



# Two Over One

A Guide to One of the Most Competitive Bidding Systems Around  
For the Exciting Game of Bridge

Warren Watson

Fourth Edition ©2019



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## Preface

2/1 ... Who would have thought an engineer would end up doing a whole book on math as simple as two divided by one? The mathematical side of an engineer tells him to just write “= 2,” but he hardly wants to give away all the secrets on the front cover. However, the book is far from being as simple as the number two.

This book is about the Two Over One bidding system for the card game of bridge, easily the most enjoyable mental game a person may find. By the time this book is completely read, the Two Over One bidding system will be as logical and as easy as two divided by one.

In the search for a good bidding system, a player may start with Standard American or even with Goren four-card majors. As the skill increases, a player may have a desire for a more competitive bidding system. He may add weak Notrumps (not unlike Kaplan Sheinwold) and Negative Free Bids<sup>1</sup>, but he may not be entirely satisfied until he tries one of the many artificial systems available<sup>2</sup>. A common such system is Precision which is highly memory intensive and is often specific to one partnership.

For those who prefer to use mental energy not remembering a bidding system but defending and playing the cards, Two Over One is a far superior system and is very popular in tournament play. It can also be played successfully by first time partners with only a modicum of discussion. The main advantage of Two Over One is that stopper and slam exploration can be done without worrying about partner passing out the auction below game. Bidding space can be effectively used.

The language of bridge is bidding which has to be spoken well in order to have a successful conversation. In order to play Two Over One well, a good understanding of Standard American must be mastered from the previous book in this series, *Standard Canadian eh!*

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<sup>1</sup> NFB are shown in example 25.5.

<sup>2</sup> An overview of many systems is given in my book, *Bidding Systems*.





This book on Two Over One is the natural progression from there and has been broken down into the following parts:

- I. Review of the Basics
- II. Review of Notrump
- III. Standard American Review
- IV. Competitive Notrump Bidding
- V. Competitive Suit Bidding
- VI. Two Over One Bidding
- VII. Two Over One Gadgets
- VIII. Slam Bidding

Any advancing bridge player should enjoy this book because when it is mastered, he will be a desirable partner. Further reading can be done with the books listed in Appendices A and E. These include *Playing the Dummy* on declaring and *Enemy of the Declarer* on defending.

## Testimonial

This compendium and workbook is an invaluable resource in my lesson plans for my bridge students. It is required reading by any serious student of 2/1.

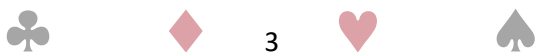
The first pages are akin to the first seventeen chapters in Louis H. Watson's *The Play of the Hand* i.e. basics for beginners. The remaining pages are a worthwhile investment of your time and an enjoyment.

The quizzes are thorough and fun. Eventually, it will become established practice that both of these books are a requisite in any serious bridge player's library.

BoB, Best of Bridge

Martin McDonald of Calgary, Alberta

ACBL Certified Teacher, Sapphire Life Master





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Trail, BC, Pencil on Paper, 24.5cm x 17.5cm, 2016

Warren Watson is a former Aerospace Engineer and is currently an artist, with a diploma in Fine Arts from Okanagan University College in Kelowna, BC, and an avid bridge player. He is an ACBL Diamond Life Master, an ACBL accredited bridge teacher, a writer of 347 columns in the Trail Times, a published author, an ACBL director, an accredited ACBL tournament assistant and the Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club manager (9½ years). He currently resides in Trail, BC, and in winter, likes to ski Grey Mountain of Red Mountain Resort.



Self Portrait, Pencil on Paper  
20cm x 24.9cm, 2015

