



# ACCURATE CARDPLAY

## PART III: BLOCKING AND UNBLOCKING PLAYS

TERENCE REESE & ROGER TRÉZEL



# ACCURATE CARDPLAY

## PART III: BLOCKING AND UNBLOCKING PLAYS

TERENCE REESE & ROGER TRÉZEL

Text © 2015 The Estates of Terence Reese and Roger Trézel

Cover image © Roger Whiteway

All rights reserved. It is illegal to reproduce any portion of this material, except by special arrangement with the publisher. Reproduction of this material without authorization, by any duplication process whatsoever, is a violation of copyright.

Master Point Press 331 Douglas Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
M5M 1H2 (416)781-0351

Email: [info@masterpointpress.com](mailto:info@masterpointpress.com)

[www.masterpointpress.com](http://www.masterpointpress.com), [www.teachbridge.com](http://www.teachbridge.com)

[www.bridgeblogging.com](http://www.bridgeblogging.com), [www.ebooksbridge.com](http://www.ebooksbridge.com)

### **Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication**

Reese, Terence

[Works. Selections]

Accurate cardplay part 3 / Terence Reese and Roger Trézel.

(Master bridge series)

Contents: Elimination play -- When to duck, when to win -- Blocking and unblocking plays -- Safety plays.

Issued in print and electronic formats.

ISBN 978-1-55494-620-4 (pdf).

ISBN 978-1-55494-665-5 (epub)

ISBN 978-1-77140-855-4 (mobi)

1. Contract bridge. I. Reese, Terence . Blocking and unblocking plays in bridge. II. Reese, Terence . Safety plays in bridge. III. Reese, Terence . Elimination play in bridge. IV. Reese, Terence . When to duck, when to win in bridge. V. Trézel, Roger . Elimination in bridge. VI. Trézel, Roger . When to duck, when to win in bridge. VII. Trézel, Roger . Blocking and unblocking plays in bridge. VIII. Trézel, Roger . Safety play in bridge IX. Title.

GV1282.3.R44 2014 795.41'5

C2014-906126-9

C2014-906127-7

Editor

Mark Horton

Copyeditor/Interior format

Sally Sparrow

Cover and interior design

Olena S. Sullivan/New Mediatrix

# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
<b>Part I:</b> ELIMINATION PLAY	7
<b>Part II:</b> WHEN TO DUCK, WHEN TO WIN	69
<b>Part III:</b> BLOCKING AND UNBLOCKING PLAYS	123
<b>Part IV:</b> SAFETY PLAYS	181



# INTRODUCTION

The play of the cards at bridge is a big subject, capable of filling many large books. In the 1970s, Roger Trézel, the great French player and writer, had the idea of breaking up the game into several small books, each dealing with one of the standard forms of technique. He judged, quite rightly as it turned out, that this scheme would appeal both to comparative beginners, who would be able to learn the game by stages, and to experienced players wishing to extend their knowledge of a particular branch of play.

The English version was prepared in collaboration with Terence Reese, and appeared in eight small volumes. This new edition, updated and revised for the modern player, presents the eight original booklets as two larger compendiums, entitled *Accurate Cardplay* and *Imaginative Cardplay*.



PART III

# BLOCKING AND UNBLOCKING PLAYS





Our aim in this section of the book is to explain, with the aid of numerous examples, how to overcome those situations where the run of a suit is liable to be blocked. At the same time, we describe the more difficult art of blocking an opponent's suit so that he cannot run the tricks that he has on top.

The problem in these blocking and unblocking plays is to perceive in good time how the play is likely to develop. The plays are easy to execute, but to anticipate the need for them is a good deal more tricky.

When you have studied the examples that follow you will be so familiar with plays of this kind that you will easily recognize them in advance and execute them at the table.

### EXAMPLE 1

As soon as the opening lead has been made, it is essential, before playing any card from dummy, to consider whether any special play is called for in the suit led. Here you are South, playing a contract of 3NT.

	♠ Q 7 2 ♥ A 8 5 3 ♦ Q J 6 ♣ A 5 2											
♠ J 9 4 ♥ 10 7 ♦ K 5 2 ♣ K 10 8 6 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 10 8 6 3 ♥ Q J 9 2 ♦ 8 7 4 ♣ Q 9	♠ A K 5 ♥ K 6 4 ♦ A 10 9 3 ♣ J 7 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											

West leads the six of clubs and South, before playing from dummy, counts his top tricks — three spades, two hearts, one diamond and one club. It is easy to establish two more tricks in diamonds, but this involves taking a finesse towards West, who may be able to take four tricks in clubs.

This is precisely what will happen if South makes the mistake of playing a low club from dummy. East will win with the queen and return the nine. If South plays low on this trick West will cover with the ten and force out the ace. When West comes in with the king of diamonds, he will cash his remaining club winners to defeat the contract.

But what will happen if, instead, declarer goes up with the ace of clubs on the opening lead? East will play the nine (it would not help him to unblock) and when West comes in with the king of diamonds either the clubs will be 4-3 or, as in the present case, the run of the suit will be blocked.

It is true that this play of the ace of clubs would cost the contract if West had led from KQxxx in clubs. But it is more likely that the honors will be divided, and there is the further point that from KQ10xx, and probably from KQ9xx, West would have led the king, and from K109xx the ten. Thus the play of the ace will turn out to be a miscalculation only if West holds precisely KQ86x.

### EXAMPLE 2

When there is only one division of the cards that will allow you to make your contract, be sure that you profit when this distribution in fact exists. Here you are South, playing in a contract of 5♦.

	♠ A 6 4 ♥ Q J 10 4 ♦ K J 10 6 ♣ 7 5											
♠ Q 9 8 5 3 ♥ K 9 5 ♦ 9 ♣ K J 8 2	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K J ♥ 7 6 2 ♦ 7 3 ♣ Q 10 9 6 4 3	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ 10 7 2 ♥ A 8 3 ♦ A Q 8 5 4 2 ♣ A											

West leads the five of spades and South notes unhappily that this is the only lead to create a problem. Against any other lead he

would be able to draw trumps, knock out the king of hearts, and discard a spade from his own hand on dummy's fourth heart. But the spade lead appears to give the defenders the 'tempo'. The danger now is that West holds the king of hearts and will cash the queen of spades when he comes in.

This, indeed, is what will happen if South plays a low spade from dummy at Trick 1. East will win with the king of spades and return the jack, forcing dummy's ace.

Since the contract would always be safe if the heart finesse were right, South begins by assuming that it is wrong. On that assumption, the only real chance is to find East with two spade honors. Taking advantage of this possibility, South goes up with the ace of spades immediately, draws trumps, and runs the queen of hearts, losing to West's king. Now the spades are blocked and South can dispose of a losing spade on the fourth round of hearts.

It may seem that this play of the ace of spades would be a mistake if East held a singleton honor — presumably the queen, because West would have led an honor from a long suit headed by KQ or QJ. However, with ♠KJ98xx and the king of hearts, West might well have entered the bidding.

### EXAMPLE 3

The next deal illustrates a situation that often occurs and is constantly mishandled by average players. It deserves special attention on that account.

# Learn from the Masters

In the 1970s, two of the best bridge writers of all time collaborated on a series of eight small books on a number of aspects of cardplay at bridge. These books have long been out of print, and are republished now in two combined volumes, edited and updated by BRIDGE magazine editor Mark Horton.

*Accurate Cardplay* is the first of these two books, and comprises the following titles from the original series: *Elimination Play in Bridge*; *When to Duck, When to Win in Bridge*; *Blocking and Unblocking Plays in Bridge*; and *Safety Plays in Bridge*.



**TERENCE REESE** (1913-1996, UK) was a world champion and one of the best-ever writers on the game. His *Reese on Play* and *The Expert Game* are classics of bridge literature.



**ROGER TRÉZEL** (1918-1986, France) was a multiple world champion. His partnership with Pierre Jaïs is regarded as one of the greatest in the history of the game.

