# Dealer Version 2

## Description

Dealer is a program to generate bridge deals that meet certain criteria, as specified by the user.
It can be used to generate hands for bidding practice, simulation, post-mortem discussion and such.
Per the original documentation it should not be used to generate hands for tournament play. There
are better options, also free software, for that purpose.
This version of Dealer is a Linux application. It should be able to run on Windows Subsystem for
Linux (WSL 2.0) with no problems, but this has not been tested.

Version 2.0 has been created starting from Version 1.4 by JGM.
Date: 2022-Feb-17

## V2.0 Release Notes

### Major Changes

The Double Dummy Solving function is now 5 times faster than the previous version. Instead of
using GIB it uses Bo Haglund's  Double Dummy Solver routines.

The program can now report the Par result on a deal using DDS.

There is the ability to evaluate a pair of hands together, using the Optimal Point Count developed by
Patrick Darricades.

Dealer can now export the hands in a format suitable for predealing in a subsequent Dealer run. The
predeal holdings can be specified on the command line allowing this feature to be shell scripted.

The user can now use a script to run Dealer, and have it study or simulate a variety of conditions
without modifying the Input File   for each run, by passing variables to the parser from the
command line.

Dealer can now export its results to a disk file in CSV format, for analysis by other programs.
This CSV export does not replace or interfere with the regular Dealer output which can now also be
in CSV format.

Some input statements are now handled directly in the Lexer without involving the parser.

### Extra Functionality

Dealer can now accept some numbers with decimal fractions. This is useful in the Optimal Point
Count evaluation, the CCCC evaluation, the Suit Quality evaluation, and the Modern Losing Trick
Count evaluation functions.

The evalcontract feature has been fixed so that it works properly and it can also evaluate Doubled
and Redoubled contracts (which it could not do before.)

A new Losing Trick Count function has been added.

Variable names can now include the Underscore character.

The user can now specify a Title to be printed on the various reports, and in the PBN file. This helps document how the output was generated and for what purpose.

## Minor Bug Fixes

The code for the altcount feature has been cleaned up so that the number used in the altcount command matches the numbers used in the pt0 to pt9 commands.

Several of the reports has been 'prettied' up with board numbers and seat names, and if available a title.

## Removed Functionality

All the code conditionally included under 'FRANCOIS' aka Exhaust Mode has been removed.

All the code related to Windows portability has been removed.

The code that searched for a library of GIB deals has been removed. This library does not seem to be available anymore, and the new DDS functionality probably supplants it.

Hans van Staveren's clever hack that avoided modulo division, and thus sped up random number generation by a factor of two, has been removed. See the maintenance documentation if you want to know why.