opener and there is always something better. If need be with a 4333 hand just reply 2♣ after partner opens1♠. Adopt a 2NT reply as Jacoby asking partner to further describe his hand showing singletons, extra strength and balanced hands.
151	Because a reply of 2♥ to a 1♠ Opener should promise a five card suit, Opener must always be prepared to support as soon as possible with three card support. If you do not do so, partner is entitled to think a) you don't have three cards support or b) you are getting to make a very strong reply in Hearts later.
152	You have a really good hand and you initially bid in a new suit and then partner bids a new suit in which you have a fit if you are not sure what to bid next then USE 4TH SUIT FORCING and then come back to partner's second suit
153	Don't deny a four card Major at the 1 level however bad it is so with ♠ 6 5 4 3 Reply 1♠ when partner opens 1♣ ♥ J 8 you can always come back to Clubs later if ♦ 4 3 needs be ♣ K Q 6 3 2
154	SHAPE is KING – don't worry about points when you have six and seven card suits or 65 shaped hands BID ON even if partner saying Nothing

155	If on one hand there is a 4-4 fit available and a 5-4 fit available play in the 4-4 fit and then after you have drawn trumps you will be able to get a discard from the five card suit, and make more tricks. If you play in the 5-4 fit there will be no useful discards afterwards ♠ A K 7 6 4 ♠ Q 7 6 4 ♥ A K 8 6 ♥ Q J 6 4 ♦ A 2 ♦ 9 5 ♣ K 6 ♣ Q 6 4 you can make 6♥ but one down in 6♠ you don't get the losing Diamond away on 5th Spade when played in Spades
156	When there is a choice between a ruffing finesse and a simple finesse most of the time it is correct to take a ruffing finesse. The reason for this is because even if it doesn't work you can throw a loser away while you are performing the ruffing finesse
157	Active Auction Active Defence Passive Auction Passive Defence, - if you think the opponents have bid confidently and they have long side suit to cash then ATTACK and lead from a suit such as Q876 or K765 to try and build tricks from these holdings. But if they have bid hesitantly and just have their 25/26 points in a 3NT contract lead passively and try to give nothing away.
158	With AJT9 in closed hand and K753 in dummy looking for Q why not play the Jack from closed hand and see if you can induce a Cover. If they don't cover go up with the King and finesse on the way back.
159	Consider Using Unassuming Cue Bids (3) in all seats. Originally they were devised for overcaller's partner but responder can use them too. This frees up all raises in same suit by partner in both these positions as Pre-emptive.
160	Short of entries over to your dummy or hand, try ducking a round retaining the Ace in dummy in situations like this where there is no outside entry AQ765 K93 J42 T8 Play low on from South and from North and when you next regain the lead now take a finesse through West and hope suit breaks well for you if it's your only road to success.
161	If dummy has a good suit, (with no outside entries) and it will run and there is still one trump out even if it's higher than all yours still draw that trump. You do not want to be in the invidious position where the opposition ruffs your winner in dummy and you are unable to get back to dummy
162	If somebody hesitates and doesn't have the Queen this is cheating. However instead of getting into a flap about it, use it to your advantage. If they hesitate they don't have the missing Queen or Jack you are looking for in two way finesse positions and finesse the other person. If you suspect your opponent is a hesitator but are not sure, then play a suit where you have all the missing cards, as if you are finessing and see if they hesitate. After that you can actually play your problem suit and know which player is likely to hesitate when you need to make that all important two way finesse.
163	If partner has not Splintered when they could have done so then don't expect them to have a singleton If the bidding has gone 1♥ 1♠ 4♠ then partner is likely to hold ♠ Q J 9 5 ♥ A K 9 7 2 ♦ K 3 ♣ A J (NB People are always saying Splinters don't come up but the implications of not splintering when you could have done so are just as important)

164	When you have no trumps left in the dummy to finesse then you will have to resort to a trump coup - this is where you ruff enough times that you bring down your length to the same length as the opponent who has the missing card you are trying to finesse. and then you lead towards the honour you are trying to promote so with Spades as trumps these are the last four cards aim to end up in North North ♥ 9 5 3 2 Mean Opponent ♠ J 9 8 5 South ♠ A K Q T
165	If you bid a new suit when REPLYING, after intervention, you are showing a five or more card suit. If you only have four card suit then you should be employing a Negative Double instead.
166	With KQT5 opposite A632 play off the King first and then low towards to Ace and every time the suit breaks badly with the Jack under the QT you will still be able to finesse the QT that you carefully preserved.
167	You have an exceedingly good hand and partner has opened, just reply in a new suit and give your partner the platform to make his rebid and then you will be better placed where to go next. so with ♠ A K 9 4 ♥ 6 ♦ A K J 5 4 ♣ K Q 6 reply 2♦ and then you can bid another new suit next you need SPACE because at the moment you have no idea where the contract will end up
168	The opponents lead against your 3NT contract and between your hand and the dummy you have both the Ace and King in a situation like this A 5 4 Queen led K 7 if you need to give up the lead twice, to establish your suit, then hold up for one round, to cut communications between the two defenders.
169	The opponents lead against your 3NT and you are thinking of holding up DON'T if a switch to a different suit would be even more uncomfortable.
170	Make helpful lead directing bids especially in 3rd seat. If you stick your neck out (even a four card suit with top honours) with a bid in third seat and don't win the auction at least partner will know what suit to lead
171	Before making your lead, try and work out what declarer and dummy's' shape is - did they bid 2 suits? Did they go into No Trump? If you work out the shape first, you might well lead a different suit.
172	Do not cover the honour (especially in trumps suit) if dummy has Ace Doubleton and you started with K54. All you have to do is play low for two rounds and your King will win.
173	If the opponents Double your transfer sequence if you complete the transfer, when you did not have to do so, you are now promising 3 cards or more in the transfer suit. If you Pass partner can still bid and will now know you only have two card support.
174	In connection with Intermediates Tip174 above, when you are the person not following suit make sure you discard a card of the same color the first time the suit is played because so many players are careless and will not notice that you did not follow suit.

175	If you have very good support for partner's second suit and a good hand use the 4th suit forcing bid to show the full value of your hand and then come back to partner's first next so with: ♠ A K 7 6 — You: 1♦ — Partner: 1♠ ♥ A Q 6 5 3 — You: 1♥ — Partner: 1♠ ♦ 7 6 — You: 2♣ and then come to Spades later ♣ K 8
176	Lead aggressively against a confidently bid contract. If they bid 4ª and have shown a source of tricks outside the trump suit, you need to find four tricks quickly, so lead from a KQ or even an unsupported Ace
177	Can you work out if partner has a void without him cue bidding? If the opponents are bidding and supporting a suit and the bidding suggests they have at least 9 and you have four in this suit then you know partner "must have" a void. Use the opponents bidding to work out partner's distribution.
178	Partner opens 1 of a Minor and you have fit and a good hand bid a new suit even if it's only three but prefer to make your manufactured bid in a Minor as partners are far much more likely to support a Major than a new Minor.
179	After opening 2♠ or 3♠ do not bid again and leave all decisions to partner. Opening 2♠ or 3♠ are limit bids so why would you want to bid again ??
180	If you manage to push the opponents to the 5 level do not Double them. If they go off you are getting a good board any way. If you Double and they now make it all your good work of pushing them to the 5 level has been negated.
181	If one of the defenders ruffs in and you are about to overruff Think Again. It might be better to discard a loser instead. If you overruff then you might be open to a trump promotion by the unfriendly defenders in following situation.
182	Third hand doesn't play high in this situation :- Partner leads 4th highest and dummy has two small cards and you have AQ5 of the led suit then follow with the Queen, not the Ace. If you follow with the Ace and declarer has the king, declarer will be able to hold up and cut you off from your partner. If you play the Queen declarer will certainly not risk holing up now if the Queen is played 9 6 J 8 4 3 2 — A Q 5 K T 7 No declarer will hold up here when you play the Queen unless they have had a peek at the cards. See Schmuel Lev Bols Tip (4) for more details.
183	If the bidding is about to subside in the two level, you as the last player must do everything in your power to BALANCE in a situation like this: N E S W 1♦ NO 1♠ NO 2♦ NO NO ? West should try and bid at all costs as he knows his partner has values. West can now bid with as few as 7/8 points and if he doubles he is merely showing the other two suits. Better to bid. Maybe the opponents will take push to three level and it will be easier to defeat a three level contract than a two level contract. If they don't take the push you might make 2♥ or 3♣ or at worse go one off.
184	If somebody makes a passive lead then don't expect that player to have an Ace King suit otherwise they might have led from the Ace/king suit initially.

<table>
<tr><td>185</td><td>The introduction of a new suit at the three level is 100% forcing, so no need to jump just because you have a good hand.</td></tr>
<tr><td>186</td><td>Only make weak 2 with a five card suit if you have AQJT6 in the suit otherwise stick to six card suits.</td></tr>
<tr><td>187</td><td>Can you make a suit preference signal at Trick 1 - yes you can if you have imagination. Having Opened 3♥ partner raises you to 4♥ and last player now bids 5♦ and that ends the auction. What do you lead on this hand?
<table>
<tr><td>♠</td><td>-</td></tr>
<tr><td>♥</td><td>K J 9 6 4 3 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>♦</td><td>6 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>♣</td><td>Q T 3 2</td></tr>
</table>
9♥ is telling partner to switch to a Spade if he gets to win the first trick with the Ace (after all he did support Hearts)</td></tr>
<tr><td>188</td><td>Occasionally you can underlead an Ace if you think you can put declarer to an early guess. You have suit that dummy as bid and you have A65 of this suit if you lead the suit and dummy turns up with KJ94 most declarers will think you have not led from an Ace suit and play you for the Queen and try dummy's Jack. Partner will be delighted to win first trick with the Queen.</td></tr>
<tr><td>189</td><td>Do not lead 4th Highest if they Open a Gambling 3NT. Lead an Ace and see what is going on. Leading 4th highest might just give them the contract.</td></tr>
<tr><td>190</td><td>Not sure whether or not to bid onto Game or onto a Slam then use the LOSING TRICK Count as a secondary check. so when the bidding goes:
N E S W
1♠ NO 2♣ NO
2♥ NO 4♥

♠ Q T 5
♥ A Q 9 5
♦ T
♣ J T 9 5 4
Now the losing trick Count now tells you to rebid 4♥ rather than just 3♥</td></tr>
<tr><td>191</td><td>Overcalling 1♦ over 1♣ should be done on good hand as 1D has no pre-emptive value whatsoever, whereas overcalling 1♠ over 1♣ is very pre-emptive and can be done with a multitude of weak hands</td></tr>
<tr><td>192</td><td>With K Q T 5 4
J 8 6 A 7 3 (you)
opposite 9 2
if you have the Ace with two low cards sitting over the King play low on first round and give the illusion you don’t have the Ace . Now declarer might try finessing the Queen next and then you can pounce with your Ace and hopefully promote partner’s Jack</td></tr>
<tr><td>193</td><td>On some hands you bid correctly and you do badly and vice versa but overall bid correctly and you will gain in the long run</td></tr>
<tr><td>194</td><td>When you are well endowed with good intermediates remember to keep in correct hand to repeat a finesse so with:
J T 6 opposite A Q 5
Play the Jack ready to let it run for a finesse and keep in correct hand to finesse again if need be.</td></tr>
<tr><td>195</td><td>Discard a card of same colour and if it's early enough in the play declarer will not notice and miscount trumps.</td></tr>
<tr><td>196</td><td>If you Double their Opening Bid of 2♣ or their response of 2♦ the double should be showing a willingness to sacrifice in the suit - it is not lead directing</td></tr>
</table>

197	If partner opens 2♣ and one of the opposition makes a fatuous Double and you think just from the outside suits you can scramble 8 tricks REDOUBLE and this is to play. They will not be in hurry to make a Double like that in a hurry will they? +560 or +760 is very nice thank you very much.
198	If you are sitting over dummy with AQJT5 and dummy has K43 and partner leads from singleton or top of Doubleton DO NOT PLAY the suit back as you have a natural winning finesse against dummy and you should be patient.
199	When you rebid 1NT it shows balanced hand 15/16. HOWEVER if partner is passed hand now it shows 18/19- you are on your own.
200	If the opponents bidding is subsiding in 2♥ and you have weakish distributional hand then you partner MUST HAVE POINTS and you can now bid on with your other five card suit. It is known as PROTECTION so with: ♠ A J 6 43 ♥ 3 ♦ K J T 3 2 ♣ 8 4 overcall 1♠ and when it comes back to you bid 3♦ it is also safe to bid because the opponents have found their fit in Hearts so you must have a fit somewhere (probably in Diamonds)
201	If the opponents find a fit, then mathematically speaking, your side has a fit too, so if in doubt, bid on and get a nice surprise when a fit manifests itself in your second suit that you have just introduced.
202	If somebody leads a trump you can assume they have strength in your other bid suit and they are trying to cut out ruffs.
203	Declarer bids 2 suits and you have strength in declarer's first bid suit then lead a trump to cut back on declarer's ruffing in dummy. You can assume dummy will be short in that suit
204	Getting an 11th trick in 4♠ is vital in Match Point Pairs. Secure your contract then make sure you are in correct hand after you have got your 10th tricks and risk a finesse for that extra overtrick to get your Top
205	With K97 opposite AQ83 play off the Ace first and if the T or Jack falls (it's probably a singleton and now you can finesse the other person for the missing honour as in the following situation: K 9 7 J T 5 4 3 2 A Q 8 6
206	Opponents lead from their long suit and between you hand and dummy you have the Ace and King but need to give up the lead twice to establish your suit therefore to cut communications between the two defenders HOLD UP ONCE despite having both the Ace and King
207	With Q87 opposite AT95 play the Queen and let it run- play for split honours and you will get three tricks 75% of the time (with nothing else to go on from the bidding).
208	Careless talk costs lives so if the bidding goes 1♠ – 3♠ and you think you can make 6 just bid it and do not start cue-bidding and highlight your weaknesses .If you start cue-bidding and end up in 5 level you might still go one off but if you conceal your weaknesses and they get the wrong lead you may conjure up 12 tricks.
209	One of the criteria for making a JUMP reply in new suit is 16+ points and self-supporting suit so with: ♠ A ♥ AQJT732 ♦ A95 ♣ Q64 It is absolutely right to reply 2♥ when partner opens 1♣. However when partner rebids 2♣ now rethink and be prepared to support Clubs as you know they have five or more.

210	No obvious way to generate extra tricks THINK DUMMY REVERSAL whereby you ruff enough times in the long hand that the short hand becomes the dominant trump drawing hand, most commonly found in 5-4 fits. In Spade contract, spades broke 4-0 so try ruffing 2 clubs in long hand first. ♠ A Q 7 6 2 N ♠ K J 8 3 ♥ A K 5 2 W E ♥ J 7 ♦ 7 6 3 ♦ A K T 2 ♣ 3 S ♣ Q T 9
211	In second seat a DOUBLE of 1NT shows 15+ points and is for Penalties. In FOURTH SEAT it also says I would have Doubled the weak No Trump- I am the one with the good hand,15+ points.
212	BE FLEXIBLE. One of the criteria for making a JUMP reply in new suit is 16+ points and self-supporting suit so with 2♥ ♠ ♥ A Q J T 7 3 2 ♦ A 9 5 ♣ Q 6 4 It is absolutely right to reply 2♥ when partner opens 1♣ However when partner rebids 2♣ now rethink and be prepared to support Clubs as you know they have five or more.
213	With KT98543 opposite 7 or KT9854 opposite 73 and a lack of entries, play low from hand twice and pray for a doubleton Ace. Doubleton Ace occurring has more chance than a precise doubleton QJ
214	Once you have pre-empted DO NOT BID AGAIN – a pre-empt is a Limit bid.
215	If you and partner have a fit and the opponents are bidding and you have three small in their suit you can work out that partner has a singleton or even a void and your hand value goes up in leaps and bound.
216	In 4th seat you only need a FOUR CARD SUIT to PROTECT- it's better to protect and push the opponents out of their comfort zone- why let them play in 1♦.
217	If you have a suit that could be established such as AK65 opposite 432 play it early and if suit breaks 4-2 no worry but if it does break 3-3 then you can establish the thirteenth card while you still have entries – also you might still be able to ruff the thirteenth card in dummy with a trump (assuming you haven't drawn trumps) if the suit has broken 4-2.
218	When splintering, it is best not to splinter into a singleton Ace as partner will not be able to evaluate the rest of the hand and will expect your 13/14 points in the other three suits.
219	If somebody makes a trump lead rather than an unbid suit then they probably have awkward holding in those other suits so should you be looking for a queen then that player is more likely to hold the queen you are looking for.
220	When you embark on a cross ruff cash all the outside winners first and then proceed to do your cross ruff. If you do the cross ruffing first they may throw cards in those outside Aces and you might not get to make them at the 11th hour
221	If partner Opens 4♠ he really should not have two Aces but he could have Ace of his long suit and a singleton so if you want to make slam try cue-bid lowest Ace to give partner chance to show singleton now
222	Needing 1 trick from 8 opposite KJ654 play this suit as early as possible and play low and try that King and hope second person has played low from Ace- put the pressure on the opposition.
223	With KQ943 opposite T85 needing four tricks finesse Ace first – if no ace appears come back to hand and finesse again BUT if 4th player has held up the Ace then declarer is bound to come back to hand and finesse again and now Jack Is promoted (nice Con) for partner in situations like this :- K Q 9 4 3 J 7 2 A 6 T 8 5 If last player plays Ace straight away then declarer is bound to finesse the Jack.

<table>
<tr><td>224</td><td>Second hand playing low also means that second hand SHOULD NOT RUFF IN before partner has had a chance to play to the current trick.</td></tr>
<tr><td>225</td><td>With A8632 opposite 954 keep playing low for two rounds and you keep control of the suit as you still have the Ace.</td></tr>
<tr><td>226</td><td>Partner opens the bidding and you have a very strong 2 suited hand BID SLOWLY as you need to exchange as much information as possible so with:
<table>
<tr><td>♠</td><td>A 9 8 5 4 reply 2♠ only when partner opens 1♥</td></tr>
<tr><td>♥</td><td>4</td></tr>
<tr><td>♦</td><td>3</td></tr>
<tr><td>♣</td><td>A K J 7 5 4</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>227</td><td>Partner opens the bidding 1♣ and you have
<table>
<tr><td>♠</td><td>5 4 reply 1♦ rather than 1♥</td></tr>
<tr><td>♥</td><td>A K 4 3 a) you must bid up the line</td></tr>
<tr><td>♦</td><td>J 8 7 3 b) if partner has Hearts and now bids them then the stronger hand</td></tr>
<tr><td>♣</td><td>9 5 4 will be playing the contract</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>228</td><td>You bid slowly when you don’t know where the hand is going and you want to get to your best fit. Bridge players with Strong Hands do it Slowly.</td></tr>
<tr><td>229</td><td>If you have good source of tricks and reasonable 14/15 points and stopper in opponents suit, but not as balanced as you might like to be you can overcall 1NT - slightly off centre bid.</td></tr>
<tr><td>230</td><td>If both opponents are freely bidding new suits and in 4th seat you have 15/16 points PASS- your partner cannot have anything.</td></tr>
<tr><td>231</td><td>With K T 9 6 5 4 3 opposite 7 the best way to try and contain your losers to just two is to play low card twice and hope for doubleton Ace which is much more likely than doubleton Q J.</td></tr>
<tr><td>232</td><td>If you have a VOID and the opponents bids this suit then your hand GOES UP IN VALUE since any values in partner’s hand are now likely to be outside that suit.</td></tr>
<tr><td>233</td><td>Opposite a Passed partner, a 1NT rebid now shows 18/91 as the opener is virtually on his own opposite a partner who might have Zero points.</td></tr>
<tr><td>234</td><td>If you lead an Ace and there is no future in the suit led because dummy has either a singleton or very good cards in this suit then if partner drops a LOW CARD he is asking for the LOWER SUIT and if he drops a particularly HIGH CARD he is asking for the HIGHER SUIT- this is as a SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNAL.</td></tr>
<tr><td>235</td><td>If you have all the Aces and Kings and good back up hand prefer to play in 7NT a) to get better Match Point score and b) just in case there is a bad trump split and you can then rely on another suit to make your contract,</td></tr>
<tr><td>236</td><td>With K 6 opposite Q 8 7 5 4 3 needing to keep losers in this suit to no more than One play low towards the King and if it wins now play low card from each hand and pray for a doubleton Ace.</td></tr>
<tr><td>237</td><td>In 4th seat when the bidding goes 1NT NO NO. With:
♠ A93
♥ QJ874
♦ K
♣ T972
I think you should venture in with 2H, but only do this in 4th seat as you know partner must have some values as the contract has so far just subsided in 1NT. In second seat do not make the same bid.</td></tr>
<tr><td>238</td><td>Somebody leads 4th highest 3 and dummy has A92 and you have T754 - firstly you know the person has led from precisely a 4 card suit, secondly you know he doesn’t have KQJ or he would have led top of sequence. Therefore you must play dummy’s Ace to make sure you block the suit between the 2 defenders. In situations like this</td></tr>
</table>

	A 9 2 Q J 6 3 K 8 T 7 5 4
239	A defender who discontinues playing his long suit suggests that that defender has no further interest in his long suit because he has no entries left on the hand. Therefore, if you, as declarer, are looking for some high cards (Queens and Jacks for finessing), the high cards are likely to be in the other defender's hand.
240	Needing no more than 1 loser in the following suit combination K64 opposite Q7532 you have to play somebody for doubleton Ace and finesse him and then play a low card from each hand.
241	Looking for the Queen of trumps in following situation K 7 4 Q 9 3 6 2 A J T 8 5 Left Hand opponent makes you ruff in short hand before you have had chance to test trumps NOW play that opponent for missing Queen.
242	The only artificial bid in a transfer sequence is the initial 2♥ or 2♦ reply to the 1NT bid- all the rest of the bids should be natural and if responder repeats the suit he is now showing 5-4 in the transferred suit plus the other suit.
243	With 6-5 distribution and minimum hand consider opening in the higher ranking suit even if the lower ranking suit is longer and then you will not have rebid problems so with: ♠ J ♥ A K J 7 6 ♦ J 8 7 5 4 3 ♣ K open 1♥ and then happily rebid 2♦
244	Drop Misfitting hands as quickly as possible before you get too high.
245	With two four card suits, if you bid your rotten suit, the opponents will not lead it if you end up in No Trump- always a good reason to bid that suit.
246	Negative Doubles are part of Replying theory so do remember to a) consider them each time there is intervention b) remember to use them Since a reply only needs 6 points so does a Negative Double only need 6 points- it is UNLIMITED.
247	If you have same suits as the opposition and 15 points KEEP PASSING – partner cannot have anything at all can he?
248	If your overcall has no pre-emptive value then don't bother to make it if you have lousy suit so with: ♠ Q7643 ♥ 98 ♦ A54 ♣ A54 Don't bother to overcall 1♠ when they open 1♥. If they open 1♥ then do overcall 1♠ but it's still not a great overcall as you don't really want Spades led do you?
249	In a No Trump Contract, "Third hand should play high" but with AQ6 play the Queen and declarer, if he has the King will not be able to hold up and declarer will not be able to cut communications between the two defenders – See the Lev tip from Bols Tips : BOLS-EXPERT-TIPS

250	Avoid 2NT as a reply to partner's Opening bid of 1 of a Suit- there is always something better. This is particularly applicable if you are already a Passed Hand and maybe partner has opened light.
251	With 6-5 distribution and minimum hand consider opening in the higher ranking suit even if the lower ranking suit is longer and then you will not have rebid problems so with ♠ J ♥ AKJ76 ◆J76532 ♣ K prefer to open 1♥ and you will be OK to rebid your Diamonds next.
252	Very seldom should you join in after the opponents Open 2♣ but with: ♠ K Q 7 6 5 2 ♥ 7 4 ♦ A J T 9 ♣ 3 I think you should join in with 2♠ or even 3♠ and get nice surprise when partner supports and you can disrupt the opponents' progress
253	Third hand should play high but with AQ6 play the Queen and declarer, if he has the King will not be able to hold up and declarer will not be able to cut communications between the two defenders – See the Lev tip from Bols Tips: BOLS-EXPERT-TIP
254	If there is an overcall of 1NT and opener's partner has 8+ points then he MUST DOUBLE for PENALTIES in same way you Double an Opening 1NT bid for Penalties.
255	In 4th seat USE RULE of 15 so with: ♠ T9 ♥ AQ654 ◆ AJ72 ♣ 75 Do not open as you will be opening the door to the opposition. If your high Card Points plus your spades do not equal 15 then throw the hand in otherwise the opposition will come in and be able to outbid you.
256	If partner CONVERTS an INFORMATIVE DOUBLE into a PENALTY Double then LEAD A TRUMP
257	If there is a choice between playing in two 6-2 fits it is best to play in the weaker player's long suit otherwise you might not be able to get to that hand.
258	With: ♠ AQ976 ♥ J43 ◆ KQT ♣ 72 Playing Weak No Trump, in first and second seats open 1NT and then you have no rebid problems but in 3rd and 4th seats when you do not need to have a rebid ready, cut your losses and open 1♠.
259	With: ♠ 6 ♥ 965 ◆ 5 ♣ AKQT8765 Only reply 2♣ when partner opens 1♥and give partner a chance to rebid - DON'T be preclusive.
260	If you lead King against a No Trump contract you are telling partner to UNBLOCK and if he has the Queen or Jack to now throw it. So the suit doesn't get blocked, if he has neither of these cards he is expected to give the COUNT instead. so that in situations like this KQT54 opposite J7 by chucking the Jack under partner's King partner knows it is safe to continue

261	If you double their weak take-out of 2□ or their 2] Stayman bid after their 1NT your double says I WOULD HAVE DOUBLED THE 1NT BID i.e. I do in fact have 15+ POINTS
262	If the bidding suggest partner has nothing at all- you see 13 points in dummy and declarer rebid 2NT showing 17 and you have 10 points declarer has no idea that you have them all so do not give any genuine signals- Partner will take no part in the defence of the hand.
263	With A54 opposite JT632 needing to establish 3 tricks play Ace and another and hope for 3-2 break if no 3-2 break then KQ might still be under the JT holding and you can lead up to the JT twice.
264	When pre-empting whether it be opening or overcalling please don't do it on Jack high suits- you are just asking for trouble.
265	Persuade declarer to finesse partner for missing honour especially if you have doubleton QJ and you do not want declarer crashing them down in two rounds- try the effect of leading the Jack and lots of declarer will then finesse your partner for the missing queen.
266	The Lebensohl convention is a convention to help you when you are "being interfered with" after your partner has opened 1NT and the nasty opponent intervenes. Part of the convention All 2 level replies are still weak. 2NT is still 11/12 and 3NT is still 13+ opposite a Weak No Trump Opener and the Cue Bid of their suit becomes Stayman- this is only part of the convention - more another time.
267	A pre-emptive opening bid or overcall is a LIMIT bid and as with all LIMIT BIDS DO NOT BID AGAIN- leave all decisions to partner.
268	With 19 points if partner replies make sure you REBID GAME- Jump to 4♥ with: ♠ A J ♥ A K Q J 9 7 ♦ K 8 6 ♣ J 5
269	=268
270	If one side has a fit then the other side also has a fit- this is merely a mathematical fact. Therefore when one side has found a fit don't be shy in introducing another suit and suddenly finding your fit.
271	Partner offers you two suits and you have 2 card support for the first suit and 3 card support for the second suit sometimes it is necessary to GIVE FALSE PREFERENCE and put partner back to first suit preferring to play in 5-2 fit rather than 4-3 fit, especially if the first suit is a Major - making 2{only requires 8 tricks whereas in 2♦ you will need to make 9 tricks to equal +110
272	More often than not it is correct to raise 2NT to 3NT even with as few as 3/4 points- it makes more then it goes off.
273	Partner Doubles and you have weak hand and your longest suit is their suit you HAVE TO BID a THREE CARD SUIT - you have no option Grin and Bear it time so with ♠ Q 7 6 ♥ A J 9 ♦ 9 6 ♣ 9 7 6 5 just bid 1♥ or 1♠ when the bidding goes W N E S 1♣ DOUBLE PASS ?

274	If you think the hands are MISFITTING, DROP THEM as soon as possible and DEFEND- let the opposition be at the wrong end of a bad score instead of you. ♠ Q 8 7 6 4 as North here JUST PASS and watch the opposition go 2 off Vulnerable ♥ A K 4 ♦ A J ♣ A T 6 W N E S 2♠ ?
275	If there is interference over your partner's 1NT opening bid and you still want to Stayman you bid the intervener's suit and this is now Stayman part of the Lebensohl convention.
276	With AQJT opposite a singleton play the Ace prefer to do a RUFFING FINESSE rather than a simple finesse- if they play the King RUFF it and if they don't then throw away a loser - Even if it fails you have still dumped a loser.
277	With: ♠ KQJT765 ♥ AK65 ♦ A ♣ 5 Please open 2♣ as you virtually have 9/10 tricks in your hand. If you don't you might not be able to catch up or manage to get over to partner exactly how strong you are.
278	=277
279	In 3rd and 4th seats if you are playing weak No trump consider Opening 1 of a suit rather than 1NT with dodgy hands as you no longer need a rebid as you have a passed partner opposite you and can merely Pass anything partner replies so with: ♠ KQJT ♥ A65 ♦ Q87 ♣765 Prefer to open 1♠rather than 1NT only in 3rd and 4th seats.
280	Don't Open weak two if your hand meets the Rule of 20 - 64 shape and 10 points as it's far too good for Weak Two. ♠ KQT654 ♥ 65 ♦ AJ76 ♣ 76 prefer to open 1♠ rather than Weak Two.
281	Partner opens and you have nine card suit and good values don't muck around with science as you will never ascertain what partner has- just bid what you think you can make so with: ♠ A5 ♥ 7 ♦ T ♣ AQT986543 initially bid 2♣ when partner opens 1♥ and next just bid 6] as you are never going to find out if partner as you are never going to has Club King are you.

282	Don't Open weak two if your hand meets the Rule of 20 - 64 shape and 10 points is too good for Weak Two. ♠ AJ8765 ♥ QT97 ♦ K 2 ♣ 3 Open 1♠ here not 2♠
283	If an opponent leads a Queen from QJ9 and you, as declarer, have AKT4 smoothly duck the first trick and that defender might well play another card in the suit and you will get 3 tricks from your subterfuge.
284	In 4th seat once the bidding has gone 1NT NO 2♦ or 2♥ (transfers) or 2] Stayman then if you DOUBLE now this is saying I would have Doubled the 1NT opening bid "Against the Weak No Trump I have 15 or more points and I am making a PENALTY DOUBLE".
285	In 4th seat once the bidding has gone 1NT NO 2♦ or 2♥ (transfers) or 2♣ Stayman then if you DOUBLE now this is saying I would have Doubled the 1NT opening bid "Against the Weak No Trump I have 15 or more points and I am making a PENALTY DOUBLE".
286	Please don't overcall on JXXXX as it's such a poor quality suit- you don't want the suit led do you? this is not an April fool- I see far too many players on OK bridge think its ok that as long as they have any 12 point hand and a five card suit they should overcall - WRONG
287	If somebody on lead doesn't lead his partner's suit it is reasonable to assume he has the Ace of partner's suit and doesn't want to give away a trick hoping partner gets in and can lead through declarer.
288	Beware Greeks bearing gifts. If somebody gives away a free ruff and discard to allow you to get to dummy hoping you will finesse a trump then it's more than likely this person has the missing honour in situations like this where the player wants you to ruff in the short hand to stop you finessing his Queen K2 AJ876
289	If your partner suddenly near the end of the auction makes a STRANGE DOUBLE this is called a LIGHTNER Double and ask for partner to lead dummy's first bid suit. - maybe your partner has AQJ over the dummy or a void and want to ruff,
290	Once partner has had one ruff she will want another one, so you must tell your partner where your entry is by making a SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNAL- High card wants the higher suit back and low card wants the lower suit back. so with: ♠ A K 9 2 ♥ 7 5 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ 9 8 4 2 Against 4♥ contract you lead AK of Spades and partner Peters because he wants to ruff third round so now play ♠9 to show you want Diamond back but here: ♠ A K 9 2 ♥ 7 5 ♦ T 7 5 ♣ A 8 4 2 Against 4♥ contract you lead AK of Spades and partner Peters because he wants to ruff third round so now play ♠2 to show you want Club back

291	Don't Overcall with Balanced 13/14 point hands - Just Pass after somebody has already opened ♠ A K 9 2 ♥ Q 7 5 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ 9 8 4 Against 1NT opener just overcall with PASS ♠ A K 9 2 ♥ 7 5 ♦ T 7 5 ♣ A 8 4 2 Again 4♥ contract you lead AK of Spades and partner Peters because he wants to ruff third round so now play ♠2 to show you want Club back
292	Bridge is a competitive game so don't let the opposition play 1♣ only - bid something.
293	When is it mandatory to Pass? 1. When you have balanced hand with 13/14 points and opposition opened in front of you with anything JUST PASS 2. When you have same suit as Opener even with 18/19 point hands. 3. When both opponents are bidding e.g. 1♥ PASS 2♣ and it comes around to you with your 15 points you can work out PARTNER HAS NOTHING - why get involved.
294	Playing with a Weak No Trump partner To make a Stayman reply to 1NT you need either 11+ points or total rubbish with 5-4 in the Majors. ♠ A Q 4 3 ♥ 9 7 ♦ K Q 3 2 ♣ 4 3 reply 2♣ as you can control this auction to 2NT if opener rebids 2♥ or 2♦ ♠ 9 7 4 3 ♥ 9 7 6 5 4 ♦ 4 3 ♣ 4 3 Reply 2♣ as you can control this auction to 2♥ if partner rebids 2♦ and of course you would be happy if he bid either Major at the two level - now you just pass.
295	Partner opens 1NT (12-14) and you have a totally balanced 4-3-3-3 11 point hand you MUST PASS because even if partner has 14 points bringing the total to 25 this particular 25 point combination is unlikely to produce a ninth trick. so with: ♠ A Q 4 3 ♥ K 7 4 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ 7 4 3 Just Pass when partner opens 1NT.
296	Both opponents are bidding 1♥ - 2♣ and in 4th seat you have 15/16 points, you can work out that partner has nothing since the opponents have shown around 23 points already so don't get involved.
297	If you wish to go slamming and have a void DON'T USE BLACKWOOD as it's of no use- make overtures with a CUE BID and expect partner to cue bid back.

298	If one side has a FIT then the other side has a FIT TOO so don't be afraid of introducing your second suit and suddenly finding a fit there and being able to take a subsequent sacrifice or even pushing the opponents too high.
299	To differentiate between good suits and bad suits it is recommended that you lead 4th highest from a suit with an honour eg K7543 lead the 4 BUT with a bad suit with no card higher than the 9 you lead 2nd highest so with (7532 you lead the 7). If partner hasn't got very much in your BAD suit he will know to SWITCH.
300	Leading away from an Ace is not a good idea as it gives away tricks but mid hand if you see king in dummy then play a low one away from your Ace and hope partner has the Queen in situations like this with you're A-8-5-3 dummy K76 A853 Q942 JT
301	With an extremely BAD HAND against a No Trump contract - TAFP- Try and Find Partner and make a short suit lead. e g ♠ 7 6 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ J 8 7 6 4 ♣ 9 5 4 no point in leading your long suit so lead ♠7 and see the joy in partner's eyes ☺
302	If you have 4 or more trumps and you are defending then you need to make declarer ruff in long hand so he loses control of the trump suit. On the following hand all East needed to do was play another diamond and make declarer use up yet another of his trumps and now declarer would be down to 1 less trump than him having ruffed the second Diamond return. Dealer South Both Vul ♠ K 8 ♥ A T 5 ♦ J 7 6 2 ♣ A 6 4 3 ♠ Q J 5 ♥ Q ♦ Q 9 8 3 ♣ K J T 9 7 ♠ T 7 ♥ K 6 4 2 ♦ A T 5 4 ♣ 8 5 2 ♠ A 9 6 4 3 2 ♥ J 9 8 7 3 ♦ K ♣ Q W N E S NO 2NT NO 4♥ NO NO NO When this hand was played against me the defence got off to the best possible start and led 4th highest Diamond and I had to play the King and a Diamond came back after the Ace won the first trick.
303	If the bidding goes N E S W 1NT PASS 2♥ ? If you in 4th seat, West, Double, this says "I have 15+ points and I would have Doubled their 1NT Opening Bid"

304	When bidding goes 1♣ and you overcall 1♦ your hand should be good as you are not taking any bidding space away from opposition Likewise if the opener opens 1♥ and you overcall 1♠ don't do it on filthy suits where you are telling your partner to lead the suit UGH
305	Opening light in Third seat is good for your bridge health but do consider that it is lead directing so don't do it on poor quality suits ♠ A Q 9 7 6 ♠ J 9 6 5 3 ♥ K 8 7 ♥ A K 8 ♦ 9 5 4 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ 7 3 ♣ 5 4 Here certainly open 1♠ Here. think twice before opening 1♠ despite more points
306	Amongst experts it is generally accepted that the received wisdom is that you splinter with minimum 10-12 values and take the Jacoby route with 13+ points.
307	Don't Overcall with balanced 13/14 points JUST PASS.
308	Please don't overcall with 12 points and a five card suit headed by just the Jack- it's really crummy bridge - experts never do this sort of thing- Some of the "so called advanced "players, playing online bridge, do it all the time and it's an abomination to me.
309	To differentiate between good suits and bad suits it is recommended that you lead 4th highest from a suit with an honour e.g. K-7-5-4-3 lead the 4 BUT with a bad suit with no card higher than the 9 you lead 2nd highest so with (7-5-3-2 you lead the 7.If partner hasn't got very much in you BAD Suit he will know to SWITCH.
310	Partner opens 1NT (12-14) and you have a balanced 4-3-3-3 - 11 points JUST PASS as this particular flat hand will not quite be enough to produce that 9th trick even opposite a maximum 14 point hand. If you play 15-17 points and you have 4-3-3-3 hand with 8 points again say NO Bid as again although the total might reach 25 points the flat hand is unlikely to produce a 9th trick.
311	With K-7-6-5 opposite 4 in no trump suit play low one from singleton side and if no Ace comes play low and later hope the Ace falls in 3 rounds so your King becomes high.
312	N E S W 1NT PASS 2♥ ? if you Double, this says "I have 15+ points and I would have Doubled their 1NT Opening Bid"
313	Opposite a PASSED PARTNER a rebid of 1NT shows 18/19 points as you are on YOUR OWN
314	If you know the THE TRUMPS ARE SOLID and would like to know about the King and Queen of another suit then agree that suit before embarking into Roman Key Card Blackwood.
315	With an extremely BAD HAND - TAFP- Try and Find Partner and make a short suit lead. so when the bidding goes: 1NT - 3NT and you hold :- ♠ 9 2 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ Q 9 6 5 2 ♣ T 6 4 Don't bother leading a pointless Diamond but lead ♠9 and try and find partner NB it would now be completely unethical for partner to sit there with a big grin on his face pleased with the lead ☺
316	Bid to the level of the fit with 5 card support and partner made a weak Jump overcall in clubs showing 6 so jump to 5♣ or 5 ♦ and APPLY THE PRESSURE on the opposition. e.g.

	♠ K 7 ♠ 9 5 3 ♥ J 6 4 2 ♥ Q T ♦ J T ♦ 7 3 ♣ K 9 7 6 3 ♣ A Q J 8 4 2 Partner overcalled 2♣ on the hand on the right so with this hand jump to 5♣ immediately bidding to the level of the fit
317	Both opponents bid and support a suit but do not lead it then the person on lead is more likely to hold the Ace of this suit and does not want to lead away from this suit and wants the suit led through you, declarer.
318	When bidding goes 1♣ and you overcall 1♦ your hand should be good as your bid is not at all pre-emptive so don't bid on rubbish here.
319	If your partner does not make a splinter when he could have done so he will not have a singleton or void in his hand. e.g. ♠ A K 8 7 ♠ A K 8 7 ♥ K Q 9 6 2 ♥ K Q 9 6 ♦ A Q J ♦ A Q ♣ 7 ♣ J 2 He opens 1♥ and you respond 1♠ so now he rebids 4♣ He open 1♥ and you respond 1♠ so he now rebid 4♠
320	Open third in hand LIGHT especially if your suit is the Spades, the most pre-emptive of the 4 suits. In third seat you no longer need to have a rebid ready and can merely pass anything partner replies if you wish to do so. In third seat when opening light it also acts as lead indication so don't overcall light without a good quality suit ♠ A J 7 5 3 ♠ K Q J 6 ♥ Q J 8 7 ♥ A 7 2 ♦ T 6 ♦ 9 5 4 2 ♣ 8 5 ♣ J 2 Open 1♠ in third seat. Open 1♠ in third seat here too.
321	If somebody hasn't splintered when he could have done, he will not have a singleton outside the agreed suit. e.g. ♠ A J 7 5 1♥ - 1♠ ♥ A Q J 8 7 4 ♠ now shows 5-4-2-2 or ♦ A Q 3-3-4-2 and no singleton ♣ 8 5 Club or Diamond
322	Opening 2♣ promises 23+ points or 10 tricks in Spades or Hearts- it is GAME FORCING and partner must keep bidding until Game has been reached., so Open 2♣ on both of these hands ♠ A K Q 6 ♠ A K Q J 7 6 5 ♥ K Q 9 ♥ A K Q ♦ A JT 7 ♦ 3 ♣ K Q ♣ 3 2
323	In a No Trump contract holding both the Ace and King of the suit led by the opponents you should hold up twice if you have to give up the lead twice if you want to cut communications between the 2 defenders so they cannot benefit from their long suit.

324	The opponents make a pre-emptive overcall and you have 11 points and partner opens either Bid onto Game and take your chances or take the money and Double- don't just Pass.
325	If the bidding goes 1♥ 1♠: 4♠ rebid Then you know partner's shape is either 5-4-2-2 or 4-4-3-2 because partner didn't bother to splinter when he could have done so!!
326	Against a suit contract Dummy has K 6 5 the opponents lead the Queen and you have 3 2 DO NOT COVER as there is little point - Right hand opponent must have the Ace and your only hope of a trick in this suit is to play low for two rounds and hope that Right Hand opponent has A-x and the cards might be distributed like this K 6 5 4 Q J T 9 8 A 7 3 2
327	Playing weak No trump with 4-4-3-2 and 15-19 points you open your 4 card suit ready to rebid in No Trumps but if you have two 4 card Minors which one do you open- it doesn't matter . HOWEVER I recommend that you bid the weaker suit and if you end up In No Trump the opposition are less likely to lead that suit so with: ♠ A Q 5 ♠ A 7 ♥ K 4 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ Q J 7 6 ♦ J 8 4 3 ♣ A K T 6 ♣ A K T 7 on both hands try the effect of opening 1♦ rather than 1♣
328	With A K 9 8 opposite Q 7 5 4 3 assuming plenty of entries make sure you cash the Queen first and if suit breaks 4-0 with West holding all the remaining cards you will still be able to finesse his J T in situations like this: A K 9 8 J T 6 2 Q 7 5 4 3
329	If you occasionally open 1NT with 5-4-2-2 shape you should have values in your doubletons such as A-x or K-x and the doubletons need to be in the Major's- With 5-4-2-2 shape and 5-4 in the Major's it is best to open the major and then show the other Major ♠ A 7 ♠ A 9 6 5 4 ♥ K 5 ♥ Q 6 4 3 ♦ A 9 6 5 4 ♦ A 7 ♣ Q 6 4 3 ♣ K 5 here open 1NT but here open 1♠ and rebid 2♥
330	Leading doubleton Queen tends to be one of the worst blind leads in bridge as it tends to help declarer more than the defending side especially if declarer might have taken a losing finesse in the suit. UGH!!

331	In 1st and 2nd seat where you would need to have a rebid ready prefer to Open 1NT with a five card Major but in 3rd seat and a lousy 13/14 points Open 1 of the Major and merely pass most responses from partner now ♠ A J 7 6 5 ♠ A J 7 6 5 ♥ K 5 ♥ K 5 ♦ A 9 6 ♦ A 9 6 ♣ 6 4 3 ♣ 6 4 3 here open 1NT in 1st and 2nd Seat but now open 1♠ in 3rd seat and Pass most of partner's replies
332	The opponents make a pre-emptive overcall and you have 11 points and partner opens either Bid onto Game and take your chances or take the money and Double- Don't just Pass.
333	With plenty of entries Take out insurance so with A-K-9-8 opposite Q-5-4-3-2 play the Queen off first and when the suit breaks 4-0 you might still be able to Finesse their J-T-7-6 in situations like this: A K 9 8 J T 7 6 - Q 5 4 3 2
334	If your partner makes an informative Double and you have 12+ points yourself, then BID OPENER' SUIT and pass the buck (very rare to have this many points but when you do remember to pass the buck to partner and Say YOU CHOOSE....
335	With A 9 5 4 opposite K Q T 8 3 remember to play that Ace first retaining the A 9 tenace in one hand and the Q T in the other hand and now you guarantee 5 tricks out of 5 even if the suit breaks 4-0. If you were to adhere to playing the high cards from the short hand here you would be in trouble if the Jack is offside and you can no longer finesse it.
336	If no suit has been agreed then raising 2NT rebid to 4NT is QUANTITIVE and says to partner if you like your hand (i.e. Maximum18) please bid onto 6NT in a situation like this: ♠ A Q 5 ♠ K 8 3 ♥ K Q T ♥ A J ♦ 9 5 ♦ A T 5 2 ♣ A Q J 7 5 ♣ K 8 3 1♣ 1♦ 2NT (promising 17/18 points) 4NT QUANTITIVE 6NT I like my 17 point hand with 5 card suit - I accept NO
337	If you have 8 obvious tricks in 3NT try and sneak a trick through in a side suit early on before the opponents can get their signals going. With Q-6-5 opposite K-3-2 needing one trick play up to one of the honours and just maybe second hand (who has the Ace) will play low and your dodgy 9th trick will now materialize.
338	If the opponents do not compete with their known 8 or 9 card major fit then you know the suit will be breaking kindly and risking 3NT is very little risk.
339	With J83 opposite AKT42 in the closed hand play the Jack and if it's not covered play for doubleton Queen offside in this scenario: J 8 3 Q 7 9 8 5 A K T 4 2 see Zia tip - If they don't cover they haven't got it

340	Even suits out against you break badly and odd suits break well so appreciate that A6543 opposite 2 where they have seven (odd) cards has potential in situations like this: A 6 5 4 3 (dummy) K Q J T 9 8 7 2 (declarer's hand) The suit is more likely to BREAK 4-3 rather than 5-2 Even though they have KQJT you can ruff just three times before the 13th card is established. Make sure you have entry back to the established 13th card
341	If the opponents do not compete with their known 8 or 9 card major fit then you know suit will be breaking kindly and risking 3NT is very little risk, even if you do not have a stopper in the suit- also partner might still turn up with a semi-stopper in the suit.
342	If your partner makes an informative Double and you have 12+ points yourself, then BID THEIR SUIT and pass the buck - this is very rare bid indeed as having a concentration of the remaining points in one hand is a low frequency situation.
343	If the bidding goes: N E S W 1♥ NO NO NO and West has not protected then play West for long Hearts- most people in 4th seat protect UNLESS they have same suit as opener.
344	If somebody doesn't lead their partner's suit then that defender is likely to have the Ace of partner's suit and is waiting to entrap Declarer- especially if declarer has ended in No Trumps.
345	Partner makes a trial bid looking for Game in 4♠ or 4♥ only go onto 4♠ or 4♥ with either the Ace or King or singleton in the trial bid suit otherwise with less just sign off at the three level.
346	Bid to the level of the fit so with 5 card support and partner making a weak Jump overcall in clubs showing 6 Jump to 5♣ or 5♦ and APPLY THE PRESSURE on the opposition. ♠ 9 5 3 ♠ K 7 ♥ Q T ♥ J 6 4 2 ♦ 7 3 ♦ J T ♣ A Q J 8 4 2 ♣ K 9 7 6 3 WEST EAST Once West intervenes with weak Jump overcall of 3♣ then East should immediately jump to 5♣ - some you lose some you win APPLY THE PRESSURE
347	In any cue bidding sequence if you go past a suit then you are denying 1st round control of that suit so on the hands below North South can stop in 4♠ without going to 5 level finding out two aces are missing and then going down on the bad trump break: ♠AK5432 ♥4 ♦62 ♣AKQ7 ♠- ♠QT6 ♥A8765 ♥JT9 ♦T753 ♦AJ98 ♣J964 ♣T85 ♠J987 ♥KQ32 ♦KQ4 ♣32
348	In 4th seat

	N E S W 1♥ NO NO ? This is the protective seat and to double you now only needs 10+ points (borrow a King to make this bid up to 13)
349	With AQT9843 opposite a void, needing 6 tricks out of 7, you have to hope one opponent started life with either a doubleton Jack or singleton Jack and play off AQ to pin the Jack and keep your losers just to ONE in this scenario: J 7 K 6 5 2 A Q T 9 8 4 3
350	If partner is sensible and makes a 2♣ overcall when they open 1♠ and you have 15 points and a hand like this: ♠ K Q 9 7 ♥ Q T 9 8 ♦ A Q J 9 ♣ 4 Bid 3NT it too is a sensible practical bid PRACTICAL bid.
351	Partner opens the bidding and overcaller overcalls 1NT and you have 8 or more points then DOUBLE FOR BLOOD- they will not make 7 tricks!!
352	Against their 3NT contract make a short Major suit lead with a really lousy hand and TRY and FIND PARTNER so if the bidding goes 1NT - 3NT and you have: ♠ 6 5 ♥ 9 7 6 ♦ J 9 54 ♣ T 9 4 2 Lead 6♠ and see how delighted your partner will be no point in leading from your long suit you will never get it established nor will you get in with this pile of filth.
353	If declarer ends up in a suit and dummy has revealed a strong suit during the bidding make a BOLD LEAD - lead from a Kxx or even a KJxx suit or declarer might be able to draw trumps and dump all his losers on dummy's powerful suit in that dummy, not yet revealed. (only in the bidding)
354	If you have Q82 or K92 BUT don't want the suit played back then lead the 8 in first example and the 9 in second example. And then partner will not return this suit because you have given the impression you have no honour in the suit.
355	Don't distort your hand pattern so if you are 5422 you really need to bid both your suits and not go into No Trump. If all your values are in the doubletons then it's Ok to do so OCCASIONALLY!!
356	To make a Negative double you usually need 4-4 in the unbid suits but if you have 4 of the other major and support for opener's Minor you can still Negative Double as you then have the safety net of falling back onto opener's first bid suit. ♠ A Q 9 5 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A 9 8 7 5 ♣ 72 When the bidding goes N E S W 1♦ 1♥ DBL

	Prefer to say Double rather than 1♠ which strictly speaking should show 5 card suit now if opener now bids 2♣ you can always go onto 3♦ which is your safety net now.
357	In a competitive auction with both sides bidding, if in doubt, bid 4♠ over their onto 4♥
358	If one person has already turned up with length in one suit then it is reasonable to assume that the other defender is likely to turn up with length in a different suit and play your suits accordingly. so with : North K 9 8 6 West East South A T 5 4 West has already shown length in one suit so when playing this vital suit and expecting a possible bad break (maybe 4-1) play East for length in this suit and play the King first ready to finesse the T next.
359	In a No Trump contract, With: K86 opposite T72 if Queen is led from West DO NOT COVER trick 1 even if you suspect West has led from A-Q-J because you will look very silly if the cards are laid out like this K 8 6 Q J 9 5 4 A 3 T 7 2 as East wins first trick and now the defence has a stranglehold on "poor declarer" when they finesse their remaining J-9 through his T-7 taking the first 5 tricks. I watched a hand on OK bridge where declarer, a so called expert, covered trick one and fortunately for her East had a singleton Ace and she never got found out.
360	If you think that the defenders should be attacking your trump suit and they don't then expect that defender to hold a key card in the trump suit - maybe a doubleton queen of trumps.
361	Partner does something really strange such as underlead his Ace or even his AK to put you in, then FOLLOW PARTNER'S DEFENCE and come back the suit he originally led and don't be surprised when he now ruffs.
362	Person on left leads ♥2 against your 3NT contract realize he has led from a four card suit and you need to keep playing low to BLOCK THE DEFENCE. in this scenario: ♠ ♥ - ♦ ♣ ♠ NORTH ♠ WEST ♥ K 5 4 2 ♥ A J T 9 7 EAST ♦ ♦ ♣ SOUTH ♣ ♠ ♥ Q 8 6 3 ♦ ♣

	Declarer, South, must keep playing low when Jack comes back at trick 2 to stop the defenders getting 5 tricks.
363	Only do Unusual No Trump with 5-5 shape or better (not 5-4).
364	If from the bidding you know you have a 4-4 fit and a 5-4 fit or even a 6-4 fit available then it's best to try and play in the 4-4 fit as you will eventually get discards on the outside long suit. You will get no discards at all, if you play in the 5-4 or 6-4 fit.
365	If the opposition joins in and you want to play in No Trump but have no stopper, you bid overcaller's suit and THIS ASKS for STOPPER in that suit-it is called a DAB- Directional Asking Bid.
366	The worst lead in Bridge is a from a Doubleton Queen because more often than not it helps declarer- Maybe declarer was going to finesse and not play for the drop!!
367	If partner has both Majors with you and you are 5-4 in the Majors then make sure you GIVE PREFERENCE to the FOUR card suit rather that the 5 card suit then you will be able to draw trumps and then discard a loser on the outside suit. If you play in the 5-4 fit you will not get a discard if one should be needed.
368	Once there has been intervention and you are going to support partner then your, bids should now be semi- preemptive so raising. 1♠ to 2♠ should now show 4-5 points, 1♠ to 3♠ should be 6-9 points and if you have a good raise then adopt an Unassuming Cue bid which was originally the overcaller's partner's dominion but can be used in a similar way by responder's partner, ie you bid overcaller's suit. e.g. : N E S W 1♥ 1♠ 2♠ 2♠ now shows good raise in Hearts
369	Don't do Michaels Cue Bids and Unusual No Trump unless you have 55 or better shape- It's just "too" clever to do it on 5:4 hands when you deserve to come a cropper!!
370	If the bidding goes 1NT - 3♠ and you the opener now have a fit (three card suit) do remember to CUE BID any Ace you have before going directly to 4♠ therefore if you go directly to 4♠ now you are denying any ace outside the agreed trump suit.
371	With AJT965 opposite K52 play the Jack from closed hand to tempt a cover and if no cover go up with King and either play for the drop on way back or finesse on way back if you think the opponents are coverers of honours.
372	If you are thinking about taking a sacrifice and are not sure if they are making then DON'T especially at the 5 level.
373	Partner transfers into a suit you really like with transferred suit and have maximum hand the WAKE UP and BREAK THE TRANSFER. so playing weak no trump with: ♠ A Q 5 4 ♥ K J 9 ♦ A 6 ♣ Q 7 3 2 Having opened 1NT partner surprisingly replies 2♥ transfer to Spades you should now break to 3♠ so partner knows you are really good. Sometimes partner was transferring with weak hand and will now Pass but most of the time will still probably muster 9 tricks.

374	I think you should only overall with 1NT with 16-18 and not on 15-17, the modern style, as it can be dangerous (BUT I am a wimp).
375	If partner transfers and you have great 14 points and fit with the transfer suit then jump in transfer suit- this is called BREAKING The Transfer or in layman's terms not doing as you are told, e.g. ♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ 9 2 ♦ A J 8 7 ♣ K T 8 After opening 1NT partner transfers 2♥ with this maximum hand come alive and now bid 3♠ instead of just 2♠.
376	You can rebid 2NT or 3NT once a Major suit fit has been found if you are 4-3-3-3 and give partner a chance to give preference to No Trump or to the Major in situations like this where 9 tricks makes but 10 doesn't :- ♠ A Q 6 5 ♠ K J 4 2 ♥ K Q 8 ♥ A 7 2 ♦ A 8 4 ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ 9 5 4 ♣ A 3 2
377	If the bidding escalates to 3 level and the opponents are pre-empting you then you MUST PROTECT and either bid or Double in a situation like this :- N E S W NO NO 2♠ NO 3♠ ? East knows West has values and is not bidding blind and should now protect with Double with a hand like this :- ♠ 7 ♥ Q J 9 5 4 ♦ Q J T 5 4 ♣ 3 2 Nothing to worry about - if they have fit in spades you certainly have a fit in one of the red suit.
378	To make a weak take-out into clubs after 1NT opener you can either go through transfer sequence or you can bid 2♣ (Stayman) followed by 3♣ BUT only do a weak-take-out with six card suit as you now have to make 9 tricks when you could have left partner to make 7 in 1NT.
379	Are you disciplined enough to pass with 18 points in 4th seat when you have heard the bidding go 1H No 1S ? you can hear the opposition bidding showing around at least 19 points so partner has nothing – let then get on with it.
380	Looking for the Ace and Queen at trick 1 in a suit contract in a situation like this: K 6 ?? 3 is led WEST EAST ??? J 4 Since people do not lead away from Aces play West for the missing Queen and play low from dummy. If East has then both then there is nothing you can do about it.
381	Playing weak No Trump, I recommend that you play 2NT rebid showing 15-19 once partner has gone 2♣ in answer to your 1♠ or 1♥ opener and that a Jump to 3NT is just a source of tricks from a long solid Minor and you think you can make 9 tricks. e.g. N E S W 1♦ NO 1♥ NO 3NT

	♠ K 5 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A 4 2 ♣ A K Q 9 7 6
382	When following suit with a small card at trick 1, from your own concealed hand declarer should never play a true card so that the defenders signal will get muddled. e.g. the opponents lead an Ace which will obviously lose and you declarer hold 752 in the suit in the closed hand, drop the 5 at trick 1.
383	Every time you have three card Major and partner opens 2NT THINK PUPPET STAYMAN in situations like this: ♠ T 9 3 ♠ A K J 6 4 ♥ 7 4 ♥ Q T 3 ♦ K Q 7 6 4 ♦ A4 ♣ 8 5 2 ♣ A K 3 3NT would be one off on a Heart lead and 4♠ is so safe.
384	In a competive3 auction DO NOT BID 4♣ or 4♦ and suddenly push them into a making Game that the opposition were not going to bid UNLESS you intend doubling their 4♠ or 4♥ contract.
385	Make sure you and your partner discuss what action to take after they open 4♠ Is Double Penalty and 4NT Take-out? Which is the recommended course of action, whereas over 4♥ the action might be different where Double should be take-out.
386	With a totally balanced 13/14 point hand and 4 card support for the MAJOR you can either bid new suit then jump to 4♥ or 4♠ or do a 3NT BARON RESPONSE which shows precisely 4-3-3-3 13-15 points with 4 card support for the major.
387	In any Game Forcing situation where you go directly to Game and do not bid anything on the way then you should not have a control in the suits you by pass- you should always endeavor to make NO COST CUEBIDS.
388	Are you disciplined enough to pass with 18 points in 4th seat when you have heard the bidding go 1H No 1S ? you can hear the opposition bidding showing around at least 19 points so partner has nothing – let them get on with it.
389	Playing weak No Trump Opening bids (12-14), I recommend that you play 2NT rebid wide ranging showing 15-19 once partner has gone 2♣ in answer to your 1♠ or 1♥ opener, with possible slam interests and that 3NT should then be totally balanced 15 maybe 16 points with no slam interest.
390	To open Weak 1NT you need 12-14 points balanced 4333, 4432, and 5332 but occasionally with semi-balanced hands of 2254 shape with doubleton Honour in both majors or even 2263 again with doubleton Honour in both Majors you might open 1NT as a possible pre-emptive bid cutting the opposition out from finding their possible Major fit.- if you aren't sure about this then DON'T DO IT.

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