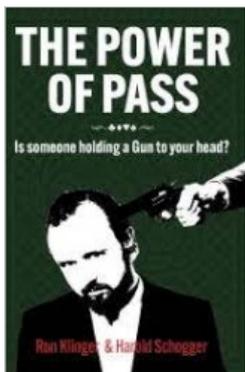


The Power of Pass

Is someone holding a gun to your head?



The Power of Pass

By Harold Schogger
and Ron Klinger
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In bridge pass is not a bid, only a call. Nevertheless many players have forged a successful bridge career by passing at the right time. The Power of Pass tells of many situations where a pass wins the day – the 36 chapters include not overcalling with a poor suit, passing when your RHO opens with your suit, not bidding again when you have shown your hand, not doubling when opponents are in the only contract you can defeat, avoiding the 5-level, passing with 11 poor points, respecting partner’s sign-off and not competing a partscore to the 4-level.

Most chapters feature two example hands and many of the hands are from top events. This deal is from the 4th IOC Grand Prix 2002, Canada vs USA. At one table Canada’s East opened 1♥ and with no opposition bidding East-West played in 3NT, making 6 for +490.

Dealer S | Vul N-S

♠ AJ972	♠ T6	♠ 5
♥ 7	♥ 5432	♥ AQJ98
♦ QJ872	♦ K9	♦ AT6
♣ 92	♣ 87643	♣ AKQT

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ KQ843	♠ 5
♥ KT6	♥ AQJ98
♦ 543	♦ AT6
♣ J5	♣ AKQT

W	N	E	S
			P
P	P	1H	1S
P	P	DBL	//

At the other table the Canada South ventured a 1♠ overcall. The problem was that he was vulnerable against not, held a balanced hand with only 9 HCP, facing a partner who could not muster a third seat opening and with a spade suit that was hardly robust. Talk about ignoring all the warning signs!

West led ♥7 and East won ♥A and returned ♥Q. West ruffed the ♥K and shifted to ♦Q-K-A. East cashed ♥J and switched to ♠5-3-J-6. The defence now took ♦J, ♣A-K and played the good ♥9. In the end declarer made just the ♠10 and ♠Q, five down, -1400.

In the first two chapters the authors not only warn against poor overcalls but recommend an effective method to decide whether to overcall or not and to what level. Invaluable. A most enjoyable and welcome book reinforcing the value of discipline and good judgement in the bidding.