

More Declarer Play the Bergen Way - Book Review

By Jared Johnson
ScoreCard Editor

Ten time national champion Marty Bergen's *Declarer Play the Bergen Way* was named 2005 bridge book of the year by the American Bridge Teachers' Association. Here is the sequel, *More Declarer Play the Bergen Way*.

Not all experts can easily transmit their knowledge to the less experienced. Bergen is a master at it. The book is full of helpful tips to make your contracts, all written in a breezy, conversational style.

The book is available direct from the author at 1 800 386-7432 for \$18.95 plus \$4.00 postage and handling, but \$5.00 off for mentioning this column. And he'll autograph. Check out this hand from the book.

East/West vulnerable
North dealer

		<i>North</i>		
		♠ A543		
		♥ Q10		
		♦ 93		
		♣ A9754		
	<i>West</i>		<i>East</i>	
	♠ 87		♠ —	
	♥ AK43		♥ J87652	
	♦ A875		♦ QJ106	
	♣ 1086		♣ KQJ	
		<i>South</i>		
		♠ KQJ10962		
		♥ 9		
		♦ K42		
		♣ 32		
	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>
	Pass	Pass	4♠	All Pass

After two passes, your preemptive bid of 4♠, as *South*, buys the auction against timid opponents. As it turns out you have already done well even if four spades goes down, because the opponents are cold for 6♥, but can you add injury to the insult by making it? *West* leads the ace and king of hearts and you ruff the second round? Now what? Go ahead. Look at all four hands (something you don't get to do at the table). Can you make it?

You would like to set up the clubs for pitches without letting *East* in for a lead through your diamond king. But you will have to give up a club trick.

Whether you play the ace and then a club or try to duck a club first, *East* is in to lead the deadly queen of diamonds for down one.

In order to make the hand you will have to use a special science fiction strategy - time travel. The theme of the hand is throwing a loser on a loser and keeping the dangerous hand off lead by cutting the enemy's communications, also known as the scissors coup.

Are those enough hints?

Once you ruff the second heart, you are finished. We turn back the clock to trick two. Throw a club on the second heart. *West* can't continue hearts, nor break diamonds, so suppose he leads a trump. You win in hand, lead to the club ace, and ruff with anything but the deuce. You lead another high spade to dummy's ace and ruff another club high.

Now you lead your carefully preserved deuce of trumps back to dummy and throw two diamonds on clubs. You lost two hearts and a diamond.

East never got in. He is most unhappy. He wishes you hadn't read this book.