

## INTERMEDIATES TIPS

1	<p>If you aren't sure what to overcall try using a Take-Out Double-it covers many more permutations that you would not normally bring to mind. e.g. a) you have more than 18 points and you are balanced - so double first then bid No Trump. Partner should be able to deduce that you have in excess of 18 otherwise you would have made an immediate 1NT overcall, Wouldn't you? b) you have a very powerful suit of your own and again around 18/19 points both too strong for a simple overcall or strong jump overcall so DOUBLE FIRST then bid your suit</p>								
2	<p>Be aware of the importance of 8's 9's and T's especially in finesse positions that you thought might not have existed. eg a) when you have 543 opposite AJ92 if you need tricks from this suit lead the 3 and when next player plays low try inserting the 9 leaving your Ace Jack in tact for a further finesse, in other words you are now finessing against 3 cards the KQ and T</p>								
3	<p>Keep length with dummy if you are not sure what to keep when discarding keep the same long suit as you can see in dummy. This can also be applied to the closed hand - keep same long suit that declarer might have bid during the auction.</p>								
4	<p>Standard Stayman is for finding 44 fits so if you have good hand with 5 card major either bid it weakly at 2 level, use a transfer or bid it strongly at 3 level, but don't pussyfoot around using Stayman when you have 5. The reason for this is that if you have five you now only need three card support from partner not four!!</p>								
5	<p>If opponents open 1NT (especially weak) and the partner of the 1NT opener makes a weakness takeout and the auction is just about to subside at the 2 level - make sure you bid at all costs. Protect on as little as 7/8 points. You will be pleasantly surprised how often the opponents now take the push to the 3 level, go one down when you were just about to let them play a comfortable 2 level contract Balance.</p>								
6	<p>Long in Trump Lead Length- if you have 4 trumps and you are on lead it is best to lead your other long suit. By doing this there may be the possibility that declarer will need to trump in before he wants to. Now he may lose control of the trump suit itself. Certainly don't lead from shortage since you will be coming to natural trumps anyway with you length.</p>								
7	<p>Don't lead a singleton with a goodish hand since you might not be able to get partner in for a ruff so make a positive lead instead. eg you hold</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">QJT4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">952</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">AKJ53</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">3</td> </tr> </table> <p>and the opponents bid to 4♥ then lead A♦ or Q♠ not the 3♣ assuming the opponents are reasonable and they get to 4♥ with about 26 points and you have 11 so how many can partner have so make a positive lead from your own hand instead of trying to find an entry in partner's hand when he can't possibly have one.</p>	♠	QJT4	♥	952	♦	AKJ53	♣	3
♠	QJT4								
♥	952								
♦	AKJ53								
♣	3								
8	<p>Remember to only cover an honour with an Honour if you are likely to PROMOTE something for yourself or for your partner- this is most of time but if you see touching honours in dummy or you suspect that declarer has a good holding in the closed hand don't bother to cover.</p>								
9	<p>Stayman Convention is mainly used to try and find 44 fits. If you have a five timer, either introduce it naturally or with Transfers.</p>								
10	<p>If you are thinking of overcalling and you aren't sure whether your suit is good enough to bid consider the Suit Quality. The number of cards in the suit you are considering bidding plus the number of honours in that suit should equal tricks required eg with ♠ AK762 ♥ 76 ♦ 763 ♣ Q65 yes overcall 1♠ total is 5+2 =7 OK BUT with ♠ Q7632 ♥ A6 ♦ K63 ♣ Q65 Now Pass as total is 5+1 = 6 (despite having more points on this hand</p>								

11	In 4th seat this is time to bid protect yours and your partner's interest and this is why its called THE PROTECTIVE POSITION. In 4th seat a bid of 1NT shows only 10-14 points and a Balanced hand. If you just sit there and pass you will have some very happy opponents- Be competitive.
12	Be aware of the RULE of 20 for light opening bids. If you are in doubt as to whether or not you can open then add your points and your 2 longest suits together and if the total comes to 20 or more then OPEN rather than passing like a wimp. eg ♠ AK7632 ♥ K965 ♦3 ♣ 32 total is 10 + 10 so open 1 ♠ or with ♠ K7632 ♥ KQ762 ♦K3 ♣ 5 total is 11 + 10 so open 1 ♠
13	a) Opposite a weak No Trump if you have a TOTALLY balanced 4333 hand and only 11 points do not invite - be happy to stay in 1NT. With a totally balanced 25 High card Points between the 2 hands you will be hard pushed to find a ninth trick. b) However opposite a weak No Trump and 12 High card Points and a five card suit treat the hand as if it is 13 points and go directly to 3NT. Now there is no need to invite as a 9th trick will materialize more often than not even opposite a minimum 12 count.
14	Against a small slam Favour an active lead from Qxxx or Kxxx suits rather than making a passive lead. By doing this you are well on the way to building a defensive trick for your side. All Partner needs to have is the other high honour you lack.
15	If you have the choice to lead from an AK suit and a singleton suit choose the Ace lead most of the time. If you lead your ace you can always switch but if you lead your singleton and it turns out to be wrong it will be too late ♠ AK965 ♥ 952 ♦ 3 ♣ Q853 Uncontested auction of 1♥ - 3♥ - 4♥ prefer to lead from your A♠ rather than you singleton Diamond. Many experts have an agreement that the play of an Ace followed by a switch shows a singleton in the suit you switch to.
16	If your partner replies to your 2♥ to your 1♥ opener and you have a reasonable 15/16 points you might think game is a possibility, if so ADOPT TRIAL bids. Bidding 3♥ invitationally to 4 is to be quite frank a total waste of time and hardly constructive. A trial bid will pinpoint where you want help and allow you and partner to get to minimum games and to stop short of game where you have your values in the wrong suit. So after 1♥ bid the suit you want help in eg ♠AQ765 ♠ K954 ♠ AQ765 ♠ K954 ♥76 ♥ 542 but with the following hand ♥ 76 ♥ Q42 ♦KQ5 ♦ J753 the bidding now goes ♦ KQ5 ♦ A3 ♣A32 ♣ K6 ♣ A32 ♣ 7654 1♠ 2♠ 3♣ 4♠ and now we find a 22 point game and we stop short despite more points TRIAL BIDS come in other guises and can be a lot of fun to play. it also now frees up the immediate 3 rebid by opener as a disruptive pre-emptive measure thereby making life more difficult for the opponent who wants to balance.
17	Next time you have support for a Minor THINK 3NT. Most of the time that you and partner will be able to make 11 tricks in Clubs or Diamonds you can probably easily make 9 or maybe even 10 in No Trumps. If you are playing in MP's pairs you want to be playing on an equal footing to the experts so that when you open the traveller you too are in 3Nt plus one for 430 rather than just 400 for a hard 5 ♣ contract.

18	=17																				
19	<p>If partner pre-empts and you have a good hand be prepared to raise partner to game with a singleton in his suit or even a void sometimes. Partner will not need help from you in his LONG suit so all the goodies you offer him outside will be dynamite. eg partner opens 1♥ and you hold</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>A854</td> <td>RAISE TO 4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>2</td> <td>don't even consider 3NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>AK53</td> <td>unless you want a new partner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>AK92</td> <td>next week</td> </tr> </table>	♠	A854	RAISE TO 4♥	♥	2	don't even consider 3NT	♦	AK53	unless you want a new partner	♣	AK92	next week								
♠	A854	RAISE TO 4♥																			
♥	2	don't even consider 3NT																			
♦	AK53	unless you want a new partner																			
♣	AK92	next week																			
20	<p>If you bid in 3rd or 4th seat you can OPEN LIGHT. In third and fourth seat you do not have to have a rebid ready. Since your partner has already passed there is little fear of missing out on anything. You can certainly open all the following hands in 3rd and 4th seats and merely drop out of the auction thereafter.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="width: 25%;">AQ764 ♠</td> <td style="width: 25%;">K9 ♠</td> <td style="width: 25%;">AJT765</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td>762 ♥</td> <td>542 ♥</td> <td>76</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td>K5 ♦</td> <td>AQJ753 ♦</td> <td>K65</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td>432 ♣</td> <td>63 ♣</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Open 1♠ just</td> <td style="text-align: center;">open 1♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">open 1♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>Opening with 1♠ is particularly pre-emptive</p>	♠	AQ764 ♠	K9 ♠	AJT765	♥	762 ♥	542 ♥	76	♦	K5 ♦	AQJ753 ♦	K65	♣	432 ♣	63 ♣	32		Open 1♠ just	open 1♦	open 1♠
♠	AQ764 ♠	K9 ♠	AJT765																		
♥	762 ♥	542 ♥	76																		
♦	K5 ♦	AQJ753 ♦	K65																		
♣	432 ♣	63 ♣	32																		
	Open 1♠ just	open 1♦	open 1♠																		
21	<p>In a competitive situation DON'T PUNISH PARTNER for competing. Sometime partners are competing and balancing knowing that you have points. Do not go and spoil it by bidding on. This is particularly relevant when partner balances in 4th seat causing the opponents to bid on to the three level and you now go and bid one more (UGH) be pleased you have pushed them to three level. eg</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">♠ AQ76</td> <td>After partner passes for 2 rounds he</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 76</td> <td>suddenly dredges up a bid of 2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ Q5</td> <td>after 1♥ - 2♥ by the opposition</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A32</td> <td>when they now bid 3♥ be happy to now Pass</td> </tr> </table>	♠ AQ76	After partner passes for 2 rounds he	♥ 76	suddenly dredges up a bid of 2♠	♦ Q5	after 1♥ - 2♥ by the opposition	♣ A32	when they now bid 3♥ be happy to now Pass												
♠ AQ76	After partner passes for 2 rounds he																				
♥ 76	suddenly dredges up a bid of 2♠																				
♦ Q5	after 1♥ - 2♥ by the opposition																				
♣ A32	when they now bid 3♥ be happy to now Pass																				
22	<p>If the contract belongs to you and your partner and they take a sacrifice</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>make sure you double the final contract</li> <li>lead a trump to cut back their powers of a possible cross ruff</li> </ol>																				
23	<p>Looking for a missing queen and you have a two way finesse, If you want the defender to cover the honour, try leading an honour and if they don't cover as most players might then go up with the Ace or King and finesse on the way back</p>																				
24	<p>Lead back the higher of two remaining card in partner's suit so partner knows you started with three cards, otherwise play your lowest one back and then he can deduce that you started with 2 (and could not help yourself) or 4. This assumes he is watching all the small cards being played at tricks one and two.</p>																				
25	<p>Attack when your opponents bid a small slam in a suit. Lead from Kxxx or Qxxx, you only need partner to turn up with the other high honour to establish one trick or even two for the defense.</p>																				
26	<p>Try and work out what partner has led from, if they lead a two its probably 4th best from 4 card suit, if they lead a middling card and there are five in dummy and you have five too it's probably a singleton.</p>																				
27	<p>Not sure what to keep then keep the same long suit you can see in dummy - it's known as keeping length with dummy and prevents dummy's long card becoming a winner</p>																				
28	<p>You have 8 trumps but lousy ones including the Ace, why not duck a round of the suit and then you will not lose control of the trump suit.</p>																				
29	<p>Short of entries why not duck a round and keep that precious Ace in the dummy as your entry later, sometimes you might need to duck twice in situations like this:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A6543 KQ2                      JT</p>																				

	987
30	When the defenders try to make you ruff in the long hand so depleting your trump length consider discarding and in this way you will not lose control of the trump suit
31	Don't raise partner's second suit unless you have 4 card support
32	Most of the time when you have choice between a ruffing finesse and a simple finesse it is best to take the ruffing finesse option. Even if the ruffing finesse fails you have managed to chuck a loser elsewhere and you have set up a winner from the ruffing finesse for later.
33	Once dummy comes down add your points to dummy's points and take the total from 40 to tell you have many points the opposition have between them (see Novices tip this week)
34	If your partner didn't open 1NT then you can rule out that he has a balanced hand with 12-14 points. There is so much to learn from bids that aren't made as well as bids that are.
35	Two suits of equal length and you are leading against No Trumps then lead from the better suit as you need less from partner to make the suit good so with choice of leading from J642 or K642 lead from the K642 suit
36	Support with 3 card support rather than reply 1NT especially if you have a doubleton elsewhere. The doubleton and three card support gives you some ruffing values.
37	If opponents end up in the third suit after bidding three suits lead a trump
38	If you are going to win a trump trick anyway with a holding such as KT4 or QT4 consider not overtrumping and perhaps your one trump tricks will turn into two trump tricks.
39	=38
40	Want to make a forward going strong bid then employ a fourth suit forcing bid.
41	Trying to get your long suit going and short of entries to get to it, then duck a round and retain the high card Ace or King in situations like this:  AK8542 opposite 93
42	=41
43	You can often prevent a trump promotion by discarding losers on losers rather than being in a hurry to ruff.
44	If you notice declarer doesn't draw trumps, when you get in, attack declarer's trumps suit and draw two for one.
45	Be aware that you might have more entries than you originally thought in situations like this AQJ52 Opposite KT63 - if the suit breaks no worse than 3-1 then you have three entries to the KT63 side if you need an extra entry - the six can beat the 5 and two.
46	If in doubt, continue the suit led and don't open up new suits that might help declarer more than the defense.
47	If you are lucky enough to have two suits and the opposition have found a fit then introduce your other suit as you too will also have a fit and may be able to outbid them especially if that other suit is Spades.
48	Not sure which way to take your two way finesse with KJT9 in the closed hand and A543 in dummy then try playing the Jack from the closed hand and if they don't cover (NB Most people will cover even if they shouldn't) go up with the Ace and finesse the other person on the way back.
49	If you want to create an illusion and you have AKQ of a suit win the trick with the Ace and you might well fool the defenders who might think the other defender has the missing high honours.
50	Even if you haven't got top trumps still draw trumps especially if you have good outside strength that you do not want the opponents to ruff
51	Be competitive and sometimes you push the opponents out of their comfort zone.
52	If you have long solid seven or more card Minor such as ♠ 57 ♥ 54 ♦ AKQJ765 ♣ 35

	and no outside strength instead of opening 3♦ Open 3NT and this is an even more effective pre-empt
53	If you open with a weak two or a weak three this is a limit bid and you should not bid again unless partner forces you to do so or invites you. All decisions rest with partner - do not take phantom sacrifices in a competitive auction and certainly don't make any fatuous Doubles
54	If you open with a weak two or a weak three this is a limit bid and you should not bid again unless partner forces you to do so or invites you. All decisions rest with partner - do not take phantom sacrifices in a competitive auction and certainly don't make any fatuous Doubles
55	If you overcall more often then you are helping partner with a lead- of course don't overcall if you do not want a suit led J
56	They lead and from dummy you should low play most of the time as this will certainly yield a high card from third player and you will be better placed.
57	Stuck for a bid when Overcalling THINK INFORMATIVE DOUBLE especially if you have four cards in the unbid Major with hands like ♠ Q876   ♥ 72   ♦ AKJ83   ♣ Q6 over 1♥ Double is much better than mere 2♦
58	In Blackwood or Roman Key Card Blackwood you must not initiate 5NT for Kings unless you know you have all the Aces held in the partnership. If you only have three and think you can still make a small slam you just bid it. Bidding 5NT says you are interested in the Grand Slam and you would not be interested in the Grand Slam with an Ace missing would you?☺
59	Adopt Unassuming Cue bids and then all raises of partner's suit can be weak and less weak and good raise can be made by bidding the opponent's suit.
60	Not sure which way to take the two way finesse try advancing the J from the closed and maybe one of the opposition might cover ,If they don't go up with the A or K showing in dummy then finesse on the way back
61	With T9 opposite AQJ84 when finessing play the T and let it run then you will still be in that hand (assuming the finesse has been successful) to repeat the finesse again.
62	If you Double then bid your suit later you are showing 17+ points and Six card suit.
63	Every time you OVERCALL Think INFORMATIVE Double and maybe you will use it more often
64	Your partner has just raised you 1♥ opening bid to 2♥ and you would like to invite then USE TRIAL BIDS rather than go a wishy washy 3♥ because sometimes it is hard to judge whether or not to go onto Game. Sometimes you maximum 9 points will not be the right 9 points and sometimes your minimum 6 points will suffice. With Trial Bids you merely bid the suit you where you need assistance. If partner has the assistance they bid 4 and if they don't they retreat to 3.
65	In a an artificial sequence such as the opponents using Stayman or Transfers don't forget to Double the artificial bid if you would like that suit led.
66	Upgrade 14 point hands with 5332 if all your honours are in the five card suit and treat it like a 15 count and open 1 of a suit intending to rebid in No Trumps
67	only use Michaels Cue Bids and Unusual No Trump with either very weak hands (6-10) or very strong hand (17+) otherwise partner will not be able to judge the rest of the auction
68	A JUMP in a NEW SUIT by Opener is GAME FORCING and responder has to keep bidding- it shows a hand containing 19+ points (even stronger than a reverse such as: ♠ A K J 6 4   open 1♠ and rebid 3♣ ♥ A 4 ♦ 7 2 ♣ A Q J 4
69	Giving preference is not the same as supporting and it is your duty to give preference however bad your hand is so with ♠ K J 6 4 3   when partner opens 1♥ you reply 1♠ then partner rebids 2♦ ♥ 4 2   you must remember to put partner back to 2♥ because partner must have bid his longest suit first so you PREFER



79	If opposition opens and you have a huge one suited hand (maybe 18+ points and good six card suit) start with DOUBLE and then bid your suit later and partner should be able to deduce you have this number of points. With less you would have made a mere simple overcall from the start (simple overcalls promising from 8/9 up to about 16/17).																		
80	Somebody leads a small card against your suit contract you immediately know they don't really have a good lead- they will not hold any AK combination or other decent honour sequence.																		
81	About to overruff the opposition, think again and consider discarding a loser elsewhere. (A loser on Loser Play). This will often avoid the embarrassment of a trump promotion (sometimes called an uppercut)																		
82	After intervention all raises of partner's suit should now be weak and pre-emptive as follows : N E S W 1♥ 1♠ 2♥ should now be just 3/4 points and 1♥ 1♠ 3♥ should be 6-9 with more use an Unassuming Cue bid i.e. bid 2♠																		
83	Partner makes an Informative double and you have very weak hand and length in opener's suit and you are not strong enough to convert it to Penalties then under duress you will have to bid a three card suit so with: ♠ 8 7 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ 6 5 4 1♦ Partner Doubles you have no choice but to REACT with 1♥																		
84	ELIMINATION ELIMINATION ELIMINATION. - if you set about eliminating all side suits after drawing trumps it yields dividends more often than not and opponents will do you dirty work in the problem suit that you have avoided playing so far.																		
85	You have good trumps between the two hands and a good side suit that needs establishing then more often than not you will need to dislodge an opponent's Ace or King in that side suit first, keeping trumps in both hands so you cannot be forced.																		
86	In the balancing seat you can BORROW a king so when the bidding goes 1♥ NO NO ? Now you can bid with 3 less points (i.e. a King) i.e. you can join in with as few as 8 /9 with a suit overcall and in this position 1NT is only 10-14.																		
87	After partner has made an informative Double and you have 8 or more points remember to JUMP BID in your suit (see tip 86).																		
88	Not sure what to play next then hold up your Ace to enable partner to signal when he cannot follow suit.																		
89	When both you and your partner has bid a suit a Double of 3NT demands the suit bid by your partner to be led.																		
90	<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>K 7 5 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K 8 5 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>T 5 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>J 8</td></tr> </table>	♠	K 7 5 3	♥	K 8 5 4	♦	T 5 3	♣	J 8	As PARTNER of the INFORMATIVE DOUBLER adopt RESPONSIVE DOUBLES into your repertoire as follows: South 's Double shows a hand like : whereby you are happy to play in either Major	<table border="1"> <tr><td>W</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1♦ Double</td><td>2♦</td><td>Double</td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♦ Double	2♦	Double	
♠	K 7 5 3																		
♥	K 8 5 4																		
♦	T 5 3																		
♣	J 8																		
W	N	E	S																
1♦ Double	2♦	Double																	
91	If your partner, the other defender, plays the cards in an abnormal way then he is trying to send you a MESSAGE and usually the message will be a suit preference signal to tell you what to switch to next																		
92	There is much to be gained from bids that aren't made as bids that are made especially about the distribution. If your partner doesn't support your major immediately but subsequently supports it then you know THEY ONLY HAVE THREE otherwise they would have made a different bid earlier in the auction and supported straight away. Other such inferences can be made along the way																		
93	Don't Open sub minimum hands in 3rd seat unless you want that suit led. it is ok to open 1 with ♠AQ984 but not with ♠J8643 ♥K63 ♥A94 ♦32 ♦K64 ♣542 ♣Q8																		

94	Adopt 5 Card Stayman over 1NT openers (as well as 2NT Openers) because so many people now Open 1NT with a five card Major and by doing this you will be able to find all those 5:3 fits fairly quickly
95	In IMPs or Team play take safety plays but in MPs where every overtrick is vital throw caution to the wind. With AKQJ43 opposite 72 needing five tricks and no entry to the lowing hand play a low card from each hand to cater for 50 break but playing MPs go for broke and play from the top expecting the more normal 3-2 or 4-1 break.
96	In a basic sequence if the bidding goes 1♥ - 2NT it shows 11-12 points and if it goes 1♥ - 3NT it shows 13-15. If you go around the houses and show another suit on the way but come to the SAME FINAL BID it means the same so 1♥ - 1♠ or 1♥ - 1♠ - 2NT                    2♣ - 3NT It still shows 11/12 here                    and 13-15 here I call it Theory of Final Destination and can be applied in other situations where you bid in new suit and then jump to 3 level in partner's suit to still show 10-12 points (but no 4 card support) <span style="float: right;">2♣</span>
97	Be aware of Misfitting hands and drop the auction as soon as possible With ♠ K Q J 9 7 3 ♥ - ♦ J T 5 ♣ A J T 5 rebid 2♠ when partner replies 2♥ and if partner should then bid 3♥ be prepared to Pass with such a horrid Misfit
98	Short of entries to dummy to your long suit DUCK so with A876 5 opposite 432 you might need to duck twice here retaining the Ace as your entry
99	If your partner in 4th seat protects and you have a good 10+ points DO NOT GET EXCITED. When partner is protecting he is bidding in the knowledge that you have these points so DO NOT PUNISH him for protecting. You will not be popular if you do so
100	If you play transfers and want to do a weakness take-out into a Minor Suit then you really need to have Six card suit rather than just 5. The reason for this is because you will now be playing at the three level instead of the 1 level
101	With Axx opposite xx consider ducking in this suit to maintain the A as an entry when you really need it.
102	Needing three tricks from the following combination A2 opposite JT643 Play Ace and a low one from both hands and you will always be OK if the suit breaks 3-3 or one of the opponents has King Doubleton or Queen Doubleton
103	If you jump rebid in your original suit 1♥ then 3♥ this shows 6/7 playing tricks or 6 loser hand but if responder is minimum they can now Pass. The JUMP REBID in SAME SUIT is NOT FORCING
104	Use the Law of Total Tricks to upset the Opposition once partner overcalls. No Matter how many points. if you have 3 card support now know you have guaranteed 8 trumps between you so raise to level of fit and bid 2 of overcaller suit if you have 4 card support now know you have guaranteed 9 trumps between you so raise to level of fit and bid 3 of overcaller suit if you have 5 card support now know you have guaranteed 10 trumps between you so raise to level of fit and bid 4 of overcaller suit (With a good fit and good hand see next tip below)
105	On every hand no matter whether it's in No Trumps or a Trump Contract Count both winners and losers.
106	If your partner rebids 4♠ or 4♥ or 3NT over your 1 level change of suit reply this rebid shows a very strong 18/19 points as you have only promised 6 points. Therefore it is not a closing bid and if you have a good hand you can now BID ON if you want to do so.
107	In the 4th seat you do not need to have a good quality suit to protect, With

	<p>♠ T9543                      bid 1♠ in 4th seat after there  ♥ 92                              has been an Opening bid of 1♥  ♦ KJ7  ♣ AQ5</p>												
108	With an outside suit of QJT95 opposite void don't try to ruff out this whole suit do a "ruffing finesse" and eventually you can establish the T9												
109	Be eager to shorten declarer in the long hand. If declarer has to trump in sooner than he wishes he could easily lose control of the trump suit. This is particularly effective at trick one when you have 4 trumps and you lead from your other long suit rather than leading from shortage. This is sometimes known as "long in Trump Lead Length".												
110	A Redouble after your partner opens the bidding shows the BALANCE OF POWER 8/9+ points. and no support for Opener's Suit, and a willingness to eventually make Penalty Doubles.												
111	<p>If you have intermediate values and 6:5 shape do not use Michaels or UNT as partner will not be able to judge how far to go so with</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>3</td> <td>Initially overcall 2♦ when they open 1♠ or 1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>A J 9 8 6 3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>K Q J 5 4</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	♠	3	Initially overcall 2♦ when they open 1♠ or 1♥	♥	2		♦	A J 9 8 6 3		♣	K Q J 5 4	
♠	3	Initially overcall 2♦ when they open 1♠ or 1♥											
♥	2												
♦	A J 9 8 6 3												
♣	K Q J 5 4												
112	<p>Over their Opening 2♠ or 3♠ bids OVERCALL in the same way that you would have done over their 1♠ Opening bids.</p> <p>a) Still make suit overcalls with good quality suits, slightly more points now as you are bidding at the 3 and 4 level.</p> <p>b) Still overcall No Trumps at the appropriate level to show 16-18 points balanced.</p> <p>c) Still make Informative Doubles with liking for the unbid suits or any 18+ point hand.</p>												
113	With AK943 opposite Q82 needing 4 tricks and to guard against a 5:0 bad break play a low card from either hand and then finesse the 8 or 9												
114	If you have Ace opposite K876 and need to take a ruff in this suit, take your ruff early, you can always enjoy the King later												
115	With very strong 18/19 point 4441 hands bid slowly otherwise you will not find the right strain- you might even get to a fit in your third suit if you bid it.												
116	With Misfitting hands bid slowly and let the opponents join in. Maybe they will be the wrong end of the misfitting hands and go off instead of you and partner.												
117	A simple finesse is 50% and a suit breaking 3-2 is 68% so if your contract can be brought in only by establishing a suit that needs a suit to break 3-2 then go after this suit rather than rely on the 50% finesse chance. If the suit breaks badly you can still do your finesse but if you have put all your eggs in the finessing bag straight away it will be too late												
118	<p>Support with three card support and ruffing values so with</p> <p>♠ 5 4 3                      it is correct to reply 2♠ to partner's 1♠ opener rather than an inferior incorrect 1NT reply  ♥ 3 2                              (NB you have wonderful ruffing values in Hearts)  ♦ Q 7 5 3  ♣ K Q 6 5</p>												
119	To support Opener's second suit you NEED TO HAVE FOUR CARD SUPPORT because opener's suit might only be four												
120	Don't lead a singleton trump as its sure to destroy any holding partner might have - partner might have J765 or Q76												
121	Once either member of the partnership has made any sort of limit bid then all Doubles thereafter against the opposition's intervention should be treated as Penalty for Blood.												
122	If the bidding goes 1♠ - 2♥ reply and now opener rebids 2NT or 3NT responder knows partner cannot have more than 2 Hearts otherwise he should have supported Hearts straight away												

123	If the bidding goes 1♠ - 2♣ reply and now opener rebids 2♥ and responder the rebids 2NT or 3NT you know responder has no more than 2 Spades otherwise responder would now be giving delayed support to the known five card Spade suit.
124	Unless you have a huge hand, do not make an Informative Double with shortness in an unbid Major- if you have shortness then you will have a five card suit in a Minor, that you can bid won't you?
125	If you Open 4 or 5 of a suit this is still, a Pre-empt and will show an eight or nine card suit with no outside values, sometimes called a stronger pre-empt but possibly even more damaging to the opposition so with ♠ A K Q 9 8 6 5 3    Open 4♠ ♥ 9 8 ♦ 9 ♣ 5 3 And with ♠ 3                                    Open a Menacing 5♦ ♥ 9 8 ♦ A Q J 9 8 7 6 5 4 ♣ 5
126	When responding, when should you prefer to bid a Major rather than a longer Minor? If you have 10 or more points and five clubs and 4 spades reply 2♣, your longer suit. However if you have only 7/8 points and five clubs and 4 spades now You have to reply 1♠ as you are not strong enough to go to the two level.
127	Lead an Ace when the opponents had an exploratory auction looking for 3NT and then avoided bidding it.
128	Play the Gambling 3NT convention which shows a long solid Minor suit. a pre-empt on hands like this ♠ T 9 ♥ 5                    Most of the time partner will bid 4♣ and you will leave it if Clubs is your suit but bid 4♦ ♦ 6 5                    it is Diamonds. Partner should only leave it in with stoppers in three suits. ♣ A K Q J 7 5 4 2
129	If you have a fit and a huge hand between you, more often than not, it is safer to play in 7NT than 7 of a suit especially if you can count 13 tricks as nobody can ruff the first trick. Also playing MPS it scores better, assuming that most people will be bidding the Grand Slam (which can be a very dangerous assumption when it comes to bidding Grand Slams
130	If the opponents are in a strange contract that is likely to give them a top go onto the attack and switch and try and find partner even if it gives away overtricks.
131	If your partner has made an INFORMATIVE DOUBLE and you have 12 points then you have almost the maximum hand possible for the last player then the STRONGEST BID, you can make, is to CUE BID Opener's suit. You actually bid the same suit as the Opener and this is message to partner that you are exceedingly strong and want to make a Game forcing bid
132	If you have a choice between a limit bid of any description and a non-limited bid ALWAYS take the limit bid option. In fact there would be no choice as the limit bid option wins hands down so with ♠ 9 8 4 2 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A K 9 4 ♣ K 3 2 reply 3♠ when partner opens 1♠ and do not even dream of bidding 2♦
133	Don't forget to give preference when partner offers you two suits in a situation like this :- ♠ 5 4 2 ♥ Q 7 2 ♦ A 9 4 ♣ A J 8 3 2

	reply 1NT after opens 1♠ but when partner now rebids 2♥ don't forget to show preference back to 2♠
134	Don't Lead a singleton against a trump contract when you have a relatively good hand because its wishful thinking to think that partner can grab the lead and give you a ruff if he cannot have any points.
135	Playing Match Points Bridge where every overtrick or every undertrick is vital make a PASSIVE LEAD
136	To differentiate between 95 and 952 when leading lead adopt the following 9 (Top of doubleton) from 95 and lead 5 ( MUD-Middle Up Down) NB MUD can only be from three cards without an Honour (nothing higher than the 9)
137	Only count SHORTAGE POINTS if you have a FIT with partner
138	Once you partner has endorses a suit and made a limit bid in that suit your first priority is now to work out whether you want to stay in a part score (and now Pass) invite to Game (maybe a trial bid) or possibly invite to slam (maybe a Cue Bid or Blackwood). At this point in time after the endorsement you are the one in charge, the captain of the auction, since your partner has just made a limit bid.
139	Shortage points should only be applied once a fit has manifested itself. When Opening and responding in new suits Long Suits are the key to success and then you should be counting length points.
140	When you defend, after winning the first trick you should play back top of two remaining cards and the lowest of three then partner can work out the distribution of the hand
141	On all hands in crucial suits imagine the layout of the cards in the opposition's hands. If you have 7 cards between you in that suit, then the suit could be breaking 3-3, or 4-2 or even 5-1 or 6-0. If you have 8 cards between you in that suit then the suit could be breaking 3-2, or 4-1 or even 5-0. You must think about this every single time.
142	If there is only one way to make a contract assume that the cards lie in your favors. If you have K7 opposite 32 and need one trick from this suit then assume that the Ace is sitting before the King and your finesse will work
143	If you are going to embark on a cross ruff and try and make all your trumps separately maybe do 4 ruffs in each hand then you need to cash your outside winners first (Aces and Kings). if you do not do so at the eleventh hour after cross ruffing one of the opponents might have shed cards in your Ace King suits and will trump you. This is less likely to happen at the beginning of the hand.
144	If you need to take two finesses assess which player you don't mind losing the finesse to. Avoid the danger hand, the hand who might switch to a suit and immediately take you off.
145	Analyze the opening lead; - Is it a singleton, is it start of Doubleton? Is it top of sequence? Then use this information to play out the hand.
146	If you have declarer's other suit lead a trump if the bidding goes ♠ A Q T 8                      1♠    1NT ♥ 7 3                                2♥    NO ♦ K 7 6 5 ♣ J T 9  Lead a Heart with this hand. It looks like dummy is short in Spades. You want to win some of your Spades don't you?
147	If you DOUBLE their 1NT OVERCALL this is for PENALTIES and shows 8+ points. If partner has already opened and you have 8 points then they "aren't making 1NT"
148	Normally it is correct to bid your longest suit first but with 65 shape and a minimum hand wanting to show both suits and not wanting to reverse you might occasionally have to lie so with :- ♠ A Q 9 7 5 ♥ K J T 9 5 4

	<p>♦ 5 ♣ 4</p> <p>Open 1♠ rather than 1♥ and then you can rebid 2♥ and still be in control</p>												
149	<p>The opponents lead a suit DON'T BE IN A HURRY to commit to a high card from dummy at trick 1.</p>												
150	<p>If you have miserable Ace less hand and the hand conforms to Rule of 20 curb your natural instincts and Pass rather than Open especially if you are going to have rebid problems later</p> <p>♠ Q 6 ♥ K Q      don't dream of Opening this hand despite 11 + 5 + 4 UGH ♦ K J 7 4 ♣ 8 7 5 3 2</p>												
151	<p>Over a Major support the Major but over a Minor introduce a Major so</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A Q J 4 2</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 9 8 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 9 8 5 4</td> <td>♥ K 7 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ K 7 4</td> <td>♦ A Q J 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 4 3</td> <td>♣ 4 3</td> </tr> </table> <p>reply 3♥ to 1♥ opener      but here reply 1♠ when partner opens 1♦</p>	♠ A Q J 4 2	♠ 9 8 5 4	♥ 9 8 5 4	♥ K 7 4	♦ K 7 4	♦ A Q J 4 2	♣ 4 3	♣ 4 3				
♠ A Q J 4 2	♠ 9 8 5 4												
♥ 9 8 5 4	♥ K 7 4												
♦ K 7 4	♦ A Q J 4 2												
♣ 4 3	♣ 4 3												
152	<p>Playing weak No Trump and four card Suit with 15-19 points and TWO FOUR CARD MAJORS open 1♥ rather than 1♠ and then it's easier to get to fit in either Major particularly when partner has a balanced hand with 4 Hearts. If you had opened 1 in the first place it would be some much more difficult to get to that fit now.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">♠ A Q J 4</td> <td style="width: 33%;">♠ 9 6</td> <td style="width: 33%;">♠ K 9 7 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ J 8 5 4</td> <td>♥ K Q 9 7</td> <td>♥ 4 3 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A Q 4</td> <td>♦ K 8 5</td> <td>♦ 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ K 3</td> <td>♣ 4 3 2</td> <td>♣ K Q 9 7</td> </tr> </table> <p>Open 1♥ and with either of the following two hands we get to the correct fit easily if you had opened 1♠ and partner has the first hand it is virtually impossible to now get to that Heart fit</p>	♠ A Q J 4	♠ 9 6	♠ K 9 7 5	♥ J 8 5 4	♥ K Q 9 7	♥ 4 3 2	♦ A Q 4	♦ K 8 5	♦ 5 4	♣ K 3	♣ 4 3 2	♣ K Q 9 7
♠ A Q J 4	♠ 9 6	♠ K 9 7 5											
♥ J 8 5 4	♥ K Q 9 7	♥ 4 3 2											
♦ A Q 4	♦ K 8 5	♦ 5 4											
♣ K 3	♣ 4 3 2	♣ K Q 9 7											
153	<p>If you are not sure how high to bid and you have seven losers then make sure you bid Game if partner has already opened. It is safe to assume that most Opening Bids promise a 7 loser hand</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">♠ K Q J 4 3</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Reply 4♥</td> <td style="width: 33%;">when partner opens 1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ J 8 5 4</td> <td colspan="2">as you have a seven loser hand too</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 4 3</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ K 3</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table>	♠ K Q J 4 3	Reply 4♥	when partner opens 1♥	♥ J 8 5 4	as you have a seven loser hand too		♦ 4 3			♣ K 3		
♠ K Q J 4 3	Reply 4♥	when partner opens 1♥											
♥ J 8 5 4	as you have a seven loser hand too												
♦ 4 3													
♣ K 3													
154	<p>With</p> <p>♠ J 9 4 2 ♥ 6 5 3 ♦ A K 7 ♣ 9 5 4</p> <p>lead 4<sup>th</sup> highest Spade against No Trump contract and do not lead from your AK suit as you need the AK as entries to your Spades</p>												

155	<p>Because 1♠ 2♥ reply promises 5 card suit, Opener's priority is now to support with three card support acknowledging the 5:3 fit as quickly as possible.</p> <p>♠ A J 9 4 2 ♥ 6 5 3 ♦ A K 7 ♣ K 4</p> <p>now rebid 3♥ over the 2♥ reply rather than going into No Trump</p>
156	<p>If you have a two way finesse check to see who the danger hand is and then finesse through that player especially in No Trumps when that danger player has a few winners left in his hand</p>
157	<p>If you are well endowed in your trump suit and have virtually all the high cards from Ace down to the 9 then if ruffing ruff high if you can afford to do so to avoid the embarrassment of being overruffed UGH</p>
158	<p>Leading from a doubleton Queen is one of the worst leads in bridge. More often than not declarer will be looking for that Queen and you are handing it to him on a plate.</p>
159	<p>If a two way finesse is available AJ54 opposite KT32 then finesse through the danger hand not minding a loss to the safe hand.</p>
160	<p>In the "free bid" situation, whenever there is any sort of intervention, if you can still make your planned rebid then do so. If you are minimum just Pass as you know partner still has another bid.</p>
161	<p>If you intend playing the hand on a CROSS RUFF LINE before doing so cash all the outside winners first. At the eleventh hour after doing all your cross ruffs you do not want to be surprised by the opposition who can suddenly ruff these winning cards because while you were cross ruffing and they were unable to overruff you they threw cards from those suits (UGH)</p>
162	<p>Bidding on over a weak 2 from partner and you are not sure if you should bid onto Game or make an Invitation then "with reservations" you can use the RULE OF SEVENTEEN - add your High Card Points plus the cards in partner's bid suit and if the total is 17 or more then make a move forward.</p>
163	<p>If you have a seven loser hand and partner has already opened then you should be in Game so with</p> <p>♠ Q J 9 5 3 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K Q 9 7 3 ♣ 2</p> <p>you should be raising 1♠ straight to 4♠ with this hand making a pre-emptive raise trying to keep the opposition out of a potential Heart Game</p>
164	<p>Because odd cards in the opponents hands are likely to split well never underestimate the value of only having 6 cards between two hands with the suit breaking 5:1 so with A7654 opposite 3 if you persevere with this suit eventually the last card will be established when the opponents' cards break 4:3 (e.g. KQJT in one hand and 982 in the other) BUT you will have to count the suit.</p>
165	<p>After partner replies 3 of a suit to your 1NT if you now bid 3NT you show no interest in a slam. Any other bid should be a Cue bid agreeing the suit and co-operation in seeking a Slam in responder's suit (3 card support and maximum point count - 14 for weak No trump and 17 for strong No Trump).</p>
166	<p>Do not open 3 of a Suit with a good hand 11+ honour points. If you have 11+ honour points and seven card suit then you have normal 1 of a suit opener so with :-</p> <p>♠ A Q ♥ K Q 7 6 5 4 3 ♦ 9 7 ♣ 3 4</p> <p>Open 1♥</p>

167	<p>Avoid Opening rotten 12/13 point hands with 4441 shape with part of your points being a singleton queen or King. so with</p> <p>♠ K ♥ A Q 7 6 ♦ K J 5 4 ♣ 9 5 4 3</p> <p>JUST PASS</p>								
168	<p>If you are establishing a suit and have to lose a trick in the suit lose it straight away and then if the suit subsequently breaks badly you are still in control so with AK654 opposite 732</p> <p>Completely duck a round in this suit. If the suit then breaks 32 you will be Ok but if it breaks 4:1 you will still be in control of the suit.</p>								
169	<p>In third seat don't automatically play high if there is honour in dummy and partner's lead has promised an honour</p> <p>so with 2 lead dummy has Q73 and you have K T 8</p> <p>When it's your turn to play after declarer has played (3) low from dummy, you should play the T not the king. You need to keep your position.</p>								
170	<p>Playing duplicate a 1NT contract don't panic when you are in trouble. All the other EWs will also be in trouble- so go for loss limitation and try and go one off. Much of the time one off is a good result when all the other pairs are going 2 and 3 off.</p>								
171	<p>Don't lead a singleton with a good hand expecting partner to get in and give you a ruff. <i>Partner</i> is marked with <i>Nothing</i> so make a <i>positive lead</i> from your side of the table instead.</p>								
172	<p>In third seat if you hold KT6 over dummy's high card, don't automatically play the King in third seat play the T. Try to retain a higher card than dummy's card- Keep your position.</p>								
173	<p>Don't lead a singleton with a good hand expecting partner to get in and give you a ruff. <i>Partner</i> is marked with <i>Nothing</i> so make a <i>positive lead</i> from your side of the table instead.</p>								
174	<p>With KQ98 opposite A6543 play off the Ace first and when the suit breaks 4:0 with the JT onside you will still be able to finesse up to the KQ98 twice. You have left the KQ98 tenace intact.</p>								
175	<p>Once your partner Opens the bidding and you have 4 card suits you should be bidding up the line. This means you reply in the first available suit. (if you go past a suit you are saying you have no interest in that suit so with</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>A Q 6 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>K J 9 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>J 8 7 6</td> </tr> </table> <p>reply 2♣ when partner opens 1♠ as that's the first available suit up the line</p>	♠	7	♥	A Q 6 5	♦	K J 9 8	♣	J 8 7 6
♠	7								
♥	A Q 6 5								
♦	K J 9 8								
♣	J 8 7 6								
176	<p>If you are going to cross ruff the hand make sure you cash the winners in a side suit first. If you don't ,at the eleventh hour one of the opponents might have thrown all those cards away while you were doing your cross ruffing and will now ruff you - OOPS</p>								
177	<p>You have a balanced 13/14 points and right hand opponent opens 1 of a suit or 1NT SAY NO BID. There is no known overcall available with this hand so you MUST PASS</p>								
178	<p>Do not lead away from an Ace at trick one in a suit contract. Your Ace is made to beat an opponent's King or Queen and if you lead it all you do is capture low cards, not very enterprising is it to do that?</p>								
179	<p>We all know that second hand plays low. This also includes in second position not to ruff in. Partner will be finishing the trick off so why ruff in before partner has had a chance to play. Ruffing in second position is almost the same as second hand plays high which of course is totally wrong</p>								



189	Opponent leads King (probably from KQ7 and in dummy you have A43 and in hand you have J72 consider holding up and now that opponent cannot profitably continue the suit without helping you out.
190	When you defend 1NT or 2NT defend PASSIVELY and try to give nothing away. The fact that the opponents are in just 1NT or 2Nt means that the points are fairly evenly spread and 7 or 8 tricks is going to be touch and go.
191	To support responder's second suit this shows four support because Opener might only have 4 card suit.
192	If you Open 2♣ and one of the opponents Doubles you in low part score, consider REDOUBLING as you will probably muster 8 tricks just from the outside suits and they will certainly be sorry for doubling for a lead in the middle of your 2♣ sequence
193	Needing two tricks, with T3 opposite AJ92 play the T and finesse once and then do it again and as long as the opponents honours are split or both with LHO you will make two tricks (75% chance)
194	If responder bids 2 suits this also shows 5:4 shape and now Opener can support responder's second suit with 3 card support.
195	If you play Duplicate and you are very nervous and one of the opponents gets stroppy, IMMEDIATELY SUMMON the TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR  - it is the only way to deal with these people and they will be so shocked you have done so it will teach them a salutary lesson
196	If you are in middle of transfer sequence and one of the opponents doubles the transfer bid then if you complete the transfer you are guaranteeing 3 card support at this stage. If you only have two just Pass and await developments.
197	You are defending and the auction is over, in the same way that declarer adds his points to dummy's points you should also add your points to dummy's points and take the total from 40 and try and work out what your partner has and what declarer has- of course use the bidding to help you work it out.
198	With a good hand just reply in new suit and give opener a chance to Rebid and then you will be better placed as what to do next, so with: ♠ 5 ♥ KT ♦ AQJ8 ♣ KJT96 Reply 2♣ when partner opens 1♦ or 1D and see what they bid next. Once they have rebid 1NT showing balanced 15/16 points you can NOW go FULL THROTTLE.
199	Prefer to be in 5-2 fit that 4-3 fit so if partner bids two suits and you only have doubleton in first suit still go back to first suit especially if it's a Major.
200	Leading King from KQ is sometimes as good as leading Ace from AK.
201	If you need to ruff something in the short hand then delay drawing trumps until you have done so.
202	You can Pass your partner's Informative Double if you have at least 8/9 points and 5/6 cards in the Opener's Suit- you will have converted partner's informative Double into a Penalty Double by passing.
203	If somebody splinters and you think declarer will try and make all his tricks on cross ruff lines LEAD A TRUMP
204	Whatever range of No Trump you play a rebid of 1NT opposite a PASSED PARTNER (not deceased) shows 18/19 points because you are bidding by yourself opposite a partner who has announced less than 6 points.
205	What does lead away from an Ace mean? It means that if you have a suit with small cards headed by an Ace and you are defending a suit contract.
206	Thinking of holding up in No Trump contract, think again if a switch to another suit could make matters worse for you. Now Don't Hold Up.

207	If there has been a stuttering auction where the opponents have cautiously bid Game e.g. 1NT 2NT 3NT where points have not been at a premium try to make a PASSIVE LEAD and give nothing away.												
208	<p>Completely misfitting hands JUST PASS so when the bidding goes</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">W</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>PASS</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>PASS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>PASS</td> <td>?</td> <td>and you, South, hold</td> </tr> </table> <p>♠ - ♥ K654 ♦ KJT5 ♣ K7654</p> <p>Partner cannot hold another 4 card suit so now Just pass 2♠.</p>	N	E	S	W	1♠	PASS	2♣	PASS	2♠	PASS	?	and you, South, hold
N	E	S	W										
1♠	PASS	2♣	PASS										
2♠	PASS	?	and you, South, hold										
209	With AKJ96 opposite 854 play the Ace before committing to a Finesse of the Queen just in case there is a singleton Queen floating about.												
210	You must play in your 5:3 fits in Majors rather than 3NT. Even if 3NT can make, invariably you will make that extra trick playing in 4♠ or 4♥.												
211	<p>Open light in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat as it's good for your bridge health and often messes up the opposition especially if you open 1♠. so with:</p> <p>♠ K Q J 4 3 ♥ T 9 8 2 ♦ Q 8 4 2 ♣</p> <p>Open 1♠ just</p>												
212	Leading T from T9X is very often a good lead as it creates a position against dummy												
213	If you want to put pressure on opponents as what to keep and protect play off all your trumps bar one and see them squirm.												
214	<p>One of the criteria for making a JUMP reply in new suit is 16+ points and self-supporting suit so with:</p> <p>♠ A ♥ AQJT732 ♦ A95 ♣ Q64</p> <p>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 i.e. BE FLEXIBLE</p>												
215	To do a weakness take-out in Clubs after partner opens 1NT you bid 2♣ and then rebid 3♣ and now you NEED SIX CARD SUIT as you are now trying for 9 tricks instead of 7.												
216	When you pre-empt you must not have an outside Ace. That idea of having an outside Ace was sort of applicable 50 years ago when I first started playing bridge but now it goes against the whole philosophy of pre-emption.												
217	Leading away from an Ace is against SUIT CONTRACTS. You can certainly lead from your longest suit in a No Trump contract.												
218	You only make a rebid if you can BUT you have to if partner bids in a new suit. If partner doesn't bid then you are now off the hook.												
219	<p>If you make an informative Double and then bid No Trumps next you are showing a BALANCED hand with 19 or more points. So with:</p> <p>♠ K 7 ♥ A K 8 ♦ A Q J 7 ♣ K 7 6</p> <p>double and then bid No Trumps here</p>												

220	<p>Overcaller's partner should take every opportunity to support with three card support. Here support 2♠ if partner overcalls when the bidding goes:</p> <p>1♥ 1♠ NO??</p> <p>♠ T 9 7</p> <p>♥ T 4 3</p> <p>♦ A Q 6 5 4</p> <p>♣ K 2</p> <p>bid 2♠ now</p>									
221	<p>If opener Jumps to Game in responder's suit this is very strong indeed and is not a closing bid, likewise if Opener jumps straight to Game in his own suit after partner replies in a new suit this is not closing either.</p>									
222	<p>With 5-4-2-2 and horrid hand rebid 5 card suit when partner does a fourth suit forcing sequence.- not ideal as partner will think you have six but sometimes you are simply fixed- Sh.... Happens</p>									
223	<p>If declarer doesn't draw trumps then as soon as you get in you should broach trumps and cut back on declarer's ability to make all his trumps separately from a cross ruff.</p>									
224	<p>When you have A-7-6-5 don't lead it and if you ever get the lead don't play this suit BE PATIENT and wait for declarer to play the suit and then you will make the Ace and partner might make the Queen and declarer will never make his King.</p>									
225	<p>If you have two five card suits it is good to overcall their 1NT Opener as you have shape on your side.</p>									
226	<p>With J-9-8-5 opposite A-Q-T needing all four tricks from this suit and no entry to the J-9-8-5 side (after getting there once) play low to the Queen. Now play the Ace and hope for doubleton King. Now you can overtake your T to play J-9. Hope the suit breaks around the table as follows</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">A Q T</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">K 6</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">7 4 3 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">J 9 8 5</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		A Q T		K 6		7 4 3 2		J 9 8 5	
	A Q T									
K 6		7 4 3 2								
	J 9 8 5									
227	<p>If you only have one entry on the dummy make sure you use it wisely, maybe for taking a finesse while you are there.</p>									
228	<p>If you have all winners left bar one play them all off and at trick 13 maybe one of the opponents will save the wrong winning card.</p>									
229	<p>You bid quickly When you know where the hand is going OR when you want to pre-empt the opposition.</p>									
230	<p>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.</p>									
231	<p>You want to get your Passed partner to bid the say DOUBLE.</p>									
232	<p>The reason you COVER and HONOUR with an HONOUR is to try and PROMOTE SOMETHING FOR YOUR SIDE. If touching honours are showing in dummy or you believe them to be in the closed hand then Don't cover in situations like this :- you have queen and dummy has JT98 don't bother but if you have Queen and dummy has J854 NOW COVER as you might promote partner's T.</p>									
233	<p>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. so when the bidding goes:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>Now Opener must respect his partner's wishes and PASS.</p>	West	East	1♥	1♠	2♥	2♠			
West	East									
1♥	1♠									
2♥	2♠									
234	<p>Open third in hand with a GOOD SUIT that you want LED- treat third in hand light Openers like lead Directing bids.</p>									
235	<p>With AJ6 in declarer's hand the opposition leads King from probably KQTX play low on first trick (HOLD UP) and then the leader is unable to continue the suit profitably.</p>									

236	Stayman is needed more to find four card support so if you only need three card support then Transfers are a better option.
237	Do not suffer from SINGLETON SYNDROME- if partner has rebid a suit he will have SIX so if you have a singleton why are you panicking.
238	If third person has not played a high card then the leader can work out that declarer has all the missing high cards because third hand should have played high. If the Ace or queen has not gone yet then the leader had better not play the suit and give declarer another free finesse as declarer must be marked with both these cards.
239	<p>Sometimes you must give FALSE PREFERENCE especially playing Match Point Pairs and partner's first suit is a Major so with:</p> <p>♠ 5 3 ♥ J 8 7 3 ♦ T 7 2 ♣ A Q 7 2</p> <p>So initially you reply 1NT when partner opens 1♠ 1♥ because that is the first suit up the line in this sequence partner now rebids 2♦ so you now give FALSE PREFERENCE to 2♠ because you prefer to play in known 5-2 fit rather than dodgy possible 4-3 fit and 2♠ will score better.</p>
240	<p>When you have the same suit as opener, however strong you are you should NO BID (GABI time - Grin and Bear It)</p> <p>♠ A T ♥ K Q T 8 7 5 4 ♦ K ♣ AK4</p> <p>so No BID when Left Hand Opponent open 1♥</p>
241	You bid quickly, when you know where the hand is going OR when you want to pre-empt the opposition.
242	Stayman is needed more to find four card support so if you only need three card support then Transfer is a better option.
243	If you reply Stayman with good hands 11+ points then your shape should be 4432 as you now have a doubleton giving you ruffing values. With a 4333 hand don't Stayman.
244	If both opponents are freely bidding new suits and in 3 <sup>rd</sup> seat you have 17/18 points PASS- your partner cannot have anything.
245	Playing Weak No Trump partner overcalls and hasn't Doubled their 1NT you know they HAVE LESS THAN 15 POINTS.
246	Overcalling their 1NT with SIX CARD SUITS is good for your bridge health.
247	With Q95 opposite AT863 play the Queen and let it run and then finesse again and you will always be successful 75% of the time if you PLAY FOR SPLIT HONOURS.
248	If there are only three trumps on table and a shortage, as a defender ATTACK the TRUMP SUIT and cut back on declarer's ability to ruff there.
249	If you have good hand and partner passes showing less than 6 points THINK AGAIN- do you really want to carry on bidding?
250	If you transfer into a Major at 2 level or 3 level and then bid on in that Major you are showing six. If you only have Five return to No Trumps or bid your other four card suit.
251	Open 2NT with ♠ 87 ♥ AK973 ♦ AQ4 ♣ AKJ and take your chances even without stopper in Spades. It is not a prerequisite to have a stopper in every suit when you Open 2NT (but it would be nice).
252	If you sit over a player who Opens 1♣ and you have KJ or AQ in Spades your hand IMPROVES and goes up in value as the finesses will work in your favor. On the other hand if you sit under them your hand goes down in value as the finesses will now work against you.
253	When trying to establish this suit AT872 opposite 954 keep playing low for two rounds and you keep control of the suit as you still have the A.

254	Against a suit contract don't lead from KJ765 all the way around into declarer's AQ- the free gift department.
255	When you have K7 in dummy and Q543 in hand and opposition leads suit play dummy's King- its rude to leave bare King or Queen on table or in the closed hand. By doing this at least you are leaving the other honour in the hand slightly protected with small card(s).
256	With AT872 opposite 954 keep playing low for two rounds and you keep control of the suit as you still have the A.
257	If you are unsure what to lead then leading a trump is usually pretty safe.
258	Play back partner's suit – this is known as FOLLOWING PARTNER'S DEFENCE- if he suddenly switches respect his wishes and play that suit now- it might be a singleton and he looking to ruff
259	If you know basic sequences such as 1♠ - 2♠ = 6-9 and 4 card support and 1♠ - 3♠ 10-12 and 4 card support then you can work out other sequences by deduction such as 1♣ - 1♥ 1♠ - 3♠ 3♠ by responder is still 10-12 with 4 card support
260	With KQ94 opposite A872 play off the K first and then over to the Ace in case you can still finesse the Jack/T when T/J falls in on first round. in situations like this: <div style="text-align: center;"> KQ94  T653                      J  A872 </div>
261	If you lead King against a No Trump contract you are telling partner to UNBLOCK and if she has the Queen or Jack to now throw it. So the suit doesn't get blocked later, if she doesn't have an unblocking card them GIVE THE COUNT INSTEAD.
262	With KQ4 opposite A9853 play off the KQ first in case you can still finesse the Jack when T falls in one round. in situations like this: <div style="text-align: center;"> K Q 4  J                      T 7 6 2  A 9 8 5 3 </div>
263	Partner Doubles their 1u bid and you Have 11 POINTS make sure you JUMP in YOUR SUIT. You would react with 1♦ with very few points wouldn't you? So you do need to come alive with this Jump.
264	With A54 opposite QT6 play off the Ace and then low and if second player plays low do you finesse the T or Queen? Person in second seat with the King should smoothly play low to give declarer a guess. Most of time it is correct to finesse the T as so many in second seat will play the King.
265	Jump in new suit by Opener is Game Forcing. And shows 18 + points e.g. ♠ A K J T 5              Open 1♠ and rebid 3♦ ♥ A 4 2 ♦ K Q J 7 ♣ 7
266	Lead partner's suit BUT if you have an AK suit of your own lead the Ace and see what is going on ☺
267	Only cover an honour with an honour if you can promote something for yourself or for partner so with JT95 showing in dummy do not fall into declarer's trap and cover the Jack.
268	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.

269	<p>Once partner opens the bidding you as responder with four card suits should bid up the line to give partner a chance to make a sensible rebid. So here reply 1♥ when partner opens 1♣.</p> <p>♠ A K 8 7 ♥ Q J 7 6 ♦ 8 6 J ♣ 4 3</p>
270	After 1NT Double, opener's partner should have FIVE card suit before they pull into a suit .otherwise it could be a Out of the Pan into the Fire Situation.
271	If the opposition intervenes while you are transferring and you complete the transfer you are now showing 3 card support - if you have only two cards await partner's next bid.
272	With QJT9654 this is not just 3 points - it is 5 tricks.
273	If the opponents push you to the 5 level then don't Double the final contract in case it might make. You might change an average score into a very bad score- these very unbalanced distributional hands are hard to control.
274	Joining in with good quality suits is good for your bridge health- AKJT7 or AK743 or KQJ94.
275	If there is a choice of being in Opener's long suit or responder's long suit normally it is best to play in responder's long suit as that is likely to be the weaker hand and the opening hand will "obviously" have outside values. If you play in Opener's long suit then dummy might end up being dead if dummy's long suit is not trumps.
276	The NEGATIVE DOUBLE (sometimes called a SPUTNIK DOUBLE) is a responses SHOWING 6+ points and liking for the UNBID SUITS (2 suits left).
277	6-5 COME ALIVE - bid fearlessly and never look back - you might not even need a partner with such magnificent distribution.
278	In 4th seat you can make an Informative Double with 10 points and protect your side's interests as you know partner has values.
279	1♠ Pass 2♠ is 6-9 and 4 card support BUT 1♠ 2♥ 2♠ After the overcall, 2♠ is now competitive and can be done on as few as 4 points with 4 card support (about 4-5) and bidding 3♠ would then show about 6-9.
280	Opponents attack your most dodgy suit in No Trumps don't be in hurry to take your Ace even if you hold both the Ace and King - HOLD UP and cut communications between the two defenders.
281	9 points opposite a totally balanced 16 points is not enough to produce that extra ninth trick so when partner rebids 1NT showing 15/16 points and you have nine JUST PASS- occasionally you will make 9 tricks but it doesn't make it right to bid 3NT
282	If partner opens and you have 4 card support, however bad your hand is, SUPPORT partner as you know you have at least a nine card fit- you are bidding to level of fit and you should raise to the three level.
283	If you can afford two trump losers with AK543 opposite 62 play off two rounds and then play off winners in other suits and the opposition can take their two tricks any time they like.
284	Opponents attack your most dodgy suit in No Trumps don't be in hurry to take your Ace or even your Ace and King - HOLD UP and cut communications between the two defenders.
285	<p>If partner cannot summon up any sort of response to your opening bid be careful about introducing your second suit at the 3 level by yourself- let the opposition play in 2♥ when the bidding goes:</p> <p>1♠ 2♥ NO NO ? so now just Pass with:</p> <p>♠ Q 6 5 3 2 ♥ A 7 ♦ A T 8 6 ♣ Q 3</p>
286	Don't Open weak two if your hand meets the Rule of 20 – 6-4 shape and 10 points is too good for Weak Two. so with:

	<p>♠ K Q 6 5 3 2 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A J 8 6 ♣ 3</p> <p>open 1♠</p>									
287	If you open weak Two, prefer to have all your values in your long suit.									
288	Overcalling on six card suit headed by Jack is not good bridge even if you do fall on your feet - do you really want this suit led?									
289	"I think" one should count your winners and losers on all hands and you can work out how many tricks to generate (winners) and where to be careful (losers).									
290	Once you PRE-EMPT you have made a LIMIT BID and you must NOT BID AGAIN- all decisions after that will be partner's.									
291	<p>It is OK to overcall 1NT with 5-4 in Majors and try and steal the contract especially if 1NT is about to be passed out.</p> <p>♠ A Q 6 5 4 ♥ K T 7 6 ♦ 3 2 ♣ 5 4</p>									
292	As a defender 2nd Hand low includes not trumping in knowing partner could still win the trick without wasting you trump.									
293	<p>Rather than do Dustbin bid reply 2 of same suit with 3 card support and ruffing values so with:</p> <p>♠ 7 2 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ Q 8 7 6 ♣ A 4 3 2</p> <p>Reply 2♥ when partner opens 1♥ even if you are playing 4 card Major's as you have ruffing values in Spades.</p>									
294	Partner Leaves your Informative Double in by Passing and converting it into a Penalty Double you must now lead a trump. Presumably you are good in 3 suits so you need to take out trumps and the best way to do that is to lead a trump.									
295	Partner opens 1NT promising 12-14 and you have a balanced 10 points JUST PASS as the total is never going to reach the magic 25/26 target for 3NT.									
296	<p>If responder bids 2 suits this too shows 54 and enables opener to give delayed 3 card support especially if the bidding were to go</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>E</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>now West can give support with three spades</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	E		1♦	1♠	now West can give support with three spades	2♦	2♥	
W	E									
1♦	1♠	now West can give support with three spades								
2♦	2♥									
297	<p>If the bidding goes 1♣ - 3♣ reply and now a rebid by opener of 3NT is a good auction with a hand like this:</p> <p>♠ A Q 5 ♥ K J 6 ♦ A J 8 ♣ Q T 8 7</p>									
298	3NT is best when you have a LONG MINOR as the suit will produce lots of tricks and 3NT is much more user friendly than 5♣ or 5♦.									
299	If the opponents attack your most dodgy suit In No trumps and you have enough tricks already then there is no need to Hold Up as they might switch and you go off. Don't just hold up because you read it in a book somewhere once.									



313	Not sure what to keep then Keep same suit as dummy or same suit as declarer (remember the bidding) This is known as "Keeping Length with Declarer".
314	3NT is best when you have a LONG MINOR as the suit will produce lots of tricks and 3NT is much more user friendly than 5♣ or 5♦ isn't it?
315	Mathematically speaking (and bridge speaking for that matter), If one side has a FIT then the other side has a FIT TOO so if in doubt, do Bid on.
316	With the first hand I think you should open 1♥, but on second hand where your rebid is a bit of a problem I think you should start with a Pass as you have a nice rebid of 2♦ ready. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: left;"> ♠ Q  ♥ A K T 6 2  ♦ K T 9 4  ♣ T 8 3 </div> <div style="text-align: left;"> ♠ Q  ♥ K T 9 4  ♦ A K T 6 2  ♣ T 8 3 </div> </div>
317	Do you lead 4 <sup>th</sup> highest or do you lead the Ace and have a look? With no outside entry lead 4th highest but with an entry then have a look first. so with: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: left;"> ♠ A K 9 5 4  ♥ 7 3 2  ♦ 9 4 2  ♣ T 8  Lead ♠5 </div> <div style="text-align: left;"> ♠ A K 9 5 4  ♥ 7 3 2  ♦ A 6 2  ♣ T 8  Now Lead ♠A </div> </div>
318	If the declarer has opened 1NT and the opposition ends up in 3NT EACH DEFENDER can work out what his partner has by adding his points to dummy plus the 12 and take it from 40. Assuming you are playing against weak no Trump Opponents. If they play 15-17 NO TRUMPS then take the total from 15 instead.
319	Keep your Tenaces intact, and you might still be able to finesse when suits break badly. A-J-7-6-5-4 opposite K-8-3-2 play the King first K-Q-T-6 opposite A-5-4-3 play off the King and Ace first retain that Q-T A-T-6-5 opposite K-Q-9-3-2 play King first keeping two tenaces and guaranteeing 5 tricks always.
320	With 7-5-1-0 shape and 9 honour points please open 1 of a suit and not a weak two or three. with: ♠ ♥ Q J T 9 7 6 4 ♦ A ♣ Q T 9 5 4 please open 1♥
321	The first Opening bid is so vague that you must make sure your second bid clarifies what you started with - try and make a LIMIT BID at your earliest opportunity whether it be in No Trumps now or supporting partner.
322	Partner leads an Ace at trick one and dummy has a singleton make sure you give a suit preference at trick one to show what you want partner to switch to next Partner leads Spade ace against 4 Hearts and you have ♠ 9 4 3 2 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ K Q J ♣ 7 6 5 Follow suit with the ♠9 to ask for a Diamond switch.
323	4th Highest and then the Rule of 11 can be used by both the other defender and by declarer.

	<p>(Take the card that has been led away from 11 and that tells you how many cards higher than the card that has been led are in the other three hands)  Partner leads the 7 and dummy has Q95 and you the other defender has KT2 then you, know declarer has no card higher than the one led so when declarer plays the 5 you can play the T or even low as you know the important cards are divided as follows :-  Q95</p> <p>AJ87                      KT2 (YOU)</p> <p>Now the opponent on your left leads the 7 and your dummy has Q-9-5-3 and you have K-T-2 you can immediately work out that the other defender has no card high than the card that has been led and you can win first trick with either dummy's 9 or your T at trick one.  The cards are now laid out like this:-  Q953</p> <p>AJ87                      KT2  (YOU)</p>		
324	<p>A 2♣ response to 1NT followed by 3♣ is weakness takeout and should show six card suit- if you only have five settle for 1NT. so with:</p> <p>♠ A 2  ♥ 7 3 2  ♦ 5 4  ♣ K T 8 6 5 4</p> <p>reply 2♣ and follow it up with 3♣</p>		
325	<p>Don't overcall with same suit as opponents as you are at conflict with them so if bidding goes 1♥ and you the opponent have:</p> <p>♠ A 9 4 2  ♥ K Q 7 3 2  ♦ K Q 7  ♣ 4</p> <p>JUST PASS</p>		
326	<p>You can ONLY MAKE your prepared rebids if you have had murmur from partner promising 6+ points.  Playing weak no Trump a rebid of 1NT shows 15/16 but opposite a PASSED PARTNER (not deceased) it now shows 18/9 as you are on your own and partner is promising 0-5 points only.</p>		
327	<p>Don't overcall with same suit as opponents so if they open 1♥ and you have either of these hands you JUST PASS</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> ♠ K 4  ♥ A K Q J 7 6  ♦ 7 6  ♣ T 6 4 </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> ♠ 9 2  ♥ A K J 4  ♦ Q J 7 6  ♣ K T </td> </tr> </table>	♠ K 4 ♥ A K Q J 7 6 ♦ 7 6 ♣ T 6 4	♠ 9 2 ♥ A K J 4 ♦ Q J 7 6 ♣ K T
♠ K 4 ♥ A K Q J 7 6 ♦ 7 6 ♣ T 6 4	♠ 9 2 ♥ A K J 4 ♦ Q J 7 6 ♣ K T		
328	<p>If you plan to rebid 1NT with your 15 points and partner replies at the two level in a lower ranking suit now shade everything down by two points so 2NT is now 15/16 and 3NT is 17/18 - you can do this as partner is promising more than a mere 6 count!!</p>		
329	<p>You can rebid in responder's suit of a Major with rebids 2 of responder's suit showing 13/14 and 4 card support  3 of responder's suit showing 15-17 and 4 card support  4 of responder's suit showing 18/19 and 4 card support</p>		

330	<p>Leading from T-9-x is one of the better leads in bridge more often than not creating a position against dummy maybe dummy has J-5-4 and partner turns up with Q-7-3 in situations like this:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J 3 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">T 9 4                      Q 8 6 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A K 7</p>
331	<p>When replying in a lower ranking suit that forces you to reply at the 2 level use Rule of 14 - Add your high card points plus the number of cards in the suit you wish to respond in and if total is 14 or more then go for it otherwise bid the DUSTBIN BID 1NT- 8 points and SIX card suit or 9 points and FIVE card suit if fine.</p>
332	<p>Theory of Final Destination- if you bid 1NT directly its 6-9, if you bid something on the way it's still 6-9, this applies in all bidding situations, if you reply 2♥ to 1♥ directly its 6-9 with 4 card support, if you introduce a suit and then retreat to 2 of same suit it's still 6-9 but only 3 card support.</p>
333	<p>If your partner makes an informative Double and you have 12+ points yourself, then BID OPENER'S SUIT and pass the buck. i.e.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N    E    S    W</p> <p>1♥    DBL    NO    2♥ You choose a suit partner we have enough for Game.</p>
334	<p>If you see dummy has source of tricks then GO ACTIVE and switch to your good suit or partner's potentially good suit and get your tricks early.</p>
335	<p>As opener with a very good fit with partner's response and not sure how far to go GIVE partner a chance to show his hand so with:</p> <p>♠ A K 7 ♥ A T 6 5 ♦ 4 ♣ A K 9 6 5</p> <p>if partner replies 1H then he may have rotten hearts and all his points in Diamonds- give him chance to show you- don't rush the auction rebid 2♠ initially creating a Game Forcing situation.</p>
336	<p>Please do NOT RUFF in the long hand because it makes you feel good- you are merely depleting your trump stock and could lose control of the hand.</p>
337	<p>Overcalling with 1♠ over their 1♣ opener can be done on all sorts of weakish 8 point hands as the overcall is PR-EMPTIVE and cuts out them bidding 1♦ or 1♥ but if you overcall 1♠ over their 1♥ make sure you do it on a sensible hand as 1♠ is not at all pre-emptive now and gets in nobody's way.</p>
338	<p>Pre-empting with:</p> <p>♠ 7 6 5 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A Q ♣ Q J T 8 5 4 2</p> <p>And opening 3♣ is Ok here as you really have no defence to either major.</p>
339	<p>With:                      K Q 5 4                      opposite:                                   J 7 6 2</p> <p>lead up to the King Queen twice when finessing and then you can safeguard against this position:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K Q 5 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A                                      T 9 8 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J 7 6 2</p>
340	<p>If opener or responder bids TWO SUITS then most of the time the first suit will be five card suit- this is now important as it allows partner to support the first suit with three.</p>

341	If your main suit is declarer's primary suit and they end up in declarer's secondary suit then LEAD A TRUMP.
342	Second hand plays low includes NOT RUFFING IN in SECOND SEAT- partner is still there for the current trick- don't be in a hurry to ruff!!
343	If declarer opened 1NT (either 12-14 or 15-17) each defender can work out his partner's total Honour point count once the dummy comes down. Add your points to dummy's points plus declarer's known points and subtract this total from 40 and that tells you how many points partner has to within 2 points.
344	Overcalling their 1♣ with 1♠ is good for your bridge health and can be done on many minimum hands because it is pre-emptive. However there is little point in overcalls 1♠ over a 1♥ opener as that has no pre-emptive values. so with :- <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: left;"> ♠ K J 9 5 4  ♥ 9 5 4  ♦ A 7 6  ♣ 3 2 </div> <div style="text-align: left;"> ♠ K J 9 5 4  ♥ 9 5 4  ♦ A 7 6  ♣ 3 2 </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">overall 1♠ over 1♣</p>
345	In a Cue bidding scenario show controls up the line and don't go past suits so if the bidding were to go 1♥      3♥ 4♣      now says I have Club Ace and no ace or void in Spades as you by passed the suit when you could have cuebid 3♠
346	Use rule of 11 with judgement <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: left;"> ♠ Q  ♥ A K T 6 2  ♦ K T 9 4  ♣ T 8 3  Open 1♥ - no rebid problems here </div> <div style="text-align: left;"> ♠ Q  ♥ K T 6 2  ♦ A K T 9 4  ♣ T 8 3  Don't open now as you will have rebid problems </div> </div>
347	If partner opens 2NT and you reply 3♣ then this is Stayman in the same way that 2♣ would have been over a 1NT opener.
348	Don't leave a bare Queen on the table (its rude in situations like this: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 20px; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: left;"> Q 7  A J 8 3 2      T 9 8  K 5 4 </div> </div> When the 4th highest 3 is led play the Queen and when it holds you still have the King in Closed hand with a small card - it is not totally compromised and is still protected a little and now West is the safe hand.
349	Want to keep the auction going and are not sure what to bid next then USE 4th SUIT FORCING and then partner can tell you more about his hand.
350	Avoid the 2NT reply like the plague- there is always something better and you can always reply in a 3 card Minor if needs be on a hand like this where you cannot reply 2♥ <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> ♠ 5 4 3  ♥ Q T 9 8  ♦ K Q 7  ♣ A 4 2 </div> Reply 2♣ when partner opens 1♠ and await your partner's rebid- DON'T STIFLE PARTNER with the horrid 2NT reply.

351	<p>Don't open 3♥ with 7 card suit and 10 points- the hand usually meets the Rule of 20/19 and you should open 1 of a suit not 3.</p> <p>♠ 3 ♥ Q T 9 8 7 4 3 ♦ K 7 ♣ A J 2</p> <p>So here open 1♥ rather than 3♥ far too good for 3♥.</p>																																																																																				
352	<p>A pre-emptive opening bid of a Weak Two or Weak Three is a LIMIT BID and you must not bid again unless forced. Partner now makes all the decisions about bidding on or even doubling- Blame him if it now goes wrong.</p>																																																																																				
353	<p>The correct way to finesse Q J 6 5 opposite K 7 3 is to finesse towards the QJ twice in case doubleton Ace and T and 4 the other side. in situations like this:</p> <p>♠ J T 9 5 ♥ Q ♦ K Q T 6 5 4 ♣ A</p> <p>Catering for the 4-2 break.</p>																																																																																				
354	<p>Playing out a 1NT contract CONCEAL YOUR ASSETS in the closed hand and try and give the impression you are less strong in one suit- if you cash all your winners the opposition has a chance to get their signals going!!</p>																																																																																				
355	<p>With Q 6 in dummy opposite A T 5 in hand when the opponents lead this suit against your  No Trump contract you should play low from dummy to guarantee 2 tricks. If there was no T in hand then you would have to try dummy's Queen immediately but the Ten makes the world of difference.</p>																																																																																				
356	<p>You want to get your partner to bid then REMEMBER to use THE REOPENING DOUBLE to get partner to bid so with:</p> <p>♠ A 6 5 ♥ K Q 7 6 5 ♦ K 8 7 6 ♣ 8</p> <p>N E S W 1♥ 2♣ NO NO DBL rather than 2♦ rebid</p>																																																																																				
357	<p>When you have good hands and not sure where the hand is going BID SLOWLY and use 4th Suit Forcing to get more information from partner on partner's shape as well as point count.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="159 1568 526 2016"> <tr> <td>♠JT985</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥A</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦KQT765</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣Q</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠A2</td> <td>♠764</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥9632</td> <td>♥T74</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦A983</td> <td>♦42</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣K92</td> <td>♣JT764</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠KQ3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥KQJ8 5</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦J</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣A853</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="542 1635 925 1881"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>NO</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>NO</td> <td>2♣<sup>(1)</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>NO</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>NO</td> <td>5♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>NO</td> <td>NO</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Lose just the two aces Get to your 5-3 fit with the 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing sequence. (1) 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing- tell me more</p>	♠JT985					♥A					♦KQT765					♣Q					♠A2	♠764				♥9632	♥T74				♦A983	♦42				♣K92	♣JT764				♠KQ3					♥KQJ8 5					♦J					♣A853					W	N	E	S		1♦	NO	1♥	NO	1♠	NO	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	NO	2♣	NO	4NT	NO	5♦	NO	5♠	NO	NO	NO	
♠JT985																																																																																					
♥A																																																																																					
♦KQT765																																																																																					
♣Q																																																																																					
♠A2	♠764																																																																																				
♥9632	♥T74																																																																																				
♦A983	♦42																																																																																				
♣K92	♣JT764																																																																																				
♠KQ3																																																																																					
♥KQJ8 5																																																																																					
♦J																																																																																					
♣A853																																																																																					
W	N	E	S																																																																																		
	1♦	NO	1♥																																																																																		
NO	1♠	NO	2♣ <sup>(1)</sup>																																																																																		
NO	2♣	NO	4NT																																																																																		
NO	5♦	NO	5♠																																																																																		
NO	NO	NO																																																																																			

358	Assuming the opposition are playing weak No Trump (12-14) If the declarer has opened 1NT and the opposition ends up in 3NT EACH DEFENDER can work out what his partner has by adding his points to dummy plus the 12 and take it from 40.																								
359	Opening 3 of a suit or 2 of a Suit, apart from being Pre-empted Bids they are LIMIT BIDS and as with all Limit bids DO NOT BID AGAIN- partner now makes all the decisions- (the only time you could bid again is if partner makes a forcing bid maybe bidding in a new suit)																								
360	<p>Partner makes a Take-out Double (informative Double) and you have EIGHT or more points make sure you JUMP IN NEW SUIT otherwise partner will think you have very little so when the bidding goes :-</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">N</th> <th style="text-align: left;">E</th> <th style="text-align: left;">S</th> <th style="text-align: left;">W</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>DBL</td> <td>NO</td> <td>?</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♠</td> <td>K Q 9 4</td> <td>♠ Q 9 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♥</td> <td>7 2</td> <td>♥ 7 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♦</td> <td>A 8 5 4</td> <td>♦ Q 8 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>9 5 2</td> <td>♣ 9 5 2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">here react by bidding 2♠          however here react by bidding just 1♠</p>	N	E	S	W	1♣	DBL	NO	?		♠	K Q 9 4	♠ Q 9 5 4		♥	7 2	♥ 7 2		♦	A 8 5 4	♦ Q 8 5 4		♣	9 5 2	♣ 9 5 2
N	E	S	W																						
1♣	DBL	NO	?																						
	♠	K Q 9 4	♠ Q 9 5 4																						
	♥	7 2	♥ 7 2																						
	♦	A 8 5 4	♦ Q 8 5 4																						
	♣	9 5 2	♣ 9 5 2																						
361	In any FORCING SITUATION if the PLAYER BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR PARTNER BIDS then you are OFF THE HOOK and can PASS. Therefore if you still bid this is known as a free bid and you should only bid now with GOOD VALUES.																								
362	<p>If you have six card suit headed by A-K-Q then this is 5/6 playing tricks - how do you work this out CLOSE YOUR EYES and visualize the other seven card spread around the table amongst the three players and think 3-3-1 or 4-2-1 or even 5-1-1 then you take the middle ground (here 4-2-1) and then you would expect to lose just one trick so the hand is assessed as 5 playing tricks and if you had another Ace in the hand somewhere you should be rebidding with a jump despite only 13 points, e.g.:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>A 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>A K Q 4 3 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>7 4 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>9 5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Open 1♥ and plan to rebid 3♥</p>	♠	A 2	♥	A K Q 4 3 2	♦	7 4 3	♣	9 5																
♠	A 2																								
♥	A K Q 4 3 2																								
♦	7 4 3																								
♣	9 5																								
363	If the opposition joins in and you can no longer make your planned rebid then you may say NO BID - you now your partner still has another bid don't you?																								
364	Holding the SAME SUIT AS THE OPPOSITION Just SAY NOTHING – don't get involved with conflict.																								

365	<p>If Partner opens 1♠ and you reply 1NT and partner rebids 2♠ you must now SAY NO BID- you made the limit bid and now partner is IN CHARGE- He is captain of the auction. HOWEVER VERY RARELY if you have a very weak hand and your own 6 or 7 card suit you could now bid it at three level and this is saying to partner I have heard and I was not able to bid my suit when you opened 1♠ but I now want to play in my suit as it might be safer with a hand like this :-</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ A Q 7 6 5 4 3 ♣ 4 3 2</p> <p>now bid 3♦ <i>over the 2♠ rebid</i> and now hope partner is on same wavelength and does not panic Unless played in Diamonds this hand might be worthless.</p>
366	<p>If you open the bidding with 19 points and your partner replies showing 6+ you can NOW MAKE A GAME FORCING REBID and the way to do that is JUMP in BRAND NEW SUIT- Now you must both keep the auction open until Game is reached. e.g.</p> <p>West East 1♥ 1♦ 3♦ is now game forcing</p>
367	<p>Don't suffer from Singleton Syndrome is where you Panic when you have a singleton in partner's suit and partner has bid it twice – Don't panic and leave partner to it- if it fails dismally then its partner's fault and as we all know first rule of bridge BP- Blame Partner ☺</p>
368	<p>Patience is the key to good defence especially when the points are 21-19 or 22-18 - Don't start playing Aces or lead away from Kings and Queens- play passively and play second from bad suits or top of nothing from bad suits.</p>
369	<p>If you have a balanced hand and Right Hand opponent opens the bidding SILENCE IS GOLDEN TIME- you do not have any sensible overcall and should definitely PASS.</p>
370	<p>Please please Pass with Balanced 13 point hands 4-3-3-3 when right hand opponents opens 1 of anything- Do not double- you are completely shapeless and there is no overcall available here.....</p>
371	<p>Initially, you should downgrade QJ doubleton holding and singleton King holding when opening the bidding, However if partner bids those suits then the holdings become very valuable indeed.</p>
372	<p>If partner opens 1NT and you have weak hand and 6 clubs reply 2♣ and then repeat 3♣- this is the way to do weak take-out in clubs. (NB Now you have six card suit so it's ok).</p>
373	<p>I think you should only overcall with 1NT with 16-18 and not on 15-17 as it can be dangerous (BUT I am a wimp). If you are going to overcall on 15-17 then make sure you have some 10s or a five card suit somewhere. Traditionally 1NT opener (strong) and 1NT overcall was always on 16-18 and not the modern style of 15-17.</p>
374	<p>In 4th seat don't bother to pre-empt- throw the hand in.</p>
375	<p>Playing Weak No Trumps, with two four card suits and 15-19 points it doesn't matter which suit you open. - You will be rebidding no Trumps next won't you? I prefer the Major.</p>
376	<p>If you want the opponent to continue their lead and you hold Q-7-2 in the closed hand drop the 7 on their lead of the Ace and muddy their waters. It might lead the leader into thinking partner is encouraging in situations like this:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">9 7 5 A K 8 3            J T 4                           Q 7 2</p>

377	If the person bids between you and your partner and you bid despite that person this is known as a FREE BID and now you should not be bidding new suits with minimum hands because you now partner still has another bid.
378	Rather than a wishy washy sequence of 1♠ – 2♠ -3♠ (invitational) then 4♠ ( I accept), USE Trial Bids so after 1♠ – 2♠ then new suit asks for help in that suit and if partner has the help he bids 4♠ and if he hasn't he retreats to just 3♠.
379	If there is ANY interference over 1NT and you were about to make a transfer bid DON'T – play all SYSTEMS OFF now and play all bids as natural and then there will be no bidding misunderstandings.
380	2♣ is ONLY STAYMAN if you reply to 1NT – all the rest of the time it's going to be natural (except for an Opening bid of 2♣).
381	If partner opens 2NT, more often than not, it is correct to raise to 3NT especially with long minor- who wants to play 5♣ or 5♦?
382	When opener has 19 points then after the opening bid she can JUMP in NEW SUIT and then this is Game Forcing situation and nobody in that partnership can pass until game is reached.
383	If you are defending a No Trump contract and one suit is fruitless then SWITCH.
384	Overcalling at two level in lower ranking suit is completely different from overcalling at 1 level where you can bid with very weak hands as long as you have a good quality suit whereas at the two level, not only do you need a good quality suit but also some reasonable values (11/12+)- Every time you overcall 2♣ or 2♦, remember you are saying "I INTEND TO MAKE 8 TRICKS" and if you think about this more often you might be less likely to join in with rubbishy hands.
385	If your partner overcalls 1NT then if you, the advancer, reply 2♠, 2♥ or 2♦ these are weak take-outs, the same as if partner had opened 1NT and now the overcaller must not bid on at all.
386	Don't be in hurry to reply 2NT after partner opens- there is always something better and 2NT is stifling and commits the partnership to the 3 level- if in doubt over 1♠ reply with a three card Minor.
387	The reason you count winners is to see how many extra tricks you have to find- if you have 7 winners in a 4♣ contract you might play the hand differently to a hand where you have 9 winners and only need one more.
388	You are defending and you are not sure what to keep and what to throw then look at dummy and keep the same long suit you can see in dummy- this is known as keeping length with dummy- see hand 3 where North must keep Clubs.
389	If there is ANY interference over 1NT and you were about to make a transfer bid DON'T – play all SYSTEMS OFF now and play all bids as natural and then there will be no bidding misunderstandings.
390	If the opponent opens 3♥ or 4♥ then if you double this, it is Informative Double and asks partner to bid best suit, same as if he opened 1♥.

Source: H. Schogger - Editing rights and more © Copyright Gabi Levy-2017