

## INTERMEDIATES TIPS

1	<p>If you aren't sure what to overcall try using a Take-Out Double-it covers many more permutations that you would not normally bring to mind. e.g. a) you have more than 18 points and you are balanced - so double first then bid No Trump. Partner should be able to deduce that you have in excess of 18 otherwise you would have made an immediate 1NT overcall, Wouldn't you? b) you have a very powerful suit of your own and again around 18/19 points both too strong for a simple overcall or strong jump overcall so DOUBLE FIRST then bid your suit</p>								
2	<p>Be aware of the importance of 8's 9's and T's especially in finesse positions that you thought might not have existed. eg a) when you have 543 opposite AJ92 if you need tricks from this suit lead the 3 and when next player plays low try inserting the 9 leaving your Ace Jack in tact for a further finesse, in other words you are now finessing against 3 cards the KQ and T</p>								
3	<p>Keep length with dummy if you are not sure what to keep when discarding keep the same long suit as you can see in dummy. This can also be applied to the closed hand - keep same long suit that declarer might have bid during the auction.</p>								
4	<p>Standard Stayman is for finding 44 fits so if you have good hand with 5 card major either bid it weakly at 2 level, use a transfer or bid it strongly at 3 level, but don't pussyfoot around using Stayman when you have 5. The reason for this is that if you have five you now only need three card support from partner not four!!</p>								
5	<p>If opponents open 1NT (especially weak) and the partner of the 1NT opener makes a weakness takeout and the auction is just about to subside at the 2 level - make sure you bid at all costs. Protect on as little as 7/8 points. You will be pleasantly surprised how often the opponents now take the push to the 3 level, go one down when you were just about to let them play a comfortable 2 level contract Balance.</p>								
6	<p>Long in Trump Lead Length- if you have 4 trumps and you are on lead it is best to lead your other long suit. By doing this there may be the possibility that declarer will need to trump in before he wants to. Now he may lose control of the trump suit itself. Certainly don't lead from shortage since you will be coming to natural trumps anyway with you length.</p>								
7	<p>Don't lead a singleton with a goodish hand since you might not be able to get partner in for a ruff so make a positive lead instead. eg you hold</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>QJT4</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>952</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>AKJ53</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>3</td></tr> </table> <p>and the opponents bid to 4♥ then lead A♦ or Q♠ not the 3♣ assuming the opponents are reasonable and they get to 4♥ with about 26 points and you have 11 so how many can partner have so make a positive lead from your own hand instead of trying to find an entry in partner's hand when he can't possibly have one.</p>	♠	QJT4	♥	952	♦	AKJ53	♣	3
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8	<p>Remember to only cover an honour with an Honour if you are likely to PROMOTE something for yourself or for your partner- this is most of time but if you see touching honours in dummy or you suspect that declarer has a good holding in the closed hand don't bother to cover.</p>								
9	<p>Stayman Convention is mainly used to try and find 44 fits. If you have a five timer, either introduce it naturally or with Transfers.</p>								
10	<p>If you are thinking of overcalling and you aren't sure whether your suit is good enough to bid consider the Suit Quality. The number of cards in the suit you are considering bidding plus the number of honours in that suit should equal tricks required eg with ♠ AK762 ♥ 76 ♦ 763 ♣ Q65 yes overcall 1♠ total is 5+2=7 OK BUT with ♠ Q7632 ♥ A6 ♦ K63 ♣ Q65 Now Pass as total is 5+1=6 (despite having more points on this hand</p>								
11	<p>In 4th seat this is time to bid protect yours and your partner's interest and this is why its called THE PROTECTIVE POSITION. In 4th seat a bid of 1NT shows only 10-14 points and a Balanced hand. If you just sit there and pass you will have some very happy opponents- Be competitive.</p>								

12	<p>Be aware of the RULE of 20 for light opening bids. If you are in doubt as to whether or not you can open then add your points and your 2 longest suits together and if the total comes to 20 or more then OPEN rather than passing like a wimp.</p> <p>eg ♠ AK7632 ♥ K965 ♦ 3 ♣ 32 total is 10 + 10 so open 1 ♠</p> <p>or with ♠ K7632 ♥ K<del>Q</del>762 ♦ K3 ♣ 5 total is 11 + 10 so open 1 ♠</p>																														
13	<p>a) Opposite a weak No Trump if you have a TOTALLY balanced 4333 hand and only 11 points do not invite - be happy to stay in 1NT. With a totally balanced 25 High card Points between the 2 hands you will be hard pushed to find a ninth trick.</p> <p>b) However opposite a weak No Trump and 12 High card Points and a five card suit treat the hand as if it is 13 points and go directly to 3NT. Now there is no need to invite as a 9th trick will materialize more often than not even opposite a minimum 12 count.</p>																														
14	<p>Against a small slam Favour an active lead from Qxxx or Kxxx suits rather than making a passive lead. By doing this you are well on the way to building a defensive trick for your side. All Partner needs to have is the other high honour you lack.</p>																														
15	<p>If you have the choice to lead from an AK suit and a singleton suit choose the Ace lead most of the time. If you lead your ace you can always switch but if you lead your singleton and it turns out to be wrong it will be too late</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr><td>♠</td><td>AK965</td></tr> <tr><td>♥</td><td>952</td></tr> <tr><td>♦</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>♣</td><td>Q853</td></tr> </table> <p>Uncontested auction of 1♥ - 3♥ - 4♥ prefer to lead from your A♠ rather than you singleton Diamond. Many experts have an agreement that the play of an Ace followed by a switch shows a singleton in the suit you switch to.</p>	♠	AK965	♥	952	♦	3	♣	Q853																						
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16	<p>If your partner replies to your 2♥ to your 1♥ opener and you have a reasonable 15/16 points you might think game is a possibility, if so ADOPT TRIAL bids. Bidding 3♥ invitationally to 4 is to be quite frank a total waste of time and hardly constructive. A trial bid will pinpoint where you want help and allow you and partner to get to minimum games and to stop short of game where you have your values in the wrong suit. So after 1♥ bid the suit you want help in eg</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>♠ AQ765</td> <td>♠ K954</td> <td></td> <td>♠ AQ765</td> <td>♠ K954</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 76</td> <td>♥ 542</td> <td>but with the following hand</td> <td>♥ 76</td> <td>♥ Q42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ KQ5</td> <td>♦ J753</td> <td>the bidding now goes</td> <td>♦ KQ5</td> <td>♦ A3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A32</td> <td>♣ K6</td> <td></td> <td>♣ A32</td> <td>♣ 7654</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♠</td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♣</td> <td>4♠</td> <td></td> <td>3♣</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>and now we find a 22 point game</p> <p>and we stop short despite more points</p> <p>TRIAL BIDS come in other guises and can be a lot of fun to play. it also now frees up the immediate 3 rebid by opener as a disruptive pre-emptive measure thereby making life more difficult for the opponent who wants to balance.</p>	♠ AQ765	♠ K954		♠ AQ765	♠ K954	♥ 76	♥ 542	but with the following hand	♥ 76	♥ Q42	♦ KQ5	♦ J753	the bidding now goes	♦ KQ5	♦ A3	♣ A32	♣ K6		♣ A32	♣ 7654	1♠	2♠		1♠	2♠	3♣	4♠		3♣	3♠
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17	<p>Next time you have support for a Minor THINK 3NT. Most of the time that you and partner will be able to make 11 tricks in Clubs or Diamonds you can probably easily make 9 or maybe even 10 in No Trumps. If you are playing in MP's pairs you want to be playing on an equal footing to the experts so that when you open the traveller you too are in 3NT plus one for 430 rather than just 400 for a hard 5 ♣ contract.</p>																														
18	<p>=17</p>																														
19	<p>If partner pre-empts and you have a good hand be prepared to raise partner to game with a singleton in his suit or even a void sometimes. Partner will not need help from you in his LONG suit so all the goodies you offer him outside will be dynamite.</p>																														

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20	<p>If you bid in 3rd or 4th seat you can OPEN LIGHT. In third and fourth seat you do not have to have a rebid ready. Since your partner has already passed there is little fear of missing out on anything. You can certainly open all the following hands in 3rd and 4th seats and merely drop out of the auction thereafter.</p> <table> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>AQ764</td> <td>♠</td> <td>K9</td> <td>♠</td> <td>AJT765</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>762</td> <td>♥</td> <td>542</td> <td>♥</td> <td>76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>K5</td> <td>♦</td> <td>AQJ753</td> <td>♦</td> <td>K65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>432</td> <td>♣</td> <td>63</td> <td>♣</td> <td>32</td> </tr> </table> <p>Open 1♠ just                      open 1♦                      open 1♠</p> <p>Opening with 1♠ is particularly pre-emptive</p>	♠	AQ764	♠	K9	♠	AJT765	♥	762	♥	542	♥	76	♦	K5	♦	AQJ753	♦	K65	♣	432	♣	63	♣	32	
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21	<p>In a competitive situation DON'T PUNISH PARTNER for competing. Sometime partners are competing and balancing knowing that you have points. Do not go and spoil it by bidding on. This is particularly relevant when partner balances in 4th seat causing the opponents to bid on to the three level and you now go and bid one more (UGH) be pleased you have pushed them to three level. eg</p> <table> <tr> <td>♠ AQ76</td> <td>After partner passes for 2 rounds he</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 76</td> <td>suddenly dredges up a bid of 2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ Q5</td> <td>after 1♥ - 2♥ by the opposition</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A32</td> <td>when they now bid 3♥ be happy to now Pass</td> </tr> </table>	♠ AQ76	After partner passes for 2 rounds he	♥ 76	suddenly dredges up a bid of 2♠	♦ Q5	after 1♥ - 2♥ by the opposition	♣ A32	when they now bid 3♥ be happy to now Pass																	
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22	<p>If the contract belongs to you and your partner and they take a sacrifice</p> <p>a) make sure you double the final contract</p> <p>b) lead a trump to cut back their powers of a possible cross ruff</p>																									
23	<p>Looking for a missing queen and you have a two way finesse, If you want the defender to cover the honour, try leading an honour and if they don't cover as most players might then go up with the Ace or King and finesse on the way back</p>																									
24	<p>Lead back the higher of two remaining card in partner's suit so partner knows you started with three cards, otherwise play your lowest one back and then he can deduce that you started with 2 (and could not help yourself) or 4. This assumes he is watching all the small cards being played at tricks one and two.</p>																									
25	<p>Attack when your opponents bid a small slam in a suit. Lead from Kxxx or Qxxx, you only need partner to turn up with the other high honour to establish one trick or even two for the defense.</p>																									
26	<p>Try and work out what partner has led from, if they lead a two its probably 4th best from 4 card suit, if they lead a middling card and there are five in dummy and you have five too it's probably a singleton.</p>																									
27	<p>Not sure what to keep then keep the same long suit you can see in dummy - it's known as keeping length with dummy and prevents dummy's long card becoming a winner</p>																									
28	<p>You have 8 trumps but lousy ones including the Ace, why not duck a round of the suit and then you will not lose control of the trump suit.</p>																									
29	<p>Short of entries why not duck a round and keep that precious Ace in the dummy as your entry later, sometimes you might need to duck twice in situations like this:</p> <table> <tr> <td></td> <td>A6543</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>KQ2</td> <td>JT</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>987</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		A6543			KQ2	JT		987																	
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30	<p>When the defenders try to make you ruff in the long hand so depleting your trump length consider discarding and in this way you will not lose control of the trump suit</p>																									
31	<p>Don't raise partner's second suit unless you have 4 card support</p>																									

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

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55	If you overcall more often then you are helping partner with a lead- of course don't overcall if you do not want a suit led J
56	They lead and from dummy you should low play most of the time as this will certainly yield a high card from third player and you will be better placed.
57	Stuck for a bid when Overcalling THINK INFORMATIVE DOUBLE especially if you have four cards in the unbid Major with hands like ♠ Q876    ♥ 72    ♦ AKJ83    ♣ Q6 over 1♥ Double is much better than mere 2♦
58	In Blackwood or Roman Key Card Blackwood you must not initiate 5NT for Kings unless you know you have all the Aces held in the partnership. If you only have three and think you can still make a small slam you just bid it. Bidding 5NT says you are interested in the Grand Slam and you would not be interested in the Grand Slam with an Ace missing would you? ☺
59	Adopt Unassuming Cue bids and then all raises of partner's suit can be weak and less weak and good raise can be made by bidding the opponent's suit.
60	Not sure which way to take the two way finesse try advancing the J from the closed and maybe one of the opposition might cover ,If they don't go up with the A or K showing in dummy then finesse on the way back
61	With T9 opposite AQJ84 when finessing play the T and let it run then you will still be in that hand (assuming the finesse has been successful) to repeat the finesse again.
62	If you Double then bid your suit later you are showing 17+ points and Six card suit.
63	Every time you OVERCALL Think INFORMATIVE Double and maybe you will use it more often
64	Your partner has just raised you 1♥ opening bid to 2♥ and you would like to invite then USE TRIAL BIDS rather than go a wishy washy 3♥ because sometimes it is hard to judge whether or not to go onto Game. Sometimes you maximum 9 points will not be the right 9 points and sometimes your minimum 6 points will suffice. With Trial Bids you merely bid the suit you where you need assistance. If partner has the assistance they bid 4 and if they don't they retreat to 3.
65	In a an artificial sequence such as the opponents using Stayman or Transfers don't forget to Double the artificial bid if you would like that suit led.
66	Upgrade 14 point hands with 5332 if all your honours are in the five card suit and treat it like a 15 count and open 1 of a suit intending to rebid in No Trumps
67	only use Michaels Cue Bids and Unusual No Trump with either very weak hands (6-10) or very strong hand (17+) otherwise partner will not be able to judge the rest of the auction
68	A JUMP in a NEW SUIT by Opener is GAME FORCING and responder has to keep bidding- it shows a hand containing 19+ points (even stronger than a reverse such as: ♠ A K J 6 4    open 1♠ and rebid 3♣ ♥ A 4 ♦ 7 2 ♣ A Q J 4
69	Giving preference is not the same as supporting and it is your duty to give preference however bad your hand is so with ♠ K J 6 4 3    when partner opens 1♥ you reply 1♠ then partner rebids 2♦ ♥ 4 2    you must remember to put partner back to 2♥ because partner must have bid his longest suit first so you PREFER ♦ Q 2    Hearts to Diamonds ♣ 7 6 5 4
70	Not sure what to bid next then Use NMF (NEW MINOR FORCING so with ♠ K 6 4    when you open 1♥ partner replies 1♠ Now rebid 2♦ despite having only 3 Rebidding ♥ A K J 4 2 NT without Club stopper is not totally satisfactory and using the NMF enables

	<p>♦ A Q 2 responder to give delayed Heart support, rebid Spades or even do a fourth suit forcing bid  ♣ 7 2 NB Responder can also use NMF when he is stuck for a bid too,</p>								
71	<p>If partner makes a trial bid and you cannot help in the trial bid suit but you can still help in a suit that can be bid lower than 3 of the agreed trump suit</p> <p>♠ 6 4 you reply 2♥ to 1♥ and then partner makes trial bid of 2♠ rather than  ♥ K 9 4 2 just going back to 3♠ Bid 3♦ on the way to show some sort of help in Diamonds  ♦ A Q 2  ♣ 9 8 7 2</p>								
72	<p>If the bidding goes 1♣ 3♣ then much of the time if opener has a good hand they should now bid 3NT rather than go off into 5. Who wants to make 11 tricks when 9 tricks could be so much easier? so on following hand having opened 1♣ and received a raise to the three level now bid 3NT</p> <p>♠ 6 4  ♥ K 9 4 take a chance that partner has a spade stopper - after all they have to have their 10-12  ♦ A Q 2 points somewhere don't they?  ♣ A K 9 8 7 2</p>								
73	<p>In 4th seat with Light Openers use the rule of 15 to encourage you to bid on the right hand and to stop you bidding light on the wrong hand where you open the door for the opposition. Add your HCPs and the number of spades you have and if the total is 15 or more GO FOR IT - if not throw the hand in</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A 7 5</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 6 5 throw hand in 11-2 = only 13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ Q 9 4</td> <td>♥ Q 9 you do not want to give them opportunity to</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 6 5</td> <td>♦ A J 9 8 7 compete now with the Majors</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ A J 9 8 7</td> <td>♣ A 7 5 (Open Door Policy)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Open 1C as total is 11+3 = 15</p>	♠ A 7 5	♠ 6 5 throw hand in 11-2 = only 13	♥ Q 9 4	♥ Q 9 you do not want to give them opportunity to	♦ 6 5	♦ A J 9 8 7 compete now with the Majors	♣ A J 9 8 7	♣ A 7 5 (Open Door Policy)
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74	<p>If you are thinking of bidding on miserable 5 points think it through- If partner is going to scream at you when your hand comes down at dummy then DON'T if not then go for it (or if your hand is likely to be concealed then go for it</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A T 7 5</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A T 9 8 6 5 certainly bid 1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ J 9 4</td> <td>♥ 9 4 very good suit and you will be ending up</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 6 5 4</td> <td>♦ 3 2 as declarer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 7 6 4</td> <td>♣ 7 5 2 if partner rebids 3NT as you will go 4♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>JUST PASS BUT nothing going for this hand</p>	♠ A T 7 5	♠ A T 9 8 6 5 certainly bid 1♠	♥ J 9 4	♥ 9 4 very good suit and you will be ending up	♦ 6 5 4	♦ 3 2 as declarer	♣ 7 6 4	♣ 7 5 2 if partner rebids 3NT as you will go 4♠
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75	<p>Use the SQOT (Suit Quality Overall Test) guideline for sensible overcalls- Add the Honours in the suit you are considering overcalling in plus the number of cards in that suit and the total needs to come to tricks required.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ A Q 7 5 2 over 1♠ here 5 Spades plus two honours</td> <td style="width: 50%;">♠ 7 6 4 do not overcall 2 now</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ K 9 4 = Seven - Yes OK</td> <td>BUT ♥ 8 4 5 + 2 = 7 - NO Not OK</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 8 4</td> <td>♦ K 9 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 7 6 4</td> <td>♣ A Q 7 5 2</td> </tr> </table>	♠ A Q 7 5 2 over 1♠ here 5 Spades plus two honours	♠ 7 6 4 do not overcall 2 now	♥ K 9 4 = Seven - Yes OK	BUT ♥ 8 4 5 + 2 = 7 - NO Not OK	♦ 8 4	♦ K 9 4	♣ 7 6 4	♣ A Q 7 5 2
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76	<p>Prefer to play weak jump overcalls rather than strong because picking up strong 16 point hands is much less likely than 6-10 point hands with six card suit and you get into the auction much more quickly and weak jumps are much more fun to play</p>								
77	<p>After partner makes an informative double MAKE SURE you do a jump in new suit if you have 8 or more points. With 0-7 you would merely bid your best suit.</p>								
78	<p>If opposition opens and you have a balanced hand with 19+ points start with DOUBLE and then bid No Trumps later and partner should be able to deduce you have this number of points. With 16-18 you would have bid 1NT straight away and with less you would just have passed.</p>								
79	<p>If opposition opens and you have a huge one suited hand (maybe 18+ points and good six card suit) start with DOUBLE and then bid your suit later and partner should be able to deduce you have this number of points. With less you would have made a mere simple overcall from the start (simple overcalls promising from 8/9 up to about 16/17).</p>								
80	<p>Somebody leads a small card against your suit contract you immediately know they don't really have a good lead- they will not hold any AK combination or other decent honour sequence.</p>								

81	About to overruff the opposition, think again and consider discarding a loser elsewhere. (A loser on Loser Play). This will often avoid the embarrassment of a trump promotion (sometimes called an uppercut)																		
82	After intervention all raises of partner's suit should now be weak and pre-emptive as follows : N E S W 1♥ 1♠ 2♥ should now be just 3/4 points and 1♥ 1♠ 3♥ should be 6-9 with more use an Unassuming Cue bid i.e. bid 2♠																		
83	Partner makes an Informative double and you have very weak hand and length in opener's suit and you are not strong enough to convert it to Penalties then under duress you will have to bid a three card suit so with: ♠ 8 7 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ 6 5 4 1♦ Partner Doubles you have no choice but to REACT with 1♥																		
84	ELIMINATION ELIMINATION ELIMINATION. - if you set about eliminating all side suits after drawing trumps it yields dividends more often than not and opponents will do you dirty work in the problem suit that you have avoided playing so far.																		
85	You have good trumps between the two hands and a good side suit that needs establishing then more often than not you will need to dislodge an opponent's Ace or King in that side suit first, keeping trumps in both hands so you cannot be forced.																		
86	In the balancing seat you can BORROW a king so when the bidding goes 1♥ NO NO ? Now you can bid with 3 less points (i.e. a King) i.e. you can join is with as few as 8/9 with a suit overcall and in this position 1NT is only 10-14.																		
87	After partner has made an informative Double and you have 8 or more points remember to JUMP BID in your suit (see tip 86).																		
88	Not sure what to play next then hold up your Ace to enable partner to signal when he cannot follow suit.																		
89	When both you and your partner has bid a suit a Double of 3NT demands the suit bid by your partner to be led.																		
90	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>K 7 5 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>K 8 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>T 5 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>J 8</td> </tr> </table>	♠	K 7 5 3	♥	K 8 5 4	♦	T 5 3	♣	J 8	As PARTNER of the INFORMATIVE DOUBLER adopt RESPONSIVE DOUBLES into your repertoire as follows: South 's Double shows a hand like : whereby you are happy to play in either Major	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦ Double</td> <td>2♦ Double</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1♦ Double	2♦ Double		
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1♦ Double	2♦ Double																		
91	If your partner, the other defender, plays the cards in an abnormal way then he is trying to send you a MESSAGE and usually the message will be a suit preference signal to tell you what to switch to next																		
92	There is much to be gained from bids that aren't made as bids that are made especially about the distribution. If your partner doesn't support your major immediately but subsequently supports it then you know THEY ONLY HAVE THREE otherwise they would have made a different bid earlier in the auction and supported straight away. Other such inferences can be made along the way																		
93	Don't Open sub minimum hands in 3rd seat unless you want that suit led. it is ok to open 1 with ♠AQ984 but not with ♠J8643 ♥K63 ♥A94 ♦32 ♦K64 ♣542 ♣Q8																		
94	Adopt 5 Card Stayman over 1NT openers (as well as 2NT Openers) because so many people now Open 1NT with a five card Major and by doing this you will be able to find all those 5:3 fits fairly quickly																		
95	In IMPs or Team play take safety plays but in MPs where every overtrick is vital throw caution to the wind. With AKQJ43 opposite 72 needing five tricks and no entry to the lowing hand play a low card from each hand to cater for 50 break but playing MPs go for broke and play from the top expecting the more normal 3-2 or 4-1 break.																		

96	<p>In a basic sequence if the bidding goes 1♥ - 2NT it shows 11-12 points and if it goes 1♥ - 3NT it shows 13-15. If you go around the houses and show another suit on the way but come to the SAME FINAL BID it means the same so 1♥ - 1♠ or 1♥ - 1♠</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2♣</p> <p>- 2NT            2♣ - 3NT</p> <p>It still shows 11/12 here            and 13-15 here</p> <p>I call it Theory of Final Destination and can be applied in other situations where you bid in new suit and then jump to 3 level in partner's suit to still show 10-12 points (but no 4 card support)</p>
97	<p>Be aware of Misfitting hands and drop the auction as soon as possible With</p> <p>♠ K Q J 9 7 3 ♥ - ♦ J T 5 ♣ A J T 5</p> <p>rebid 2♠ when partner replies 2♥ and if partner should then bid 3♥ be prepared to Pass with such a horrid Misfit</p>
98	<p>Short of entries to dummy to your long suit DUCK so with A876 5 opposite 432 you might need to duck twice here retaining the Ace as your entry</p>
99	<p>If your partner in 4th seat protects and you have a good 10+ points DO NOT GET EXCITED. When partner is protecting he is bidding in the knowledge that you have these points so DO NOT PUNISH him for protecting. You will not be popular if you do so</p>
100	<p>If you play transfers and want to do a weakness take-out into a Minor Suit then you really need to have Six card suit rather than just 5. The reason for this is because you will now be playing at the three level instead of the 1 level</p>
101	<p>With Axx opposite xx consider ducking in this suit to maintain the A as an entry when you really need it.</p>
102	<p>Needing three tricks from the following combination A2 opposite JT643</p> <p>Play Ace and a low one from both hands and you will always be OK if the suit breaks 3-3 or one of the opponents has King Doubleton or Queen Doubleton</p>
103	<p>If you jump rebid in your original suit 1♥ then 3♥ this shows 6/7 playing tricks or 6 loser hand but if responder is minimum they can now Pass. The JUMP REBID in SAME SUIT is NOT FORCING</p>
104	<p>Use the Law of Total Tricks to upset the Opposition once partner overcalls. No Matter how many points. if you have 3 card support now know you have guaranteed 8 trumps between you so raise to level of fit and bid 2 of overcaller suit if you have 4 card support now know you have guaranteed 9 trumps between you so raise to level of fit and bid 3 of overcaller suit if you have 5 card support now know you have guaranteed 10 trumps between you so raise to level of fit and bid 4 of overcaller suit (With a good fit and good hand see next tip below)</p>
105	<p>On every hand no matter whether it's in No Trumps or a Trump Contract Count both winners and losers.</p>
106	<p>If your partner rebids 4♠ or 4♥ or 3NT over your 1 level change of suit reply this rebid shows a very strong 18/19 points as you have only promised 6 points. Therefore it is not a closing bid and if you have a good hand you can now BID ON if you want to do so.</p>
107	<p>In the 4th seat you do not need to have a good quality suit to protect, With</p> <p>♠ T9543            bid 1♠ in 4th seat after there ♥ 92            has been an Opening bid of 1♥ ♦ KJ7 ♣ AQ5</p>
108	<p>With an outside suit of QJT95 opposite void don't try to ruff out this whole suit do a "ruffing finesse" and eventually you can establish the T9</p>



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

	<p>♠ A K Q 9 8 6 5 3    Open 4♠</p> <p>♥ 9 8</p> <p>♦ 9</p> <p>♣ 5 3</p> <p>And with</p> <p>♠ 3                            Open a Menacing 5♦</p> <p>♥ 9 8</p> <p>♦ A Q J 9 8 7 6 5 4</p> <p>♣ 5</p>
126	When responding, when should you prefer to bid a Major rather than a longer Minor? If you have 10 or more points and five clubs and 4 spades reply 2♣, your longer suit. However if you have only 7/8 points and five clubs and 4 spades now You have to reply 1♠ as you are not strong enough to go to the two level.
127	Lead an Ace when the opponents had an exploratory auction looking for 3NT and then avoided bidding it.
128	<p>Play the Gambling 3NT convention which shows a long solid Minor suit. a pre-empt on hands like this</p> <p>♠ T 9</p> <p>♥ 5            Most of the time partner will bid 4♣ and you will leave it if Clubs is your suit but bid 4♦</p> <p>♦ 6 5            it is Diamonds. Partner should only leave it in with stoppers in three suits.</p> <p>♣ A K Q J 7 5 4 2</p>
129	If you have a fit and a huge hand between you, more often than not, it is safer to play in 7NT than 7 of a suit especially if you can count 13 tricks as nobody can ruff the first trick. Also playing MPS it scores better, assuming that most people will be bidding the Grand Slam (which can be a very dangerous assumption when it comes to bidding Grand Slams
130	If the opponents are in a strange contract that is likely to give them a top go onto the attack and switch and try and find partner even if it gives away overtricks.
131	If your partner has made an INFORMATIVE DOUBLE and you have 12 points then you have almost the maximum hand possible for the last player then the STRONGEST BID, you can make, is to CUE BID Opener's suit. You actually bid the same suit as the Opener and this is message to partner that you are exceedingly strong and want to make a Game forcing bid
132	<p>If you have a choice between a limit bid of any description and a non-limited bid ALWAYS take the limit bid option. In fact there would be no choice as the limit bid option wins hands down so with</p> <p>♠ 9 8 4 2</p> <p>♥ 7 2</p> <p>♦ A K 9 4</p> <p>♣ K 3 2</p> <p>reply 3♠ when partner opens 1♠ and do not even dream of bidding 2♦</p>
133	<p>Don't forget to give preference when partner offers you two suits in a situation like this :-</p> <p>♠ 5 4 2</p> <p>♥ Q 7 2</p> <p>♦ A 9 4</p> <p>♣ A J 8 3 2</p> <p>reply 1NT after opens 1♠ but when partner now rebids 2♥ don't forget to show preference back to 2♠</p>
134	Don't Lead a singleton against a trump contract when you have a relatively good hand because its wishful thinking to think that partner can grab the lead and give you a ruff if he cannot have any points.
135	Playing Match Points Bridge where every overtrick or every undertrick is vital make a PASSIVE LEAD
136	To differentiate between 95 and 952 when leading lead adopt the following 9 (Top of doubleton) from 95 and lead 5 ( MUD-Middle Up Down) NB MUD can only be from three cards without an Honour (nothing higher than the 9)
137	Only count SHORTAGE POINTS if you have a FIT with partner

138	Once you partner has endorsed a suit and made a limit bid in that suit your first priority is now to work out whether you want to stay in a part score (and now Pass) invite to Game (maybe a trial bid) or possibly invite to slam (maybe a Cue Bid or Blackwood). At this point in time after the endorsement you are the one in charge, the captain of the auction, since your partner has just made a limit bid.																
139	Shortage points should only be applied once a fit has manifested itself. When Opening and responding in new suits Long Suits are the key to success and then you should be counting length points.																
140	When you defend, after winning the first trick you should play back top of two remaining cards and the lowest of three then partner can work out the distribution of the hand																
141	On all hands in crucial suits imagine the layout of the cards in the opposition's hands. If you have 7 cards between you in that suit, then the suit could be breaking 3-3, or 4-2 or even 5-1 or 6-0. If you have 8 cards between you in that suit then the suit could be breaking 3-2, or 4-1 or even 5-0. You must think about this every single time.																
142	If there is only one way to make a contract assume that the cards lie in your favors. If you have K7 opposite 32 and need one trick from this suit then assume that the Ace is sitting before the King and your finesse will work																
143	If you are going to embark on a cross ruff and try and make all your trumps separately maybe do 4 ruffs in each hand then you need to cash your outside winners first (Aces and Kings). if you do not do so at the eleventh hour after cross ruffing one of the opponents might have shed cards in your Ace King suits and will trump you. This is less likely to happen at the beginning of the hand.																
144	If you need to take two finesses assess which player you don't mind losing the finesse to. Avoid the danger hand, the hand who might switch to a suit and immediately take you off.																
145	Analyze the opening lead; - Is it a singleton, is it start of Doubleton? Is it top of sequence? Then use this information to play out the hand.																
146	<p>If you have declarer's other suit lead a trump if the bidding goes</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>A Q T 8</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>7 3</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>K 7 6 5</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>J T 9</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Lead a Heart with this hand. It looks like dummy is short in Spades. You want to win some of your Spades don't you?</p>	♠	A Q T 8	1♠	1NT	♥	7 3	2♥	NO	♦	K 7 6 5			♣	J T 9		
♠	A Q T 8	1♠	1NT														
♥	7 3	2♥	NO														
♦	K 7 6 5																
♣	J T 9																
147	If you DOUBLE their 1NT OVERCALL this is for PENALTIES and shows 8+ points. If partner has already opened and you have 8 points then they "aren't making 1NT"																
148	<p>Normally it is correct to bid your longest suit first but with 65 shape and a minimum hand wanting to show both suits and not wanting to reverse you might occasionally have to lie so with :-</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>A Q 9 7 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>K J T 9 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table> <p>Open 1♠ rather than 1♥ and then you can rebid 2♥ and still be in control</p>	♠	A Q 9 7 5	♥	K J T 9 5 4	♦	5	♣	4								
♠	A Q 9 7 5																
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149	The opponents lead a suit DON'T BE IN A HURRY to commit to a high card from dummy at trick 1.																
150	<p>If you have miserable Ace less hand and the hand conforms to Rule of 20 curb your natural instincts and Pass rather than Open especially if you are going to have rebid problems later</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>Q 6</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>K Q</td> <td>don't dream of Opening this hand despite 11 + 5 + 4 UGH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>K J 7 4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>8 7 5 3 2</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	♠	Q 6		♥	K Q	don't dream of Opening this hand despite 11 + 5 + 4 UGH	♦	K J 7 4		♣	8 7 5 3 2					
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♦	K J 7 4																
♣	8 7 5 3 2																
151	Over a Major support the Major but over a Minor introduce a Major so																

	<p>♠ A Q J 4 2      ♠ 9 8 5 4  ♥ 9 8 5 4      ♥ K 7 4  ♦ K 7 4      ♦ A Q J 4 2  ♣ 4 3      ♣ 4 3</p> <p>reply 3♥ to 1♥ opener      but here reply 1♠ when partner opens 1♦</p>
152	<p>Playing weak No Trump and four card Suit with 15-19 points and TWO FOUR CARD MAJORS open 1♥ rather than 1♠ and then it's easier to get to fit in either Major particularly when partner has a balanced hand with 4 Hearts. If you had opened 1 in the first place it would be some much more difficult to get to that fit now.</p> <p>♠ A Q J 4      ♠ 9 6      ♠ K 9 7 5  ♥ J 8 5 4      ♥ K Q 9 7      ♥ 4 3 2  ♦ A Q 4      ♦ K 8 5      ♦ 5 4  ♣ K 3      ♣ 4 3 2      ♣ K Q 9 7</p> <p>Open 1♥ and with either of the following two hands we get to the correct fit easily if you had opened 1♠ and partner has the first hand it is virtually impossible to now get to that Heart fit</p>
153	<p>If you are not sure how high to bid and you have seven losers then make sure you bid Game if partner has already opened. It is safe to assume that most Opening Bids promise a 7 loser hand</p> <p>♠ K Q J 4 3      Reply 4♥ when partner opens 1♥  ♥ J 8 5 4      as you have a seven loser hand too  ♦ 4 3  ♣ K 3</p>
154	<p>With</p> <p>♠ J 9 4 2  ♥ 6 5 3  ♦ A K 7  ♣ 9 5 4</p> <p>lead 4<sup>th</sup> highest Spade against No Trump contract and do not lead from your AK suit as you need the AK as entries to your Spades</p>
155	<p>Because 1♠ 2♥ reply promises 5 card suit, Opener's priority is now to support with three card support acknowledging the 5:3 fit as quickly as possible.</p> <p>♠ A J 9 4 2  ♥ 6 5 3  ♦ A K 7  ♣ K 4</p> <p>now rebid 3♥ over the 2♥ reply rather than going into No Trump</p>
156	<p>If you have a two way finesse check to see who the danger hand is and then finesse through that player especially in No Trumps when that danger player has a few winners left in his hand</p>
157	<p>If you are well endowed in your trump suit and have virtually all the high cards from Ace down to the 9 then if ruffing ruff high if you can afford to do so to avoid the embarrassment of being overruffed UGH</p>
158	<p>Leading from a doubleton Queen is one of the worst leads in bridge. More often than not declarer will be looking for that Queen and you are handing it to him on a plate.</p>
159	<p>If a two way finesse is available AJ54 opposite KT32 then finesse through the danger hand not minding a loss to the safe hand.</p>

160	In the "free bid" situation, whenever there is any sort of intervention, if you can still make your planned rebid then do so. If you are minimum just Pass as you know partner still has another bid.
161	If you intend playing the hand on a CROSS RUFF LINE before doing so cash all the outside winners first. At the eleventh hour after doing all your cross ruffs you do not want to be surprised by the opposition who can suddenly ruff these winning cards because while you were cross ruffing and they were unable to overruff you they threw cards from those suits (UGH)
162	Bidding on over a weak 2 from partner and you are not sure if you should bid onto Game or make an Invitation then "with reservations" you can use the RULE OF SEVENTEEN - add your High Card Points plus the cards in partner's bid suit and if the total is 17 or more then make a move forward.
163	If you have a seven loser hand and partner has already opened then you should be in Game so with ♠ Q J 9 5 3 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K Q 9 7 3 ♣ 2 you should be raising 1♠ straight to 4♠ with this hand making a pre-emptive raise trying to keep the opposition out of a potential Heart Game
164	Because odd cards in the opponents hands are likely to split well never underestimate the value of only having 6 cards between two hands with the suit breaking 5:1 so with A7654 opposite 3 if you persevere with this suit eventually the last card will be established when the opponents' cards break 4:3 (e.g. KQJT in one hand and 982 in the other) BUT you will have to count the suit.
165	After partner replies 3 of a suit to your 1NT if you now bid 3NT you show no interest in a slam. Any other bid should be a Cue bid agreeing the suit and co-operation in seeking a Slam in responder's suit (3 card support and maximum point count - 14 for weak No trump and 17 for strong No Trump).
166	Do not open 3 of a Suit with a good hand 11+ honour points. If you have 11+ honour points and seven card suit then you have normal 1 of a suit opener so with :- ♠ A Q ♥ K Q 7 6 5 4 3 ♦ 9 7 ♣ 3 4 Open 1♥
167	Avoid Opening rotten 12/13 point hands with 4441 shape with part of your points being a singleton queen or King. so with ♠ K ♥ A Q 7 6 ♦ K J 5 4 ♣ 9 5 4 3 JUST PASS
168	If you are establishing a suit and have to lose a trick in the suit lose it straight away and then if the suit subsequently breaks badly you are still in control so with AK654 opposite 732 Completely duck a round in this suit. If the suit then breaks 3:2 you will be Ok but if it breaks 4:1 you will still be in control of the suit.
169	In third seat don't automatically play high if there is honour in dummy and partner's lead has promised an honour so with 2 lead dummy has Q73 and you have K T 8 When it's your turn to play after declarer has played (3) low from dummy, you should play the T not the king. You need to keep your position.

170	Playing duplicate a INT contract don't panic when you are in trouble. All the other EWs will also be in trouble- so go for loss limitation and try and go one off. Much of the time one off is a good result when all the other pairs are going 2 and 3 off.																
171	Don't lead a singleton with a good hand expecting partner to get in and give you a ruff. <i>Partner</i> is marked with <i>Nothing</i> so make a <i>positive lead</i> from your side of the table instead.																
172	In third seat if you hold KT6 over dummy's high card, don't automatically play the King in third seat play the T. Try to retain a higher card than dummy's card- Keep your position.																
173	Don't lead a singleton with a good hand expecting partner to get in and give you a ruff. <i>Partner</i> is marked with <i>Nothing</i> so make a <i>positive lead</i> from your side of the table instead.																
174	With KQ98 opposite A6543 play off the Ace first and when the suit breaks 4:0 with the JT inside you will still be able to finesse up to the KQ98 twice. You have left the KQ98 tenace intact.																
175	<p>Once your partner Opens the bidding and you have 4 card suits you should be bidding up the line. This means you reply in the first available suit. (if you go past a suit you are saying you have no interest in that suit so with</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">A Q 6 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">K J 9 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">J 8 7 6</td> </tr> </table> <p>reply 2♣ when partner opens 1♠ as that's the first available suit up the line</p>	♠	7	♥	A Q 6 5	♦	K J 9 8	♣	J 8 7 6								
♠	7																
♥	A Q 6 5																
♦	K J 9 8																
♣	J 8 7 6																
176	If you are going to cross ruff the hand make sure you cash the winners in a side suit first. If you don 't ,at the eleventh hour one of the opponents might have thrown all those cards away while you were doing your cross ruffing and will now ruff you - OOPS																
177	You have a balanced 13/14 points and right hand opponent opens 1 of a suit or INT SAY NO BID. There is no known overcall available with this hand so you MUST PASS																
178	Do not lead away from an Ace at trick one in a suit contract. Your Ace is made to beat an opponent's King or Queen and if you lead it all you do is capture low cards, not very enterprising is it to do that?																
179	We all know that second hand plays low. This also includes in second position not to ruff in. Partner will be finishing the trick off so why ruff in before partner has had a chance to play. Ruffing in second position is almost the same as second hand plays high which of course is totally wrong																
180	<p>In 3rd seat retain a high card over dummy, and don't automatically play high. So when partner leads the 2 in following setup and declarer plays low from dummy you should play the T not the Ace. Retains your Ace over dummy's King. If you play the Ace declarer gets 2 tricks. If you patiently play low declarer only gets one tricks from this suit.</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">K 7 5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">dummy</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">you</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">A T 6 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">J 9 5 2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Q 8 4</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	K 7 5	dummy		you				A T 6 3	J 9 5 2						Q 8 4	
K 7 5	dummy		you														
			A T 6 3														
J 9 5 2																	
		Q 8 4															
181	If a defender tries to make you ruff in the long hand (which might lead to losing control of the trump suit) then try discarding a non-trump loser instead.																
182	<p>If all hope of another defensive trick has gone and you have T32 of trumps play another winning card in suit, knowing nobody has any left and play partner for Jack and another trump. By doing this you might produce an extra trick from a trump promotion in a situation like this</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">9 8</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">T 3 2</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">J 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">A K Q 7 6</td> </tr> </table>		9 8		T 3 2		J 4			A K Q 7 6							
	9 8																
T 3 2		J 4															
		A K Q 7 6															

	as long as partner can be persuaded to ruff with the Jack, eventually your T will win from this uppercut, (trump promotion)								
183	Assuming plenty of entries With J 6 5 opposite K Q 3 2 try to lead from the J 6 5 side twice and then when the suit breaks badly in the following scenario you will be ahead of the game <p style="text-align: center;">K Q 3 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A 8                      T 9 8 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">J 6 5</p> (NB This tip almost conflicts with Novices Tip 183 but it isn't quite the same)								
184	Always Lead Partner's Suit (ALPS) and you will certainly win all the post mortems. Bad lead then blame partner for poor overcall								
185	Partner leads an Ace and dummy has a singleton REMEMBER to make a SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNAL at trick one. Tell partner what you want him to switch to. If you follow suit with high card you are saying switch to the higher suit and if you play a low card you are asking partner to switch to lower suit (exclude the trump suit here so only two suits remain).								
186	When overcalling with simple overcall it is best to have all your honours in the overcall suit rather than have scattered non-working honours in the other suits.								
187	If you have a good holding in either declarer's or dummy's first bid suit LEAD A TRUMP as declarer will try and take ruffs in this suit. Each time you get in also play a trump.								
188	THINK STAYMAN- Every single time your partner opens 1NT you need to consider Stayman as an option even if you dismiss it- by doing this you will always remember to use Stayman at the right time eg reply 2♣ to partner's Opening Bid of 1NT looking for that Spade fit.								
	<table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♠</td> <td>A K T 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♥</td> <td>T 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♦</td> <td>K Q 9 7 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">♣</td> <td>K 3</td> </tr> </table>	♠	A K T 5	♥	T 5	♦	K Q 9 7 3	♣	K 3
♠	A K T 5								
♥	T 5								
♦	K Q 9 7 3								
♣	K 3								
189	Opponent leads King (probably from KQ7 and in dummy you have A43 and in hand you have J72 consider holding up and now that opponent cannot profitably continue the suit without helping you out.								
190	When you defend 1NT or 2NT defend PASSIVELY and try to give nothing away. The fact that the opponents are in just 1NT or 2NT means that the points are fairly evenly spread and 7 or 8 tricks is going to be touch and go.								
191	To support responder's second suit this shows four support because Opener might only have 4 card suit.								
192	If you Open 2♣ and one of the opponents Doubles you in low part score, consider REDOUBLING as you will probably muster 8 tricks just from the outside suits and they will certainly be sorry for doubling for a lead in the middle of your 2♣ sequence								
193	Needing two tricks, with T3 opposite AJ92 play the T and finesse once and then do it again and as long as the opponents honours are split or both with LHO you will make two tricks (75% chance)								
194	If responder bids 2 suits this also shows 5:4 shape and now Opener can support responder's second suit with 3 card support.								
195	If you play Duplicate and you are very nervous and one of the opponents gets stroppy, IMMEDIATELY SUMMON the TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR  - it is the only way to deal with these people and they will be so shocked you have done so it will teach them a salutary lesson								

196	If you are in middle of transfer sequence and one of the opponents doubles the transfer bid then if you complete the transfer you are guaranteeing 3 card support at this stage. If you only have two just Pass and await developments.
197	You are defending and the auction is over, in the same way that declarer adds his points to dummy's points you should also add your points to dummy's points and take the total from 40 and try and work out what your partner has and what declarer has- of course use the bidding to help you work it out.
198	With a good hand just reply in new suit and give opener a chance to Rebid and then you will be better placed as what to do next, so with: ♠ 5 ♥ KT ♦ AQJ8 ♣ KJT96 Reply 2♣ when partner opens 1♦ or 1D and see what they bid next. Once they have rebid 1NT showing balanced 15/16 points you can NOW go FULL THROTTLE.
199	Prefer to be in 5-2 fit that 4-3 fit so if partner bids two suits and you only have doubleton in first suit still go back to first suit especially if it's a Major.
200	Leading King from KQ is sometimes as good as leading Ace from AK.
201	If you need to ruff something in the short hand then delay drawing trumps until you have done so.
202	You can Pass your partner's Informative Double if you have at least 8/9 points and 5/6 cards in the Opener's Suit- you will have converted partner's informative Double into a Penalty Double by passing.
203	If somebody splinters and you think declarer will try and make all his tricks on cross ruff lines LEAD A TRUMP
204	Whatever range of No Trump you play a rebid of 1NT opposite a PASSED PARTNER (not deceased) shows 18/19 points because you are bidding by yourself opposite a partner who has announced less than 6 points.
205	What does lead away from an Ace mean? It means that if you have a suit with small cards headed by an Ace and you are defending a suit contract.
206	Thinking of holding up in No Trump contract, think again if a switch to another suit could make matters worse for you. Now Don't Hold Up.
207	If there has been a stuttering auction where the opponents have cautiously bid Game e.g. 1NT 2NT 3NT where points have not been at a premium try to make a PASSIVE LEAD and give nothing away.
208	Completely misfitting hands JUST PASS so when the bidding goes N E S W 1♠ PASS 2♣ PASS 2♠ PASS ? and you, South, hold ♠ - ♥ K654 ♦ KJT5 ♣ K7654 Partner cannot hold another 4 card suit so now Just pass 2♠.
209	With AKJ96 opposite 854 play the Ace before committing to a Finesse of the Queen just in case there is a singleton Queen floating about.
210	You must play in your 5:3 fits in Majors rather than 3NT. Even if 3NT can make, invariably you will make that extra trick playing in 4♠ or 4♥.
211	Open light in 3 <sup>rd</sup> seat as it's good for your bridge health and often messes up the opposition especially if you open 1♠. so with: ♠ K Q J 4 3 ♥ T 9 8 2



	<p>♦ Q 8 4 2</p> <p>♣</p> <p>Open 1♠ just</p>
212	Leading T from T9X is very often a good lead as it creates a position against dummy
213	If you want to put pressure on opponents as what to keep and protect play off all your trumps bar one and see them squirm.
214	<p>One of the criteria for making a JUMP reply in new suit is 16+ points and self-supporting suit so with:</p> <p>♠ A</p> <p>♥ AQJT732</p> <p>♦ A95</p> <p>♣ Q64</p> <p>It is absolutely right to reply 2♥ when partner opens 1♣. However when partner rebids 2♣ now rethink and be prepared to support Clubs as you know they have five or more i.e. BE FLEXIBLE</p>
215	To do a weakness take-out in Clubs after partner opens 1NT you bid 2♣ and then rebid 3♣ and now you NEED SIX CARD SUIT as you are now trying for 9 tricks instead of 7.
216	When you pre-empt you must not have an outside Ace. That idea of having an outside Ace was sort of applicable 50 years ago when I first started playing bridge but now it goes against the whole philosophy of pre-emption.
217	Leading away from an Ace is against SUIT CONTRACTS. You can certainly lead from your longest suit in a No Trump contract.
218	You only make a rebid if you can BUT you have to if partner bids in a new suit. If partner doesn't bid then you are now off the hook.
219	<p>If you make an informative Double and then bid No Trumps next you are showing a BALANCED hand with 19 or more points. So with:</p> <p>♠ K 7</p> <p>♥ A K 8</p> <p>♦ A Q J 7</p> <p>♣ K 7 6</p> <p>double and then bid No Trumps here</p>
220	<p>Overcaller's partner should take every opportunity to support with three card support. Here support 2♠ if partner overcalls when the bidding goes:</p> <p>1♥ 1♠ NO??</p> <p>♠ T 9 7</p> <p>♥ T 4 3</p> <p>♦ A Q 6 5 4</p> <p>♣ K 2</p> <p>bid 2♠ now</p>
221	If opener Jumps to Game in responder's suit this is very strong indeed and is not a closing bid, likewise if Opener jumps straight to Game in his own suit after partner replies in a new suit this is not closing either.
222	With 5-4-2-2 and horrid hand rebid 5 card suit when partner does a fourth suit forcing sequence.- not ideal as partner will think you have six but sometimes you are simply fixed- Sh.... Happens
223	If declarer doesn't draw trumps then as soon as you get in you should broach trumps and cut back on declarer's ability to make all his trumps separately from a cross ruff.
224	When you have A-7-6-5 don't lead it and if you ever get the lead don't play this suit BE PATIENT and wait for declarer to play the suit and then you will make the Ace and partner might make the Queen and declarer will never make his King.
225	If you have two five card suits it is good to overcall their 1NT Opener as you have shape on your side.

226	<p>With J-9-8-5 opposite A-Q-T needing all four tricks from this suit and no entry to the J-9-8-5 side (after getting there once) play low to the Queen. Now play the Ace and hope for doubleton King. Now you can overtake your T to play J-9. Hope the suit breaks around the table as follows</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> A Q T  K 6            7 4 3 2  J 9 8 5 </p>
227	If you only have one entry on the dummy make sure you use it wisely, maybe for taking a finesse while you are there.
228	If you have all winners left bar one play them all off and at trick 13 maybe one of the opponents will save the wrong winning card.
229	You bid quickly When you know where the hand is going OR when you want to pre-empt the opposition.
230	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.
231	You want to get your Passed partner to bid the say DOUBLE.
232	The reason you COVER and HONOUR with an HONOUR is to try and PROMOTE SOMETHING FOR YOUR SIDE. If touching honours are showing in dummy or you believe them to be in the closed hand then Don't cover in situations like this :- you have queen and dummy has JT98 don't bother but if you have Queen and dummy has J854 NOW COVER as you might promote partner's T.
233	<p>If there is a choice between playing in two 6:2 fits it is best to play in the weaker player's long suit otherwise you might not be able to get to that hand. so when the bidding goes:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> West    East  1♥    1♠  2♥    2♠ </p> <p>Now Opener must respect his partner's wishes and PASS.</p>
234	Open third in hand with a GOOD SUIT that you want LED- treat third in hand light Openers like lead Directing bids.
235	With AJ6 in declarer's hand the opposition leads King from probably KQTXX play low on first trick (HOLD UP) and then the leader is unable to continue the suit profitably.
236	Stayman is needed more to find four card support so if you only need three card support then Transfers are a better option.
237	Do not suffer from SINGLETON SYNDROME- if partner has rebid a suit he will have SIX so if you have a singleton why are you panicking.
238	If third person has not played a high card then the leader can work out that declarer has all the missing high cards because third hand should have played high. If the Ace or queen has not gone yet then the leader had better not play the suit and give declarer another free finesse as declarer must be marked with both these cards.
239	<p>Sometimes you must give FALSE PREFERENCE especially playing Match Point Pairs and partner's first suit is a Major so with:</p> <p> ♠ 5 3  ♥ J 8 7 3  ♦ T 7 2  ♣ A Q 7 2 </p> <p>So initially you reply 1NT when partner opens 1♠ 1♥ because that is the first suit up the line in this sequence partner now rebids 2♦ so you now give FALSE PREFERENCE to 2♠ because you prefer to play in known 5-2 fit rather than dodgy possible 4-3 fit and 2♠ will score better.</p>
240	<p>When you have the same suit as opener, however strong you are you should NO BID (GABI time - Grin and Bear It)</p> <p> ♠ A T  ♥ K Q T 8 7 5 4 </p>

	<p>♦ K ♣ AK4 so No BID when Left Hand Opponent open 1♥</p>						
241	You bid quickly, when you know where the hand is going OR when you want to pre-empt the opposition.						
242	Stayman is needed more to find four card support so if you only need three card support then Transfer is a better option.						
243	If you reply Stayman with good hands 11+ points then your shape should be 4432 as you now have a doubleton giving you ruffing values. With a 4333 hand don't Stayman.						
244	If both opponents are freely bidding new suits and in 3 <sup>rd</sup> seat you have 17/18 points PASS- your partner cannot have anything.						
245	Playing Weak No Trump partner overcalls and hasn't Doubled their 1NT you know they HAVE LESS THAN 15 POINTS.						
246	Overcalling their 1NT with SIX CARD SUITS is good for your bridge health.						
247	With Q95 opposite AT863 play the Queen and let it run and then finesse again and you will always be successful 75% of the time if you PLAY FOR SPLIT HONOURS.						
248	If there are only three trumps on table and a shortage, as a defender ATTACK the TRUMP SUIT and cut back on declarer's ability to ruff there.						
249	If you have good hand and partner passes showing less than 6 points THINK AGAIN- do you really want to carry on bidding?						
250	If you transfer into a Major at 2 level or 3 level and then bid on in that Major you are showing six. If you only have Five return to No Trumps or bid your other four card suit.						
251	Open 2NT with ♠ 87 ♥ AK973 ♦ AQ4 ♣ AKJ and take your chances even without stopper in Spades. It is not a prerequisite to have a stopper in every suit when you Open 2NT (but it would be nice).						
252	If you sit over a player who Opens 1♣ and you have KJ or AQ in Spades your hand IMPROVES and goes up in value as the finesses will work in your favor. On the other hand if you sit under them your hand goes down in value as the finesses will now work against you.						
253	When trying to establish this suit AT872 opposite 954 keep playing low for two rounds and you keep control of the suit as you still have the A.						
254	Against a suit contract don't lead from KJ765 all the way around into declarer's AQ- the free gift department.						
255	When you have K7 in dummy and Q543 in hand and opposition leads suit play dummy's King- its rude to leave bare King or Queen on table or in the closed hand. By doing this at least you are leaving the other honour in the hand slightly protected with small card(s).						
256	With AT872 opposite 954 keep playing low for two rounds and you keep control of the suit as you still have the A.						
257	If you are unsure what to lead then leading a trump is usually pretty safe.						
258	Play back partner's suit – this is known as FOLLOWING PARTNER'S DEFENCE- if he suddenly switches respect his wishes and play that suit now- it might be a singleton and he looking to ruff						
259	<p>If you know basic sequences such as  1♠ - 2♠ = 6-9 and 4 card support and  1♠ - 3♠ 10-12 and 4 card support  then you can work out other sequences by deduction such as 1♣ - 1♥  1♠ - 3♠      3♠ by responder is still 10-12 with 4 card support</p>						
260	<p>With KQ94 opposite A872 play off the K first and then over to the Ace in case you can still finesse the Jack/T when T/J falls in on first round.  in situations like this:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 20px;">KQ94</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 20px;">T653</td> <td style="padding: 0 20px;">J</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 20px;">A872</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	KQ94		T653	J	A872	
KQ94							
T653	J						
A872							

261	If you lead King against a No Trump contract you are telling partner to UNBLOCK and if she has the Queen or Jack to now throw it. So the suit doesn't get blocked later, if she doesn't have an unblocking card them GIVE THE COUNT INSTEAD.
262	With KQ4 opposite A9853 play off the KQ first in case you can still finesse the Jack when T falls in one round. in situations like this: K Q 4 J T 7 6 2 A 9 8 5 3
263	Partner Doubles their 1u bid and you Have 11 POINTS make sure you JUMP in YOUR SUIT. You would react with 1♦ with very few points wouldn't you? So you do need to come alive with this Jump.
264	With A54 opposite QT6 play off the Ace and then low and if second player plays low do you finesse the T or Queen? Person in second seat with the King should smoothly play low to give declarer a guess. Most of time it is correct to finesse the T as so many in second seat will play the King.
265	Jump in new suit by Opener is Game Forcing. And shows 18 + points e.g. ♠ A K J T 5      Open 1♠ and rebid 3♦ ♥ A 4 2 ♦ K Q J 7 ♣ 7
266	Lead partner's suit BUT if you have an AK suit of your own lead the Ace and see what is going on ☺
267	Only cover an honour with an honour if you can promote something for yourself or for partner so with JT95 showing in dummy do not fall into declarer's trap and cover the Jack.
268	With A54 opposite JT632 needing to establish 3 tricks play Ace and another and hope for 3-2 break if no 3-2 break then KQ might still be under the JT holding and you can lead up to the JT twice.
269	Once partner opens the bidding you as responder with four card suits should bid up the line to give partner a chance to make a sensible rebid. So here reply 1♥ when partner opens 1♣. ♠ A K 8 7 ♥ Q J 7 6 ♦ 8 6 J ♣ 4 3
270	After 1NT Double, opener's partner should have FIVE card suit before they pull into a suit .otherwise it could be a Out of the Pan into the Fire Situation.
271	If the opposition intervenes while you are transferring and you complete the transfer you are now showing 3 card support - if you have only two cards await partner's next bid.
272	With QJT9654 this is not just 3 points - it is 5 tricks.
273	If the opponents push you to the 5 level then don't Double the final contract in case it might make. You might change an average score into a very bad score- these very unbalanced distributional hands are hard to control.
274	Joining in with good quality suits is good for your bridge health- AKJT7 or AK743 or KQJ94.
275	If there is a choice of being in Opener's long suit or responder's long suit normally it is best to play in responder's long suit as that is likely to be the weaker hand and the opening hand will "obviously" have outside values. If you play in Opener's long suit then dummy might end up being dead if dummy's long suit is not trumps.
276	The NEGATIVE DOUBLE (sometimes called a SPUTNIK DOUBLE) is a responses SHOWING 6+ points and liking for the UNBID SUITS (2 suits left).
277	6-5 COME ALIVE - bid fearlessly and never look back - you might not even need a partner with such magnificent distribution.

278	In 4th seat you can make an Informative Double with 10 points and protect your side's interests as you know partner has values.
279	1♠ Pass 2♠ is 6-9 and 4 card support BUT 1♠ 2♥ 2♠ After the overcall, 2♠ is now competitive and can be done on as few as 4 points with 4 card support (about 4-5) and bidding 3♠ would then show about 6-9.
280	Opponents attack your most dodgy suit in No Trumps don't be in hurry to take your Ace even if you hold both the Ace and King - HOLD UP and cut communications between the two defenders.
281	9 points opposite a totally balanced 16 points is not enough to produce that extra ninth trick so when partner rebids 1NT showing 15/16 points and you have nine JUST PASS- occasionally you will make 9 tricks but it doesn't make it right to bid 3NT
282	If partner opens and you have 4 card support, however bad your hand is, SUPPORT partner as you know you have at least a nine card fit- you are bidding to level of fit and you should raise to the three level.
283	If you can afford two trump losers with AK543 opposite 62 play off two rounds and then play off winners in other suits and the opposition can take their two tricks any time they like.
284	Opponents attack your most dodgy suit in No Trumps don't be in hurry to take your Ace or even your Ace and King - HOLD UP and cut communications between the two defenders.
285	If partner cannot summon up any sort of response to your opening bid be careful about introducing your second suit at the 3 level by yourself- let the opposition play in 2♥ when the bidding goes: 1♠ 2♥ NO NO ? so now just Pass with: ♠ Q 6 5 3 2 ♥ A 7 ♦ A T 8 6 ♣ Q 3
286	Don't Open weak two if your hand meets the Rule of 20 – 6-4 shape and 10 points is too good for Weak Two. so with: ♠ K Q 6 5 3 2 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A J 8 6 ♣ 3 open 1♠
287	If you open weak Two, prefer to have all your values in your long suit.
288	Overcalling on six card suit headed by Jack is not good bridge even if you do fall on your feet - do you really want this suit led?
289	"I think" one should count your winners and losers on all hands and you can work out how many tricks to generate (winners) and where to be careful (losers).
290	Once you PRE-EMPT you have made a LIMIT BID and you must NOT BID AGAIN- all decisions after that will be partner's.
291	It is OK to overcall 1NT with 5-4 in Majors and try and steal the contract especially if 1NT is about to be passed out. ♠ A Q 6 5 4 ♥ K T 7 6 ♦ 3 2 ♣ 5 4
292	As a defender 2nd Hand low includes not trumping in knowing partner could still win the trick without wasting you trump.
293	Rather than do Dustbin bid reply 2 of same suit with 3 card support and ruffing values so with: ♠ 7 2 ♥ 9 5 4

	<p>♦ Q 8 7 6 ♣ A 4 3 2</p> <p>Reply 2♥ when partner opens 1♥ even if you are playing 4 card Major's as you have ruffing values in Spades.</p>									
294	<p>Partner Leaves your Informative Double in by Passing and converting it into a Penalty Double you must now lead a trump. Presumably you are good in 3 suits so you need to take out trumps and the best way to do that is to lead a trump.</p>									
295	<p>Partner opens 1NT promising 12-14 and you have a balanced 10 points JUST PASS as the total is never going to reach the magic 25/26 target for 3NT.</p>									
296	<p>If responder bids 2 suits this too shows 54 and enables opener to give delayed 3 card support especially if the bidding were to go</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>now West can give support with three spades</p>	W	E	1♦	1♠	2♦	2♥			
W	E									
1♦	1♠									
2♦	2♥									
297	<p>If the bidding goes 1♣ - 3♣ reply and now a rebid by opener of 3NT is a good auction with a hand like this:</p> <p>♠ A Q 5 ♥ K J 6 ♦ A J 8 ♣ Q T 8 7</p>									
298	<p>3NT is best when you have a LONG MINOR as the suit will produce lots of tricks and 3NT is much more user friendly than 5♣ or 5♦.</p>									
299	<p>If the opponents attack your most dodgy suit In No trumps and you have enough tricks already then there is no need to Hold Up as they might switch and you go off. Don't just hold up because you read it in a book somewhere once.</p>									
300	<p>If your partner makes an informative Double and you have 12+ points yourself, then BID OPENER'S SUIT and pass the buck - this is Game Forcing - this bid is very rare and the strongest reaction you can make.</p>									
301	<p>Don't lead a singleton trump as you might expose your partner- and it would be rude to expose your partner in situations like this :-</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">K T 9 5 4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Q 8 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">A J 3 2</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Left to his own devices declarer might play for the drop and your partner now makes the Q.</p>		K T 9 5 4		7		Q 8 6		A J 3 2	
	K T 9 5 4									
7		Q 8 6								
	A J 3 2									
302	<p>Should you lead an Ace in your longs suit against No Trump Yes if you have an outside entry but No if you don't</p> <table style="width: 100%; margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">                 ♠ A K 8 5 2 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ 5 3 ♣ 6 5 4             </td> <td style="width: 50%;">                 ♠ A K 8 5 2 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ A 2 ♣ 6 5 4             </td> </tr> </table> <p>normal 4th highest ♠5 as no outside entry</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Lead ♠A and have a look as you still have outside entry.</p>	♠ A K 8 5 2 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ 5 3 ♣ 6 5 4	♠ A K 8 5 2 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ A 2 ♣ 6 5 4							
♠ A K 8 5 2 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ 5 3 ♣ 6 5 4	♠ A K 8 5 2 ♥ 7 3 2 ♦ A 2 ♣ 6 5 4									
303	<table style="width: 100%; margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">                 ♠ A K J 8 5 2 ♥ K Q J ♦ 5 3 ♣ 6 5             </td> <td style="width: 50%;">                 ♠ A K J 8 5 2 ♥ K Q J 7 ♦ A 2 ♣ 6             </td> </tr> </table> <p>Open 1♠ preparing to rebid 3♣</p> <p style="text-align: right;">BUT NOW you open 1♠ ready to make a jump rebid of 3♥</p>	♠ A K J 8 5 2 ♥ K Q J ♦ 5 3 ♣ 6 5	♠ A K J 8 5 2 ♥ K Q J 7 ♦ A 2 ♣ 6							
♠ A K J 8 5 2 ♥ K Q J ♦ 5 3 ♣ 6 5	♠ A K J 8 5 2 ♥ K Q J 7 ♦ A 2 ♣ 6									



	<p>A-J-7-6-5-4 opposite K-8-3-2 play the King first  K-Q-T-6 opposite A-5-4-3 play off the King and Ace first retain that Q-T  A-T-6-5 opposite K-Q-9-3-2 play King first keeping two tenaces and guaranteeing 5 tricks always.</p>
320	<p>With 7-5-1-0 shape and 9 honour points please open 1 of a suit and not a weak two or three. with:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠  ♥ Q J T 9 7 6 4  ♦ A  ♣ Q T 9 5 4</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">please open 1♥</p>
321	<p>The first Opening bid is so vague that you must make sure your second bid clarifies what you started with - try and make a LIMIT BID at your earliest opportunity whether it be in No Trumps now or supporting partner.</p>
322	<p>Partner leads an Ace at trick one and dummy has a singleton make sure you give a suit preference at trick one to show what you want partner to switch to next  Partner leads Spade ace against 4 Hearts and you have</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 9 4 3 2  ♥ 9 5 4  ♦ K Q J  ♣ 7 6 5</p> <p>Follow suit with the ♠9 to ask for a Diamond switch.</p>
323	<p>4th Highest and then the Rule of 11 can be used by both the other defender and by declarer. (Take the card that has been led away from 11 and that tells you how many cards higher than the card that has been led are in the other three hands)  Partner leads the 7 and dummy has Q95 and you the other defender has KT2 then you, know declarer has no card higher than the one led so when declarer plays the 5 you can play the T or even low as you know the important cards are divided as follows :-</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Q95</p> <p>AJ87                      KT2 (YOU)</p> <p>Now the opponent on your left leads the 7 and your dummy has Q-9-5-3 and you have K-T-2 you can immediately work out that the other defender has no card high than the card that has been led and you can win first trick with either dummy's 9 or your T at trick one.  The cards are now laid out like this:-</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Q953</p> <p>AJ87                      KT2  (YOU)</p>
324	<p>A 2♣ response to 1NT followed by 3♣ is weakness takeout and should show six card suit- if you only have five settle for 1NT. so with:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ A 2  ♥ 7 3 2  ♦ 5 4  ♣ K T 8 6 5 4</p> <p>reply 2♣ and follow it up with 3♣</p>
325	<p>Don't overcall with same suit as opponents as you are at conflict with them so if bidding goes 1♥ and you the opponent have:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ A 9 4 2</p>



	<p>♥ K Q 7 3 2  ♦ K Q 7  ♣ 4</p> <p>JUST PASS</p>								
326	<p>You can ONLY MAKE your prepared rebids if you have had murmur from partner promising 6+ points.  Playing weak no Trump a rebid of 1NT shows 15/16 but opposite a PASSED PARTNER (not deceased) it now shows 18/9 as you are on your own and partner is promising 0-5 points only.</p>								
327	<p>Don't overcall with same suit as opponents so if they open 1♥ and you have either of these hands you JUST PASS</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> <p>♠ K 4  ♥ A K Q J 7 6  ♦ 7 6  ♣ T 6 4</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> <p>♠ 9 2  ♥ A K J 4  ♦ Q J 7 6  ♣ K T</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>♠ K 4  ♥ A K Q J 7 6  ♦ 7 6  ♣ T 6 4</p>	<p>♠ 9 2  ♥ A K J 4  ♦ Q J 7 6  ♣ K T</p>						
<p>♠ K 4  ♥ A K Q J 7 6  ♦ 7 6  ♣ T 6 4</p>	<p>♠ 9 2  ♥ A K J 4  ♦ Q J 7 6  ♣ K T</p>								
328	<p>If you plan to rebid 1NT with your 15 points and partner replies at the two level in a lower ranking suit now shade everything down by two points so 2NT is now 15/16 and 3NT is 17/18 - you can do this as partner is promising more than a mere 6 count!!</p>								
329	<p>You can rebid in responder's suit of a Major with rebids 2 of responder's suit showing 13/14 and 4 card support  3 of responder's suit showing 15-17 and 4 card support  4 of responder's suit showing 18/19 and 4 card support</p>								
330	<p>Leading from T-9-x is one of the better leads in bridge more often than not creating a position against dummy maybe dummy has J-5-4 and partner turns up with Q-7-3 in situations like this:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">T 9 4</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">J 3 2</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Q 8 6 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">A K 7</td> </tr> </table>	T 9 4	J 3 2	Q 8 6 5	A K 7				
T 9 4	J 3 2	Q 8 6 5							
A K 7									
331	<p>When replying in a lower ranking suit that forces you to reply at the 2 level use Rule of 14 - Add your high card points plus the number of cards in the suit you wish to respond in and if total is 14 or more then go for it otherwise bid the DUSTBIN BID 1NT- 8 points and SIX card suit or 9 points and FIVE card suit if fine.</p>								
332	<p>Theory of Final Destination- if you bid 1NT directly its 6-9, if you bid something on the way it's still 6-9, this applies in all bidding situations, if you reply 2♥ to 1♥ directly its 6-9 with 4 card support, if you introduce a suit and then retreat to 2 of same suit it's still 6-9 but only 3 card support.</p>								
333	<p>If your partner makes an informative Double and you have 12+ points yourself, then BID OPENER'S SUIT and pass the buck. i.e.</p> <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>1♥</td> <td>DBL</td> <td>NO</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>You choose a suit partner we have enough for Game.</p>	N	E	S	W	1♥	DBL	NO	2♥
N	E	S	W						
1♥	DBL	NO	2♥						
334	<p>If you see dummy has source of tricks then GO ACTIVE and switch to your good suit or partner's potentially good suit and get your tricks early.</p>								
335	<p>As opener with a very good fit with partner's response and not sure how far to go GIVE partner a chance to show his hand so with:</p> <p>♠ A K 7  ♥ A T 6 5  ♦ 4  ♣ A K 9 6 5</p> <p>if partner replies 1H then he may have rotten hearts and all his points in Diamonds- give him chance to show you- don't rush the auction rebid 2♠ initially creating a Game Forcing situation.</p>								

336	Please do NOT RUFF in the long hand because it makes you feel good- you are merely depleting your trump stock and could lose control of the hand.	
337	Overcalling with 1♠ over their 1♣ opener can be done on all sorts of weakish 8 point hands as the overcall is PR-EMPTIVE and cuts out them bidding 1♦ or 1♥ but if you overcall 1♠ over their 1♥ make sure you do it on a sensible hand as 1♠ is not at all pre-emptive now and gets in nobody's way.	
338	Pre-empting with: ♠ 7 6 5 ♥ 7 2 ♦ A Q ♣ Q J T 8 5 4 2 And opening 3♣ is Ok here as you really have no defence to either major.	
339	With:           K Q 5 4       opposite: J 7 6 2	
	lead up to the King Queen twice when finessing and then you can safeguard against this position:	
	K Q 5 4	
	A                                   T 9 8 3	
	J 7 6 2	
340	If opener or responder bids TWO SUITS then most of the time the first suit will be five card suit- this is now important as it allows partner to support the first suit with three.	
341	If your main suit is declarer's primary suit and they end up in declarer's secondary suit then LEAD A TRUMP.	
342	Second hand plays low includes NOT RUFFING IN in SECOND SEAT- partner is still there for the current trick- don't be in a hurry to ruff!!	
343	If declarer opened 1NT (either 12-14 or 15-17) each defender can work out his partner's total Honour point count once the dummy comes down. Add your points to dummy's points plus declarer's known points and subtract this total from 40 and that tells you how many points partner has to within 2 points.	
344	Overcalling their 1♣ with 1♠ is good for your bridge health and can be done on many minimum hands because it is pre-emptive. However there is little point in overcalls 1♠ over a 1♥ opener as that has no pre-emptive values. so with :-	
	♠           K J 9 5 4	
	♥           9 5 4	
	♦           A 7 6	
	♣           3 2	
	overcall 1♠ over 1♣	
345	In a Cue bidding scenario show controls up the line and don't go past suits so if the bidding were to go 1♥       3♥ 4♣       now says I have Club Ace and no ace or void in Spades as you by passed the suit when you could have cuebid 3♠	
346	Use rule of 11 with judgement ♠   Q ♥   A K T 6 2 ♦   K T 9 4 ♣   T 8 3 Open 1♥ - no rebid problems here	♠   Q ♥   K T 6 2 ♦   A K T 9 4 ♣   T 8 3 Don't open now as you will have rebid problems

347	If partner opens 2NT and you reply 3♣ then this is Stayman in the same way that 2♣ would have been over a 1NT opener.
348	<p>Don't leave a bare Queen on the table (its rude in situations like this:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Q 7</p> <p>A J 8 3 2                      T 9 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K 5 4</p> <p>When the 4th highest 3 is led play the Queen and when it holds you still have the King in Closed hand with a small card - it is not totally compromised and is still protected a little and now West is the safe hand.</p>
349	Want to keep the auction going and are not sure what to bid next then USE 4th SUIT FORCING and then partner can tell you more about his hand.
350	<p>Avoid the 2NT reply like the plague- there is always something better and you can always reply in a 3 card Minor if needs be on a hand like this where you cannot reply 2♥</p> <p>♠ 5 4 3</p> <p>♥ Q T 9 8</p> <p>♦ K Q 7</p> <p>♣ A 4 2</p> <p>Reply 2♣ when partner opens 1♠ and await your partner's rebid- DON'T STIFLE PARTNER with the horrid 2NT reply.</p>
351	<p>Don't open 3♥ with 7 card suit and 10 points- the hand usually meets the Rule of 20/19 and you should open 1 of a suit not 3.</p> <p>♠ 3</p> <p>♥ Q T 9 8 7 4 3</p> <p>♦ K 7</p> <p>♣ A J 2</p> <p>So here open 1♥ rather than 3♥ far too good for 3♥.</p>
352	A pre-emptive opening bid of a Weak Two or Weak Three is a LIMIT BID and you must not bid again unless forced. Partner now makes all the decisions about bidding on or even doubling- Blame him if it now goes wrong.
353	<p>The correct way to finesse Q J 6 5 opposite K 7 3 is to finesse towards the QJ twice in case doubleton Ace and T and 4 the other side. in situations like this:</p> <p>♠ J T 9 5</p> <p>♥ Q</p> <p>♦ K Q T 6 5 4</p> <p>♣ A</p> <p>Catering for the 4-2 break.</p>
354	Playing out a 1NT contract CONCEAL YOUR ASSETS in the closed hand and try and give the impression you are less strong in one suit- if you cash all your winners the opposition has a chance to get their signals going!!
355	With Q 6 in dummy opposite A T 5 in hand when the opponents lead this suit against your  No Trump contract you should play low from dummy to guarantee 2 tricks. If there was no T in hand then you would have to try dummy's Queen immediately but the Ten makes the world of difference.
356	<p>You want to get your partner to bid then REMEMBER to use THE REOPENING DOUBLE to get partner to bid so with:</p> <p>♠ A 6 5</p> <p>♥ K Q 7 6 5</p> <p>♦ K 8 7 6</p> <p>♣ 8</p>

N E S W  
 1♥ 2♣ NO NO  
 DBL rather than 2♦ rebid

When you have good hands and not sure where the hand is going BID SLOWLY and use 4th Suit Forcing to get more information from partner on partner's shape as well as point count.

<p>♠JT985          ♥A          ♦KQT765          ♣Q</p> <p>♠A2                    ♠764          ♥9632                ♥T74          ♦A983                ♦42          ♣K92                 ♣JT764</p> <p>♠KQ3          ♥KQJ85          ♦J          ♣A853</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>NO</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>NO</td> <td>2♣ (1)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>NO</td> <td>4NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>5♦</td> <td>NO</td> <td>5♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>NO</td> <td>NO</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Lose just the two aces Get to your 5-3 fit with the 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing sequence.          (1) 4<sup>th</sup> suit forcing- tell me more</p>	W	N	E	S		1♦	NO	1♥	NO	1♠	NO	2♣ (1)	NO	2♠	NO	4NT	NO	5♦	NO	5♠	NO	NO	NO	
W	N	E	S																						
	1♦	NO	1♥																						
NO	1♠	NO	2♣ (1)																						
NO	2♠	NO	4NT																						
NO	5♦	NO	5♠																						
NO	NO	NO																							

357

358

Assuming the opposition are playing weak No Trump (12-14) If the declarer has opened 1NT and the opposition ends up in 3NT EACH DEFENDER can work out what his partner has by adding his points to dummy plus the 12 and take it from 40.

359

Opening 3 of a suit or 2 of a Suit, apart from being Pre-empts Bids they are LIMIT BIDS and as with all Limit bids DO NOT BID AGAIN- partner now makes all the decisions- (the only time you could bid again is if partner makes a forcing bid maybe bidding in a new suit)

360

Partner makes a Take-out Double (informative Double) and you have EIGHT or more points make sure you JUMP IN NEW SUIT otherwise partner will think you have very little so when the bidding goes :-

N	E	S	W
1♣	DBL	NO	?
	♠	K Q 9 4	♠ Q 9 5 4
	♥	7 2	♥ 7 2
	♦	A 8 5 4	♦ Q 8 5 4
	♣	9 5 2	♣ 9 5 2
		here react by bidding 2♠	however here react by bidding just 1♠

361

In any FORCING SITUATION if the PLAYER BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR PARTNER BIDS then you are OFF THE HOOK and can PASS. Therefore if you still bid this is known as a free bid and you should only bid now with GOOD VALUES.

362

If you have six card suit headed by A-K-Q then this is 5/6 playing tricks - how do you work this out CLOSE YOUR EYES and visualize the other seven card spread around the table amongst the three payers and think 3-3-1 or 4-2-1 or even 5-1-1 then you take the middle ground (here 4-2-1) and then you would expect to lose just one trick so the hand is assessed as 5 playing tricks and if you had another Ace in the hand somewhere you should be rebidding with a jump despite only 13 points, e.g.:

♠ A 2  
 ♥ A K Q 4 3 2  
 ♦ 7 4 3

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

376	<p>If you want the opponent to continue their lead and you hold Q-7-2 in the closed hand drop the 7 on their lead of the Ace and muddy their waters. It might lead the leader into thinking partner is encouraging in situations like this:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9 7 5 A K 8 3            J T 4                           Q 7 2</p>
377	If the person bids between you and your partner and you bid despite that person this is known as a FREE BID and now you should not be bidding new suits with minimum hands because you now partner still has another bid.
378	Rather than a wishy washy sequence of 1♠ – 2♠ -3♠ (invitational) then 4♠ ( I accept), USE Trial Bids so after 1♠ – 2♠ then new suit asks for help in that suit and if partner has the help he bids 4♠ and if he hasn't he retreats to just 3♠.
379	If there is ANY interference over 1NT and you were about to make a transfer bid DON'T – play all SYSTEMS OFF now and play all bids as natural and then there will be no bidding misunderstandings.
380	2♣ is ONLY STAYMAN if you reply to 1NT – all the rest of the time it's going to be natural (except for an Opening bid of 2♣).
381	If partner opens 2NT, more often than not, it is correct to raise to 3NT especially with long minor- who wants to play 5♣ or 5♦?
382	When opener has 19 points then after the opening bid she can JUMP in NEW SUIT and then this is Game Forcing situation and nobody in that partnership can pass until game is reached.
383	If you are defending a No Trump contract and one suit is fruitless then SWITCH.
384	Overcalling at two level in lower ranking suit is completely different from overcalling at 1 level where you can bid with very weak hands as long as you have a good quality suit whereas at the two level, not only do you need a good quality suit but also some reasonable values (11/12+)- Every time you overcall 2♣ or 2♦, remember you are saying "I INTEND TO MAKE 8 TRICKS" and if you think about this more often you might be less likely to join in with rubbishy hands.
385	If your partner overcalls 1NT then if you, the advancer, reply 2♠, 2♥ or 2♦ these are weak take-outs, the same as if partner had opened 1NT and now the overcaller must not bid on at all.
386	Don't be in hurry to reply 2NT after partner opens- there is always something better and 2NT is stifling and commits the partnership to the 3 level- if in doubt over 1♠ reply with a three card Minor.
387	The reason you count winners is to see how many extra tricks you have to find- if you have 7 winners in a 4♠ contract you might play the hand differently to a hand where you have 9 winners and only need one more.
388	You are defending and you are not sure what to keep and what to throw then look at dummy and keep the same long suit you can see in dummy- this is known as keeping length with dummy- see hand 3 where North must keep Clubs.
389	If there is ANY interference over 1NT and you were about to make a transfer bid DON'T – play all SYSTEMS OFF now and play all bids as natural and then there will be no bidding misunderstandings.
390	If the opponent opens 3♥ or 4♥ then if you double this, it is Informative Double and asks partner to bid best suit, same as if he opened 1♥.
391	When you defend against a No Trump contract and partner leads 4th highest, and you have five card suit, make sure you keep a high card to take the fourth trick so you can cash the 13th card in the suit- basically you are performing high card from short hand rule between the two defenders.
392	Please make as unambiguous bids as possible so partner will know what to bid next- if you think you can make 3NT then bid it, if you think you can make 4♠ then bid it.

393	With AKQ654 opposite 32 needing only 5 tricks from this suit duck a round retaining the AKQ as entries in case the suit breaks 4-1.
394	Top of sequence overrides 4th highest lead in No Trump in your Longest suit so with KQJ95 make sure you lead the king and not the 9 - you don't want declarer winning first trick with his T - do you?
395	If there is ANY interference over 1NT and you were about to make a transfer bid DON'T - play all SYSTEMS OFF now and play all bids as natural and then there will be no bidding misunderstandings.
396	Please don't overcall with a six or even seven card suit head by the Jack- it's not good bridge- you want all your values in the long suit.
397	Short of an entry to the long hand with QJ5 opposite A8653 play the Queen and if King appears from West Duck it in this situation: A 8 6 5 3 K 9 2      T 7 Q J 5
398	In ALL SITUATIONS, with two five timers BID the higher suit so when opening the bidding, open the higher suit, when replying, reply in the higher suit, and when overcalling, overcall in the higher suit.
399	To open 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.
400	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 between them so partner has nothing - let them get on with it.
401	Top of sequence overrides 4th highest lead in No Trump in your Longest suit so with KQJ95 make sure you lead the king and not the 9- don't be a cheap jack!!
402	If you have totally balanced 13 points with 4 Hearts, you cannot reply 2♥ after partner opens 1♠, as that should show a 5 card suit, so either temporise with 2♣ or 2♦ or just go straight to 3NT.
403	With 11 points and seven card suit and good outside values DO NOT PRE-EMPT- just open 1 of a Suit.
404	Sometimes, when trumps break badly then you have to get your second suit going first and displace the Ace from the opponents' hand otherwise if you draw too many trumps you will lose control of the trumps suit when they get in. By doing this you still leave trumps in both hands.
405	Partner offers you choice between 3NT and 4 of Major then go 4 of Major with three card support in an auction such as 1NT - 3♠ now opener either bids 4♠ or back to 3NT.
406	With T932 opposite AQJ87 play that T and finesse twice and by playing the Ten you are in correct hand to repeat the finesse without wasting any entries.
407	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 giving responder a chance to now bid out his shape after your 2NT rebid.
408	You are defending and you are not sure what to keep and what to throw then look at dummy and keep the same long suit you can see in dummy- this is known as keeping length with dummy.
409	Often there is no perfect bid for every hand and you may have to improvise- maybe you should just go and try and bid Game.

410	If the opponent opens 3♥ or 4♥ then if you double this is Informative Double and asks partner to bid best suit, same as if he opened 1♥.
411	<p>Please evaluate the potential of hands with KQJXX as opposed to King one suit queen in another and Jack in another:</p> <p>♠ K 5 4 3                      ♠ K Q J 8 7  ♥ Q 6 5                      or    ♥ 9 8 7  ♦ J 4 3                          ♦ 4 3  ♣ 9 8 5 4                      ♣ 4 3 2</p> <p>Both hands worth 6 points BUT if partner invited you to 3N,T although you only have six points in each hand the second hand is so much better and you should certainly upgrade this holding and possibly accept the invitation.</p>
412	<p>With AKJ9 opposite T832 if you are going to take a finesse CASH THE ACE first then go over to the other hand ready to finesse- Maybe a singleton Queen is floating about and no need for a finesse at all. in situations like this :-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">T 8 3 2  Q                      7 6 5 4  A K J 9</p>
413	(I THINK) To overcall 1NT one needs 16-18 points balanced with stopper in opponents' suit BUT IF you do it on 15 then make sure you have some Tens or a five card suit to upgrade the hand.
414	If the opponent opens 3♥ or 4♥ then if you double this is Informative Double and asks partner to bid best suit, same as if he opened 1♥.
415	Who wants to play in 5♣? Nobody!! Steer contracts towards 3NT when you have Minor suit fits.
416	If partner Bids beyond her barrier bid (i.e. reverses showing 15+ points) you can now go to 3NT on your own with 9 points or more 2NT would now be absolutely minimum and weak.
417	<p>In 4th seat when the bidding has gone    N    E    S    W</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1♥ NO NO ?</p> <p>The bid of 1NT now shows 10-14 points in this protective position.</p>
418	If partner reverses (bids beyond barrier bid) and you have a good 8+ points then you can go directly to 3NT. Bidding 2NT would be an absolute minimum hand
419	With KQT opposite 54 lead up to the King Queen TWICE.
420	Playing against weak NO Trump opponents' To DOUBLE their opening bid of 1NT you NEED 15 OR MORE POINTS. You always need one more than top of their range so if they play 15-17 you would therefore need 18 or more.
421	Who wants to play in 5♣? Nobody!! With Minor suit fits Steer contracts towards 3NT please as it's easier to make 9 tricks than 11.
422	Double of 1NT shows 1 more point than the opponents' Maximum, so if you play against 15-17 opponents now you promise 18 or more and so on.
423	Only when there is a FIT one should ADD EXTRA POINTS for SHORTAGES.
424	With T9762 opposite 8543 you need to knock out their top cards straight away to build 2/3 tricks even though you don't have the A K Q or Jack.
425	Theory of Final Destination works like this- if your basic sequence of 1♦ - 3♦ is 10-12 but you go around the houses and end up in 3♦ after responder's second bid it still shows 10-12, similarly if you reply 2NT to 1NT opener it shows 11-12 (invitational) but you now go around the houses with a Stayman reply or transfer reply but subsequently rebid 2NT (as responder) it still shows 11-12 invitational.



426	Be aware of hands and hand evaluation. A balanced 14 HCPS (4-3-3-3) has little future to an 11 HCP hand with two five card suits which has loads of future. View hand distributions and don't be hooked on points only.
427	Faced with a two way finesse looking for the Queen in a situation like this: K J 7 6 5 opposite A T 4 3 2 Use the bidding to help you decide and if somebody has bid strongly (perhaps from distribution) maybe they will have void in this suit. (NB Once you have decided who is more likely to have the missing Queen then cash a High honour first ready to finesse next time just in case the suit was breaking 2-1 all along).
428	When you rebid 1NT or 2NT or 3NT with the structure 15/16 or 17/18 or 19/20 it is based on partner turning up with 6. Do not rebid 1NT with just 15 points opposite a passed partner who may have nothing at all. Now the 1NT rebid shows 18/19 Balanced as you are on your own so to speak.
429	Once your partner says Double of One of a suit you are compelled to REACT which means most of the time you bid your best suit at the lowest possible level with up to 7 points.
430	Players are careless so when discarding and declarer is drawing trumps discard a card of the same colour and maybe declarer will not notice and miscount the drawing of trumps.
431	Use the bidding to work out who has all the remaining points- did somebody make an opening bid?
432	If responder bids 1NT FOLLOWED BY NEW SUIT at two level this IS WEAK & LONG and opener is now expected to say NO BID. e.g. ♠ 9 ♥ Q T 6 5 4 3 ♦ A 5 4 2 ♣ 9 5 Bidding has gone: 1♠ NO 1NT NO 2♣ NO 2♥ is what you now bid with the hand above and partner had better Pass.
433	Remember that if you have the other two suits after 1♦ opener, 1♥ overcall and you are replying, then USE a NEGATIVE DOUBLE.
434	The main strength of Acol or any other natural bidding system is the LIMIT BIDDING STRUCTURE so if partner replies 3♠ to your 1♠ opener and you have no extra values JUST PASS_ This reply is only invitational. BE DISCIPLINED.
435	Partner pre-empts and you have your own suit and void in partner's JUST PASS and hope it makes- don't suffer from singleton syndrome J.
436	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 please
437	You can play Stayman and transfers if partner overcalls 1NT but only if you have fully discussed it with partner first.
438	As a Defender, never be intimidated by a lone Ace in dummy - Play that suit especially if you are trying to establish that suit for the defence.
439	Do not hold up if there is a danger that the opponents will switch to another more awkward suit.

440	Partner opens 1NT and you want to do weak takeout into Minor you NOW NEED SIX as you will now have to make 9 tricks instead of seven as you can leave partner in 1NT with just five. Let him struggle to make 7 tricks instead of 9.
441	Use the bidding to work out who has all the remaining points- did somebody make an opening bid?
442	If you repeat a suit most of the time you will be showing SIX- the exception would be when you are minimum and cannot show your second suit as that would be a reverse and you would be bidding beyond your barrier bid with a minimum hand.
443	You can lunge into Blackwood straight away once there is a FIT and all you need to know is about the number of Aces held in the partnership - maybe the auction has gone :- N     S 1♥    3♥ you can now go 4NT if you have 18/19 points and now you have your fit.
444	If partner opens Gambling 3NT this shows solid 7 or 8 card Minor and not outside values. e.g. ♠ 3 2 ♥ 5 4 ♦ 7 6 ♣ A K Q J 5 4 3
445	On the whole, even suits out against you break badly and odd suits break well (see advanced tip 445).
446	A Jump bid in original suit by opener shows six card suit 15/16 points but more importantly it shows 6/7 playing tricks.
447	With 4-3-3-3 hands with 4 card Major don't bother with Stayman- you are far too balanced.
448	Theory of Final Destination works like this- if your basic sequence of 1♦- 3♦ is 10-12 but you go around the houses and end up in 3♦ after responder's second bid it still shows 10-12, similarly if you reply 2NT to 1NT opener it shows 11-12 (invitational) but you now go around the houses with a Stayman reply or transfer reply but subsequently rebid 2NT (as responder) it still shows 11-12 invitational.
449	Bid your hand once- this means that if you have already described your hand don't get over excited and bid on with your good hand- leave it to partner to make the decisions.
450	Most of the time if you bid 2 suits then the first suit will be at least FIVE and because you are showing five in first suit responder is now duty bound to give support with three.
451	N     E     S 1♦   1♥   DBL The Double by RESPONDER should be NEGATIVE DOUBLE showing 6 or more points and liking for the two unbid suits. such as: ♠ Q 7 6 5 ♥ 7 2 ♦ 8 5 ♣ A 9 6 5 4
452	Please bid the higher of two five card suits. When you have clubs and Spades, Clubs is the "higher" suit when they touch (not higher ranking). Some people recommend to Open 1♠ with both Clubs and Spades- for further guidance you could read the EBU Debate. <a href="http://www.haroldschogger.com/Debate1cor1s.pdf">http://www.haroldschogger.com/Debate1cor1s.pdf</a>
453	Do not pre-empt with a king or Ace outside your long suit as that makes it normal opening bid values.
454	SQOT (SUIT QUALITY TEST for OVERCALLS ) Add the cards in suit which you want to overcall PLUS the Honours in that suit and it needs to equal tricks required. So if you overcall at 1 level in higher ranking suit then total needs to come to 7 ie 5 card suit with 2 honours or 6 card suit with one honour. If you wish to overcall in lower ranking suit at 2 level then total needs to come to 8 ie 5 card suit and 3 honours or 6 card suit and 2 honours.

455	People are careless, so when declarer is drawing trumps, discard a card of the same colour and sometimes declarer will miscount the trump suit.																				
456	<p>Once partner overcalls do BID TO LEVEL OF FIT even with four miserable ones and put lots of pressure on the opposition. e.g. the bidding goes:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="135 324 446 403"> <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>3♠</td> </tr> </table> <p>With:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="279 436 829 604"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>Q 8 5 4</td> <td>its ok to bid 3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>7 6</td> <td>here with 4 card support</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>Q 8 5 4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>4 3 2</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>You know you have 9 (partner must have 5 for the overcall) between you so the level of the fit is for 9 tricks hence bid to the three level.</p>	N	E	S	W	1♦	1♠	NO	3♠	♠	Q 8 5 4	its ok to bid 3♠	♥	7 6	here with 4 card support	♦	Q 8 5 4		♣	4 3 2	
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♦	Q 8 5 4																				
♣	4 3 2																				
457	If they Open 1NT and you, in the overcall position make an immediate Double of course this should be for penalties. If in 4th seat the bidding has gone 1NT and responder transfers or bids Stayman, you in 4th seat now SAY DOUBLE this should still be for Penalties and playing against weak No trump opponents says I have 15 or more points and against strong No Trump Opponents I have 18 or more points (should always be one more than their maximum).																				
458	Playing a weak No trump system with four card Majors, with two 4 card suits and 4432 shape and 15-19 points you open 1 of the suit and rebid in No Trump next-you should not try to show the other suit. So my own choice in these situations is to open 1 of the Major. As Majors are so important.																				
459	<p>If you make CRAZY JUMP BID then this shows FIT and a singleton in that suit and Game Going Values—it's called a SPLINTER. e.g.</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="279 1086 478 1243"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>Q 9 7 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>A K 7 6 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>K 3 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </table> <p>Partner opens 1♥ or 1♠ then immediately reply 4♣ this would be a splinter.</p>	♠	Q 9 7 6	♥	A K 7 6 5	♦	K 3 2	♣	7												
♠	Q 9 7 6																				
♥	A K 7 6 5																				
♦	K 3 2																				
♣	7																				
460	Overcalling 1NT should be with 16-18 points BUT if you occasionally do it with 15 points then you better have a good 15 points maybe some TENS and even a five card suit.																				
461	<p>After the Double if partner replies 1NT to the double it shows values in opener's suit and about 8/9 points and balanced in this scenario :-</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="135 1433 383 1512"> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>E</td> <td>S</td> <td>W</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>DbI</td> <td>NO</td> <td>?</td> </tr> </table> <p>For West to now bid 1NT West would have something like :-</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="279 1545 454 1702"> <tr> <td>♠</td> <td>7 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥</td> <td>K J 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦</td> <td>A 9 5 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣</td> <td>7 4 3 2</td> </tr> </table>	N	E	S	W	1♥	DbI	NO	?	♠	7 3	♥	K J 8	♦	A 9 5 4	♣	7 4 3 2				
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1♥	DbI	NO	?																		
♠	7 3																				
♥	K J 8																				
♦	A 9 5 4																				
♣	7 4 3 2																				
462	If you want to defend properly you must remember the bidding.																				
463	The ideal shape for a Take Out Double (Informative Double) is 4-4-4-1 with a singleton in opener's suit																				
464	<p>With K Q 5 4 opposite A T 3 2 play off the King Queen first and when the suit breaks 4 1 as in the following position you will still be able to finesse their Jack</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="367 1892 925 2004"> <tr> <td></td> <td>K Q 5 4</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td></td> <td>J 9 7 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>A T 3 2</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is known as keeping the Tenace intact in the South hand the Tenace here being the AT permutation.</p>		K Q 5 4		8		J 9 7 6		A T 3 2												
	K Q 5 4																				
8		J 9 7 6																			
	A T 3 2																				

465	If the bidding goes 3NT Gambling 3NT by the opposition and you are lucky enough to hold an ACE, lead it and look at dummy and then you might know what to immediately switch to once you have seen dummy enabling you to defeat the contract. Do not make mundane 4th highest lead.
466	If your partner or even the opponent makes a nice play say a king word in that direction.
467	In third seat with AQx play the Queen - it might hold if partner has the King or if not declarer will have to play the King and you will not cut yourself off from partner in situations like this and declarer cannot afford to hold up now. <p style="text-align: center;">7 6</p> J 9 4 3 2                    A Q 5 (you) K T 8
468	Do not bother to use Stayman with precisely 4-3-3-3 hands as you have no doubletons and therefore no ruffing values at all.
469	If you decide to adopt 4'th suit forcing make it FORCING TO GAME and that avoids any further ambiguity and you can now slow the bidding down.
470	With Axx in a suit opposite xx you would hold up in a No Trump contract to try and cut communications between the two defenders, - if you have AKx opposite xx you should ALSO hold up if you have to give up the lead twice in order to establish a suit and again you might be able to cut communications between the two defenders from setting up their long suit.
471	You should only ask for Kings in Blackwood sequence only if all the Aces are accounted for in the partnership already.
472	With A J T 9 5 opposite 3 2 lead from the 3 2 side and finesse twice and you have 75% chance of success in getting at least one extra trick and more if the opponents' cards divide 3-3.
473	Thinking of overcalling with a minimum hand of about 8/9 points if all your points are in your five card suit then go for it- partner will then know what to lead even if you do not win the auction.
474	If there is only one way to make your contract then you have to assume the cards lie favorably and finesse - if needs be, even do a deep finesse in situations like this: <p style="text-align: center;">A K T 9</p> 5 4 3 2 Needing all four tricks you will need to finesse west for both the Queen and Jack if that's the only way to get home.
475	Partner opens 1NT and you have precisely 4333 shape holding a four card Major DON'T USE STAYMAN now, as your hand is so balanced and even if partner does have four card major fit here, it still might be easier to make 9 tricks than 10 with such a balanced non shapely hand.
476	Please do not play a low card from an Ace against a suit contract as it may help declarer more than the defending side.
477	Adopt 2nd from bad suit leads against No Trump contracts so partner knows whether the suit has any future. so with K J 8 4 2 lead the 4 as usual but with 9 8 5 4 2 now lead the 8 and when partner sees the 8 and has very little in the way of honours in this suit he will know to switch should he get the lead.
478	Once partner REVERSES and bids beyond their barrier bid. e.g. W      E 1♦    1♠ 2♥ You with 8+ points must now bid onto game no matter what as partner has promised 16+ points and a good hand. NB 2NT by East is now an absolute minimum hand.
479	If Left Hand Opponent overcalls and then doesn't lead his suit and you are missing Ace King of that suit you should immediately know that the Ace and King are split in the opponents' hand because most normal opponents who have an Ace King holding would lead the Ace to look at dummy. You know at trick one how seven of the opponents' honour points are divided. Conversely if somebody leads an Ace you know most of the time they hold 7 point in that suit

480	You should only ask for Kings in a Blackwood sequence if all the Aces are in your partnership. Asking for Kings now suggests you want to be in the Grand Slam and you would only do that if all Aces are accounted for. If an Ace is missing merely go to 5 of the agreed suit or 6 of the agreed suit.
481	You can reply 1NT with a singleton if you are not strong enough to reply in new lower ranking suit at 1 level. e.g. ♠ 7 ♥ Q 9 4 ♦ K J 8 7 5 ♣ J 4 3 2 reply 1NT when partner opens 1♠ it is far superior than replying Pass or 2♦
482	If you open 1 of a suit and partner replies in new suit and at two level a rebid by you in new suit is 100% forcing. so with: ♠ A K T 4 3 ♥ 4 ♦ A K 7 4 ♣ A T 8 You open 1♠ and partner replies 2♣ then there is no need to jump and crowd the auction with 3♦ JUST REBID 2♦ which is now forcing.
483	In third seat with AQ5 defending a No Trump contract play the queen (not the Ace). If declarer has the King it makes no difference and declarer cannot afford to hold up and if partner has the King it is a no cost play. If you play the Ace declarer might hold up for two rounds and cut you off from partner in situations like this: 3 2 J 9 6 5 4      A Q 5 K T 8 In effect third hand doesn't play high declarer cannot hold up now when you play the Queen.
484	In Acol after 1♣ opener a 1NT shows precisely 8-10 points 4 card clubs suit and totally balance 4-3-3-3 hand.
485	With a four card Major you might THINK STAYMAN BUT if you are 4-3-3-3 and have no ruffing values whatsoever dismiss Stayman and stay with the No Trump.
486	5♣ is for the Birds- the Minor birds not seasoned bridge players ☺ Push contracts towards 3NT when a minor suit fit has been found .e.g. W      E 1♣      3♣ 3NT      is now a good sequence
487	What to open with 4-4 in the Minors ready to rebid No Trumps next- My choice is to bid the weaker suit to deter people from leading that suit should you end up in a No Trump contract. Those that like lead directing bids would say to open the stronger suit in case you end up defending- "you pays your money you takes your choice".
488	If opener or responder bids TWO SUITS then most of the time the first suit will be five card suit- this is now important as it allows partner to support the first suit with three.
489	With two four card suits and 15 -19 points prefer to Open 1 of a Major so with ♠ J54 ♥ AK87 ♦ Q65 ♣ AJT7 Open 1♥ – if you do open 1♣ DO NOT then try and bid the other suit or partner will think you are 5-4 shape.
490	Make sure you are aware of ENTRIES at TRICK ONE especially to the hand with fewer high cards.

491	If you bid in free-bid scenario (knowing partner can still bid if you pass) then do not do so with a minimum hand- So with an absolute minimum, Pass and see if partner can bid again.
492	To reply in lower ranking suit at two level requires 10+ points but these points can also be made up of distributional points so 8 points and six card suit is good enough or 9 points and a five card suit.
493	With 18 balanced points do not commit to 3NT after a weak reply – only invite because if partner has bare 6 points then 9 tricks will never materialize!!
494	If you cannot stomach all three responses of 2♦ or 2♥ or 2♠ when you want to do a Stayman Reply to partner's 1NT bid then Just Pass.
495	On the whole, in the opponents' hands even suits out against you break badly and odd suits break well, so if they have 4 trumps more likely to be 3-1 split than 2-2 and if they have 5 trumps it's more likely to be 3-2 split than 4-1.
496	Top of sequence in your longest suit is more important than 4 <sup>th</sup> highest in longest suit against No Trump contracts. You would not want to lead the 9 from KQJ94 and let declarer win first trick cheaply with the 10 would you?
497	If you do not play it already, then adopt leading second from bad suits 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.
498	If you do not play Trial bids already then adopt them so when the bidding goes: 1♥ - 2♥ A rebid by opener now says if you have help in that suit e.g. ace or king or shortage please now bid onto 4♥. and if you have not then merely retreat to 3♥.
499	When finessing be aware of all the good cards between the 2 hands so in a situation like this: <div style="text-align: center;"> A Q T 5  K 4 3 2                      7     J 9 8 6 </div> be aware that between your hand and dummy you have A Q T J 9 8 and once you acknowledge that, you can start with the NINE and that will keep you in South to repeat the finesse more than once if necessary as in the situation above.
500	If opener or responder bids TWO SUITS then most of the time the first suit will be five card suit- this is now important as it allows partner to support the first suit with three.
501	With 4-4 in the Majors and less than 11 points I do not think you should Stayman but not all experts agree because you cannot go onto 2NT when partner bids 2♦.
502	COUNT YOUR WINNERS when dummy comes down- and line your suits up with dummy as its easier to count them.
503	Playing Acol with four card suits all 4432 hands and 15-19 points are opened 1 of the four card suit and then REBID IN NO TRUMPS - do not attempt to show the other suit next or partner is entitled to think your shape is 5-4.
504	If dummy has a shortage and three trumps this is usually a clear indicator not to draw trumps first but to try and ruff in dummy while there are still trumps there.
505	If you cannot get over to the other side as there are no entries then trumps something to get there.
506	If you initially pass, and then suddenly jump to 3♠ after partner opens 1NT this is highly invitational and says you have about 10 points and almost certainly a six card suit.
507	With K32 opposite 654 arrange to be last person to play to protect your King. You want to be last person to play and not second and lay yourself to be finessed by the nasty defender.
508	With A Q J 4 opposite T 9 3 2 make sure you play the Ten first when finessing as that will keep you in correct hand to repeat the finesse if it succeeds and you will not have to then waster entries in other suits.

509	When YOU DEFEND SECOND HAND PLAYS LOW- no need to play a high card as partner is finishing the trick off. The second hand low rule and third hand high rules ONLY APPLY to the TWO DEFENDERS.
510	Initially, when opening you have QJ bare in a suit do not count 3 points as those cards can easily be swallowed up by opponents AK can't they? However if partner were to bid that suit now the QJ are golden cards and you can subsequently re-evaluate your hand.
511	Even though you are not playing 5 card suits if partner opens 1♠ and you have three card support and weak hand and ruffing values somewhere then reply 2♠ rather than 1NT - (in a perfect world you would have four card support but like everything else bridge is not a perfect world).
512	Keep your Ten aces intact. AJ7654 opposite K832 play the King first KQT6 opposite A543 play off the King and Ace first retain that Q10 AT65 opposite KQ932 play King first keeping two tenaces intact and if necessary you will still be able to finesse if needs be with the Tenace that is left.
513	With A Q 5 4 opposite J 6 3 2 when finessing play 2 to the Queen and then lay down the Ace and PRAY for Doubleton King. DO NOT play the Jack as next player will certainly cover and eventually promote their Ten as in following situation T 9 8 A Q 5 4 J 6 3 2 K 7
514	Avoid replying 2NT as it crowds the auction and there is always something better- if needs be, reply in 3 card Minor and play a waiting game. You can always bid 2NT next can't you?
515	If there are touching honours in the dummy do not cover the honour with the honour as there is no point. You cannot be promoting any cards for your side.
516	If there are touching honours in the dummy do not cover the honour with the honour as there is no point. You cannot be promoting any cards for your side.
517	There are three types of Informative Double as follows:- a) 13+ points and liking for the other suit. b) 19+ points and balanced (too strong for mere 1NT overcall) 16?17+ points and one suited to strong for mere simple overcall.
518	With A Q 9 5 4 opposite K T 3 2 keep the Q9 tenace in one hand and the KT in the other hand and you will ALWAYS make 5 tricks even if there is a 4-0 break you will still be able to finesse either opponent for the missing Jack.
519	With a shortage somewhere and only 3 card support for the Major it is best to reply 2 of same Major rather than 1NT- you now have what is called "ruffing values".
520	If you do not like your rebid then ignore the Rule of 20. so with: ♠ K 7 ♠ K 7 ♥ A J 8 7 2 ♥ Q 9 4 2 ♦ Q 9 4 2 ♦ A J 8 7 2 ♣ J 2 ♣ J 2 (L) Its ok to open 1♥ and rebid 2♦ (R) but opening 1♦ you would then have to rebid 2♦ YUK so don't bother to open here.
521	You and partner should have a rule that once either of you has made any sort of Limit bid then All Doubles after that should be for PENALTIES.
522	Make bids that seem to reflect your hand, so if you have six card suit and 16 points this is 4 points better than it might have been so rebid 3 of the original suit to show you are strong.
523	DON'T play the controlling cards in the opponent's suits.

524	<p>If you need to take a finesse more than once try and stay in same hand for as long as possible so you do not waste entries to keep getting back to the other hand. so in following situation allow for the finesse to be taken up to 3 times:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="margin-right: 150px;">K 5 3 2</span> <span style="margin-right: 50px;">A Q J 7 6</span> <span>8</span> </p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="margin-right: 150px;"></span> <span style="margin-right: 50px;">T 9 4</span> </p> <p>Play the Ten, then the 9 keeping in South.</p>
525	<p>Go after Suit establishment to get extra tricks rather than just ruffing- most of the time when you are ruffing you are ruffing in the long hand and are not generating extra tricks- it just makes you feel good J.</p>
526	<p>With a very bad hand with no chance of establishing your long suit make a SHORT SUIT LEAD and TRY and FIND PARTNER so the bidding goes:  1NT    3NT all Pass  and you have:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"> ♠ T 6 5 4  ♥ 9 2  ♦ Q 7 6 2  ♣ 9 5 4 </p> <p>lead ♥9 and have a delighted partner who is bound to have Hearts</p>
527	<p>Please don't be inclusive. Partner opens 1NT do not go straight to 3NT if your hand is a possible Stayman hand. Every single time partner opens 1NT consider it as an option even, if you immediate dismiss it. Stop waiting for Stayman to come along - just consider as one of your possible responses EVERY SINGLE TIME PARTNER OPENS 1NT.</p>
528	<p>Please don't do any type of pre-empt with a good hand- you only do pre-empts with RUBBISH trying to consume the opponents' bidding space not your own. Bridge players with strong hands do it slowly and bridge players with weak hands do it quickly.</p>
529	<p>To raise 3♥ opener to 4♥ you need 3 1/2 to 4 tricks minimum which normally correlates to at least 16 points.</p>
530	<p>With a 9 card trump fit (i.e. 5 card support and two five card suits Jump to Game immediately pre-emptively and be an unfriendly opponent e. g Partner opens 1♠ and you hold:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"> ♠ J 8 6 5 4  ♥ 3 2  ♦ 9  ♣ Q J 9 5 4 </p> <p>bid 4♠ no messing Ron Klinger of Australia refers to it as "The Weak Freak".</p>
531	<p>After partner opens with a pre-empt 3♥ bid, you need 3 1/2 to 4 tricks before you can raise to 4♥ (not points).</p>
532	<p>Don't do any type of pre-empt with a good hand- you only do pre-empts with RUBBISH trying to consume the opponents' bidding space, not your own.</p>
533	<p>Because you can respond with a double over the overcall all bids that you then make instead, should promise five card suit since you didn't Negative Double in first place. And this allows partner to now support with three card support knowing you have Five.</p>
534	<p>When you cannot follow suit and declarer is drawing trumps discard a card of same colour and sometimes declarer is careless and doesn't notice that the suit breaks badly.</p>
535	<p>Looking for the opponent's Queen – to finesse or not to finesse? With 8 between the two hands Finesse every time, with 9 play for the drop and plonk down Ace King.  EIGHT EVER NINE NEVER for finessing the queen.  The way to remember it, is that Eight and Ever both start with E and Nine and Never both start with N.</p>



536	Playing Acol with weak No Trump. 2NT rebid after 2♣ is 23/24 and 3NT rebid is 25/26 and if you get so lucky 4NT is 26/28 and 5NT is 29/30- goes up in same way in twos when rebidding 1NT (is 15/16) and 2NT(is 17/18) after a 1 of a Suit Opener.
537	When defending you can play leads of Ace is for Attitude and King is for Count- two A sounds and two C sounds is the way to remember it.
538	With Minor suits steer the contract towards 3NT BUT with long Spade or Heart suit prefer to be in 4♠ or 4♥.
539	If you want to find out more about your partner's hand then use 4 <sup>th</sup> SUIT FORCING and that asks partner to define their shape more.
540	With KQ54 opposite AT32 play off KQ first and if the suit breaks badly you might still be able to finesse the T. You are leaving the AT there as a Tenace giving you the extra finesse chance.
541	Limit bids are the most important part of any bidding system so remember treat 1♠ – 2♠ is 6-9 points with 4 card support and 1♠- 3♠ is 10-12 and 4 card support - remember to give the right response and not to LIE to your partner or partner will not be pleased.
542	Partner has already opened and you have 17/18 points (a very good hand) THINK SLAM.
543	If responder introduces new suit then bids 2NT next, then responder is still showing 11/12 points as if she had made DIRECT 2NT REPLY in first place.
544	When you DEFEND your approach should be same as declarer's "Are you a casher or a BUILDER- I hope you are a BUILDER (of tricks) don't just play aces,
545	<p style="text-align: center;">A Q 9 4 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">? ? ? ?                      ? ? ? ?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">K T 6 3</p> <p>When playing this suit make sure you cash Ace first just in case there is 4-0 break against you and now you can still finesse either nasty opponent for the missing Jack- you have taken out insurance by keeping the KT tenace in one hand and the Q9 tenace in the other hand.</p>
546	With T976 opposite AKJ2 play off Ace first before committing to the finesse of the Jack just in case that Queen is singleton and no finesse is needed.
547	Partner leads Q from their long suit against No trump contract and you have King Doubleton or even Ace Doubleton make sure you unblock that high card so you don't block partner's potential.
548	1NT – 3♠ answer is very strong and if opener has three card support he goes 4♠ and with only 2 card support he puts herself back in 3NT.
549	<p>♠ A K T 9 6 4</p> <p>♥ A K 8 7</p> <p>♦ K Q</p> <p>♣ 6</p> <p>If they open 1♣ or 1♦ with Both Majors prefer to start with Informative Double rather than 1♠.</p>
550	<p>If you have very bad hand and are leading against No Trump then TRY and FIND PARTNER and lead from your short suit and a doubleton Major would be very attractive in trying to find partner. the bidding goes 1NT 3NT all passing so with:</p> <p style="margin-left: 2em;">♠ 9 5</p> <p style="margin-left: 2em;">♥ J 9 6 5</p> <p style="margin-left: 2em;">♦ 9 5 4</p> <p style="margin-left: 2em;">♣ 9 6 4 2</p> <p>Lead ♠9 and get lovely surprise when partner smiles or encourages with large card</p>
551	If 1♥ - 3♥ promises 10-12 points and 4 card support then 1♥ - 1♠ 2♦ 3♥ STILL SHOWS 10-12 points but only 3 card support (as you have arrived at same destination on both auctions).

552	<p>With:                   A Q T 5                               opposite                               J 9 3 2</p> <p>Needing to finesse play the 9 first and let it run and then the Jack just in case you need to Finesse 3 times and need to be in South at all times and not waste entries in the other suits.</p>
553	<p>If partner suddenly switches suits during your defence with him RESPECT his defence and FOLLOW HIS DEFENCE- he probably has his own very good suit or has a singleton and wants a ruff so remember to play back that suit at every opportunity</p>
554	<p>If you do not make a Negative Double when you could have done so and you introduce your suit you are now saying I have five or more in said suit and you were not at all fixed by the overcall..</p>
555	<p>If partner leads an Ace and you hold Q72 do remember to ENCOURAGE and play the SEVEN If partner leads an Ace and you hold 732 do remember to DISCOURAGE and play the TWO this time.</p>
556	<p>Not sure what to bid next then BID WHAT YOU (with partner) can make. so with:</p> <p>♠ 7 ♥ K Q 7 6 ♦ K 7 3 ♣ A J 8 6 5</p> <p>Partner opened 1♠ and you of course replied 2♣ and then partner rebid 2♠ Not sure then just bid 3NT as you think you can make it.</p>
557	<p>A reply of 3♣ or 3♥ after partner opens 1NT shows a very good hand and is GAME FORCING and Opener must go to 4 of agreed Major with three card support and with only two card support go to 3NT.</p>
558	<p>Shapeless hands (4333 or 4432) don't produce tricks, so if in doubt, don't bid on.</p>
559	<p>Once partner replies 3♠ to your 1NT bid you either bid 4♠ with three card support or go back to 3NT with only 2 cards.</p>
560	<p>Bidding to level of fit is for the overcaller's partner.</p>
561	<p>Ace from AK is best leads in bridge as you will win first trick and can look at dummy and plan1.</p>
562	<p>Open 1NT with any 5332 hand including a five card Major. If occasionally you have a full strength 14 point hand with a five card Major to boot you might upgrade the hand and get ready to rebid in NO trump to show 15 points</p>
563	<p>Rule of 7- once dummy comes down and you are thinking of holding up look at the number of cards in dummy plus the number of cards in your own hand and take the total away from 7 and that is the number of times you hold up catering for a bad break in opposition's hands. So with A76 opposite 432 you only need to hold up for one round since you can cope with a 43 break and need to cater for the 52 bad break. (7-6 = just once)</p>
564	<p>When discarding and not sure what to keep, then you need to keep one suit and partner needs to keep DIFFERENT Suit. No good you both discarding the same suit.</p>
565	<p>As a defender if you have the Ace of long suit in dummy don't be in hurry to take that Ace and maybe declarer will not be able to get to dummy.</p>
566	<p>In any overcall situation if you are STUCK for any possible valid overcall then you RESORT to DOUBLING especially with 19+ points balanced i.e. too many for 1NT or 2NT or 3NT overcall.</p>
567	<p>It is generally not a good idea to lead a singleton trump as invariably partner might have Qxx or Jxxx and you immediately give declarer a free finesse- Let him draw trumps and discover the bad news for himself</p>
568	<p>If they open and you have SAME SUIT – you are immediately AT CONFLICT with them so say NO BID.</p>
569	<p>Don't hold up if your intermediates are good AT 5 opposite J2 now you have a second control in this suit- do not hold up.</p>

570	It's all well and good knowing that 3NT rebid is 19 points balanced BUT appreciate you can make this bid because partner has promised 6 or more for his reply.
571	When the bidding goes 1♥ NO NO? and you are in the 4 <sup>th</sup> seat this is known as the PROTECTIVE SEAT (or balancing seat) and it is your duty to try and bid . In this seat you can join in with 1NT with ONLY 10-14.
572	Top of Sequence leads against No trump STILL APPLIES TO LONGEST SUIT ONLY.
573	If partner encourages please don't be intimidated by an Ace in dummy - respect partner's wishes,
574	With QJ954 opposite A32 play that queen and PRAY that second person has Doubleton KT or the other defender has T Doubleton OR if Second person covers immediately, you could now finesse the 9 on the way back. Also remember the bidding here to decide which option to take.
575	Even when playing 4 card Majors, with three card support and a doubleton somewhere prefer to raise 1♠ to 2♠ rather than reply 1NT as you have ruffing values.
576	When you open 1 of a suit, your hand is totally unlimited and if partner replies in new suit that too is unlimited. So both as opener and responder you need to try and describe your hand with your second bid.
577	What ever you do on OPENING LEADS such as leading tops of Sequences APPLIES MID HAND TOO when you broach new suits.
578	TRY and GET INTO THE SIGNALLING HABIT :- a) Partner leads an Ace promising the King and you have Queen ENCOURAGE with a 7 8 or 9 b) Partner leads an Ace and you have Doubleton and want to ruff play a high ENCOURAGING ONE such as 7 8 or 9. c) Conversely if you want partner to switch then play your lowest 2 or 3.
579	To differentiate between 854 and 94 when you have three small and when you have two small it is recommended that you play MUD Middle Up Down. With two you play High Low to show doubleton and with three small (no Honour) you play MUD Middle Up Down so with 854 play 5 then 8...
580	The Informative Double comes in 3 sizes as follows a) 13+ points and liking for unbid suits b) 19+ and balanced for mere 1NT overcall c) 17+ and One suited too strong for mere suit overcall
581	Upgrade hands with 5 and 6 card suits as those suits produce tricks and when telling experts about your hands remember to tell them about your lovely long suits, not you voids and Doubletons. Experts like long suits and I personally hate voids and Singletons.
582	The Informative Double comes in 3 sizes as follows: a) 13+ points and liking for unbid suits b) 19+ and balanced for mere 1NT overcall c) 17+ and One suited too strong for mere suit overcall
583	A cue bid is either first or second round control of a suit. FIRST ROUND IS ACE OR VOID and SECOND ROUND IS SINGELTON OR KING. And you are making overtures to partner for a possible slam.
584	Even when you do not have the Ace you must still play high card from short hand so with KQ6 opposite JT54 play the King Queen first so as not to get blocked.
585	S J Simon said in Why You Lose at Bridge (probably one of the most famous bridge books ever written "Never win a trick until you have made up your mind what card you are going to play next. Start making up your mind as soon as dummy appears. you do not want to do your thinking at a time when hesitating will reveal information about your hand
586	When sitting after dummy (correct bridge term is sitting over dummy) and you are defending make sure you keep your High honours to beat dummy's highs honours so if a low card is played from dummy that's the time to follow suit with a low one yourself and just be patient

587	<p>use 2♣ Stayman you need:</p> <p>a) 5-4 in the Majors and zero or more points basically a weak take-out if no match up fall back onto 2♥ or 2♣ whichever suit you have the five card suit.</p> <p>b) 11+ points and 4432 shape with at least one Major- if no match you can still go to 2NT.</p>
588	If you notice declarer is not drawing trumps and is trying to start a cross ruffing sequence you, AS A DEFENDER, should PLAY TRUMPS.
589	With KJ54 opposite A632 play the Ace first and then low towards that Jack and finesse it and hope second person had Queen from the start. Lay the cards out and try it for yourself.
590	<p>With AQ5 in third seat play the Queen when partner leads 4th highest - then if declarer has the King he will have to win it and now you will not cut yourself off from partner in a situation like this in a No Trump contract:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">95 (dummy)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">J 7 5 4 3      A Q 6 (you)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">K T 8</p> <p>play that Queen otherwise declarer will hold up and you will never get to partner's hand.</p>
591	With KQ65 opposite AT83 play that KQ first and when suit breaks badly you might still be able to finesse their Jack if you have left the AT intact i.e. the tenace.
592	Don't join in as an opponent with Balanced 13/14 point hands - you are asking for trouble.
593	Once the auction is underway, with two four card suits bid up the line.
594	<p>The most important thing to remember after the sequence:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">N    E    S    W</p> <p>1H 1♥ DBL NO ? that there are approximately ONLY 14 possible points left as 26 points (approximately) have already been accounted for.</p>
595	Partner overcalls and you have 14 points balanced ONLY INVITE 2NT in case partner has a bare 8 points.
596	When you defend you must ALSO COUNT WINNERS otherwise you will not realise how many extra tricks you will need to generate to beat their contract. Will you need to give partner a ruff? Will partner be able to get in to give you a ruff?
597	Even if you are not playing 5 card Major suit openers if you have what is called RUFFING VALUES (shortage somewhere and only 3 card support it is a good idea under these circumstance to support with three card support, rather than replying 1NT.
598	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> person plays low and the third person plays high ONLY APPLIES to the TWO DEFENDERS.
599	With AKJT85 opposite Q singleton if this is your trump suit don't hesitate in OVERTAKING that Queen so you can continue to draw trumps and not have to worry about using up entries to get back to your hand.
600	Partner opens next player overcalls 1NT and you have 9/10+ points DOUBLE FOR PENALTIES - see novices tip but now you are Doubling their 1NT overcall.
601	If you are lucky enough to have two suits in your hand do show them both – Bidding in a new suit does not show extra values.- You are merely giving partner a choice of suits
602	What are chances of setting up long suit be aware that even suits break badly, i.e. if there are 6 out against you likely to break 4-2 rather than 3-3 whilst odd suits tend to break well i.e. if there are 5 out against you likely to break 3-2 rather than 4-1.
603	For strong use of Stayman (i.e. with 11+ points) 4432 hands are ideal for Stayman and only one of those four card suits needs to be a Major – don't forget to CONSIDER STAYMAN as an option every single time partner opens 1NT.
604	Rule of 15 for 4 <sup>th</sup> seat Openers - you add you HCPs plus your Cards in Spades and if the total is 15 then you may open light- you could open with 11 points and 4 card spade suit. By

	following this rule you are less likely to open the door to the opposition for them to overcall and buy a cheap contract.
605	<p>With a powerful suit and 15/16+ points in the overcalling seat <b>DOUBLE FIRST</b> and THEN <b>BID YOUR SUIT</b> so with:</p> <p>♠ A K J 8 7 6 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ K 7 ♣ 5 4</p> <p>If North opens 1♣ and you are East now overcall with Double.</p>
606	If you do not have trump control (i.e. no Ace) you might need to dump some losers first before touching trumps.
607	In 4 <sup>th</sup> seat you can bid with less points so in 4 <sup>th</sup> seat 1NT promises only 10-14 as you need to <b>PROTECT YOUR SIDE'S INTERESTS</b> when the bidding has gone 1H Pass Pass ?- if you now pass they buy the contract cheaply, after all one of the main attributes of a game of bridge is that it should be <b>COMPETITIVE</b>
608	When defending a No Trump contract, in third seat with Doubleton Ace or Doubleton King if partner plays the King or Queen play that high card so as not to block the suit. Remember in these situations you are now the Short hand and you need to unblock these blocking cards.
609	<p>The 5 DOS of <b>LEADING AGAINST A SUIT CONTRACT</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner's suit</li> <li>Singleton</li> <li>Top of a sequence</li> <li>Top of a Doubleton</li> <li>With three small card lead <b>MUD</b>- middle up down</li> </ol>
610	If the bidding goes 1♥ Double and responder now redoubles this shows 8/9+ points, more to the point <b>BALANCE OF POWER</b> and shows no interest in opener's suit and is ultimately Penalty oriented.
611	<p>After the bidding has gone: 1NT 2♥ (transfer) 2♠ 2NT the 1NT opener now has 4 options as follows :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passes with a minimum and only 2 spades</li> <li>Bids onto 3NT with maximum and 2 spades.</li> <li>Bids 3♠ with minimum and 3 Spades</li> <li>Bids 4♠ with a maximum and 3 Spades</li> </ol>
612	You should <b>NEVER PASS</b> with a very weak hand once your partner makes an informative double- you have to <b>REACT</b> and with 0 -7 point <b>JUST BID YOUR BEST SUIT</b> .
613	Do not hold up if you fear that they might switch to an even worse suit especially if the lead is 1 TWO and now you know that opponents have led from a four card suit and it might not be necessary to hold up anywhere.
614	If a Grand Slam needs a 50% finesse then only bid the small slam.
615	When you defend 1NT the points are spread equally 21-19 or 22-18 or 23-17 so most of the time you <b>NEED PASSIVE DEFENCE</b> trying not to give away that 7 <sup>th</sup> trick.
616	<p>If they open 1NT before you and you wanted to open 1NT Hard luck you just have to now say No Bid.</p> <p>If they open 1H before you and you wanted to open 1H hard luck you just have to now say No Bid.</p> <p>If they open 1 of a suit and you were about to open 1NT you just say No Bid.</p>
617	If you are leading from a Bad suit prefer to lead 2 <sup>nd</sup> one down rather than 4 <sup>th</sup> highest and if partner has nothing in this suit either she will now try to switch and find tricks elsewhere.

618	With a good hand and five card suit dispense with transfers and just reply 3♥ or 3♠ straight away when partner opens 1NT.
619	With a 17/18 points and a six card suit overcall with DOUBLE and then bid your suit next so with: ♠ A Q J T 6 5 ♥ A K 4 ♦ K 2 ♣ 7 3 When they open 1♣ or 1♦ or 1♥ say double and then bid your Spades next.
620	When you have a sequence you lead top of a sequence- declarer must be aware that the leader's card shows top of sequence and so must the other defender, and therefore think about ALL the ramifications of the lead e.g. Queen is led and no king in dummy make sure you in third seat play that Ace. - We do not want declarer making a singleton King in the closed hand do we?
621	You cover an honour if there is any chance of promoting a lower card for your side. You cover a queen with a King so that you might promote a Jack or T for yourself or partner.
622	With two five card suits you open the higher of fives and when the suits are touching you open the higher one (not ranking) so with 5 clubs and 5 Spades Clubs is higher when they touch so it is correct to open 1♣ giving you plenty of space for your rebid when partner is likely to reply in a red suit.
623	If possible keep a high trump in both hands to avoid being overruffed
624	When bidding before doing anything else say to yourself : - a) Am I opening? b) Am I responding? c) Am I overcalling? d) If you think this through each time then the context of the auction should be clearer.
625	Once there has been a Double remember there are only 14 points left or less between the two remaining players so Doubler's partner REACTS as follows:- a) 0-7 points merely bids best suit b) 8+ points jumps in best suit c) 12+ (extremely good hand) bids opener's suit and passes the buck- I too have good hand we are going to Game. You can only Pas (very rare) if you have 10+ points and a stack of opener's suit and want to do a conversion job making partner's Informative Double into a Penalty Double by Passing.
626	If they open 1NT (12-14) and you have 15 or more points make a PENALTY DOUBLE Therefore all other bids in a suit show less than 15 points.
627	With KQ opposite AT9876 knowing that the opponents have J542 in one hand you know you have a loser regardless so as you are so well endowed in this suit plonk your Ace on the Queen second time around to be in correct hand to be able to continue the suit and not to waster entries elsewhere.
628	A tenace is a permutation of two cards that might be able to finesse an opponent's card that you are missing and you need to keep that tenace intact for as long as possible in case you need to finesse so with AJ876 opposite K5432 Keep that AJ intact just in case the suit breaks 3-0 and you can still finesse the opponent's Queen.
629	With AKQ32 opposite T5 needing 4 tricks make sure you duck a round so as not to cut yourself off from the long hand catering for the 4-2 break.
630	Playing against 12-14 1NT openers, once they open 1NT and you have ANY 15 POINT HAND say DOUBLE. After 1NT all suit bids now show less than 15 don't they?

631	Leading top of a Nothing suit (nothing higher than a NINE (or Middle one from MUD) is not productive but IS SAFE trying not to help declarer out too much.
632	With a fit and shapely hands anything around 29-31/32 might be enough in a small slam in a suit contract
633	There are only two hand types where you can JUMP IN NEW SUIT in response to partner opening 1 of a Suit as follows:- a) 16+ points and a SELF SUPPORTING SUIT AKQJXX or KQJT9XX b) 16+ and a FIT in Opener's suit. All other strong hands you should reply slowly as you don't know where the hand might be going.
634	If somebody leads a TWO against your No Trump contract you immediately know that person has led from a FOUR CARD SUIT as there are no cards lower than that Two and you know how many cards the other defender has. You can also start building up a picture of all the hands like an expert since you know leader must be relatively balanced as he has led from a 4 card suit.
635	Any rebid by opener that forces responder to give preference at the THREE LEVEL in bridge jargon is called a reverse and opener would only make responder do that with a good hand (15/16+ points) hence going above the original barrier bid (the original opening 1 of a suit then the barrier bid would be 2 of THE SAME SUIT).
636	Opening 1♣ has no pre-emptive value whatsoever so don't do it on "silly" minimum hands whatever the vulnerability.
637	Mid hand when you play new suit Top of sequence still applies so with KQJ76 please play the King
638	Please do not separate the bidding from the card play.
639	A Strong hand opposite strong hand THINK SLAM - don't be timid.
640	If you have good hand (13+points) with 5 card suit bid that 5 card suit at the 4 Level as you now only need three card support from the 1NT opening bidder to get to 4♠ or 4♥.
641	You must start UPGRADING HANDS that have 5 card suits and more 10s and 9s rather than 2s and 3s.
642	If a person opens and then bids by himself opposite a Passed partner (a partner who is known to hold less than 6 points) then the opener "must be" showing extra strong hand—bidding by himself
643	Do not misuse the term "cross ruff". It is only applicable if you are ruffing in alternate hands, not when you are just ruffing in one hand. On board 1 you need to ruff spades twice and that is just ruffing in the one hand.
644	When following suit. You FOLLOW with HIGHEST CARD NECESSARY so with QJ you follow with the Jack (Really its opposite of leading).
645	With JT95 opposite AQ7632 please play the Jack when finessing to stay in correct hand in case you need to finesse again.
646	With same suit as the opposition JUST PASS. You are in conflict with the opposition so say Nothing at all.
647	Bidding to level of fit is mainly for OVERCALLING SIDE and works like this If partner, the overcaller, has overcalled promising 5 or more card suit With 3 card support raise to 2 level (i.e. for 8 tricks) With 4 card support raise to 3 level (i.e. for 9 tricks) With 5 card support raise to 4 level (i.e. for 10 tricks) And don't worry about your point count – you are doing it to mess up the opponents.
648	With AJ5 opposite T2 if they led this suit you do not need to hold up because you will now have second round control of this suit as long as you play low from dummy at trick One.
649	Against their suit contract do not bother to lead a singleton when you have good hand (maybe 12/13 points) and they are in 4♠ or 4♥ as the bidding tells you partner HAS NOTHING and cannot get the lead to give you a ruff so instead try and make a positive lead from your side

	of the table since you will probably be the only person to take part in the defence of the current hand.
650	If you have ANY 15 or more you should make PENALTY DOUBLE when they open with a weak 1NT (12-14) Then Therefore any bid in a suit will "obviously" promise no more than 14 points (8/9-14).
651	When defending, TLKW - Throw Losers Keep Winners (and if in doubt Keep those long suits as they are all potential winners).
652	If you see that declarer is not drawing trumps and is attempting to trump something in dummy, you, as a defender, need to play a trump.
653	When the bidding goes 1NT 3♣ Strong forcing reply by responder Opener must now either bid 4♣ with three card support or go back to 3NT with just two card support.
654	When you defend and you are third person now you play the card high enough so with J9 over dummy's T all you need to play is the 9 if declarer plays a low one from dummy - Your 9 is high enough to force out an honour.
655	In all situations against No Trumps top of a sequence overrides 4 <sup>th</sup> highest. You would not like to lead your 8 here and let declarer win first trick with dummy's 9 would you? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div>Q J T 8 5 3</div> <div>9</div> <div>7 6 4</div> <div>A K 2</div> </div>
656	When declarer is playing of a long suit each defender should throw from a different suit otherwise declarer might get another trick from a suit to which he is not entitled.
657	A jump in new suit by opener is GAME FORCING promising 19+ points. e. g: ♠ A K J 5            1♦        1♥ ♥ 3 2                    2♣ rebid now ♦ A K J T 7 ♣ K 6
658	Make an effort to use the three correct terms instead of bid i.e. a) Opening b) Responding c) Overcalling
659	Please be aware of all your entries at trick 1. You might only have one entry in dummy so don't use it up at trick 1.
660	A hand with Opening bid values opposite an Opening bid (ie.13+13=26) is generally enough for Game contract - so don't be timid.
661	Double of the 1NT opening bid or their 1NT overcall is for PENALTIES – over the 1NT opening bid it shows one more than their maximum.
662	After partner makes an Informative Double be aware that 26 points are already accounted for and you now REACT as follows: - a) 0 – 7 just bid your best suit. b) 8+ jump in best suit c) 12+ Cue Bid opponents suit d) Stack of Opener's suit and 9/10+ points PASS & CONVERT e) 6-9 balanced and values in their suit react with 1NT
663	Some play 4 <sup>th</sup> suit forcing to 2NT and some play it Forcing to Game- you need to discuss this with new partners. I recommend you play it Forcing to Game.
664	With AKQT opposite J43 be aware that the Jack is an entry should you be short of entries to the other hand.
665	1♦ - 2♦ response if opener now rebids 2NT opener now really needs to have 16/17 points to invite as partner can have not more than 9.



666	<p>The ONLY two criteria for making a Game forcing bid with a jump in new suit are</p> <p>a) 16+ and a FIT with opener's suit</p> <p>b) 16+ and self-supporting suit (usually 6 or 7 card suit headed by at least KQJT)</p> <p>All other strong hands just bid a new suit- the auction cannot die as partner has to make a rebid- Any way only old people die - not auctions</p>
667	With singleton Q opposite AK82 play that queen early before it gives you grief later and you get blocked.
668	If Right Hand opponent opens 1NT and you were about to open 1NT then now just PASS and be happy to defend.
669	With Q5 opposite A6432 play the two towards the Queen the card you are trying to promote. If you play the queen this is known as a Chinese Finesse and the opponents will merely cover the Queen if second person has it.
670	To bid on further after partner pre-empts you need at least 15/16 and then be in hurry to SUPPORT PARTNER.
671	With 4 card support for a Minor BUT YOUR OWN 4 CARD MAJOR please introduce it so when the bidding goes 1♣ – 2♣ responder is saying he does not have a four card Major.
672	When defending a suit contract you lead Ace from AKJ654 and you see the Q32 do not be in hurry to try and cash the King at trick two.
673	When defending Aces are in fact meant to beat declarer' and dummy's high card, so in second seat that's why you should not be in a hurry to play your Ace on a low card.
674	If you open 1♥ and rebid 3♥ it shows 6/7 playing tricks which usually correlates to 15/16 points and good six card suit.
675	With KJ8762 opposite A542 expect the suit to break 2-1 but make allowances in case the suit breaks 3-0 and play the Ace first and then you can still finesse that remaining KJ when the suit breaks 3-0 if the Queen is still finessable. (NB That KJ is known as TENACE and needs to be kept in tact for as long as possible- hence you play the Ace first.
676	"DFTA"- Don't Forget The Auction - to work out where certain cards might be when working out who has what. Maybe one of the opponents opened 1NT and now you know 12 of the remaining points must be in that hand.
677	If you have 6-5 shape make sure you tell your partner by bidding your second suit again just in case you have 5-3 fit in partner's second suit.
678	With AJT against their 6NT contract don't be in hurry to play that ace- That Ace needs to be used to win either a king or Queen from the opponents.
679	<p>Bidding up the line With 2 four card suits - this means that if partner opens 1♦ and you have the following</p> <p>♠ AK65</p> <p>♥ J765</p> <p>♦ 43</p> <p>♣ 543 you reply 1H (first suit available).</p>
680	Defenders also need to establish tricks (build) to defeat the opponents' contract especially in a No Trump Contract.
681	With 13 points balanced go directly to 3NT when partner opens 1NT as you have 25 TOGETHER which is enough opposite a weak No trump hand.
682	With standard attitude signals it is the OPPOSITE OF LEADING and now Low says Like and High says Hate FOLLOWING SUIT and low you Dislike and High you Like.
683	With AJT opposite 543 play from 543 side twice and you should have 75% chance of success in making 2 tricks out of 3.
684	When you defend 3NT it's the RACE for NINE TRICKS for declarer and the RACE for FIVE TRICKS for the defenders so COUNT those winners and losers.

685	When you are very well endowed in your trump suit trump high to avoid any embarrassment of being overtrumped.
686	The semi balanced hands are 5-4-2-2 and 6-3-3-2 and if your doubletons are in the MAJORS ONLY it is ok to open 1NT with 12-14 points and the bid is now well and truly pre-emptive.
687	<p>BIDDING IN NO TRUMPS from 12 - 30 in ACOL OPENING 1NT = 12 -14 Balanced and OPENING 2NT 20-22 Balanced.</p> <p>Rebids in No Trumps works as follows after 1 of a suit opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 1NT rebid is 15/16 Balanced</li> <li>b) 2NT rebid is 17/18 Balanced</li> <li>c) 3NT rebid is 19/20</li> </ul> <p>All This Assumes partner has replied showing +6 points.</p> <p>Rebids in No Trumps works as follows after</p> <p>2♣ opening:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 2NT rebid is 23/24 Balanced</li> <li>b) 3NT rebid is 25/26 Balanced</li> <li>c) 4NT rebid is 27/28 Balanced</li> <li>d) 5NT rebid is 29/30 Balanced</li> </ul> <p>Just remember it Goes up in twos firstly from 12-14 and then from 20-22</p>
688	If in Doubt lead a trump, and let declarer make all her own running.
689	With a misfitting hand try not to get too high and out of control-Especially respect responder's wishes when responder repeats first suit confirming six card suit-not problem playing in a 6-1 fit.
690	Assuming you are playing weak No Trump, with 5332 and 12-14 points and 5 card Major open 1NT and then you will have NO REBID PROBLEMS as you no longer need a rebid - you said it all in one go.....
691	When you pre-empt, it is best to have all your values in your long suit.
692	Strong use of Stayman is used to locate 4 card fits so with 5 CARD MAJOR SUIT INTRODUCE IT at the THREE LEVEL.
693	The structure of a 2NT (17/18) or 3NT (19/poor20) rebid is based on the fact that PARTNER WILL HAVE AT LEAST 6 POINTS.
694	Do not open weak Two or a Weak Pre-emptive Three with an outside Major as partner might have that Major and you will be missing out on a Fit with partner - not a good idea to upset partner.
695	With six card suit and 17 points remember to DOUBLE THEIR 1NT rather than fall in love with the six card suit.
696	Double of 1NT is for Penalties and partner with 6 points should leave it in. Partner will have 15+ and with your 6 points you have more points than them and you will be leading so which is always an advantage when defending 1NT as you will get your suit(s) going before declarer gets her suit going so most of the time 1NT doubled will go down.
697	If opener or responder initially bids or rebids in NO TRUMP he MUST BE BALANCED If after a few bids there is no common denominator then and only then, can the partnership resort to a No Trump contract
698	Lead Ace from Ace-King is best lead against suit contracts because you win first trick and can plan ahead.
699	With 8 or more points REMEMBER to JUMP in NEW SUIT when partner makes an Informative Double. Partner also knows there are only 14 points left and will realise you are just making an encouraging noise

700	<p>When finessing with no back up cards do not play the Queen as they will cover to promote their Tens and 9s in situations like this:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> A J 6 5 4  K 7                      T 9 8  Q 3 2 </p> <p>Play the 2 to the Jack and then play Ace and be pleased the King is Doubleton.</p>
701	With 4441 hands open the suit below the singleton because that gives the partner a chance to reply in that singleton and you will not get too high with your rebid.
702	Make bids that seem to reflect your hand, so if you have six card suit and 16 points this is 4 points better than it might have been so rebid 3 of the original suit to show you are strong
703	<p>a) 1NT reply to 1♥ opener is 6-9 Balanced  b) 2NT reply to 1♥ opener is 11-12 Balanced  c) 3NT reply to 1♥ Opener is 13-15 Balanced</p> <p>But if partner has overcalled partner may have as few as 8/9 s  so your replies in No Trump must be stronger so</p> <p>a) 1NT reply to 1♥ overcall from partner now shows 10/11/12 balanced  b) 2NT reply to 1♥ overcall from partner now shows 13-15 balanced  c) 3NT reply to 1♥ overcall from partner now shows 16+ balanced</p>
704	Defenders should also concentrate on their long suits and contracts will go down especially in No Trumps, that's why you lead from your longest suit.
705	When considering your OVERCALL DON'T THINK IN TERMS of CREDIT CARD Bidding BUT maybe say to yourself I WILL HAVE TO MAKE 8 TRICKS if I JOIN IN and overcall in my lower ranking suit at the two level-you might think again
706	Once you have counted your winners and losers and know what to do to generate the extra tricks NOW GO TO WORK and maybe establish a suit or take a finesse ♠ BUT WORK
707	Partner opens 1♣ or 1♦ and you are weak and balanced YOU MUST bid YOUR FOUR CARD MAJOR if you have one ♠ this is known as not denying a Major and will enable the partnership to find a Major fit if the Opener has a major as he other suit..
708	After 2NT opener 3♣ is STAYMAN convention and is asks partner if she has a FOUR CARD MAJOR in exactly the same way that 2♣ reply to 1NT opener is Stayman looking for a Major suit fit.
709	If dummy has a shortage and 3 trumps this usually is a sign not to draw trumps straight away as you will need have any trumps left in that hand, the short hand to do the necessary ruffing will you?
710	<p>To Open 1NT you do not need an honour in every suit ♠ SHAPE IS IMPORTANT so with:</p> <p>♠ AK76  ♥ AK4  ♦ 432  ♣ 432</p> <p>2 suits here with no honours BUT 1NT is perfect.</p>
711	If you reply 1NT after 2 <sup>nd</sup> person overcalls you must have King or Queen or better in the overcaller's suit.
712	<p>Be an unfriendly opponent and bid to Level of Fit as follows knowing overcaller has at least FIVE CARD SUIT</p> <p>a) With 3 CARD SUPPORT raise to 2 level;  b) With 3 CARD SUPPORT raise to 3 level;  c) With 3 CARD SUPPORT raise to 4 level.</p>
713	A Reopening Double by Opener is still part of Opening Bid strategy confirming a good Opening bid of 1 of a Suit and still 13+ points.

714	With AKT6 opposite J543 play the Jack and if they don't cover then go up with AK and hop for doubleton Queen offside. People often cover when they should not do so so do use this psychology to find doubleton Queens that cannot be seen. Use Zia Tip Roll over Houdini <a href="https://www.haroldschogger.com/ziamahmood.htm">https://www.haroldschogger.com/ziamahmood.htm</a>
715	Playing Weak No Trump then standard rebids in No Trump now works as follows 1NT 15/16, 2NT 17/18 and 3NT 19/poor20 - all going up in TWOS so just remember 12-14 and work out the rest
716	When you OVERCALL in a SUIT this is UNLIMITED from about 8/9 up to 16/17.
717	Everybody seems to think the main lead against No Trump is 4 <sup>th</sup> highest of longest suit but this is third choice. Here are the choices in order: a) Partner's suit- Lets hope partner overcalled on good quality suit. b) Top of Sequence in your longest suit c) 4 <sup>th</sup> one from top in longest suit d) Lead from shortage with only 1 or 2 points and "TAFP" Try And Find Partner.
718	Please go to work and BUILD TRICKS- you might need the high cards in your good suit for entries late.
719	If partner offers you two suits do REMEMBER TO GIVE PREFERENCE back to first suit if you have two cards in each suit and opener's first suit will be longer- you want to play in the 5-2 fit not the 4-2 fit.
720	If you have a minimum hand you cannot show your other suit if its higher ranking and partner would need to go to the Three level to show preference as that would now be a Reverse so with: ♠ K 6 ♥ A Q 9 5 ♦ K J 7 6 2 ♣ 4 2 Having opened 1♦ partner replies 1♠ or 2♣ now rebid a very reluctant 2♦ as you are not strong enough to rebid 2♥.
721	Once a suit has been agreed then if you bid new suit most of the time it will be a CUE BID showing control in that suit i.e. first round control being Ace or Void and second round control being King or Singleton.
722	If responder rebids her suit at lowest possible level this shows six card suit and absolute minimum 6-8 points only ♠ IT SOUNDS WEAK. i.e. 1♣ 1♦ 1♥ 2♦ Here absolutely minimum with six. If responder jumps in her original suit this ONLY SHOWS- 10 - 12 points and six card suit i.e.: 1♣ 1♦ 1♥ 3♦
723	a) Informative Double is AN OVERCALL when you are stuck for any other available overcall. b) There are only 14 points left once there has been an Opening Bid and a Double. c) I prefer the term Informative Double because the Doubler is GIVING INFORMATION d) The partner now REACTS to this to the Information.
724	When discarding on declarer's long suit make sure you and your partner don't discard from the same suit otherwise declarer might be able to establish a trick in that suit late on
725	6-5 Come Alive - if you have a six card suit and a five card suit never be scared to join in even if you do not have many points....
726	If you do bid the suits the wrong way round i.e. you open 1♥ and then rebid 2♠ this is now REVERSE showing 15/16 points or more and FIVE FOUR SHAPE or better

727	<p>If your partner overcalls and you have 3 or more card support now BID TO THE LEVEL of the FIT as follows (Partner has promised 5 or more):</p> <p>3 card support total trumps are 8 so you can raise to 2 level- 8  4 card support total trumps are 9 so you can raise to 3 level- 9  5 card support total trumps are 9 so you can raise to 4 level- 10</p>
728	<p>To overcall 1NT you need 16-18 points and a stopper in opener's suit or a really very good 15 and a half. Without a stopper it is best to just Pass.</p>
729	<p>Re-bidding original suit shows 6 card suit and usually 15/16+ points BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY it should show 6/7 PLAYING TRICKS almost an Acol Strong Two bid.</p>
730	<p>Negative Doubling is all about RESPONDING and usually promises the two other suits (that have not so far been bid by Opener or Overcaller). and 6+ points when right hand opponent intervenes.</p>
731	<p>Always lead partner's suit BUT which one? as follows :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Top of a Doubleton.</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> from Bad Suits them MUD- Middle Up Down</li> <li>Top of a Doubleton</li> <li>With 3 or 4 headed by an honour Lead a low one and partner will know you have an entry later.</li> <li>Top of a sequence ♠ you should be so lucky</li> </ol>
732	<p>It is so important to realize:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informative Double is PART OF OVERCALLING THEORY</li> <li>Negative Double is PART OF REPLYING THEORY</li> <li>REOPENING DOUBLE by Opener is PART OF OPENING BID THEORY</li> </ol> <p>ALL THESE DOUBLES SHOULD NOT JUST BE DOUBLES- this of them as the three above and it should make a lot more sense hopefully.</p>
733	<p>To support opener's second suit you need 4 card support.</p>
734	<p>WAKE UP PARTNER:  with AKX lead Ace with AKX follow suit with King BUT:  With AK Doubleton LEAD King then Ace - partner was not expecting the Ace so it must be WAKE UP CALL to tell partner to signal what to play next.  With AK FOLLOW SUIT With Ace then King - partner was not expecting the King so it must be WAKE UP CALL to tell partner to signal what to play next.</p>
735	<p>If somebody leads 2 of their suit against your No Trump contract you immediately know that player has led from a four card suit as there is nothing lower than the 2 so you immediately know the layout of that suit (like an expert).</p>
736	<p>do Stayman you need either:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5-4 in the Majors ready to do WEAK TAKE-OUT - Zero+ points needed OR</li> <li>11+ points 4432 shape and at least one four card Major- you need 11+ so you can control the auction and return to 2NT if partner will not oblige you and bids the wrong Major,</li> </ol>
737	<p>4NT is ONLY BLACKWOOD if a suit has been agreed- the rest of the time it is QUANTITATIVE (or invitational) so when the bidding goes:</p> <p>1H 1S  1NT 4NT</p>
738	<p>When playing out suits DON'T BE CARELESS adhere to the high card from short hand principle and then you will NOT GET BLOCKED.</p>
739	<p>4th suit forcing says TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOUR SHAPE and enables you to get to those amazing 5:3 fits for either Opener's Main suit or responder's Main suit and not to bid 3NT unilaterally.</p>

740	For weak use of Stayman now you need BOTH MAJORS and one of them better be a FIVE CARD SUIT so you can CONTROL the AUCTION back into the five card suit at the 2 level if partner has neither four spades or 4 Hearts.
741	Basically, 1NT is 6-9 points balanced. However, if you are not strong enough to reply in a lower ranking suit it is best to reply 1NT with any horrid hand-that is why its known as the DUSTBIN BID.
742	When you are overcalling and are stuck for an overcall then DOUBLE is probably the answer in these 3 situations: - a) 13+ and liking the other suits; b) 19+ and Balanced too strong for mere 1NT overcall; c) 16/17+ points and very powerful suit of your own.
743	Please practice Klinger's exercise and stand in front of a mirror and go I MUST PASS so you can see what it looks.
744	It is occasionally OK to overcall 1NT with 4441 and singleton A if Double isn't going to work out.
745	A reverse is any second bid by opener that makes responder have to give preference at the 3 level so if the bidding goes N S 1♦ 1♠ 2♥ 2♥ is a reverse because if South prefers Diamonds he will now have to go back to 3♦, Therefore North should only bid like this with good 16+ points.
746	Don't wait for Stayman to come to you Consider it an option every time partner opens 1NT. The same as you would always consider taking out an umbrella on a sunny day.
747	When you FOLLOW SUIT with sequential cards you now play your lowest of the sequence so partner can see that declarer had to use the Ace to beat your Ten and with KQJT now follow suit with the TEN.
748	When you make a transfer bid you MUST know what your next bid will be a) Will you bid 2NT and show balanced hand 11/12 points with the Major? b) Will you bid 3NT and show balanced hand 11/12 points with the Major? c) Will you Pass (weak take-out)? d) Will you bid another suit? e) Will you repeat suit to show SIX?
749	a) After partner makes an Informative Double you just bid your best suit t lowest level with 0-7 points. b) If you have or more now jump in best suit.
750	you have the choice between a limit bid and an unlimited THERE IS NO CHOICE you always make the LIMIT BID and then you have said it all on one go so with: ♠ A 7 6 ♥ 5 4 3 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ A K Q 7 playing weak NO Trump open 1NT straight away and do not fall in love with those Clubs.
751	90% of the time you lead from you longest suit always against a No trump contract as you want to build tricks in that suit however: a) With a sequence in the suit lead top card lead the Queen with QJ1065 SO PARTNER KNOWS when you lead Queen you have Jack Ten to follow. b) Without a sequence then lead 4 <sup>th</sup> one down so now with Q7643 play the 4.
752	If you need to ruff twice in dummy then this is usually a clear indicator to delay drawing trumps.

753	If you have 2 doubleton Queens they are really worthless so do not apply rule of 20 under those circumstances.
754	You cover and honour with an Honour to try and promote something for yourself or something possibly for partner - you put a King on their Queen hoping partner has the Jack or even the Ten if you do not have either of those cards. If you see the Ace in dummy DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY IT !!
755	<p>Not sure what to reply to partner's Opening bid after an intervening bid the NEGATIVE DOUBLE comes to the rescue most of the time. e.g. :</p> <p>♠ 7 6 ♥ K 7 6 2 ♦ A 5 4 ♣ 7 6 5 2</p> <p>Partner opens 1♦ and next player overcall 1♠ so now you are a bit stuck your 6 points so just say Double - I have the ability to reply with my 6+ points and I also do have a four card Heart suit.</p>
756	<p>What makes a good 13 points when partner invites you to 3NT</p> <p>Do you have 10s and 9s rather than 4s and 2sin your suits? Upgrade and accept</p> <p>Do you have good sequences in your suits such as KQJ9 Upgrade and accept</p> <p>Do you have a 5-card suit? Upgrade and accept</p> <p>Are you 4333 shape? No upgrade here so refuse</p> <p>Everybody loves upgrades and prefers to turn left.</p>

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