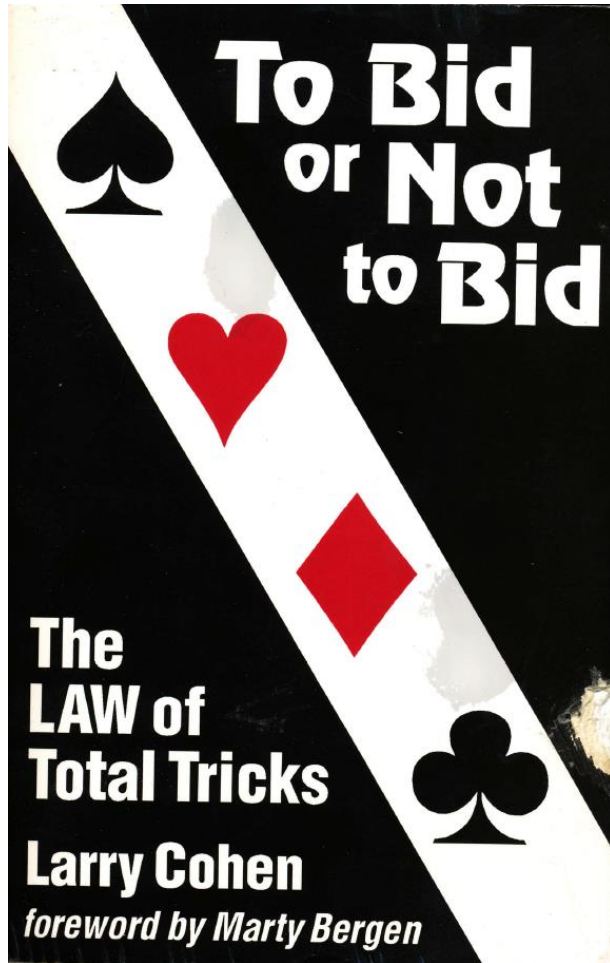


# Introduction to the Law of Total Tricks

Ken Johnson

July 16, 2017





# The Law of Total Tricks

## Larry Cohen – 1992

Marty Bergen read a bridge article written in 1969 by a French mathematician. Marty “devoured” the article and taught his partner Larry Cohen the “LAW”. It formed the basis of many bidding enhancements and Larry went on to write a couple of well-received books

# Bids based on LOTT

- 1.) Bergen raises
- 2.) Pre-emptive raises in competition
- 3.) Responding to Jacoby transfers
- 4.) Pre-empting
- 5.) DON'T
- 6.) Support doubles
- 7.) Unusual 1NT
- 8.) Two-Way Drury



# More Bids based on LOTT

- 1.) OBAR bids
- 2.) Scrambling 2NT
- 3.) “Super” Unusual 2NT
- 4.) Good-Bad 2NT
- 5.) Aggressive Minor-suit raises



The

## LAW OF TOTAL TRICKS

states that the total number of tricks available on any deal is equal to the total number of trumps



# Example 1 of “The Law of Total Tricks”

## Total Number of Trumps

Means the combined total of cards in both sides' best trump fit

♠ 876

♥ 543

♦ 983

♣ AQ106

♠ KJ5

♥ AQ108

♦ QJ10

♣ K42

♠ AQ32

♥ K6

♦ K42

♣ J987

♠ 1094

♥ J972

♦ A765

♣ 53

# Example 1 of “The Law of Total Tricks”

## Total Number of Trumps

Means the combined total of cards in both sides' best trump fit

♠ 876

♥ 543

♦ 983

♣ AQ106

♠ KJ5

♥ AQ108

♦ QJ10

♣ K42

## Total Number of Tricks

Means the combined total of tricks available to both sides (assuming best play and defense)

♠ AQ32

♥ K6

♦ K42

♣ J987

♠ 1094

♥ J972

♦ A765

♣ 53

# Example 1 of “The Law of Total Tricks”

## Total Number of Trumps

Means the combined total of cards in both sides' best trump fit

♠ 876

♥ 543

♦ 983

♣ AQ106

## Total Number of Trumps

N-S have 8 Hearts

E-W have 8 Clubs

Therefore total number of trumps = 16

♠ KJ5

♥ AQ108

♦ QJ10

♣ K42

♠ 1094

♥ J972

♦ A765

♣ 53

## Total Number of Tricks

Means the combined total of tricks available to both sides (assuming best play and defense)

♠ AQ32

♥ K6

♦ K42

♣ J987



# Example 1 of “The Law of Total Tricks”

## Total Number of Trumps

Means the combined total of cards in both sides' best trump fit

♠ 876

♥ 543

♦ 983

♣ AQ106

## Total Number of Trumps

N-S have 8 Hearts

E-W have 8 Clubs

Therefore total number of trumps = 16

♠ KJ5

♥ AQ108

♦ QJ10

♣ K42

♠ 1094

♥ J972

♦ A765

♣ 53

## Total Number of Tricks

Means the combined total of tricks available to both sides (assuming best play and defense)

♠ AQ32

♥ K6

♦ K42

♣ J987

## Total Number of Tricks

N-S can make 3 Hearts – 9 tricks

E-W can make 1 club – 7 tricks

Therefore total number of tricks = 16



# Example 2 of “The Law of Total Tricks” – Switch E-W

## Total Number of Trumps

Means the combined total of cards in both sides' best trump fit

♠ AQ32

♥ 63

♦ K42

♣ J987

## Total Number of Trumps

N-S have 8 Hearts

E-W have 8 Clubs

Therefore total number of trumps = 16

♠ KJ5

♥ AQ108

♦ QJ10

♣ K42

♠ 1094

♥ J972

♦ A765

♣ 53

## Total Number of Tricks

Means the combined total of tricks available to both sides (assuming best play and defense)

♠ 876

♥ K54

♦ 983

♣ AQ106

## Total Number of Tricks

N-S can make 2 Hearts – 8 tricks

E-W can make 2 clubs – 8 tricks

Therefore total number of tricks = 16

# Applying "The Law of Total Tricks"

## THE LAW OF TOTAL TRICKS



Marty Bergen is a 10-time National Champion. His 42 popular books include *Points Schmoints!*

### NEW Online Lessons with Marty

Informative, practical, and entertaining. Includes a detailed writeup of: all hands, the actual lesson, important principles, and Q&A with Marty.

For more info, visit [www.martybergen.com](http://www.martybergen.com)

### Available Direct from Marty

Books, interactive CDs, and 20 new booklets: Doubles, 2/1 GF, 1NT Forcing, Hand Evaluation, Weak 2-Bids, Bergen Raises, Play 3NT, 4♥+4♠, RHO Bids, Responder Rebids, Leads vs NT + Suits, Transfers, Bergen's Best, Defeat 3NT, Trump Tricks, Entries, Endplays, LOTT, 7 Excellent Conventions.

Many special discounts, including free books!

### Bridge Cruises

For info, call 800-367-9980

### ORDERING INFORMATION

To place your order, call Marty at 1-800-386-7432 or email: [mbergen@mindspring.com](mailto:mbergen@mindspring.com)

All credit cards are welcome. If sending money order or check (U.S. funds), call or email for S&H details.

Copyright 2011 © by Marty Bergen. All rights reserved. No part of this booklet may be reproduced in any form without written permission. Printed in the United States. Layout, design, and editing by Hammond Graphics.

\$9.95

ISBN 978-1-936125-21-0

50995>

Bergen Books

\$9.95 in US



## MARTY BERGEN'S

### THE KEY TO COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Number 19

### The LAW of Total Tricks

Inside you'll find: page

LOTT, Larry Cohen, and Me	2 - 3
How to Follow The LAW	4 - 7
How's Your Shape?	8 - 9
The Magic of Voids	10
Less Is More, and More Is More	11
Sleeping With the Enemy	12 - 13
Good vs. Evil	14 - 15
Push 'Em Up	16 - 17
To Bid or Not to Bid	18 - 19
4♠ over 4♥	20
Don't Be a Sacrificial Lamb	21 - 22
Essential Summary	23
Cruises, Books, and Online Lessons	24

## Forty Principles of The Law of Total Tricks



# Forty Principles of “The Law of Total Tricks”

- Strive to bid to the level of your side's number of trump. This is the essence of LOTT
- If possible, try to not allow the opponents to play at the same level as their number of trump
- When your opponents have found a fit, strain to not allow them to play at the two level
- You hate to sell out at the two level, so be eager to bid "3 over 2" with an 8-card fit
- If the opponents are at the 3 level, it is usually wrong to bid "3 over 3" with an 8-card fit
- With a 9-card fit, try to bid "3 over 3" - with an 8-card fit - you need a good reason



# Don't Let them play at the two level

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	???

# Don't Let them play at the two level

West	North	East	South
		1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	???

E-W found a heart fit, but had no interest in game. It's safe to assume that their total # HCP is 18-22, so your side has to have approximately 20 HCP. The # HCP in your hand is irrelevant. If you're weak, your partner must have a decent hand; but did not have the right shape to take action. Therefore, on the above auction, the following actions are clear-cut.

♠ 9 8 7 2	♥ 3	♦ K 10 7 5	♣ K 9 5 2	Double
♠ K J 10 9 5	♥ 8 5 3	♦ J 8 5 3	♣ 8	Bid 2♠
♠ 10	♥ 8 5	♦ Q 10 8 5 2	♣ K 7 6 5 3	Bid 2NT