

THE INDIAN BRIDGE
WORLD

VOL-1

NO-4

MAY-1940



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THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

(Formerly known as the Deccan Bridge Magazine)

(Being the Official Organ of the South Indian Bridge Association)

PUBLISHED EVERY QUARTER

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465

VOL. I

MAY 1940

PART IV

II QUARTER

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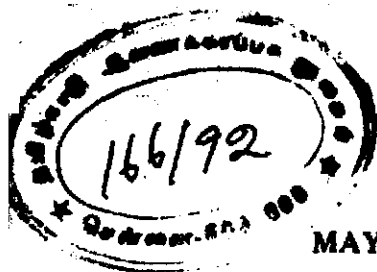
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ANNUAL	RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION	SINGLE COPY
Rs. 2 - for Members of the Association (including the Assn. Subscription)	(Including Postage)	As. 8 - in India 10 d. elsewhere

Printed and Published by Rev. Fr. A. Susai Regis, Superintendent, St. Joseph's Industrial School Press, Cantt., Trichinopoly for the South Indian Bridge Association, Central Office, Madras United Club, Park Town, Madras. Editorial Office, The City Club, Trichinopoly. Tournament Office, The Cosmopolitan Club, Coimbatore. Reprinting of Contents in any form without permission is not allowed. Advertising rates may be had upon application to the Business Editor, City Club, Trichy.



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Wasn't it an interesting deal that you played last night? Or was it a few nights back?

Write all about the deal, who were all at the table, how it was bid and played and how it should have been bid and played to the Business Editor, City Club, Fort, Trichinopoly.

THE LIBRA SYSTEM

By T. Essex

Introduction

"LIBRA", in Latin, means a balance. This system is so named because of its fundamental principle of showing, in the first round of the bidding, whether a hand is 'balanced' or 'unbalanced'.

In the first issue of the "Deccan Bridge League Magazine", Mr. A. M. R. David, then President of the League, suggested the need for a purely Indian system of 'Contract Bridge', the system being, of course, confined to the bidding aspect.* There is very little of a novel nature to be said or discovered about the play of the cards.

The present articles are an endeavour to supply the need above referred to. I do not, of course, claim perfection for this system. It is a truism to say that, of the score or so systems published to date, including the Acol, none is perfect in all respects. There are points of merit in every system. After all, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. If my readers will try out

this system for a reasonable period of time and find it useful, I shall be amply satisfied

The fundamental Idea

In the introduction, I referred to the Acol System, wherein, as readers are aware, more importance is attached to the 'distribution' of suits than in other systems, and bids are made on comparatively low honour strength, provided the suits are distributed favourably. I have modified this idea somewhat, as most players are timid in bidding mainly on distribution without sufficient strength in honour tricks, though, in the Acol, there are safeguards in the responses and rebids against the contract going beyond one's depth.

A system which shows both attacking and defensive strength at the same time is obviously more appealing and is likely to meet the needs of beginners as well as advanced players. My present effort is to evolve such a system on rational lines. The bids in the first round in this system

* The suggestion was made at the instance of the then Editor, Mr. S. Suryanarayana Iyer—Ed.

show at one and the same time the honour strength and the nature of the distribution. The Culbertson table of honour values is, no doubt, more or less universally accepted now. However, for the purposes of my system, some modifications are necessary. These will be evident from the table appended below. The informative double is freely used in the course of the bidding, though not in all cases with its present significance. Modifications of its meaning will be explained in the course of the work.

HONOUR TRICK TABLE

Combinations

N.B.—These values are only for suits of not more than 5 cards in length. For six cards suits, 1 trick should be deducted; for suits 7 or more in length, no defensive value can be reckoned on, except at no-trump.

2½ Honour tricks	...A. K. Q.
	{ A. K. J.
2 Honour tricks	{ A. K.
	{ A. Q. J.
	{ K. Q. J.
1½ Honour tricks	{ A. Q.
	{ A. Q. 10.
	{ A. J. 10.
1 Honour trick	{ A.
	{ K. Q.
	{ Q. J. 10.
	{ K. X. Plus Q.
	{ X. in different suits.
	{ K. X.
	{ Q. J. X.
½ Honour trick	{ Q. X. Plus J.
	{ X. or J. X.
	{ plus J. X. in different suits.
¼ Honour trick	...Q. X. or J. 10.

I omit plus values as an unnecessary and unreliable refinement. But in needle situations, hands padded with intermediate cards (Jacks, tens and nines) may be taken into account in bidding to purchase a no-trump contract.

NOTE:—Added values may be reckoned on in *final* responses as will be explained in due course.

Distribution

Before proceeding to the actual bids, it may be just as well to advert briefly to this idea of 'distribution', which plays such an important part in many hands. It has been within the experience of every player that many a promising hand has been wrecked on the rocks of adverse distribution or stranded on its shoals and sands. In the first place, by 'distribution' is meant the relative number of cards of the various suits in the bidder's hand. By the application of the Law of Symmetry and of the table of probable distribution of suits in the unseen hands, aided, of course, by the bids made by the players, suit placing may be done to a large extent. By reading the cards led and the fall of the cards, the nature of the cards held and the length of the various suits in those hands may be inferred. Readers are referred

to any standard work on Bridge for further information on these matters.

Distribution may be broadly divided into two distinct types, namely the 'balanced' and the 'unbalanced'. A hand is said to be balanced (by "hand" I mean here the 13 cards held by any one player) when it contains no singleton or a void. It is, on the other hand, unbalanced, when it has at least one singleton or a void.

With hardly any exceptions, it is well understood that balanced hands are more suited for playing at a no-trump contract and unbalanced ones at a trump contract. The reader may be reminded here that the initial or first round bids in this system show the number of honour tricks (that is, the defensive strength), as well as the nature of the distribution.

Now there are a large number of hands of the unbalanced type, while the balanced patterns can almost be counted on the fingers of one hand. To take the latter first, they are of one or other * of the following varieties:—

* The writer only means that there are more different *types* of unbalanced hands and not that unbalanced hands occur more frequently than balanced ones. Actually, the three patterns A, B and C shown above account for more than 50% of all hands.—*Ed.*

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A. 4. 3. 3. 3. D. 5. 4. 2. 2.
B. 4. 4. 3. 2. E. 6. 3. 2. 2.
C. 5. 3. 3. 2. F. 7. 2. 2. 2.

There are 32 kinds of unbalanced hands.* Of these, there is only one which does not contain a suit of five cards or more. It is, in other words, unique. It is the pattern 4. 4. 4. 1. It also stands by itself in another way, namely, in the fact that it is the only type that can contain three four-card suits.

Balanced Distribution

Of the six types of balanced hands mentioned above, A is *par excellence* a no-trump distribution. The suits are most evenly divided, there being at least three cards in every one of them. B is also well suited for a no-trump contract. C and D, though balanced technically, contain a suit of five cards each. They should, preferably, be played in a trump contract, as length of trumps is essential for success in such a contract. E, containing, as it does, a six-card suit, is of course, even better suited for play at a trump contract.

while F is really a semi-freak, and is virtually a trump distribution. But there are many situations, as will be explained later, when a no-trump contract is preferable even when the hand contains such a long suit as one of seven cards, especially if this is a minor. A no-trump game requires only 9 tricks, while game in one of the minors requires 11 of them.

Unbalanced Distribution

High contracts, especially slams, are almost invariably made on unbalanced hands. Of course, one sometimes comes across hands in which six or seven no-trumps is a lay-down but a contract of this degree in a trump is out of the question. I particularly remember several instances where we reached a grand slam in the bidding at a trump contract. One of our opponents happened to have five small trumps and the contract came to grief by one trick. The reader may remember cases where even when an opponent has five trumps to the 10, a grand slam contract is possible. For instances, see such books as "Vital Tricks", by Mr. Frank K. Perkins and "Brush up your Bridge" by Hubert Phillips. But, in these examples, the adverse hands had to be

"just so" in order to enable the declarer to fulfil his contract. Generally, the procedure is to cash all the tricks in the plain suits after a round or two of trumps to test their distribution, and in the end cross-ruff with the rest of the trumps. The unfortunate opponent who holds the five trumps has to under-ruff the declarer every time. But, such cases occur once in a blue moon. Usually, the fifth trump held by the opponent sets the contract.

Opening bid by Dealer, or by Second hand if Dealer Passes

The opening bid by dealer, or by a later hand, is, of course, the foundation upon which the subsequent superstructure of bids is erected. If such foundation is of quicksands, the whole structure tumbles down like a pack of cards in a literal sense. Of course, there are players, who play antics with so-called psychic bids, which, unless handled carefully, more often result in letting down their partners rather than deceiving the opponents. In my opinion, psychic bids are better left severely alone unless there is perfect mutual understanding between partners and the situation calls for desperate devices.

All players are aware that opening bids of one are made in most systems on a defensive holding of $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks, distributed, usually, in at least two suits. Of course, the Austrian club (now generally known as the Nazi club, after the Anschluss), is bid on three honour tricks but, of these tricks, not even half a trick need necessarily be in the club suit. All that is needed is either a guarded Queen (Qxx) or even four rags in clubs, but there should be three defensive tricks in the hand as a whole. Similarly, the Nazi diamond is also freely bid in some circles on similar values. There are players who make such bids even without the minimum holding indicated in clubs or diamonds, as the case may be. I can see no reason whatsoever why an extension of the principle should be looked at askance. The basis of my system is, to repeat again, that the honour strength as well as the nature of the distribution should be disclosed early and simultaneously. The actual denomination, either no trumps or a particular suit, in which the final contract is to be played, is left for bidding in the second and later rounds. In the second issue of the "Deccan

Bridge League Magazine", (November 1939), Mr. A. Sundararajan is rather severe on the 'Barton' club variation, wherein, as in mine, there is no indication, in the early stages of the bidding, of the trend of the final contract. Pace Mr. Sundararajan, I maintain that there can be no valid objection to such systems. If the Nazi club is good enough for the Austrians wherewith to beat the pick of the English Teams in international matches, it is good enough for anybody else. Further, even in the Culbertson System, the final contract in a good many cases is not settled till rather late in the bidding. It may be in the suit opened originally, or in a suit bid by the partner of the opener, or in no trumps, or even, in a few cases, in a suit bid first by the opponents of the declarer. Hence, I see no sound argument for dismissing curtly such variations as the Barton. They have their points.

Bearing the basic idea in mind, the dealer, or, if he passes, second in hand, should open the bidding with $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks, whether or not he has a biddable suit: in fact, he may bid even a suit in which he has a void. He should invariably bid one club on such defensive strength,

provided his distribution is of the balanced variety. It is quite essential to note the last proviso, as it is the bedrock of my system, where the first round bids and doubles show the honour holding and the pattern of the hand at one and the same time. Hence a bid of one club means $2\frac{1}{2}$ defensive tricks and balanced distribution. Similarly, a one diamond bid implies $3\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks and similar distribution. Four honour tricks in the hand with such distribution call for a bid of one no-trump. Before dealing with opening bids of more than one, we may conveniently deal here with bids of one in the major suits, corresponding to the above bids in minors and no-trumps. A bid of a major at once indicates that the suits are distributed unevenly. A bid of one heart shows $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks; one spade implies a holding of $3\frac{1}{2}$ defensive tricks.

Explanation of Choice of Denomination for Opening Bids

Before proceeding to deal with opening bids of more than one, it may be as well to comment on the choice of the denomination in which the bids are made. This is based on commonsense and old Auction and modern Con-

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tract practice. As pointed out previously, no-trump contracts are suited to balanced hands and trump contracts to unbalanced ones. Further, we may here take another factor into consideration. The frequency of final contracts is only about 10% in the minor suits, while it is as high as 75% in the majors; leaving about 15% for contracts played at no-trumps. Hence it is that minor suits or no-trumps are chosen to open the bidding on balanced hands, and the majors to do so on the unbalanced ones. Moreover, it will be noted that the greater the strength of the hand, the higher in rank is the denomination of the opening bid. This is but logic and is safety strategy.

Opening Bids of more than one

Continuing our series of opening bids, we next proceed to the situations where an opening bid of more than one is made. On the principle explained in the last chapter, the bids here suggested are consequential on the higher strength held. As such, with five honour tricks, a bid of 2 clubs (one higher than one no-trump) is the natural opening with an even pattern of hand; while with a lucky holding of 6 honour tricks

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and with the suits evenly spread, the next higher bid of two diamonds is indicated. It is very rare, however, for a single hand to hold such a high honour strength.

Taking next the unbalanced types of hands, a bid of 2 hearts is made on a holding of 4 defensive tricks. Two spades may be bid if the bidder has five honour tricks; holding 6 honour tricks three hearts can be safely opened.

The opening bids are limited to the two level on the balanced hands and to the three level on the lopsided ones. This is sufficient for all practical purposes. Opening bids of four or more are in the nature of pre-emptive efforts. Very rarely does an attempt at preemption achieve the object in view, except, perhaps, in four spades.** More frequently than otherwise, they merely expose the weakness of the hand and open the way to a profitable double for the

** We definitely disagree. -Ed.

opponents' benefit. In the rare cases where a sacrifice bid is in order, especially against a practically certain slam contract by opponents, the high bid may be made when necessity therefor actually arises and the situation seems desperate. There is no need to rush in with a so-called preemptive bid in the early stages. This is often foolhardy and suicidal. I have rarely seen attempts at preemption stopping opponents with good hands failing to convey information to each other or else doubling for their profit. The opening bids are given in the appended table.

INITIAL BIDDING

Honour holding	Balanced distribution	Unbalanced distribution
$2\frac{1}{2}$	1 C	1 H
$3\frac{1}{2}$	1 D	1 S
4	1 N T	2 H
5	2 C	2 S
6	2 D	3 H

(To be contd. next month.)

NORTH: (dealer) 3 Clubs. SOUTH: 3 Spades.
 EAST: 3 Hearts. WEST: 3 No Trumps.
 North held 8 Clubs to the A K Q J 10
 East held 8 Hearts to the A K Q J 10
 South held 8 Spades to the A K Q J 10
 West held 8 Whiskies and Sodas and 5 Cocktails!
 (From the Alcol system).

AROUND THE (BRIDGE) WORLD

By Dr. R. A. Johnson

IT has been my good fortune to have played Bridge in many countries and under many circumstances. Like most Contract addicts, I started with Auction. In the later days of Auction, there were many rumours of some form of Contract Bridge; and Plafond was, I believe, even then firmly established in France. We started to employ some Contract principles in Auction bidding, such as the opening bid of one in a minor suit to indicate a certain number of quick tricks rather than great length in the bid suit. This was the forerunner of the Approach Principle, which later became the chief guiding principle of Contract bidding. Manning-Foster in England and R. F. Foster and Sydney Lenz in America were then the doyens of Bridge; but I had vaguely heard of a man named Culbertson in connexion with the Culbertsonian theory of distribution.

My first game of Contract was in a Paris Cafe in 1930. The other players were a Frenchman, a Dutchman and an Englishman. Our knowledge of Contract bidding was

elementary in the extreme, and the din of music and dancing in the Cafe did not make for good bridge. Back in my native Dublin shortly afterwards, I found Contract being played by my former Auction friends. Our bidding was still elementary; but the first Blue Book had just been published and we started on mastering that fascinating book with its clear-cut principles of card Valuation.

The same year I visited America. The bridge battle between Ely Culbertson and Sydney Lenz was raging in New York while I was there. The Culbertson victory established the Approach-Forcing System of bidding as almost a standard one.

Back in India in 1932, I started writing Bridge Articles for a local newspaper—a fascinating but not a very lucrative hobby. I had to delve deeply into the Blue Book and other works before committing myself to print. I also organised a number of duplicate games, which were, as far as I know, the first to be played in India.

On leave again in 1936, I landed at Los Angeles. I had previously written to Ely Culbertson, and I was met by a very cordial letter from him giving me the entrée to all Crockford's Clubs in America and Europe. Before I left Los Angeles, Culbertson himself visited that city on a lecture tour. I had the pleasure of listening to some of his fascinating lectures. He spoke with all the energy of an enthusiast and seemed willing to go on talking all night. He spoke mainly of the Asking Bids, which were then in process of evolution. He apologised for the absence of his wife, who, he said, was busy looking after "our new baby"—the new baby being the Gold Book. After one of his lectures I was introduced to him. He wanted to know all about Bridge in India and he presented me with an autographed copy of one of his books, flatteringly inscribed: 'In appreciation of his wonderful work for Bridge in India.'

In Crockford's Clubs in San Francisco, Chicago and New York, I had several rubber games. Those in New York I remember best. Crockford's is a unique institution in that its members consist of all the leading bridge experts and also

a large number of people of high social standing whose bridge knowledge may be anything or nothing. In Crockford's, New York, the experts play in a special room for 3 dollars (about Rs. 10/-) per 100. A visitor can only play in the experts' Room by invitation, and if his bridge is not found to be up to standard he is not invited again. I was not invited even once. I was, however, able to watch the experts at play and I had the pleasure of seeing Theodore Lightner and his partner getting involved in an impossible three no-trump contract and afterwards bawling one another out after the fashion of the best novices.

I played many rubber games in the General Rooms for one dollar per 100. The general level of play was good; but one player sticks in my memory for his atrociously rash bidding and for his good humour. He had, I think, much more money than bridge sense. On the night in question, he lost about 60 dollars and I understand that was not an unusual occurrence. He took it all with very good humour and was a charming personality. After playing against him for a short time, I decided that I could with impunity double all his final

contracts on principle. In that particular rubber, he and his partner won the rubber but lost 1,800 points. When I cut him as partner, I played in fear and trembling; but I got off comparatively lightly. My winnings for the evening paid for an excellent dinner, for which Crockford's is famous, and left something over and above.

Reaching Dublin again in 1936, I found Contract Bridge, including duplicate, firmly established. Dublin had many Clubs and regular duplicate tournaments. And many small country towns also had their Clubs and tournaments. The International Bridge Match between Ireland and Scotland was played in Dublin while I was there. It was held in the City's biggest hotel and received much publicity, including a running commentary on the Radio. The Irish team consisted of four ladies, with two men (both Jews) as substitutes. The Irish team won comfortably. About this time I also visited Crockford's Club in London, where I had some very enjoyable, though not expert, bridge.

On my return to India in 1937, I found a great increase of interest in duplicate especially in the Indian Clubs. I

organised some duplicate games and things advanced with great rapidity until now we have our own Bridge Leagues and regular duplicate tournaments.

In my wanderings I found the Approach-Forcing System pretty well established in almost all countries. In England, however, they are inclined to experiment with other systems, and the two club convention and the Barton variation of the one club convention have their devotees. Whether these variations will last or not, only time can tell. I cannot say with any dogmatism how the standard of bridge in India compares with those in other countries; but I feel that India has many players who could give a good account of themselves in any part of the world.

America, in Bridge as in many other things, seems to me to be a land of extremes. She has the best and the worst roads in the world, the best and the worst motor-cars, and I think also the best and the worst Bridge players. The American Bridge experts lead the world; but at the other extreme the Bridge one meets with at Charity Matinees in America is beyond description.

DOUBLING AND RE-DOUBLING

By Dr. M. Karamchand Wade

Informatory Double

JUST as an opening bid announces the possession of a certain number of honour tricks according to your position at the table and your vulnerability or otherwise, similarly a double of an opponent's call of 1 or 2 in a suit or 1 no-trump, at the earliest opportunity before your partner has bid, is an *informatory double* announcing exactly the same number of tricks as you would have needed to make an initial call but for the opponent's intervening bid. It simply asks the partner to bid his best suit. One should be very chary of making an *informatory double* if one's partner has already passed and is picking up bad cards. In particular is this advice to be borne in mind when doubling one no-trump as the bidder is definitely announcing 4 honour tricks.

Response to an Informatory Double

*The response to an *informatory double* is a bid of your

best suit provided you hold at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ tricks in the hand or, in the alternative, 1 trick in addition to a 5-card suit. Otherwise the most suitable call to announce bankruptcy is a call of one no-trump over the double of a suit and of 2 clubs over a no-trump double. That will enable your partner to assess your hand properly and, if necessary, to change the bid at the lowest level. All that he expects of you is not to burgeon into new calls in the next round or to start supporting his distress call made to take out yours. The best service you can render your partner is to make no further bids.

When an *informatory double* becomes a *business double*

If, however, you are the lucky owner of two honour tricks or more with at least 4 cards in the suit bid by the opponent or, in the alternative, hold $1\frac{1}{2}$ tricks and 5 cards in the suit bid by the opponent, you must pass and thus convert the *informatory double* of your partner into a *business*

* The orthodox response, according to Culbertson, is to bid your longest suit, barring the opponent's suit, even if your hand is a yarborough. The possession of the necessary strength that would have entitled you to join in the bidding even over an ordinary overcall by your partner is shown by a jump call.

double. A double of 1 no-trump can be passed for penalties with $1\frac{1}{2}$ or more honour tricks. I give an example from actual play to drive home my point.

On Friday, the 16th of February, 1940, the first rubber of the evening at the Cosmopolitan Club, Rajahmundry, began with Messrs. Bapi Raju (N), Satyanandam (East), myself (South), and N. Venkata Rao (West). East dealt the cards and bid 1 heart, South doubled the call and West, North, and East passed. South had only one miserable heart with him but he trusted his partner's conversion of an informatory double into a business double and had no complaint. The opponents were 3 down, paid 500 points as penalty, and their morale suffered disastrously.

I shall also give an instance of an informative double developing into a business double, not on account of the partners' combined values, but on account of the doubler's bidding. K. Vishwanathan and I were playing against Dr. R. Venkata Rao and Sirajuddin. Sirajuddin dealt and called 1 diamond, I doubled, Venkata Rao bid 1 heart, and my partner passed. East looked distressed, apparently

debated a take-out into 2 diamonds but passed with the obvious intention of a subsequent take-out in case his partner got doubled. I doubled 1 heart. After my partner had announced that he was devoid of values by keeping quiet over Venkata Rao's call, I could not possibly expect him to manufacture any now. He was absolutely out of the picture and my informatory double of 1 diamond had now been transformed into a *business* double of one heart.* In my hand I held a singleton club, K Q 10 9 of diamonds, A K 10 9 of hearts, and K J 10 7 of spades. My partner held K Q x x of clubs and no other honour card. He was confused and bid 2 clubs. If he had only kept quiet, East would have bid 2 diamonds as he told us and since the Doctor had only 6 hearts and not a single court card in his hand, he was determined to rebid his hearts.

Penalty Double

When an opponent has bid 3 or more of a suit or 2 or more in no-trumps and you double him, it is a clear case of a business double but what puzzles novices, and even veterans, is the business double

of a 1 call after the partner's bid. On Sunday, the 18th of February, 1940, at the Cosmopolitan Club, Rajahmundry, Rao Bahadur A. Rama Rao, the inspiring doyen of Rajahmundry Tennis, and I cut as partners against Messrs. Bapi Raju (East) and Satyanandam (West). The Rao Bahadur dealt the cards and called 1 club. East bid one diamond. As South, I doubled 1 diamond. West passed. This was a clear *business double* as my partner had already announced his values and I was seeking no information.* He should have passed and enabled us to gather 500 points but the business double of one of a suit had not yet come within his Bridge orbit and so he bid 1 no-trump and we scored 40 below the line instead of 500 above it! The hand was:

C. A J 10 X X.
D. X X.
H. A X X.
S. A X X.

C.	X X X X.	N S	C.	K Q X.
D.	J X.		D.	A Q X X.
H.	X X X. X		H.	X X X.
S.	J X X.		S.	K X X.

C. X.
D. K 10 9 7 X.
H. K Q 10.
S. Q X X X.

I myself belonged to the same category of players till the end of 1938, when I was

on leave in England. There in the cardrooms of the Maitland Club and the Royal Empire Society I repeatedly found a number of sound players making successful business doubles of a call of one and piling up bonuses on top of the line. That set me thinking and I soon added this weapon to my armoury with excellent financial results.

Response to a penalty double

The response to a business double by your partner is dog loyalty to him. Let not the possession of a singleton trump give you the jitters. If one man bids a suit and the other one doubles it at such a low level as 1, it is but natural that you and the prospective dummy can only sport singletons or doubletons. If, however, you have bid on a freakish hand with 6 or 7 cards in one suit and 4 or 5 in another, common-sense commands a rebid of your long suit or if possible a game call. The partner has doubled the opponents' call budgeting for 3 or 4 playing tricks from you but if your distribution antagonises such a consummation, you cannot possibly allow his business double to stand and must convert it

* According to Culbertson, this is still a take-out double. — *Ed.*

* Not necessarily. This is called a tentative light double and partner should leave in the double if he thinks it advisable.—*Ed.*

Hearts or Clubs. The Tiruppur B Team had just failed to emulate this achievement by going only 5 down on this deal on the same contract. If we struck the bottom on this Deal, my partner and myself won a clear top in Deal No. 14.

East-Dealer

Neither side—Vulnerable

♠ K, Q, J, 5 ♥ A, 5 ♦ J, 3 ♣ Q, J, 9, 7, 6			
♠ 4, 2 ♥ K, Q, 8, 6 ♦ Q, 2 ♣ A, K, 8, 5, 2	N	E	♠ A, 10, 8, 3 ♥ 9, 4 ♦ A, K, 10, 9, 8, 5 ♣ 4
♠ 9, 7, 6 ♥ J, 10, 7, 3, 2 ♦ 7, 6, 4 ♣ 10, 3	W	S	

where we successfully manouevred Messrs. A. D. Nayak and C. K. Seshadri of Coimbatore into a 3 Spade contract to go down 5, doubled. The only other instance of a 5 set was a good sacrificial bid. There were only about 5 or 6 instances altogether of the contract being set by 4, even two of these contracts representing advantageous sacrifices. There were just about as few instances where the contract was set by 3. Even the instances where the contract was set by 2 were comparatively rare. It was strange

that the atmosphere of the Sudder Gardens, which bore the obvious signs of a Movie Head-Quarters, should have been an anti-dote to gay optimism and joyous calling.

The tame calling that generally prevailed was reflected in the remarkably few attempts at sacrificial bidding. Deal No. 2 for instance

East-Dealer

N. S.—Vulnerable

♠ Q, J, 10, 7, 6, 5 ♥ Q, 4, 3, 2 ♦ K, Q, 8 ♣			
♠ K, 2 ♥ A, 9, 7, 6, 5 ♦ A, 9, 3, 2 ♣ A, 10	N	E	♠ 8 ♥ J, 10, 8 ♦ J, 7, 6, 5, 4 ♣ K, J, 9, 3
♠ A, 9, 4, 3 ♥ K ♦ 10 ♣ Q, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 2	W	S	

gave a vulnerable game in Spades to most of the North-South pairs (620 points). A 5 Diamonds call by the East-West pairs would have, however, given away only 300 points. But myself and my partner were the only one to attempt a 5 Diamonds call, which had resulted in the Vani Vilas A reaching an unmakeable 5 Spades contract to go 1 down and give themselves a clean bottom. Again in Deal No. 5,

North-Dealer

N. S.—Vulnerable

♠ A, J, 10, 8 ♥ Q, 8, 5, 4 ♦ 10, 7, 5 ♣ Q, 7			
♠ Q, 9, 7, 5, 2 ♥ J, 3 ♦ A, Q, 4, 2 ♣ 5, 2	N	E	♠ 6, 3 ♥ 7 ♦ K, 8, 6, 3 ♣ K, J, 10, 9, 6, 3
♠ K, 4 ♥ A, K, 10, 9, 6, 2 ♦ J, 9 ♣ A, 8, 4	W	S	

a sacrificial bid of 5 Diamonds by the East-West pairs would have lost a definitely less number of points than the vulnerable game contract in Hearts available to the North-South Pairs. But only Messrs. Ramasami and Ramaratnam had attempted 5 Clubs to secure a good position. In Deal No. 6 again,

East-Dealer

E. W.—Vulnerable

♠ 9, 4 ♥ K, J, 10, 2 ♦ 10, 7, 6, 5, 4, 2 ♣ 2			
♠ A, K, Q, J, 8, 7, 3 ♥ 3 ♦ K, 3 ♣ A, 8, 3	N	E	♠ 10, 5 ♥ Q, 9, 8 ♦ A, Q, 8 ♣ J, 7, 5
♠ 6, 2 ♥ A, 7, 5 ♦ J, 9 ♣ K, Q, 10, 9, 6, 4	W	S	

15 tables had allowed the vulnerable East-west pairs to secure a game contract at 4 Spades. It was only Messrs. J. Subbuswami and C. R. Srinivasan playing against my

self and my partner that had to our sorrow, gone 5 Clubs, to go 3 down and yet secure a clear top and give us another clean bottom. The competitors had, on the whole displayed little acumen and less imagination in competitive bidding, which was of a wholly futile character.

At the same time, however, very few clean games were missed by the numerous pairs. In Deal No. 3,

South-Dealer

E. W.—Vulnerable

♠ A, K, Q, J ♥ A, K, 5, 3 ♦ 10, 7 ♣ A, Q, 7			
♠ 9, 8, 5 ♥ 10, 7, 2 ♦ 8, 5, 3, 2 ♣ K, 10, 6	N	E	♠ 10, 7 ♥ Q, J, 4 ♦ A, J, 6, 4 ♣ 8, 7, 5, 4
♠ 6, 4, 3, 2 ♥ 9, 8, 6 ♦ K, Q, 9 ♣ J, 3, 2	W	S	

as many as 16 of the 17 pairs had called a game in Spades to secure 11 tricks. Mr. Vaitthyanathan and partner, who were calling in the language of Signs (one of them being hard of hearing), had apparently misunderstood one movement for another to stop short of game. This had incidentally given a clean top to Mr. Sankara Iyer and partner, the ultimate East-West winners. In Deal No. 5 again,

North-Dealer
N. S.—Vulnerable

♠ A, J, 10, 8
♥ Q, 8, 5, 4
♦ 10, 7, 5
♣ Q, 7

♠ Q, 9, 7, 5, 2
♥ J, 3
♦ A, Q, 4, 2
♣ 5, 2

N
W E
S

♠ 6, 3
♥ 7
♦ K, 8, 6, 3
♣ K, J, 10, 9, 6, 3

♠ K, 4
♥ A, K, 10, 9, 6, 2
♦ J, 9
♣ A, 8, 4

excepting for 2 of the 17 pairs, all the other North-South pairs had succeeded in reaching the game contract in Hearts. Mr. S. P. Raju and his partner as also Messrs. T. V. S. Sastri and Y. Duraisawmi Iyer must have been in a particularly pessimistic mood at the time to stop short of game. In Deal No. 9,

North-Dealer
E. W.—Vulnerable

♠ 7, 3
♥ A, 9, 7, 6, 4
♦ A, 10, 8, 6, 4
♣ 8

♠ 8, 5, 4
♥ 5
♦ Q, J, 5, 2
♣ J, 9, 6, 5, 3

N
W E
S

♠ A, 2
♥ K, Q, J, 10, 8
♦ 7, 3
♣ 10, 7, 4, 2

♠ K, Q, J, 10, 9, 6
♥ 3, 2
♦ K, 9
♣ A, K, Q

as many as 16 of the 17 North-South pairs had succeeded in reaching a game contract in Spades. Even the one exception was due to a penalty double of the opponents' lower bid. In Deal No. 21,

North-Dealer
N. S.—Vulnerable

♠ A, 5
♥ K, J, 10, 5, 4, 2
♦ Q, 6, 4
♣ K, 7

♠ 7, 6, 2
♥ 7, 3
♦ Q, 9, 8, 6, 4
♣ K, J, 2

N
W E
S

♠ Q, J, 9, 8, 3
♥ 8
♦ A, 5, 2
♣ 10, 9, 7, 3

♠ K, 10, 4
♥ A, Q, 9, 6
♦ J, 10, 3
♣ A, 8, 3,

wherein again there was a game for the North-South pairs, all the 17 pairs, except two, had reached a game contract. Mr. V. Jayaraj, who stopped at 3 Hearts after a forcing response by his partner, was more than half asleep at the time. The cards were apparently not good enough to satisfy the scrupulously high standards of Mr. Nainar. Here is Deal No. 23,

South-Dealer
Both—Vulnerable

♠ Q, 7, 2
♥ K, 7, 6, 5
♦ 6
♣ A, 8, 5, 4, 2

♠ A, J, 10
♥ A, Q, 8, 4
♦ K, 4
♣ J, 9, 7, 3

N
W E
S

♠ 6, 5, 4
♥ J, 10, 2
♦ A, Q, J, 7
♣ K, Q, 10

♠ K, 9, 8, 3
♥ 9, 3
♦ 10, 9, 8, 5, 3, 2
♣ 6

which yielded practically the only clean game for the East-West pairs. Here again, excepting for 2 pairs, all the remaining 15 had reached a

game call in No-Trumps. The S. I. V. A. 1st team had the unique distinction to stop at the less-than-game contract of 3 Hearts to yet go 2 Down. My friend, Dr. Karamchand's partner had gone 1 step further to reach 4 Hearts to go 3 down and secure a good clean bottom. Deal No. 26 can be said to be the last Deal that yielded a clean game.

East-Dealer

Both—Vulnerable

♠ K, Q, J
♥ K, 9, 4
♦ 10, 5, 2
♣ K, 8, 6, 4

♠ 10, 8, 5, 4, 3
♥ 8, 2
♦ A, 7, 6, 4
♣ 5, 3

N
W E
S

♠ 9, 7, 6
♥ A, 10, 6, 3
♦ Q, J, 9
♣ J, 7, 2

♠ A, 2
♥ Q, J, 7, 5
♦ K, 8, 3
♣ A, Q, 10, 9

All the 17 North-South pairs had bid a game in No-Trumps, excepting Mr. T. V. Subramanian and his partner, who, to my good fortune, landed themselves in a small slam contract in Clubs to go 3 down.

But the Competitors generally were thoroughly unsuccessful in tackling slam Deals. Here is Deal No. 4, which yields a Small Slam in Diamonds to the East-West pairs.

West-Dealer

Both—Vulnerable

♠ Q, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6
♥ Q
♦ Q
♣ K, Q, 5, 2

♠ A, 5, 4, 2
♥ A, 9
♦ J, 10, 3
♣ 10, 9, 8, 3

N
W E
S

♠ K
♥ J, 10, 7, 6, 2
♦ A, K, 9, 7, 6, 4, 2
♣ —

♠ 3
♥ K, 8, 5, 4, 3
♦ 8, 5
♣ A, J, 7, 6, 4

But excepting for Mr. K. R. Sundararajan of Gopichettipalayam, who is reputed to smell out any possible slam, not one of the other 16 pairs had reached a slam contract. The calling was generally so futile that quite a number of pairs had even stopped below a game. Deal No. 12 would again yield a small slam in Spades to the North-South pairs.

West-Dealer

N. S.—Vulnerable

♠ K, Q, 7, 3
♥ A, J, 7, 3
♦ A, K, Q, 10, 2

♠ J, 9
♥ Q, 9, 8
♦ K, Q, 10, 8, 5, 2
♣ 8, 6

N
W E
S

♠ 6, 4, 2
♥ K, 10
♦ J, 9, 7, 6, 3
♣ J, 9, 7

♠ A, 10, 8, 5
♥ 6, 5, 4, 2
♦ A, 4
♣ 5, 4, 3

But only 6 pairs had succeeded in reaching the contract. Mr. Vaidynathan and his partner were apparently so distrustful of the cards that they held that they even stopped below a game contract.

There were even fewer pairs to bid the slam contract in Hearts or Clubs or even No-Trumps available to the East-West pairs in Deal No. 19.

South—Dealer.

E. W.—Vulnerable

♠ J, 10, 9, 6, 4 ♥ Q, 3 ♦ Q, 7, 4 ♣ K, 7, 3			
♠ 7, 3, 2 ♥ K, J, 10, 8 ♦ 10 ♣ J, 10, 8	N 7, 6 S	♠ A, 8 ♥ A, 4 ♦ A, 8, 6, 5 ♣ A, Q, 9, 6, 5	E S
♠ K, Q, 5 ♥ 9, 5, 2 ♦ K, J, 9, 3, 2 ♣ 4, 2			

Only one pair viz., Mr. Gokran and partner had the glory of going 6 Clubs to make 7. Mr. K. R. Sundararajan of Madras and Partner had the delightful pleasure of scoring the next best rank through a double of East's 1 Club call by the Gopichettipalayam B Team to make 5 vulnerable overtricks. It is only in Deal No. 20,

West—Dealer

Both—Vulnerable

♠ J, 10, 6, 4 ♥ Q, J, 5 ♦ K ♣ K, Q, J, 3, 2			
♠ A, Q, 8, 5, 2 ♥ K, 6 ♦ Q, J, 10, 9, 6, 3 ♣ ...	N S	♠ 10, 9, 8, 4, 3, 2 ♥ A, 8, 7, 5, 2 ♦ A, 5 ♣ K, 9, 7, 3 ♥ A, 7 ♦ 4 ♣ 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 4	E S

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that as many as 8 of the 17 East-West pairs had reached a small slam contract in Diamonds. Curiously enough, this was probably the most dangerous of the hands to arrive at a slam contract. Again Deal No. 29

North—Dealer

Both—Vulnerable

♠ A, 9, 8 ♥ A, K, J ♦ Q, 10, 9, 8, 5 ♣ A, 4			
♠ K, 7, 4 ♥ 10, 7, 2 ♦ K, 7, 6 ♣ J, 9, 7, 6	N W S	♠ 6, 5, 3, 2 ♥ 9, 6, 5, 4 ♦ 3, 2 ♣ 8, 3	E S
♠ Q, J, 10 ♥ Q, 8, 3 ♦ A, J, 10 ♣ K, Q, 5, 2			

would yield a small slam to the North-South pairs either in Diamonds or in No-Trumps. But only 4 pairs had reached either contract. The Gopichettipalayam B and Messrs. S. S. Vasan and A. Ramaswami had gone 6 No-Trumps to share the maximum. The Tiruppur A Team had, however, stretched their necks out to reach a grand slam contract in No-Trumps. They deservedly gave themselves the bottom and another clean top to Mr. Sankara Iyer and partner. On the whole, therefore, the players proved themselves thoroughly unworthy before the various slam hands that occurred during the tournament.

The defence was also not of a very high quality. Regard being had to considerations of space, I shall merely confine myself to Deal No. 1 played in the tournament.

North—Dealer

Neither—Vulnerable

♠ Q, 4 ♥ A, K, Q, J, 9, 8 ♦ Q, 9 ♣ K, J, 6			
♠ A, 5, 3, 2 ♥ 10 ♦ A, 8, 5, 3 ♣ 10, 9, 5, 3	N W S	♠ K, J ♥ 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 ♦ K, 10, 7, 6, 2 ♣ 7	E S
♠ 10, 9, 8, 7, 6 ♥ 2 ♦ 1, 4 ♣ A, Q, 8, 4, 3			

13 North-South pairs had called 4 Hearts on this hand and 5 Hearts had been made in 16 tables. The Andra Mahasabha 2nd pair, lulled into comfort by the only electric fan in the Sudder Gardens, were satisfied with going 2 Hearts. 3 other pairs had gone up to 3 Hearts and then shied away from a game call. As the cards were, their calls were quite sound since only 3 Hearts can be made with correct defence. Very obviously, most of the players in the East position had led the singleton Club hoping to get a ruff. But such a lead is a bad one with a long string of trumps. Ordinarily the declarer's trumps would not have been

so solid as in this case and the better defence would have been to lead the longest suit and worry the declarer into reducing his trumps. If, in this case, the fourth best Diamond had been led by East, the game contract would have been easily set, the defence taking 2 tricks in Diamonds and 2 tricks in Spades. Mr. Muthuswami and partner were the only pair that defeated the contract of 4 Hearts. The fact, however, remains that all the other North-South pairs had made 5 Hearts. The two pairs that actually called 5 viz., Devacotta A and Gopichettipalayam B were rewarded with Doubles. But Mr. Mylappan, of Trichinopoly had, in an optimistic mood, even doubled a 4 Hearts call to give a clean top to Mr. K. Easwara Iyer and partner, the ultimate North-South Winners.

It is not now possible to deal with the interesting part-game hands, which had really decided the issue. Neither is it possible to deal in detail with the nature of the various slam hands in relation to the slam-calling conventions. It might, however, be safely stated that the slam hands were such as to give little scope for the

(Continued on page 30.)

FROM THE EDITORIAL CHAIR

WITH the publication of this issue, our magazine completes the first year of its existence. When the first issue saw the light of the day in August 1939, it gave a thrill of satisfaction to those of us who mothered it. It was the fulfilment of a dream. It marked the end of the first stage in our labour of love.

But the sceptics were not conquered. The pessimists were not routed. Their unbelief persisted, even if it did not grow. It was frankly stated that the magazine would not get beyond the first issue, or anyway, the first few issues. This unbelief was only one of the difficulties in our way.

All Europe, nay the whole world, then stood paralyzed before the wanton tread of steel-helmeted millions in Austria and Czechoslovakia; within a week afterwards, some of those millions moved into Poland to make it a slaughter-house. The fate of Poland has since over-taken Finland, Denmark, Norway, Holland and Belgium to a lesser degree. This atmosphere, which has resulted in the cessation of publication of the long-established "British Bridge World," was hardly more congenial to our infant magazine.

But our faith has triumphed. Our perseverance has prevailed. We have definitely over-come all initial difficulties. And the loyalty of the small band of honorary workers who were associated with us in the launching of this venture still burns undimmed. Excepting for Mr. T. S. Krishnamurthi, whose services have been temporarily released to do more effective tournament work, the others still continue to be intimately connected with the Editorial work. These are the surest guarantees that our magazine will grow from strength to strength.

With this issue, which marks the second stage in the life of our magazine, it has, properly enough, been chris-

tened with the new name viz. *The Indian Bridge World*. That is the direct result of the amalgamation of the two controlling bodies working in Southern India till now. The original name of the "Deccan Bridge Magazine" was appropriate enough as the official organ of the Deccan Bridge League. But that name would have been anamalous to describe the official organ of the *South Indian Bridge Association*, which is the name of the newly amalgamated body.

We feel confident that our magazine's new title is just right—neither too modest nor too ambitious. The "Bridge World," published in New York, sets the standard for the Bridge players throughout the world. The "British Bridge World" reflects the views of British Bridge players. Other national "Bridge Worlds" speak for their respective countries. Our "Indian Bridge World" claims, not without justification, to speak for the Bridge players of India.

It might be argued that we are usurping the function of an all-India body. As no such all-India body at present exists, we do not feel particularly guilty. When such a body comes into being, we shall welcome it, shall give it our full co-operation and the benefit of our experience. Meanwhile, we are, we hope, carrying on the good work.

The change in the name of the magazine is the least of the results of the amalgamation. The aims and objects of a controlling body for any game can only be achieved if there is "one control for one province." It is only then that there can be any real control. It is only then that there can be any fruitful organisation. It is only then that there can be any effective co-ordination of activities. Now that there is only one such body, the future of the game in our province is full of rosy possibilities. But sustained enthusiasm is quite essential if these possibilities are to be translated into actual facts.

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COUPS AND PLAYS

No. IV. THE DESCHAPELLES COUP

By A. D. J. Victor, M.A.
(Indian Military academy, Dehra Dun.)

THE originator of the Deschappelles coup was, as the name implies, one Louis Honoré Lebreton Deschappelles, a Frenchman, who was an all-round champion at cards, Chess, Draughts and Billiards. "An endeavour to create a quick entry in partner's hand by the lead of an unsupported face card" is an apt definition of the Deschappelles coup. If successfully used, the honour led drives out an adverse higher honour, leaving a lower honour in the same suit as an entry in partner's hand.

The Deschappelles coup is most commonly used in cases like the following:—

♣ J, 10 X X			
♣ K, 8, X X	N W	E	♣ Q, 9, X
♣ A, X			

Suppose East's first leads have established 2 or 3 cards of a long suit against North's 3 N. T. bid. West holds a quick stopper in Declarer's long suit and is on lead. His lead of the C. K is a Deschappelles play. If dummy ducks, a low Club drives out the Club Ace without loss of tempo to

make East's queen a re-entry to run his established cards.

The Deschappelles coup should be freely used when it cannot present a game to the adversary. The occasional sacrifice of an extra trick will be more than off-set by the innumerable games and rubbers saved. In the following example, South, a believer in forward calling, bought the contract at 3 N. T.

				♠ X, X
				♦ 8, X, X, X
				♥ A, J
				♠ A, Q, X, X, X
♣ X				♣ A, X, X, X, X
♦ K, Q, 10, 9, X		N		♦ A
♥ Q, X, X, X	W	E		♥ K, X, X, X
♠ 10, X, X		S		♠ J, X, X
				♣ K, Q, J, 10, 9
				♦ J, X, X
				♥ 10, X, X
				♠ K, X
N	E	S	W	
X	X	X	—	
1 ♠	2 ♠	2 N. T.	—	
3 ♠	—	3 N. T.	—	

W opened, the D 9 and East took it with D. A. Wishing to find an entry to W, East after a little thought made the Deschappelles play of the H. K* and cooked declarer's goose. It is obvious from the lay of the Cards that but for the H. K lead, 3 N. T. is a lay-down.

In certain cases, discarding a face card in a suit to enable partner to get an entry in that suit is also a Deschappelles play. Here is a hand from play:—

			♠ K, J, X	
			♦ A, X X	
			♥ Q, X X X	
			♠ 9, X X	
♠ X, X				♠ 10, X, X, X, X
♦ 10, X, X	N			♦ Q, J, 9, X
♥ J, 10, X	W	E		♥ A, X
♠ A 10, X, X, X		S		♠ K, X
			♠ A, Q, X	
			♦ K, X X	
			♥ K, 9, X X	
			♠ Q, J, X	
N	E	S	W	
X	X	1 ♠	—	
2 ♠	—	2 ♠	—	
3 ♠	—	3 N. T.	—	

W led the 4th best spade. East won with S. K and returned the Spade. W took it with S. A and continued Spades. E thought carefully. From his own hand, it was obvious that the Club call was Austrian and the 2 H call should, therefore, be very shaded. Also East was certain that his partner could not possibly have any stopper in Diamonds. At length E arrived at the conclusion that if at all his partner was to have the chance for an entry it must be in Hearts and so he discarded his H. A. Now, South could make his eight tricks but the ninth trick could not be developed without letting in West.

It should not be assumed that in all cases, the Deschappelles coup is a desperate defensive manœuvre to be used in the early stages of the game. Provided the declarer keeps proper count of the cards, he can make the coup function with precision in the end game. e. g.

		♣ —		
		♦ J, 10, 9		
		♥ Q, X, X		
		♣ —		
♣ 10		N	♠ 8	
♦ 8, X, X	W	E	♥ —	
♥ 8	S		♦ A, J, 10, 9, X	
♠ Q			♠ —	
		♣ K		
		♦ —		
		♥ K, X, X, X		
		♠ J		

South declarer at 5 C

South to lead and make 5 tricks.

With only the last six cards in hand, South plays C K and discards a Heart from dummy. If S knows from the calling that E had at least 5 hearts, then W's hand can be easily placed. Now South's proper play is the Deschappelles lead of H. K. If E Wins, the remaining tricks go to dummy. So naturally E will forego this privilege. But at this stage, S, having stripped W of his hearts, can safely give him the lead with S. J discarding H. Q from dummy. The dummy wins the resultant Diamond lead from W and declarer gets home.

An allied coup may well be termed the Meshappelle coup. The play is similar but its objective is to drive out an adverse entry and prevent the bringing in of long cards in another suit. Its worth can be proved by the simple exhibition of a few hands.

♠ K, Q, J, 10, X, X			
♥ X, X, X			
♦ A, 10			
♣ X, X			
♠ X, X	♠ A, X, X	N	E
♥ A, K, Q, X, X	♥ J, X, X, X	W	S
♦ K, 8, X	♦ Q, J, X, X		
♣ J, X, X	♣ X, X		
♠ X, X			
♥ X			
♦ 9, X, X, X			
♠ A, K, Q, X, X, X			
N	E	S	W
1 ♣	—	3 ♠	—
4 ♣	—	—	—

West opened his D, K and blindly continued with D A. South ruffed and after drawing 3 rounds of trumps played clubs. East did not win the first club trick, in a belated and futile attempt to block clubs. But North continued clubs and C. A. was ruffed out and South made 6 Spades. If W had thought a moment after D. K. lead, the game would have been saved. The hand shrieks for the Meshappelle lead of H, K at this stage. The declarer would thereafter be powerless and can make only 9 tricks.

Sometimes the Meshappelle play is slightly more intricate as for instance.

	♣ K, Q, 10, X, X, X		
	♦ X, X		
	♥ X, X		
	♣ A, X, X		
♠ X		N	♠ A, X, X
♥ Q, 10, X, X	W	E	♥ J, X, X
♦ Q, J, 8, 2			♦ A, X, X, X
♣ 10, X, X, X	S		♣ K, X, X
	♠ J, 9, X		
	♦ A, K, X, X		
	♥ K, 10, 9		
	♣ Q, J, X		
S. Declarer at 3 N. T			
W led H. 2			

After winning with the H. A. East has to ponder over his subsequent play. From the lead, West's hearts are only four in number and almost certainly S has a stopper. Hence only 3 tricks can be had in Hearts. The menace of the Club suit is far too strong to be ignored. But E perceives that he can shut out the club suit by a hold up till the 3rd round, if the only entry card in dummy can be knocked out. The immediate Meshappelle play of the S. K through giving up a trick in spades holds dummy to 2 tricks in clubs and the contract is set. If declarer ducks the Spade K, then E goes back to a Heart. Now also the contract is doomed because E. W. win 3 tricks in Hearts, 1 in spades and 1 in clubs. If E had tripped up in defence, 3 N. T. is cold. With a long adverse suit in dummy, even when not absolutely established, one should never hesitate to lead an

unsupported honour in an attempt to kill dummy's Ace or dislodge dummy's king.

There is another exceptional type that I will name the Double Meshappelle or the Co-operative Meshappelle Coup because Meshappelle leads should be made twice by one player or once by each defender. The bidding in the example given below was prosaic.

♠ Q, J, 10, 9, X, X			
♥ A, X			
♦ A, X			
♣ X, X, X			
♠ A, X	♠ K, X	N	E
♥ K, J, 10, 9	♥ X, X, X, X	W	S
♦ K, X, X	♦ X, X, X, X		
♣ 10, X, X, X	♣ Q, X, X		
♠ X, X			
♥ Q, X, X			
♦ Q, X, X, X			
♠ A, K, J, X			
N	E	S	W
1 ♣	—	1 ♠	—
2 ♣	—	2 N. T.	—
3 ♣	—	3 N. T.	—

Michael Gottlieb sat West. He studied the bidding carefully. With his brilliant flair for opening leads, he made the remarkable Meshappelle lead of the D. K. Dummy had to take the trick. C. Q. was lead and W took the trick with C. A. Without batting an eyelid, he played the H. K and now the Declarer was sunk because the clubs were useless and he was 2 down. This type of play is, of course, extremely rare.

From the foregoing, it will be clear that, by its nature,

the Deschappelles coup is mostly a No-Trump play. It tries to establish an entry in partner's hand for a long suit, which ordinarily cannot be brought in against a trump declaration. The Meshappelle also generally fails against a suit contract because there are likely to be more entries in the hand with the long suit. But once in a while both the coups may be utilised to defeat a trump contract. The following hand occurred in actual play:—

♠ K, Q, J, 10, 6			
♥ 9, 7, 3			
♦ A, 5			
♣ J, 4, 2			
♠ 7, 5, 3	♠ A, 4, 2	N	E
♥ K, Q, J, 10, 8, 4	♥ A	W	S
♦ Q, 9	♦ K, J, 6, 4, 3, 2		
♣ Q, 5	♣ 10, 9, 3		
♠ 9, 8			
♥ 6, 5, 2			
♦ 10, 8, 7			
♠ A, K, 8, 7, 6			
N	E	S	W
X	1 ♣	1 ♠	2 ♠
3 ♣	—	3 ♠	—
4 ♣	—	—	—
D, K led			

East won with the singleton D. A. The hand looked pretty sad. Hoping for the best, he led the H. K. His primary purpose was that of the Deschappelles coup, but the objective of the Meshappelle coup was also undoubtedly in his mind. Dummy won and declarer played 2 rounds of trumps dropping the S. Q. But now he was murdered, because, if he drew trumps

before establishing clubs, a hold-up for one round by E would lock him in his own hand with 2 Hearts and 2 Diamonds to lose. So declarer went for his Clubs. East won at once and led a Small heart to West's queen. He cashed 2 Diamonds and on the 3rd Diamond East's 10 got a trick by overage.

The declarer blamed himself for playing the hand badly, but E consoled him. E pointed out that even if H. K was

ducked, he would continue Hearts. Declarer can not try to set up his clubs before taking 2 rounds of trumps, while if he did draw two rounds and then went after Clubs, East could win the 2nd Club and lead the H. J to be ruffed in dummy by S. J, establishing S. 10. After the explanations were over, West remarked "On behalf of the ranks of Deschappelles fans, let me say that that was very well played indeed!"

MOVING THROUGH THE SUDDER GARDENS

(Continued from page 23)

utilisation of these conventions. To this extent, therefore, the mofussil players, who were generally better acquainted with these various conventions, were brought down to the level of the city players. Even so, no one can refrain from paying a deserving tribute to the sound game displayed by the city players, who practically swept the boards in this event as also the Team-of-Four event.

Dealing with the different hands played at a tournament or at a friendly match is extraordinarily easy. One need have only a few hands played at a Pairs Progressive tournament or a Team-of-Four tournament to write up

an interesting and edifying article. Practically every Bridge player has some worthwhile ideas to contribute. It is the pooling together of all such ideas that raises the level of the game. It may perhaps be difficult for every one to contribute a full article merely on the strength of his few individualistic ideas. It may be even more difficult for every one to write a lighter or more humorous article straight-away. But it is always easy to deal with a few hands and incidentally introduce one's own individual thoughts and ideas on the calling and the play. That is how I expect most of the readers to break into Bridge print.

INTERESTING DEALS

No. IV SERIES

By K. R. Varadarajan, B.A., B.L.

I think that the following 3 deals will be of interest to the readers.

Deal No. 1

♠ X X
♥ A, Q, X
♦ K, J, X X X X
♣ Q, X

North

South

♠ A, Q, X X
♥ K, X
♦ Q, 10, X X
♣ A, 10, X

The bidding was as follows:—

N	E	S	W
1 ♦	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

East led the J of Clubs. I was sitting north and thought over the partnership hands for a considerable time to chalk out the safest line of play. I argued as follows:— I have got a six card suit in Diamonds and very likely West has a six card suit in Clubs and the same is probabilised by East's opening lead of J of Clubs showing a doubleton, in which case East is going to ruff the third round of clubs and so my

contract will depend upon the success of the Spade finesse. I wanted to avoid that risk if possible. I counted upon East having two trumps (because he played for a ruff) and West having the singleton Ace of Trumps. After locating the cards like this, I played a small club in the dummy and West's King won. When club was led back, I won with the Queen. I then cashed the Hearts King, Ace and Queen, and discarded the Ace of clubs (!). I then played a Small Trump to West's Ace. Here is the full deal.

♠ X X
♥ A, Q, X
♦ K, J, X X X X
♣ Q, X

♠ K X X
♥ J, X X
♦ A
♣ K, X X X X X

♠ J, X X X
♥ 10, X X X X
♦ X X
♣ J, X

N
W E
S

♠ A, Q, X X
♥ K, X
♦ Q, 10, X X
♣ A, 10, X

West was helpless after winning the trick with the trump Ace. He must either lead a spade to dummy's tenace or play a club for a ruff and discard. I kept my contract much to the amazement and wonder of anxious spectators.

Deal No. 2.

♠ 10, XXX	♠ A, K, Q, X X	♠ K, J, XX
♥ 8, XX	♥ K, 10, X X X X	♥ 10, X
♦ J, X	♦ A, J	♦ Q, XXX
♣ 10, XXX	♣ A, Q, 9, X X	♣ Q, XX
	♣ J, 9, X	
	♣ A	
	♣ K, 9 X X	

The bidding was as follows:—

N	E	S	W
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 N. T.	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
7 ♥	Double	Pass	Pass

We see that the play is an easy one. North has to take two ruffs in the dummy of two of his low diamonds. The only curiosity is how did North bid 7 Hearts? How did he know that his partner had two aces with him? The answer is as follows:—South has asked 5 clubs and must have expected a N. T. response, in which case he is prepared to bid 6 H. Not knowing that the North's Heart suit is a solid one, South must expect one loser in Hearts when he goes 6 H because Hearts was North's second bid suit. So, South must have two Aces. Hence a grand slam bid in Hearts. This hand occurred in the Pairs Progressive event in the Deccan Bridge League Tournament in December 1939 at Coimbatore. Out

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

of 7 tables that were playing, the Tiruppur N.S. alone bid and made 7 H, while the others stopped with 4 H or 6 H.

Deal No. 3.

Though we have the Asking Bids, 4-5 No-trump convention and the free 5 No-trump grand slam force for higher ranges of bidding in the Culbertson system, my opinion is that it is by no means perfect. At times, it is not possible to arrive at the correct contract, unless we have recourse to other Systems. The following deal is illustrative of the same.

North.	♠ A, K, Q, J, 9
	♥ A, K, X
	♦ K, X
	♣ Q, X X
South.	♠ XX
	♥ X X X
	♦ A, Q, X X
	♣ A, K, X X

From the combined hands, it is clear that a grand slam in Spades or No-trumps is cold. But a player will naturally choose the Spade contract for the sake of the 100 Honours. But the difficulty is how to arrive at a grand slam by employing the Culbertson system. The normal course of the bidding will be

S.	N.
1♦.	25
3♣	

Up to this stage every thing is alright. If North adopts the 4-5 No-trump convention,

he is able to locate 2 Aces with South. But it is doubtful whether South also holds the K of Clubs, which is the key card for a grand slam bid. There is no way of knowing the presence of the K of clubs in the South's hand according to the Culbertson system. There is no question of 'asking' in the club suit because it has been bid. So the Culbertsonian will stop with 6 S or 6 N. T., unless he wants to take a risk and bid 7*.

In such cases, the Blackwood convention is really helpful. For instance the bidding can go this way:—

S.	N.
1♦	2♣
3♥	4 N. T.
5♥	5 N. T.
6♦	7♦

To 4 N. T. by North—Asking South to disclose the number of aces in his hand—South's response will be

5♣	having no aces.
5♦	one ace.
5♥	2 aces.
5♠	3 aces.
5 N. T.	4 Aces.

Hence the response of 5 H shows 2 Aces. North's 5 N. T. is again asking South to disclose the number of kings in his hand. South's response will be

6♣	having no kings.
6♦	one king.

* If the 4 NT is bid by South, which is not unlikely, the K of Clubs is located and the Grand Slam can be bid.—Ed.

6♥	2 kings.
6♠	3 kings.
6 N. T.	4 kings.

Hence the response of 6 D shows one king, the King of Clubs, because North has got the other Kings in his hands. This system also is defective because this asking 4 and 5 N. T. can be adopted only when the partnership is going to play in No-Trump or Spades.

I was sitting south and my partner, Sastri, was North. My partner is a strict Culbertsonian, thorough with the Gold and Red Books. He knows no other systems except Culbertson. After my bid of 3 C, he gave a free 5 N. T. grand slam force and I jumped to 7 Clubs. Then he called 7 Spades. I was really dissatisfied with my partner's audacity in misleading me viz, asking with Clubs as Trumps and bidding Slam in Spades. After the opening lead and the exposure of the Dummy, I asked my partner why he did not show me that his spades suit was solid. He coolly replied "That is Sastri's Coup". I was feeling fairly nervous and heaved a sigh of relief when the Spades broke. We made the vulnerable Grand slam and walked away with the fruits of the Rubber.

NEWS AND NOTES

The Easter Tournaments

WITH a view to provide a back-ground for the inaugural meeting of the newly amalgamated body and to ensure a good attendance therein, the former South Indian Bridge Association conducted a Team-of-Four Tournament and a Pairs Progressive Tournament in Madras during the Easter Holidays between the 22nd and 24th of March 1940. The tournaments attracted quite a large number of entries, including teams from Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, Gopichettipalayam, Devacotta Tiruppur and Rajamundry. The city, however, provided the majority of the teams. The contests, which were played in the Sudder Gardens, Alwarpet, Madras, were keenly fought out in a spirit of friendly rivalry. The city teams had surprisingly swept the boards in both the tournaments. That the teams from the city, which have taken up serious contract comparatively recently, should have achieved such a result against seasoned players from the mofussil is very gratifying. The veterans had perhaps taken their opponents too lightly. In any case, the city babies in duplicate play have our heartiest congratulations.

The Team-of-Four Tournament.

There were as many as 16 teams, including two from Trichinopoly and one each from Coimbatore, Gopichettipalayam, Tiruppur and Devacotta, apart from the Arcot House Team. The remaining teams were drawn from the various clubs in the city. The fixtures had been so arranged that every team from the mofussil had to play a city team in the first round. The mofussil players experienced their first shock when they found that except for the Arcot House and the Tiruppur Teams, the rest of mofussil teams were knocked out even in the first round. These two mofussil teams met in the second round, when the Tiruppur Team, which ultimately came up to the finals, won by a few hundred points. On the other side, one of the best of the Madras Teams composed of Messrs. S. S. Vasan, A. Ramaswami, J. Subbuswami and C. R. Srinivasan came up to the finals. The final match was not half so exciting as it was expected to be and the city team easily won by 22 match points to 10 with an aggregate difference of 3,000 and odd points.

The Pairs Progressive Tournament.

As many as 34 teams had entered for this event. Naturally enough, therefore, there were 17 tables played with 17 N-S pairs and 17 E-W pairs. There were 34 deals altogether, with two deals played in each round. The tournament was begun at about 5 P.M. on Saturday, the 23rd March and went on till about 2 O'clock the next morning. We are

confident that an efficient non-playing Director would have got the event through in about half the weary time that it actually took. We might, therefore, suggest to the Tournament Committee the desirability of insisting on the presence of such Directors in the more important Pairs Progressive Tournaments in the future. Mr. K. Easwaran and partner of Madras were the N-S winners and Mr. Sankaran and partner also of Madras were the E-W winners. The first six positions were secured by the following teams.

North-South

1. Mr. K. Easwaran and partner (Madras).
2. Mr. M. K. Srinivasan and partner (Madras).
3. Mr. Vaidyanatha Iyer and partner (Madras).
4. Devacotta A. (Messrs. M. R. Sivaramakrishna Iyer, T. R. Sundararajan).
5. Gopichettipalayam B. (Mr. K. Subramania Goundar and partner).
6. Dr. T. V. S. Sastri and Partner (Trichinopoly).

East-West.

1. Mr. Sankara Iyer and partner (Madras).
2. Gopichettipalayam A. (Mr. K. R. Sundararajan and partner).
3. Arcot House A. (Messrs. A. M. R. David and M. S. Krishnaswami).
4. Mr. Sundaresa Iyer and partner (Madras).
5. Messrs. J. G. Gnanadurai and Mylappan (Trichinopoly).
6. Coimbatore Cosmopolitan A. (Mr. V. Srinivasa Iyer and partner).

The Madras teams have thus had an auspicious start in duplicate play. With the sound game that they display even at present and the bidding conventions that they should soon master and the duplicate technique that they will soon secure, they are sure to prove experts in the game in the near future.

The M. U. C. Annual Bridge Tournaments 1940

Only an open pairs tournament in Auction Bridge was being conducted by the Club till two years ago. It is only for the last two years that an open Pairs tournament in contract had also been introduced. As a result of the impetus given to duplicate play in Madras through the Easter tournaments at the Sudder Gardens, a Team-of-four event and a Pairs Progressive event were also conducted this year, apart from the open pairs tournament in contract.

The Team-of-four event.

Six teams had entered for this tournament. The favourites for this event viz., Mr. S. S. Vasan's team, were eliminated even at an early stage.

The finals were played between Mr. K. R. Sundaram Iyer's team including Messrs. S. M. K. Sastrigal and K. Easwaran and T. R. Samoo and Mr. B. Lakkuppa Rai's Team including Messrs. A. Narasimbachariar and M. R. Duraiswami and Dr. V. N. C. Rao. Mr. K. R. Sundaram Iyer's team won after a gruelling fight. We heartily congratulate the winners in this event, which after all ensures the greatest test of skill. It is very gratifying to find our General Secretary, Mr. K. R. Sundaram Iyer and our Treasurer, Mr. K. Eswara Iyer among the members of the winning team, which also includes Mr. S. M. K. Sastrigal, who has been well-known for the last two or three years as bearing the torch of contract to illuminate all the places to which he goes.

The Pairs Progressive Tournament.

Altogether 16 pairs had entered for this event. Messrs. B. Lakkuppa Rai and A. Narasimbachariar (N-S) and Mr. M. R. Duraiswami and Dr. V. N. C. Rao (E-W) were the winners and Messrs. S. S. Vasan and A. Ramaswami (N-S) and Messrs. J. Subbuswami and C. R. Srinivasan (E-W) were the runners-up. It cannot be a mere coincidence that the runners-up in the Team-of-Four event won both the N-S and E-W cups in the Pairs Progressive Tournament.

The Open Pairs event.

As many as 18 teams had entered for this event. The finals were ultimately played between Messrs. S. S. Vasan and A. Ramaswami on the one hand and Messrs. K. R. Sundaram Iyer and S. M. K. Sastrigal on the other. 48 deals were played and Mr. S. S. Vasan's pair won by 900 points. The calm and sound game displayed by Mr. S. S. Vasan harnessed to the flashes of brilliance of a comet will carry this pair far.

The Sivaganga Cricket Club Invitation Tournament

In connection with the Club day celebrated in the beginning of April 1940, there was an invitation Team-of-Four tournament. There were 5 entries with Devacotta strongly represented. The tournament was ultimately won by the team captained by Mr. R. M. Sundaram, I. C. S. including Mr. M. P. Pai, I. C. S., Dr. T. K. Natesan and Dr. N. Halasyam.

The Devacotta United Club

In connection with the farewell entertainment given by the Devacotta United Club to Mr. A. M. R. David, there was an open Pairs Progressive tournament conducted by the club on the 20th April 1940. 6 tables were played and Messrs. S. Jagannatha Iyengar and V. Krishnamachariar (N-S) and Mr. A. M. R. David and Mr. M. S. Krishnaswami (E-W) were the winners.

The Coimbatore Cosmopolitan Club Tournament

Apart from the open Pairs tournament in auction and Contract, the Coimbatore Cosmopolitan Club conducted a team-of four tournament and a pairs progressive tournament in Contract in the 1st and 2nd Weeks of May, 1940. A large number of teams had entered, including 4 teams from Madras and one from Devacotta, apart from the usual teams from Trichinopoly, Gopichettipalayam, Tiruppur and Avanasi and the Arcot House Team. The play was generally of a high standard and the bidding and play in some of these matches was good enough for international contests.

The team-of-Four Event

As many as 18 teams had entered for this event. The most keenly fought out matches in this event were those between the Agricultural College Team and the Devacotta Team, Mr. S. S. Vasan's team and Cosmopolitan Club Team and the Arcot House Team and another Cosmopolitan Club team. All these matches were decided on the aggregate difference of a few hundred points, the match between the Arcot House team and the Cosmopolitan Club team being restricted by consent to 16 deals. The finals which was played between the Devacotta Team and this Cosmopolitan Club Team proved a tame affair, the Devacotta team composed of Messrs. M. S. Krishnaswami, T. Malai, C. Srinivasan and A. Sundararajan winning comfortably by a margin of several thousand points. Our congratulations go to the Devacotta Team on their well-deserved Victory. Initiated into the game by the captain of the Arcot House team, Devacotta has been playing Contract for just about the time that Madras has been doing so or for the last less than 3 years. Their victory would well demonstrate that an intelligent study of the game along with actual play is infinitely better than years and years of unthinking play.

The Pairs Progressive Event

There were altogether 17 tables and the tournament was restricted to 17 deals. There were some interesting hands in this event. But this form of contest is, we are afraid, losing its popularity for the very obvious reason that players get bottoms for no fault of theirs and win tops for no skill of their own but merely because their opponents for the time being are foolish or reckless. But the evening was, on the whole, an enjoyable one with a good dinner given by the members of Cosmopolitan Club. Messrs. Ramachandro Rao and Sriramulu of Madras (N-S) and Dr. T. V. S. Sastri and Mr. G. Kanakaraj of Trichinopoly (E-W) were the winners and Mr. A. V. Krishnaswami Iyer and partner of Madras (N-S) and Messrs. A. M. R. David and A. D. J. Victor of the Arcot House Team (E-W) were the runners-up. We hear that the victory of Dr. Sastri and partner was, in particular, a handsome one by a wide margin.

BRIDGE PROBLEM

On May 26th 1938, the Madras Mail had in its bridge column "Contract bridge according to Culbertson" published the following Bridge problem and solution.

		♠ A, K, Q			
		♥ Q, J, 10, 9			
		♦ A, 6, 4			
		♣ J, 5, 3			
♠ 9, 5		♠ J, 7, 2			
♥ A, K, 6, 5, 3, 2	N	♥ 8, 7, 4			
♦ Q, J	W	♦ 10, 9, 8, 3			
♣ K, 10, 9	E	♣ Q, 7, 2			
		♠ 10, 8, 6, 4, 3			
		♥ K, 7, 5, 2			
		♦ A, 8, 6, 4			

The Bidding (North—South vulnerable)

W	N	E	S
1 H	1. N. T.	—	2 S
—	3 S	—	4 S

West warned against a Heart lead by North's no-trump overcall, opens the diamond queen. Can South make his four Spade contract, against the best defence? If so, how?

Solution. Yes—South can fulfil his contract by playing as follows:—

"Takes opening lead with the diamond Ace. Leads Hearts Queen and passes it discarding a club. West wins and properly shifts to club ten. Declarer wins the Ace, leads a trump to dummy and passes another Heart, discarding another club. West wins and can cash club king, but now declarer has absolute control. Wins diamond return with King or club return by ruffing, draws trumps and cashes two established Hearts."

Mr. S. Suryanarayana Iyer, (our Joint Editor) wrote to the Mail pointing out how the contract can not be made. The Madras Mail merely published it as a query on June 19th 1938. So far, no other notice has been taken of it by the bridge loving public or Mr. Culbertson himself. We publish it

here for the benefit of our readers. A prize of any chosen book on Bridge to the value of not more than Rs. 5/- will be given to the first demonstration received at our office showing how the arguments of Mr. S. Suryanarayana Iyer are faulty.

Here is the detailed defence that will defeat the contract according to our Joint Editor:—

I Variation.—If west ducks when north leads his second Heart, the contract can be set. Suppose North continues Hearts, (discarding clubs again) West takes the trick, and returns a Heart which East ruffs with his Spade knave, on which declarer can discard a Diamond. The defence has now taken 3 tricks and still declarer has a losing Diamond.

II Variation.—Suppose, 'Declarer takes the opening lead with the Diamond King, crosses over to the dummy with a Spade lead, and leads the Heart Q, discarding a club West takes the trick with the Heart Ace and leads Diamond Jack. If it is allowed to take the trick, West shifts to the club ten; South takes the trick with the Club Ace, crosses over to the dummy with a Spade lead, takes another round of trumps, and leads the heart knave, discarding a club. West now takes the trick with the Heart King and cashes his club King, setting the contract.

III Variation.—Or suppose South overtakes the Diamond Queen with the Diamond Ace, then West ducks the second lead of hearts and takes the trick with the Heart King on the third lead and gives a Heart ruff to east for the Spade knave. East at once takes a trick with the Diamond ten, setting the contract and so on.

Other variations can be easily defeated by a careful defensive play.

THE SOUTH INDIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

The Pre-amalgamation events

A PART from the informal correspondence that had been carried on between the Secretary of the former South Indian Bridge Association and the then President of the Deccan Bridge League, the first effective step was taken by the Deccan Bridge League, when the following resolution was unanimously passed by the general body meeting of the League held on the evening of the 31st December 1939:—

"As this General body is of opinion that it would be desirable to amalgamate with the South Indian Bridge Association in the larger interests of the game, the Executive Council is authorised to enter into negotiations with the aforesaid Association with this object in view and call for, and place before, the General body any satisfactory scheme of amalgamation that may be agreed upon"

The Executive Committee of the former South Indian Bridge Association had in its meeting dated 8th January 1940 passed the following resolution:—

"The Executive Committee considered the letter dated 4th January 1940 from the General Secretary of the Deccan Bridge League and express their desire to co-operate with the Deccan Bridge League in effecting the amalgamation."

The Executive Committee had also authorised the Hon. Secretaries to call for particulars of the scheme proposed by the Deccan Bridge League. Intensive correspondence had then been carried on between the Secretaries of the Associations and the representatives of the league. As a result, it was very apparent that there were no differences whatever on principle between the two bodies as regards the various questions involved in the scheme of amalgamation. On the recommendation of the representatives appointed by the Executive Council which were adopted by the Executive Council itself, the general body of the Deccan Bridge League had in its meeting dated 2nd March 1940 passed the following resolutions:—

1. "That the Deccan Bridge League do amalgamate itself with the South Indian Bridge Association."

2. "That the amalgamated body be named The Amalgamated Bridge Association of South India or any other name that may be agreed to at the first general body meeting of the new body."
3. "That the Secretaries of the Deccan Bridge League and the South Indian Bridge Association be authorised to call for the first meeting of the amalgamated body."

The South Indian Bridge Association had even previously passed similar resolutions on the 27th February 1940. The manner in which all outstanding questions were left over for amicable settlement by the new body itself after the date of the amalgamation contributed in no small measure to the remarkable speed in which the amalgamation was decided on by the two bodies within two months after the question was formally opened.

The General Body Meeting of the New Amalgamated body.

The first general body meeting of the new amalgamated body including *Ipso facto* the members of the Deccan Bridge League and the members of the South Indian Bridge Association was held in the Sudder Gardens, Alwarpet, Madras at 5-30 P.M. on the 24th March 1940. Dr. Sir, K. V. Reddi Naidu, K.C.I.E., D. Litt. presided. Among those present were:—

Messers J. A. Pinto, T. G. Singaravelu and H. Bheemasena Rao of the Cosmopolitan Club, Madras, S. S. Vasan, A. Ramaswami Iyer, K. R. Sundaram Iyer, K. Eswaran, C. R. Srinivasan, J. Subbuswami Iyer, T. V. Subramanian, M. Damodara Mudaliar, K. Sivaramakrishnan, and P. N. Sundaresa Iyer, of M. U. C., Dr. Y. Suriyanarayanan and P. G. Sankara Iyer of the Triplicane Club, T. S. Muthuswami Mudaliar of the Mambalam Club, M. R. Duraiswami and Sreenivasa Mudaliar of the Vani Athletic Association, A. Vythianathan, Saptharishi Iyer of the Thiagarajanagar Club, Ramachandra Rao, Sreeramulu and Hanumantha Rao of the Andra Mahasabha, M. D. Gokran of the Imperial Chemical Industries Club, Kannan Chetti, Treasurer of the South Indian Bridge Association, S. P. Raju, Honorary Secretary of the South Indian Bridge Association, Dr. M. Karamchand Wade of Rajamundry, V. Sreenivasa Iyer, A. K. Swaminathan, A. D. Nayak, A. K. Seshadri, A. R. Kumaraswami Goundar and A. R. Kalyanasundaram of Coimbatore, C. K. Subramania Goundar,¹ K. R. Sundararajan, G. N. Jayaraman, Ambi Sastrigal and A. R. Somasundaram of Gopichettipalayam, V. Rajam Iyer and K. R. Varadarajan of Tiruppur, A. M. R. David, M. S. Krishnaswami Iyer, M. R. Sivaramakrishnan, T. R. Sundararajan, A. Sundararajan and M. N. Krishnamurthi

(from Devacotta) and Dr. T. V. S. Sastri, G. Kanakaraj, J. G. Gnanadurai, A. Mylappan, P. W. David, A. D. J. Victor and Y. Duraiswami Iyer from Trichinopoly. Great enthusiasm prevailed.

After a short discussion as regards the comparative appropriateness of the terms "federation" and Association, it was first unanimously

Resolved that the name of the amalgamated body of The Deccan Bridge League and the South Indian Bridge Association be "The South Indian Bridge Association".

2. Resolved that the headquarters of the new body be located in Madras for the present with the Central Office in the Madras United Club, Madras.

3. Resolved that subject to the passing of the constitution, the rates of subscription be Rs. 5/- per year for clubs and Rs. 2/- per year for Associate members.

4. Resolved that the following office bearers be elected for the year.

- (a) President 1.
- (b) Vice-Presidents 2.
- (c) Hon. General Secretary 1.
- (d) Hon. Treasurer 1.
- (e) Members of the Executive Council 13.

5. The following office bearers were unanimously elected.

President

DR. SIR K. V. REDDI, K.C.I.E., D. Litt.

Vice-Presidents

DR. P. SUBBAROYAN, Bar-at-Law.

SIR P. T. RAJAN, Bar-at-Law.

Hon. Genl. Secretary

SRI K. R. SUNDARAM IYER

Hon. Treasurer

SRI K. ESWARA IYER

Members of the Executive Council

1. SRI S. S. VASAN
2. " S. P. RAJU
3. " P. KANNAN CHETTY
4. " T. S. KRISHNAMURTHI, M.A.
5. DR. T. V. S. SASTRI
6. " R. A. JOHNSON
7. SRI V. SRINIVASAN, B.A., B.L.
8. " A. M. R. DAVID, M.A., B.L.
9. DR. KARACHAND WADE, M.A., Ph.D.
10. SRI M. S. KRISHNASWAMI, B.A., B.L.
11. " M. RAMACHANDRA RAO, B.A., B.L.
12. " A. NARASIMHA IYER, B.A., B.L.
13. " Y. DURAISWAMI IYER, B.A., B.L.

6. Unanimously resolved that the work of drafting the constitution be entrusted to the Executive Council which may form its own committees for the various purposes of the constitution with power to co-opt others.

The newly amalgamated body called the South Indian Bridge Association has thus come into being.

Meeting of the Executive Council held on the 7th April 1940.

A meeting of the Executive Council was held on the 7th April 1940 at the M. U. C. Madras. Dr. Sir K. V. Reddi, K.C.I.E., D.Litt presided. The following members were present :—

Sri K. R. Sundaram Iyer (General Secretary), K. Eswara Iyer (Treasurer), S. S. Vasan, M. Ramachandra Rao.

1. The minutes of the General Body meeting held on the 24th March 1940 were read and passed.

2. It was resolved to have 5 Committees as under :—

1. Rules Committee. 2. Tournament Committee. 3. Editorial Committee. 4. Membership Committee. 5. Finance Committee

3. The following members were elected to the different committees as under :—

1. Rules Committee (Head-Quarters-Madras).

Sri H. Bhimasena Rao (Chairman), Messers M. Ramachandra Rao, B.A., B.L., K. P. Velu Pillai, K. R. Sundararajan, J. Subbuswami, M.A., Bar-at-law (Secretary).

2. Tournament Committee (Head-Quarters-Coimbatore).

1. Sri T. S. Krishnamoorthi, M.A., Coimbatore, (Chairman), 2. Messers K. Venkataswami Naidu, B.A., B.L., Coimbatore, 3. S. Rajam Iyer, B.A., B.L., Tiruppur, 4. C. K. Subramania Goundar (Gopichettipalayam), 5. M. R. Duraiswami (Madras), 6. K. P. Velu Pillai (Trichy). 7. C. K. Seshadri (Coimbatore), 8. V. Srinivasan, B.A., B.L., Coimbatore, (Secretary).

3. Editorial Committee. (Head Quarters—Trichy).

1. Sri A. M. R. David, M.A., B.L., (Chairman), 2. Sri A. K. Swaminathan, B.A., B.L., Coimbatore, 3. Dr. Karachand Wade, M.A., Ph.D., Rajamundry, 4. Sri J. Subbuswami, M.A., Bar-at-law, Madras, 5. Dr. T. V. S. Sastri, Trichy, 6. Dr. R. A. Johnson, Trichy, (Chief Editor), 7. Sri S. Suryanarayana Iyer, M.A., Trichy (Joint Editor), 8. Sri M. S. Krishnaswami, B.A., M.L., Devacotta (Problems Editor), 9. Mr. P. W. David, Trichy, (Business Editor).

4. Membership Committee (Head Quarters—Madras).

1. Sri T. G. Singaravelu, Madras (Chairman), 2. Messers. Y. Duraiswami Iyer, Trichy, 3. A. R. Kalyanasundaram (Coimbatore), 4. T. Soundararajan (Devacotta), 5. G. Hanumantha Rao (Madras), 6. T. V. Subramanian, B.A., B.L., (Madras), 7. A. Ramaswami Iyer, B.A., B.L. (Secretary).

5. Finance Committee (Head Quarters—Madras).

1. Sri S. S. Vasan (Chairman). 2. Messers. M. R. Kalingaroyar, B.A., B.L. (Coimbatore). 3. K. K. Raman (Trichy), 4. A. Parameswariah (Madras), 5. K. Eswara Iyer, (Secretary).

4. Resolved that the Life membership subscription be Rs. 30/- for Associate Members and Rs. 75/- for Clubs.

5. Resolved that the Treasurer of the Association be authorised to open an account with the Indian Bank Ltd., and operate on the funds of the Association.

6. Resolved that no expenses shall be incurred by the Treasurer except with the sanction of the Executive Council; in case of emergency, he can spend up to Rs. 25/- (Rupees twenty five only) with the approval of the Secretary and one other member of the Executive Council. He is, however, allowed a sum of Rs. 15/- as imprest cash.

7. Resolved that the sanction accorded to the Coimbatore Cosmopolitan Club for the conduct of open Contract and Auction Bridge tournaments be approved and a tournament affiliation fee of Rs. 10/- be fixed.

8. Resolved that the name of the Official Magazine be changed to "The Indian Bridge World".

9. Resolved that the Magazine account be maintained separately.

10. Resolved that Rs. 45/- (Rupees forty-five) be allotted to the Editorial Committee in connection with the Magazine expenses for the 1st quarter of this year.

Meeting of the Executive Council on 6th May, 1940.

There was a meeting of the Executive Council held on the 6th May 1940 at 4-30 P.M. in the Cosmopolitan Club, Coimbatore. The following members were present:—

1. Dr. T. V. S. Sastri, (in the chair) 2. Mr. T. S. Krishnamurthi, 3. Mr. A. M. R. David, 4. Mr. S. P. Raju, 5. Mr. M. S. Krishnaswami, 6. Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao, 7. Mr. K. R. Sundaram Iyer.

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Council held on the 7th April 1940 at the Madras United Club, were read and confirmed.

2. Resolved that the Secretaries of the old Deccan Bridge League and the old South Indian Bridge Association be requested to expedite the handing over of the accounts and the records to the present Honorary Secretary. (Moved by Mr. A. M. R. David; seconded by the Chair; carried unanimously).

3. Resolved that credit be given in this year's subscription to such members to whom issues of the magazine are due at the rate of four annas per issue. (Moved by Mr. A. M. R. David; seconded by Mr. K. R. Sundaram Iyer; carried unanimously).

4. Resolved that any member joining the Association after the first quarter will pay subscription only for the remaining quarters. (Moved by Mr. A. M. R. David; seconded by Mr. Ramachandra Rao; carried unanimously).

5. Resolved that the official year of the Association shall be from 1-1-1940 to 31-12-1940. (Moved from the chair; carried).

MAY 1940

The Association Library.

Consequent on the amalgamation of the ~~World Magazines~~ and the necessity for putting the accounts in order, it has not been possible for the Executive Council to sanction any amount for the purchase of books for starting the library. But the following books have been so far presented and they form the nucleus for a Bridge Library that, we are confident, would develop into one of the best in the whole of the East.

1. Books presented by Dr. R. A. Johnson.

1. The Acol system of Contract Bridge by Ben Cohen and Terence Reese. 2. Duplicate Bridge by Alexander T. Hasher, 3. Contract Bridge bidding systems by Cavendish, 4. The Blue Book of Duplicate Bridge by Harold Thorne, 5. The Stern system by Dr. Paul Stern, 6. A Summary of the Acol system of Contract Bridge by Ben Cohen and Terence Reese, 7. The Bridge World Magazines (22) 1938 and 1939 issues.

2. Books presented by Mr. J. G. Gnanadurai.

1. Contract in six lessons, by J. Hope Reford, 2. Advanced Auction and Contract Bridge tactics by H. L. Thornelly, 3. Advanced Contract Bridge simplified by H. Thorne, 4. The Barton variation, 5. The Bridge World Magazines—1937, 1938 and 1939 issues (12 copies).

3. Books presented by Mr. A. M. R. David.

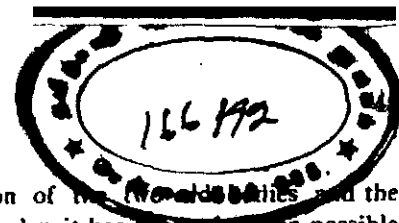
1. Contract Bidding made easy by Mr. A. M. R. David (3 copies), 2. Advanced Contract Bridge by Dr. Melville Smith, 3. Auction Bridge for all by Manning Foster, 4. Brush up your Bridge by Hubert Phillips, 5. Contract Bridge bidding systems in a Nutshell by Cavendish, 6. Over 750 hands selected by Wm. E. Mckenney.

A library has thus been started after all, though on a small scale, and is now under the control of the Editorial Committee. Our members are requested to send us all the available Bridge books that they can spare. The Library is now too small to allow of any lending but the books are available for reference at the Editorial office at the City club, Fort, Trichinopoly.

Can't you give us some tit-bits relating to the game—any jokes, short stories or anecdotes?

Write to the Business Editor, City Club, Fort, Trichinopoly.

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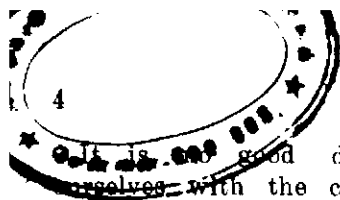
PROPRIETIES OF CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Dr. M. Karamchand Wade

THE most painful feature of Bridge play in our country, and the one that grates most on one's cultured sensibilities, is the distressing disregard of proprieties by a large majority of players in mofussil towns. There is plenty of talent, good humour, freemasonry, esprit de corps, camaraderie, but alas! they are vitiated by a gross and blatant violation of the proprieties of the game. I shall be failing in my duty as a lover of Bridge if, for fear of being dubbed a Bridge Jeremiah, I forebore to deliver a frontal attack on some of our weaknesses that need speedy eradication. I know that truth is bitter but then how is any advance possible unless somebody rushes full tilt at miasmas condoned by long practice. Honest advice, frankly and dispassionately tendered for the removal of error, the dissipation of confusion, and the diminution of misery, motivated by the aspiration of leaving the world better and happier than one found it, is nowhere treated

in such an unintelligent, misleading and exaggerated way as in our sacred land. Our conceit and egotism, born of ages of self-complacency, not only make us impervious to words of wisdom but rise in hostility against anything savouring of reflection on our cultural and spiritual primacy which, although unacknowledged by an unappreciative world, is our chief stock in trade as it is also the chief enemy of our dynamism.

A true sportsman is not a party man dragooned by disciplinary catchwords into moral myopia and political insularity but one enfranchised into an enlightened entity by a cultured cosmopolitanism, a spirit of inquiry, and a living sense of equity and fairness. My appeal is to him and not to those men who, like potatoes, have their best part buried underground and, unreceptive to a point suggestive of chronic intellectual anaemia, counter every suggestion with the digging up of the sapience of their neolithic ancestors.



~~It is good~~ deluding ourselves with the confused notion that since a club is professedly a place for unbending one need not take anything there seriously. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Clubs are in essence adult schools where we continue our education under democratic, but nevertheless stringent, conditions. As a matter of sober fact, the whole of our terrestrial career has been an unbroken process of uninterrupted education. The evolution of man from his sub-human, ape ancestor of the Miocene epoch of the Tertiary era, over 2 millions of years ago, is directly traceable to his tuition by the forces of nature through an inexorable struggle for existence ensuring survival of the fittest.

Laws of Contract Bridge have been formulated to ensure equality of opportunity and conditions of work. Proprieties are there to regulate cultured intercourse between cultivated men by the codification of a number of things that are taboo in polite society. The laws and proprieties of Bridge should be observed by everybody, high or low, and the game should be played in strict conformity

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with them. Bridge is not intended for triflers or for men of dubious morals and manners. Those half-baked, opinionated men who mistake for culture the possession of a degree or two won by the memorisation of an ill-assorted, disjointed mass of academic impedimenta and are not prepared to play Bridge on the moral plane enjoined by the laws and proprieties of the game would do well to try their hand at skittles or the tuning in of Chunking.

I now pass in rapid review some of the proprieties that need special emphasis on account of their criminal mutilation in most mofussil clubs.

Avoid crowding round a table when you do not belong to it. The full complement of a table is 6 players and others have no business to be buzzing round it. If, however, you wish to watch the game, seek the permission of the players concerned and sit down like the picture of patience. Do not by smiles, starts, nudges, shrugs, facial contortions, or monosyllabic interjections draw attention to an undercall, to a play from the wrong hand, or a call out of turn, suggest the direction of a finesse, or

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prevent the establishment of a revoke. Your presence should not in any way influence the interests of your hosts.

Do not take long over a bid as that by itself is a call. It either suggests a hand on the verge of biddability, or a hand beyond the Bridge comprehensibility of the owner, or in case the opponents have bid high enough, a hand by itself strong enough to defeat the contract. The wait is a broad enough hint for a shrewd partner to play havoc with the opponents. It is highly unfair to convey information to your partner by such a hesitative, synecopic, suggestive bidding.

In case a player be finessing through you, Bridge propriety demands that you should not hesitate or unduly delay the play of your card to convey the false impression that you hold the wanted card. I have already narrated to the readers of this Magazine the unhappy circumstances under which I made the acquaintance of this propriety and, but for a strong sense of duty and anxiety to help Indian Bridge, would never have shown myself in such an ugly situation. A friend remarked the other day that I had been hard on my countrymen. As my noble friend, Dr. S. R. U. Saviour,

5

is never tired of observing, it is so easy to misunderstand and so very difficult to understand anybody. The very fact of the inclusion of this propriety in the book of rules clearly connotes the universality of this tendency to deceive the declarer but since I am an Indian addressing my countrymen and not Africanders, Australians, Canadians, or Martians, it is but natural that I should talk in terms of India. I do not for a moment suggest that this propriety is not violated in other countries but I am anxious that it should be strictly observed in our country where a considerable number of players use such hesitations as stock ruses to bluff the declarer.

Learn to be helpful to your partner when you are Dummy. Do not abandon your seat, walk round the table and have a look at players' cards. Do not tilt your chair to the right or to the left, or both sides alternately in your morbid, curiosity to see the opponents' hands. Nor be guilty of the uncouth practice criminally common in mofussil clubs, of exchanging your cards with the declarer the moment the auction is over in order to gleat over the combined

holding of the partnership. By doing that you do not only murder manners and decimate decency but also lose all your rights as a Dummy. You are crippling your partner by forfeiting your limited but valuable privileges as a Dummy. After all, your partner is but a mere man and might revoke or overlook a revoke by his opponents. The very play of a difficult hand might be too much of a strain for him to spare any energy for watching the irregularities of his opponents.

In our mofussil clubs, it is a common and ugly sight for players to lift their feet off the ground, place them on the seat of the chair, and play Bridge in that somnolent posture. For one thing, the seat of the chair is conventionally intended for the deposition of portions of the body draped in virgin or tailored cloth which is likely to suffer a premature consignment to the pride of Indian optimists, the washerman, who, like his illustrious ancestors before him, has reduced his art to the uniform process of a persistent attempt at breaking a hefty stone with protesting, long-suffering, sodden linen. Apart from ordinary manners and the dead certainty of soiling

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others' clothes when a change of seats takes place, you court somnolence and consequential assaults on laws of Bridge. I know that this is not one of the proprieties mentioned in the Laws of Bridge but then nowhere else on the face of the earth are chairs used for cross-legged contemplation. It pains one's eyes to see players with extended cheeks, with their mouths full of betel leaves and tobacco, and not being able even to make a call lest they spray the other players with pink juice, show a small spade and two fingers for '2 spades' or touch their nose and show three fingers for '3 no trumps' and so on. We must face our peculiar problems and try to solve them courageously.

Another bane of Bridge in mofussil clubs is the use of a local nomenclature. A few months ago there was a colourful crowd playing a Bridge tournament organised at the Cosmopolitan Club, Rajahmundry, by our dynamic Secretary, Bapi Raju. I referred at one of the tables and my poor ears were assaulted, though not for long, by such monstrous calls as "One Dies" as a local variant for "one diamond" and "Two royals" as a majestic

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synonym for "Two spades". The Bridge world knows of no such suit as 'dies' or 'royals' nor is it aware of the word 'colour' as an equivalent for 'suit'.

It is absolutely essential that your opponents must know the system of bidding that you follow. The other day a delightful player from Chicacole, who was honouring us with a short visit, started the bidding with a call of one club and later changing into hearts closed the auction with a contract of 4 hearts. My very first lead, the king of clubs, was ruffed by him as he held no clubs in his hand. The fun of the thing lay in the fact that in reply to my previous query he had informed me that he was following the Culbertsonian system of bidding. My anger turned to chuckles of laughter of Sir Toby Belch brand when a neighbour, my learned colleague, Tinnetti Suryanarayana, pointed out the absurdity of falling foul of a genius who successfully circumvented two sturdy opponents, and utterly befogged partner, and even the great Culbertson himself with an original call of one club. "One may find fault" continued that chaste humorist, "with a player who uses terms in a special sense to

convey a hidden meaning to his partner but when he is as incomprehensible to his partner as to his opponents nobody can possibly have a grouse!" This particular player is a highly poetic artist not subject to any prosaic laws of Bridge but it is expected of a player to inform the rest of the players the system of play that he follows. It is highly unfair to use terms and systems not understood by your opponents. In some tournaments, such secret codes sometimes decide the championship which in fairness should have gone to somebody else.

Submit to penalties with cheerful surrender and enforce them with polite firmness. Do not confuse courtesy with the imposition or payment of penalties. Politeness is good but duty is better. When a foreign army invades a country, all time-honoured canons of hospitality are shoved aside and the uninvited guests are brought to the realisation of a better set of manners with the convincing help of guns and aeroplanes. Similarly if a friend disregards conventions of civilised behaviour, he must be taught respect for them by the imposition of prescribed penalties. It is adding insult to injury to insinuate that

the penalty has been enforced against you for sordid, monetary motives. Members of a club are certainly not objects of charity to one another and it is no good pretending that in money matters you are far more liberal than the stickler to rules. Your very attitude of hostility to the enforcement of a penalty against you shows that you are as loth to part with money as anybody else and besides it shows also in you a lamentable lack of the spirit of fair play and respect for law and order. Do not accuse a Mack or an Anantachari of the want of the milk of human kindness when duty compels him to order somebody to be hanged by the neck till he be dead. He is only discharging his duty as we do ours when we catch those very Judges nodding at Bridge and sharply pull them up.

But for the strict enforcement of penalties, there cannot be much good Bridge at most mofussil stations. Some District Judges, Subordinate Judges, and District Munsifs look upon Bridge at the club as the continuation of their court work and expect the members of the bar to overlook, even to admire, their murderous assaults on Culbert-

son, cards, and commonsense. Some raw Sub-Collectors, the Bridge airs of whom are inversely proportional to their acquaintance with the game, lay down original laws to an admiring circle of prospective honorary magistrates, additional public prosecutors, and title holders. They only believe in punishing others and counter the imposition of penalties with the perpetual threat of resigning the presidentship of the august club, the Bridge atmosphere of which they try their very unconscious best to vitiate. Judicial and Executive officers in mofussil stations must make a serious effort to raise the level of Bridge at their clubs by insisting on the payment of penalties and setting a healthy example to other players. Belonging as they do to a class well-known for its integrity and high standards of personal conduct, I am sure that my appeal will not go unheeded. My remarks are intended to improve our game and have not been made in any Zoilean strain. I may add that at Rajahmundry, where these lines are being written, all the officers are models of correct behaviour and Bridge has reached a high standard of excellence.

BRIDGE MURDERS

By A. D. J. Victor

N led H 8

MURDER will out' is a common saying. But does anyone realise the number of unrecorded murders committed by Bridge players on innocent hands unwary of the fate awaiting them? Let this be a warning to those murderers.

The first is the case of the guy, who, after having cold-bloodedly vivisected a live hand, bemoaned his ill-luck. "Finesses go wrong", "partner can't bid for nuts", "distribution is freakish" were some of his sour utterances.

Scene: A big club in Delhi.

Players:—Just above the average standard.

The Confirmed Misfortunist:
West

N. S.—Vulnerable

West Declarer at 3 N. T.

♠ K, J, 6, 3, 2			
♥ 8, 6, 2			
♦ J			
♣ Q, 10, 6, 5			
♠ A, Q, 10			♠ 7, 4
♥ 7, 5		N	♥ A, Q, J, 9
♦ A, 9, 3		W	♦ K, 10, 7, 4
♣ K, J, 7, 4, 2		E	♣ A, 9, 3
		S	
			♠ 9, 8, 5
			♥ K, 10, 4, 3
			♦ Q, 8, 6, 5, 2
			♣ 8

The declarer played H J from Dummy and it held the trick. A long time was spent in thought and then S 7 was led. Murmuring ninth trick, the declarer played S Q from his hand but North won. He continued hearts and South took the trick with H K over dummy's queen. S 9 was played and declarer's S A pulled out. He was now in a quandry. He had to make 4 tricks from clubs without relinquishing the lead to North-South. He went over to dummy with C A and repeated clubs intending a finesse. When South showed out, the declarer was irretrievably ruined. He took what tricks he could and finished up two light.

Even before the last card was played, he started moaning. "Why, in....., can't clubs break normal and why should the kings in both spades and hearts be on the wrong side", he wanted to know. But the grand jury composed of the three other players and an interested kibitzer decided that the declarer's play was rotten

open with a suit, be it only a weak four-card minor, than with a No-Trump. This very sound guiding principle was consistently kept in mind and developed, with the result that in the Gold Book the requirements for the "strong" No-Trump (I prefer to call it the normal No-Trump) were for the first time announced in so many words. These very rigid requirements are as follows:

A minimum of four, and a maximum of five, honour tricks distributed in at least three suits; and a 4-3-3-3 distribution.

Those who regard these requirements as in any way revolutionary show but a superficial acquaintance with the underlying principles of the Approach-Forcing system. These requirements are but the logical codification of laws which the framers of the Approach-Forcing system have always upheld. Given these requirements, hands of moderate strength— $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ plus honour tricks—are catered for by one-bids in a suit (even tho' the requirements for a biddable suit may have to be considerably shaded), while the higher and more difficult opening one No-Trump bid is reserved, as it should be, for hands of a special type both as regards

honour strength and distribution. I regard the "strong" No-Trump as the biggest advance in the science of bidding in recent times. Other advances, like the Asking Bids, concern only a few extraordinary hands and only in the higher stages of the bidding. They are artificial in the same sense and to the same extent that slam bonuses are artificial. They can be ignored by the average player without affecting his game to any appreciable extent. But with the "strong" No-Trump it is different. This bid (as also its denial) has nothing artificial or conventional about it. It is just sheer logic. It is not related to artificial slam bonuses, or Asking Bids, or Ace-showing, or void-showing, or any other of the high lights of the final stages of the bidding on freak hands. It is essentially concerned with the very lowest stages of the bidding, and the average player cannot afford to ignore its significance or to deny its usefulness.

The partner of the "strong" No-Trumper is automatically relieved of most of his worries. He has very precise information from the opener regarding both honour strength and distribution. He knows that his

partner has at least four "quick" tricks and not less than three cards in any suit. He is in a much better position than the partner of the "light" No-Trumper.

The following hands show the minimum and maximum requirements for an opening bid of one No-Trump, irrespective of position at the table and of vulnerability.

S. KQx.	H. Axx.	} minimum.
D. AQxx.	C. Kxx.	
S. AQx.	H. AQx.	} maximum.
D. Axxx.	C. KQx.	

There are but two exceptions to these requirements:

1. If the hand contains eight honour cards the honour trick requirements may be reduced to $3\frac{1}{2}$ in three suits. For example:

S. KQ 10.	H. A 10 x.
D. A 10 xx.	C. Kxx.

Mr. V. A. Srinivasa Iyer, B.A., B.L., Advocate, Devakotta, writes:—
Here is a bridge problem which is rather difficult to solve.

I was partnering X and we were sitting East—West. I was the dealer and opened with one spade. My hand contained A K Q x x x in spades, A K x x x in hearts and two rags in diamond. South bid two diamonds; my partner having the following hand, J 10 x in spades, 10 x x x in hearts, two rags in diamonds and A Q J 10 in clubs bid 2 spades; North passed; I called 3 hearts; South passed; after a good deal of thought, my partner said no bid with a self-satisfied air. Find X.

The following postmortem may be of assistance in solving the problem.

"I say you are absolutely wrong. Why should you show a new suit? After my support in spades, your business is to Ask. Your bid of 3 hearts is evidently giving me information to go 3 N. T. if I have strength in diamonds. The 3 hearts bid is unnecessary; you could have straight-away jumped to 4 spades."

"But a new suit bid at the level of one or three....."

"Drat the rules."

2. When the distribution is 4-4-3-2 or 5-3-3-2 and the hand contains a minimum of four honour tricks a No-Trump may be preferred to a suit, especially when the biddable suit is a minor, always provided that the doubleton is Kx or better. For example, bid one No-Trump on

S. Kx.	H. AQJ.
D. Axxx.	C. AJxx.

or S. QJx. H. KJx.
D. AKQxx C. Kx.

or S. QJx. H. Kx.
D. AQJxxx. C. A 10.

The last example is somewhat exceptional. The distribution is 6-3-2-2 and the hand has only $3\frac{1}{2}$ plus honour tricks. But it has eight honour cards and the doubletons are Kx or better. The almost solid minor suit is likely to come in useful at No-Trumps.

THE HAND VALUATION

By A. M. R. David

THE game is more than half won if and when the best final contract has been reached. It may be that the partnership has itself secured the contract with the best final call. Or, it may be that the opponents have been forced into a losing, or a futile, or a far-from-the-best final call. The main strategy of the game is, therefore, centred around the attacking objective of securing the best contract for the partnership or the defensive objective of preventing the opponents from reaching the best contract. Neither objective can be secured unless the partners are able to disclose to each other the high card strength and the low card strength that each of them possesses. That would not, however, be possible unless there is first a precise, accurate and scientific assessment of the aforesaid strength.

A correct assessment of the strength of one's hand is, therefore, quite essential. The strength of the structure of calling would be wholly dependant on the reliability of

this foundation. The attacking strength of a hand includes both high card strength and low card strength. The defensive strength of a hand, however, is limited to high card strength. Naturally, therefore, high card strength, which is useful both in attack and in defence, generally attracts greater attention.

For a correct and convenient assessment of high card strength, we want a method of valuation which is both fairly simple and reasonably accurate. Probably the simplest method of valuation is that of numerical counts. This was very popular with Auction players. It has survived the advent of Contract. According to this method, a certain numerical value is assigned to each high card and the total count so obtained is deemed to be a measure of the strength of the hand. Milton Work assigns counts of 4, 3, 2 and 1 to aces, kings, queens and jacks respectively; this count is followed by Beasley and Crane and by the more recent Acol system. The Stern Austrian

system assigns 7, 5, 3 and 1; the 4-Aces system assigns 3, 2, 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$; and George Reith assigns 6, 4, 3, 2 and 1, giving a value to the 10 as well. This long array of adherents is a tribute to the inherent simplicity of the numerical counts system.

But simplicity is not the only criterion, excepting for bumble-puppy or family bridge. Accuracy should be as important a criterion. The count system, however, cannot possibly stand this test. It really values the high cards and not the high card strength. It values the high cards independantly and arbitrarily, irrespective of their strength or weakness through the presence or absence of other supporting cards. To take the one example given by Dr. R. A. Johnson in his fine article on numerical counts in the August 1939 issue of the Deccan Bridge Magazine, a singleton king is obviously worth less than $\frac{1}{2}$ trick; a king supported by one or more low cards is worth $\frac{1}{2}$ trick; a king supported by the queen is worth definitely more than $\frac{1}{2}$ trick; while a king supported by the ace is worth 1 full trick. Thus, the value of a king would vary from less than $\frac{1}{2}$ trick to 1 full trick. And yet

the worshippers in the shrine of one or other of the count systems would merely clothe the king with an immutable, unchangeable and inexorable value of 5 or 4 or 3 or 2 and shut their eyes and close their minds.

The value of a high card, excepting the ace, should be necessarily dependant on its relation to the other cards in the hand. It is only then that any degree of accuracy can be secured. Such a valuation of honour cards adopted by Culbertson and most other American writers would satisfy the requirements of both accuracy and simplicity. It is quite simple. It is quite accurate as well. In the words of Dr. Johnson, "The method of valuing a hand according to honour tricks is simple, accurate and scientific. It has emerged from the exhaustive mathematical researches of the master minds of bridge. It covers all the possible variations in value to which a high card is liable."

The unit of such a valuation of high cards, which are expected to win in attack and in defence, can best be termed *Quick tricks*. The term honour tricks is, of course, the most popular one at present. But it is misleading

since the term is applied to merely defensive honour tricks. For example A. K. Q. J. in a hand should, when counting honours tricks absolutely, be given 4 tricks and not merely 2 or 2+ or $2\frac{1}{2}$. Again, the term honour tricks does not refer to honour cards alone. A king is given the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ trick only when it is supported by a low card. The $\frac{1}{2}$ trick value is, therefore, dependent on the presence of a low card. The term honour tricks, like the term high card tricks, is, therefore, handicapped by a wider as also a narrower implication. The term sure tricks is, of course, a misnomer since there is nothing sure in bridge, not even that the loser always pays! It is true that the term quick tricks has been given a restrictive meaning in the Ingram One Club system and most of the variations of the Club system, including the Barton variation, the lower honour cards, often including the queen, being relegated to the position of secondary tricks in these systems. But these systems have not attained any degree of popularity, particularly in our country, and the term quick tricks has not, therefore, become identified so far with any restrictive meaning. It has anyway the

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supreme advantage of implying early rounds control.

The quick tricks table given by Culbertson is a good enough valuation to serve as a basis of departure. But some modifications are necessary to render the valuation even more accurate and more natural. The first essential modification is that A K Q should be valued as $2\frac{1}{2}$ tricks and not merely as 2 or as 2+. It is true that a third round of a suit may not always secure a defensive trick. But it does secure a trick in about 50% of the cases. That is exactly why K Q J or A J 10 are generally valued at $1\frac{1}{2}$ tricks. I fail to see why the third-round card in K Q J or A J 10 should have a greater value than the third-round card in A K Q. A question of re-assessment of quick-tricks values on account of any great length is entirely different and would apply with equal force to combinations of K Q J and A J 10. Culbertson himself has approximated to this view in recent times by giving a revised value of 2+ and not merely 2 to A K Q holding, though most of the writers, who have copied him, are still stranded with the valuation of 2. But this revised valuation is still inadequate.

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I would, therefore, prefer to follow the more logical conclusion of Reford and the official system in giving a value of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to an A K Q holding.

It would necessarily follow from this conclusion that A Q J is worth 2 and not merely $1\frac{1}{2}$ or $1\frac{1}{2}+$. An A Q is, of course, given a value of $1\frac{1}{2}$ by practically all the writers except Barton, the queen securing the second trick if the king is on the right and failing to secure such a trick if the king is on the left. In either case, the supporting jack would win the third trick, if it is not ruffed and is, therefore, entitled to $\frac{1}{2}$ trick in this holding. Here again, Culbertson himself has now in recent times given a revised valuation of $1\frac{1}{2}+$ to this holding.

If the values given by Culbertson for the aforesaid holdings err on the conservative side, his valuation of 1 trick to K x in one suit and a Q x in another errs on the liberal side. Such a valuation would practically degenerate to the level of the valuation of the numerical counters. In actual play, I have always found this valuation unsatisfactory and dangerous. To give the

natural valuation of $\frac{1}{2}$ trick to K x in one suit and $\frac{1}{4}$ value to Q x in another suit is not merely safer but more accurate.

With these modifications, therefore, my quick trick table would be as follows:—

A K Q	$2\frac{1}{2}$
A K J	$2\frac{1}{4}$
A K } A Q J }	2
K Q J } A Q } A J 10 }	$1\frac{1}{2}$
A } K Q } K J 10 }	1
K x } Q } J x }	$\frac{1}{2}$
K } Q x } J 10 x } J 9 x }	$\frac{1}{4}$ value

It is entirely unnecessary and wholly superfluous to further divide the quick tricks as has been done in most of the club systems. The valuation generally adopted in these systems is to give "quick-tricks" value or "primary tricks" value to aces and kings or to a combination of a queen with an ace or a king and to relegate all other combinations of honour cards to the position of secondary tricks. It complicates the valuation considerably. It sacrifices simplicity without appreciably adding to accuracy.

It not merely complicates the valuation but it further complicates the calling, which has to disclose the "quick trick" or the primary trick value of the hand and then the secondary trick value of the hand, apart from the playing trick value of the hand. It is bad enough to have to separately compute the quick trick value and the playing trick value of one's hand, particularly when the playing trick value would differ when you yourself are the declarer and the partner is the declarer. Why split up the quick trick value again to add still another basis of valuation?

Too much logic would be wasted in attempting to achieve any mathematically accurate valuation. In the nature of things, any such mathematical accuracy is impossible. Robert S. Budger, of New York, has written on such an attempt in the "Birth and Death of a quick trick system" in the April 1940 issue of the Bridge World. After arriving at fractional figures like $5/18$ ths, $7/18$ ths and $5/26$ ths even at an early stage, he has naturally given up the idea seeing that he is 26 years old now and would "some day want to spend some time

doing something else than computing quick trick values."

The strength of a hand is not merely confined to high card strength or the quick tricks. It depends as much on the distributional strength or the playing tricks including mostly low-card tricks. I am afraid that there is no adequate recognition of the distributional strength of a hand at most Bridge tables at present. The calling in Auction was mainly, if not exclusively, based on the distributional strength or the number of playing tricks in the hand. With the necessity for more precise information as regards the defensive strength of the hand being conveyed to the partner after the introduction of Contract, considerable emphasis was naturally placed on quick trick strength. Whenever a player called or responded, the usual question shot at him by his partner, when the progress of the game was not to his liking, was the number of quick tricks that he held. All post-mortem recriminations generally centred around the number of quick tricks that was held or not held. The unfortunate result has been that the average player has gone to the other extreme of not paying sufficient attention, and much less

appreciation, to the playing strength of a hand. The pendulum has swung the other way.

The natural strength of a hand is its playing strength or the number of tricks that can be secured by a player on a call made by him. This playing strength can be easily assessed. Common sense is the best guide in such an assessment, which should be done naturally without any tinge of artificiality. When you hold A K Q J, you do not need anybody to tell you that you can win all the 4 tricks on your call. When you hold K Q J xxx in a suit, you immediately know that you would be in a position to secure 5 full tricks, the outstanding 7 cards in the remaining 3 hands being drawn out on the first three rounds. Again, when you hold A K xx, you know definitely that the third card is a loser and there is a 50% chance of your making the 4th low card. When you have a singleton and 4 trumps in your partner's suit, you realise at once that, when supporting your partner, you will give him 2 ruffing tricks.

The playing tricks are composed of (1) high card strength and (2) low card strength. The low card strength again is composed of (a) long suit

strength and (b) short suit strength.

In assessing high card strength, the full natural value of the honour cards should be given. For example, an AKQ would be valued at 3 and not merely as $2\frac{1}{2}$. KQJ 10 would be valued as 3 and not merely as $1\frac{1}{2}$. KQJ would be valued as 2 and not merely as $1\frac{1}{2}$. AQJ would be valued as $2\frac{1}{2}$ and not merely as 2. QJ 10 should be valued as 1 and not merely as $\frac{1}{2}$.

In assessing long suit strength, you allow $\frac{1}{2}$ trick for the 4th card and 1 trick for every subsequent card, subject, of course, to your not having already valued the 4th or 5th card as an honour card. But the value of the 4th card should be increased to 1 full trick whenever you hold 6 or more cards in the suit.

It is, in my view, entirely unnecessary to adopt different playing trick values to a trump suit or a side suit respectively. But it is important to remember that the playing value of a side suit depends entirely upon the strength and the length of the trump suit, or in the alternative, upon any great quick trick strength. If your trump strength is poor and your quick trick strength is not great, you cannot expect

to establish a side suit or secure any low card tricks therein.

Closely allied to the long suit tricks are the short suit tricks available to a player supporting his partner. These are otherwise known as ruffing tricks. These ruffing tricks are naturally not counted by a declarer himself since he has already valued his quick-trick strength and his playing strength, including the low card trumps. These ruffing tricks are, therefore, only available to the partner of a declarer, the declarer, of course, meaning the player who has first called a particular suit. The valuation depends not merely on the presence of short suits but also on the presence of a sufficiently large number of trumps. The ruffing tricks may well be valued as follows:—

	With 4 or more of partner's suit.	With 3 of partner's suit.
A void	2½ tricks	2 tricks
A singleton	2 ..	1 trick
A doubleton	1 ..	½ ..

It need hardly be stated that you cannot count the ruffing value for more than one short suit unless you have a sufficiently large number of trumps. With an average holding of 3 or 4 trumps, you can count the ruffing values for only one

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of 2 short suits—the shorter of the two. I have deliberately assessed the ruffing tricks for a void suit when 4 trumps are held at 2½ since the calling would, in most of these cases, result in the trumps being led. That apart, a certain limit is necessary in assessing ruffing trick strength so as to avoid the danger of duplicated values.

The valuations given above as regards both quick tricks and playing tricks are merely the initials valuations, when no information as regards the holding of the other hands at the table is available to you. These valuations would have to be revised, and revised considerably at times, in the light of the information disclosed to you as the calling progresses. For example, an AQ valued at 1½ quick tricks and Kx valued at ½ quick trick would increase in value if the suit is called by the partner or the opponent on the right and decrease in value if it is called by the opponent on the left. You should naturally value your quick trick cards liberally when your partner shows great quick trick strength and value them stringently when the opponents, and particularly the opponent on your left, do so. When your partner supports your 5 card suit strongly,

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your playing value therein increases but your quick trick value therein decreases. A 5 card side suit in your hand would again yield no low card tricks if it is called by one of the opponents and particularly the one on your left. When both opponents are strongly calling one particular suit, it would again be meaningless to place a high ruffing value on your singleton in that suit since your partner himself has probably only a singleton or,

at the worst, a doubleton. A standard of valuation is given merely as a guide and not as an inflexible rule of law. A strict or rigid adherence to any particular table of valuation, even in the face of material information, implied in the calling, of the position of various high and low cards, would be both stupid and dangerous. Common sense, if not card sense, is particularly necessary in the revision of values at every stage.

BRIDGE MURDER

(Contd. from page 12)

After some futile bidding, including the reiteration of hearts by West every time, East became declarer at a three no-trump contract, probably because he did not wish to lose his honours points for 4 Aces. I led D 3. My partner's Queen knocked out declarer's Ace. H A and then H 4 was led. After some thought, the H J was played from dummy. North won with H Q. What the declarer's thoughts were, when he made this play, still remains a mystery to me. With no other entry to dummy and with 8 cards in hearts and a necessary lead from dummy in clubs, it is pretty obvious that H K should have been played. Then he could have made 13 tricks. As it was, my partner led a spade. I won with S Q and led back S K which declarer won. After long

thought, he played C 5. He did not have a look-in so far as the remaining tricks were concerned. My partner reeled off his master spades and I won the rest with diamonds. Result: 6 down. The declarer's partner was cold and furious. But his words were few and to the point. "Thank God, You managed to let only one of your Aces go to sleep" he said.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that this article is concerned with those simple mistakes by which an unthinking or too hasty declarer murders many a beautiful hand, when a little more careful study would have produced surprisingly fine results. If any player seriously tries to avoid these common errors, he can easily become that kind of bridge player so eagerly sought for and so rare to meet, 'The Safe Player'.

FROM THE EDITORIAL CHAIR

IT is over 12 years since the game of Contract Bridge was first played in the American Continent. It is over 10 years since the game caught the imagination of that Continent and wormed its way into the more ancient European Continent. It is over 8 years since it found its way into the European Clubs in our country. It is over 4 years since it has gained its glorious sway over practically all the Indian Clubs. It is now universally recognised as the most popular indoor game throughout the whole world.

And yet the ignorance of the laws of the game is colossal. The average player and his wife are quite happy to confess that they do not know the rules. They are content to play the game, day in and day out, for years together without even a working knowledge of the fundamental rules. Even the more competent players have a sneaking contempt for the laws that govern the game. They are satisfied with knowing how to enter the score, with an occasional reference to the scoring card. The vociferous omnipotents, therefore, find an easy kingdom to rule. It is an agony sometimes to have to listen to their puerile interpretations of the laws, laid down with a solemn air of judicial gravity. In the land of the blind, the one-eyed is king.

The root of this ignorance lies in a vicious misconception that the laws are only made for the expert. It is even a greater misconception that to 'call' a revoke, a lead out of turn, or some other irregularity, is not sportsmanlike.

If we play a game, let us play it well. The laws are intended to define the correct procedure in a social game. They provide an adequate remedy in all cases where a player accidentally, carelessly or inadvertently disturbs the proper course of the game or gains an unintentional, but nevertheless an unfair, advantage. They

do not provide, and they do not pretend to provide, against any dishonourable practices or any intentional misconduct, including suggestive remarks. They merely provide for a game being played smoothly in harmonious fellowship without any one being enabled to take an unfair advantage of his own mistakes or errors.

More heart-burnings are caused by laxity in the application of rules than by a strict interpretation thereof. We know where we stand when the rules are enforced. We can't play without any rules at all, either. What is generally done is to enforce some rules and not others. But disputes would naturally arise as to where the line is to be drawn. It is when the laws are not strictly enforced that feelings of fine fellowship are badly frayed.

The laws of the game are not vindictive. One does not commit an error in life and expect to get away with it with an advantage, to the prejudice of the wronged one. Why should a wrong not be righted? Why should an error not be rectified? It is unsportsman-like to refuse reparation for the violation of the rights of another. It is not unsportsman-like to demand one's rights. It is unethical to deny a remedy for a wrong. It is not unethical to ask that a wrong be righted. It is unfair to refuse to regularize an irregularity. It is not unfair to have an irregularity regularized.

The game is certainly worth a small amount of time and study. Even constant and casual references to the laws, as and when any mistakes or errors arise, would soon give you a working knowledge of the rules. Once you have acquired a working knowledge, it is only a small step forward to read through and study the laws in an hour or two. You owe that duty to your partner and to the opponents alike. You owe that duty to the game we love.

THE LIBRA SYSTEM

By T. Essex

(Contd. from the last issue)

Opening bid by hands 2, 3, 4, when the Elder hands have passed

WE have previously implied that second in hand bids exactly like the dealer when the latter has not made a bid. In fact he may bid, under existing systems, on somewhat shaded strength, precisely because the dealer has, presumably, disclosed less than his normal holding of honour strength, unless, of course, he is making a 'trap' or 'waiting' pass, which very rarely is effective in achieving its purpose. Sometimes, even the dealer shades his strength on unbalanced hands if the distribution is out of the ordinary. In our system, I stick to precise honour strength all through the first round. This avoids the need to overcall on less strength than is needed for an original opening bid. Bidding, even as an overcall, with less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks, had better be deferred to the second and later rounds of the auction. In the Culbertson and some other systems, a bid of one,

or an overcall of one over one, may show a bewildering range of honour values; so may a forcing bid of two. All this is very vague and unsatisfactory and many a time leads to the partnership ending up in an unmakeable contract punished by opponents, or to the opponents doubling and giving the declarer overtricks as the case may be. I consider that all bids in the first round should be precise, and should show the defensive strength within very narrow limits.

When two hands have passed, the third may open the bidding just as if he was the dealer; so may fourth in hand, when the previous three have passed the bid. I do not believe in the dictum that third hand should have additional strength for opening the auction to the first or second and the fourth still more when their elder hands have passed; nor do I agree on a 'light' bid by third hand as a lead director, in anticipation of the fourth hand bidding no trumps.

This line of action does more often harm than good.

Responses to bids opened by a Balanced Hand

Let us now deal with the cases of responses to the opening bid. Before analysing the cases and taking them up in systematic rotation, I propose to deal with one or two simple cases from which the principles applicable to all of them may be clearly grasped.

First let us consider the situation where dealer has opened the bidding and second hand has passed. A case similar to this is where second hand has opened the auction, dealer and third hand have made no bids, and fourth in hand has to respond to his partner, No. 2. Where third or fourth hand is the opening bidder, the responses are to be made by first and second hands, respectively; but these are in the second round of the auction. Here, we confine ourselves to the first round.

The responses of third hand to dealer, or of the fourth to the second hand, are based on logic. It is an obvious deduction that, as a grand slam is possible if the combined holding of a pair of partners is all the $8\frac{1}{2}$ or so honour tricks, a little slam should

be in sight if partners together hold about 7 honour tricks. A game, i.e., four of a major suit and five of a minor, or three no-trumps, requires ordinarily, an honour strength of six tricks. Five honour tricks in partnership hands indicates, similarly only a partial score at the level of three odd, and very rarely a game; while four honour tricks are sometimes insufficient even for a partial score at the two level. The responses to the opening bid are based on these estimates of probabilities. It should here be recollected that, in the first round, the responder also shows at one and the same time both his honour strength and the nature of his distribution. In the light of the above principles, let us take up in order the cases in the table of opening bids. Supposing the opener starts with a bid of one club. This implies a holding of $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks and balanced distribution. The opener's partner has two courses open to him, viz., (1) a pass; (2) a higher bid. This higher bid should be in clubs, diamonds or no trumps if his hand is also balanced, and in hearts or spades, should it be of the opposite distribution. If he holds less than one

honour trick, he must pass, if the nature of his distribution is even and bid one heart, if it is uneven. Should he hold one honour trick and if his hand is evenly divided, he should bid one diamond; with unevenly divided suits, he should bid one spade. It will be noted that the total trick holding is only $3\frac{1}{2}$ and hence, naturally, the bidding is kept at the one level. Thirdly, if he has an honour strength of $1\frac{1}{2}$ tricks, the logical response is one no trump, if his distribution is balanced, and 2 hearts if it is otherwise. The honour level is, in these cases, $2\frac{1}{2}$ plus $1\frac{1}{2}$, or four, and the contract level is still not over two.

If the responder has $2\frac{1}{2}$ defensive tricks, the next higher bid is indicated, viz., 2 clubs with an even hand and 2 spades with an uneven one. This takes the contract to the two level, safe enough when the total number of quick tricks is five. Though game is not probable, these responses should, nevertheless, be made. A partial score is highly probable; on the other side, should the opponents venture into a higher contract, a profitable double is on the horizon, as they hold only

about $3\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks against the 5 disclosed by the opener and his partner.

With $3\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks in support, the responder may venture on the next higher bid, that is, 2 diamonds with even division of suits and 3 hearts with their uneven division. With a fortunate holding of $4\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks by the partner of the opener, he may safely plunge into 3 diamonds with balanced distribution and into 3 spades with an unbalanced one. Lastly, with $5\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks, or practically the whole balance of honour tricks around the table in his hand, the responder should bid 4 clubs if his hand is evenly divided and 4 hearts if it is divided unequally.

It may be noted, en passant, that though 1 no trump and two clubs have the same score value, the latter bid ranks higher as it takes the contract to the two level. Even more so, a bid of 3 clubs, though lower in score value than 2 no trumps still ranks higher in the scale as the contract has to be at the three level.

It may further be noted that, should the combined honour strength disclosed be 6, a game is in the offing;

should it reach 7, a little slam is on the cards; and should it attain the 8 level, a grand slam is highly probable.

Let us next take up the case where the opener, (dealer or second hand) bids one diamond and opener's partner, third hand or fourth, as the case may be, has to respond. The opening bid shows, as per table, a holding of $3\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks and the suits evenly divided. The various responses are in analogy with the previous case, where one club was opened. With less than half, the responder of course passes, if his distribution is even, as a combined honour holding of 4 honour tricks is necessary for a raise to 1 no trump. With uneven distribution, a response of one spade is permissible, just to show the nature of the distribution. Holding $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 honour trick, the response is 1 no trump with a balanced hand and 2 hearts with an unbalanced one. With $1\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks in support, the response is a raise to 2 clubs with the suits evenly divided and a raise to 2 spades if the division is lopsided. It will be noted that the safety principle is borne in mind. The combined honour level is 5 and the contract level

is 2. With $2\frac{1}{2}$ supporting honour tricks the raise is to 2 diamonds with balanced distribution and to 3 hearts with unbalanced distribution. En passant, I use the term 'raise' to show a higher contract, not necessarily in the same suit as is the significance in other systems. The total honour strength is now 6, indicating a probable game in some denomination to be determined by later rounds of the auction. With an honour strength of $3\frac{1}{2}$, the response is 3 diamonds with even division of suits and 3 spades with uneven division. The total honour level is now 7, showing a small slam in the offing. With an unusual strength of $4\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks, thus accounting for practically all the honour tricks in the suits, the responder should bid 4 clubs if the distribution be balanced and 4 hearts should it be unbalanced. This shows the expectancy to be a grand slam.

The next case is where the opener, first or second in hand, starts the ball rolling with a bid of 1 no-trump, disclosing, as per table, an honour holding of 4 tricks with distribution of the balanced variety. If the partner holds less than an honour trick, he should

Dealer—South

N-S.—Vulnerable

South opened the bidding with one no trump, West passed and North bid 3 no trumps. It was doubled by West and redoubled by North. West opened the king of hearts, on which his partner East played 7 and declarer played the small. West was suspicious of the play of the 7 by his partner, thinking that perhaps he was short in hearts and that the 7 had dropped, not being any sort of a signal. He could not visualise that South might have called a no trump, though short in hearts. He, therefore, after some hesitation led a club, and the declarer proceeded to score 12 tricks, three overtricks redoubled, while he should have been in ordinary play one down. This was no doubt partly the fault of West, who could have continued at least another heart before changing the suit so that he could test whether East's play was a 'come-on' signal or not. This slight mistake, however, meant a difference

of 2,700 points in the score for instead of losing 400 points, the declarer received 1,200 for three overtricks, 400 below the line and 700 for rubber.

There was naturally a post-mortem after the play and some of the spectators attributed the result to the declarer's luck. West said that he thought the declarer might have at least a jack of hearts in his hand and wanted a lead by East through the declarer to score his hearts.

We welcome our new contributor from Bombay.

We are rather inclined to think that South had the luck of the—, well, you know what we mean. In the second hand, South's atrocious opening of 1. N. T. with only 3½ H. T., a useless doubleton, and two biddable minor suits; his partner's double raise with a worthless singleton; but his partner's subsequent redouble, and the final winding-up in the wrong contract when 4 S. is "cold" and 6 S. possible—all deserved a swift vengeance. Yes, we think South *was* lucky.—Ed.

Wasn't it an interesting deal that you played last night? or was it a few nights back?

Write all about the deal, who were at the table, how it was bid and played and how it should have been bid and played, to the Business Editor, City Club, Fort, Trichinopoly.

NEWS AND NOTES

Hot Weather Tournament at Ooty

An enjoyable season tournament in Contract Bridge was held in the Lawley Institute, Ootacamund, in May 1940. There were only five entries for the team-of-four event, but there were eleven for the open pairs. No progressive tournament was held.

Among the competitors was one of our Vice-Presidents, Dr. Subbaroyan, while our President, Sir K. V. Reddy Naidu was a keen kibitzer. The organisation of the tournament was chiefly in the hands of our General Secretary, Mr. K. R. Sundaram, to whom valuable assistance was rendered by Mr. T. M. Ayyadurai, Secretary and Trustee of the Lawley Institute.

The duplicate event was won by Capt. Thangavelu's team, the other members of which were Messrs. K. R. Sundaram, P. Sirajuddin (Engineer, Brother of Mr. Khalifullah), and T. S. Krishnamurti. The finish was exciting. Capt. Thangavelu's team beat the Lawley Institute team led by Dr. Subramaniam, by a bare 10 points on the aggregate score or by a short head, as they say in racing parlance, though the runners-up won 12½ match points to the 11½ of the winners.

The pairs event was annexed by Messrs. Malkonda Reddy and Dasaratharama Reddy, two keen players from Nellore. In the semi-final of this also there was a close finish. Dr. Subbaroyan and partner were playing K. R. Sundaram and T. S. Krishnaamurti. The latter were leading by a bare 20 points in the 32nd and last deal and reached a contract of two spades. Had Dr. Subbaroyan left this bid in, the declarer would have been one down and the doctor would have won by 30 points. But he made a bid and purchased the contract at 2 no-trumps but was unfortunately one set, undoubled, giving Sundaram and partner the victory by 70 points.

The last deal was exciting in the finals also. Messrs. Malkonda and Dasaratharama were leading by 500 points. This was the margin of difference even as early as the 24th deal and the Nelloreans had a game and partial score to boot. Little by little Sundaram and partner fought back and took a game but still the difference in points was not made up.

as they went down again. In the last deal, Sundaram purchased the contract at two no-trumps with a partial game score of 30 to his credit on the board. There was no other contract possible. He just made his contract, but this gave him only 70 plus 500 for the rubber, and the Nelloreans ran home by 20 points. Our Secretary took the opportunity to enrol more members for the S. I. B. A. Altogether, though the entries were not many, it was a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting tournament.

A Devakotta Function

The members of the Devakotta United Club got up a delightful party to bid farewell to their President, Mr. M. S. Sivaraman, I.C.S. on the eve of his transfer to Tanjore as Additional District Magistrate. One important item in the programme was a Team-of-Four Duplicate Bridge contest. Among prominent visitors were Mr. M. P. Pai, I.C.S., Dr. N. Halasyam and Messrs. G. Balakrishnier and G. V. Natarajan of Sivaganga. The visiting quartette formed a team for the Bridge contest. 16 hands were played at five tables simultaneously and the level of the game at almost all the tables was of a fairly high order. There were just a few interesting deals. Playing against Mr. Pai and his partner were two local veterans, who always boast that whatever else might be said of their game, they would never miss a slam if there was one. This latter pair were responsible for not bidding two ice-cold slams but made up for this lack of enterprise by bidding and making a slam where there was none. The opponents were so paralysed by the terrific bidding that they bungled badly. On the whole, the function was a success in all departments. The winners were Messrs. T. Sundararajan, M. R. Sivaramakrishnan and M. D. Parthasarathy and Dr. M. G. Subramaniam of Devakotta and the runners-up were Mr. M. P. Pai and his Sivaganga team. The winners were presented with handsome sleeve-links by the retiring president. The inclusion of a Bridge contest on every special occasion by the Devakotta club is a good example for other clubs to follow.

The Coimbatore Cosmopolitan Club Tournaments

The open pairs' Contract Tournament

The tournaments conducted by the Coimbatore Cosmopolitan Club during the last summer included also open pairs' contests both in Contract and in Auction Bridge. 25 pairs had entered for the contest in Contract. Some interesting matches were played. Messrs. M. A. Sankara Iyer and C. S. Krishnasami belonging to the Coimbatore Agricultural College were the winners and Messrs. G. K. Chidambaram and P. S.

Narayanasami, also of the Agricultural College were the runners-up. The winners were presented with handsome rolling silver cups, apart from the permanent presentation cups awarded to both the winners and the runners up.

Open Pairs Tournament in Auction Bridge:

Auction Bridge dies hard. As many as 26 pairs, or even a larger number than those that had entered for the contest in Contract, had entered for the Auction Bridge Tournament. Messrs. N. Balasubramanian Mudaliar and A. Shanmugasundaram Pillai of the Coimbatore Cosmopolitan Club were the winners and Mr. H. B. Sethna and Dr. S. R. Srikanthan, also of the Cosmopolitan Club, were the runners-up. The winners in this event were awarded rolling silver cups, besides the permanent presentation cups given to the winners and the runners-up.

The last Olympic at Coimbatore

Thanks to the special arrangements made by the Coimbatore Games Captain, Mr. V. Srinivasa Iyar to get the Olympic deals by Air Mail, the last Olympic contest was duly held in Coimbatore, though it fell through at Trichinopoly. 16 pairs altogether had partaken in this interesting event. The results have not been announced. But it would appear from a study of the results, compared with the pars Sheet, that Messrs. V. Srinivasa Iyer and A. R. Kalyanasundaram Iyer of the Cosmopolitan Club get the highest number of pars for the Coimbatore Centre among the North-South pairs, viz., 5 out of 8 pars and Messrs. M. S. Kailasam and T. S. Ramasubramanian of the Agricultural College and Messrs. M. A. Sankara Iyar and C. S. Krishnasami Iyer, also of the Agricultural College have tied for the first place among the East-West pairs, each securing 5 out of 8 pars. We hope that these Olympic contests, which are very educative, would be arranged for in time next year in a much larger number of centres and particularly in Madras, Trichinopoly and Madura as well.

The Christmas 1940 Carnival

The Tournament Committee have set about arranging for the Carnival in Contract Bridge during the ensuing Christmas in good time. There will be 4 events, viz., (1) a team-of-four duplicate for the "Sir T. Sadasivier Challenge Cup", (2) an Open Pairs Tournament for the "Burke-Johnson Shield", (3) a Pairs Progressive duplicate and (4) an Individual Championship with the usual trophies for the winners.

We are confident that there will be a large number of zone centres this year. The preliminary rounds were only played in 4 centres last year, viz., Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, Madras and Madura, since in the short time that the Committee had, it was not possible to arrange for other zone centres. It should, however, be possible to have the preliminary rounds played in places like Rajamundry, Bangalore, Secunderabad and Bellary also this year. It is hardly necessary to state that the contest would be all the keener for a larger number of centres and consequently a larger number of teams taking part in the various tournaments. Our members can help us to a considerable extent in arranging for these other centres and ensuring that adequate support is received from these centres as well.

So far as the final rounds are concerned, we only need say that the venue for the final rounds should, on the principle on which the Davis Cup and other similar contests are fought, be fixed at Trichinopoly, since the Arcot House team had won the chief event, even apart from Mr. V. Subramaniam of Trichinopoly having won the Individual Championship and Mr. Y. Doriaswami Ayyar and Mr. V. Subramaniam of Trichinopoly having won the North-South Cup in the Pairs Progressive Tournament. That apart, Coimbatore has a legitimate claim for the summer holidays and Madras has now staked a claim for the Easter holidays. Wherever the zone centres may be located and wherever the final rounds may be played, we are, however, confident that this year's Championship tournaments will be even a greater success than the carnival last year.

Doubling and Re-doubling

We are afraid that one of our comments in our colleague, Dr. M. Karamchand Wade's article on 'Doubling and Re-doubling' in the last issue has been misunderstood by some of the readers. We had observed that the double of 1 diamond after the partner had opened with one club was a tentative light double. That does not, however, make it any the less a business double. We were merely concerned with drawing attention to the difference between a light double, which can under certain circumstances be taken out and a tight double, which should not be taken out, unless under exceptional circumstances. On the hand held by the opener, in the instance given by Dr. Wade, with 2 cards in the doubled suit, a balanced distribution and adequate honours, he should have left the double in for penalties.

Association Notes

Proceedings of the Meeting of the Tournament Committee of the South Indian Bridge Association held on 21-7-1940 in the Cosmopolitan Club, Coimbatore.

Present:—

Sri T. S. Krishnamurthy Iyer Avl. (President).
Sri K. Venketaswamy Naidu Avl.
Sri C. K. Seshadri Avl.
Sri V. Srinivasa Iyer, (Secretary).

RESOLVED:—

1. That the Association should conduct only Tournaments which are on a *Presidency* or All India Basis *open to all the members* of the Association; and that local or District Tournaments should, if desired, be conducted by individual members of the Association (including recognized Clubs) belonging to the particular locality or district in which the Tournament is sought to be conducted, after obtaining the previous sanction of the Executive Council of the Association and upon paying the requisite capitation fees. In this view, the application of Sri M. R. Duraiswami seeking to conduct a purely local Tournament confined to the city of Madras is recommended to the Executive Council for favour or sanction.

2. That a Rules Committee consisting of Sri T. S. Krishnamurthy Iyer and Sri V. Srinivasa Iyer be formed to prepare the Rules for the Association Tournaments after studying the up-to-date international laws and regulations.

3. That the following open Presidency Tournaments be conducted by the Association during the ensuing Christmas Holidays (1940) providing for preliminary rounds to be played at various Zone centres to be fixed hereafter and the final Rounds to be played at Madras.

- (i) Contract Duplicate Team of Four Championship with Sir T. Sadasiva Iyer's Challenge cup for the winners.
- (ii) Open Rubber Bridge Pairs Championship with Burke-Johnson Shield for the winners.
- (iii) Pairs Progressive Championship.
- (iv) Individual Progressive Championship.

That the Secretary be authorised to announce and advertise the tournaments sufficiently in advance with a view to getting a large number of Zone centres.

(Sd.) T. S. Krishnamurthy Iyer,
President.

(Sd.) C. K. Seshadri.

(Sd.) K. Venketaswamy Naidu.

(Sd.) V. Srinivasa Iyer.

**Proceedings of the Meeting of the Editorial Committee
at the City Club, Fort, Trichinopoly on Tuesday
the 23rd May 1940 at 6-30 P. M.**

The following members were present :—

1. Mr. A. M. R. David (in the chair).
2. Dr. R. A. Johnson.
3. Mr. S. Suriyanarayanan.
4. Mr. P. W. David.

2. Pursuant to the decision of the Executive Council locating the Editorial Office at Trichinopoly, it was resolved

(i) To have the Editorial Office either in the City Club or, if no arrangement was possible with the City Club authorities, in the Union Club ;

(ii) That Mr. S. Suriyanarayanan might declare himself as Publisher of the Journal on behalf of the South Indian Bridge Association.

3. It was then unanimously decided that the forms that were circularised by the Chairman on or about 17-1-1940 be printed with the necessary modifications consequent on the amalgamation with the South Indian Bridge Association and on the new name of the Magazine. It was further resolved that the additional forms for routine business as also the necessary letter heads be also printed.

4. The advertisement rates that were circularised by the Chairman on or about 18-2-1940 were also agreed to.

5. It was further resolved in connection with the forms and the advertisements that one prospective contributor of the Magazine and one prospective advertiser in the magazine at least should be suggested to the Business Editor for every quarter by each member of the Editorial Committee so as to enable him to write to them.

6. It was also unanimously resolved that the Business Editor is to be in charge of the Executive Work in general. It was also resolved that he should gather materials for each issue by the 1st of the month preceding the month of the publication (e-g., 1st April for the May issue) and submit the same to the Chief Editor for the latter's decision as regards the articles that are to be included in each issue. It was incidentally decided that the Chief Editor was to decide on the despatch of the different articles to the Chairman of the Committee or to any of the Editors for the necessary revision. Etc. Etc. Etc.

BOOK REVIEW

**" Mathematical Odds at Contract " by Eugene
Northrop and Arthur Stein**

(Williams and Norgate, London, 3/6)

I came across this book only the other day, though it was first published as early as 1934. I wish I had known it earlier, as I have benefited vastly by its perusal. This is not a book on any system of bidding. The authors deal solely with the playing aspect of the game. As they justly remark in the Introduction, it is not uncommon now to see a partnership reach an excellent contract through a series of brilliant bids and then ultimately go down to defeat because the declarer failed in his handling of an elementary situation. It is not, however, the purpose of the book to treat, in any detail, the general subject of the play of the cards ; it is rather offered as a supplement to the many excellent works now available on this phase of the game. Though Bridge can be rightly said to be a game of skill, we all know that, in another sense, chance is the very keynote of the game. The authors emphasize that Bridge is, therefore, a game of skill plus chance.

The chief object of the work, then, is to deal with the chances or probabilities of the frequency of various types of distribution and how to utilise the mathematical odds in the play of the hand. The authors claim that a short study of their book would enable the reader to apply a knowledge of distributional averages to any situation he may encounter and so to play *with* the odds and not *against* them. The authors warn the reader that the odds should not be used by rule of thumb methods. Faith should be placed in the odds when, and only when, we have no better information at our command. Such information may be had from the bidding and play of the partner and opponents.

The very nature of the game which dictates that two hands shall always remain obscured to each player is such that a working knowledge of the averages of distribution will prove of material assistance in almost every deal. The expert player will know the location of every important card and the patterns of all four hands after the third lead. Such knowledge is the most difficult of all to acquire and unquestionably the most valuable.

It is no exaggeration when the authors say that 90 % of those who are striving to improve their game are scarcely conscious of distribution as they play. "Their thoughts regarding the two closed hands are generally limited to the probable location of two or three outstanding high cards and this is not the kind of thinking which will guide them very far along the road to proficiency. Until one becomes acutely conscious of distribution and develops a faculty for analysing one's problems on a distributional basis, one will never master any of those more complicated plays which pay the greatest dividends in satisfaction and points."

The authors emphasize that without minimising the importance of honour tricks, probably the best thing one can do for the game's sake is to forget them! Card sense in Bridge, far from being a mystical faculty, is simply the ability to make a "host of observations and inferences" concerning the make-up of the unseen hands. The 39 patterns of hands are given next and the frequency of their occurrence. It is pointed out that the patterns *in themselves* have a definite value regardless of the *specific cards* of which they may be composed. Illustrations of hands are then given, showing how the variation in pattern affects their playing strength though the honour tricks in all the patterns are identical. Hence, with some patterns the bidding should be aggressive, while with others it should be defensive.

How the trick-taking value of the patterns is determined is next explained. Chapters are given as to the frequency of various distributions of a suit in the other three hands when one hand holds a certain number of cards of the suit and in the two concealed hands after the dummy is down.

Using the odds in play is next treated of. The sources of information available to us in our attempt to see mentally the hands which are invisible are then classified. These are, of course, the cards and pattern of our own hand, the bidding, the original lead, the cards and pattern of our own hand together with those of dummy, and, finally, the cards that are played. The authors, in dealing with these, draw attention to the desirability of paying attention to *every card* played, from the Ace to the Deuce, and cultivating the habit of making right inferences. Illustrative hands from actual play are given to show how to make use of the various sources of information. These hands are very interesting and instructive. The authors next deprecate bidding in a mechanical fashion and rightly advocate that one should rely on one's own intelligence in bidding and thus be *master* of the system he plays and not its *slave*.

A chapter is added on the application of the odds to the play of a single suit. This is on the lines of the article on safety plays I wrote for this journal some time back. But here the authors clearly point out that a knowledge of distributional odds is the basis for the particular line of play suggested.

This is altogether one of the best books on Bridge I have ever come across, and I can unreservedly commend it to every one of my readers who wish to play the cards intelligently and improve their game at least 50 %.

T. ESSEX.

"Beating the Culbertsons"

OR

"How the Austrians Won the World Contract Bridge Championship in 1937."

(By Dr. Paul Stern, Vice-President of the Austrian Bridge League.)

THE publication will be welcomed by all lovers of duplicate Contract Bridge. The criticism on the play of the deals at the two tables is impartial. The Austrians are not spared because they have won the tournament. For example in Deal 23, the author remarks that the Austrians were forced into a six club contract by a linguistic error of Shneider (North) and thanks to the favourable distribution, a slam entirely undeserved was made by Austria! This deal alone gave a gain of 1270 points to Austria, who won the tournament by 4740 points in 96 deals.

It will be a consolation to bridge players of average ability to note that the experts—American as well as Austrian—have committed very serious mistakes in the tournament and that they are sometimes even nervous. Mr. Culbertson has missed a perfectly easy three no trump contract in deal 22. The contract could be easily kept, after the opening diamond lead, and the obliging nature of the opponent who covered the diamond ten with the knave, making nine tricks certain and Culbertson, our idol, bungled by forgetting how to count nine. The Austrian player Frischauer (North) has missed a grand slam in deal 34 owing to his losing confidence in the slam zone.

The author tries to make out that the 'Vienna System' with the two new forcing opening bids of one no trump and one club, gives better results than the 'Culbertson system'. This is a disputable statement. The Austrian victory is due to the mistakes of the Culbertsons, even

when they were following their own system. 'The Asking Bids' of Culbertson is used by the Austrians to advantage, though the American experts seem to dislike it of late, without sufficient cause. In deal 47, Mr. Culbertson has bid an unmakeable grand slam contract leading to a loss of 1050 points for the team; he could have learnt by the help of 'asking bids' that the club second round control was missing. In another case (deal 95) it is surprising to note that Mrs. Culbertson dropped the bidding at 5 diamonds, thereby missing a slam though it is obvious that that bid is an asking bid; this deal has given a gain of 1110 points to Austria.

Everyone who wants to become a good player at Duplicate Contract should go through this book and study the causes that lead to success or defeat in duplicate. It is important to note that luck also plays a part in duplicate. The luck factor comes into play when for instance, a team bids a grand slam depending on a finesse, whereas caution demands that only a small slam should have been bid. This is demonstrated in deal 81, where a successful Heart finesse luckily gave the Austrians the Grand Slam.

S. SURYANARAYANA IYER.

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SOLUTION TO THE LAST BRIDGE PROBLEM

Our joint editor Mr. S. Suriyanarayana Iyer gave the following problem extracted from the Bridge column of the Madras Mail in page 38 of the last issue published in May 1940.

♠ A, K, Q			
♥ Q, J, 10, 9			
♦ A, 6, 4			
♣ J, 5, 3			
♠ 9, 5	N	♠ J, 7, 2	
♥ A, K, 6, 5,	3, 2	♥ 8, 7, 4	
♦ Q, J	W	♦ 10, 9, 8, 3	
♣ K, 10, 9	E	♣ Q, 7, 2	
	S		
		♥ 10, 8, 6, 4, 3	
		♦ K, 7, 5, 2	
		♣ A, 8, 6, 4	

"West warned against a Heart lead by North's no-trump overcall, opens the diamond queen. Can South make his four Spade contract, against the best defence? If so, how?" He had suggested that the contract could not be made against the best defence and had further offered a prize to the one who first sent a demonstration to the office showing how the contract can be made.

The following gentlemen have, in the order given below, demonstrated to our satisfaction that the contract can be made:—

1. Mr. R. Balu, City Club, Trichinopoly.

2. Mr. A. M. R. David, District Munsif, Srivilliputtur.

3. Mr. S. Rajam Ayyar, Advocate, Tiruppur.

4. Dr. N. Halasyam, L. M. & S., Sivaganga.

5. Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao, Advocate, Madras.

All of them have given practically the same solution, viz., that after declarer takes the opening lead of diamond Queen with the Ace and leads Hearts Queen from the dummy, a small diamond is discarded from his own hand and not a small club. When West wins with Heart Ace and naturally leads club 10, dummy plays the Jack and East is forced to cover with the Queen before declarer takes with the Ace. He then plays the diamond King dropping West's Jack, plays two rounds of trumps and throws West in with the Club lead. After West takes his two club tricks with the King and 9, he is helpless. He is forced to lead the remaining top card in Heart or a small Heart. In either case, the declarer takes all the remaining tricks and makes his contract.

(Contd. on Page 45.)

HOW DO YOU BID AND PLAY

(For Answers see Page 47.)

I. The bidding proceeds:—

(i)	North	South
	1 $\diamond$	1 $\heartsuit$
	1 NT	2 $\heartsuit$
	2 NT	?

South holds ;

♠ K 9, 3 ♥ Q 9, 8, 7, 4, 3 ♦ 10, 2
♣ K, Q.

What should South bid now ?

(ii) Neither side is vulnerable and the bidding proceeds :—

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♥	no bid	no bid
2 ♠	no bid	?	

North holds;

♠ 10, 5 ♥ K 3 ♦ A 9, 8, 4, 3
♣ Q 7, 3, 2,

What is his bid?

(iii) Both sides are vulnerable and the bidding proceeds :—

South	West	North	East
I ♣	I ♥	no bid	no bid
?			

South holds :

♠ A 5 ♥ 6 ♦ A K 7, 2 ♣ A Q
J 8, 4, 3.

In what order of merit would you place the following bids by South?

(a) Double. (b) Two diamonds.
(c) Three clubs.

(iv) Neither side vulnerable again and the bidding is:—

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	no bid	1 ♥	1 ♠
?			

South holds :

♠ A 8, 4, 2. ♥ 6. ♦ A Q 9, 3.
♣ K 7, 6, 4.

What is the bid ?

II. Both sides are vulnerable and the bidding proceeds:

1. South	West	North	East
xx	I ♥	no bid	no bid
1 ♠	2 ♦	2 ♠	no bid
3 ♠	no bid	4 ♠	

**The hands of North and South
are :—**

North	South
♠ A 9, 5.	♠ K J 10, 8, 7.
♥ 8, 6, 4.	♥ K J.
♦ 7, 6, 5, 3.	♦ A J.
♣ A 10, 2.	♣ Q J 7, 5.

The diamond King is led and East plays the nine. How should South plan the hand to make four spades?

III. South opens the bidding with "One spade". You are West and hold :

♠ A Q 10 x. ♡ x x. ♢ K J x.
♣ x x x x.

(i) What high cards must South hold to justify his bid?

(ii) You pass, and North bids "Two Hearts". What is the inference?

(iii) Your partner makes no bid and South rebids his spades. What does that show?

IV. • In each of the following cases you are defending against a suit bid. In which of these does the principle

‘Cover an honour with an honour’ apply and in which not?

	Card led.	You hold.	Dummy holds.
(i)	Q	K x x	A J x x
(ii)	J	K x x	A Q x
(iii)	J	K x x	A 10 x
(iv)	J	Q 9 x	A x x
(v)	J	K x x	A Q 9 x x
(vi)	10	J x x	A Q x

SOLUTION TO LAST PROBLEM—(Contd. from page 43)

None of the solvers have explained why they discard a diamond first and not a club, as suggested in the solution given in the "Mail". The answer is obvious. They see all the hands and find that clubs break and diamonds do not. But it is apparent that the problem was not originally intended to be a double dummy problem. Otherwise, there was no meaning in giving the bidding as well. Further, it was published in the "Mail" merely as a problem and not as a double dummy problem, which latter heading is generally given to all double dummy problems.

For want of space some remarks and another solution by the Joint Editor himself has been omitted. We will try to publish it in the next issue.

LIBRA SYSTEM—(Contd. from page 30)

out. But, if partner has six or more hearts, even though he may not have a quick trick in the hand, he may pass the opening 2 hearts bid. If opener has even a singleton in hearts, there is no risk of a bad set should the opponents remain silent, or even double. If opener has a singleton or void in hearts, he may bid a strong suit if fourth hand has

V.

	♠ 9				
	♥ A, K, 5, 3				
	♦ 10, 6, 3				
	♣ Q				
♠ Q, 10, 8	N	♠ Nil			
♥ 9, 6, 4	W S E	♥ J, 10, 8			
♦ J		♦ A, 9, 5			
♣ 9, 6		♣ 10, 7, 3			
	♠ J, 6, 4				
	♥ Q				
	♦ 8, 7				
	♣ K, 8, 5				

Hearts are trumps. South leads and North-South have to win seven of the nine tricks.

Hearts are trumps. South leads and North-South have to win seven of the nine tricks.

If, as was originally intended, the declarer was not enabled to see all the hands, his correct play would have been to discard clubs, as was suggested in the "Mail" Solution, and the Contract could have been defeated. As the cards are, however, the solutions sent in now show that the contract can be made, principally because our solvers have been lucky to find the club 9 with West and not with East.

The prize is awarded to Mr. R. Balu since his solution had reached us first. He is requested to intimate to us the book that he desires to have.

and another solution by the Joint Editor
publish it in the next issue.

bid and given him the opportunity to do so. In all other cases, the forcing is persistent until the proper contract is reached, as determined by the later bidding, taking into account also the values to be added in the final response for unbalanced distribution in one or both hands and for the privilege of playing the two hands.—(To be contd.)

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of any kind. You have a good defence against one spade, but it is not good enough for a double. Therefore pass.

II. (i) Declarer should play to get a count of West's hand. After taking the D. Ace a small club should be led, and the ten finessed, if east plays low. If the ten holds, West is marked with at least two clubs, so spades should be finessed against East. In the process of this play it should be possible to get a count of West's hand; if he has two clubs, then on the next round declarer must play to drop the King, and not make the mistake of leading the Queen and finding that he has to lose the fourth club to East, which happened in actual play.

III. (i) Five spades including the King, and two tricks in the other three suits or six spades and $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks in the other suit.

(ii) North holds at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks and a bid-dable five-card hearts suit. He does not hold over 3 honour tricks or he would have jumped the bid to three hearts.

(iii) His spades are re-biddable, so he may have 5

spades with K J and the Ace of diamonds, and the Ace or K Q of clubs. Or, six spades to the Jack, the A. Q. of diamond and A or K Q of clubs. He is short of hearts and holding only two yourself, it is probable that your partner has length and strength there in, in which case the opponents cannot make four in either major suit.

IV. (i) Yes. (ii) Yes.
(iii) Yes. (iv) No. (v) Yes.
(vi) No.

V. South leads a small club, which North wins with queen. North returns a small heart for South to win. A small club is led back and ruffed. Now the Ace and King of trumps are played, South discarding his two diamonds. Diamond 3 is led for West to win with his Jack, South discarding a spade. The club king and a spade are now good. If at trick six, East wins the diamond trick with the Ace, South throws the King of clubs instead of the small spade. East, after winning with his club King, has to lead up to North's 10, 6 of diamonds.

Can't you give us some tit-bits relating to the game—any jokes, short stories or anecdotes?

Write to the Business Editor, City Club, Fort Trichinopoly.

Answers to How do you bid and play

ON PAGE 44

I. (i) 3 N. T. Partner's Two No-trump bid indicates a fairly balanced hand of some strength, more than a mere minimum. His repeat No-trump bid rules out a singleton heart and he is more likely to hold a doubleton headed by an honour. In that case, it may not be difficult to get hearts established. If, on the other hand, he holds only two small cards, then he should have some outside strength which would help to bring in nine tricks without establishing the heart suit. Three No-trumps appears, therefore, to be a safe bid. Other alternatives of four hearts, three hearts and pass do not appeal to us. Ten tricks at a suit bid may be more difficult than nine at No-trump, three hearts invites only a pass from the partner and the third, pass is definitely unthinkable holding 10 x also in a suit (diamond) bid by the partner, which will help greatly in establishing that suit if partner has a five-card suit.

(ii) Three spades. Three diamonds will lead your part-

ner to mis-read your hand and conclude that you have perhaps six in that suit with the King-Jack and nothing else and that you are merely taking an opportunity to improve the contract, having had to pass on the previous round. He will, therefore, pass. Even if he calls three spades, could you possibly bid Four? No. Therefore, hope that partner has at least a good five-card suit and bid three spades. If, partner passes, it will be all right and if he goes four, game is quite likely.

(iii) Double is the best bid because it gives an indication of the all-round values of the hand and still leaves it open to North to bid two or three clubs on the next round. If North bids One No-trump over the double, you can call three clubs and with good holding in hearts partner may bid three No-trumps which may be the only game make. The order of merit would, therefore, be (a) Double (b) Two diamonds. (c) three clubs.

(iv) No Bid. You have opened with a minimum and you cannot make a free bid

WHAT DO THE BIDS MEAN?

If the various bids are properly interpreted, many disastrous contracts can be avoided. The following interpretations are the correct ones for players following the 'culbertson system':—

1. Opener bids one 'Club'. The bid 'says' that the opening hand has at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks with a rebiddable Club suit or about 3 Honour tricks with a biddable Club and a biddable Spade or Heart suit or about 3 honour tricks with a no-trump distribution.

2. Opener bids a Heart or Spade:—This bid says that the opener has at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks with a rebiddable major suit; for if the partner declares 2 Clubs or Diamonds the opener is bound by the 'one round force' convention, to bid again and his cheapest minimum strength showing bid is two of his original suit.

3. If opener bids a Spade or Heart and after a response by his partner of 2 Clubs or 2 Diamonds, bids 2 Spades or 2 Hearts:—This bid means that the opener has only his bare minimum and that he has no game ambitions.

4. If opener bids 3 Hearts or 3 Spades after an opening bid of one Heart or one Spade respectively and over the partner's response of one no-trump or two Clubs or two Diamonds:—this bid informs partner that the opener has game ambitions if the responder can give about half a trick more than what is guaranteed by his original response.

5. If opener bids one Spade and after a response of 2 Clubs, (or Diamonds) bids 3 Hearts:—the bid informs partner that the opener has definite game ambitions and forces the partner to keep the bidding alive for one round; partner should call 4 Spades or 4 Hearts if he has some strength in either of those suits failing which he should at least give a simple preference for the first bid suit: of course if he is strong in the other two suits he can call three no-trumps or if he has slam ambitions, four no-trumps.

6. If opener bids a Spade and the opponent on the left overcalls with two Clubs (or Diamonds,) (non vulnerable):—this bid says that the over-caller has about $1\frac{1}{2}$ Honour tricks or more, and that the hand contains about five to six winners with clubs (or diamonds) as trumps and a favourable distribution.

7. The same bid, when vulnerable, shows six sure winners against any adverse distribution of the trump.

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8. If declarer opens with a bid of four Spades (or Hearts) says that the opening hand has not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ H with little or no out-side strength and eight probable v. vulnerable) and eight sure winners (vulnerable). It also asks not to raise the bid unless he has more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ quick Honours.

9. If declarer opens with a bid of five Clubs (or Diamonds) says that the hand contains about nine winners with Clubs (or Diamonds) as trumps. It also informs the partner that the opening hand the opponents have a game or a probable slam in the major suit they can exchange information and that the opener is prepared for exchange of information except at a very high level.

10. If over an opponent's call of three or four of a suit three or four no trumps respectively is made:—this bid asks the bid four or five in his best suit out of the three remaining suits guarantees a sure game and a probable slam.

11. If an opening bid of a Club (or Diamond) is doubled:—this bid says that the doubler has $3\frac{1}{2}$ Honour tricks or more with good support for the major suits and asks partner to bid his major suit (if any). It further informs him that he should keep the bid alive unless he has at least one to one and a half honour tricks and is prepared for a lead in the trump suit.

12. If the opening bid is one Heart and the response is one Spade declarer jumps to two no-trump:—The bid tells partner that they have very nearly a game in the combined hand if the responder has six or more tricks more than his response warranted. If you remember that six tricks are usually necessary for game in no-trump with balance and that $5\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks are enough if one of the hands is balanced and the other contains a five card suit, you can easily conclude that the opener had 4 honour tricks or more for his no-trump jump.

13. Opener calls one no-trump and the responder bids two no-trump:—The bid informs the opener that the responder has $1\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks and less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks, for with $1\frac{1}{2}$ tricks, he should jump to 3 no trump as the opener has shown a minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks. A second inference is that the declarer is prepared to bid his four card major if he has one and if it happens that the responder has 4 cards in the same major suit they can make game in that suit. If not, responder will declare three no-trumps in the next round.

