



Dorothy Hayden Truscott

Updated by Gail Greenberg

WINNING DECLARER PLAY



AN HONORS eBook FROM MASTER POINT PRESS

To my parents, who taught me to play bridge at the age of seven

Text © 2013 Gail Greenberg, Margaret Cooke, Bobette Thorsen.

All rights reserved.

Honors eBooks is an imprint of Master Point Press. All contents, editing and design (excluding cover design) are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Master Point Press
331 Douglas Ave.
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M5M 1H2
(416) 781-0351
Email: info@masterpointpress.com

Websites: www.masterpointpress.com
www.bridgeblogging.com
www.teachbridge.com
www.ebooksbridge.com

ISBN: 978-1-55494-535-1

Layout and Editing: Gail Greenberg and Bobette Thorsen
Cover Design: Olena S. Sullivan/New Mediatrix

Introduction

For years on end the two books that I have recommended most frequently to my students are Dorothy's *Bid Better Play Better* and her crown jewel *Winning Declarer Play*. Not only are they both exceptionally good in terms of the instruction but they are also well written and fun to read. So it was with dismay that I recently discovered that *Winning Declarer Play* was out of print. When I contacted Dorothy's daughter, Margaret, to inquire, I was hoping to hear that this was a temporary oversight and arrangements were being made to publish her book again. No such luck. Sadly she told me that her most recent publisher was not intending to republish. We contacted that gentleman, Melvin Powers, and he confirmed what Margaret believed to be true and gave his permission for us to republish the book.

Thereupon Margaret, Bobette, one of Dorothy's other daughters, and I took it upon ourselves to slightly update the work. We largely eliminated the bidding sequences and revised the opening lead selection to Ace from Ace-King against trump suit contracts through the four level, but we left the card play entirely intact. The reason for this is that Standard American bidding and defensive carding signals in 2013 are much different from those in 1969 when Dorothy first published. But the card play has not changed a bit and never will. Her ideas about card play are just as much on target now as ever before. Students from complete novices to experienced duplicate players will all profit from her insights .

GAIL GREENBERG

Foreword to the 2013 Edition

Dorothy was a frequent teammate and partner of mine. Together we won world championships representing the United States in the Venice Trophy and Olympiad. Not only was she a great player, but she was also a delightful partner and teammate, and believe me that is not always the case with all superstars. When things went wrong Dorothy always tried to find a way to blame herself (often very unfairly), never to attack, and seldom to criticize her partner.

One of my favorite Dorothy stories exemplifies her two traits that I believe account largely for her phenomenal success through her career – one, commitment to winning and two, her sense of humor. Dorothy and I were playing in the finals of a National Women’s knockout team game in which the outcome was likely to determine which team would represent the United States in the next World Championship. At the conclusion of the match, the scores were tallied up and it turned out that our team was in a dead tie against our opponents, and some kind of playoff would be necessary. The problems with this were several. One, it was now well past 1AM in the morning. Two, the playoff had to take place sometime before 1PM the next day because a new event was scheduled that day. The conditions of contest stated that the captains of the two teams in question, if they agreed, could play first thing the next morning. But failing to get that agreement, the playoff had to be right away. Since a playoff would probably take about an hour and a half and it was already very late, our group was leaning toward the morning alternative, but one of the members of the other team, whose players were far younger than we were, told her teammates that they should insist on playing now because our team was a “bunch of grannies who were up past their bedtime.” The team concurred and the director informed us we would have to play right then and there.

We all groaned a little, wondering if we would be able to play well at this hour. But Dorothy was all vim and vigor, and said with much enthusiasm, “Let’s show them what a bunch of grannies can do.” And let me tell you, it seemed to me it was a one-man show in which Dorothy almost single-handedly mowed them down with her great card play and indomitable spirit.

Dorothy enjoyed this episode so much that when she was elected to the Hall of Fame and asked me to be her presenter, she suggested that I tell the granny story to describe her favorite victory. I did just that.

GAIL GREENBERG

Foreword to the 1969 Edition

It flatters the male ego to consider women inferior as bridge players. The many jokes about mixed-pair bridge events bear eloquent testimony to this. But it is an attitude for which I hold but little brief.

For many years my favorite partner was a woman, Helen Sobel Smith. Helen became the first woman ever to represent her country in the Bermuda Bowl event, the world championship of bridge. Only one other woman has ever achieved this honor, and that is Dorothy Hayden.

Dorothy's record in national and international events is outstanding, and the success of her first book, *Bid Better, Play Better*, is proof of her ability to express herself on paper- no easy feat for the bridge expert.

Bridge is not really a difficult game to play well. The expert does not have some strange power that sets him apart from Mr. Smith or Mrs. Jones. He has merely learned to apply logical thinking at the bridge table. The apparently wondrous feats of the maestro – dropping a singleton king offside, a first-round finesse for the jack, etc. – are all the result of information carefully gleaned from the bidding and play to that point.

With a little bit of application, you too can learn to bring off these coups. In her easy style, highlighted by flashes of humor, Dorothy Hayden carefully dissects the characteristics of a bridge expert's game and places them before you in a concise yet thorough manner.

This book may not make you into an expert overnight, but a careful reading will certainly improve your game.

CHARLES H. GOREN

Contents

PART I	ELEMENTARY	1
1	Card Combinations	1
2	Safety Plays	17
3	“Let Me Play the Notrumps, Dear”	27
4	How to Handle a Suit Contract	46
PART II	ADVANCED	65
5	Endplay	65
6	Reading the Cards	82
7	Hocus Pocus with the Trump Suit	100
8	Squeeze Play	118
9	The Gentle Art of Deception	150
10	What are the odds?	169
PART III	PROBLEM HANDS	186

♠
♥
PART I ELEMENTARY
♦
♣

Chapter 1

Card Combinations

Before it is possible to become a good declarer, it is necessary to understand the basic card combinations. Although there are hundreds of them, ranging from elementary through intermediate to advanced, only three simple techniques are involved in their handling:

1. leading towards an honor
2. finessing
3. ducking

Before we discuss advanced combinations, look at the following elementary examples of each technique.

Leading Toward an Honor

	DUMMY	
	K 7	
WEST		EAST
A 10 9 5 3		Q J 6 2
	DECLARER	
	8 4	

If declarer wishes to take a trick in this suit, he naturally must lead a small card from his hand toward dummy's king in the hope that West has the Ace.

The Simple Finesse

	DUMMY	
	A Q	
WEST		EAST
K J 9 5 3		10 7 6 2
	DECLARER	
	8 4	

In order to make two tricks in this suit, declarer must lead a small card from his hand, planning to play the Queen from dummy. He will make two tricks any time West has been dealt the King.

Ducking

	DUMMY	
	A K 5 4 3 2	
WEST		EAST
Q 10 9		J 8
	DECLARER	
	7 6	

The contract is Notrump, and dummy has no outside entries. Declarer can make five tricks in this suit by playing a small card from each hand on the first trick. By “ducking” this first trick to the opponents, he establishes five tricks for himself any time the opponents' holding is divided 3–2.

LEARN DECLARER PLAY FROM AN EXPERT

This classic book, a bestseller for more than forty years, has been updated for this edition by Gail Greenberg, a frequent partner of Dorothy Truscott, and like her a World Champion. Dorothy had a unique ability to make complex bridge concepts simple to understand, and everything here, from the basics to the most complicated squeeze or endplay, is described in an interesting and easy-to-follow way. In addition to the technical material, the reader will also learn when and how to use deceptive tactics to give the opponents a chance to make mistakes. Each chapter has many sample hands to test and challenge the reader.

In her easy style, highlighted by flashes of humor, Dorothy carefully dissects the characteristics of a bridge expert's game and places them before you in a concise yet thorough manner.

— Charles Goren



DOROTHY HAYDEN TRUSCOTT (1925-2006) was the top-ranked woman bridge player for many years. She won four World titles and twenty-eight National titles including the Life Master Pairs and the Blue Ribbon Pairs. She also came in second in the Bermuda Bowl and placed third in the World Open Pairs, the highest finish ever by a woman. Dorothy was a World Bridge Federation Grand Master, and was elected to the Bridge Hall of Fame in 1998. She is the author of the classic bridge book *Bid Better, Play Better*, and she co-authored several books with her husband Alan Truscott. Among her contributions to bridge theory are splinter bids and DOPI.

GAIL GREENBERG is a five-time World Champion, whose bridge school in New York is one of the largest in North America.

