

DAVID BIRD



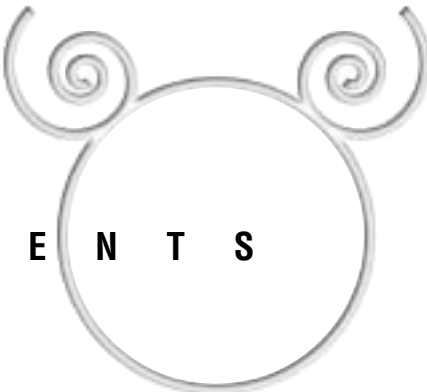
25



BRIDGE MYTHS

EXPOSED





C O N T E N T S

Declarer's Myths

Chapter 1	Draw Trumps Straight Away	7
Chapter 2	Hold Up an Ace	15
Chapter 3	Win as Cheaply as Possible	23
Chapter 4	Play Low in Second Seat	31
Chapter 5	Eight Ever, Nine Never	37
Chapter 6	Ruff Losers in the Dummy	45
Chapter 7	Finesse Whenever You Can	51
Chapter 8	Play on Your Longest Suit First	59
Chapter 9	Lead Towards High Cards	67
Chapter 10	Ruff the Defenders' Winners	73
Chapter 11	Lead Low to a Trick	81
Chapter 12	Run Your Longest Suit	87
Chapter 13	Leave the Big Decision Until Last	93

Defenders' Myths

Chapter 14	Third Hand High	99
Chapter 15	Return Partner's Suit	109
Chapter 16	Cover an Honor with an Honor	119
Chapter 17	Second Hand Low	127
Chapter 18	Capture an Honor with an Honor	137
Chapter 19	Lead Through Strength	145
Chapter 20	Discard from Your Weakest Suit	153
Chapter 21	Ruff When You Can	161
Chapter 22	Never Give a Ruff-and-Sluff	169
Chapter 23	Split Your Honors	175
Chapter 24	Follow Low When a Trick is Lost	181
Chapter 25	Don't Ruff Partner's Winner	189



DECLARER'S MYTHS

- Draw trumps straight away
- Hold up an ace
- Win as cheaply as possible
- Play low in second seat
- Eight ever, nine never
- Ruff losers in the dummy
- Finesse whenever you can
- Play on your longest suit first
- Lead towards high cards
- Ruff the defenders' winners
- Lead low to a trick
- Run your longest suit
- Leave the big decision until last

DEFENDER'S MYTHS

- Third hand high
- Return partner's suit
- Cover an honor with an honor
- Second hand low
- Capture an honor with an honor
- Lead through strength
- Discard from your weakest suit
- Score a ruff when you can
- Never give a ruff-and-sluff
- Split your honors
- Follow low when a trick is lost
- Don't ruff partner's winner

Do you remember the first few times you played bridge? To get you started, a friend probably gave you a few helpful hints — perhaps one of the ones listed to the left. There are many such general guidelines for bridge players— some of them valuable, some not. But these are the *Bridge Myths*, not the *Bridge Rules* — because they all have exceptions and none should be followed blindly. In reading this book you will get to see what it is about each guideline that makes it so useful; more importantly, you will also learn to recognize the times when you should ignore it.

David Bird is the author of more than fifty books, including the award-winning *Bridge Technique Series* (with Marc Smith) and *Saints & Sinners* (with Tim Bourke). He writes two newspaper columns in the UK, and his work appears regularly in numerous bridge magazines. He lives near Southampton, in England.

