

# Book Reviews by Paul Lavings

## Swing Deals



**Swing Deals**  
by Rakesh K. Kumar

(An Honours Book from Masterpoint Press, Toronto, Canada, 2021, soft cover, 211 pages)

\$34.95 post-free from [paul@bridgegear.com](mailto:paul@bridgegear.com)  
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In his second book Rakesh Kumar asks the reader 4 questions per chapter over 26 chapters. I enjoyed the format, writing down my answers for each chapter and then going through the full hand and studying the solution. The chapters are all on their own individual theme and there are 4 chapters just on card play.

Try this one from the chapter "Whose Side Are You On?". You hold:

♠ 2  
♥ QJT98  
♦ A9854  
♣ 42

With neither side vulnerable, partner deals and passes and your right-hand opponent opens 1♠. What, if anything, will you bid? You have the perfect shape for a Michaels Cue Bid and you're not vulnerable. Did you bid 2♠?

The full deal:

Dealer S | Vul Nil

♠ 2 ♥ QJT98 ♦ A9854 ♣ 42	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 100px; height: 100px; 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;">S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">E</td> </tr> </table>		N		W	S	E	♠ A65 ♥ K4 ♦ JT62 ♣ Q875  ♠ Q98 ♥ 7653 ♦ K73 ♣ KJT  ♠ KJT743 ♥ K4 ♦ Q ♣ A963
	N							
W	S	E						

W	N	E	S
			1S
2S	3H*	PASS	4S
//			

\* A good raise to 3S

Declarer won the heart lead cashed ♠A and finessed to ♠J, losing just two clubs and a diamond. There are many reasons why West shouldn't enter the bidding. Partner is a passed hand, your hand is relatively weak and the opponents have the boss suit. If East-West save over 4♠ then 5♥ doubled will fail by three tricks for -500 against opponent's 420.

More importantly the Michaels cue bid may help declarer to make 4♠. If West remains silent, South will surely play for spades to break 2-2. However, after West gets into the act showing a 5-5 declarer is likely to go with the odds and play East for ♠Qxx.

Don't give away distributional information if you can't possibly buy the hand! All that will do is cost IMPs.

An interesting and instructive book with an excellent layout.

