

**THE BRIDGE MANUAL. AN  
ILLUSTRATED PRACTICAL  
COURSE OF INSTRUCTION AND  
COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE  
CONVENTIONS OF THE GAME**

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The Bridge Manual. An Illustrated Practical Course of Instruction and Complete Guide to the Conventions of the Game by John Doe

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**JOHN DOE**

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OF INSTRUCTION

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BY  
JOHN DOE.

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FOURTH EDITION.  
*(Fourteenth Thousand.)*



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## PREFACE.

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A BOOK on cards must always be of the nature of a Lesson Book ; to be studied generally with repugnance, and frequently without profit. I have tried to make the lesson palatable, I must leave it to the reader to make it profitable. Preaching is useless without practice. The most important part of Bridge is undoubtedly the Declaration. Do not start public practice until you have in private mastered the principles on which Trumps are declared. This you should be able to do by reading carefully the three chapters on the subject and then dealing many times a pack of cards into four heaps, and cogitating, with the help of the book, on the course to be taken with each of the four hands—deciding on each whether as dealer you should make a declaration or pass it, and what declaration you should make if as the dealer's partner it were left to you.

When you have mastered the declaration you should try and get two friends to assist in your

tuition by dealing out the hands given at the end of the book, and applying thereto the principles set forth in the three chapters concerning the play of the hand. Then try a few mild rubbers with intimate friends, and ask them to use harsh words to you when you go wrong. When you find you apply in practice most of the principles set forth in the book without unduly lengthy deliberation, you may risk a rubber in public and play for money. To play in public before this stage is reached may cause you much pecuniary loss and some decline in popularity.

If you cannot get anyone to assist in your tuition, you must do the best you can by playing by yourself the hands given at the end of the book. To do this arrange your cards in four packets in the order in which they are played in the diagram, so that each packet when turned face downward will have the card played to the first trick on the top of the packet, and that played to the thirteenth at the bottom, with the others each in its proper place. Then take the dealer's hand, expose Dummy's hand and play out the game. Try

and realize the reason for the play of each card, and do not look at the book during the play of the game unless you find you have done something wrong.

I have assumed a certain amount of knowledge of the values of the cards—such as might be given by occasional practice in Beggar-my-Neighbour and Nap. I have tried not to assume any knowledge of the Game of Whist. A generation is rapidly arising, which, though passably proficient in Bridge, is entirely ignorant of Whist—and I trust this book will instruct this generation equally with the generation which, having been brought up on Whist, may endeavour to apply Whist principles to Bridge.

In conclusion, a word of thanks to many friends who have done much to help me in compiling this work—in particular to L. P. S., to whom I am indebted for the whole basis of my meditations on the game. I trust that the present condition of my mind with regard to the Game of Bridge may be considered a credit to his teaching.



## Preface to the Second Edition.

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SINCE the publication of my first edition several works have appeared on the game of Bridge, and other systems have been divulged to the world; but I intend to stick to my own: firstly because my critics, especially "The Field" and "Blackwood," have been pleased to approve of me, secondly because the need for another large edition so soon after the publication of the first seems to indicate public appreciation, and thirdly because I continue to win steadily by following my own principles. Therefore the second edition is, except for a few changes in diction and a trifling amendment which is to be found on page 53, identical with the first.

JOHN DOE.

OXFORD, *March 23rd*, 1901.

## Preface to the Third Edition.

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I HAVE not felt that anything required emendation in this Edition, but I should like to say one word with regard to the Doubling of No Trumps (*vide* page 69). A great many English and nearly all French Bridge Players are adopting the American Convention. I advise everyone to ask quietly at the beginning of each rubber: "Partner, when do you double No Trumps? I double for your shortest suit." It is a little thing to ask and quite worth asking, unless you know the answer.

JOHN DOE.

*October, 1901.*

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