



For the Exciting Game of Bridge

Warren Watson

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Preface

This book, like the rest of the Watson bridge series, is for all bridge players who actively seek improvement. They keep the game thriving and are the advanced and expert players of the future.

The following is a series of questions from lessons given on BBO¹ and virtual club play. Most of the hands are from the Columbia River Basin games encompassing the Spokane duplicate bridge club (Spokane, Washington), the Kokanee bridge club (Nelson, BC) and the Kootenay Jewel bridge club (Warfield, BC).

Asking all the questions is an expression in soccer (association football) when a team has the upper hand. Bridge is no different. It is all about making the opponents unsure of their bids. A player asks all the questions, and the opposition have the wrong answers.

Nobody is vulnerable. Consider the following hand.

♠AQ1098 ♥K6 ♦A109 ♣832

It is opened 1♠, and the auction passes out. When partner puts down his three spades with five points, and the suit breaks three-two, it becomes obvious that the opponents have likely just scored a zero. The opener is in his eight-card fit and cannot be any lower. The opponents should have asked questions and competed.

It is commonly known that if the opponents are given clean auctions, but the generous gift is not reciprocated, the player reluctant to compete is going to lose too often.

This book will whet the reader's appetite for more explanations and more hands. Other titles, all with different examples, are available as shown in [Appendix A](#). For those who have already read these books, *Asking All the Questions* is a good review.

¹ BBO is Bridge Base Online. It is a popular free bridge playing site at <https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/>

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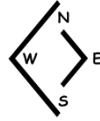
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Example 3.6: Is This Distributional Hand Powerful?

N-S vul.



♠98 ♥KJ976 ♦J97653 ♣---

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1NT	P	2♦
P	2♥	P	??

What does South bid after the transfer?

- a. Pass b. 3♥ c. 3♦ d. 2NT

If given the chance, North denies three hearts by bidding 3NT. What does South bid?

- e. Pass f. 4♥ g. 4♦ h. 5♦ i. 6♦

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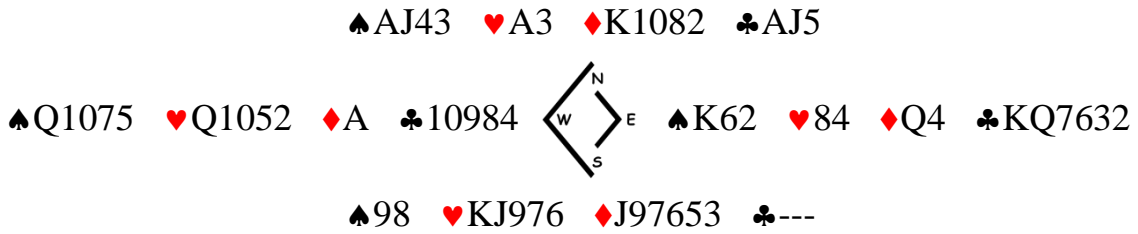
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Example 3.6: Is This Distributional Hand Powerful?

N-S vul.



W	N	E	S
			P
P	1NT	P	2♦
P	2♥	P	3♦
P	3NT	P	5♦
all pass			

The answers are c and h.

The expression “Six-five come alive” is very pertinent. If North has two hearts, 4♥ is a mistake because North likely has good diamond support.

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Example 7.8: The Five-Level is for the Opponents

E-W vul.



W	N	E	S
		1♣	P
1♠	dbl	2♠	3♦
4♠	5♦	P	P
??			

What does West bid?

- a. Pass b. dbl c. 5♠

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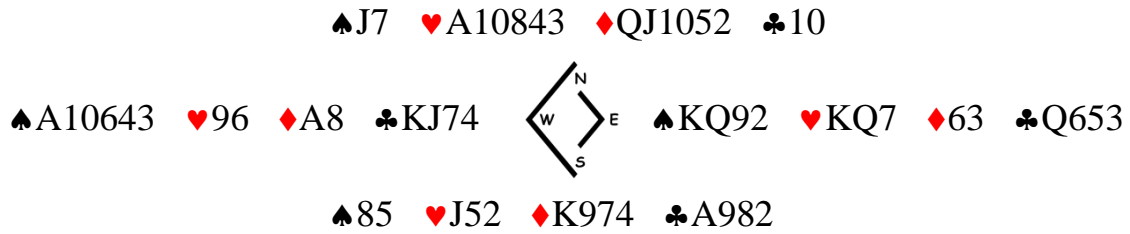
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Example 7.8: The Five-Level is for the Opponents

E-W vul.



W	N	E	S
		1♣	P
1♠	dbl	2♠	3♦
4♠	5♦	P	P
dbl	all pass		

The answer is b.

The opponents took East and West out of game they bid with full expectation of making. Therefore, North and South must play doubled if they play at all. West does not automatically take the push unless he knows the points needed to make the five-level are held. Points in diamonds also indicate that it is best defending a doubled diamond contract.

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Example 10.40: A Ruff Sets the Slam

Neither vul.



W	N	E	S
			1♥
P	2NT	P	4♥
P	4NT	P	5♥
P	6♥	all pass	

What does West lead?

- a. ♣10 b. ♦10 c. ♥3 d. ♥A e. ♠9

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Example 10.40: A Ruff Sets the Slam

Neither vul.

♠AK10 ♥KQJ10 ♦QJ ♣KJ94

♠9876 ♥A43 ♦109876 ♣10  ♠5432 ♥2 ♦5432 ♣Q632

♠QJ ♥98765 ♦AK ♣A875

W	N	E	S
			1♥
P	2NT	P	4♥
P	4NT	P	5♥
P	6♥	all pass	

The answer is b.

Leading a singleton is pointless. If partner has an entry to give a ruff, the slam is already set. A club lead brings home the club suit for the declarer. Singletons are easily led more than they should be.

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Trail, BC, Pencil on Paper, 24.5cm x 17.5cm, 2016

Warren Watson is a former Aerospace Engineer and is currently an artist, with a diploma in Fine Arts from Okanagan University College in Kelowna, BC, and an avid bridge player. He is an ACBL Diamond Life Master, an ACBL accredited bridge teacher, a writer of 347 columns in the Trail Times, a published author, an ACBL director, an accredited ACBL tournament assistant and the Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club manager (10 years). He currently resides in Trail, BC, and in winter, likes to ski Grey Mountain of Red Mountain Resort.



Self Portrait, Pencil on Paper
25cm x 20cm, 2015