

# Book Reviews by Paul Lavings

## Winning IMPs

Optimism and aggression in the bidding, plus more



### Winning IMPs

By Rakesh K. Kumar  
(An Honors Book from Masterpoint Press, Toronto, Canada, 2020, soft cover, 194 pages )

\$35.95 post-free from paul@bridgegear.com, 0408-888-085 or 02-4295-0870

OR

\$31.50 from the book stall at NSWBA

Rakesh is a longtime player at NSWBA, now living in the Southern Highlands. Like many of us his focus is Sunday Congresses, traditionally a Swiss Teams of 7 x 8-board matches and it is to these players he directs his book.

Firstly he discusses hand evaluation using the Losing Trick Count. He examines various methods including Two Over One Game Force and then how he deals with strong hands. His 2♣ opening is not quite forcing to game and he throws lesser strong hands into his 2♦ opening which is either a weak 2 in a major or a hand like:

♠ AKQ7642 ♥ T8 ♦ J ♣ A76

♠ J ♥ A98 ♦ AKQJ92 ♣ AT4

♠ AJT972 ♥ AK ♦ AJ94 ♣ 5

On the third hand you are not worth a 2♣ opening but partner may pass 1♠ with 4 or 5 HCP and game will frequently be missed.

The author then looks at all areas of bidding with an emphasis on optimism and aggression. The second section is a thorough examination of competitive bidding with the third and fourth sections on play and defence.

This deal is a good example of bidding to the hilt:

Dealer S | Vul N-S

♠ A62	♠ Q543	♠ 8
♥ T987	♥ KJ	♥ Q532
♦ QT54	♦ AK983	♦ 72
♣ Q3	♣ T2	♣ AKJ954

W	N	E
	S	

♠ KJT97
♥ A64
♦ J6
♣ 876

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1D	2C	2S
P	4S	//	

Why did North bid 4♠ opposite a passed partner? Partner's values were likely to be in hearts and spades, and the lure of the vulnerable game proved too tempting. Declarer had to ruff a club and a heart in dummy then 10 tricks rolled home. In the IMPs Swiss Pairs event in which this was played only 7 of 29 North-South pairs reached the game.

An excellent book for keen intermediate players wishing to improve their game, with lots of discussion, comparison of methods, good ideas and card play.