

ADVANCED TIPS

1	<p>In card play there is the rule "8 ever 9 never", whereby if you have only eight cards in suit and you are looking for the Queen it is best to finesse and if you have 9 then you play for drop. Larry Cohen has turned this rule on its head for COMPETITIVE BIDDING and the rule he has come up with is totally the opposite. In competitive bidding 8 never 9 ever- when you and your partner are known to hold only an eight card trump fit don't compete to 3 level when the opponents are pushing you up But with a 9 card fit then take the push to the 3 level- further examples of this can be found in his Bols tip</p>												
2	<p>If declarer or dummy has bid two suits and you are strong in one of the suits then lead a trump. The reason for this is that declarer could very easily try and ruff this suit out and by leading a trump you are removing two trumps.</p>												
3	<p>If you have made a limit bid, then be respectful and leave all decisions to partner - Don't bid again unless forced or invited</p>												
4	<p>If you think you are in a good contract don't now be silly and go for an overtrick when making your contract is going to produce all the Match points. The corollary applies that if you think you are in lousy contract, maybe 3NT and you think everybody else will be in 4S making an overtrick, Now you have to go for that overtrick in order to compete for some sort of reasonable score.</p>												
5	<p>1. If you have Axxx in dummy and KJTx in the closed hand and you are looking for the Queen- try leading the Jack from the closed hand, and you will be surprised how many people will cover. If there isn't a cover come up with dummy's Ace and finesse on the way back</p>												
6	<p>If you are trying to place cards in a CRITICAL suit and one opponent is already known to be long in another suit that he may have bid or led then in the CRITICAL suit assume that the same opponent will be short in this critical suit, particularly helpful when looking for a Queen and you have a two way finesse available.</p>												
7	<p>Sitting over a KQT holding in dummy and you hold the Ace try ducking it more often and you will be pleasantly surprised when</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> declarer uses up valuable entry to return to hand to finesse again he now finesses the Queen assuming the other defender had missing Ace and now you partner scores the Jack. If you go up with the Ace immediately declarer will have no choice but if you duck you give him losing option. <p>in situations like this</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 150px;"></td> <td style="width: 100px;">dummy</td> <td style="width: 150px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>KQT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>J54</td> <td></td> <td>A82 (you)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9763</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Now when the king holds declarer is bound to assume west has missing Ace. it is even more satisfying if you can do this with a doubleton Ace holding very SMOOTHLY</p>		dummy			KQT		J54		A82 (you)		9763	
	dummy												
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8	<p>If you have shaky trump holding with maybe only 7 trumps between hand and dummy, try ducking a round and you will be surprised how less often you will lose control of the suit e.g. with AKxx opposite xxx you have loser anyway so ducking can't cost and it can only gain when the suit break 42</p>												
9	<p>Every time you make LIGHT OVERCALLS think of your bid as LEAD DIRECTING and then you will not overcall on trashy suits.eg Overcall on AQxxx or KQTxxx or AJT9xx but not on Jxxxx or Qxxxx as it's meaningless!!</p>												

10	<p>If the opponents bid and raise a suit and stop at the 2 level be quick to bid in the Pass out seat eg. if bidding goes:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N E S W</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1♥ NO 2♥ NO</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO ?</p> <p>as East holding ♠ 865432 ♥ T ♦ A72 ♣ K43 compete 2♠ or holding ♠ 85 ♥ T53 ♦ KJ62 ♣ AQ74 compete 2NT UNUSUAL (believe it or not !!)</p>																					
11	<p>With a 6-5 pattern in touching suits, bid the higher ranking suit first if the suits are weak and you are minimum in high card points, whether you are opener or responder e.g. ♠ AQ764 ♥ J87432 ♦ - ♣ KQ open 1♠ and then you will get the chance to show both suits</p>																					
12	<p>The 5 level Belongs to the Opponents. In a highly competitive auction when the opponents have ventured into the 5 level. - Let them be. You have probably pushed them to a level higher than they wanted to be and if you now bid on you run the risk of a penalty when their contract was going off.</p>																					
13	<p>Partner leads from his 4th highest and the bidding has suggested that declarer has a certain stopper in the suit, sometimes it is correct to withhold your Ace in third seat and play your Queen instead if you have it. If partner has led from an original King holding then your queen will hold and if not it will be much more difficult for declarer to now hold up. In fact it might be too dangerous to hold up. More details of this can be witnessed by reading Shmuel Lev's tip "WHEN YOU HAVE A HOLDING SUCH AS A-Q OR A-J IN THE SUIT LED BY PARTNER, DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY PLAY 'THIRD HAND HIGH.'" in situations like this</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="183 952 933 1153"> <tr> <td></td> <td>dummy</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>85</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>JT732</td> <td></td> <td>AQ9 (you)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>K64</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Play the Queen. There are very few declarers who will duck this. Now communications between you and your partner will be kept open. If you had merely contributed your Ace at trick one. Followed by your Queen declarer will have no problems in holding up will he?</p>		dummy			85		JT732		AQ9 (you)		K64										
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14	<p>Playing Splinters is all well and good and can get you to good slams. But, also try and understand the inferences when partner doesn't splinter. If partners don't splinter then you know their holding is probably 5422 or 4432 as they didn't try and Splinter. Now you know there is much more chance that an outside suit can have 2 losers off the top. e.g.</p> <table data-bbox="183 1388 1005 1612"> <tr> <td>♠ KQ98</td> <td>♠ AJ43</td> <td rowspan="5">4 is limit of the hand maybe 5 LACK OF SPLINTER should alert you to this fact.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ AQJ52</td> <td>♥ K43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A2</td> <td>♦ K654</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ Q 4</td> <td>♣ 32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠</p> <p>BUT with less points the splinter allows you to bid the cold small slam</p> <table data-bbox="183 1657 526 1848"> <tr> <td>♠ KQ98</td> <td>♠ AJ43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ AQJ52</td> <td>♥ K43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A32</td> <td>♦ K654</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 4</td> <td>♣ 32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>4♣</td> </tr> </table> <p>Now you are certainly interested!!!!</p>	♠ KQ98	♠ AJ43	4 is limit of the hand maybe 5 LACK OF SPLINTER should alert you to this fact.	♥ AQJ52	♥ K43	♦ A2	♦ K654	♣ Q 4	♣ 32	1♥	1♠	♠ KQ98	♠ AJ43	♥ AQJ52	♥ K43	♦ A32	♦ K654	♣ 4	♣ 32	1♥	4♣
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15	<p>As declarer when an opponent has preempted assume that all the outstanding key cards such as any Queens and Jacks you have missing to be in the other player's hand, since the pre-emptor should really have nothing outside his long suit. Now a lot of your 2 way finesses will no longer be mere guesses.</p>																					

16	<p>Elimination Play can be very easy if you practice it even on the hands where an elimination play is not necessarily needed. In order to put an elimination play into play you must follow the following guidelines.</p> <p>a. draw trumps. b. Take out a complete suit. c. Take out another complete suit. d. Now let them in and watch as they hopefully open in the crucial suit or give you a ruff and discard. Maybe an elimination play is not necessary but by getting into good habits when it does come along and you pull it off you will have a rather wonderful feeling!!!</p>
17	<p>If you do not know what suit to play next try holding up so that partner can give you a signal on the following trick!!</p>
18	<p>If between the 2 hands you hold A J T and 2 low cards and the opponents lead this suit against your 3NT contract there is no need to hold up as you will get 2 tricks in this suit if you are patient. Some players hold up when they do not need to!! e.g.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J3 N Q9542 W E K87 S AT6</p> <p>When the 4 is led and East contributes the king at trick one there is no need to duck. Try it and see!! If you duck you will only obtain 1 trick instead of your rightful 2!! T's and 9's are much more important than you generally think.</p>
19	<p>Don't be lazy MAKE NO COST CUE BIDS when you can. e.g.</p> <p>♠ Q76 ♥ 76 ♦ AQ5 ♣ AQ32</p> <p>After opening 1NT partner replies 3♠ bid 4♣ Cue-bid agreeing the Spades and showing MAX If you take this on board then every time your partner doesn't cuebid you will know they won't have an ace on the way!!</p>
20	<p>a) If you partner opens and next hand overcalls 1NT if you have 8/9 points then make a PENALTY DOUBLE immediately to show that you have balance of power. b) If you bid on after partner opens and the opposition overcalls 1NT you are now showing less than 8 points and could compete on all sorts of rubbish, either supporting partner or freely bidding your own goodish 5 card suits or 6 six card suits</p>
21	<p>If partner leads an Ace and there is singleton in dummy, then there is little point in making an attitude signal so make a SUIT PREFERENCE Signal at trick 1. Playing a very high card would be asking for a switch to a higher suit and a particularly low card would be saying switch to lower ranking suit. Don't be a slave to signals as sometimes partner is known to hold nothing on the auction so he might not be able to signal anything!!!!</p>
22	<p>If there seems to be no way to generate an extra trick, then try a dummy reversal, whereby the short hand will eventually become the dominating trump drawing hand because you have done sufficient ruffing in the long hand that the short hand now has more trumps than the long hand originally started with.</p>
23	<p>Even if you are not going to try an endplay it is often good technique to get rid of as many suits as possible from both hands before letting the opposition in and then maybe you will get a pleasant surprise when one of the defenders might give away a trick when they get in</p>
24	<p>Partner has led a suit in which you have a potentially blocking situation, so seriously consider unblocking at trick 1. Partner leads King promising Queen and Jack and you have A6, you need to play that Ace to</p>

	avoid blockage or if partner leads the Queen and you have King doubleton again throw away that King on the King immediately.
25	Don't take your aces too quickly when you defend, especially in second seat even if there is a singleton in the dummy and you are afraid your Ace might disappear. Declarer will often go wrong when finessing if you are patient with those Aces you are not supposed to hold.
26	Covering Honours and not covering honours is not always easy. If you can see all the touching honours in dummy then don't bother to cover. If there are two touching honours you can cover the second one, but not the first.
27	In third seat try to hold back your honour to cover dummy's honour so in situations like this : Q64 T32 AJ9 K875 Partner leads the 2 and dummy plays low play your 9 and hope for the best. If declarer has all the remaining high cards it makes no difference BUT IF partner has the T you will now maintain two tricks for the defense rather than the tricks to declarer
28	Counting your losers as well as your winners sometimes pinpoints hidden dangers on the hand. Where you thought you had an easy ride suddenly you see that there could be a problem. Now you can act on it and maybe keep one of the opponents off lead.
29	A ruffing finesse is often better than a simple finesse, because even if it fails you have been able to chuck a loser whilst doing it!!
30	If you have to make a decision about whether to take ruffing finesse or simple finesse the decide which "nasty" opponent you don't want to get the lead and then take the appropriate finesse through them so, AQJT: a. If East is the safe hand and West the "nasty" opponent do the simple finesse. b. If West is the safe hand and East is now the nasty opponent does the ruffing finesse.
31	Playing Match Point Pairs, if partner offers two suits and the first suit is a Major promising five cards, prefer to give "False preference" to the first suit holding two cards in the first suit and three in the second. You want to be playing in the 5:2 Major fit rather than the 4:3 Minor fit.
32	If you think that there might be a chance that you will be over ruffed throw away a loser elsewhere instead- loser on loser. Now you retain all your trumps and the other loser disappears.
33	Before tackling trumps sometimes it is a good idea to try finesse elsewhere to decide how to actually play the trump suit. If your finesse outside has worked then you can take the safety play in trumps, if the finesse has failed then you might need to take a straight finesse in trumps too avoiding any possible safety play.
34	Don't double borderline part scores that might only go one off. If they make you have given away a certain bottom and if they go off you will still get a relatively good score.
35	If you drop high honour on partner's Ace lead it shows either a singleton, and, of course you could not help yourself or that you hold the honour below it. If partner leads Ace and you have QJ64 play the Queen and then partner knows you have Jack and if need be he could underlead his remaining King to get you in. (You are telling him you have an entry)
36	After the opposition makes an informative Double you as partner of the opener should now be prepared to make weak raises in openers' suit so now: 1♥ - Double 2♥ shows 4-5 points 1♥ - Double 3♥ shows 6-9 points 1♥ - Double 2NT should now show good raise in partner's suit
37	A direct raise of 1♠ to 4♠ or 1♥ to 4♥ should be done with WEAK DISTRIBUTIONAL hands two five card suits and no more than 6/7 points. The aim of the bid is two fold. Firstly, you might make the contract. Secondly, you might cut the opposition out if the contract might belong to them should they have the balance of points.

38	Don't finesse empty honours. If you have J65 opposite AQ42 lead the low one towards the Queen. Leading the unsupported Jack will just mean the opposition will cover to promote their T or 9.
39	If the opposition has found a fit at the 2 level make sure you balance as you cannot afford to let them make +110
40	Use Culbertson's Law of Distribution. If your hand and the dummy hand is very distributional with a singleton in either hand then expect the opponents' hands to be distributed strangely too. Expect your trump suit to break 3-1 and not 2-2.
41	Choice of ruffing finesse or simple finesse then it's probably best to go for the ruffing finesse because even if ruffing finesse fails you can still throw away a loser from the other hand while you are doing the ruffing finesse
42	If you have a vulnerable holding that you do not want the defenders to lead through eg K65 opposite 432 you do not want the defenders to be leading through your king (you want to be last person to play) so when playing other suits, try to lose the lead to the safe hand
43	When the defenders try to make you ruff in the long hand and seriously deplete your trump holding consider discarding instead and maintaining your trump length.
44	In order to keep communications open between your hand and dummy, when you have the Ace with two or three small cards facing a doubleton try ducking the first round of the suit.
45	Be prepared to hold up your Ace more often even if a singleton is showing in dummy. Declarer who might have KJ in the closed hand will very likely now finesse the Jack not expecting you to hold up. If declarer has all the winning cards (KQJ) by holding up the suit, it is not yet established. Going in with the Ace straight away just helps declarer out more.
46	Follow partner's defense especially if they make a strange switch. Continue their suit and get a pleasant surprise when they ruff because they switched to a less than obvious singleton.
47	If you do a direct cue-bid over their opener it is of course Michaels Cue Bid. However if you DOUBLE JUMP CUE BID then its saying please bid 3NT if you have stopper in opener's suit- I have good hand and good source of tricks. Maybe the bidding has gone 1♥ and you have: ♠ K7 ♥ 54 ♦ AKQJ764 ♣ A5 You fancy your chances in 3NT as long as partner has a Heart stopper so jump to 3♥ now.
48	You have all winners left bar one try ending up in the closed hand at trick 12 and maybe the opponents will save the wrong card.
49	Dummy has a singleton and partner has led an Ace make sure you now give a SUIT PREFERENCE signal. No point in encouraging or discouraging or giving the count so best to say what suit you want your partner to switch to now ☺
50	Really stuck for a lead in No Trumps, and nothing appeals, then lead dummy's second suit and very often you will find a delighted partner sitting over dummy with a good holding in that suit.
51	Partner opens with weak 2♠ and next player says Double be prepared to rush the auction with jump to 4♣ and be disruptive further.
52	Fourth suit forcing says "TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR SHAPE" do you now have 5 or even 3 card support for one of my suits. Bid your shape out
53	Not sure which way to take you two way finesse with AJT95 in one hand and K832 in the other if the Jack is in the closed hand why not start with the Jack- you will be surprised how many people will cover (even if they shouldn't) and if they don't cover then go with dummy's King and finesse on the way back- it's not guaranteed but it's better than nothing ☺
54	=53

	<p>♦ Q 7 2 ♣ 7 6 5</p> <p>when partner opens 1♥ you reply 1♠ then partner rebids 2♦ you should put partner back to 2♥ because partner must have bid his longest suit and now you would prefer to play in the known 5-2 fit rather than the 4-3 fit as Hearts scores better than Diamonds +110 or +140 bids so much better than +90 or even +110</p>
70	<p>1NT - 3♣ or 3♦ reply of course is very strong Game Forcing BUT SHOULD DENY Four or five cards Major otherwise responder could have gone the Stayman route or a transfer route first so when partner opens 1NT and you have prefer to use Stayman to begin with</p> <p>♠ K 9 6 4 ♥ A 2 ♦ A K Q 7 5 2 ♣ 7</p>
71	<p>Partner jumps to 3♠ after you open 1NT and you have</p> <p>♠ K 9 6 don't forget to make ADVANCED CUE BID and say 4♦ to show Diamond Ace and fit in spades. It would be very lazy just to go bidding 4♠ says you are very happy to have a dialogue in possible slam</p> <p>♥ A 2 ♦ A K 5 2 ♣ 7 5 4 3</p>
72	<p>If an opponent voluntarily drops an honour then the other defender is twice as likely to have the other missing honour and using restricted choice theory you should now finesse the other player in situations like this :-</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> A K 9 5 queen falls when you play the Ace- now disregard the J 8 6 Q eight Ever nine never rule and come back to hand T 7 4 3 2 and finesse West for missing Jack </p>
73	<p>You and your partner bid a Minor and the opposition overcalls in a Major. You still fancy chances of 3NT. Use DAB Directional Asking Bid i.e. you bid the opposition's suit looking for a stopper in that suit - if partner has the necessary stopper than can now bid 3NT.</p>
74	<p>If a Minor suit has been agreed such as 1♣ 3♣ then the introduction of new suit is looking for 3NT or possible slam. Partner with values in an unbid suit at three level to bid that suit so you can bid 3NT next.</p> <p>you have</p> <p>♠ 6 4 ♥ K 9 4 ♦ A K 2 ♣ A K 9 8 7</p> <p>you open 1♣ and partner goes 3♣ so now bid 3♥ looking to partner to bid 3♦ and then you can bid 3NT</p> <p>You do not really want to bid in 3NT with the opponents taking the first 5 tricks in Spades do you?</p>
75	<p>If you have strong support for opener's second suit and not sure what to bid next use fourth suit forcing as a means to an end</p> <p>♠ A T 7 5 2 ♥ K J 9 4 ♦ A 4 ♣ 7 6 4</p> <p>You reply 1♠ to partner's opening bid of 1♦ and then of miracles they rebid 2♥ you should now rebid 3♣ to see what partner does next.</p>
76	<p>Play the Gambling 3NT opening bid which shows a solid seven card Minor with no outside defensive tricks so with:</p> <p>♠ 5 2 ♥ 9 4</p>

	<p>♦ A K Q J 8 6 5 ♣ 7 6 Open 3NT and be an unfriendly destructive opponent.</p>
77	<p>With 11 or 12 playing tricks needing partner to have specific Ace Open 4NT which says NAME THAT ACE. so with: ♠ ♥ K Q J T ♦ A K Q J T 6 5 ♣ A K Open 4NT - if partner has Heart Ace and bids 5♥ you can bid 7♦ if they have no Ace (5♣) you can bid 6♦ and if they have two Aces (5NT reply) you can bid 7NT.</p>
78	<p>When declarer leads low towards dummy's KQT and you are sitting over dummy with A87 duck the first round when the King wins and declarer might very well finesse your partner again for the missing Ace and now you can put on the Ace and maybe partner's Jack will be promoted when the cards are around the table as follows :-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KQT J32 A87 9654</p>
79	<p>Looking for a queen and you have a two way finesse available, if one person has already shown considerable length in a different suit (maybe they pre-empted or bid a suit twice or partner showed out in that suit, then they are likely to be short in your crucial suit where the finesse needs to be taken and the longer hand is twice as likely to have the Queen, so, if in doubt and for no other reason, finesse that person for the missing Queen.</p>
80	<p>Before committing to a play in a suit test the waters elsewhere. If a finesse in another suit is working then you may be able to take a safety play in the first suit. If it doesn't work then you may have to take finesse in the first suit as well.</p>
81	<p>You have top cards in one suit opposite a singleton but need to establish the suit, try taking one top card then ruffing a small card. The other top cards can always be enjoyed later.</p>
82	<p>When the bidding goes 1♥ 2♣ NO NO then it is incumbent on Opener to reopen the bidding at all costs with a Double, especially if they have just one or two Hearts. Partner might just be waiting to say Double for Penalties and you will be doing it for him!!!!</p>
83	<p>When the bidding has gone 1♠ 2♣ NO NO it is incumbent on Opener to reopen the auction at all costs with a DOUBLE especially if they have 1 or less clubs. Partner could easily be waiting to CONVERT your reopening Double.</p>
84	<p>Try to RUFF with the WEAKER trumps and use the TOP TRUMPS for DRAWING TRUMPS</p>
85	<p>Defend Slams by attacking while Game contracts can be defended passively.</p>
86	<p>Don't be a slave to Signals THINK FOR YOURSELF - don't stop thinking when partner signals see Barry Westra's Bols (53) tip (1) don't follow partner's signals blindly</p>
87	<p>Once the opponents have opened with a weak 2 or a weak 3 if you overcall then you cannot pre-empt too. All your bids should be up to scratch. You can't pre-empt a pre-emptor</p>
88	<p>If you have an overwhelming amount of trumps in one hand then look for a trump reduction play to generate an extra trick particularly if you are unable to finesse an opponent's trump Queen or King.</p>
89	<p>A defender with trumps (maybe 4 or more) should not attempt to shorten his trumps. In fact he should try and shorten declarer's trumps by leading and persevering with his long suit as much as he can.</p>
90	<p>Not sure what to discard throw away what you don't want and woe betide the partner who gets in and plays that suit back J.</p>

91	After an Opening bid of 4♠ Double should be for penalties and 4NT should be Take-out but over other 4 Openers Double should be take-out - if agreed you and your partner might like to play it the other way around but you do need to agree it beforehand.
92	Doubles of freely bid slams and 3NT contracts should be LIGHTNER DOUBLES calling for an unusual lead- if you think you can defeat the contract by one trick any way and do not want an unusual lead then don't double otherwise partner will lead the wrong suit and the contract might still make. (No good being greedy for one trick)
93	If as a Passed hand you jump in a new suit this says I have a FIT in YOUR SUIT and a fairly reasonable hand that was almost an Opener in first place.
94	As partner of the overcaller (the advancer), adopt COMPETITIVE DOUBLES to show good values and interest in the remaining suits especially if responder has only just given a mediocre weak reply in Opener's suit in situations like this :- N E S W 1♥ 2♦ 2♥ DBL Double will now show 8+ points and interest in Spades and clubs, the unbid suit
95	As dealer try and Open the bidding especially if you want a suit led ♠ A T 6 ♠ Q J T ♥ 8 or ♥ K J 9 5 4 ♦ K 9 3 ♦ A 8 7 6 ♣ K J 9 8 6 2 ♣ T Do not hesitate. You should open as dealer on both hands.
96	Playing 5 card Majors even if you have a fit in the Major with 4333 hand you can still sometimes rebid 2NT or 3NT as there might be no advantage to being in No Trump
97	In desperate situations don't telegraph your problem to the opponents or they will punish you with a double or bid and find their best contract, If you are really courageous with ♠ J 5 ♥ 4 3 ♦ Q 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ 8 7 2 reply 3NT immediately to partner's 1NT (weak) Last person will find it hard to double or compete with 14 points 😊 see Jeremy Flint's Bols Tip Don't Cry Before you are hurt
98	Instead of overruffing try discarding a loser elsewhere and then set up your ruff in a different suit later. a) you cut down the risk of a trump promotion b) you keep control of the trump suit
99	Partner makes a trial bid of 2♠ over the sequence 1♥ 2♥ if you cannot help in the Trial Bid suit you should of course retreat to 3 of the agreed suit BUT IF you can show some other feature that is less than 3 of the agreed suit then attempt to show it so ♠ T 5 or ♠ 9 4 ♥ Q 8 6 5 ♥ K J 9 5
100	Avoid 2NT reply showing 11/12 points balanced as it's a horrid stifling reply. Adopt Jacoby 2NT reply which shows a good hand and a fit and asks partner to show shortage.
101	In 4th seat with 17/18 points PASS when the bidding comes around to you 1♥ NO 2♣ ? as you know opener has 13 points and responder has good 8+ points so your partner has Zilch- can you remember to say No0 Bid under these circumstances

102	<p>If you can give declarer enough rope he might hang himself- so with J105 in dummy you see 962 drop the J10 and if declarer has AKQ2 in closed hand he might think the suit is breaking badly and play low to the 9 and waste an entry unnecessarily. For more details on this tip and the whole hand where declarer goes wrong see "Give Declarer Enough Rope by Tim Seres" (1)</p>								
103	<p>You are not sure what to bid after there has been intervention over your partner's Opener then NEGATIVE DOUBLE is probably the answer so if the bidding goes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N E S W 1♣ 1♦ ?</p> <p>and you, North, have:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="177 593 352 728"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>Q 7 6 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>A K 6 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>5 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>A 8</td></tr> </table> <p>Bidding in a new suit is unlimited and forcing and so is a Negative Double.</p>	♠	Q 7 6 2	♥	A K 6 5	♦	5 4	♣	A 8
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♦	5 4								
♣	A 8								
104	<p>If partner Overcalls and you have good fit and 10 or more points then use UCBS Unassuming Cue Bids so with:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="177 840 379 987"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>Q 7 6</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>8 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>A K 7 4 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>K 9 8</td></tr> </table> <p>Bid 2♥ when partner has overcalled their 1♥ bid with 1♠. The corollary of this is that if you actually raise partner's suit you will be weak - see Intermediate Tip 104 above</p>	♠	Q 7 6	♥	8 2	♦	A K 7 4 3	♣	K 9 8
♠	Q 7 6								
♥	8 2								
♦	A K 7 4 3								
♣	K 9 8								
105	<p>Choice between a ruffing finesse and a simple finesse most of the time its correct to go with ruffing finesse because even if it's wrong you are ditching a loser from the other hand. Also when considering a ruffing finesse and simple finesse you should check who the safe hand is and who the danger hand when doing so is.</p>								
106	<p>If you have a good hand and partner has bid 2 suits do not just give support for the second suit create a forcing bid of some sort- best way to do this most of the time is to bid Fourth Suit Forcing.</p>								
107	<p>If you want to play simple two suited overcall over their 1♣ Opening bid then you could try Truscott defense to 1♣ where each suit bid shows that suit and the suit above it and it works like this 1♦ = Diamonds and Hearts.</p>								
108	<p>With K54 opposite 632 or Q54 opposite 632 Arrange to be last person to play and not the second with either your King or Queen. This is known as an avoidance play. You need to let the lead come all the way around to your king or Queen to give it some chance of making.</p>								
109	<p>A Reverse is forcing for one round and cannot be Passed. However bad your hand is, you must either give preference to partner's first suit, raise partner's second suit, repeat your suit or bid NT with a sub minimum hand, but you cannot Pass.</p>								
110	<p>If the opponents come in on your auction, and you would still like to be in No Trumps and are worried about their suit use DAB (Directional Asking Bid) by bidding their suit asking partner to bid No Trumps with at least Qxx or Jxx in the opposition's suit as you have half a stopper yourself.</p>								
111	<p>When using the 4th suit forcing convention prefer to bid out your distribution rather than bidding NT, just because you have stopper in the 4th suit so with:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="177 1848 948 2011"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>A Q 6 4 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>Q 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>K Q 9 4 2</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	♠	A Q 6 4 2	♥	Q 2	♦	K Q 9 4 2	♣	2
♠	A Q 6 4 2								
♥	Q 2								
♦	K Q 9 4 2								
♣	2								

	<p>1♠ 2♣ 2♦ 2♥ after the bidding has gone: prefer to bid 3♦ showing 5-5 shape rather than 2NT just because you have ♥Q</p>								
112	In 3rd and 4th seats after partner has Passed you can pre-empt 4 of a MAJOR* suit with a good hand if you no longer think Slam is possible.								
113	If there is a choice between taking finesse (50% chance) or playing for a dummy reversal - needing their trumps to break 3-2 (68% chance) - then take the dummy reversal line for your extra trick.								
114	Once the auction is underway what suit do you bid next with these 4441 hands- bid the suits up the line.								
115	In a competitive auction whereby you have decided to take a sacrifice, if you want a different suit led to the one that you are both bidding then bit in on the way if you can bid 5♣ before going on to 5♥ (the agreed common suit) if Clubs is the suit you want led.								
116	When they Double you try and alternative another contract might be better. Don't lie Down and								
117	With two way finesse available with AT54 opposite KJ32 lead the Jack from the closed hand and see if you can tempt a cover from the opposition.								
118	If you have already made a limit bid DO NOT BID AGAIN - that's completely undisciplined- leave it up to partner								
119	<p>Because so many players are now playing wide ranging 2NT rebids to show 17-19 points and they might have opened 2NT with 20 then a rebid of 3NT to show a traditionally Balanced 19 points is almost redundant therefore it is recommended that after a sequence 1♣ – 1♥ a rebid of 3NT should be on a hand with a long Minor and a great source of tricks such as:</p> <p>♠ K J 5 ♥ 7 3 ♦ K 7 ♣ A K J 8 7 5</p>								
120	If you think partner has led from shortage, maybe a Doubleton don't rush to go in with your Ace. If you wait one round and partner plays the suit again now you can take the Ace and now give him his ruff.								
121	VERY occasionally you can overcall at the One Level with a four card suit if the suit is headed by AKQ or KQJ - it would meet the Suit Quality Test (honours plus cards in suit need to equal tricks required i.e. 4+3 =7) and would suggest a good lead to partner. What you lack in length you certainly make up for in quality,								
122	<p>Don't be Afraid to respond Bid 1♠ with:</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>Q J T 9 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>T 7</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>5 4 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>T 6 2</td></tr> </table> <p>And watch how Standby and Martel kept the opponents out of a cold 3NT contract.</p>	♠	Q J T 9 5	♥	T 7	♦	5 4 3	♣	T 6 2
♠	Q J T 9 5								
♥	T 7								
♦	5 4 3								
♣	T 6 2								
123	If you want to win the first trick and partner has bid and you have K62 in partner's suit lead the unsupported King and hope partner has the Ace								
124	<p>If in Doubt, at all costs, Try to re-open auctions with a Double just in case partner is lurking with a Penalty Double in situations like this</p> <p>♠ A K 9 8 6 3 ♥ Q 9 8 ♦ K J 9 ♣ 5 3</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>S</td><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>1 ♠</td><td>2 ♣</td><td>NO</td><td>NO</td></tr> </table> <p>DBL rather than just repeating 2♠</p>	N	E	S	W	1 ♠	2 ♣	NO	NO
N	E	S	W						
1 ♠	2 ♣	NO	NO						

135	Whenever declarer appears to have no more losers remaining in the side suits (suits other than trumps) then the defenders should try and create an extra trick from an UPPERCUT (trump promotion) if there is any chance of defeating the contract.
136	Your partner leads an Ace and in dummy there is a singleton remember to give a suit preference signal at trick one on the first trick. So if partner leads the Heart Ace against 4♠ if you hold: ♠ 9 2 Play the 9 to say you want partner to switch to a Diamond ♥ 9 7 2 ♦ A K 9 4 ♣ 7 5 3 2
137	If you do an immediate DOUBLE JUMP CUE BID of the Opponents' Suit it is saying I have great source of tricks PLEASE BID 3NT if you have stopper in Opener's suit so with ♠ 9 2 Overcall 3♠ when the opposition Opens 1♠ ♥ A 6 ♦ A K Q J 9 6 5 ♣ K 4
138	The only reason you should be repeating a five-card suit is because you do not wish to bid beyond your barrier bid and you are not strong enough to Reverse. If this is not the case then you have made an incorrect bid from the off. You should have opened 1NT at your first opportunity and then you would not have this problem now.
139	If you are on the cusp of deciding whether or not to go onto a Slam, then as a secondary check, why not use the Losing Trick Option. Under these circumstances I find the Losing Trick Count comes into its own
140	Once either of you has made any sort of limit bid then after that. ALL DOUBLES should be deemed to be for PENALTIES. If you stick to this rule Two be tide any opponents coming in unwisely.
141	The reason you should count LOSERS as well as Winners is that sometimes this pinpoints where you need to be careful. Suddenly what looks like an easy hand could be problematic if the wrong defender got in and cashed a trick (loser to you) that you should have disposed of earlier in the hand.
142	If there is a chance that you will be overruffed, then don't ruff at all, but throw a loser instead. This is known as a LOSER ON LOSER PLAY and cannot cost. You are exchanging one loser for a different loser.
143	If you need an extra entry to dummy and there is not an obvious one then look to the trump suit itself so with AKQJT83 opposite 97 needing an entry to the right hand be aware of the power of that 9 and 7 and retain the 8 or 3 to get over to it.
144	Leave a high trump in the short hand, usually dummy as you might need it as an entry to get to dummy later.
145	Only make a JUMP SHIFT if a) you have 16+ points and a self-supporting suit of your own or b) you have 16+ points and a FIT with partner.
146	ACTIVE AUCTION - ACTIVE DEFENCE, PASSIVE AUCTION- PASSIVE DEFENCE. If the bidding has confidently gone 3♣ 3NT you know they have a good source of tricks so you should be doing ACTIVE DEFENCE and probably leading an Ace AND SEE WHAT IS GOING ON. If the bidding has hesitantly gone 1NT- 2NT 3NT and you know they barely have 25/26 points between them then PASSIVE DEFENCE is key trying not to give anything away and certainly not giving them a ninth trick on a plate.
147	Your partner leads an Ace and at trick one dummy has just a singleton, you, the other defender must make a suit preference signal at trick one. You follow suit with a high card you want the higher of the two remaining suits (exclude trumps) and if you play a low one you want the lower suit so with: - ♠ 9 7 2 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ 9 6 5 2 ♣ A K 6

	Follow suit with the 2 when partner leads Spade Ace and there is a singleton Spade in dummy. The Spade Two asks for a Club switch
148	1. Bid slowly when you don't know where the hand is going and you need to exchange information to get to the best possible fit. 2. Bid quickly when you know where the hand is going and you have found your fit. 3. Bid quickly with weak hands and a fit to take valuable bidding space away from the opposition.
149	Play off that last trump and be pleasantly surprised when the next player is being squeezed at trick 10 or 11.
150	Never make the 2NT or 3NT direct replies to 1 of a suit as they stifle Opener and there is always something better. If need be with a 4333 hand just reply 2♣ after partner opens 1♠. Adopt a 2NT reply as Jacoby asking partner to further describe his hand showing singletons, extra strength and balanced hands.
151	Because a reply of 2♥ to a 1♠ Opener should promise a five-card suit, Opener must always be prepared to support as soon as possible with three card support. If you do not do so, partner is entitled to think a) you don't have three cards support or b) you are getting to make a very strong reply in Hearts later.
152	You have a really good hand and you initially bid in a new suit and then partner bids a new suit in which you have a fit if you are not sure what to bid next then USE 4TH SUIT FORCING and then come back to partner's second suit
153	Don't deny a four card Major at the 1 level however bad it is so with ♠ 6 5 4 3 Reply 1♠ when partner opens 1♣ ♥ J 8 you can always come back to Clubs later if ♦ 4 3 needs be ♣ K Q 6 3 2
154	SHAPE is KING – don't worry about points when you have six and seven card suits or 65 shaped hands BID ON even if partner saying Nothing
155	If on one hand there is a 4-4 fit available and a 5-4 fit available play in the 4-4 fit and then after you have drawn trumps you will be able to get a discard from the five-card suit, and make more tricks. If you play in the 5-4 fit there will be no useful discards afterwards ♠ A K 7 6 4 ♠ Q 7 6 4 ♥ A K 8 6 ♥ Q J 6 4 ♦ A 2 ♦ 9 5 ♣ K 6 ♣ Q 6 4 you can make 6♥ but one down in 6♠ you don't get the losing Diamond away on 5th Spade when played in Spades
156	When there is a choice between a ruffing finesse and a simple finesse most of the time it is correct to take a ruffing finesse. The reason for this is because even if it doesn't work you can throw a loser away while you are performing the ruffing finesse
157	Active Auction Active Defence Passive Auction Passive Defence, - if you think the opponents have bid confidently and they have long side suit to cash then ATTACK and lead from a suit such as Q876 or K765 to try and build tricks from these holdings. But if they have bid hesitantly and just have their 25/26 points in a 3NT contract lead passively and try to give nothing away.
158	With AJT9 in closed hand and K753 in dummy looking for Q why not play the Jack from closed hand and see if you can induce a Cover. If they don't cover go up with the King and finesse on the way back.

	<p>♦ A K J 5 4</p> <p>♣ K Q 6</p> <p>reply 2♦ and then you can bid another new suit next you need SPACE because at the moment you have no idea where the contract will end up</p>															
168	<p>The opponents lead against your 3NT contract and between your hand and the dummy you have both the Ace and King in a situation like this:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A 5 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Queen led</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K 7</p> <p>if you need to give up the lead twice, to establish your suit, then hold up for one round, to cut communications between the two defenders.</p>															
169	The opponents lead against your 3NT and you are thinking of holding up DON'T if a switch to a different suit would be even more uncomfortable.															
170	Make helpful lead directing bids especially in 3rd seat. If you stick your neck out (even a four-card suit with top honours) with a bid in third seat and don't win the auction at least partner will know what suit to lead															
171	Before making your lead, try and work out what declarer and dummy's' shape is - did they bid 2 suits? Did they go into No Trump? If you work out the shape first, you might well lead a different suit.															
172	Do not cover the honour (especially in trumps suit) if dummy has Ace Doubleton and you started with K54. All you have to do is play low for two rounds and your King will win.															
173	If the opponents Double your transfer sequence if you complete the transfer, when you did not have to do so, you are now promising 3 cards or more in the transfer suit. If you Pass partner can still bid and will now know you only have two card support.															
174	In connection with Intermediates Tip174 above, when you are the person not following suit make sure you discard a card of the same color the first time the suit is played because so many players are careless and will not notice that you did not follow suit.															
175	<p>If you have very good support for partner's second suit and a good hand use the 4th suit forcing bid to show the full value of your hand and then come back to partner's first next so with:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 5%;"></th> <th style="width: 35%;">You</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Partner</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>A K 7 6</td> <td>1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>A Q 6 5 3</td> <td>1♥ 1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>7 6</td> <td>2♣ and then come to Spades later</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>K 8</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		You	Partner	♠	A K 7 6	1♦	♥	A Q 6 5 3	1♥ 1♠	♦	7 6	2♣ and then come to Spades later	♣	K 8	
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♣	K 8															
176	Lead aggressively against a confidently bid contract. If they bid 4 ^a and have shown a source of tricks outside the trump suit, you need to find four tricks quickly, so lead from a KQ or even an unsupported Ace															
177	Can you work out if partner has a void without him cue bidding? If the opponents are bidding and supporting a suit and the bidding suggests they have at least 9 and you have four in this suit then you know partner "must have" a void. Use the opponents bidding to work out partner's distribution.															
178	Partner opens 1 of a Minor and you have fit and a good hand bid a new suit even if it's only three but prefer to make your manufactured bid in a Minor as partners are far much more likely to support a Major than a new Minor.															
179	After opening 2♠ or 3♠ do not bid again and leave all decisions to partner. Opening 2♠ or 3♠ are limit bids so why would you want to bid again ??															

180	If you manage to push the opponents to the 5 level do not Double them. If they go off you are getting a good board any way. If you Double and they now make it all your good work of pushing them to the 5 level has been negated.								
181	If one of the defenders ruffs in and you are about to overruff Think Again. It might be better to discard a loser instead. If you overruff then you might be open to a trump promotion by the unfriendly defenders in following situation.								
182	<p>Third hand doesn't play high in this situation :- Partner leads 4th highest and dummy has two small cards and you have AQ5 of the led suit then follow with the Queen, not the Ace. If you follow with the Ace and declarer has the king, declarer will be able to hold up and cut you off from your partner. If you play the Queen declarer will certainly not risk holing up now if the Queen is played:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9 6 J 8 4 3 2 A Q 5 K T 7</p> <p>No declarer will hold up here when you play the Queen unless they have had a peek at the cards. See Schmucl Lev Bols Tip (4) for more details.</p>								
183	<p>If the bidding is about to subside in the two level, you as the last player must do everything in your power to BALANCE in a situation like this:</p> <p>N E S W 1♦ NO 1♠ NO 2♦ NO NO ?</p> <p>West should try and bid at all costs as he knows his partner has values. West can now bid with as few as 7/8 points and if he doubles he is merely showing the other two suits. Better to bid. Maybe the opponents will take push to three level and it will be easier to defeat a three level contract than a two level contract. If they don't take the push you might make 2♥ or 3♣ or at worse go one off.</p>								
184	If somebody makes a passive lead then don't expect that player to have an Ace King suit otherwise they might have led from the Ace/king suit initially.								
185	The introduction of a new suit at the three level is 100% forcing, so no need to jump just because you have a good hand.								
186	Only make weak 2 with a five-card suit if you have AQJT6 in the suit otherwise stick to six card suits.								
187	<p>Can you make a suit preference signal at Trick 1 - yes you can if you have imagination. Having Opened 3♥ partner raises you to 4♥ and last player now bids 5♦ and that ends the auction. What do you lead on this hand?</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;">♠</td> <td style="width: 20px;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>K J 9 6 4 3 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>6 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>Q T 3 2</td> </tr> </table> <p>9♥ is telling partner to switch to a Spade if he gets to win the first trick with the Ace (after all he did support Hearts)</p>	♠	-	♥	K J 9 6 4 3 2	♦	6 2	♣	Q T 3 2
♠	-								
♥	K J 9 6 4 3 2								
♦	6 2								
♣	Q T 3 2								
188	Occasionally you can underlead an Ace if you think you can put declarer to an early guess. You have suit that dummy as bid and you have A65 of this suit if you lead the suit and dummy turns up with KJ94 most declarers will think you have not led from an Ace suit and play you for the Queen and try dummy's Jack. Partner will be delighted to win first trick with the Queen.								
189	Do not lead 4th Highest if they Open a Gambling 3NT. Lead an Ace and see what is going on. Leading 4th highest might just give them the contract.								
190	Not sure whether or not to bid onto Game or onto a Slam then use the LOSING TRICK Count as a secondary check. so, when the bidding goes:								
	N E S W								

216	In 4th seat you only need a FOUR CARD SUIT to PROTECT- it's better to protect and push the opponents out of their comfort zone- why let them play in 1♦.												
217	If you have a suit that could be established such as AK65 opposite 432 play it early and if suit breaks 4-2 no worry but if it does break 3-3 then you can establish the thirteenth card while you still have entries – also you might still be able to ruff the thirteenth card in dummy with a trump (assuming you haven't drawn trumps) if the suit has broken 4-2.												
218	When splintering, it is best not to splinter into a singleton Ace as partner will not be able to evaluate the rest of the hand and will expect your 13/14 points in the other three suits.												
219	If somebody makes a trump lead rather than an unbid suit then they probably have awkward holding in those other suits so should you be looking for a queen then that player is more likely to hold the queen you are looking for.												
220	When you embark on a cross ruff cash all the outside winners first and then proceed to do your cross ruff. If you do the cross ruffing first they may throw cards in those outside Aces and you might not get to make them at the 11 th hour.												
221	If partner Opens 4♠ he really should not have two Aces but he could have Ace of his long suit and a singleton so if you want to make slam try cue-bid lowest Ace to give partner chance to show singleton now												
222	Needing 1 trick from 8 opposite KJ654 play this suit as early as possible and play low and try that King and hope second person has played low from Ace- put the pressure on the opposition.												
223	With KQ943 opposite T85 needing four tricks finesse Ace first – if no ace appears come back to hand and finesse again BUT if 4 th player has held up the Ace then declarer is bound to come back to hand and finesse again and now Jack Is promoted (nice Con) for partner in situations like this :- <div style="text-align: center;"> <table style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">K Q 9 4 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">J 7 2 A 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">T 8 5</td> </tr> </table> </div> If last player plays Ace straight away then declarer is bound to finesse the Jack.	K Q 9 4 3	J 7 2 A 6	T 8 5									
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224	Second hand playing low also means that second hand SHOULD NOT RUFF IN before partner has had a chance to play to the current trick.												
225	With A8632 opposite 954 keep playing low for two rounds and you keep control of the suit as you still have the Ace.												
226	Partner opens the bidding and you have a very strong 2 suited hand BID SLOWLY as you need to exchange as much information as possible so with: <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">A 9 8 5 4</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">reply 2♠ only when partner opens 1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♥</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♦</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♣</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">A K J 7 5 4</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	♠	A 9 8 5 4	reply 2♠ only when partner opens 1♥	♥	4		♦	3		♣	A K J 7 5 4	
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227	Partner opens the bidding 1♣ and you have <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♠</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">5 4</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">reply 1♦ rather than 1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♥</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">A K 4 3</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">a) you must bid up the line</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♦</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">J 8 7 3</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">b) if partner has Hearts and now bids them then the stronger hand</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">♣</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">9 5 4</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">will be playing the contract</td> </tr> </table>	♠	5 4	reply 1♦ rather than 1♥	♥	A K 4 3	a) you must bid up the line	♦	J 8 7 3	b) if partner has Hearts and now bids them then the stronger hand	♣	9 5 4	will be playing the contract
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♣	9 5 4	will be playing the contract											
228	You bid slowly when you don't know where the hand is going and you want to get to your best fit. Bridge players with Strong Hands do it Slowly.												
229	If you have good source of tricks and reasonable 14/15 points and stopper in opponents suit, but not as balanced as you might like to be you can overcall 1NT - slightly off centre bid.												
230	If both opponents are freely bidding new suits and in 4th seat you have 15/16 points PASS- your partner cannot have anything.												

231	With K T 9 6 5 4 3 opposite 7 the best way to try and contain your losers to just two is to play low card twice and hope for doubleton Ace which is much more likely than doubleton Q J.						
232	If you have a VOID and the opponents bids this suit then your hand GOES UP IN VALUE since any values in partner's hand are now likely to be outside that suit.						
233	Opposite a Passed partner, a 1NT rebid now shows 18/91 as the opener is virtually on his own opposite a partner who might have Zero points.						
234	If you lead an Ace and there is no future in the suit led because dummy has either a singleton or very good cards in this suit then if partner drops a LOW CARD he is asking for the LOWER SUIT and if he drops a particularly HIGH CARD he is asking for the HIGHER SUIT- this is as a SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNAL.						
235	If you have all the Aces and Kings and good back up hand prefer to play in 7NT a) to get better Match Point score and b) just in case there is a bad trump split and you can then rely on another suit to make your contract,						
236	With K 6 opposite Q 8 7 5 4 3 needing to keep losers in this suit to no more than One play low towards the King and if it wins now play low card from each hand and pray for a doubleton Ace.						
237	In 4th seat when the bidding goes 1NT NO NO. With: ♠ A93 ♥ QJ874 ♦ K ♣ T972 I think you should venture in with 2H, but only do this in 4 th seat as you know partner must have some values as the contract has so far just subsided in 1NT. In second seat do not make the same bid.						
238	Somebody leads 4th highest 3 and dummy has A92 and you have T754 - firstly you know the person has led from precisely a 4 card suit, secondly you know he doesn't have KQJ or he would have led top of sequence. Therefore you must play dummy's Ace to make sure you block the suit between the 2 defenders. In situations like this: <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 20px;">A 9 2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">Q J 6 3</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">K 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding: 0 20px;">T 7 5 4</td> </tr> </table>	A 9 2		Q J 6 3	K 8	T 7 5 4	
A 9 2							
Q J 6 3	K 8						
T 7 5 4							
239	A defender who discontinues playing his long suit suggests that that defender has no further interest in his long suit because he has no entries left on the hand. Therefore, if you, as declarer, are looking for some high cards (Queens and Jacks for finessing), the high cards are likely to be in the other defender's hand.						
240	Needing no more than 1 loser in the following suit combination K64 opposite Q7532 you have to play somebody for doubleton Ace and finesse him and then play a low card from each hand.						
241	Looking for the Queen of trumps in following situation <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border: none;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding: 0 20px;">K 7 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 20px;">Q 9 3</td> <td style="padding: 0 20px;">6 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center; padding: 0 20px;">A J T 8 5</td> </tr> </table> Left Hand opponent makes you ruff in short hand before you have had chance to test trumps NOW play that opponent for missing Queen.	K 7 4		Q 9 3	6 2	A J T 8 5	
K 7 4							
Q 9 3	6 2						
A J T 8 5							
242	The only artificial bid in a transfer sequence is the initial 2♥ or 2♦ reply to the 1NT bid- all the rest of the bids should be natural and if responder repeats the suit he is now showing 5-4 in the transferred suit plus the other suit.						

243	<p>With 6-5 distribution and minimum hand consider opening in the higher-ranking suit even if the lower ranking suit is longer and then you will not have rebid problems so with:</p> <p>♠ J ♥ A K J 7 6 ♦ J 8 7 5 4 3 ♣ K</p> <p>open 1♥ and then happily rebid 2♦</p>
244	Drop Misfitting hands as quickly as possible before you get too high.
245	With two four card suits, if you bid your rotten suit, the opponents will not lead it if you end up in No Trump- always a good reason to bid that suit.
246	<p>Negative Doubles are part of Replying theory so do remember to</p> <p>a) consider them each time there is intervention b) remember to use them</p> <p>Since a reply only needs 6 points so does a Negative Double only need 6 points- it is UNLIMITED.</p>
247	If you have same suits as the opposition and 15 points KEEP PASSING – partner cannot have anything at all can he?
248	<p>If your overcall has no pre-emptive value then don't bother to make it if you have lousy suit so with:</p> <p>♠ Q7643 ♥ 98 ♦ A54 ♣ A54</p> <p>Don't bother to overcall 1♠ when they open 1♥. If they open 1♥ then do overcall 1♠ but it's still not a great overcall as you don't really want Spades led do you?</p>
249	In a No Trump Contract, "Third hand should play high" but with AQ6 play the Queen and declarer, if he has the King will not be able to hold up and declarer will not be able to cut communications between the two defenders – See the Lev tip from Bols Tips : BOLS-EXPERT-TIPS-94
250	Avoid 2NT as a reply to partner's Opening bid of 1 of a Suit- there is always something better. This is particularly applicable if you are already a Passed Hand and maybe partner has opened light.
251	With 6-5 distribution and minimum hand consider opening in the higher-ranking suit even if the lower ranking suit is longer and then you will not have rebid problems so with ♠ J ♥ AKJ76 ♦ J76532 ♣ K prefer to open 1♥ and you will be OK to rebid your Diamonds next.
252	<p>Very seldom should you join in after the opponents Open 2♣ but with:</p> <p>♠ K Q 7 6 5 2 ♥ 7 4 ♦ A J T 9 ♣ 3</p> <p>I think you should join in with 2♠ or even 3♠ and get nice surprise when partner supports and you can disrupt the opponents' progress</p>
253	Third hand should play high but with AQ6 play the Queen and declarer, if he has the King will not be able to hold up and declarer will not be able to cut communications between the two defenders – See the Lev tip from Bols Tips: BOLS-EXPERT-TIP
254	If there is an overcall of 1NT and opener's partner has 8+ points then he MUST DOUBLE for PENALTIES in same way you Double an Opening 1NT bid for Penalties.
255	In 4 th seat USE RULE of 15 so with:

	<p>♠ T9 ♥ AQ654 ♦ AJ72 ♣ 75</p> <p>Do not open as you will be opening the door to the opposition. If your high Card Points plus your spades do not equal 15 then throw the hand in otherwise the opposition will come in and be able to outbid you.</p>
256	If partner CONVERTS an INFORMATIVE DOUBLE into a PENALTY Double then LEAD A TRUMP
257	If there is a choice between playing in two 6-2 fits it is best to play in the weaker player's long suit otherwise you might not be able to get to that hand.
258	<p>With: ♠ AQ976 ♥ J43 ♦ KQT ♣ 72</p> <p>Playing Weak No Trump, in first and second seats open 1NT and then you have no rebid problems but in 3rd and 4th seats when you do not need to have a rebid ready, cut your losses and open 1♠.</p>
259	<p>With: ♠ 6 ♥ 965 ♦ 5 ♣ AKQT8765</p> <p>Only reply 2♣ when partner opens 1♥ and give partner a chance to rebid - DON'T be preclusive.</p>
260	If you lead King against a No Trump contract you are telling partner to UNBLOCK and if he has the Queen or Jack to now throw it. So the suit doesn't get blocked, if he has neither of these cards he is expected to give the COUNT instead. so that in situations like this KQT54 opposite J7 by chucking the Jack under partner's King partner knows it is safe to continue.
261	If you double their weak take-out of 2♣ or their 2] Stayman bid after their 1NT your double says I WOULD HAVE DOUBLED THE 1NT BID i.e. I do in fact have 15+ POINTS
262	If the bidding suggest partner has nothing at all- you see 13 points in dummy and declarer rebid 2NT showing 17 and you have 10 points declarer has no idea that you have them all so do not give any genuine signals- Partner will take no part in the defence of the hand.
263	With A54 opposite JT632 needing to establish 3 tricks play Ace and another and hope for 3-2 break if no 3-2 break then KQ might still be under the JT holding and you can lead up to the JT twice.
264	When pre-empting whether it be opening or overcalling please don't do it on Jack high suits- you are just asking for trouble.
265	Persuade declarer to finesse partner for missing honour especially if you have doubleton QJ and you do not want declarer crashing them down in two rounds- try the effect of leading the Jack and lots of declarer will then finesse your partner for the missing queen.
266	The Lebensohl convention is a convention to help you when you are "being interfered with" after your partner has opened 1NT and the nasty opponent intervenes. Part of the convention All 2 level replies are still weak. 2NT is still 11/12 and 3NT is still 13+ opposite a Weak No Trump Opener and the Cue Bid of their suit becomes Stayman- this is only part of the convention - more another time.
267	A pre-emptive opening bid or overcall is a LIMIT bid and as with all LIMIT BIDS DO NOT BID AGAIN- leave all decisions to partner.
268	<p>With 19 points if partner replies make sure you REBID GAME- Jump to 4♥ with: ♠ A J</p>

	<p>♥ A K Q J 9 7 ♦ K 8 6 ♣ J 5</p>
269	=268
270	If one side has a fit then the other side also has a fit- this is merely a mathematical fact. Therefore when one side has found a fit don't be shy in introducing another suit and suddenly finding your fit.
271	Partner offers you two suits and you have 2 card support for the first suit and 3 card support for the second suit sometimes it is necessary to GIVE FALSE PREFERENCE and put partner back to first suit preferring to play in 5-2 fit rather than 4-3 fit, especially if the first suit is a Major - making 2{only requires 8 tricks whereas in 2♦ you will need to make 9 tricks to equal +110 .
272	More often than not it is correct to raise 2NT to 3NT even with as few as 3/4 points- it makes more then it goes off.
273	<p>Partner Doubles and you have weak hand and your longest suit is their suit you HAVE TO BID a THREE CARD SUIT - you have no option Grin and Bear it time so with:</p> <p>♠ Q 7 6 ♥ A J 9 ♦ 9 6 ♣ 9 7 6 5</p> <p>just bid 1♥ or 1♠ when the bidding goes:</p> <p>W N E S 1♣ DOUBLE PASS ?</p>
274	<p>If you think the hands are MISFITTING, DROP THEM as soon as possible and DEFEND- let the opposition be at the wrong end of a bad score instead of you.</p> <p>♠ Q 8 7 6 4 as North here JUST PASS and watch the opposition go 2 off Vulnerable ♥ A K 4 ♦ A J ♣ A T 6</p> <p>W N E S 2♠ ?</p>
275	If there is interference over your partner's 1NT opening bid and you still want to Stayman you bid the intervener's suit and this is now Stayman part of the Lebensohl convention.
276	With AQJT opposite a singleton play the Ace prefer to do a RUFFING FINESSE rather than a simple finesse- if they play the King RUFF it and if they don't then throw away a loser - Even if it fails you have still dumped a loser.
277	<p>With:</p> <p>♠ KQJT765 ♥ AK65 ♦ A ♣ 5</p> <p>Please open 2♣ as you virtually have 9/10 tricks in your hand. If you don't you might not be able to catch up or manage to get over to partner exactly how strong you are.</p>
278	=277
279	<p>In 3rd and 4th seats if you are playing weak No trump consider Opening 1 of a suit rather than 1NT with dodgy hands as you no longer need a rebid as you have a passed partner opposite you and can merely Pass anything partner replies so with:</p> <p>♠ KQJT</p>

	<p>♥ A65 ♦ Q87 ♣ 765</p> <p>Prefer to open 1♠ rather than 1NT only in 3rd and 4th seats.</p>
280	<p>Don't Open weak two if your hand meets the Rule of 20 - 64 shape and 10 points as it's far too good for Weak Two.</p> <p>♠ KQT654 ♥ 65 ♦ AJ76 ♣ 76</p> <p>prefer to open 1♠ rather than Weak Two.</p>
281	<p>Partner opens and you have nine card suit and good values don't muck around with science as you will never ascertain what partner has- just bid what you think you can make so with:</p> <p>♠ A5 ♥ 7 ♦ T ♣ AQT986543</p> <p>initially bid 2♣ when partner opens 1♥ and next just bid 6] as you are never going to find out if partner as you are never going to has Club King are you.</p>
282	<p>Don't Open weak two if your hand meets the Rule of 20 - 64 shape and 10 points is too good for Weak Two.</p> <p>♠ AJ8765 ♥ QT97 ♦ K 2 ♣ 3</p> <p>Open 1♠ here not 2♠</p>
283	<p>If an opponent leads a Queen from QJ9 and you, as declarer, have AKT4 smoothly duck the first trick and that defender might well play another card in the suit and you will get 3 tricks from your subterfuge.</p>
284	<p>In 4th seat once the bidding has gone 1NT NO 2♦ or 2♥ (transfers) or 2] Stayman then if you DOUBLE now this is saying I would have Doubled the 1NT opening bid "Against the Weak No Trump I have 15 or more points and I am making a PENALTY DOUBLE".</p>
285	<p>In 4th seat once the bidding has gone 1NT NO 2♦ or 2♥ (transfers) or 2♣ Stayman then if you DOUBLE now this is saying I would have Doubled the 1NT opening bid "Against the Weak No Trump I have 15 or more points and I am making a PENALTY DOUBLE".</p>
286	<p>Please don't overcall on JXXXX as it's such a poor quality suit- you don't want the suit led do you? this is not an April fool- I see far too many players on OK bridge think its ok that as long as they have any 12 point hand and a five card suit they should overcall - WRONG</p>
287	<p>If somebody on lead doesn't lead his partner's suit it is reasonable to assume he has the Ace of partner's suit and doesn't want to give away a trick hoping partner gets in and can lead through declarer.</p>
288	<p>Beware Greeks bearing gifts. If somebody gives away a free ruff and discard to allow you to get to dummy hoping you will finesse a trump then it's more than likely this person has the missing honour in situations like this where the player wants you to ruff in the short hand to stop you finessing his Queen</p> <p>K2 AJ876</p>

289	<p>If your partner suddenly near the end of the auction makes a STRANGE DOUBLE this is called a LIGHTNER Double and ask for partner to lead dummy's first bid suit. - maybe your partner has AQJ over the dummy or a void and want to ruff,</p>
290	<p>Once partner has had one ruff she will want another one, so you must tell your partner where your entry is by making a SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNAL- High card wants the higher suit back and low card wants the lower suit back. so with:</p> <p>♠ A K 9 2 ♥ 7 5 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ 9 8 4 2</p> <p>Against 4♥ contract you lead AK of Spades and partner Peters because he wants to ruff third round so now play ♠9 to show you want Diamond back but here:</p> <p>♠ A K 9 2 ♥ 7 5 ♦ T 7 5 ♣ A 8 4 2</p> <p>Against 4♥ contract you lead AK of Spades and partner Peters because he wants to ruff third round so now play ♠2 to show you want Club back</p>
291	<p>Don't Overcall with Balanced 13/14 point hands - Just Pass after somebody has already opened:</p> <p>♠ A K 9 2 ♥ Q 7 5 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ 9 8 4</p> <p>Against 1NT opener just overcall with PASS</p> <p>♠ A K 9 2 ♥ 7 5 ♦ T 7 5 ♣ A 8 4 2</p> <p>Again 4♥ contract you lead AK of Spades and partner Peters because he wants to ruff third round so now play ♠2 to show you want Club back</p>
292	<p>Bridge is a competitive game so don't let the opposition play 1♣ only - bid something.</p>
293	<p>When is it mandatory to Pass?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When you have balanced hand with 13/14 points and opposition opened in front of you with anything JUST PASS 2. When you have same suit as Opener even with 18/19 point hands. 3. When both opponents are bidding e.g. 1♥ PASS 2♣ and it comes around to you with your 15 points you can work out PARTNER HAS NOTHING - why get involved.

294	<p>Playing with a Weak No Trump partner To make a Stayman reply to 1NT you need either 11+ points or total rubbish with 5-4 in the Majors.</p> <p>♠ A Q 4 3 ♥ 9 7 ♦ K Q 3 2 ♣ 4 3</p> <p>reply 2♣ as you can control this auction to 2NT if opener rebids 2♥ or 2♦</p> <p>♠ 9 7 4 3 ♥ 9 7 6 5 4 ♦ 4 3 ♣ 4 3</p> <p>Reply 2♣ as you can control this auction to 2♥ if partner rebids 2♦ and of course you would be happy if he bid either Major at the two level - now you just pass.</p>
295	<p>Partner opens 1NT (12-14) and you have a totally balanced 4-3-3-3 11 point hand you MUST PASS because even if partner has 14 points bringing the total to 25 this particular 25 point combination is unlikely to produce a ninth trick. so with:</p> <p>♠ A Q 4 3 ♥ K 7 4 ♦ Q 3 2 ♣ 7 4 3</p> <p>Just Pass when partner opens 1NT.</p>
296	<p>Both opponents are bidding 1♥ - 2♣ and in 4th seat you have 15/16 points, you can work out that partner has nothing since the opponents have shown around 23 points already so don't get involved.</p>
297	<p>If you wish to go slamming and have a void DON'T USE BLACKWOOD as it's of no use- make overtures with a CUE BID and expect partner to cue bid back.</p>
298	<p>If one side has a FIT then the other side has a FIT TOO so don't be afraid of introducing your second suit and suddenly finding a fit there and being able to take a subsequent sacrifice or even pushing the opponents too high.</p>
299	<p>To differentiate between good suits and bad suits it is recommended that you lead 4th highest from a suit with an honour eg K7543 lead the 4 BUT with a bad suit with no card higher than the 9 you lead 2nd highest so with (7532 you lead the 7).</p> <p>If partner hasn't got very much in your BAD suit he will know to SWITCH.</p>
300	<p>Leading away from an Ace is not a good idea as it gives away tricks but mid hand if you see king in dummy then play a low one away from your Ace and hope partner has the Queen in situations like this with you're A-8-5-3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">dummy K76 A853 Q942 JT</p>
301	<p>With an extremely BAD HAND against a No Trump contract - TAFP- Try and Find Partner and make a short suit lead. e g</p> <p>♠ 7 6 no point in leading your long suit so lead ♠7 and see the joy in partner's eyes 😊 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ J 8 7 6 4 ♣ 9 5 4</p>

302	<p>If you have 4 or more trumps and you are defending then you need to make declarer ruff in long hand so he loses control of the trump suit. On the following hand all East needed to do was play another diamond and make declarer use up yet another of his trumps and now declarer would be down to 1 less trump than him having ruffed the second Diamond return.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dealer South ♠ K 8 Both Vul ♥ A T 5 ♦ J 7 6 2 ♣ A 6 4 3</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: right;">♠ Q J 5</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: left;">♠ T 7</td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♥ Q</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♥ K 6 4 2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♦ Q 9 8 3</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♦ A T 5 4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♣ K J T 9 7</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">♣ 8 5 2</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ A 9 6 4 3 2 ♥ J 9 8 7 3 ♦ K ♣ Q</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">W</td> <td style="width: 25%;">N</td> <td style="width: 25%;">E</td> <td style="width: 25%;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>2NT</td> <td>NO</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>NO</td> <td>NO</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>When this hand was played against me the defence got off to the best possible start and led 4th highest Diamond and I had to play the King and a Diamond came back after the Ace won the first trick.</p>	♠ Q J 5		♠ T 7		♥ Q		♥ K 6 4 2		♦ Q 9 8 3		♦ A T 5 4		♣ K J T 9 7		♣ 8 5 2		W	N	E	S	NO	2NT	NO	4♥	NO	NO	NO	
♠ Q J 5		♠ T 7																											
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303	<p>If the bidding goes</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">N</td> <td style="width: 25%;">E</td> <td style="width: 25%;">S</td> <td style="width: 25%;">W</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>PASS</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table> <p>If you in 4th seat, West, Double, this says "I have 15+ points and I would have Doubled their 1NT Opening Bid"</p>	N	E	S	W	1NT	PASS	2♥	?																				
N	E	S	W																										
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304	<p>When bidding goes 1♣ and you overcall 1♦ your hand should be good as you are not taking any bidding space away from opposition Likewise if the opener opens 1♥ and you overcall 1♠ don't do it on filthy suits where you are telling your partner to lead the suit UGH</p>																												
305	<p>Opening light in Third seat is good for your bridge health but do consider that it is lead directing so don't do it on poor quality suits:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">♠ A Q 9 7 6</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: left;">♠ J 9 6 5 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♥ K 8 7</td> <td style="text-align: left;">♥ A K 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♦ 9 5 4</td> <td style="text-align: left;">♦ K 6 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">♣ 7 3</td> <td style="text-align: left;">♣ 5 4</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Here certainly open 1♠ Here. think twice before opening 1♠ despite more points</p>	♠ A Q 9 7 6	♠ J 9 6 5 3	♥ K 8 7	♥ A K 8	♦ 9 5 4	♦ K 6 5	♣ 7 3	♣ 5 4																				
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♣ 7 3	♣ 5 4																												
306	<p>Amongst experts it is generally accepted that the received wisdom is that you splinter with minimum 10-12 values and take the Jacoby route with 13+ points.</p>																												
307	<p>Don't Overcall with balanced 13/14 points JUST PASS.</p>																												
308	<p>Please don't overcall with 12 points and a five-card suit headed by just the Jack- it's really crummy bridge - experts never do this sort of thing- Some of the "so called advanced "players, playing online bridge, do it all the time and it's an abomination to me.</p>																												
309	<p>To differentiate between good suits and bad suits it is recommended that you lead 4th highest from a suit with an honour e.g. K-7-5-4-3 lead the 4 BUT with a bad suit with no card higher</p>																												

320	<p>Open third in hand LIGHT especially if your suit is the Spades, the most pre-emptive of the 4 suits. In third seat you no longer need to have a rebid ready and can merely pass anything partner replies if you wish to do so. In third seat when opening light it also acts as lead indication so don't overcall light without a good quality suit:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> ♠ A J 7 5 3 ♥ Q J 8 7 ♦ T 6 ♣ 8 5 Open 1♠ in third seat. </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> ♠ K Q J 6 ♥ A 7 2 ♦ 9 5 4 2 ♣ J 2 Open 1♠ in third seat here too. </td> </tr> </table>	♠ A J 7 5 3 ♥ Q J 8 7 ♦ T 6 ♣ 8 5 Open 1♠ in third seat.	♠ K Q J 6 ♥ A 7 2 ♦ 9 5 4 2 ♣ J 2 Open 1♠ in third seat here too.				
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321	<p>If somebody hasn't splintered when he could have done, he will not have a singleton outside the agreed suit. e.g.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> ♠ A J 7 5 ♥ A Q J 8 7 ♦ A Q ♣ 8 5 </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> 1♥ - 1♠ 4♠ now shows 5-4-2-2 or 3-3-4-2 and no singleton Club or Diamond </td> </tr> </table>	♠ A J 7 5 ♥ A Q J 8 7 ♦ A Q ♣ 8 5	1♥ - 1♠ 4♠ now shows 5-4-2-2 or 3-3-4-2 and no singleton Club or Diamond				
♠ A J 7 5 ♥ A Q J 8 7 ♦ A Q ♣ 8 5	1♥ - 1♠ 4♠ now shows 5-4-2-2 or 3-3-4-2 and no singleton Club or Diamond						
322	<p>Opening 2♣ promises 23+ points or 10 tricks in Spades or Hearts- it is GAME FORCING and partner must keep bidding until Game has been reached., so Open 2♣ on both of these hands</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> ♠ A K Q 6 ♥ K Q 9 ♦ A J T 7 ♣ K Q </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> ♠ A K Q J 7 6 5 ♥ A K Q ♦ 3 ♣ 3 2 </td> </tr> </table>	♠ A K Q 6 ♥ K Q 9 ♦ A J T 7 ♣ K Q	♠ A K Q J 7 6 5 ♥ A K Q ♦ 3 ♣ 3 2				
♠ A K Q 6 ♥ K Q 9 ♦ A J T 7 ♣ K Q	♠ A K Q J 7 6 5 ♥ A K Q ♦ 3 ♣ 3 2						
323	<p>In a No Trump contract holding both the Ace and King of the suit led by the opponents you should hold up twice if you have to give up the lead twice if you want to cut communications between the 2 defenders so they cannot benefit from their long suit.</p>						
324	<p>The opponents make a pre-emptive overcall and you have 11 points and partner opens either Bid onto Game and take your chances or take the money and Double- don't just Pass.</p>						
325	<p>If the bidding goes: 1♥ 1♠ 4♠ rebid Then you know partner's shape is either 5-4-2-2 or 4-4-3-2 because partner didn't bother to splinter when he could have done so!!</p>						
326	<p>Against a suit contract</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dummy has K 6 5 3 2</p> <p>the opponents lead the Queen and you have DO NOT COVER as there is little point - Right hand opponent must have the Ace and your only hope of a trick in this suit is to play low for two rounds and hope that Right Hand opponent has A-x and the cards might be distributed like this:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none; margin-left: 200px;"> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Q J T 9 8</td> <td style="border: none;">K 6 5 4</td> <td style="border: none;">A 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;"></td> <td style="border: none;">3 2</td> </tr> </table>	Q J T 9 8	K 6 5 4	A 7			3 2
Q J T 9 8	K 6 5 4	A 7					
		3 2					
327	<p>Playing weak No trump with 4-4-3-2 and 15-19 points you open your 4 card suit ready to rebid in No Trumps but if you have two 4 card Minors which one do you open- it doesn't matter . HOWEVER I recommend that you bid the weaker suit and if you end up In No Trump the opposition are less likely to lead that suit so with:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">♠ A Q 5</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;">♠ A 7</td> </tr> </table>	♠ A Q 5	♠ A 7				
♠ A Q 5	♠ A 7						

	<p>♥ K 4 ♦ Q J 7 6 ♣ A K T 6</p> <p>on both hands try the effect of opening 1♦ rather than 1♣</p>	<p>♥ K Q 4 ♦ J 8 4 3 ♣ A K T 7</p>
328	<p>With A K 9 8 opposite Q 7 5 4 3</p> <p>assuming plenty of entries make sure you cash the Queen first and if suit breaks 4-0 with West holding all the remaining cards you will still be able to finesse his J T in situations like this:</p> <p>A K 9 8 J T 6 2 Q 7 5 4 3</p>	
329	<p>If you occasionally open 1NT with 5-4-2-2 shape you should have values in your doubletons such as A-x or K-x and the doubletons need to be in the Major's- With 5-4-2-2 shape and 5-4 in the Major's it is best to open the major and then show the other Major</p> <p>♠ A 7 ♠ A 9 6 5 4 ♥ K 5 ♥ Q 6 4 3 ♦ A 9 6 5 4 ♦ A 7 ♣ Q 6 4 3 ♣ K 5</p> <p>here open 1NT but here open 1♠ and rebid 2♥</p>	
330	<p>Leading doubleton Queen tends to be one of the worst blind leads in bridge as it tends to help declarer more than the defending side especially if declarer might have taken a losing finesse in the suit. UGH!!</p>	
331	<p>In 1st and 2nd seat where you would need to have a rebid ready prefer to Open 1NT with a five card Major but in 3rd seat and a lousy 13/14 points Open 1 of the Major and merely pass most responses from partner now:</p> <p>♠ A J 7 6 5 ♠ A J 7 6 5 ♥ K 5 ♥ K 5 ♦ A 9 6 ♦ A 9 6 ♣ 6 4 3 ♣ 6 4 3</p> <p>here open 1NT in 1st and 2nd Seat but now open 1♠ in 3rd seat and Pass most of partner's replies.</p>	
332	<p>The opponents make a pre-emptive overcall and you have 11 points and partner opens either Bid onto Game and take your chances or take the money and Double- Don't just Pass.</p>	
333	<p>With plenty of entries Take out insurance so with A-K-9-8 opposite Q-5-4-3-2 play the Queen off first and when the suit breaks 4-0 you might still be able to Finesse their J-T-7-6 in situations like this:</p> <p>A K 9 8 J T 7 6 - Q 5 4 3 2</p>	
334	<p>If your partner makes an informative Double and you have 12+ points yourself, then BID OPENER' SUIT and pass the buck (very rare to have this many points but when you do remember to pass the buck to partner and Say YOU CHOOSE....</p>	
335	<p>With A 9 5 4 opposite K Q T 8 3 remember to play that Ace first retaining the A 9 tenace in one hand and the Q T in the other hand and now you guarantee 5 tricks out of 5 even if the suit</p>	

346	<p>Bid to the level of the fit so with 5 card support and partner making a weak Jump overcall in clubs showing 6 Jump to 5♣ or 5♦ and APPLY THE PRESSURE on the opposition.</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>♠ 9 5 3</td> <td>♠ K 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ Q T</td> <td>♥ J 6 4 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 7 3</td> <td>♦ J T</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A Q J 8 4 2</td> <td>♣ K 9 7 6 3</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">WEST EAST</p> <p>Once West intervenes with weak Jump overcall of 3♣ then East should immediately jump to 5♣ - some you lose some you win APPLY THE PRESSURE</p>	♠ 9 5 3	♠ K 7	♥ Q T	♥ J 6 4 2	♦ 7 3	♦ J T	♣ A Q J 8 4 2	♣ K 9 7 6 3								
♠ 9 5 3	♠ K 7																
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♦ 7 3	♦ J T																
♣ A Q J 8 4 2	♣ K 9 7 6 3																
347	<p>In any cue bidding sequence if you go past a suit then you are denying 1st round control of that suit so on the hands below North South can stop in 4♠ without going to 5 level finding out two aces are missing and then going down on the bad trump break:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr><td>♠ AK5432</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ 4</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ 62</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ AKQ7</td></tr> </table> <table style="margin-left: 40px; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>♠ -</td> <td>♠ QT6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ A8765</td> <td>♥ JT9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ T753</td> <td>♦ AJ98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ J964</td> <td>♣ T85</td> </tr> </table> <table style="margin-left: 40px; width: 100%;"> <tr><td>♠ J987</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ KQ32</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ KQ4</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ 32</td></tr> </table>	♠ AK5432	♥ 4	♦ 62	♣ AKQ7	♠ -	♠ QT6	♥ A8765	♥ JT9	♦ T753	♦ AJ98	♣ J964	♣ T85	♠ J987	♥ KQ32	♦ KQ4	♣ 32
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♠ J987																	
♥ KQ32																	
♦ KQ4																	
♣ 32																	
348	<p>In 4th seat: N E S W 1♥ NO NO ?</p> <p>This is the protective seat and to double you now only needs 10+ points (borrow a King to make this bid up to 13)</p>																
349	<p>With AQT9843 opposite a void, needing 6 tricks out of 7, you have to hope one opponent started life with either a doubleton Jack or singleton Jack and play off AQ to pin the Jack and keep your losers just to ONE in this scenario:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>J 7</td> <td>K 6 5 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">A Q T 9 8 4 3</td> </tr> </table>	J 7	K 6 5 2	A Q T 9 8 4 3													
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350	<p>If partner is sensible and makes a 2♣ overcall when they open 1♠ and you have 15 points and a hand like this:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr><td>♠ K Q 9 7</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ Q T 9 8</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ A Q J 9</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ 4</td></tr> </table> <p>Bid 3NT it too is a sensible practical bid PRACTICAL bid.</p>	♠ K Q 9 7	♥ Q T 9 8	♦ A Q J 9	♣ 4												
♠ K Q 9 7																	
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351	<p>Partner opens the bidding and overcaller overcalls 1NT and you have 8 or more points than DOUBLE FOR BLOOD- they will not make 7 tricks!!</p>																
352	<p>Against their 3NT contract make a short Major suit lead with a really lousy hand and TRY and FIND PARTNER so if the bidding goes 1NT - 3NT and you have:</p>																

	<p>as East wins first trick and now the defence has a stranglehold on "poor declarer" when they finesse their remaining J-9 through his T-7 taking the first 5 tricks. I watched a hand on OK bridge where declarer, a so called expert, covered trick one and fortunately for her East had a singleton Ace and she never got found out.</p>																																																																																																																																				
360	<p>If you think that the defenders should be attacking your trump suit and they don't then expect that defender to hold a key card in the trump suit - maybe a doubleton queen of trumps.</p>																																																																																																																																				
361	<p>Partner does something really strange such as underlead his Ace or even his AK to put you in, then FOLLOW PARTNER'S DEFENCE and come back the suit he originally led and don't be surprised when he now ruffs.</p>																																																																																																																																				
362	<p>Person on left leads ♥2 against your 3NT contract realize he has led from a four card suit and you need to keep playing low to BLOCK THE DEFENCE. in this scenario:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">WEST</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">NORTH</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">EAST</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">K 5 4 2</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">A J T 9 7</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">SOUTH</td> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Q 8 6 3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> </div> <p>Declarer, South, must keep playing low when Jack comes back at trick 2 to stop the defenders getting 5 tricks.</p>		♠												♥	-										♦	♦										♣	♣								WEST	♠		NORTH	♠			EAST					♥	K 5 4 2		♥	A J T 9 7							♦			♦								♣		SOUTH	♣										♠											♥	Q 8 6 3										♦											♣							
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363	<p>Only do Unusual No Trump with 5-5 shape or better (not 5-4).</p>																																																																																																																																				
364	<p>If from the bidding you know you have a 4-4 fit and a 5-4 fit or even a 6-4 fit available then it's best to try and play in the 4-4 fit as you will eventually get discards on the outside long suit. You will get no discards at all, if you play in the 5-4 or 6-4 fit.</p>																																																																																																																																				
365	<p>If the opposition joins in and you want to play in No Trump but have no stopper, you bid overcaller's suit and THIS ASKS for STOPPER in that suit-it is called a DAB- Directional Asking Bid.</p>																																																																																																																																				
366	<p>The worst lead in Bridge is a from a Doubleton Queen because more often than not it helps declarer- Maybe declarer was going to finesse and not play for the drop!!</p>																																																																																																																																				
367	<p>If partner has both Majors with you and you are 5-4 in the Majors then make sure you GIVE PREFERENCE to the FOUR card suit rather than the 5-card suit then you will be able to draw trumps and then discard a loser on the outside suit. If you play in the 5-4 fit you will not get a discard if one should be needed.</p>																																																																																																																																				
368	<p>Once there has been intervention and you are going to support partner then your, bids should now be semi- preemptive so raising. 1♠ to 2♠ should now show 4-5 points, 1♠ to 3♠ should be 6-9 points and if you have a good raise then adopt an Unassuming Cue bid which was originally the overcaller's partner's dominion but can be used in a similar way by responder's partner, ie you bid overcaller's suit. e.g. :</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">N</td> <td style="width: 10%;">E</td> <td style="width: 10%;">S</td> <td style="width: 10%;">W</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♠</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>2♠ now shows good raise in Hearts</p>	N	E	S	W	1♥	1♠	2♠		2♠																																																																																																																											
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369	Don't do Michaels Cue Bids and Unusual No Trump unless you have 5-5 or better shape- It's just "too" clever to do it on 5:4 hands when you deserve to come a cropper!!
370	If the bidding goes 1NT - 3♣ and you the opener now have a fit (three card suit) do remember to CUE BID any Ace you have before going directly to 4♣ therefore if you go directly to 4♣ now you are denying any ace outside the agreed trump suit.
371	With AJT965 opposite K52 play the Jack from closed hand to tempt a cover and if no cover go up with King and either play for the drop on way back or finesse on way back if you think the opponents are coverers of honours.
372	If you are thinking about taking a sacrifice and are not sure if they are making then DON'T especially at the 5 level.
373	<p>Partner transfers into a suit you really like with transferred suit and have maximum hand the WAKE UP and BREAK THE TRANSFER. so playing weak no trump with:</p> <p>♠ A Q 5 4 ♥ K J 9 ♦ A 6 ♣ Q 7 3 2</p> <p>Having opened 1NT partner surprisingly replies 2♥ transfer to Spades you should now break to 3♣ so partner knows you are really good. Sometimes partner was transferring with weak hand and will now Pass but most of the time will still probably muster 9 tricks.</p>
374	I think you should only overall with 1NT with 16-18 and not on 15-17, the modern style, as it can be dangerous (BUT I am a wimp).
375	<p>If partner transfers and you have great 14 points and fit with the transfer suit then jump in transfer suit- this is called BREAKING The Transfer or in layman's terms not doing as you are told, e.g.</p> <p>♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ 9 2 ♦ A J 8 7 ♣ K T 8</p> <p>After opening 1NT partner transfers 2♥ with this maximum hand come alive and now bid 3♣ instead of just 2♣.</p>
376	<p>You can rebid 2NT or 3NT once a Major suit fit has been found if you are 4-3-3-3 and give partner a chance to give preference to No Trump or to the Major in situations like this where 9 tricks makes but 10 doesn't :-</p> <p>♠ A Q 6 5 ♠ K J 4 2 ♥ K Q 8 ♥ A 7 2 ♦ A 8 4 ♦ 9 7 6 ♣ 9 5 4 ♣ A 3 2</p>
377	<p>If the bidding escalates to 3 level and the opponents are pre-empting you then you MUST PROTECT and either bid or Double in a situation like this :-</p> <p>N E S W NO NO 2♠ NO 3♠ ?</p> <p>East knows West has values and is not bidding blind and should now protect with Double with a hand like this :-</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ Q J 9 5 4 ♦ Q J T 5 4 ♣ 3 2</p> <p>Nothing to worry about - if they have fit in spades you certainly have a fit in one of the red suit.</p>

378	To make a weak take-out into clubs after 1NT opener you can either go through transfer sequence or you can bid 2♣ (Stayman) followed by 3♣ BUT only do a weak-take-out with six card suit as you now have to make 9 tricks when you could have left partner to make 7 in 1NT.																												
379	Are you disciplined enough to pass with 18 points in 4th seat when you have heard the bidding go 1H No 1S ? you can hear the opposition bidding showing around at least 19 points so partner has nothing – let them get on with it.																												
380	Looking for the Ace and Queen at trick 1 in a suit contract in a situation like this: <p style="text-align: center;">K 6</p> <p>?? 3 is led WEST EAST ???</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J 4</p> <p>Since people do not lead away from Aces play West for the missing Queen and play low from dummy. If East has then both then there is nothing you can do about it.</p>																												
381	Playing weak No Trump, I recommend that you play 2NT rebid showing 15-19 once partner has gone 2♣ in answer to your 1♠ or 1♥ opener and that a Jump to 3NT is just a source of tricks from a long solid Minor and you think you can make 9 tricks. e.g. <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>S</td><td>W</td></tr> <tr><td>1♦</td><td>NO</td><td>1♥</td><td>NO</td></tr> <tr><td>3NT</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♠</td><td>K 5</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>7 2</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>A 4 2</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>A K Q 9 7 6</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	N	E	S	W	1♦	NO	1♥	NO	3NT				♠	K 5			♥	7 2			♦	A 4 2			♣	A K Q 9 7 6		
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382	When following suit with a small card at trick 1, from your own concealed hand declarer should never play a true card so that the defenders signal will get muddled. e.g. the opponents lead an Ace which will obviously lose and you declarer hold 752 in the suit in the closed hand, drop the 5 at trick 1.																												
383	Every time you have three card Major and partner opens 2NT THINK PUPPET STAYMAN in situations like this: <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>T 9 3</td><td>♠</td><td>A K J 6</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>7 4</td><td>♥</td><td>Q T 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>K Q 7 6</td><td>♦</td><td>A 4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>4</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>8 5 2</td><td>♣</td><td>A K 3</td></tr> </table> <p>3NT would be one off on a Heart lead and 4♠ is so safe.</p>	♠	T 9 3	♠	A K J 6				4	♥	7 4	♥	Q T 3	♦	K Q 7 6	♦	A 4		4			♣	8 5 2	♣	A K 3				
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384	In a competitive auction DO NOT BID 4♣ or 4♦ and suddenly push them into a making Game that the opposition were not going to bid UNLESS you intend doubling their 4♠ or 4♥ contract.																												
385	Make sure you and your partner discuss what action to take after they open 4♠ Is Double Penalty and 4NT Take-out? Which is the recommended course of action, whereas over 4♥ the action might be different where Double should be take-out.																												
386	With a totally balanced 13/14 point hand and 4 card support for the MAJOR you can either bid new suit then jump to 4♥ or 4♠ or do a 3NT BARON RESPONSE which shows precisely 4-3-3-3 13-15 points with 4 card support for the major.																												

387	In any Game Forcing situation where you go directly to Game and do not bid anything on the way then you should not have a control in the suits you by pass- you should always endeavor to make NO COST CUEBIDS.
388	Are you disciplined enough to pass with 18 points in 4th seat when you have heard the bidding go 1♥ No 1♠ ? you can hear the opposition bidding showing around at least 19 points so partner has nothing - let them get on with it.
389	Playing weak No Trump Opening bids (12-14), I recommend that you play 2NT rebid wide ranging showing 15-19 once partner has gone 2♣ in answer to your 1♠ or 1♥ opener, with possible slam interests and that 3NT should then be totally balanced 15 maybe 16 points with no slam interest.
390	To open Weak 1NT you need 12-14 points balanced 4333, 4432, and 5332 but occasionally with semi-balanced hands of 2254 shape with doubleton Honour in both majors or even 2263 again with doubleton Honour in both Majors you might open 1NT as a possible pre-emptive bid cutting the opposition out from finding their possible Major fit.- if you aren't sure about this then DON'T DO IT.
391	In the overcalling seat keep quiet with balanced 14 points if they have already opened 1NT or 1 of a suit.
392	Be aware of Culbertson's Law of Distribution: -Play for like distributions so if your dummy and hand have singletons and voids expect the opponents to have similar shape and if necessary take finesses and don't play for the suit to break 2-2.
393	If you have long Minor and 10/11 points and partner opens 1NT (12-14) then improvise and either go whole hog to 3NT or invite 2NT as it makes more often than it doesn't.
394	Partner replies 1♠ over the 1♦ intervention after you opened 1♣ there is now no point in bidding Hearts now because partner has denied Hearts BECAUSE he did not use Negative double over the intervention. Had he got 5 spades and 4 Hearts he should have started with a Double.
395	<p>Don't FORGET NEGATIVE DOUBLES - if the bidding goes:</p> <p>♠ K Q 7 6 ♥ 6 ♦ 5 4 ♣ A K T 7 6 5</p> <p>W N E S 1♦ 1♥ ?</p> <p>Remember to say DOUBLE and not 2♣. If you bid 2♣ you are denying a four-card spade suit.</p>
396	To overcall 1NT you need 16-18 points balanced with stopper in opponents' suit BUT IF you do it on 15 then make sure you have some Tens to upgrade the hand.
397	<p>After the bidding goes:</p> <p>N E S 1♥ DBL 2NT</p> <p>The 2NT "response" after the Double now shows 10-12 points with 4 card support invented by Alan Truscott commonly called the Truscott 2NT reply- the Americans call it Jordan.</p>

398	Partner initially Passes and then comes back into the auction and PROTECTS- Do not now go overboard and bid on recklessly- Partner was bidding on the fact that he knew you had values- DON'T PUNISH PARTNER FOR BIDDING.
399	With 11 points and five card suit don't open the bidding - lots of "advanced" players do it because they think they are being clever DON'T.
400	If you are playing both Splinters and Jacoby 2NT then limit your Splinter bid to just 10-12 points and your Jacoby bid for stronger hands.
401	Come alive with 65 shape. If you are in overcall seat and you have very few points but 6-5 shape don't be afraid to compete.
402	Opening 1NT with 5422 is all well and good BUT do have honours in both the Doubletons Kx or better in both of them.
403	Please do not abuse Michaels Cue Bids and the Unusual No Trump. There is nothing clever in using these conventions with only 4 card suits- you MUST BE 5-5 or better distribution.
404	Do not overcall at the 2 level with 5 card suit headed by just the Ace- its ill-advised and REAL EXPERTS don't do that.
405	After any intervention all raises of suit should not be weak and pre-emptive so: 1♣ DBL 2♣ can be made on as few as 3-5 points and 1♣ DBL 3♣ can now be made on 6-9.
406	With AJT76 in closed hand opposite K32 in dummy, not knowing which way to take the two way finesse play the Jack from the closed hand and you will be surprised how many players with the Queen will cover (even when they should not do so) and if they don't cover then go up with the king and finesse the other player on the way back. see Zias' Tip Roll over Houdini http://www.haroldschogger.com/ziamahmood.htm
407	Please do not hesitate when you have nothing to hesitate for - it's cheating - there is nothing clever in it at all. If you play against a hesitator and you are looking for a Queen or Jack then for sure the other player will have this card. Now the hesitation works against him- if he hesitates he hasn't got the honour in question!!!
408	If somebody opened the bidding and you, the opponent end up as declarer, many times the hand becomes OPEN BOOK as you know where everything is from the opener having to have at least 13 points for his opening bid.
409	Once you push the opponents up, do not double their part score at the 4 level for 100 instead of 50 - they might make the contract- don't be greedy.
410	Not sure where to go next in a non-competitive auction with a good hand then DEPLOY 4th SUIT FORCING your trusted friend and then you will get to find out more about partner's shape.
411	When following suit with only low cards in declarer's hand, declarer should not play a true card- so with 962 follow suit with the 6 and mess up the opponents' signals.
412	Often there is no perfect bid for every hand and you may have to improvise and if in doubt, a very good maxim is, "If you think you can make 3NT or 4♠ just go for it and bid it...."
413	Playing in 5:2 spade fit most of the time is better than leaving partner in 1NT.
414	If you Double their weak One No Trump opener you promise 15+ points and it is for BLOOD- partners are expected to leave them in 99% of the time.

415	Adopt 2NT Jordan (or in UK Truscott) response when the bidding goes 1♥ DOUBLE now 2NT by responder should show good raise in Hearts(10-12) and all other raises of 2♥ or 3♥ should then be weak.												
416	Playing Match Point Pairs If you think that 3NT will be made by everybody else in the room and you are in 5♦ at the moment take a chance and bid 6♦												
417	Playing weak No Trump I recommend that you play 2NT rebid wide range showing 15-19 once partner has gone 2♣ in answer to your 1♠ or 1♥ opener and that a direct rebid of 3NT is balanced 15/16 - 4-3-3-3 distribution with no interest in possible slam.												
418	With 4333 hands with 4 card Major don't bother with Stayman when partner opens 1NT or 2NT- you are far too balanced.												
419	Declarer leads up to dummy's KQT in dummy and you hold A54 over dummy hold up the first round and then declarer is likely to finesse again and you can now Ace the Queen promoting partner's possible Jack in situations like this :- <div style="text-align: center;"> <table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>K Q T</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>J 3 2</td><td></td><td>A 5 4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>9 8 7 6</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>		K Q T		J 3 2		A 5 4		9 8 7 6				
	K Q T												
J 3 2		A 5 4											
	9 8 7 6												
420	After the opposition makes an informative Double against you if you REDOUBLE all you are saying is you have BALANCE OF POWER 8/9+ points and really no Fit with partner's suit.												
421	Playing 4 card suit system (such as Acol) with two four card suits it doesn't matter which one you open as you will be rebidding No Trumps next BUT I recommend to open the Major.												
422	With KQT in dummy if declarer leads up to the King Queen and you are defending in 4th seat and you have the Ace do not play it immediately as declarer is likely to assume second person has the Ace and will finesse again in situations like this: <div style="text-align: center;"> <table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>KQT</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>J54</td><td></td><td>A832</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>976</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <p>If you hold up declarer is certain to finesse again and you will pounce with your Ace and thereby promoting partner's Jack. if you Ace straight away declarer is bound to try the finesse of partner's Jack for 2 tricks and succeed.</p>		KQT		J54		A832		976				
	KQT												
J54		A832											
	976												
423	It's not a good idea to overcall 2♦ with AKXXX and about 11 points -if you are going to do it with 5 card suit have three honours - joining in with 2♦ means contracting for 8 tricks - do you really want to do that with a hand like: <div style="text-align: center;"> <table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>6 4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K 8 3</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>A K 5 4 3</td><td>JUST</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>8 6 5 4</td><td>PASS 😊</td></tr> </table> </div>	♠	6 4		♥	K 8 3		♦	A K 5 4 3	JUST	♣	8 6 5 4	PASS 😊
♠	6 4												
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♣	8 6 5 4	PASS 😊											
424	Responder is not sure what to bid next then use the 4TH SUIT FORCING BID to ask partner to bid his shape out.												
425	If your partner, the responder, freely bids after the intervention he will have a five card suit because he didn't Negative Double when he could have done so.												
426	Needing 1 trick from 54 opposite KJ2 not knowing to finesse the King or the Jack, play on other suits first and then see what they throw- they are more likely to throw from this key suit holding the Ace and hold on for dear life with the Queen- see.												

427	Remember that if you have the other two suits after 1♦, 1♥ overcall and you are replying then USE a NEGATIVE DOUBLE.
428	In the overcall position please PASS with BALANCED 13/14 POINT HANDS- there is no valid overcall with these hands.
429	Once your partner says Double of One of a suit you are compelled to REACT and there should be a good reaction when you have 8 or more points and you should JUMP in your best suit - partner will not think you have loads of points because 26 points or so have already been accounted for from the opening bid and the double, the first two bids of the auction.
430	Partner suddenly Doubles the final contract out of the blue- This is Lightner Double asking for an unusual lead, usually dummy's first bid suit. Maybe partner could ruff the opening led or maybe partner has AQ of that suit sitting over dummy- It usually occurs against a Slam (see hand of the week this week for more information.
431	Please be aware that there are only 14 points after the bidding has gone: N E S W 1♠ DBL NO ? so any bid made by West has to convey either weakness by bidding suit at lowest possible level or maybe jumping in new suit with 8+ points
432	I come across a lot of "so called expert/advanced players" who this it is correct with any 13/14 point hand they have to Overcall - IT ISN'T. With a Balanced 13 points (4-3-3-4) if they beat you to it with an opening bid of any description YOU MUST PASS in the OVERCALL SEAT.
433	To make an overcall in a suit contract shows 8/9 up to 14 points after the 1NT opener. If you do it with only 8/9 then you better have a good quality 6 card suit.
434	There is nothing clever in Opening the bidding with 4432 hands and only 11 points DON'T DO IT - it's just too clever.
435	If, in 4th seat you double their transfer or their weakness take-out it bids says "I would have doubled their opening bid of 1NT- I have 15+ points". e.g. N E S W 1NT NO 2♣ DOUBLE this now say I have 15 or more points against the weak no Trump opponent.
436	In 4th seat the protective seat or Pass-out saet1NT shows 10-14 points, balanced. If you have more start with Double and then bid No Trumps next.
437	Against Weak No trump opponents if you double their transfer bid or their Stayman bid then it says "I would have doubled their original 1NT opening bid- I have 15+ points.
438	If partner initially passes, and then comes back into the auction with weak Jump overcall in a Major, then they probably have 6 in that major and 4 cards in the other Major and didn't want to open a weak two in the first place.
439	The opponents end up in 3NT after a 3NT opening bid, LEAD AN ACE (if you have one), and see where dummy's weakness is, and then you can switch to that suit and take the contract off.
440	Playing Match Point Pairs, if you think 5♣ is going to be lousy score because all will be in 3NT then bid 6♣ or 6♦ any way and gamble on a top that way.
441	On the whole, even suits out against you break badly and odd suits break well so with 5 out expect 3-2 break but with 4 out expect 3-1 rather than the more favoured 2-2.
442	You open and partner passes REMEMBER to REOPEN AUCTIONS with DOUBLE - maybe partner is lurking wanted to make a penalty double in the first place and was unable to do so.
443	If you, the partner of the 3NT Opener have stoppers in three suits then you can leave 3NT in- if not just bid 4♣.

	<p>With:</p> <p>♠ 7 2 ♥ Q T 5 4 ♦ A K 6 5 ♣ J 9 2</p> <p>Any other good hand you should be redoubling</p>								
455	<p>The bidding goes:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> <td>W</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>NO</td> <td>NO</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table> <p>in this protective seat you need 3/4 points less to make your normal bids so to protect with a bid you only need as few as 7/8, To double you need only 10 and to protect with 1NT just 10-14</p>	N	E	S	W	1♥	NO	NO	?
N	E	S	W						
1♥	NO	NO	?						
456	<p>The bidding goes:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> <td>W</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>NO</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table> <p>and you have this hand with GOOD SUPPORT and GOOD VALUES 10+ points use and Unassuming Cue bid i.e. bid opener's suit</p> <p>♠ Q 9 5 4 ♥ 7 2 now bid 2♥ the opponent's suit ♦ A K J 5 4 ♣ 3 2</p> <p>Now if partner had an original ropey overcall he can rebid 2♠ and you will be able to stop short of any blundering.</p>	N	E	S	W	1♥	1♠	NO	?
N	E	S	W						
1♥	1♠	NO	?						
457	<p>If the opponents both bid a suit and then do not lead the suit then left hand opponent probably has the Ace and does not want to lead from his Ace especially against a suit contract.</p>								
458	<p>Partner Splinters and you are thinking about going to a small slam- if your points outside the splinter suit plus partner's known points total totals 26 or more then THINK SLAM big time.</p>								
459	<p>What to do after 1NT gets doubled? – make all bids natural and then there can be no misunderstandings or ALTERNATIVELY you can play the following AS LONG AS IT IS FULLY DISCUSSED BEFOREHAND :- all systems on with 2♣ still being Stayman and 2♦ and 2♥ being Transfers and REDOUBLE now asks partner to bid 2♣ which you will either Pass or correct to 2♦.</p>								
460	<p>With ATXX opposite K9XX Play for the suit to be 4-1 rather than 3-2 and then decide who is more likely to have FOUR against you and then finesse the that person with 9 or T.</p>								
461	<p>Please don't join in with balanced 14 point hands - there is no known overcall for this hand just be disciplined and PASS.</p>								
462	<p>Fully discuss systems and make sure you and your partner are on the same wavelength when it comes to lead and signaling conventions.</p>								
463	<p>4th Suit forcing is initially forcing up to 2NT but any subsequent bid at the three level is NOW FORCING to GAME- alternatively you and partner can agree that all 4th suit forcing sequences are Forcing to Game.</p>								
464	<p>With K Q T 5 3 opposite A 9 4 2 you have tenaces in both hands Q T in one hand and A9 in the other so in order to GUARANTEE 5 TRICKS even when the suit breaks 4-0 play the King first and now you can still finesse either opponent for the missing Jack when the suit does break 4-0</p>								

465	If you partner reverses (bids beyond the barrier bid this if FORCING and however bad your hand is you must make one more bid.
466	If you see a winning defence, maybe a switch at trick two then go for it and take command- Now partner MUST RESPECT your change and follow your defence especially if you have switched to a singleton and need a ruff.
467	Once you bid a suit and they join in and partner Passes, try to reopen the auction with a TAKE-OUT DOUBLE- partner could easily be wanting to convert.
468	With AQJT opposite 763 you need to finesse against their King THREE TIMES playing low from the 763 side each time.
469	If the bidding goes 1♠ - 3♣ reply now 3NT by opener shows precisely 4-3-3-3 hand and asks you to choose between 4♠ and 3NT in case you are also 4-3-3-3 without any ruffing values.
470	<p>If you are a passed hand and then you make a JUMP in NEW SUIT this says to partner you were maximum for your pass and you have a FIT IN PARTNER'S SUIT. so with:</p> <p>♠ Q 9 5 4 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A K 7 6 2 ♣ 5 4</p> <p>Having originally passed you can now reply 3♦ when partner opens 1♠.</p>
471	Play 4th suit forcing FORCING TO GAME and then there can be no bidding misunderstandings.
472	If you make a vul versus non vul pre-empt your seven card suit should be very strong - 2 of the top three trump honours - you don't want to be doubled and lose 500 against their 420 do you?
473	<p>If you see A J T 5 4 in dummy with no outside entries, and you have K 3 2 in second seat you must play King in situations like this</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A J T 5 4 K 3 2 Q 7 6 9 8</p> <p>if you don't do so, declarer finesses and later will pick up your King and run the suit.</p>
474	<p>Holding a side entry plus honour doubleton in the suit partner has led remember to unblock your honour if dummy wins the trick in a situation like this:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K 8 A T 7 6 3 2 J 4 Q 9 5</p> <p>Partner leads the 6 and declarer plays the King unblock that Jack before you regret it.</p>
475	When defending and you intend splitting your honours in a scenario like this KQx then play the King and declarer could easily place your partner for the other honour and miscount the hand.
476	<p>Use Restricted choice option whenever you can and in this scenario:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K 5 2 T A J 3 Q 9 8 7 6 4</p> <p>You decide to play for this suit to break 2-2 BUT first lead up to dummy's K and see if anything interesting falls. When the Ten falls East is now twice as likely to have the Jack so later on get back to North and finesse your remaining 9.</p>
477	If they freely bid a Slam, unless you do not care what suit your partner leads do not Double, otherwise partner will make an unusual Lightner Double lead and suddenly declarer will make a contract that should have been going down.

478	<p>If no suit has been agreed directly or by inference than 4NT MUST BE QUANTITATIVE and is asking partner to bid onto 6 with MAXIMUM POINT COUNT and the Pass with minimum hand. in both these auctions 4NT is invitational Quantitive bid and NOT Blackwood</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>E</td> <td>W</td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>4NT</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3NT</td> <td>4NT (no suit agreed)</td> </tr> </table>	W	E	W	E	1NT	4NT	1♠	2♦			3NT	4NT (no suit agreed)			
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479	<p>If they interfere while you are trying to do Blackwood then adopt DOPI whereby Double (D) shows Zero Aces (O) Pass (P) shows 1 Ace (I) and the next suit up would be 2 and the next suit up would be three and so on.</p> <p>D (as in Double) = Zero O (as in Zero) P (as in Pass) = One I (as in Number one)</p>															
480	<p>If you open 3 of a suit you have seven card suit and if you open weak 2 of a suit you show six. Do not make cowardly bids of 2 of a suit with 7 card suit - (which I have seen people do, so called advanced players)</p>															
481	<p>If you have very strong hand and support for one of opener's suits and you are not sure what to bid next USE 4TH SUIT FORCING and then go to 4♥ or 4♠ next and now partner will know that you are better than just a mere raise. e.g.</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">West</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">East</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠ A J 9 4</td> <td></td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ K 2</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠ K Q 6 4 3</td> <td>2♥ 4th suit tell me more.....</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ K 9</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	West		East	♠ A J 9 4		1♣	♥ K 2	1♦	1♠	♠ K Q 6 4 3	2♥ 4th suit tell me more.....		♣ K 9		
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482	<p>If you have had a cue bidding sequence and partner jumps to 5 level of the agreed suit he is asking for first round or second round control of the unbid suit. e.g.:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>♠ Q J 7</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ J 9 5 4</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>4♣ Cue Bid</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ A K J 2</td> <td>4♦ Cue Bid</td> <td>5♥ Do you have 1st or 2nd round control</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ Q 4</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	♠ Q J 7	1♦	2♥	♥ J 9 5 4	3♥	4♣ Cue Bid	♦ A K J 2	4♦ Cue Bid	5♥ Do you have 1st or 2nd round control	♣ Q 4					
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483	<p>Against Weak No trump opponents play Double showing 15+ points for Penalties and partner should leave it in - it goes off more than it makes even if partner has very little- don't get busy removing it</p>															
484	<p>Adopt leading second from bad suits (rather than automatic 4th bests) when leading against No Trumps and if partner has rubbish in that suit too, he will know to SWITCH as you have led from a suit without future.</p>															
485	<p>As declarer you should never play a true card from your closed hand if you can help it and then you muddy the waters for the opponents who are trying to get their signals going. e.g. King is lead and you hold up the first trick with A854 drop the 5 or even 8 at trick 1.</p>															
486	<p>Do not open less than 4♠ or 4♥ holding 2 aces or 1 Ace and 2 Kings as you have far too much defensive strength.</p>															
487	<p>When following suit with small cards from the closed hand never follow with your lowest - follow with middling one and hopefully, this will mess up the defender signals.</p>															
488	<p>An opponent leads a T at trick One be aware that the Jack is now in the other defender's hand and in situations like this:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>K 9 5</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>T 2</td> <td></td> <td>A J 4 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Q 8 7</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		K 9 5		T 2		A J 4 3		Q 8 7							
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502	Tenaces :- KT3 opposite AQ9642 and here you must play the Ace first to see if suit breaks 4-0 retaining the KT in one hand and the Q9 in the other so you can finesse either opponent (and certainly ignore playing the high card from the short hand rule).
503	Patience is the greatest attribute for best defence.- try not to get busy opening up new suits.
504	<p>Playing Duplicate pairs you should give false preference when partner opens 1 of a Major and rebids 2 of a Minor as its better to play in a 5-2 fit than a 4-3 fit and it scores better too so with:-</p> <p>♠ 6 2 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ Q J 2 ♣ K 9 8 5 2</p> <p>Now rebid 2♠ when partner has opened 1♠ and rebid 2♦ and play in guaranteed 5-2 fit.</p>
505	<p style="text-align: center;">K J 5 opposite 5 4 3</p> <p>Needing just one trick from this combination of cards and you are deliberating as to whether you finesse the Jack or the King then leave this crucial suit for as long as possible and watch what the opponents discard. If one opponent keeps this suit then he is more likely to hold the Queen guarded and if somebody freely discards from this suit and sees no need to guard this suit then that player is more likely to have the missing ace,</p>
506	You end up in 3NT and left hand opponent does not lead his partner's suit then left hand opponent is likely to hold the Ace (or none) and is trying to keep that Ace over you.
507	When declarer is playing his strong suit there is no point in encouraging or discouraging so GIVE THE COUNT instead.
508	<p>With Q 5 4 3 opposite K 7 6 2 needing three tricks from this suit make a decision which opponent is more likely to have the Ace and then finesse that person and then play a low card from each hand and PRAY that person started life with a Doubleton Ace</p> <p>so Q 5 4 3</p> <p>A8 J T 9</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">K 7 6 2</p> <p>Having made the decision that West is likely to have the Ace play low towards the Queen and then a low card from each hand as the Ace FALLS ON AIR.</p> <p>How do we know who is more likely to hold the Ace</p> <p>a) bidding b) the lead c) how many points one opponent has already turned up with. (NB this tip works better if you are in a CHURCH or SYNAGOGUE)</p>
509	Once you make an Informative Double with minimum values, do not bid again unless partner makes a forcing bid or subsequently bids 2 suits needing a preference i.e. Bid your hand once.
510	<p>Most people who have pre-empted will have A SINGLETON somewhere, and if they lead from their long suit then the singleton is likely to be in the trump suit itself so if your trumps are:</p> <p>A J 9 5 opposite K T 8 3 2</p> <p>play the pre-emptor for a singleton and cash honour first and then finesse the other player - see Robson Bols tip http://www.haroldschogger.com/robson.htm for further information</p>
511	With KJX opposite XXX (needing ONLY 1 trick) this is known as the critical suit and should be left for as long as possible and whoever discards a card from this suit probably has the Ace

	and whoever holds on for dear life probably is guarding the Queen – see Reese tip for more details http://www.haroldschogger.com/Reese3.htm
512	In third seat, defending a No Trump contract, with AQ5 play the QUEEN not the Ace. If declarer Has K32 he will not be able to hold up and cut communications between you and your partner in a situation like this :- <div style="text-align: center;"> 8 3 J 9 6 5 4 A Q 7 (you) partner led the 5 play the Queen K T 2 </div>
513	Games may be quietly defended but slams must be attacked - see Garozzo Bols Tip http://www.haroldschogger.com/garozzo.htm
514	Sure you can open light in third seat but make sure you have decent quality suit- if you don't want partner to lead that suit then don't bother to open light.
515	Don't bother to do Stayman with 4333 hands as you have no ruffing values and even if there is a 4:4 fit you might sometimes be hard pushed to make the 10th trick with such a balanced hand when partners are minimum.
516	Partner opens 1♥ next player bids Double and you have fit and 10+ points bid TRUSCOTT 2NT to show this hand - if you have a balanced hand with 10 points you would be redoubling straight away so Alan Truscott decided that as the 2NT wasn't being used for anything else, that it could show a FIT & GOOD RAISE in HEARTS. All actual raises of 2♥ 3♥ AND 4♥ SHOULD BE WEAK AND PRE-EMPTIVE.
517	If you open 1NT with 5422 then your Doubletons should be in BOTH Majors.
518	Open weak 2s with 6 card suits, weak 3s with 7 card suits and weak 4s with 8 card suits- don't deviate and open 2 with seven card suit - its cowardly.
519	Playing weak NO Trump where 2NT rebid promises 17 - if partner should reply 2♣ over 1♠ your opener you should adopt 2NT rebid to show 15-19 points and still possible interest in slam and a direct 3NT bid would then show totally flat 15/16 point hand and no interest in slam (unless partner were very good).
520	If you play Double of high level pre-empts as Take-out then if you have a strong balanced hand then you will just have to pass and be happy to defend.
521	In 4th seat don't be in a hurry to take your Ace and perhaps declarer will return to hand and finesse again in situations like this :- DUMMY K Q T 6 J 5 4 A 3 2 (YOU) 9 8 7 Declarer plays low to the King. Play low and declarer is bound to finesse up to the Queen next If you are in hurry, declarer will take winning line and finesse the Ten next won't he? Playing low in tempo will hopefully result in partner's Jack becoming high.
522	With a very bad hand don't make normal 4th highest lead in your longest suit as it might be a pointless exercise. Make a SHORT SUIT LEAD & TRY AND FIND PARTNER e.g. The bidding goes 1♣ 3♣ 3NT and you are on lead with: ♠ T 8 6 4 ♥ 7 3 ♦ Q 9 5 4 ♣ J 8 5

	fashion with the advent of Michaels Cue Bids. The chance of you having 23+ points after an opening bid of 1 of a suit (13+ points) is extremely remote any way.																		
532	<p>With K J 7 5 opposite A 9 3 2 needing only three tricks from this holding the safety play here is to play King first and then low towards the 9 and you will always be guaranteed 3 tricks no matter where the Queen is and if the suit breaks 4-1 or 5-0, as in the following two positions :--</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">K J 7 5</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">K J 7 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Q T 6 4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Q T 6 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">A 9 3 2</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">A 9 3 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">When suit breaks badly</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Even though suit breaks badly</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Now low towards the Jack</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">your Nine holds second trick</td> </tr> </table>	K J 7 5		K J 7 5	Q T 6 4	8	Q T 6 4		8		A 9 3 2		A 9 3 2	When suit breaks badly		Even though suit breaks badly	Now low towards the Jack		your Nine holds second trick
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533	When you defend 1NT you need to be as passive as possible in order to not give declarer the 7th trick- the points are equally spread so just wait for your tricks to come to you.																		
534	<p>Partner opens and you have a fit and a good hand bids new suit and subsequently bid 4th suit to show a really good hand, so with:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">♠ A K 7 6 ♥ 9 4 ♦ Q 6 5 ♣ K Q 5 4</p> <p>reply 2♣ when partner opens 1♠ and if partner then rebids.</p>																		
535	Forget about the rule of High Card from the short hand here, As long as you have plenty of entries. With AJ3 opposite K986542 play off the King first and then you might be able to finesse the Jack if the suit breaks badly 3-0.																		
536	With AT98543 opposite Q73 if you can afford one loser in this suit then play low towards the Queen and you will always guarantee no more than one loser wherever the 3-0 break is.																		
537	<p>If partner jumps in a new suit (GAME FORCING) and you now jump rebid in your suit you are showing solid suit offering around 7 tricks. e.g. 1♦ 2♠ 4♦</p> <p>4♦ now shows a hand like this:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">♠ 7 4 ♥ K 9 4 ♦ 7 2 ♣ A K Q T 9 5 4</p>																		
538	<p>If there has been a take-out Double at 4 Level and you now say 4NT this is saying I have two places to play- you choose.</p> <p>N E S W 1♠ NO 4♠ DBL NO 4NT</p> <p>4NT says I have either clubs and diamonds or clubs and Hearts or Hearts and Diamonds please choose. with a hand like this:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">♠ 9 2 ♥ Q 6 4 2 ♦ K J 9 8 5 ♣ 4 3 2</p>																		
539	Playing Match Point Pairs, if partner offers you two suits showing 5-4 its best to give FALSE PREFERENCE and play in known 5-2 fit rather than 4-3 fit especially if partner's first suit was One of a Major opener.																		

552	If partner bids 5NT after a Blackwood sequence and you have a very good outside suit (source of tricks) bid the Grand Slam immediately as all the aces are known to be held by the partnership.
553	If the bidding suggests that the opposition are in a misfitting trump suit DO NOT THINK of LEADING A TRUMP.
554	As a defender when you are the danger hand, ignore normal rules and now second hand plays high to prevent declarer ducking the lead into partner's hand. You will not be popular as a defender who makes this play (occasionally)
555	Dummy had long suit which declarer is playing and you have the Ace and are not sure what to play after taking the Ace THEN HOLD UP and give PARTNER A CHANCE TO GIVE YOU A CLEAR SIGNAL
556	In second seat with AQ6 play high when declarer leads a low on from dummy if there are no further entries in dummy otherwise declarer is able to keep the lead in dummy and lead through you again.
557	In an uncontested auction with cue bidding if you raise partner to 5 of agreed major you are asking for Good quality trump support. In a contested auction if you bid 5 of the agreed suit you are now asking for control of opponents suit -if you have 1st or second round control bid
558	Bidding to Level of Fit applies to the overcaller's partner NOT the opener's partner.
559	If partner bids 3♠ to you 1NT and you now deviate and don't bid 4♠ or 3NT this is very strong agreement for partner's Spades and is now a NO COST CUE BID showing first round control of the suit you bid and is an overture to a Slam.
560	Do Not punish partner by bidding on when all partner has done is compete- you don't have to bid game on every hand to get a good result.
561	With Michaels or UNT I THINK you should play either very weak (6-10) or very strong 16+ and with Intermediate hands just bid one suit and then the other (not all agree with this(☺)).
562	After your partner transfers and then bids 2NT you now have 4 possible bids as the 1NT person - a) you either pass with minimum hand and 2 of the known Major b) you bid 3NT with Maximum hand and only 2 of the known Major c) you bid 3 of known Major with minimum points and 3 cards in that Major (now playing in the 5-3 fit) d) you bid 4 of known Major with maximum points and 3 cards in that Major (now playing in the 5-3 fit)
563	When deciding whether or not to do a simple finesse or a ruffing finesse consider who the danger hand is and then finesse through that person.
564	When considering your restricted Choice options, keep your Tenaces in tact in situations like this: <p style="text-align: center;">AT54 opposite K7632</p> playing off the King first just in case there would be the opportunity to still finesse the AT if last person were to play Queen or Jack on first round.
565	With 4333 don't bother with Stayman as you have no ruffing values.
566	With AKJ opposite T975 before taking an immediate finesse cash the Ace just in case there is a singleton Queen floating about and no finesse is needed.
567	With 4333 and 6-9 points of course reply 1NT when partner opens 1♠ but with 3244 3 card spade support and a doubleton somewhere now reply 2♠ as you now have ruffing values don't you?

580	If they bid beyond their high card values i.e. they have overbid then Lead a Trump.
581	After an opening bid and an Informative Double there are only 14 points left. Some people bid on as if some packs have 60 points. I have not seen any 60 point packs recently, but then I have not seen any packs of cards for 9 months!!
582	Partner Opens 2NT every single time you have 3 card Major consider using Puppet Stayman and get to those 5-3 fits.
583	1NT 3♥ is strong bid asking partner to either bid 4♥ with three card support or back to 3NT with only two. If they disobey then this is AGREEING HEARTS and is CUE BID on the way so the auction now goes: 1NT 3♥ 4♣ is now cue bid saying I have Club Ace and I adore your Hearts.
584	The secret of good defence is PATIENCE and if you can work out that partner has no Points (e.g. you have 11 dummy has 7 and declarer has opened 2NT with 20-22 you know partner has nothing to contribute then you must be very patient and passive when defending and merely wait for the tricks to come to you.
585	ump shift by responder should be done only two hand types: 1 You have 16+ points and a massive fit in opener's suit 2. 16+ points and your own self-supporting suit You will know which hand type it is by responder's subsequent rebid.
586	Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Before committing to a finesse in one suit, test out another suit first and something nice might happen and you no longer need that 50% finesse after all.
587	When you do an Elimination Play you must consider the following points.
588	If you are going to embark on a cross ruff cash all your side suit winners first. You would not want those winners to be ruffed by the opposition at the 11 th hour would you?
589	If in doubt and especially with a new partner Try not to make ambiguous bids.
590	Endplay the defender who is trump heavy.
591	If you want to WAKE YOUR PARTNER up with a DOUBLETON AK you do it the wrong way round. You lead with King then ace and when you follow suit you follow suit with the Ace first and suddenly play the King next and partner should realise you are looking for a ruff.
592	In a Cue Bidding sequence you bid up the line and if you go past a suit then you deny first round control in that suit. If you go past that suit a second time you are denying second round control too.
593	When you DEFEND you MUST COUNT WINNERS in the same way declarer does and work out how to defeat the contract and how you are going to generate the setting tricks- maybe you will need to find an entry to partner's hand so partner can give you a ruff.
594	In all situations, if you have the SAME SUIT as the opponents JUST PASS- don't get involved - be happy to defend, maybe even defend the contract doubled.
595	If you play out a suit and an honour or even and 8 or 9 appears then the adjacent card is twice as likely to be in the other hand according to The Theory of Restricted choice. so with: A K 5 T 7 J 4 3 2 Q 9 8 6 Play off the AK and when the T appears no longer play for the suit to be hopefully 33 but now play East for missing Jack and finesse as you have seen the T appear- now the Jack is twice as likely to be with East.

609	If you have good raise in Opener's suit then you must do TRUSCOTT 2NT reply which shows 10-12 HCP's and a FIT in opener's suit. NOTHING TO do with No Trumps whatsoever. If you had natural raise to 2NT you would be REDOUBLING wouldn't you?
610	If one side has a fit, then mathematically the other side must have a fit too so if they attempt to pre-empt you do not be afraid of introducing another suit- partner will have a fit with you somewhere.
611	UNT-Unusual No Trump and Michaels cue Bids both showing 5-5 or better hands should "I Think" they should only be used with weak hands – 6-10 or strong hands 16+ and then partner can judge whether or not to bid on. With Intermediate hands just bid one suit then the other.
612	If they intervene with Michaels or UNT then the partner of Opener should DOUBLE with 8/9+ points and it should be Penalty oriented.
613	As partner of the Doubler, leave 1NT doubled in – most of the time it will go off and very occasionally you will concede -180.
614	If you, as responder have 11+ points and cannot bid No Trumps but what to bid on then REVERT to 4 th SUIT FORCING to keep the auction going.
615	If you have 3 card support for partner's 1♠ or 1♥ opener and RV (ruffing values, maybe a doubleton somewhere) it is best policy to reply 2♣ or 2♥ rather than 1NT. Also although most UK players play 4 card Majors (and not 5) invariably when somebody opens 1♠ or 1♥ it will be five any way.
616	After partner opens 2♠ remember that 3♠ reply is PRE-EMPTIVE and the only forward going bid is 2NT.
617	Overcalling 1♠ after they open 1♣ is pre-emptive so you can take all sorts of liberties with minimum destructive overcalling. However if they open 1♥ and you overcall 1♠ now your hand should be up to scratch - good suit and plenty of potential as the 1♠ bid now has no pre-emptive nuisance value whatsoever.
618	There is no point in leading a singleton, if you have a very good hand against their contract because partner cannot get the lead so make sure you make a positive lead from your side of the table instead.
619	Partner opens 1♠ and you reply 1NT and now opener rebids 3♣ – this IS GAME FORCING promising 18/19 points and you must keep the auction going until Game is reached.
620	The Double of 1NT is always for penalties whether the opposition opens 1NT or intervenes 1NT- when they open 1NT the double should show one more point than their maximum or more.
621	Always apologize to partner as soon as you make a mistake- that's the true sign of an expert.
622	Please bid your hand once- if you make an Informative double and partner invites you to Game and you were absolutely minimum for your Informative Double in the first place DO NOT ACCEPT the invitation.
623	Get rid of dummy's entries to a long suit in dummy and maybe declarer will not be able to get back to dummy especially if he has not been able to draw trumps yet
624	To avoid an unnecessary trump promotion by the opposition instead of ruffing high do a Loser on Loser play instead. You had a loser in that suit so why bother to overtrump.
625	Please bid your hand once. If you make an Informative Double on minimum values and partner makes a jump in new suit partner is only showing 8-11 points so be happy to play in part-score and no need to bid on. Best to be in 2♠ + 1 rather than 4♠ - 1 (same number of tricks).

626	In any Forcing situation, if the person between you and partner bids (something other than Pass), then you are now off the hook as you now know partner will still have another bid. If you are minimum for your original bid just Pass and await developments.
627	If you are not sure about bidding on or inviting partner then resort to the LOSING TRICK evaluation and it might make you weary on boards you which might just be hazy.
628	Doesn't matter if you play Modern Acol or SAYC a re-bid of 3NT should show 7/8 playing tricks and a source of trick so when the bidding goes 1♦ - 1♥ - 3NT. opener should have a hand such as: ♠ A7 ♥ 43 ♦ AKJT64 ♣ K74 i.e. JUST GO FOR IT
629	In SAYC a 2NT rebid is 18/19 as the 1NT opener would initially show 15-17. This approach is also used in Modern Acol too whereby 1NT (when playing weak No Trump Opener) should be 15-17 with 2NT being 18/19 balanced. This frees up the 3NT rebid in both to show source of tricks from a long Minor suit ready to spring 9 tricks.
630	Try not to push the opponents into makeable games they were not going to bid- sometimes it's not a good idea to bid one more.
631	The Rule of 26 can also be used once you know partner's singleton so if and when a singleton is shown in the Jacoby response use the Rule of 26 to determine if a small slam might be possible.
632	It is not a good idea to splinter into a singleton Ace as partner will be reevaluating his hand on the assumption that your singleton is a worthless low card.
633	1. The guidelines for opening with 4441 hands are with red suit singleton Open suit below singleton and with Black suit singleton open 1♥ and by doing this you GIVE PARTNER THE PLATFORM to bid the UNFRIENDLY SINGLETON SUIT and now you can rebid without getting out of control. 2. In fact one does not really need to worry about the guidelines for suit below the singleton suit just sit there and say "If I bid this suit and partner replies in the singleton suit will my rebid be ok." That's how the experts did it before there were any guidelines.
634	The bidding 1NT – 3♣ is very strong indeed and suggests Slam interest and Opener now bids 3NT with NO FIT otherwise should start cue-bidding up the line- it's a no COST CUE BID.
635	If they end up in a contract and you have declarer's other suit attack trumps so that declarer cannot trump losers in that suit in dummy- hopefully declarer will run out of trumps in the dummy.
636	In 2 nd seat keep your Informative double up to scratch 13+ points but in 4 th seat, the protective seat, you can make your informative double on as few as 10/11 points.
637	Do not hold up if you fear that a switch at trick 2 to another vulnerable suit could be worse.
638	If Rule of 11 doesn't work then you can deduce that partner has led from a bad suit (2 nd highest).
639	If there is no other way to build an extra trick THINK DUMMY REVERSAL.
640	With a good 12 points and a source of tricks do go straight to 3NT, when partner opens 1NT.
641	If in doubt about bidding one more, always use as a secondary check The Losing Trick count
642	Elimination Play procedure is as follows :- a) Identify the crucial suit

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Draw trumps (most of the time) so they have no safe exit cards c) Eliminate one suit from both hands completely d) Eliminate one suit from both hands completely e) Now hopefully they will give free finesse or ruff and discard
643	You can start a Splinter sequence once a FIT suit comes to light and once the splinter has been made, partner can then start a cue bidding sequence if they wish to cooperate in moving forward to a Slam.
644	<p>Astro convention after they open 1NT works like this :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 2 of a Major Natural b) Double always one more than their Maximum c) Bidding anything else promises less than a Double d) Don't fall in love with six card suit and 15 points and bid that suit but REMEMBER to DOUBLE e) 2♣ is artificial showing 9 cards in Hearts and a Minor f) 2♦ is artificial showing 9 cards in Spades and another
645	<p>The Informative Double comes in 3 sizes as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 13+ and liking the other 3 suits. b) Powerful one suited hand and about 17+ points (too strong for mere suit overcall). c) 19+ balanced.
646	If a contract is going off then you will get a good score anyway, so no necessity in Doubling. If you double and it makes you are definitely onto a very bad score.
647	Should you open 1NT with 5 card MAJOR and balanced 13/14 points? – The majority of experts now agree you should do so and then there will be no rebid problems later.
648	<p>Some things to think about in order to read the Opponents cards like an Expert</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Even if you are going to win first trick STOP and do all YOUR THINKING 2. Add your points to dummy's points and take total from 40 and see how many they are left with. 3. If nobody joined in expect the points to be spread 50-50 4. If somebody opened the bidding expect that player to have 12 points 5. If somebody hasn't led an Ace or King then expect that person not to have a sequence of any kind.
649	If partner doubles and you are very weak indeed and your main strength is in opener's suit you might have to bid a 3 card suit and hope for the best.
650	With AT5 when declarer ruffs high with a K Q or J best not to over-ruff and you might get a trump promotion of your T.
651	A singleton King is almost as good for No Trump purposes as a small doubleton. Though it should not be routine to open 1 st with a singleton King but is a good idea when your hand will be awkward with the rebid.
652	In 4th seat, the protective seat a bid of 1NT in this position SHOULD ONLY SHOW 10-14 points With more points just start with Double.
653	With 4-4 in the majors (4-4-3-2) and 15 -19 points its best to open 1♥ as you can now still get to a fit in either major whereas if you open 1♠ and partner happens to have 4 Hearts you might now miss out on the Heart fit.
654	If you have KQJ6 in closed hand and you want second person to cover i.e. play their Ace straight away then play your King but if you don't want them to play Ace straight away and you are trying to sneak trick in this suit early on, play the Jack and hope they are a follower of second player plays low.

655	When your partner balances in 4th seat and the next player takes the push to the three Level unless there are exceptional circumstances you should NOW PASS- partner has done the push- maybe the contract will now go down.																																																								
656	You get to 6♦ and you think you are going to get a lousy score because all the other players will be in 3NT with overtricks so bid 6♦ just in case it makes.																																																								
657	The point about Unassuming Cue Bids is that once there has been intervention all replies in same suit are now weaker and the only “real correct” way to show a good raise is with an Unassuming Cue Bid- bidding the opponents’ suit.																																																								
658	<p>You don't need to bid Game on every hand to get a good score - see below:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>3♥ by S</td><td>+3</td><td>140</td><td>2.79</td></tr> <tr><td>3♥ by S</td><td>+3</td><td>140</td><td>2.79</td></tr> <tr><td>3♥ by S</td><td>+3</td><td>140</td><td>2.79</td></tr> <tr><td>3♥ by S</td><td>+3</td><td>140</td><td>2.79</td></tr> <tr><td>2♥ by S</td><td>+3</td><td>140</td><td>2.79</td></tr> <tr><td>3♥ by S</td><td>+3</td><td>140</td><td>2.79</td></tr> <tr><td>3♥ by S</td><td>+3</td><td>140</td><td>2.79</td></tr> <tr><td>2♥ by S</td><td>+3</td><td>140</td><td>2.79</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass by W</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>-1.21</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass by W</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>-1.21</td></tr> <tr><td>3♥ by S</td><td>-1</td><td>-100</td><td>-3.64</td></tr> <tr><td>4♦ by W</td><td>+4</td><td>-130</td><td>-4.64</td></tr> <tr><td>4♥ by S</td><td>-2</td><td>-200</td><td>-6.00</td></tr> <tr><td>4♥ by S</td><td>-3</td><td>-300</td><td>-8.36</td></tr> </table>	3♥ by S	+3	140	2.79	3♥ by S	+3	140	2.79	3♥ by S	+3	140	2.79	3♥ by S	+3	140	2.79	2♥ by S	+3	140	2.79	3♥ by S	+3	140	2.79	3♥ by S	+3	140	2.79	2♥ by S	+3	140	2.79	Pass by W	0	0	-1.21	Pass by W	0	0	-1.21	3♥ by S	-1	-100	-3.64	4♦ by W	+4	-130	-4.64	4♥ by S	-2	-200	-6.00	4♥ by S	-3	-300	-8.36
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659	If you want to suggest a good lead against their possible No Trump contract then you have to join in even with a minimum overcall.																																																								
660	<p>Having initially replied 2♦ to partner's 2♣ opener afterwards, with good 5/7 points, responder bids slowly- relatively good hand when you initially promised 0-7 points</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> W E e.g. 2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 4♥ now 4♥ shows support but about 0-4 points </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> W E 2♣ 2♦ 3♥ 3♥ Now 3♥ shows support but 5-7 points </td> </tr> </table>	W E e.g. 2♣ 2♦ 2♥ 4♥ now 4♥ shows support but about 0-4 points	W E 2♣ 2♦ 3♥ 3♥ Now 3♥ shows support but 5-7 points																																																						
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661	<p>Sometimes there is no book bid for every hand played and you must just deduce your bid and make a practical response (bid). if partner has Opened 2♦ weak and you have the following hand.</p> <p>♠: K9 ♥: K98 ♦: K62 ♣: AKT95</p> <p>Just reply 3NT - you now expect to make 6 Diamond tricks 2 Clubs and hopefully a ninth on the lead coming around to you.</p>																																																								
662	If you have strong fit with partner and do not wish to plough into Blackwood or Cue-bidding straight away then bid slowly and use the 4 th suit forcing mechanism to keep the auction going.																																																								
663	<p>Make no cost cue bids on way to 4♠ just in case partner can re-evaluate her hand and want to now push onto a slam. e.g.</p> <p>♠ A K 6 ♥ A K 4 2 ♦ K 6 ♣ A 7 5</p>																																																								

	Having opened 2♣ and rebid 2NT over partner's 2♦ bid Partner transfers to Hearts and then rebids 3NT. You will now bid 4♥ with your fit BUT a no cost cue-bid of 4♣ on the way cannot hurt Partner might have made a negative but he could still hold Diamond Ace and Heart Queen.																				
664	With AJ9 opposite T43 when left hand opponent leads 4th highest and right hand opponent plays the King, ACE it as you still have a second stopper – i.e. very good intermediates with that J T and 9 between the 2 hands and THERE IS NO NEED TO HOLD UP.																				
665	If the opponents have a 4 th suit forcing sequence and end up in No Trumps then leading the 4 th suit is likely to be artificial and therefore it is probably the best suit to lead.																				
666	3 rd seat opening bids can be light for 3 specific reasons as follows:- a) The bid can be pre-emptive against 4 th player especially if you open 1♠ b) 3 rd seat opener should use the Suit Quality Overcall Test because partner will now lead that suit should you end up defending. c) In 4 th seat you no longer need a rebid and can pass anything partner might now bid.																				
667	Suit preference signals work as follows :- Ignore suit being played and ignore trump suit so if you play LOW rubbish you want the lower suit back HIGH rubbish you want the higher suit back.																				
668	With: A Q T 7 2 opposite K 9 8 3 make sure you keep QT tenace intact in one hand and K9 tenace in the other hand and now you will be guaranteed 5 tricks no matter who has J 6 5 4, So play the Ace first (despite that being the high card in the long hand) and now you will always make all 5 tricks.																				
669	If your partner in 4th seat has balanced and you now bid your best suit and the opponents now take the push to the three level DO NOT BID again as your partner has already forced the issue and had been unable to bid at all in first place in situations like this: East ♠ K J 6 5 ♥ 9 2 ♦ A 9 6 4 ♣ 7 3 2 <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>?</td> <td>Now Just Pass</td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S			Pass	1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass	?	Now Just Pass
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670	If the opposition take a sacrifice against you and the contract belongs to you don't forget to double them- better to get +500 than +150 when they are non-vulnerable.																				
671	If you see an elimination play coming, to counter it you may need to throw away a high card in second seat so that declarer is unable to throw you in.																				
672	You should ONLY cover an honour if you can potentially promote something for your side (your hand or partner's). So you cover an honour - Queen with a Jack if you can promote your side's T.																				
673	You have great fit with partner's second suit so instead of rushing straight to 4♠ or 4♥ make a 4 th suit forcing bid to find out more and then leap to 4♠ or 4♥ next.																				

674	In Standard Acol (without 4 suit transfers) After 1NT 2♣ followed by 3♣ shows weak take-out in Club and at least a six-card suit. With five just pass 1NT.
675	If neither you nor your partner has bid first time around, and now partner balances and manages to push the opponents to the 3 level - DO NOT BID ON, even if you have a fit. Partner has done his bit and now you need to do your bit and PASS.
676	If there is no sign of an extra trick anywhere then Dummy Reversal (very rare) might be the answer where you trump enough times in the long hand and EVENTUALLY the long hand becomes the short hand
677	If, from the bidding, you think declarer has long suit and will easily make 9/10 tricks in his 3NT contract MAKE AN ACTIVE LEAD such as an ACE and look at that dummy, and maybe quickly generate 5 tricks before declarer can make 9.
678	With Q43 opposite J52 leave this suit alone for as long as possible and let's hope the opponents will break this suit open for you and then you will generate 1 trick.
679	How to tell if a double is for take-out (INFORMATIVE) or for Penalties (BLOOD) as follows:- a) If your partner has not yet bid all doubles should be for take-out even when the bidding goes 1♠ - 4♠ by the opposition b) If they open 1NT or overcall 1NT all doubles should now be for Blood. If either you or your partner makes any type of Limit bid, Doubles thereafter should be PENALTY. So if partner opens 1NT or 2NT or replies 1NT or rebids 2 of same suit or Opens 3 of same suit, as all these bids are limit bids, if partner now Pounces with a Double it should for Penalties.
680	Do not make a penalty double if there is a chance your partner might pull it- you will get good result without doubling under these circumstances any way
681	Bidding space is at a premium when you have good hands so please bid SLOWLY.
682	Playing standard Acol (not 2/1) only time you should JUMP in a NEW SUIT is when you have: a) Very strong six card suit of your own and 16+ points or b) 16+ points and a FIT c) Rest of time just bid slowly
683	Bidding to level of Fit - when partner intervenes Bid to level of fit- if partner has overcalled showing 5 card suit then if you have: 3 card support total trumps are 8 so you can raise to 2 level- 8 and don't worry about your point count; 4 card support total trumps are 9 so you can raise to 3 level- 9 as your bid could be highly pre-emptive; 5 card support total trumps are 9 so you can raise to 4 level- 10 or with your shape partner will even get home.
684	With fairly balanced (4-3-3-3) 18 HCP only re-bid 2NT when partner has responded 1NT in first place - Partner might have the barest 6 points and it will be hard to find a 9th trick- you do not need to bid Game on every hand.
685	Main things to consider with Lebensohl after interference: a) All 2 level bids are weak and they SOUND WEAK b) All 3 level bids are STRONG Game Forcing c) Cue bids are Stayman - Artificial d) Bidding quickly shows STOPPER e) Bidding slowly Denies stopper f) 2NT demands 3♣ from partner - Artificial g) FASS = Fast Arrival shows stopper h) SDS = Slow denies stopper

686	In 4 th seat after 2 passes 1NT NOW SHOWS ONLY 10-14 POINTS in this PROTECTIVE SEAT- you protect your sides interests rather than let them play a 1 level contract.
687	Playing Tricks- only to be assessed during THE AUCTION ONLY so AK6543 is 4 playing tricks on average AKQ8765 is 7 playing trick on average KQJT9 is 4 playing tricks AQJT954 is 6 playing tricks The way to do it and understand it is to VISUALIZE the other THREE HANDS and then you will understand it better.
688	With values in overcaller's suit and 10 points or more JUST PASS and hope partner makes a reopening Double and you will CONVERT by Passing especially when they make poor 2 level overcalls- serves them right
689	One of the most famous bridge books ever written, Skid Simon said in 'Why you lose at bridge' "Never win a trick until you have made up your mind what card you are going to play next"
690	Because you play Unassuming Cue Bids all raises of partner's suit should be weaker once there as been any sort of intervention.
691	4 th seat if the opposition has bid 2 suits last person has now four options: a) 2NT to show 5-5 in the other two suits. b) Double to show the other suits but less shape c) Cue bids in the two suits mentioned become McCartney whereby you show 6-4 ♠ 6 in higher ranking suit if you cue bid the higher one and 6-4 in the lower suit if you cue bid the lower one first.
692	If opener jump rebids in original suit this shows 6/7 playing tricks in the hand (almost an Acol Strong Two- it usually correlates to 15/16 points BUT NOT ALWAYS) NB It's not a points based bid!!
693	With TWO FOUR CARD SUITS it doesn't matter which one you open because you are rebidding in No Trumps next. MY CHOICE is always the Major.
694	When the bidding goes 1♣ ♠ 1♠ and opener now rebids 2NT all bids at the three level should now BE FORCING- if in doubt then just bid a new Minor NMF (i.e. New Minor Forcing) with a new partner and now and you will still be able to locate all those 5-3 fits.
695	You can "occasionally" open 1NT with 5422 and 12-14 points (assuming you are playing weak No Trumps) as long as your Doubletons are Doubleton Honour in the Major's.
696	Partner rebids 1NT showing 15/16 and you have 6 card spade suit do INSIST on that suit - better to play in the known 6-2 fit.
697	It is best to bid one more rather than sell out to a 2 level contract. More often that not it will push them up and they will now go one off.
698	Finessing with KJT5 opposite A632 you have two way finesse and nothing else to go on play Jack from closed hand to see if next player covers (loads of people cover when they should not do so)
699	Once you make any sort of pre-emptive bid whether it be a pre-emptive opening bid or overcall or response do not bid again unless invited or force. Your preemptive bid was a LIMIT BID so partner is in charge isn't she?
700	When playing Michaels Cue Bids (overcall) and also with UNT you really should do it on very weak hands (6-10) or very strong hands 16+ and now partner can judge if you are weak (most of the time) and when you are strong and you bid on (very rare).

701	The only sequence that can be passed after a 2♣ opener is when the bidding goes 2♣ -2♦ 2NT P. because responder has 0 or 1 point (but this is such a low frequency situation since there are 15/16 points left to be shared 3 ways).
702	<p>With a very bad hand don't make normal 4th highest lead in your longest suit as it might be a pointless exercise. Make a SHORT SUIT LEAD & TRY AND FIND PARTNER e.g. The bidding goes:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1♣ 3♣ 3NT</p> <p>and you are on lead with:</p> <p style="margin-left: 2em;">♠ T 8 6 4 ♥ 7 3 ♦ Q 9 5 4 ♣ J 8 5</p> <p>Lead ♥7 and try and find partner- partner will be defeating the contract - not you so you need to find partner's suit and it is likely to be Hearts as they didn't bid hearts or use transfers or Stayman so partner is sure to have values and length in Hearts.</p>
703	With a balanced 13/14 points JUST PASS in the OVERCALL SEAT - as far as I know and I have now been playing bridge for about 55 years NO OVERCALL after they open is available for this hand so JUST PASS.
704	Don't put all your eggs in one basket when playing out a hand. Check and see if you play one way and a finesse doesn't work will you have a backup play to still get home?
705	With AT97 opposite Q542 play the Queen and assume split honours and if King is won by 4 th player now come back to the 542 side and finesse up to remaining AT that is left - 75% chance of success now (Unless the bidding suggests 4 th player has both honours - then lead up to the AT7 from the Q542 side.
706	DON'T BID again after making any sort of preemptive bid - PARTNER IS IN CHARGE.
707	To open 2♣ you need not only any 23+ point BUT ANY GAME GOING HAND 10 tricks maybe in Spades or Hearts.
708	Don't come in with a second by yourself suit opposite Passed partner unless you have a very good hand indeed as you are on your own especially vulnerable and competing for NINE TRICKS aren't you??
709	If your partner balances in 4 th seat and the opposition now bid onto the 3 level DO NOT BID NOW. Partner's bid has forced the opposition to the three level and now hopefully they might go one down, now that they might be out of their comfort zone.
710	After Passing partner opens light in 3 rd Seat- Don't now bid on and punish him for bidding light and bidding on- be pleased to have pushed the opposition to the 3 level.
711	If partner opens and next player overcalls 1NT if you now have 8/9+ points MAKE A PENALTY DOUBLE in same way you would make a Penalty Double over their 1NT opening bid.
712	When you make a Michaels Cue bid over their 1♣ or 1♦ bid you are now showing AT LEAST 55 shape in BOTH MAJORS.
713	If opener rebids 3♥ after the bidding has gone 1♥ - 2♥ this should be PRE-EMPTIVE stopping the last person from balancing and joining the auction.
714	If you have made a rebid in No Trumps and partner then bids onto 4NT this is NOT BLACKWOOD it is AN INVITATION to 6NT.

715	One of the worst leads in bridge is a singleton trump as it exposes partner's possible Queen 3 card suit and immediately gives away a free finesse to declarer - SO AVOID SINGLETON TRUMP LEAD LIKE THE PLAGUE!!
716	A fairly "simple" artificial method to play after they double your partner's 1NT Opening bid is to play All Systems on and redouble says please bid 2♣ and it works like this: a) 2♣ is still Stayman b) 2♦ is still transfer to 2♥ c) 2♥ is still transfer to 2♠ d) If you have five card Minor reply Redouble and partner now HAS TO BID 2♣ and if Clubs is your suit you Pass and if Diamonds is your suit you now bid 2♦ and partner better now Pass or find a new partner.
717	With a very strong hand BUT NO FIT and NO SELF-SUPPORTING SUIT just reply in a new suit and use the valuable bidding space to exchange information to get to the best final contract- initially you have no idea where the hand is going do you?? Give PARTNER A CHANCE TO REBID.
718	If you have magnificent shape 6-5 come alive.
719	You can Open 2NT with 5-4-2-2 shape if your two doubletons are in the Majors with a AX or KX in each Doubleton.
720	If you drop an unusually high card in third seat you either have no more left or more importantly you are telling partner that you have the card beneath it and it is now very safe to continue the suit in situations like this: 7 KQ654 JT83 A92 When partner leads the King against their No Trump contract don't be afraid to play the Jack.
721	Redoubling their Double shows 8/9+ points and balance of Power and very little interest in partner's suit.
722	If you balance in 4th seat and manage to push the opponents to the 3 level you or your partner should not bid again. Hopefully you have pushed them out of their comfort zone.
723	If you open with any source of pre-emptive bid of Two or Three you do NOT BID AGAIN. A pre-empt is a LIMIT BID and now partner makes all the important decisions NOT YOU.
724	With a slam going hand and a void do not deploy Blackwood, initiate Cue sequence bid instead.
725	With good hands and 2 suits bid slowly to find the best possible fit. Only old people die NOT AUCTIONS.
726	If you want to bid on BUT do not want partner to convert a double you might make, then bid on in a new suit or just bid what you wish to end up in. Do Not risk partner doing a conversion job because the Double might be misconstrued.
727	If no suit has been agreed then 4NT should be Quantitive in a situation like this N S 1♥ 2♦ 2NT 4NT 4NT should be Quantitive inviting partner to now bid 6NT with a Maximum hand for the 2NT rebid
728	he opposition uses a Michaels Cue Bid or an UNT Bid and you the responder wish to make an Unassuming Cue Bid now bid overcaller's KNOWN SUIT. So: N E S

	<p>1♥ 2♥ 2♠¹ ¹ East is known to hold Spades from his Michaels Cue Bid so 2♠ would now be an Unassuming Cue bid showing 10+ and Hearts support</p>
729	Do Weak Stayman with 5-4 hands in the Majors. However with strong hands in the Majors and 5-4 shape best to use transfers.
730	In 3 rd seat you can Open light as you no longer need a rebid ready and you should do so especially if your five or six card suit is Spades.
731	<p>Use OGUST enquiry after partner opens weak 2 and it works like this 2NT is now an enquiry and partner clarifies her original 2♥ bid as follows</p> <p>3♣ -- BAD POINTS BAD QUALITY SUIT 3♦ -- BAD POINTS GOOD QUALITY SUIT 3♥ -- GOOD POINTS BAD QUALITY SUIT 3♠ -- GOOD POINTS and GOOD QUALITY SUIT 3NT -- AKQ 6 card suit</p>
732	If you have the same suit as opposition just Pass. This manifests where responder has SPADES and the TAKE-OUT DOUBLER must have SPADES TOO so responder NEEDS TO WAIT.
733	When you are in a sensible but hopeless contract never give up Going one down when all the other NSs are going two down gives you a top.
734	Some people use Rule of 19 instead of 20 on borderline hands. A further check would be to use the losing trick Count, so if you have a 7-loser hand, then you just go for it and Open 1 of a suit.
735	If you SMELL a MIS-FITTING HAND then try not to get too high. If partner opens a suit in which you have a Void then the smell should be quite strong.
736	<p>If partner passes and converts your informative Double into a PENALTY DOUBLE - you should now LEAD A TRUMP. Presumably, You like the other three suits and, as a defender, you need to start drawing trumps so you can enjoy the winners in your three suits</p>
737	With six card suit headed ONLY BY J10 don't double for a lead as the suit is not good enough.
738	If partner Doubles an artificial bid by the opponents during the auction whether it be a transfer or Cue bid the Double should be LEAD DIRECTING.
739	When the bidding goes 1♥ Pass Pass ? around to last player, the last player is sitting in the PROTECTIVE SEAT and doesn't need so many points to join in now. He needs to try and bid to PROTECT HIS PARTNERSHIP'S CAPABILITIES and not to sell out to 1♥- BE COMPETITIVE.
740	You have a very good hand with a fit BUT stuck for your next bid then USE 4th SUIT FORCING as that's a sure way to keep the auction going and of course partner will tell you more about her hand.
741	If neither you nor partner has bid during the auction and one of you suddenly doubles the final contract and you are on lead this says PLEASE LEAD DUMMY'S FIRST BID SUIT- it's known as a LIGHTNER DOUBLE
742	If somebody transfers and then bids the suit this now shows SIX since the initial transfer showed FIVE.
743	If you bid to 5♦ and you think you are going to get a bad board because all the other EWs will be in 3NT with overtricks you might as well take a chance and bid 6♦ JUST GO FOR IT.
744	If you only have one suit with no outside values but a good 10 points- then either opens 2S or 3S and then partner will know that's the suit that HAS TO BE TRUMPS.

745	Don't be timid when competing- if you want suit led then bid it.												
746	If you open and they intervene and partner passes and you now DOUBLE this is a REOPENING DOUBLE saying FOR GOODNESS SAKE BID SOMETHING PARTNER- it's not a penalty double.												
747	<p>Once you make any limit bid and partner is in charge and you do not bid again in a competitive auction - partner might want to Double their contract. e.g.:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> <td>W</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>?</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	N	E	S	W	2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠	?			
N	E	S	W										
2♥	2♠	3♥	3♠										
?													
748	If partner transfers (promising 5 or more) you can break the transfer with 3 card support (to bring total to the Magic 8 card fit).												
749	You can bid quickly with good hands ONLY when you know where the hand is going- you have found your fit. If you are not sure bid slowly and if need, be USE 4 th SUIT FORCING to find out more.												
750	The only way to remember to use Stayman is to CONSIDER IT EVERY TIME partner OPENS 1NT or 2NT- then you do not need to remember it.												
751	I think that most of the time in 3 rd seat Open 1♠ with a five card suit rather than 1NT as you no longer need a rebid opposite a deceased partner (oops sorry Passed Partner).												
752	Partner opens the bidding and you have 8 playing tricks you probably need to be in a slam.												
753	<p>With 5422 with 5-4 in the Minors and 16-8 points and values in your two doubletons overcall 1NT rather than Double. we don't like Minors/ e.g.:</p> <table style="margin-left: 100px; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>A Q</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>A K</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>Q J T 4 3</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>J 7 5 4</td></tr> </table> <p>here overcall 1NT when they open 1♥ or 1♠</p>	♠	A Q	♥	A K	♦	Q J T 4 3	♣	J 7 5 4				
♠	A Q												
♥	A K												
♦	Q J T 4 3												
♣	J 7 5 4												
754	<p>Go through these finesse positions with the actual cards:</p> <p>AQ opposite 54 finesse once from the 54 side</p> <p>AQJ opposite 543 finesse twice from the 543 side</p> <p>K4 opposite 32 finesse once from the 32 side</p> <p>KQ4 opposite 762 finesse twice from the 762 side</p> <p>AQT opposite 543 finesse twice from the 543 side</p> <p>Trying the Ten and hoping for 3 tricks</p>												
755	<p>Once you Open 1♥ or 1♠ and partner replies 2 of same suit and you have good 15+points and want to INVITE GAME then use a TRIAL BID and bid a suit where you need to help to make the elusive 10th trick should the contract end up in 4♥ or 4♠ e.g.:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>A Q 7 6 5</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>K 7 6</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>A Q 5 4</td></tr> </table> <p>after partner replies 2♠ to your 1♠ opener now make TRIAL BID of 3♣ or 3♥.</p>	♠	A Q 7 6 5	♥	K 7 6	♦	2	♣	A Q 5 4				
♠	A Q 7 6 5												
♥	K 7 6												
♦	2												
♣	A Q 5 4												

756	<p>If you have made two strong bids already and partner keeps passing NOW PASS even with your 19 points. Partner cannot have anything e.g. :</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>♠</td><td>A K Q</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>S</td><td>W</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td><td>J 9 7 6 2</td><td>1♣</td><td>DBL</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td><td>A K Q</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td><td>7 6</td><td>Pass</td><td>????</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table> <p>NOW PASS partner can't have anything (This hand comes from a game and my partner was East and Doubled and they made 9 tricks UGH) NOW PASS partner can't have anything.</p>	♠	A K Q	N	E	S	W	♥	J 9 7 6 2	1♣	DBL	2♠	Pass	♦	A K Q	Pass	3♥	3♠	Pass	♣	7 6	Pass	????														
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757	<p>If you have a very good hand and want to make overtures to a slam then make NO COST BIDS on the way to 4♠ or 4♥ by making a CUE BID on the way- it's called a no cost cue bid because if partner is not interested you have not gone past 4♠ or 4♥ yet. e.g.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>WEST</td><td>EAST</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠</td><td>A Q J 8 7</td><td>1♠</td><td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td><td>K Q 5 4</td><td>4♣</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td><td>5</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td><td>A 3 2</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4♣ is now a no cost cue bid.</p>			WEST	EAST	♠	A Q J 8 7	1♠	3♠	♥	K Q 5 4	4♣		♦	5			♣	A 3 2																		
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758	<p>Non Vulnerable versus Vulnerable go for that Save against their confidently bid 4♥ contract and bid 4♠ or even 5 of a Minor- going 3 down now is good bridge especially if they can easily make that 4♥ contract - Losing 500 is better than losing 620 isn't it?</p>																																				
759	<p>The informative double comes in the following 3 sizes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13+ points and liking the other three suits 19+ and balanced too strong for 1NT overcall 17+ and very strong one suited hand too strong for mere overcall in <p>What is the common theme here?? You are STUCK for any other possible Overcall.</p>																																				
760	<p>If you fancy your chances of a slam, make a cue bid or splinter on the way to 4♥ or 4♠ – it's a no cost bid as you have not gone past 4♥ or 4♠ if partner has not added to the conversation and you will still be able to stop at one of those contracts.</p>																																				
761	<p>In 4th seat after there has been 2 Passes you can join in with 3 points less so if the bidding goes 1♦ Pass Pass now in 4th seat you can double with 10+ instead of 13 + (some refer to this as being able to borrow a King).</p>																																				
762	<p>Be aware of the guidelines of RESTRICTED CHOICE when finessing. If you have adjacent honours missing then the chances of them being one each in the opponents' hands are more likely than both being in same hand so with a situation like this:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>AT654</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Jack falls</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>K873</td><td></td> </tr> </table> <p>After initially playing the king ready to play for the suit to break 2-2 when the Jack falls, now play low one ready to finesse that Queen. since the cards are now more likely to be like this:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>AT654</td><td>Jack</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td>Q92</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>K873</td><td></td> </tr> </table> <p>rather than like this:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>AT654</td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td>92</td><td></td><td>QJ</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>K873</td><td></td> </tr> </table>			AT654					Jack falls			K873				AT654	Jack		Q92					K873				AT654			92		QJ			K873	
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763	In a hopeless situation THINK "All the other NS's are in the same situation" so try going LESS OFF - going two down when all the other NS's are going three down will give you a top playing Match Point Pairs
764	Bridge is a competitive game and you really should not let the opponents play in comfortable 2 level contract.
765	If after offering 2 suits, responder insists on her suit then she MUST HAVE SIX CARD SUIT, (by only bidding 2 of same suit) and you must now respectfully Pass 99% of the time. (you would need an exceptional hand to make another bid), e. g. West East 1♥ 1♠ 2♦ 2♣ Now Pass
766	If you pass initially and come back into the auction with double its still INFORMATIVE but "of course" now shows less points, probably 10/11.
767	If you have 5332 hand with 14 points BUT really good 14, more like a 15 count Open the 5 card suit not 1NT- Use your judgement sometimes and not be a slave to points and rules
768	If you have pushed the opponents to 3 level DO NOT DOUBLE them just in case it makes and you now give them a top.
769	After partner opens 1♥ or any 1 bid and there is intervention now, when bidding same suit you can do so with less points e.g. 1♥ 1♠ overcall 2♥ reply is now 3-5 instead of 6-9 1♥ 1♠ overcall 3♥ reply is now 6-9 instead of 10-12 1♥ 1♠ overcall 2♠ reply, resort to Unassuming Cue Bid to now show 10-12
770	If there is a Minor suit fit do try and steer the contract towards 3NT.
771	There are only 3 hand types for the informative Double :- a) 13+ and liking the other 3 suits b) 17/18 high card points and strong 6 card suit of your own c) 19+ points balanced. The common denominator in these 3 categories is that there is no overcall for these 3 hand types, hence you need the Double.
772	Elimination basically you do NOT TOUCH your problem suit and when you do finally lose the initiative, hopefully the opponent who then wins the trick will be endplayed and either open up your problem suit or give away a ruff and discard.
773	If either you or partner make any sort of limit bid and the opponents now join in then DOUBLE is NOW for PENALTIES .
774	If the opposition makes a Michaels Cue bid and you wish to show a GOOD RAISE then the way to make an unassuming cue bid is to now bid their known suit-
775	If out of the blue your partner doubles the final contract and you are ON LEAD partner is asking you for an UNUSUAL LEAD and to normally lead the first suit that dummy mentioned during the auction.
776	If you are lucky enough to have two six card suits, do not pre-empt, but bid one suit then the other and then the second one again. Pre-empting with this sort of hand will upset partner more than the opposition and pre-empting should be about upsetting the opponents, not partner.
777	If your partner makes a 4 th suit forcing bid please tell them more about your shape. If you started with 6-4-2-1 shape please now bid your first suit again confirming this shape.

803	Any time the opponents bid in a sit where you have strength Just Pass and see what happens - let them get into trouble rather than you.																				
804	With AJT in closed hand and K9543 in open dummy when looking for the missing Queen play the Jack from the closed hand and most people will cover. If no cover go up with king and now finesse the other player for the missing Queen see Zia's Bols tip.																				
805	Normally 1NT rebid is 15/16, 2NT is 17/18, and 3NT is 19/poor20. However modern style and I recommend it is to play 1NT rebid as 15/18 2NT rebid 19/poor 20 and 3NT as source of tricks- maybe 6 card minor headed by AKQ and stoppers in the unbid suits.																				
806	ALERTING PROCEDURE: Whenever partner makes a conventional bid YOU ALERT. Whenever you make a conventional bid you do not wake partner up and you do NOT ALERT.																				
807	You can bid light in 3rd and 4th seats because you no longer need a rebid.																				
808	In 4th seat don't be in a hurry to always take your Ace in situations like this: <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">North</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">K Q T</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">West</td> <td style="text-align: center;">J 8 6</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">A 7 2 (YOU)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">9 5 4 3</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">South</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Declarer plays low from hand and finesses the King. If you now play low declarer will think partner has the Ace and will then go back to his hand and finesse again and now you Ace dummy's Queen and your partner's Jack is promoted. If you take the Ace immediately declarer will now have no other option and will just go back to hand and now do a successful finesse of the remaining QT left in dummy.</p>			North				K Q T		West	J 8 6		A 7 2 (YOU)			9 5 4 3				South	
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809	You are in 3NT contract and opponents lead a suit and you intend holding up. However if you have another dodgy suit in this 3NT contract and the opponent might switch to that suit at trick Two don't hold up at trick One.																				
810	To open 2♣ another test apart from 23+ points you can use 5 Quick Tricks and a substantial suit such as: <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>A K 8 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>A Q 6 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>A K J T 7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	♠	A K 8 6	♥	A Q 6 5	♦	A K J T 7	♣	-												
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♣	-																				
	N E S W 1♠ NO 2♠ NO 3♠ 3♠ bid here by North should now be pre-emptive making it more difficult for East to balance. If you wish to make an invitational rebid here then USE A TRIAL BID.																				
812	With a huge MISFITTING HAND BID SLOWLY so when partner opens 1♠ and you hold: <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>A Q J 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>A K 9 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>A Q 7 6</td> </tr> </table> <p>just reply 2♣ ALSO this hand does not meet the requirements for making a Game. Forcing bid - you have neither a self-supporting suit nor a Fit with Partner.</p>	♠	7	♥	A Q J 8	♦	A K 9 8	♣	A Q 7 6												
♠	7																				
♥	A Q J 8																				
♦	A K 9 8																				
♣	A Q 7 6																				

813	In a competitive auction with the opponents holding more points than you and your partner, do not bid one more if it means pushing the opponents into a making Game or making Slam which they were not going to bid without your assistance.
814	<p style="text-align: center;">North</p> <p>With A 9 6 5 opposite</p> <p>West East</p> <p>??????? ??????</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K J T 2 (in the closed hand)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(South)</p> <p>trying to locate the Queen Then play the Jack from closed and and if second person plays low go up with Ace and finesse East on way back. This piece of advice comes from the slogan if they don't cover, they haven't got it. (NB some people will cover even when they should not do so.</p>
815	Try to end up in the closed hand at trick 12 as the opponents might not save the right card a) you might suddenly make your contract or b) suddenly make an overtrick in MPs scoring.
816	With 5-3-3-2 hands including a 5 card Major and 12-14 points (assuming you are playing weak no trump) open 1NT in 1 st and 2 nd seat. If you decide to open the Major in 3 rd or 4 th seat that is fine as you no longer need a rebid.
817	When replying to 2♣ I firmly believe as soon you have 8+ points make a positive reply and not 2♦. Modern style is to reply 2♦ relay on all hands but not a good idea
818	After the bidding goes 1H X Redouble by responder says we have BALANCE OF POWER and guarantees 8 or more points.
819	Do Not open or rebid in No Trumps unless you are balanced. The only time you can bid No Trumps with an unbalanced hand is when occasionally replying 1NT to partner's opening bid. (The excuse that you have the other three suits does not hold good).
820	Rule of 7 tells you how many times you have to hold up to cut communications between the two defenders i.e. add the number of cards between your hand and the dummy and take it away from 7 and that tells you how many times to hold up so with A65 opposite 32 in dummy 7 – 5 means you have to hold up twice.
821	If Left hand opponent has bid Stayman and then rejected a fit in Spades now you know he must have Hearts so avoid leading Hearts his known suit.
822	If opener rebids with a JUMP of original suit this should show 6/7 playing tricks (almost the old fashioned Acol Strong two). (NB it's not a point based bid but would probably not be less than 15/16 points).
823	<p>ANY TIME during the auction that a fit becomes apparent you can add shortage points Void 3, singleton 2 and doubleton 1.</p> <p>The reason you can then do it is because you have ruffing values in the common suit for example if the bidding goes:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">North</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1♥ 1♠</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3♠ ? now that a FIT has manifested itself responder can re-evaluate his hand with the shortage points if the wants to do so.</p>
824	If somebody freely bids his suit after intervention this in now showing 5 card suit because he didn't Negative double, did they and now you can get to your 5-3 fits.
825	THINK in terms of potential playing tricks rather than just point counts.

826	Opener's and Responder's initial rebids should be clear and you only make those second bids in No Trump if YOU ARE BALANCED However, after those rebids, sometimes you are strong and "have to go for it" so you just have to bid 3NT if you have the stopper in the unbid suit and there is no major fit. You might need to bid the NT so lead comes around to your KX suit.
827	If you count your winners and there is no way to make that extra 10th trick in 4♠ then DUMMY REVERSAL is probably the answer whereby the hand with more trumps eventually becomes the hand with less trumps because you probably trumped 3 times in the long hand.
828	If you are playing trial bids after 1♥ - 2♥ reply then a raise of this suit can NOW BE PRE-EMPTIVE i.e. 1♥ 2♥ 3♥ now by opener to make life difficult for the opponents to Balance.
829	If you have completely misfitting hands just drop the auction very early on and DON'T PANIC.
830	NOT every hand needs to be in a Game contract. Playing Match Point Pairs, you will get lots of very good results if you are happy to be in part.
831	After a competitive auction with your side bidding Hearts and the opponents bidding Spades don't bid one more after 3♠ if you have no defence to 4♠. You don't want to push them into a spade game they were not going to bid.
832	A weak opening bid of 2 of a suit (i.e. 2♦ or 2♥ or 2♠) is a limit bid so you should not bid again unless partner forces you.
833	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ T 9 7 ♥ A K T 7 ♦ K 5 4 ♣ 4 3 2</p> <p>Use the Losing Trick Count on marginal hands so on this board although a 9 loser hand still bid 3♥ with the 10-12 points and 4 card support.</p>
834	In second seat 1NT overcall is 16-18 balanced but in 4 th seat (the protective seat) 1NT is now 10-14 points balanced.
835	With 5-5 shape in the black suits open 1♣ and it is the higher suit when they touch even when playing 5 card Majors.
836	If the bidding goes 1♠ - 2♣ 2♠ this definitely shows 6-card suit by opener because if opener were 5332 minimum he would have opened 1NT in first place.
837	<p>If the bidding goes: N E S W 1♠ 2♣ 2♦</p> <p>South is now denying a four card Heart Suit because he didn't NEGATIVE DOUBLE when he could have done so. So with:</p> <p>♠ A ♥ A T 4 3 ♦ K T 8 7 6 2 ♣ 6 5</p> <p>Remember to say Double and don't fall in love with those Diamonds.</p>

838	Even if an elimination play if not needed on a particular deal it is good practice to eliminate suits and more often that not it pays dividends towards the end of the hand when unwittingly an opponents gets endplayed.									
839	In a competitive auction don't bid onto 4♥ unless you have defence to their 4♠ next bid- don't push them into a game they weren't bidding									
840	All rebids in No Trump MUST BE Balanced with No Singletons anywhere.									
841	If somebody leads 2 (4 th Highest) you know he started with precisely 4 and you can see dummy so you can be an expert and work how many cards are left and you can work out how many cards declarer has. Declarer can also do the same.									
842	With KQT opposite 543 low towards the king. Last person with the Ace should holdup. You have now created illusion that second person has the Ace and declarer will finesse up to the Queen and now you can play the Ace and maybe partner had the Jack. If you play the Ace straight away now you give declarer and chance to finesse that T. In situations like this: <div style="text-align: center;"> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>K Q T</td> <td>dummy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J 3 2</td> <td></td> <td>A 9 6 4 (YOU)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8 7 5</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> </div>		K Q T	dummy	J 3 2		A 9 6 4 (YOU)		8 7 5	
	K Q T	dummy								
J 3 2		A 9 6 4 (YOU)								
	8 7 5									
843	If you are going to embark on a cross-ruff make sure you play your definite winners beforehand. If you don't the opponents might throw away that suit and near the end you will find them trumping those cards.									
844	The reason you must break transfers with a fit and a fairly maximum hand is to make sure you get to game on minimum hands									
845	Don't double their 4♥ or 4♠ bid unless you think you can get it two down. If it goes one off. there is a danger it might even make and then you have unwittingly given them a very good score.									
846	You can endorse No Trump (with an unbalanced hand probably with a long Minor) if your partner has bid No Trumps already- you did not introduce the NT concept did you ?									
847	After partner has not responded, Opener should do his utmost to reopen the auction with Double just in case partner is sitting there ready to Pass and convert.									
848	If there has been a negative Double indirectly showing a suit and you the opposition have that suit NOW PASS and let them get into trouble rather than you.									
849	If you are missing two adjacent cards then the percentages say that the two cards will be in defenders' separate hands- it's known as playing for split honours.									
850	Instead of trying to remember Negative doubles CONSIDER IT ONE OF THE OPTIONS EVERY TIME THERE IS INTERVENTION (just like you always consider Stayman even if you quickly dismiss it).									
851	After partner doubles their opening bid of 3 you just bid your best suit at lowest level with 6 or 7 points or less but with 8 or more make sure you jump in your suit.									
852	In the overcall position with a balanced 20 count start with DOUBLE and then bid NO TRUMPS next as you are too strong for an immediate 1NT overcall..									
853	If partner overcalls and you have good support then Cue Bid opener's suit- this is known as an UNASSUMING CUE BID showing 10+ points and a Fit.									
854	With a fit and a good hand and you are not sure what to bid next then MAKE A CUE BID to keep the auction going.									

855	If you introduce a new suit over their overcall this PROMISES 5 or more because didn't negative Double when you could have done so.
856	If you are in a dodgy 3NT contract and you have another bad suit out against you DO NOT HOLD UP in case the defenders suddenly switch to that suit at trick Two.
857	When defending stay with the same suit and don't open up other suits and help declarer out.
858	When you have QXX opposite KXXXX expect two losers in this suit BUT first play up to the Queen if you think 2 nd person has the Ace and then play a low card from each hand hoping that that person had a Doubleton Ace in the first place –Now that ace will fall on air and you still have the king to draw their last card in the suit.
859	A true test of Stayman is CAN I STOMACH ANY RESPONSE to MY PARTNER'S REPLY BID NOW?
860	"Long in Trump Lead Length" means that if you have 4 or more trumps, lead from your other long suit and maybe declarer might lose control of the hand if he has to trump before he wants to do so.
861	If somebody led a King (promising the Queen and you have J 3 2 in dummy and A 8 4 in hand, win with the Ace and sometime later remember to finesse up towards that Jack in dummy.
862	Don't bid one more if there is a danger of pushing the opponents into a making Game Contract or a Slam contract that they were not going to bid.
863	If there are two finesses to take, take the safe one first that will keep you in play if the finesse fails, the suit that has more controlling cards.
864	With Declarer's closed hand play cards to confuse the defenders e.g. if you follow suit with 972 and you think I will play my lowest don't and maybe this will confuse the defenders who are trying to have a conversation with one another.

1) <http://bridge-tips.co.il/?p=7278>

(2) Tip No. 14 out of 94 tips from experts in link : <http://bridge-tips.co.il/?p=7886>

Explanation in links: (3)

<http://www.gravesendbridgeclub.org/CB/competing/UnassumingCueBid.html>

http://www.pattayabridge.com/conventions/Unassumingcue_main.htm

(4) <http://bridge-tips.co.il/?p=7886>

Source : H. Schogger

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