



Play Bridge With Reese



Terence Reese

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Foreword

When one talks of bridge writers, the name Terence Reese is synonymous with excellence. Several of his books are landmarks in the development and understanding of bridge, especially in the field of cardplay.

He first introduced the idea of presenting hands in an 'over my shoulder' style in *BRIDGE Magazine*, and it was an immediate success. That books should follow was inevitable, and the second of these was *Play Bridge With Reese*.

A measure of the author's genius is that when the deals were checked using the double-dummy analyser Deep Finesse, it revealed only a few minor flaws.

This book allows you to see how an expert thinks, and to understand how you can add such methods to your own skills.

Including this title in the Better Bridge Now series was an easy decision to make. It instructs and entertains, and will surely inspire you to take another step up the bridge ladder.

Mark Horton
Editor
Better Bridge Now

1 Disclosing a Doubleton

'Medium no-trump, Stayman responses, and Blackwood?' asked my partner at the beginning of a rubber. Not my favourite methods by any means, but I agree. On the first hand I deal myself the following in the South position:

♠ 10 8 2
 ♥ K 10 7 5 2
 ♦ K 6
 ♣ A K 9

An awkward type of hand because I don't like opening One Heart and perhaps, over Two Diamonds, having to rebid Two Hearts. Medium no-trump, he said; having a couple of tens and a five-card suit I think I'll 'borrow' a point or two and open 1NT.

West passes and partner, looking learned, responds Two Clubs, a conventional request for my four-card major. After a pass by East I bid a dutiful Two Hearts. Partner now alarms me with a raise to Six Hearts and all pass. The bidding has been:

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

West leads the nine of spades and partner puts down with pride:

♠ 9 led

♠	A Q
♥	A J 9 8 4
♦	A 8 3
♣	J 7 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠	10 8 2
♥	K 10 7 5 2
♦	K 6
♣	A K 9

Partner has his bid, I suppose, but if he had responded Three Hearts instead of that idiotic Two Clubs he would have been playing the hand

and we would have avoided this awkward spade lead through the ace-queen. (Against any other lead declarer can draw trumps, eliminate diamonds, and play off ace, king and another club, with various chances.)

I suppose the spade finesse is wrong but it is not unknown for players to underlead a king against a small slam, so I will put in the queen. East wins with the king and returns the three, on which West plays the seven. Now, how shall I play trumps? The only indication I have is that West appears to be short in spades. He led the nine and I held the eight. If anyone is void in hearts, therefore, it is more likely to be East. So I play the four of hearts from table; East plays the six and I win with the king, West playing the three. I draw a second trump, West playing the queen and East discarding a spade.

Somehow I have got to avoid losing a club and superficially the best chance is to find East with Q-10. Before committing myself I must try to find out more about the distribution. I play a diamond to the king and lead the ten of spades. West discards a club and dummy ruffs.

So East has six spades! I continue with the ace and another diamond; on the third diamond East plays the nine and West the ten. The following cards are left:

♠	-									
♥	J 9									
♦	-									
♣	J 7 3									
<table style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> <td style="width: 33%;">N</td> <td style="width: 33%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td></td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			N		W		E		S	
	N									
W		E								
	S									
♠	-									
♥	10 7									
♦	-									
♣	A K 9									

I can still enter dummy twice and play East for Q-10-x in clubs, but is that likely? East has six spades, one heart and at least three diamonds. I wonder whether it is four diamonds and two clubs or three diamonds and three clubs. I haven't seen the jack or queen of diamonds yet. West played the ten on the third round, didn't he? Of course! He can't have the queen and jack as well, or he would have led a diamond from Q-J-10-x-x.

Then East must have a doubleton club and my only chance is to drop the queen. This I am lucky enough to do, for the full hand turns out to be:

	♠ A Q										
	♥ A J 9 8 4										
	♦ A 8 3										
	♣ J 7 3										
♠ 9 7	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W	E			S		♠ K J 6 5 4 3
	N										
W	E										
	S										
♥ Q 3		♥ 6									
♦ Q 10 5 2		♦ J 9 7 4									
♣ 10 8 5 4 2		♣ Q 6									
	♠ 10 8 2										
	♥ K 10 7 5 2										
	♦ K 6										
	♣ A K 9										

Partner is sufficiently pleased with the result not to notice that I was underweight for my medium no-trump.

Post-mortem

This was not a difficult hand to play once certain inferences were drawn.

First, West's lead of the nine of spades from a holding that did not include the eight suggested that he might be short in spades. That was an indication as to how to play the trump suit, though in practice it would not have mattered had the ace been led first.

The play of the diamonds, in conjunction with the fact that West had not led a diamond, established that East had at least four cards in the suit.

Then the count became exact. South could tell that he had to play East for Q-x in clubs (or singleton queen) and not for Q-10-x.

Play Bridge With Reese

In most sports, as you aim for the top there is a stumbling block. Your golf swing is fine on the driving range, but you are no Tiger Woods on the course. You hold your own at tennis, but you are no Roger Federer. You win your share of bridge games, but you are no Zia. Somehow, the real genius of these pastimes eludes you. This book, one of the all-time classics on bridge, attempts to take you across that barrier. You are at a world champion's elbow from the moment he picks up his cards. You share his thoughts in the bidding and play. You perceive how an expert works out the opposing hands and become aware of inferences that average players never dream exist. This book is still full of fresh ideas that will help any player's game improve.



TERENCE REESE (1913-1996) was a World and European champion, and one of the best technical writers the game has yet produced. Several of his books are still in print more than half a century after their first appearance.

