

A structure and guides for understanding bridge conventions

The introduction to new conventions is often about rote learning of names and bidding conventions, without an emphasis on the strategy and uses. I thought I'd try and outline a simple structure for conventions. Conventions can easily be looked online, but I also included some of my favorite bridge books for further explanations.

- I. Slam and Game evaluation after major suit opening
 - a. 2 over 1
 - b. Forcing NT
 - c. Constructive raise
 - d. Jordan 2NT in competition
 - e. Jacoby 2NT
 - f. Splinters
 - g. Drury
 - h. RKC and 1430
 - i. Help suit game try
- II. Getting the most out of NT openings
 - a. 4 suit transfers with super accept
 - b. Texas transfers
 - c. Smolen
 - d. Puppet stayman
 - e. Lebensohl
- III. Finding the right game/slam contract after a 1 c/d opening
 - a. Inverted minor
 - b. Weak jump shift
 - c. New Minor forcing
 - d. Negative doubles
 - e. Fourth suit forcing
- IV. Game evaluation after weak 2 opening or other preemptive bid
 - a. Ogust
 - b. Gambling 3NT (either variety: solid 7 minor or broken 8 major)
- V. Quickly explaining hand in competitive bidding sequences
 - a. Support doubles
 - b. Responsive doubles
 - c. Michaels
 - d. Cappelletti or Brozel or DONT after NT opening
 - e. Lebensohl over weak 2 bid
 - f. Cue bidding opponents suit after their overcall
 - g. DOPI and Leitner doubles

Bridge books

- I. Introduction and basic texts
 - a. Goren's New Bridge Complete (Charles H. Goren)
 - b. Major Suit Raises (Mike Lawrence)
- II. Important concepts explained (more specialized)
 - c. Points Schmoints (Marty Bergen)
 - d. More Points Schmoints (Marty Bergen)
 - e. The Lebensohl Convention Complete
 - f. Killing Defense at Bridge (Hugh Kelsey)
- III. Advanced subjects
 - g. Modern Losing Trick Count (Ron Klinger)
 - h. Precision Today (David Berkowitz-Brent Manley) or One Club Complete (Wie and Radin)
 - i. The Bridge Players Comprehensive Guide to Defense (Frank Stewart)
- IV. Expert texts
 - j. Bridge Squeezes Complete (Clyde Love)
 - k. The Rodwell Files (Eric Rodwell)