

CRANDALL AND BURSKY SCRIPT COMPARISON

by Cameron Roat

In his “Honest Cheat Poker Routine,” Alan Bursky writes: “I claim no originality here other than new routing and script.”

I was interested to see the Bursky’s new script for Crandall’s “Everything Fair Poker Deal.” What I found was quite interesting...

So, since both Crandall’s and Bursky’s manuscripts are in the PUBLIC DOMAIN, and I have nothing better to do with my time, here is a comparison of the two scripts...

“Everything Fair Poker Deal”

by Senator Crandall

Many people are afraid to play cards with strangers because they are afraid they will be cheated. It would be OK to play cards with me because I don’t cheat and would see that everything would be fair. You can trust me because I have an honest face.

Notice how well I shuffle the deck. I’ll even let you cut them. I want you to be satisfied that everything is fair and above board.

I want you to tell me if I should cut the cards any more or leave them as they are—you have a free choice—I’ll do whatever you say—

I’ll deal two hands of draw poker—five cards each—five to you and five to me. Watch me closely and see how easy it is to win, and still play fair. If you see me cheat, say so; I don’t

“Honest Cheat Poker Routine”

by Alan Bursky

It’s never a good idea to play cards with strangers because some people cheat. Now, believe it or not, I am one of the finest card mechanics in the country, but it would be okay for you to play cards with me because I never cheat. In fact, I’ll even go out of my way to prove to you that I don’t cheat. And you can trust me because I have an honest face.

So let’s play a game of poker. I would like someone to play with... poker, that is. Now, I don’t expect anyone here to be at my advanced level of poker playing, but there has to be someone here who knows how to play poker, someone who really knows the value of poker hands. How about you?

I will shuffle the deck as fairly as possible. I will even let you cut them. I want you to be satisfied that I am not cheating and that this is a fair game.

I will leave it up to you. Should I cut the cards again? It’s your choice. Whatever you say, I will do.

I will deal two hands of draw poker, five cards each. I want you to watch me closely and see how easy it is for me to win without cheating. But if you think you see me cheating, I want

want anything crooked going on in this game.

Everything is fair, isn't it? Feel free to stop me if I cheat. One to you, One to me, Two to you, Two to me, etc.

You have five cards, don't you—so everything is fair. I'm careful to deal fairly so there won't be any questions later.

Please pick up your five cards and I will play my five and we'll see who wins. So far it's been pretty fair, hasn't it?

I think I have too many cards.

You should have stopped me. I thought I was playing bridge. This may be a misdeal. I hope not as I want you to be satisfied that I'm not cheating. I think I have seven cards—so I'll discard two, and we'll go right on with the game.

I still have too many cards, this is the first time this has happened again. I'm sorry but you should have said something. I'll discard the extra cards—it seems I still have seven.

That's better, but I still have too many cards. Someplace I must have dealt incorrectly. I'd better count them again, if you don't mind. I want everything to be fair.

Now you play your five and—wait a minute—I still have too many cards—that's pretty stupid of me.—and I counted them so carefully, too. I'll have to get this right or you'll get the idea I cheat, and I don't want that.

I will only need to draw two cards and hope I will get another queen. But so you won't think I've been unfair, I will let you play the cards you have, or you may throw them away and

you to say so. I want to be completely honest.

Everything fair so far? Just feel free to stop me anytime if you think I'm cheating. One, to you, one to me. Two to you, two to me, three to you, three to me, four to you, four to me, five to you, five to me. You have five cards, don't you? So everything has been honest. I'm careful to deal honestly, so there won't be any questions later.

Please pick up your five cards and I will play my five. We will see who wins. So far, I've been completely honest, haven't I?

I think I have too many cards.

Why didn't you say something? You should have stopped me. Oh, I'm sorry, I thought we were playing bridge. This may be a misdeal. I hope not. I want you to be satisfied that I'm not cheating. I think I have seven cards, so I'll discard two and we'll go on with the game.

I still have too many cards. I'm sorry, but you should have said something. I'll discard the extra cards. Wait, I still have seven.

That's better. Wait a minute, I still have too many cards. Someplace, I must have dealt incorrectly. I'll count them again if you don't mind, just to make sure. I want to prove to you that I'm not cheating and that I can really win without doing anything tricky.

Now you play your five and...hang on...I still have too many cards. That's pretty stupid of me. I counted them so carefully. I'll have to get this right or you'll think I cheated.

I will only need to draw two cards. I hope I get another Queen. But before I do, so you don't think I've cheated, I will let you play the cards you have or you may throw them away and

pick out a better hand from the ones I have discarded.

Put your five cards down and pick out a hand from the discards. See how you make out.

Now that you have picked out a better hand, put the extra cards with your former hand. You can't say I haven't been fair.

Let's get another player in the game. How about you? There would be no use to deal new cards. Take the ones he threw away. See if there is a good hand among them. I think that's more than fair.

Are you both satisfied. Now I will draw the two cards I need. Very few gamblers would let you pick out good hands like I did. Let's see what you have left me.

That's nice of you, left me the Queen I needed, I was afraid one of you would keep it and spoil my four Queens.

We need another player to make it a four handed game. I should have dealt four hands to start with, but I wanted to prove that I can deal fairly, not cheat and still win.

Will you, sir, please take the three cards left and draw two more from the deck. You don't get a chance to select your own cards like the others did, but you only came into the game on the tail end.

This being showdown poker and as I have given you all a chance to draw the cards you

pick out a better hand from the ones I have discarded.

Let's see what you have. You should probably get rid of your hand. Set your five cards down, pick out a better hand from the discard, and see how you make out.

Now that you have picked out a better hand, put the two cards you don't want on top of your old hand on the table. You have to admit that I have been totally honest about this.

Let's get another player in the game. How about you? Do you know how to play poker? You're sure? Take the cards on the table. See if you can pick a good hand from them. I think that's more than fair.

I hope you're both satisfied. Now I will draw the two cards I need. Very few gamblers would let you pick out good hands like I did. Let's see what you have left me.

That's nice of you. You left me the Queen I needed. I was afraid one of you would keep it and spoil my four Queens.

To really make it interesting, let's get another player and make it a four-handed game. I should have dealt four hands to start with, but I wanted to prove that I could deal honestly without cheating and still win.

How about you? Do you play poker? You know the value of poker hands? You know what beats what?

Take the three cards left and draw two cards from the top of the deck. You don't get a chance to pick your own cards like the others did because you came in at the tail end of the game.

Since this is showdown poker, and I have given you all a chance to draw all the cards you

wanted, you'll have to admit it's been very fair. I even took the cards you left on the table.

What did you draw? A full house—that's good.

And your hand? A straight Heart flush...you can't complain.

Your hand?...another full house.

I'll bet you thought I kept the queens—

I drew to an almost impossible hand—a Royal Flush in Spades. I didn't cheat...and everything was fair—or almost fair, wasn't it?

wanted, you'll have to admit it's been very fair, and I have been very honest. I even took the cards you left on the table.

What did you draw? A full house; that's good.

And your hand? A straight Heart flush. You can't complain.

Your hand? Another full house.

I bet you thought I was going to keep the three Queens.

But I drew an almost impossible hand; a royal flush in Spades. I win...and I did it without cheating.

Hmm...