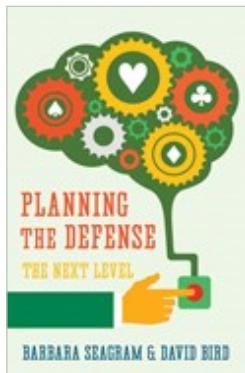


Book Reviews by Paul Lavings

Planning the Defense the Next Level

A more advanced version of “Planning the Defense” by the same authors



Planning the Defense the next level

by Barbara Seagram & David Bird
(Masterpoint Press, Toronto, Canada, 2020, soft cover, 178 pages)

\$34.95 post-free from paul@bridgegear.com
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or

\$31.50 from the book stall at NSWBA

Recently I reviewed Planning the Defense by the same authors which covered the basics of defence with the focus on planning and counting. This is a more advanced book with 10 chapters divided into four parts entitled:

- MANAGING DEFENSIVE COMMUNICATIONS
- MAKING LIFE AWKWARD FOR DECLARER
- FURTHER DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES
- DEFENSE IN THE ENDGAME

There is a hand on every page of text plus 6 quiz hands at the end of each of the 10 chapters. There is one whole chapter of 7 example hands and 6 quiz hands on ace for attitude and king for count, a boon for the many partnerships who follow this method.

This deal is from the Chapter Planning to Disrupt Declarer's Entries. See if you can find the winning continuation as West after you lead ♥A:

♠ Q53	W	N	E	S
♥ 4				1S
♦ QJ2	2H	3C	P	3S
♣ AK9752	P	4H	P	4NT
	P	5C	P	6S
	//			

♠ 7	N	♠ 984	W	
♥ AKQ983		♥ T752	E	
♦ K76		♦ T943		
♣ QT4	S	♣ J3		

♠ AKJT62	W			
♥ J6				
♦ A85				
♣ 86				

♠ AKJT62

♥ J6

♦ A85

♣ 86

North's 4♥ is a slam try, showing spade support and a heart control.

(Continued on page 2)

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How do you think declarer will play the contract? The biggest threat is staring you in the face — dummy's club suit. Whether declarer holds one club or two, he will be able to establish dummy's clubs with a single ruff. To reach the established club winners he will have to draw trumps, ending in the dummy.

How can you prevent this? You must lead a second top heart, forcing the dummy to ruff. If your partner holds three trumps, as is likely, the slam will then go down. Declarer will ruff the second heart and set up the clubs with a ruff. He will then continue with ♠A and ♠Q hoping that trumps break 2-2 and he can then discard three red-suit losers on the ♣975. Not today! Your partner will be able to ruff the fourth round of clubs and the slam will go one down.

The book is a rather brilliant effort by the authors. For reasonably experienced players upwards this book will be a delight to read and will improve your game immeasurably.