

# Dynamic Defense

A hand is shown holding a fan of playing cards, with the cards fanned out from the bottom right towards the top right. The cards have a red and white patterned border. The background is a dark grey surface with a complex geometric pattern of overlapping squares and rectangles in shades of light blue, white, and orange. A semi-transparent orange banner is positioned horizontally across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

Thomas Rush  
Presented 5 June 2021  
PlayBridgeWithThomas@GMail.Com

www.ppt.com

# Dynamic Defense

Thomas Rush  
PlayBridgeWithThomas@GMail.Com





# How Many Conventions Do You Want to Learn?

**DEFENSIVE AND COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

**OVERCALLS (Style; Responses; 1/2 level; Reopening)**

7 HCP and possibly good 4 card suit at one-level. Sours... level, but more aggressive when opponents have... Responses: All raises weak. New suit F1 [23]. Double jump=SPL below game in our... port, limit+ [23]. If two cues are... and the higher 4 trumps... OVERCALL (2nd/4th... F: 2nd "live"=... 16 over 1... level...

**GENERAL APPROACH**

Game Forcing Except When Suit Rebid  
Overcalls  Preempts   
Natural 2 Bids  Other

**NOTRUMP OPENING BIDS**

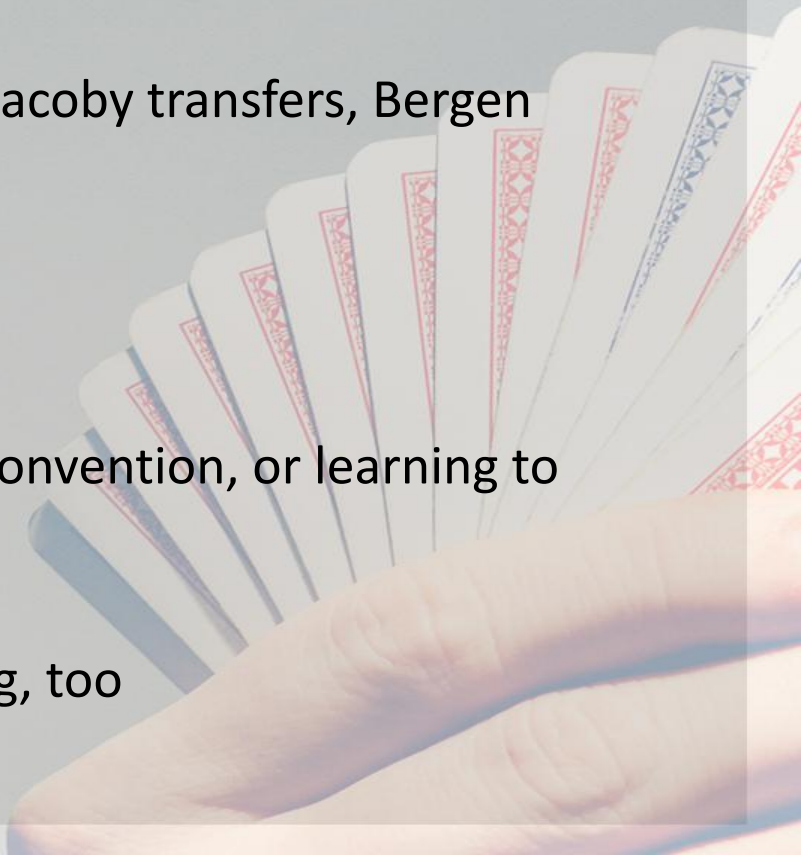
Game Forcing  3rd Hand  19+ to 21  
Puppet Stayman   
Transfer  Jacoby  3+  
Transfer to 2NT  4+  
ATT  2b-2c-2d-2e-2f-2g-2h-2i-2j-2k-2l-2m-2n-2o-2p-2q-2r-2s-2t-2u-2v-2w-2x-2y-2z

**MINOR OPENING**

Expected Min. Length 4 5  
Double Raise: Force  Inv.  Weak   
After Overcall: Force  Inv.  Weak   
Frequently bypass 4+  5+  6+  7+  8+  9+  10+  11+  12+  13+  14+  15+  16+  17+  18+  19+  20+  21+  22+  23+  24+  25+  26+  27+  28+  29+  30+  31+  32+  33+  34+  35+  36+  37+  38+  39+  40+  41+  42+  43+  44+  45+  46+  47+  48+  49+  50+  51+  52+  53+  54+  55+  56+  57+  58+  59+  60+  61+  62+  63+  64+  65+  66+  67+  68+  69+  70+  71+  72+  73+  74+  75+  76+  77+  78+  79+  80+  81+  82+  83+  84+  85+  86+  87+  88+  89+  90+  91+  92+  93+  94+  95+  96+  97+  98+  99+  100+  101+  102+  103+  104+  105+  106+  107+  108+  109+  110+  111+  112+  113+  114+  115+  116+  117+  118+  119+  120+  121+  122+  123+  124+  125+  126+  127+  128+  129+  130+  131+  132+  133+  134+  135+  136+  137+  138+  139+  140+  141+  142+  143+  144+  145+  146+  147+  148+  149+  150+  151+  152+  153+  154+  155+  156+  157+  158+  159+  160+  161+  162+  163+  164+  165+  166+  167+  168+  169+  170+  171+  172+  173+  174+  175+  176+  177+  178+  179+  180+  181+  182+  183+  184+  185+  186+  187+  188+  189+  190+  191+  192+  193+  194+  195+  196+  197+  198+  199+  200+  201+  202+  203+  204+  205+  206+  207+  208+  209+  210+  211+  212+  213+  214+  215+  216+  217+  218+  219+  220+  221+  222+  223+  224+  225+  226+  227+  228+  229+  230+  231+  232+  233+  234+  235+  236+  237+  238+  239+  240+  241+  242+  243+  244+  245+  246+  247+  248+  249+  250+  251+  252+  253+  254+  255+  256+  257+  258+  259+  260+  261+  262+  263+  264+  265+  266+  267+  268+  269+  270+  271+  272+  273+  274+  275+  276+  277+  278+  279+  280+  281+  282+  283+  284+  285+  286+  287+  288+  289+  290+  291+  292+  293+  294+  295+  296+  297+  298+  299+  300+  301+  302+  303+  304+  305+  306+  307+  308+  309+  310+  311+  312+  313+  314+  315+  316+  317+  318+  319+  320+  321+  322+  323+  324+  325+  326+  327+  328+  329+  330+  331+  332+  333+  334+  335+  336+  337+  338+  339+  340+  341+  342+  343+  344+  345+  346+  347+  348+  349+  350+  351+  352+  353+  354+  355+  356+  357+  358+  359+  360+  361+  362+  363+  364+  365+  366+  367+  368+  369+  370+  371+  372+  373+  374+  375+  376+  377+  378+  379+  380+  381+  382+  383+  384+  385+  386+  387+  388+  389+  390+  391+  392+  393+  394+  395+  396+  397+  398+  399+  400+  401+  402+  403+  404+  405+  406+  407+  408+  409+  410+  411+  412+  413+  414+  415+  416+  417+  418+  419+  420+  421+  422+  423+  424+  425+  426+  427+  428+  429+  430+  431+  432+  433+  434+  435+  436+  437+  438+  439+  440+  441+  442+  443+  444+  445+  446+  447+  448+  449+  450+  451+  452+  453+  454+  455+  456+  457+  458+  459+  460+  461+  462+  463+  464+  465+  466+  467+  468+  469+  470+  471+  472+  473+  474+  475+  476+  477+  478+  479+  480+  481+  482+  483+  484+  485+  486+  487+  488+  489+  490+  491+  492+  493+  494+  495+  496+  497+  498+  499+  500+  501+  502+  503+  504+  505+  506+  507+  508+  509+  510+  511+  512+  513+  514+  515+  516+  517+  518+  519+  520+  521+  522+  523+  524+  525+  526+  527+  528+  529+  530+  531+  532+  533+  534+  535+  536+  537+  538+  539+  540+  541+  542+  543+  544+  545+  546+  547+  548+  549+  550+  551+  552+  553+  554+  555+  556+  557+  558+  559+  560+  561+  562+  563+  564+  565+  566+  567+  568+  569+  570+  571+  572+  573+  574+  575+  576+  577+  578+  579+  580+  581+  582+  583+  584+  585+  586+  587+  588+  589+  590+  591+  592+  593+  594+  595+  596+  597+  598+  599+  600+  601+  602+  603+  604+  605+  606+  607+  608+  609+  610+  611+  612+  613+  614+  615+  616+  617+  618+  619+  620+  621+  622+  623+  624+  625+  626+  627+  628+  629+  630+  631+  632+  633+  634+  635+  636+  637+  638+  639+  640+  641+  642+  643+  644+  645+  646+  647+  648+  649+  650+  651+  652+  653+  654+  655+  656+  657+  658+  659+  660+  661+  662+  663+  664+  665+  666+  667+  668+  669+  670+  671+  672+  673+  674+  675+  676+  677+  678+  679+  680+  681+  682+  683+  684+  685+  686+  687+  688+  689+  690+  691+  692+  693+  694+  695+  696+  697+  698+  699+  700+  701+  702+  703+  704+  705+  706+  707+  708+  709+  710+  711+  712+  713+  714+  715+  716+  717+  718+  719+  720+  721+  722+  723+  724+  725+  726+  727+  728+  729+  730+  731+  732+  733+  734+  735+  736+  737+  738+  739+  740+  741+  742+  743+  744+  745+  746+  747+  748+  749+  750+  751+  752+  753+  754+  755+  756+  757+  758+  759+  760+  761+  762+  763+  764+  765+  766+  767+  768+  769+  770+  771+  772+  773+  774+  775+  776+  777+  778+  779+  780+  781+  782+  783+  784+  785+  786+  787+  788+  789+  790+  791+  792+  793+  794+  795+  796+  797+  798+  799+  800+  801+  802+  803+  804+  805+  806+  807+  808+  809+  810+  811+  812+  813+  814+  815+  816+  817+  818+  819+  820+  821+  822+  823+  824+  825+  826+  827+  828+  829+  830+  831+  832+  833+  834+  835+  836+  837+  838+  839+  840+  841+  842+  843+  844+  845+  846+  847+  848+  849+  850+  851+  852+  853+  854+  855+  856+  857+  858+  859+  860+  861+  862+  863+  864+  865+  866+  867+  868+  869+  870+  871+  872+  873+  874+  875+  876+  877+  878+  879+  880+  881+  882+  883+  884+  885+  886+  887+  888+  889+  890+  891+  892+  893+  894+  895+  896+  897+  898+  899+  900+  901+  902+  903+  904+  905+  906+  907+  908+  909+  910+  911+  912+  913+  914+  915+  916+  917+  918+  919+  920+  921+  922+  923+  924+  925+  926+  927+  928+  929+  930+  931+  932+  933+  934+  935+  936+  937+  938+  939+  940+  941+  942+  943+  944+  945+  946+  947+  948+  949+  950+  951+  952+  953+  954+  955+  956+  957+  958+  959+  960+  961+  962+  963+  964+  965+  966+  967+  968+  969+  970+  971+  972+  973+  974+  975+  976+  977+  978+  979+  980+  981+  982+  983+  984+  985+  986+  987+  988+  989+  990+  991+  992+  993+  994+  995+  996+  997+  998+  999+  1000+  1001+  1002+  1003+  1004+  1005+  1006+  1007+  1008+  1009+  1010+  1011+  1012+  1013+  1014+  1015+  1016+  1017+  1018+  1019+  1020+  1021+  1022+  1023+  1024+  1025+  1026+  1027+  1028+  1029+  1030+  1031+  1032+  1033+  1034+  1035+  1036+  1037+  1038+  1039+  1040+  1041+  1042+  1043+  1044+  1045+  1046+  1047+  1048+  1049+  1050+  1051+  1052+  1053+  1054+  1055+  1056+  1057+  1058+  1059+  1060+  1061+  1062+  1063+  1064+  1065+  1066+  1067+  1068+  1069+  1070+  1071+  1072+  1073+  1074+  1075+  1076+  1077+  1078+  1079+  1080+

## What's more common?

- Even common conventions (Stayman, Jacoby transfers, Bergen raises) don't come up very often
- Yet, we defend about half the time
- So what's more important: one more convention, or learning to defend well?
- Good cardplay has benefits to declaring, too



# Agenda

- A new, intuitive way of counting
- Defensive Signalling





# “Count Everything”

- Points
- Winners
- Losers
- Shape

Pro Tip: As defender, form a tentative picture of declarer's hand before you play to trick 1

Today we'll focus on counting *shape* in an innovative way



Every hand  
has a pattern



**N** North - Sit!

♠ Q5  
♥ 76532  
♦ 10873  
♣ 53



**W** West - Sit!

♠ K109876  
♥ J109  
♦ 5  
♣ K84

**W** **N** **E** **S**

A light blue rectangular area representing a hidden hand.

**E** East - Sit!

♠ A432  
♥  
♦ AQJ64  
♣ AJ107

**S** South - Sit!

♠ J  
♥ AKQ84  
♦ K92  
♣ Q962

Every suit  
has a pattern



**N** North - Sit!

♠ Q5  
♥ 76532  
♦ 10873  
♣ 53



**W** West - Sit!

♠ K109876  
♥ J109  
♦ 5  
♣ K84

**W** **N** **E** **S**

**E** East - Sit!

♠ A432  
♥  
♦ AQJ64  
♣ AJ107

**S** South - Sit!

♠ J  
♥ AKQ84  
♦ K92  
♣ Q962



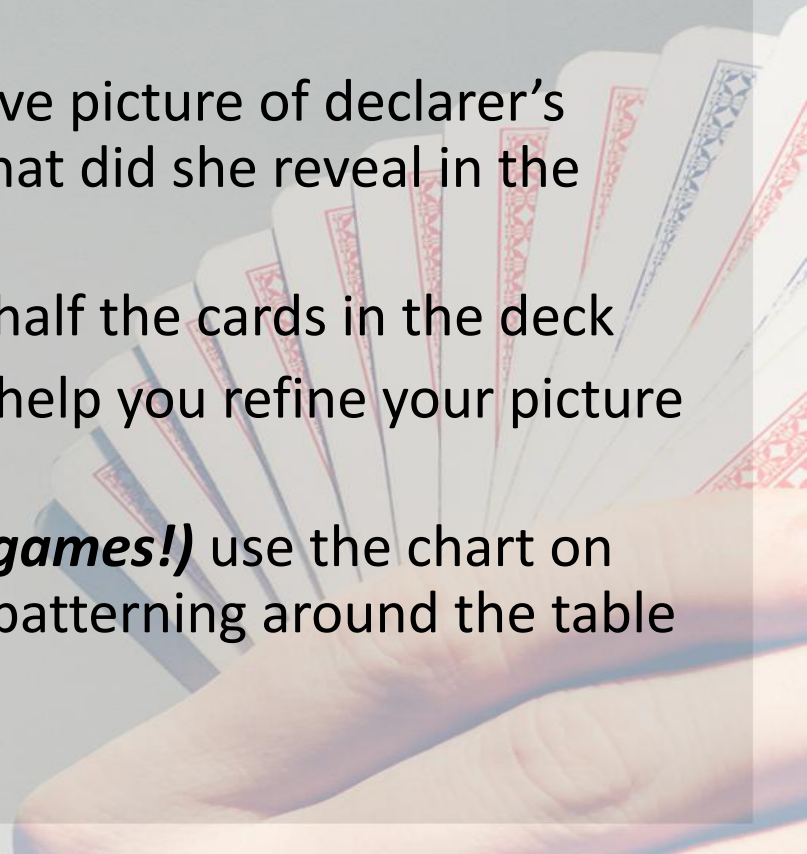
# The 14 Most Common Hand Patterns

4-4-3-2	21.5%
5-3-3-2	15.5%
5-4-3-1	12.9%
5-4-2-2	10.6%
4-3-3-3	10.5%
6-3-2-2	5.6%
6-4-2-1	4.7%

6-3-3-1	3.5%
5-5-2-1	3.2%
4-4-4-1	3.0%
7-3-2-1	1.9%
6-4-3-0	1.3%
5-4-4-0	1.2%
5-5-3-0	0.9%

## A Worked Example

- Pro Tip: As defender, form a tentative picture of declarer's hand before you play to trick 1. What did she reveal in the auction?
- Your hand and Dummy let you see half the cards in the deck
- Note Dummy's shape and use it to help you refine your picture of declarer's shape
- In ***practice sessions only (no ACBL games!)*** use the chart on the next page to help you practice patterning around the table



	North	East	South	West
Spades	5			
Hearts	3			
Diamonds	2			
Clubs	3			

As North, you pick up ♠ AKJxx, ♥ Qxx, ♦ Kx, ♣ xxx -- fill in the chart as above.

Since you are dealer, you start with a 1 ♠ bid.

You hear the auction proceed:

1 ♠ P    2 ♠ X  
P    3 ♣ (all pass)

What guesses do you make  
about dummy? declarer's hand?

	North	East	South	West
Spades	5			
Hearts	3			
Diamonds	2			
Clubs	3			





The auction was:

1S P 2S X  
P 3C (all pass)

Dummy hits with  
X, AJxx, Axxx, KJxx

We can fill in the “knowns” of dummy  
We also know partner has 3, maybe 4 spades  
East must have at least four clubs

	North	East	South	West
Spades	5		3(+)	1
Hearts	3			4
Diamonds	2			4
Clubs	3	4(+)		4

The auction was:

1♠ P    2♠ X  
P    3♣ (all pass)

Since partner doesn't have 5 spades (didn't jump to 4♠, didn't compete to 3♠), declarer must have three or four spades.

Since we know about 11 clubs, P must have at most two clubs.

	North	East	South	West
Spades	5	3/4	3(+)	1
Hearts	3			4
Diamonds	2			4
Clubs	3	4(+)	Max 2	4

The auction was:

1♠ P    2♠ X  
P    3♣ (all pass)

You win the ♠A and shift to a trump.

Partner follows to one club, and gives you a spade count card on the second club.

	North	East	South	West
Spades	5	4	3	1
Hearts	3			4
Diamonds	2			4
Clubs	3	5	1	4

The auction was:

1♠ P    2♠ X  
P    3♣ (all pass)

As soon as either East or South shows out of hearts or diamonds, you will be able to fill in the four boxes that are empty below -- every row and every column just needs to add up to 13, just needs to be one of those patterns you'll train yourself to know.

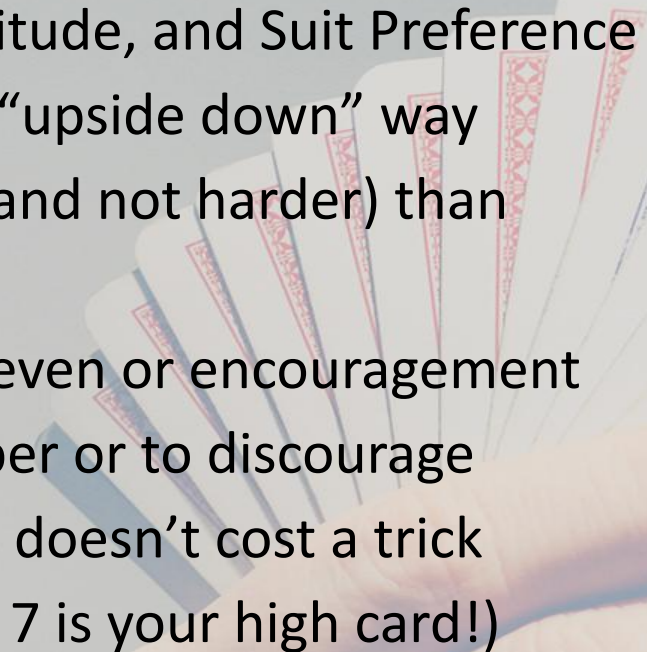
	North	East	South	West
Spades	5	4	3	1
Hearts	3			4
Diamonds	2			4
Clubs	3	5	1	4



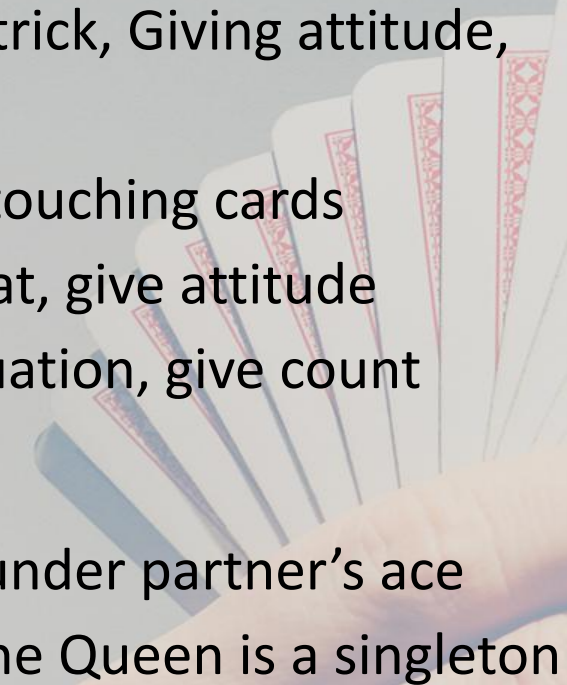
# Signalling on Defense



# Defensive Signalling

- The standard signals are Count, Attitude, and Suit Preference
  - You can signal in the “standard” or “upside down” way
  - Upside-down is technically better (and not harder) than standard; I prefer it
  - Standard uses a high card to show even or encouragement
  - UD uses high to show an odd number or to discourage
  - “High” means the highest card that doesn’t cost a trick
  - DO NOT try to be subtle (from 762, 7 is your high card!)
- 

# Signalling on Opening Lead

- Three situations: Trying to win the trick, Giving attitude, Giving count
  - If trying to win the trick, lowest of touching cards
  - If dummy plays a card you can't beat, give attitude
  - If it's clear you can't want a continuation, give count
  
  - Special Case: dropping the Queen under partner's ace guarantees you have the Jack, or, the Queen is a singleton
- 

## When Do We Give Attitude?

- On opening lead, when not trying to win the trick
- When our side breaks a new suit
- NOT attitude when declarer leads a suit; that is almost always a suit where he is working to set up tricks





# When Do We Give Count?

- When declarer leads a suit: Count
- After we've had a chance to give an attitude signal: Count
- When discarding, after first discard: Count



# Real Life Hand

The opponents reach 4!H after

- 1 ♠ - 2 ♥
- 2 ♠ - 3 ♥
- 4 ♥ - P

E East - Sit!

S South - Sit!

N Robot

W ThomasRush 6+

What to pitch?



**N** North - Sit!



**W** ThomasRush

6+

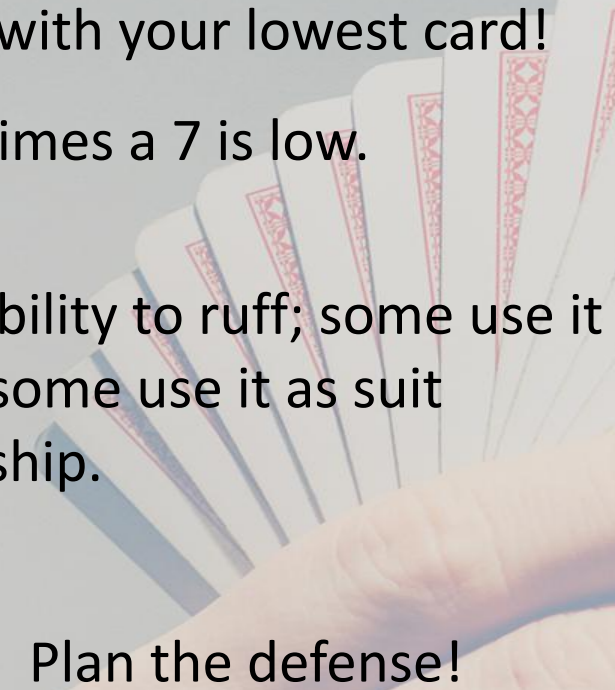
# When Do We Give Suit Preference?

- If we are leading a suit for partner to ruff
- When the order we play our winners (or follow suit with non-winners) can imply suit preference

Example: Partner leads to our AKQxx suit, we know declarer will ruff and P can overruff. If we play A, K, Q, we imply an entry in the higher suit. If we play Q, K, A, we imply an entry in the lower suit

- Suit Preference is almost always played high = high (not UD)

## Other Signalling Situations

- As declarer, STOP blindly following with your lowest card!
  - You MUST look at the spots. Sometimes a 7 is low. Sometimes a 4 is high!
  - Trump Echo: Some use it to show ability to ruff; some use it to show an odd number of trump; some use it as suit preference. It's up to your partnership.
  - Smith Echo, Foster Echo
  - "Encouragement" is not a demand. Plan the defense!
- 



# Thomas Rush

Available for individual and group lessons

“The most fun you can have at a bridge table”

832-228-7835

[PlayBridgeWithThomas@GMail.Com](mailto:PlayBridgeWithThomas@GMail.Com)

