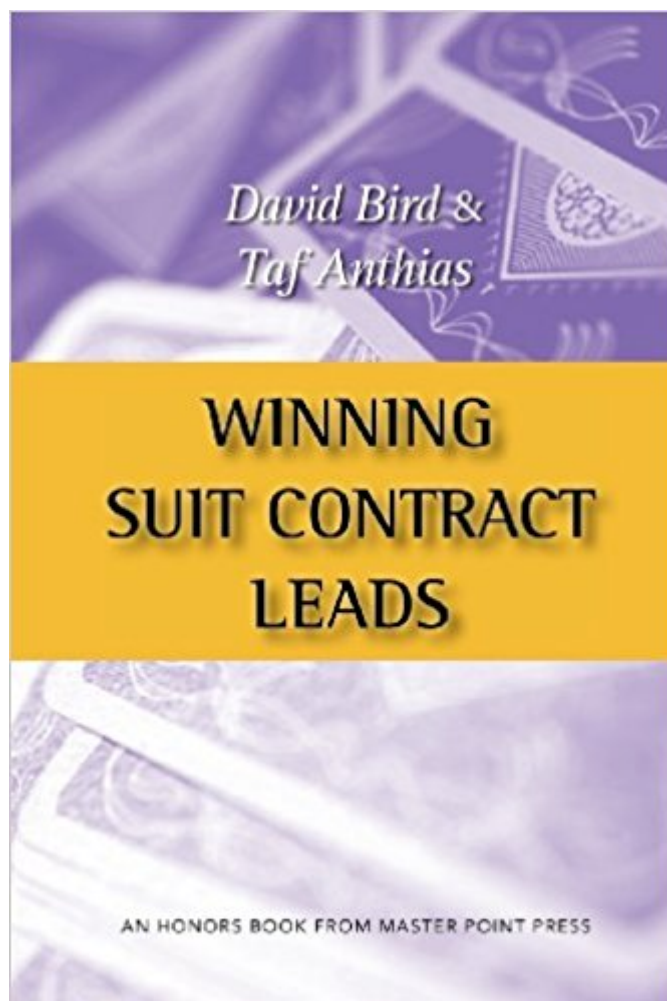




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Winning Suit Contract Leads



Synopsis

Winning Notrump Leads was a ground-breaking and very well-received book that used the power of computers to determine which opening leads work best against a variety of auctions at notrump. Using enhanced software, the authors now turn their attention to suit contracts. They generate millions of random deals, retaining those that match the chosen auction, for example 1S-2S-4S. By playing these deals automatically against each of the 13 possible opening leads from a given hand, they are able to discover which lead is most likely to beat the contract (also the best lead at matchpoint pairs). The authors provide insightful commentary to each result, answering timeless questions such as: When should I lead a trump? When is a doubleton a good opening lead? Should I lead differently against a partscore? Should I make an aggressive or a passive lead? Should I lead an ace against a small slam? Which leads work best against a grand slam? By using the number-crunching computer power available nowadays, there is no longer any need to rely on general opening-lead guidelines passed down by our ancestors. We think you will be surprised by many of the discoveries made during this investigation! DAVID BIRD (top) and TAF ANTHIAS were contemporaries at Cambridge University, both reading mathematics. They carried out research and development on software systems for over 30 years at IBM's UK Laboratories. In the 1970s they formed a successful bridge partnership, winning a number of national events. David is now one of the world's top bridge writers with 116 books to his name. Taf moved on to the USA, where he became a vice president of Cisco Systems. They have joined forces on this ground-breaking book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The authors use scientific computer simulations to study the lead problems against suit contracts

and draw conclusions based on the simulation results. Although the simulation ignores some very important aspects such as whether the current signaling system can still survive under the suggest leading pattern (e.g., if one always leads unsupported Aces, then the current signal system simply fails to work, and I doubt if a good remedy exists), it provides useful hints that would complement the decision making process of an experienced player. To me, the whole book can be summarized to several points (as which types of leads are more preferable than what people used to think and which types of leads are less preferable than what people used to think). Due to the respect to the authors, I shall not talk about the details but will let the readers to find out themselves.

For IMPs, I will follow the advice of the authors 100%. For match points, I wish the authors had said, if you make this lead, you will take x number of tricks, on average, this percentage of the time, and y number of tricks, this percentage of the time, etc., instead of the average number of tricks for each lead they give. Larry Cohen has stated that successful match point players try to avoid zeros if there is a good chance of getting one from a particular line of play. The authors don't show how certain leads can give you a zero and cost you the event.

I read this cover to cover. Full of great information.

It contradicts the conventional wisdom on some points. It's a must read for advanced players. The only weakness in my eyes is the analysis. The authors should have uses a larger # of hands, and they don't always back up their analysis. And in some cases they make suggestions that depend on a double dummy solver that would call for really unusual leads that normally would be low percentage.

An eye-opening book. Having played Bridge for years I would have thought experience alone would have lead to the best lead, after looking at the results of the book's simulations boy was I surprised. Frequently. I think this book is a little less radical, and slightly less interesting than it's sister volume "Winning NoTrump leads".

One of the most comprehensive books on opening leads. Good for all levels of player.

Thousands of computer simulations are analyzed to determine the most effective opening lead. To do this the computer must see all of the hands, which is an option that you & I do NOT have. Most

of the leads make sense, but some I question as being the best in real life. For example in double-dummy, the declarer knows which way to finesse & which opponents honors will fall.

Bird's two contract bridge computer simulation studies on opening leads "Winning No Trump Leads and Winning Suit Contract Leads" have rendered obsolete all other books on the subject. No bridge instructor can risk teaching another class without first mastering both texts.

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