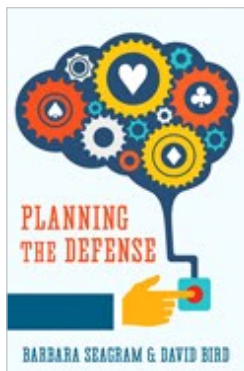


Planning The Defense

Make a difference by defeating a contract



Planning The Defense

By Barbara Seagram & David Bird
(Masterpoint Press, Toronto, Canada, 2019, soft cover, 173 pages)

\$34.95 post-free from paul@bridgegear.com or \$31.50 from the book stall at NSWBA

For many years I have been telling players to forget about bidding and declarer play and focus on defence. You defend twice as many hands as you play and defeating a contract that might have made a huge difference. At matchpoint pairs each extra trick figures to add 1% to your score.

Seagram and Bird have developed bridge book writing into a fine art with 18 excellent titles in joint authorship. If you are looking for an author or authors to follow look no further. The book is in three parts, Signals and Discards, Making a Defensive Plan and Plans that Involve Counting.

This deal is from the Chapter Continue the Suit or Switch? When defending counting high card points as well as tricks is an essential skill:

Dealer E | Vul N-S

♠ 652	♠ AT94		♠ K73
♥ QJT98	♥ 654		♥ K2
♦ 753	♦ AQ6		♦ K84
♣ J6	♣ 972		♣ QT843

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ QJ8	
♥ A73	
♦ JT92	
♣ AK5	

W	N	E	S
			1NT
P	3NT	//	

Partner leads ♥Q and you dutifully put on your king which holds the trick. Time to start counting. Declarer has shown 15-17 HCP, dummy 10 and you 11. That comes to at least 36 points so partner is marked with 4 HCP at most. It is futile to play another heart since partner has shown ♥QJ and can have no entry. You must hope partner holds ♣J and switch to a club.

You switch to ♣4 and declarer is doomed to be two down. Reading bridge books is the best way to improve your game and I highly recommend this book.