

World
Lunar Bridge Table

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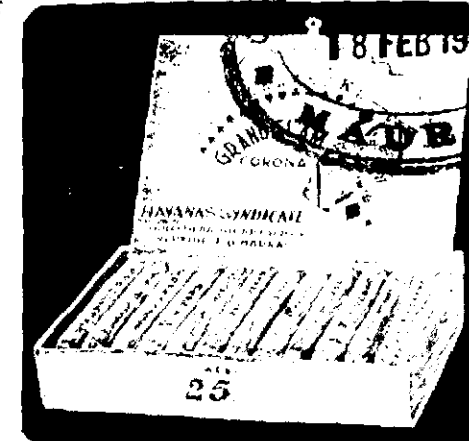


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The Editorial Committee do not necessarily agree with the views and remarks expressed by the contributors.—*Ed.*

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IMPROPRIETIES AT THE BRIDGE TABLE

By C. R. Krishnaswami

DR. M. Karamchand in his article titled "Proprieties of Contract Bridge" in the last number of the "Indian Bridge World" held a mirror up to us and made us see ourselves in all our ugliness as others see us. But the crust of complacency in us is so impenetrable that such suggestions as Dr. Karamchand had made, will be passed off as the vapourings of a hypercritical individual who has nothing better to do, rather than as the expression of mental travail of one who fears that the conduct of some of us will jar on the susceptibilities of cultured persons in a cosmopolitan or mixed society. Many improprieties at the Bridge Table, which will certainly not be found in a book of rules in Contract Bridge, are silently tolerated by many of us either because we are tolerant by nature or we are afraid of the loud-mouthed loquacity of these culprits. One's education and upbringing in healthy environments ought to help one to develop suave and pleasing manners spontaneously without

having to be told or, without having cited chapter and verse from some book in condemnation of bad behaviour.

Slow Coach.—The essence of good play is quickness. There is no doubt that, at certain turns in the game, one needs to pause awhile and think of the next step; but a wearisome delay every now and again during the game with a very provocative pumping action of the fingers, pulling a card and pushing it back, takes the keen edge of the interest of the other players at the table. An urgent demand from other players to "go on" only brings the tiring answer "wait, wait, I am thinking."

Chronic Leg Shaker.—Have you had the misfortune, dear reader, to sit at the same table with that type of restless individual who cannot sit still for a moment but must continuously go on shaking his legs and import an uncomfortable vibration to the legs of the table against which your legs may have been resting? Well, I have had. "Hullo! What is the matter

oration of a preacher to the attention of the vociferous individuals.

"It is thus that every great and beautiful thing is made. Go into nation's solitudes, when the near season's leaf and plant are being fashioned and you will find unbroken silence. Look at the million varied coloured flowers lifting their heads for a kiss of the sun and painting and landscape with beauty; there is movement but there is silence. Or, look at the sun climbing the east at day-break, the most mighty of nature's forces; but you never hear its operations. They are carried on in silence. And it is only thus too—but in reverent silence harmony and peace that you and I can build anything worthwhile".

Kibitzer.—I see Dr. Karamchand does not object to Kibitzers. Nor do I. But I certainly do object to a Kibitzer who will not sit down even when offered a seat, but who will keep standing with his arms akimbo behind you like fate. Not only does his shadow, falling on the table in the ordinarily lit room, disturb my vision but the feeling that he may sneeze or cough on the crown of my head makes me definitely uncomfortable. No, a sitting Kibitzer, I do not mind, but a standing Kibitzer! Yes, I do. The successful ruse which I

once adopted may be of help to any one who wishes to get rid of an unwanted Kibitzer. Apologising to the players at the table, I placed my cards face downwards, went out for a few seconds, and came back with an intimation to the Kibitzer that he was wanted on the phone and thus got rid of him.

Sufferings of Cards.—I feel I must put in a word on behalf of the poor dumb cards which suffer in silence untold miseries while being bent beyond the limits of perfect recovery during shuffling. Non-violent shuffling of cards leads to longevity of their lives.

While joining a suit or leading a card, there are some people who will not play the card in the usual way with the face upwards, but will catch the corner of the card and place it so firmly on the table almost like affixing a postage stamp on an envelope, as to permanently leave an identifiable fractured corner.

How are these sad improprieties to be brought to the notice of the Offender? He who can bring about the reform in the individual concerned without giving him offence, is fit to be ranked with the world's great diplomats.

THE SUICIDE SQUAD

(THE INDUCED SQUEEZE)

By M. S. Krishnaswami

THE war has brought into our dictionary many new words and phrases which we had no occasion to hear before. We have now, among others, the Fifth Columnists, the Quislings and the Suicide Squad. A body of men in utter disregard of their own lives have sprung forward to protect their brethren from unexploded time-bombs, through exposing themselves to the danger of being blown up at any moment. These gallant men have been named members of the suicide squad. Bridge can also produce a suicide squad, but in a different way.

Have you ever considered the possibility of allowing the opponents to run off a long suit of theirs and squeezing themselves to enable you to make your contract at ease? I would call such opponents, the Suicide Squad. Much has already been written about the technique of the Squeeze; how a fairly accurate location of the key-cards is necessary to execute a perfect-

ly-timed squeeze; how a good memory and forethought helps in creating positions for end-plays and so on. But it remains a melancholy fact that many of us do not realise in actual play that there is a squeeze to be worked or that a particular coup is available or that any particular end-play could be attempted with advantage. The average player is, as the Editor of our Magazine once pointed out, content to gleefully gather up his high card tricks and take all possible finesses, whether they are necessary or not.

About 50 per cent of the final No-trump contracts reached by players are, in my experience, so arrived at not because of the inherent logic of the bid itself but because of the hopelessness of trying for a game in a minor suit at the level of 'five-odd.' It is, in such cases, that we find that one or other of the opponents has an established long suit waiting only for an opportunity to run it off. In

such cases, if the other conditions of the declarer's hand warrant it, an opponent may be allowed to run off his long suit to the declarer's own advantage or in other words, the opponents may be very politely invited to commit suicide. I came across such a deal in an old issue of the British Bridge World and my only apology for reproducing it here is that such types of hands occur fairly frequently and many may be profited by being on the look-out for such coups. The deal itself was this:

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

The bidding went:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♣	—
3 NT	—	—	Dbd

West led the king of spades which South allowed to win. West followed it up with the

ten spot in spades, which South won with his ace. East discarding a club. Now declarer could see that his contract is cold, if clubs split normally. With this idea, he leads a small club and the bad news is out when West renounces a heart. It is now patent that East's double was made on his strength in the other three suits. Therefore, dummy wins with the king and a small spade is led for West to win, East discarding club nine. Declarer hoped thereby to induce West to run off his remaining two spades and squeeze East. On the fourth spade, East discards his heart nine and on the fifth he has to unguard his heart or clubs or throw away a diamond and now the contract is assured. If, before playing his last spade, West wakes up, there is no help. But how many Wests would 'avoid the venial vice of vaunting his last and vexatious spade trick, that would have eviscerated East in a vicious vice'! is a question that I invite you to answer.

BIDDING AN OPPONENT'S SUIT

By A. M. R. David

"AH! That was a beautiful bid", we often hear. We know what a psychic bid, or a strategic bid, or even what a brilliant bid, means. But what exactly is a beautiful bid? A beautiful bid is one that is both thrilling and precise. It is a dramatic bid which gives a thrill of satisfaction. And yet it is a bid that is delightfully precise. It is a bid that a partner can fully read without the slightest difficulty.

So defined, bidding an opponent's suit is the most beautiful bid in the game. The thrill and the preciseness alike are obtained out of the idea that it is not ordinarily intended to be a literal bid; but that it is an artificial one to convey some definite information. The bid is particularly precise so far as the holding in this suit is concerned. There was only one such bid in the days of Auction. With the advent of Contract, Culbertson has added to this list. Its possibilities, however, have not been exploited to the fullest extent either in Europe or even in

America. The following bids, from the low level of two to the high level of five, form the most complete and the most comprehensive system so far evolved out of this idea.

1. The first of such bids is, of course, the immediate over-call of an opponent's suit at the earliest opportunity before the partner has made a bid. This bid is generally made at the level of two and occasionally at the level of three. Such an over-call is in the nature of an opening forcing two bid and is unconditionally forcing to game. That is by far the strongest of all bids available to a partnership when the opponents have already opened the bidding. Such an over-call informs the partner that a game is very probable, if not assured, even though the opponents have shown the possession of considerable quick-tricks and even though the partner himself can give very little assistance. This over-call at the earliest stage would immediately give a clear picture of a powerful hand loaded with quick-tricks

Christmas Bridge Carnival. Last date for entries close with the Hon. Gl. Secretary on 30-11-40 and with the zone Secretaries on 7-12-40. For particulars see page 41.

to the tune of at least $4\frac{1}{2}$ and further blessed with a good distribution. In particular the hand would contain, at the worst, 1 loser in the suit called. When 2 diamonds is called over an opponent's 1 diamond, the partner can immediately picture one or the other of the following hands:—

- (1) S. A K Q x x; H. K Q x x x x;
D. A; C. x.
- (2) S. A Q J x; H. A K Q x; D. x;
C. K Q J x.
- (3) S. K x; H. A K x x; D.—;
C. A K Q x x x x.

2. The second such bids are (a) The Immediate over-call and (b) The Immediate jump over-call of an opponent's suit after the Partner has opened the bidding or made a response. The 1st of these bids, is made at the level of two or three. The 2nd of these bids is, however, only available at the level of three and its scope is, therefore, considerably limited. An ordinary over-call states that there are no losers or at the most one loser in the opponent's suit, while the jump over-call more definitely states that there are no losers therein. These bids further definitely imply a strong hand with about $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 quick-tricks, when the over-caller had opened the bidding and about 2 quick tricks,

when the partner has opened the bidding and are also forcing to game. But while an ordinary over-call does not commit the partnership to any particular trump suit, the jump over-call definitely commits the partnership to the last suit mentioned by the partner. This immediate over-call was the only bid in an opponent's suit availed of by Auction players to indicate that there were no losers therein. This bid was retained with its further implications in the approach-forcing system till the introduction of the Asking bids, when any such ordinary over-call was deemed to be an Asking bid. At present, however, a jump over-call is deemed to be an Asking bid. But an Asking bid at the level of two or three is an entirely unnecessary luxury. The original implications of this bid are, therefore, retained and improved upon in my system. Such an over-call would immediately give a picture of one of the following holdings in the opponent's suit, of which examples (1) and (2) only would be necessarily implied in a jump over-call:—

- (1) A Void. (2) A. (3) x.
- (4) A. x, and at the worst
- (5) K x. (when the opponent

who has bid the suit is on the right of the over-caller).

3. The third of such bids is an over-call of an opponent's suit after an intermediate bid has been made by the partner or either of the opponents in another suit, including such an over-call after an original pass or take-out double but excluding any such over-call following an original penalty double of the same suit, or an original no trump call over the same suit, by the same player. This over-call is occasionally made at the level of two and mostly at the level of three. It cannot be made at any higher level. This over-call informs partner that the over-caller has got at least 2 effective controls in the suit that is called and encourages partner to call no trumps, if he can. This bid is wholly new. Its necessity would be obvious from the fact that there are innumerable deals, where the partner is restrained from calling no trumps or scoring a game in no trumps, merely because he is particularly weak in a suit called by an opponent. The over-caller may be holding effective controls in the aforesaid suit, but an otherwise moderate hand. He himself will not be in a position to call no

trumps since he has no controls in some unbid suit or another suit called by the opponents. Neither partner would, in these circumstances, be in a position to ordinarily call no trumps, unless he is prepared to take a blind plunge into dark waters. Such a call would give a picture of one of the following holdings, Nos. 1 to 3, when the opponent who has been bidding the suit is to the right of the over-caller and one of hands, Nos. 4 to 6, when the opponent who has been calling the suit is to the left of the over-caller:—

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. A Q X. | 4. K Q J X. |
| 2. K J 9 X. | 5. Q J 10 9. |
| 3. K Q X X. | 6. A J 10 X. |

4. The next such bid is an over-call of an opponent's suit after the following bids by the same player:—(a) an original over-call made under the third category of bids or (b) an original penalty double of, or an original no trump call over, this same suit. This bid is made at the level of three or four, though it is occasionally made even at the level of two. Such an over-call informs partner that the over-caller is willing and able to play the hand in that suit, in spite of the opponent's bid therein. Such

a bid is necessary in these days of psychic bids and weak four-card suit bids. This overcall would immediately give a picture of a hand which contains a long string of at least six cards in the suit with outside strength proportionate to the preceding bids.

5. The last of such bids are the Asking bids in a suit bid by the opponents when a trump suit has been agreed upon, specifically or inferentially. These bids are, and should be, made at the level of four or five. The bids made under the 4th category are *ipso facto* excluded from this category. These bids, even though they merely ask for information, would by their very nature, yet give a picture of a hand with considerable strength and yet containing (1) two or three cards in the asked suit, including one high-card or (2) one or two low-cards only.

The following examples will give a clear idea of the category to which the various bids in an opponent's suit at the different stages belong:—

	N.	E.	S.	W.
1.	1 H.	2 H ¹ .	—	—
2.	Pass	1 S.	2 S ¹ .	—
3.	1 D.	Pass	2 D.	3 D ¹ .
4.	Pass	1 D.	1 H.	2 H ^{2a} .
5.	Pass 2 C.	1 H. 3 C ^{2a} .	Pass —	1 S. —
6.	Pass 3 D ^{2a} .	1 D. —	1 H. —	2 D. —
7.	1 H.	1 S.	3 S ^{2b} .	—
8.	Pass	1 C.	1 D.	3 D ^{2b} .
9.	1 D. 2 D.	1 H. Pass	1 S. 2 H ³ .	Pass —
10.	Pass Pass	1 S. 2 S.	2 C. Pass	2 D. 3 C ³ .
11.	Pass Pass Pass	1 H. 2 D. 3 D.	1 S. Pass Pass	Pass 2 S ³ . 3 S ^{3a} .
12.	1 S. 2 S.	2 H. Pass	D d 3 H ^{4b} .	Pass —
13.	1 S. 3 C.	2 H. Pass	2 N T. 3 H ^{4b} .	— —
14.	1 S. 4 D ¹ .	2 D. —	3 S. —	Pass —
15.	1 S. 3 S.	Pass 4 D.	3 C. 5 D ¹ .	3 D. —

The various bids dealt with above form one compact whole in a beautiful system. Their logic is very obvious. Their effectiveness would be as obvious from play.

A COUPLE OF SWING HANDS

By DR. T. V. S. SASTRI

Deal No. 1.

Both sides were vulnerable. I was E and we had a part score of sixty. North dealt and passed. I held S. A x x, H. J 10 x x x, D. A J x, C. x x. Thinking that my partner as the fourth hand may not start the bidding unless he be very strong, I started the bidding with one heart. S passed. My partner startled me with 4 N.T. N pass. After some hesitation, I bid 5 N.T. S pass. My partner seven H. N-pass. Myself pass. S. seven spades. Instead of doubling the sacrifice bid, my partner went seven N.T. N. pass. Myself pass. S double. My partner redoubled, my partner held S. K x, H. A K 10 9, D. K x, C. A Q 10 9 x. South held S. Q J 10 x x x, H. Q, D. Q 10 x, C. K x x. We were one down, losing a trick to N's club J. and 400 points to boot. Oh, Avarice, thou art responsible for innumerable sins.

Deal No. 2.

Mine was like a dream hand. Again I was E. N dealt and passed. I held S. A x, H. Q, D. K, C. A K Q J 10 9 x x x. I started Two clubs. S passed.

My partner Two hearts. N pass. Myself three clubs. S pass. W Three diamonds. N. pass, E four C. S pass. W four H. N. pass. I now bid four N. T. S pass. W, my partner jumped to six D. I couldn't understand his bid, and went 7 clubs in the hope that, even if we were one down, the five honours in clubs would compensate for the loss. South who held the K and Q of spades, doubled the 7 C. Bid. W pass, N pass, and I hesitated to redouble, and decided not to, as I believed that S. might have doubled with the Ace of H in his hand, my partner having H. KJxxx and D. AQxxx. As a matter of fact however, my partner had H. AKxxx, D. AQxxx, 2 spades and a singleton club. I would certainly have redoubled the double, if my partner had responded with Five N. T. showing Two aces. The grand Slam was possible in N. T. as well as in clubs and so a redouble would not have kept us out of a grand slam through any sacrifice bid. Why jump (into 6 D) without giving positive information to partner?

ETHICS OF CONTRACT BRIDGE

By T. Essex

IN the February, 1940 issue of the Deccan Bridge Magazine, Dr. M. Karamchand is rather severe on Indian Kibitzers. I don't hold a brief for this fraternity, as such. In fact, I rather dislike them. But the doctor forgets that there are Kibitzers *and* Kibitzers. Further, I must demur to his tarring all Indian Kibitzers with the same brush. There are bad Kibitzers all over the world, not excluding England and America. This fact is proved by the admissions of their own countrymen. I must protest against the doctor's assumption that good Kibitzers are to be found only in England and not in India. I must also differ from Dr. Karamchand in his view that trying to deceive the declarer is a failing (whether ethical or not) peculiar to India.*

Now, let me come to this question of the ethics of contract. I may admit at once that I see, almost daily, the laws and proprieties of the game violated. This is distressing. A great many play-

ers come to table without having perused the laws of the game. Unnecessary disputes arise. I would strongly plead with all players to study the laws and the proprieties thoroughly.

Some players do not enforce the penalties, under the false idea of being "Sporting". If penalties are not to be enforced, we may as well have no laws at all. There is nothing "Sporting" in waiving a penalty. I have the authority of the best writers on Bridge (as well as other games) on this point. Talking of other games many billiard players who ought to know better, consider that potting the opponent's ball is unsporting. It is nothing of the sort. Here again, if my view is incorrect, it is so with those of the best authorities. Potting the white *must* be done when it is the game to do so. When it is not, the potter only handicaps himself by leaving himself only the red to play on. Not only this, he is doing a distinct ser-

vice to the opponent, by giving him the privilege of playing from baulk. Again, in Tennis, I have seen players who think that when the umpire has wrongly given a point to them, it is sporting to deliberately lose the next point. This is anything but sporting. It is disgusting to watch the gallery applaud such an action.

Let me return to my horses. The point to which the Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas drew Dr. Karamchand's attention is, if I remember right, included in the etiquette of the game, and should, no doubt, be remembered. But I wish to invite my readers' attention to one aspect of the question. Why should the dice be loaded in favour of the declarer? The tendency in games, such as cricket, is to relax the laws in favour of the bowler, though here, he is called the attacker and not the defender, though, in a sense, the batsman may be said to be attacker. In Contract, the declarer not only has the privilege of playing 26 cards and the advantage of the first lead up to him, which too may be worth about 2 tricks in many cases, but some of the laws and rules of etiquette strengthen his position further. He is permitted to false-card, while the defence, though not

prevented from doing so, dare not generally do it for fear of misleading partner. Again, we have known the "finesse" known by the name of a well-known player. He leads a small from his hand towards A Q of a suit in dummy, and hesitates for a considerable time and then plays the Queen, as if he is finessing, having the King of the suit in his own hand all the time. Is this ethical? Sauce for the goose should suit the gander as well. Again, if it is unethical for the defender to hesitate, as in the instance quoted by Dr. Wade, is it not equally so for the declarer? An analogous case to hesitating, as if holding up an honour, is for the player to hesitate before playing a singleton. I have seen this done by defenders as well as the declarer. One declarer when questioned why he hesitated before playing a singleton, gave the naive reply that he was not hesitating to deceive the opponents, but was considering his next lead! Of course, this won't wash. I rather think the rules of etiquette should be made applicable to both sides with regard to a particular point.

We are all agreed about other improprieties. The habit of some players giving an

* We read Dr. Karamchand's article as merely emphasising the existence of this failing in our country without any reference to its existence or otherwise in the other countries.—Ed.

indication of good or poor strength by changes in the intonation of the voice cannot be too strongly deprecated. This is as bad as the practice of sharpers on Atlantic liners, who have a secret code language to indicate their hand to their partners. This sometimes takes the simple form of a variation of the phraseology in which bids are made and not merely in the pitch of the voice. For instance, there are distinctions between calling "Club," "a Club" and "One club;" between merely "double," and "I double two hearts," and so on. I would strongly plead with all fellow members of our Association to adopt a uniform system of bidding. For example, instead of saying "Club" or "a Club," "One Club" is the standard form to be adopted. Again, in doubling, only the simple word "double" should be used, not "double two hearts" or "I double two hearts." Further, a uniform tone of voice should be cultivated. Moreover, in playing the cards also a uniform quite procedure is proper. One should not bang the cards on the table to show that they are winners; nor take out a card before the previous

trick is turned and quitted. Once again, playing a singleton by a peculiar motion of the hand is obviously unethical. Taking out a card from the hand before it is one's turn is unwarranted. The latter action has moral penalties attached to it, but these are, unfortunately, not insisted on as they should be.

One more point for the present. In our tournaments, it is a rule that if any pair of players play a system other than the official one, they are bound to disclose it to their opponents. I regret to say that in the recent Coimbatore Easter Tournament, some pairs demonstrably violated this rule. I particularly remember one instance where a pair attached a meaning to the overcall in the opponent's suit quite novel to the game and nowhere authorised by Mr. Culbertson. This led their opponents to make a sacrifice bid and give a penalty which they would not have done, had they known the novel interpretation put on the overcall by their adversaries. I request tournament Directors to see that such incidents do not recur in the matches played under the auspices of our Association.

A DAY'S BAG

By M. S. Krishnasami

I have, in this article, reviewed some of the deals that occurred on 1-8-40 at the Devakotta United Club. In this Club, no rubber Bridge is ordinarily played, Duplicate Bridge with three, four and sometimes even five tables being the regular feature. A comparison of the scores at the end of the day of sixteen deals affords an interesting study, provided one is inclined to do so. I am, however, sorry to say that there are not many who make such a study; at the end, they simply look into the final aggregate and walk away muttering unspeakable things about their partners. Here, as elsewhere, the partner is always wrong.

Deal No. 1.

Dealer—North. Vul.—Neither side.

Rushing a risk

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

In this deal, my partner East reached an ultimate contract of four spades, after an initial opening bid of 1 C by North. South, a 'sometimes' brilliant player, Raju, led the club king. My partner played dummy's ace and played a low spade for North to win with his ace. A club jack return was taken by my partner who then drew all adverse trumps. At this stage, he had one losing club, one losing diamond and a probable loser in hearts. He immediately led his hearts and finessed the jack, and made a present of a heart trick to North, who immediately played for one trick set. The question is, should my partner have taken the risk of finessing at that stage? I would say, No! My reasoning is this. South opened with the lead of the club king, though he had the king guarded. Suppose he had held the queen of hearts. His normal line of reasoning would make him play for establishing a heart trick hoping his partner would have one of the two missing tops in hearts. If Partner held the ace of clubs, South does

not lose anything by not playing the C. king first. Therefore my partner's conclusion ought to have been that South did not hold any other trick and so was anxious for a ruff of clubs and should have "fooled about" leading the clubs to see if the opponents would not establish the diamond queen for him. Even if he is ultimately forced to lead heart, he should not take the *finesse* in the 1st round. The fall of heart 10 in the 1st round and the placing of the cards in the final stages would have easily indicated a play for the drop of the heart queen.

Deal No. 6

East-West

Dealer-East. Vul.—East-West.

A manufactured bid

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

A Grand Slam in spades for North-South is cold. Our opponents reached only six; but our partners managed to reach seven. Their bidding seems to have gone this way.

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E	S	W	N
—	1 ♠	—	3 ♦
—	3 ♠	—	4 N. T.
—	7 ♠	—	—

After 1 ♠ by South, North, who smelt a slam from his hand, wanted to provide for a future call of 4 N. T. to show his high cards and promptly called three diamonds. South rebid three spades and North at this stage called 4 N. T. showing his two Aces and the diamond king. Nothing more was needed for South to reach seven.

Deal No. 7.

South—Dealer. Vul.—Both Sides,

Safely First

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

Here again a Grand-slam in Diamonds is a lay-down for North-South and the question is, how it is to be reached. Actually in all the three tables at which this deal was played, only a Small-slam was bid and thirteen tricks were, of course, made. To reach the desired Grand, here is a suggestion.

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S	W	N	E
1 ♠	—	2 ♦	—
3 ♦	—	4 ♥?	—
4 N. T.	—	5 ♣?	—
5 N. T.	—	7 ♦	—

The adoption of the 4-5 N. T. convention is no good in this case, since North has to make sure of particular high cards and provisions for discards of the losing Hearts. Therefore, he has to ask 4H. The 4 N. T. response shows either Heart Ace and another (Diamond or Club) Ace or the Heart King and the two minor Aces (Note that the first asking bid has to be made in an unbid suit.) In order to determine which of the two alternatives the 4 N. T. means, a repeat asking bid at 5C has to be made. The 5 N. T. now shows Clubs King and the other two Aces.* North is now sure of the Heart and Diamond Aces and a long suit in Clubs, which would not be difficult to establish. Further partner has opened when vulnerable and has supported Diamonds. He is not likely, therefore, to have many losers in either of the major suits. Hence a jump into Seven Diamonds by North might not come amiss. But after all is said and done,

* Our colleague has not provided for South holding A K in clubs and A in hearts.—Ed.

we think that on a deal such as this a safe Small slam is much better than a risky Grand.

Deal No. 9.

Dealer—North. Vul.—East-West.

A Good Sacrifice

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

With the *finesse* of Club King coming right, seven diamonds can be made; but in any case, six is a lay-down. I was West and my partner made the sacrifice when vulnerable. I was feeling very uneasy, since from my hand-pattern, I did not think that the slam was an easy affair for North-South. I felt that my partner was not justified in sacrificing, when a sacrifice was not called for. But at the end of the game my partner proved himself to be correct. He is, of course, the best judge of his

hand in the circumstances. He had, in his hand, two losing hearts, two losing spades and one losing club. I had given a free raise of 3 hearts over South's 3 diamonds. I should provide two tricks at least and possibly more. In the circumstances, he rightly thought that his sacrifice bid would give us a gain of 120 points at least. In the other two tables, N-S. were allowed to make six diamonds. A jolly good result on the whole.

Deal No. 16.

Dealer—West. Vul.—East-West.

A good choice.

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

In actual play, two of three tables stopped at 5 S and in

only one was small slam reached. The bidding given above was the process by which our partners at the other table reached the final bid. In our table and our companion table, the bidding up to the 4 S level was the same. But after 4 S by South, North in both these tables asked 5 C and the response was necessarily a sign-off. The slam, therefore, could not be reached, except by blind bidding. I think that the asking bid in Hearts is correct for this reason. The partner has shown at least 2 honour-tricks, which according to the bidding should be in hearts and diamonds. On the other hand, East, when vulnerable, has bid 2 C; his honours could only be in hearts and clubs; so that if partner does not hold the heart king, the result might very well be disastrous. If partner holds the heart king, it would be possible to develop diamonds should there be any scope for it. If partner does not hold the heart King a slam is unthinkable with two losing hearts, one losing club, and a possible loser in diamonds.

"OUR IDOL" ELY CULBERTSON

By P. W. David

WHAT a name! To-day, the name Culbertson stands with super-expert and dub alike, the one and only authority on Bridge and cards. Ten years ago, he was practically unknown but genius can never be kept hidden.

Culbertson comes of Americo-Russian parentage and from the early age of 12, he has had a very varied career. He intended taking up "Professional Revolutionism" but fascinated by the maelstrom of Europe's social movement, he decided to study psychology, especially mass psychology. He devoted considerable time and energy to the subject but financial necessity and lack of knowledge of any manual trade made him a master card player, who lived on cards. But for the Russian revolution, which impoverished Culbertson's father and put Ely on his own, we might have known him to-day as a world authority on Psychology and not as an authority on Bridge.

Ely Culbertson is a brainy and versatile man. As a writer, he has great inventive

talents and matchless imagination. He has a remarkable flair for public speaking and he enlivens technical details with spontaneous humour.

A soldier of fortune and a man of destiny, he has earned a reputation as a fearless, eager, ambitious, dominating and resourceful prodigy, though ruthless and arrogant at times.

As a card-player, he is great. Hear what Hal Sims says: "Many people doubt his real card playing ability, but to me he is one of the most remarkable card players that I have ever seen—a flawless technician, marvellous natural card-player, brilliant, colourful, imaginative, courageous."

Ely Culbertson is a pioneer soul who has blazed a path where highways never ran. A game has, through him, been transformed into a science and an art. And yet it remains a recreation. He says that "there are 30 million people playing contract Bridge and 98% of them play Culbertson". It may well be true.

FROM THE EDITORIAL CHAIR

WE had, in the last issue, appealed for a study of the laws of the game. We had then stressed on the necessity for the observance of these laws and touched on the reasons why the laws are not always observed. It would be worthwhile going even more deeply into these reasons to find out if there is any tenable basis for any of them.

The fundamental reason for the non-observance of the laws is that it is unnecessary for the average player or in a social game. That is, however, clearly due to a confusion of thought. Why should each player play with 13 cards and no less and no more? Why should 3 no trumps overcall 3 spades or yield a game? Why should a penalty of 50 points be taken when the opponents are 1 down, non-vulnerable or 100 points when they are 1 down, vulnerable? It is all because it is so laid down in the rules. It would require considerable hardihood, therefore, for any one to say that no rules are necessary.

Once it is conceded that some rules are necessary, it would be impossible to find a justification to enforce some rules and not some others. Where is the line to be drawn between necessary rules and unnecessary rules? Who is to draw the line at a table of four? Is it the oldest who is to draw the line or the most ferocious-looking? Is it always to be the 'master' of the house, who is sometimes its mistress? Or, is it always to be the most argumentative and the most vociferous? Naturally enough, disputes would necessarily arise as to which rule is to be enforced and which not. But all difficulties would be avoided and all disputes eliminated by a strict adherence to all the rules.

Another reason is to be found in the idea that the application of a rule casts a reflection on the offender. This is a misconception. The laws do not have anything whatever to do with any dishonourable practices or any

intentional misconduct, including suggestive remarks. They do not provide for these. They do not pretend to provide for these either. They merely regulate the procedure in cases of carelessness and inadvertence. And there is, of course, no reflection on a player merely because he has been careless or inadvertent.

The most usual reason, however, is that it is not sportsman-like to enforce a penalty. This is a fundamental misconception. The laws merely provide against a player, who is guilty of carelessness or inadvertence, reaping the benefit thereof. The advantage may not always be patent. But it is always latent. Even when a player calls merely a "no bid" out of turn, he does give a picture of his hand to his partner. When a player leads out of turn, the implications of his lead are mostly apparent. His partner may not consciously take advantage of it, but his unconscious reactions to the call or the lead cannot be wiped out. The laws merely provide for the obliteration of this advantage. They merely provide for an error being completely rectified. They merely provide for a wrong to the opponents being righted. They further act as a deterrent to continued carelessness or inadvertence. It is not, therefore, unsportsman-like to ask that an error be remedied or an irregularity regularised.

An allied reason is even more vicious. That is an idea of courtesy to position or charm in waiving one's rights. But a Maharajah is not allowed to continue at the crease when his wickets are shattered, even though he be a Maharajah. A sweet young thing is not given your wicket, even though she is sweet and she is young. It is not "cricket" to give recognition to position or charm in the play of a game, to the prejudice of the rules. This noble game of Bridge, like every other, is an education in democracy. Let us not be guilty of making it ignoble.

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A MAL-TREATED DEAL

By A. D. J. Victor

THE vagaries of individualistic calling and play were well demonstrated at a private individual tournament held at Dr. R. A. Johnson's Bungalow recently.

Deal No. 8 (E. W. Vulnerable. Dealer South)

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

The declarations at the 5 tables were all different and not even 1 table arrived at the correct contract. At table No. 1, West (9) opened with one Heart and thereafter South (3) took charge of the bidding and in spite of North (20) bidding Spades twice, climbed high into a 5 Diamond contract, which West promptly doubled. The Hearts K was opened and then W shifted to a low club. South won with C, J and then blindly proceeded to ruff his Hearts in dummy. He ruffed a

Heart in dummy, entered his hand with the Club Ace, then ruffed his last Heart with dummy's D. 7 and then tried the Diamond finesse. W won with the King and led another Club. The dummy's C. K was ruffed by East and a Heart returned. Declarer was in a bad way. He ruffed the Heart but could not pull out trumps and was finally 3 down.

If, at trick 3, the declarer, instead of being blinded by dummy's ruffing values and finessable position of Trumps, had thought for a couple of minutes, the correct play would have been clear. In spite of the atrocious bidding, the declarer could, as the cards lie, have got home. West having opened vulnerable, he must be credited with at least 3 Honour tricks and these should apparently be the A, K of Hearts and the Kings of Diamond and Spades. The establishable nature of Spades is obvious. To preserve entries in dummy, avoid reduction of trumps and at the same time inhibit Heart leads,

the declarer should immediately lead a low diamond. If West takes his D. K. all is over, bar the shouting. But if he ducks, a little more care is necessary. The D. Q wins in dummy and a small diamond is led back and D. J played by declarer. W can get this trick only. Whatever he leads back, declarer gets back with Club Ace, plays the Trump Ace and then finesses with S. Q. The Spade Ace is then played and the S. J ruffed out. The C. K provides a re-entry for the long spades.

At table No. 2, the bidding died at 3 D and here again, the lure of the singleton Heart in dummy was too tempting for the Declarer, who finished one light.

At table No. 3, the bidding was different. West opened with 1 H and North, Dr. Johnson, bidding Spades thrice bought the contract at 3 S. Heart was opened by East and the 2nd heart ruffed by declarer. He counted his tricks and found that nine tricks were easy and so without further ado, finessed the Club jack. This lost and thereafter declarer had to lose a Spade and a Diamond trick and so only three spades were made. With just a little more care, an over-trick is assured.

While even a 2nd trick in Diamonds depends on a finesse, 2 tricks are assured in Clubs. The diamonds should, therefore, be sought to be established to discard the 3rd Club. At the 3rd trick the declarer should play the spade Ace, cross over to dummy, with the diamond Ace, and play a trump from dummy. Now declarer's losing Club can be discarded on the fourth Diamond. Thus 4 Spades can be made against any defence.

At table No. 4, East after passing twice weighed in with a 3 Heart call over South's 3 D, having nothing but length in Hearts to justify the call. He was lucky in that his opponents allowed the call to stand undoubled and still more lucky in being only 1 set, vulnerable.

At table No. 5, the North (2) and South (13) players were offered a glorious opportunity to earn a clear top but they failed badly. West (10) opened 1 H, North overcalled with 1 S and East (16) came in immediately with a free raise to 2 H. South then called 3 D and naturally North went to 3 Spades. Over North's 3 S call, south called 4 C. After a long huddle, East, burdened with the weight of

(Contd. on page 34)

THE LIBRA SYSTEM

(Contd.)

By T. Essex

Responses to Bids of One opened by an Unbalanced Hand

IN this chapter, I propose to take up the cases of an opening bid of one by dealer or second in hand and the responses by the 3rd or 4th in hand respectively, to such opening, where this shows that the opener has an unbalanced distribution. Glancing at the table of responses, (Page 31) the reader will notice that these are based on reasoning similar to that which we followed in the last chapter where the opener's distribution was of the balanced variety. This table should be studied and memorised with especial care. As pointed out in a previous chapter, statistics show that the percentage of final contracts in major suits is as high as 75, and unbalanced hands, especially in both partners' hands, are the rule in high contracts, which are mostly played in the majors.

Opener's bid of one heart indicates, of course, that he holds $2\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks and that his distribution is unbalanced. With less than 1 honour trick in support, partner should obviously pass whether his

distribution be even or uneven. Holding one trick, he should again pass with a hand divided equally between the suits, as he cannot bid 1 diamond over one heart, but bid 1 spade if the suits are unequally divided. With $1\frac{1}{2}$, the response is 1 no-trump with a level hand and 2 hearts with an inclined one. Should partner of opener hold $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks, he may venture on 2 clubs if his hand is balanced and on 2 spades if it is unbalanced. The combined honour holding is now 5. With a tenure of $3\frac{1}{2}$ tricks bringing the total strength to 6, the game zone is reached. The responses are 2 diamonds and 3 hearts respectively, according as the nature of the distribution is balanced or otherwise. With an unusual support of $4\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks, accounting for 7 honour tricks in all, the expectancy is clearly a small slam. The lucky responder may bid 3 diamonds with an even hand and 3 spades with an uneven one. With an extraordinary support of $5\frac{1}{2}$ tricks, the grand slam is indicated by a bid of 4 clubs

or 4 hearts respectively, according as the hand is of the balanced pattern or otherwise. It will be noted, in passing, that even with an expectancy of 13 tricks, the contract is generally kept at the 3 level or the 4. This is necessary to avoid crowding the bids in the later rounds, the bidding in which has the main object of determining the most suitable final contract for the combined hands. Of course it is assumed that there are no interfering bids at this stage, to put a spoke in the wheel of conversation between the partners. But such interference and preemptive and sacrifice bids are concomitant to the bidding in every system. The proper procedure in such cases will be indicated in future chapters of this book.

The next situation to be dealt with is where the opener kicks off with a bid of 1 spade. This indicates, as per table, an honour trick holding of $3\frac{1}{2}$ and unbalanced distribution. With less than $\frac{1}{2}$ trick, the responder, of course, passes, whether his distribution is balanced or not. With $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 trick in support, the response is 1 no-trump, if the suits are evenly divided, and 2 hearts, if they are divided unevenly. Here

is an exception to the general rule that the two level should not be reached with less than 5 honour tricks in the partnership hands together. But it must be considered that a shading of $\frac{1}{2}$ a trick in this case is justifiable, as both the hands are unbalanced, a very favourable circumstance, and, further, it is inevitable, as the lowest bid over one of the higher ranking spade suit is necessarily two hearts with an uneven hand. Holding $1\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks, the partner may bid 2 clubs with even division of suits and 2 spades if the division is uneven. A holding of $3\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks justifies a bid of 2 diamonds with a level beam and 3 hearts with a sloping one. The honour level of 6 has been reached, indicating game possibilities. Should the responder hold $3\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks making 7 in all, a bid of 3 diamonds is in order if the suits are proportionately divided and of 3 spades if they are in disproportion. The combined honour trick level beckons to a small slam. With $4\frac{1}{2}$ defensive tricks, i.e., practically all the balance of strength around the table, a grand slam pointer, a bid of 4 clubs is legitimate, if the distribution is horizontal, and of 4 hearts, if it is a gradient.

Responses to opening bids of two.

In the present chapter, I propose to take up the remaining varieties of opening bids, distinguished from those dealt with in the preceding chapters by the fact that the starting level is now 2 instead of one.

Suppose the opening bid is 2 hearts. This discloses, as per table, an unbalanced hand and a quick trick strength of 4. The opening, as pointed out at the end of chapter IX, is "forcing", for one round. We shall see, presently, that, in our system, in all cases of an opening bid of more than one, viz., 2 clubs, 2 spades, 2 diamonds, and of course, the unique case of an opening bid of 3 hearts, the bid is absolutely forcing. The responder must keep the bid open even if his honour holding is less than 1. Even in the present exceptional case of a 2 hearts opening, there is only one situation, just as in the case of all the one bids dealt with already, where the responder may pass the bid. This is where he holds more than 5 cards in hearts, and less than one quick trick. With any stronger help, the partner should keep the auction alive. Whether his hand is balanced

or otherwise, he must bid 2 no-trumps if he holds less than a trick, and less than a length of six cards in hearts. The very opening bid of 2 hearts shows only 4 honour tricks, and is an exception to the general rule that the two level should not be reached unless the combined honour strength is 5. But it is very rare that the partner's hand is a complete bust. Should he hold even half an honour trick, making a total of $4\frac{1}{2}$ in all, the two level is safe enough except in extra-ordinary cases.

Resuming the thread of our discussion, we next proceed to the case where the opener bullies off with a bid of 2 hearts, and the partner holds 1 honour trick in support. The logical bid is the next higher 'raise.' 'Raise,' in the technical sense I use it in my system, is a higher contract, not necessarily in the denomination started with. This raise is to 2 no-trumps if the responder's hand is balanced and to 2 spades if it is unbalanced. The cases where responder holds 2 or 3 honour tricks follow the general rule of a higher and higher raise. In the former case of 2 helping honour tricks, the response is plainly 3 clubs with even distribution but 3 hearts with

an uneven one. The honour level is 6, on the boundary of the game zone, and a game may be confidently expected to result. Should the partner of the opener have 3 honour tricks in his hand, the strength of the 2 allies is 7, clearly pointing to at least a small slam. The answers are 3 diamonds, if the suits are equally divided, and 3 spades if they are divided unequally. A fortunate supplementary

holding of 4 tricks puts the partners on velvet. The frontier of the grand slam zone is reached and the proper bids are, as usual, 4 clubs with even distribution and 4 hearts if the distribution is uneven.

We shall proceed next to deal with the other cases of opening bids of two, viz., 2 clubs, 2 spades and 2 diamonds, where the responder has to respond willy-nilly, even with a trickless hand.

TABLE OF RESPONSES TO OPENING BID

Opening bid.	Responder's holding.	Response with balanced distribution.	Responses with unbalanced distribution.	Total tricks in both hands.
1 C ($2\frac{1}{2}$)	< 1	pass	1 H	$2\frac{1}{2}$
	1	1 D	1 S	$3\frac{1}{2}$
	$1\frac{1}{2}$	1 N T	2 H	4
	$2\frac{1}{2}$	2 C	2 S	5
	$3\frac{1}{2}$	2 D	3 H	6
	$4\frac{1}{2}$	3 D	3 S	7
1 D ($3\frac{1}{2}$)	$5\frac{1}{2}$	4 C	4 H	8
	< $\frac{1}{2}$	pass	1 S	$3\frac{1}{2}$
	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1	1 N T	2 H	4 ($4\frac{1}{2}$)
	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2 C	2 S	5
	$2\frac{1}{2}$	2 D	3 H	6
	$3\frac{1}{2}$	3 D	3 S	7
1 N T (4)	$4\frac{1}{2}$	4 C	4 H	8
	< 1	pass	2 H	4
	1	2 C	2 S	5
	2	2 D	3 H	6
	3	3 D	3 S	7
	4	4 C	4 H	8
1 H ($2\frac{1}{2}$)	< 1	pass	pass	$2\frac{1}{2}$
	1	pass	1 S	$3\frac{1}{2}$
	$1\frac{1}{2}$	1 N T	2 H	4
	$2\frac{1}{2}$	2 C	2 S	5
	$3\frac{1}{2}$	2 D	3 H	6
	$4\frac{1}{2}$	3 D	3 S	7
	$5\frac{1}{2}$	4 C	4 H	8

Opening bid.	Responder's holding.	Response with balanced distribution.	Responses with unbalanced distribution.	Total tricks in both hands.
1 S (3½)	< ½	pass	pass	3½
	½ to 1	1 N T	2 H	4 (4½)
	1½	2 C	2 S	5
	2½	2 D	3 H	6
	3½	3 D	3 S	7
	4½	4 C	4 H	8
2 H (4)	† < 1	2 N T (or pass)	2 N T (or pass)	4
	1	2 N T	2 S	5
	2	3 C	3 H	6
	3	3 D	3 S	7
	4	4 C	4 H	8
2 C (5)	< 1	2 N T	2 S	5
	1	2 D	3 H	6
	2	3 D	3 S	7
	3	4 C	4 H	8
2 S (5)	< 1	2 N T	2 N T	5
	1	3 C	3 H	6
	2	3 D	3 S	7
	3	4 C	4 H	8
2 D (6)	< 1	3 C	3 H	6
	1	3 D	3 S	7
	2	4 C	4 H	8
3 H (6)	< 1	3 N T	3 S	6
	1	4 C	4 H	7
	2	4 D	4 S	8

† Note:—Pass, if 6 or more cards in hearts are held.

Opening Bids of 2 C, 2 S, 2 D, Responses

Let us assume that the opening bid is 2 clubs. According to the table, this discloses a holding of 5 honour tricks and at the same time indicates that the distribution is balanced. The partner should respond even with a bust, as even the three level may be reached with the strength in the opening

hand alone. Naturally the 4 level is out of the question unless the combined strength reaches 6.

With less than one honour trick in hand, the partner should bid 2 no-trumps with a balanced hand and 2 spades with an unbalanced one. Holding 1 trick, he may raise the bid to 2 diamonds with

even distribution and to 3 hearts with an uneven one. Both these bids cross the frontier of the game zone, the total trick holding amounting to 6. Should the responder hold 2 tricks, he may safely venture on 3 diamonds if his suits are evenly divided and 3 spades if they are disposed unevenly. The honour level indicates possibilities of a little slam. With the remaining honour strength of 3 in his own hand, it is clear that the opponents can have only as many tricks as snakes in Von Troil's Iceland—that is, none at all. A grand slam is in the offing. The respective bids in this situation are, as usual, 4 clubs with an even keel and 4 hearts if there is a list to port or starboard.

The next case where the opener holds an unusual strength of 5 tricks in his own hand is where his distribution is of the unbalanced kind. In this situation, the opening bid is the standard 2 spades. The partner must make some response even if he has no honour values in his hand. Should he have less than 1 trick, he bids 2 no trumps whether his hand is of the balanced or unbalanced type. If he holds one honour trick, taking the

combined honour strength to the level of 6, i.e., touching the game zone, the responses are 3 clubs if the hand is of even pattern, and 3 hearts if the pattern is uneven. Should the responder have an honour strength of 2 tricks, the proper bid is 3 diamonds if the hand pattern is balanced and 3 spades if it is unbalanced. If the partner of the opener have all the balance of strength, viz., 3 honour tricks in support, a grand slam is clearly on the horizon; the reply is, obviously, 4 clubs with suits equally divided and 4 hearts if they are divided unequally.

The last case of a two-opener is distinguished from the two preceding ones in respect of the fact that such an opening indicates a holding of as many as 6 honour tricks, instead of 5. The distribution is of the pattern which is balanced. The proper bid in this situation is one of 2 diamonds. Even with less than 1 honour trick, partner should bid 3 clubs if his hand is also balanced and 3 hearts if it is unbalanced. Opener indicates that he has probably game in his own hand, and with a little support from partner, a slam is round the corner. Should responder hold

one honour trick, he replies with 3 diamonds if his hand is of the even type but 3 spades if it is of the uneven kind, indicating, as before, probability of a little slam. With all the remaining honour

strength in his hand, viz., 2 quick tricks, a sure augury of a grand slam result, the answer is the customary 4 clubs with a level hand and 4 heart if the hand is sloping.

A MAL-TREATED DEAL

(Contd. from page 27)

a Queen and knave and lightened with optimism and hope, landed his partner in a 4 Heart contract. I was frankly amazed when neither North nor South doubled. But my amazement changed to a gasp of dismay when North led the S. A and I winced with agony when he continued with the S. Q. In the upshot

W was only one down. East-West congratulated themselves on their calling and play and it was with difficulty that I restrained myself from pointing out that the proper opening lead of Diamonds would make them 3 down and any other lead, except Spades would make them at least 2 down.

* * * * *

Rubber Bridge.—4 Hearts contract doubled and redoubled.

My partner (North) lead (opening lead) club ten as a defender. The opponents made 4 Hearts. With any other lead, of a different suit, the contract must be 1 set (down).

SOUTH.—What do you mean by leading club ten partner.

NORTH.—Oh, it is a *nothing on Top* lead.

It took 5 minutes for the laughter to subside and for my partner to realize that a "nothing on top" is not quite the same as a "top of nothing."

READER'S FORUM

An Advocate Writes

Here is a deal that occurred recently. I was West and K. P. C. (cum-Engineer) was my partner. He dealt and opened 1 C. South (Thambi) over-called with 1 D. I bid 1 N. T. (My free 1 N. T. might be open to criticism. You know what I am and there it is. This problem that I am referring to concerns more with the play of the hands than with the bidding). North (A. Sundararajan) passed and K. P. C. bid 2 C. Thambi passed and I raised to 2 N. T. (Can optimism go further?) A. S. again passed and K. P. C. now raised the bid to 3 N. T. A. Sundararajan (North) doubled and led 7 of Diamonds which dummy's lone Ace took. The deal:

♠ A, 7, 6, 5, 3		♠ K, 10, 9, 4
♥ J, 10, 9		♥ 6, 3, 2
♦ 7, 5, 2		♦ A
♣ 10, 7		♣ A, K, Q, 9, 4
(A. S.)		(K. P. C.)
♠ Q, 8, 2	N	
♥ A, Q, 4	W	
♦ 9, 8, 6, 4	E	
♣ J, 8, 2	S	
(M. S. K.)		
♠ J		
♥ K, 8, 7, 5		
♦ K, Q, J, 10, 3		
♣ 6, 5, 3		
(Thambi)		

I studied the hands and decided that A. S. had the Spade Ace for his double and Thambi had the KQJ of Diamonds and the K of Hearts for his over-call. Having come to that decision, I played low Club up to my Jack and led a small Spade from my hand to steal a trick for the King. A. S. played low and having successfully made the spade king, I finessed the Heart queen also successfully. My contract now was a cinch. (Note, I did not play Heart before I got the Spade trick because I did not want North to know about my Heart holding earlier.)

The point for decision is, should A. S. have taken his Spade Ace at the first opportunity and led back Diamonds, in which case I am immediately set 1 trick? If you had been sitting North, how would you have figured out the situation?

Our Answer.—The Problem relates purely to one's mental cum physical condition. If we had dined well or were feeling happy over a few whiskies and

soda, we would have followed in the wake of Mr. A. Sundararajan. Our optimism would have guaranteed a trick for an Ace in a No-trump contract. But if our mind was really concentrated on the game, we would have surely taken the Ace trick immediately to lead another diamond. With 5 tricks already ensured in clubs, apart from the diamond Ace trick, it was obvious that de-

A Military Officer Writes:—

"Will you please give us your opinion as regards the following incident? All the four are decent players following the Black-Wood convention. None of them is generally absent-minded. The bidding proceeded as follows:—

N	E	S	W
—	2 H	—	2 S
—	3 D	—	3 S
—	4 N T	—	

At this particular stage in the bidding, W hesitated for sometime and then said, "Didn't you bid diamonds once, partner?" South interposed with "You have no right to make that remark." West replied, "That doesn't mean anything. It's all right." After some unpleasant remarks on either side, the bidding reached 6 S and seven was made. W had one ace.

clarer was trying to steal a trick in Spades. It was as obvious, with North's holding, that declarer counted on 2 other tricks in Hearts. If declarer had still a stopper in diamonds, South can well be credited with the heart Ace. In this case, again, it was essential that diamonds be established before the heart Ace is taken out.

Yesterday, N came to me and told me the above story and asked me for my opinion as regards the penalty to be imposed for such remarks. After some thought, I told him that he could have called for a new deal, if he thought that the remark was intentional. I further remarked that you were about the only authority on Bridge in India and that I would get your analysis. Please give your decision as early as possible..."

Our answer. The particulars given are not sufficient to enable us to express any definite opinion even from the point of view of ethics. It has not been stated what bid was made by West after East's 4 N.T. call. Probably, it was 5 diamonds. Even so, we confess we have not

caught the atmosphere of the incident to the extent of knowing whether exception was ultimately taken to the first remark only ("Didn't you bid diamonds once, partner?") or to the rejoinder as well ("That doesn't mean anything. It's all right.") and much less what suggestion or insinuation was held to be contained in the aforesaid remarks or either of them.

In any case, the laws of the game, as played in Rubber Bridge, do not provide for any penalties as such for general remarks of this kind, unless any such remark discloses a particular card or cards in the hand. In this latter case, of course, such card or cards have to be placed on the table face upwards during the auction and if such card is of honour rank or if there are two or more such cards, the owner's partner must pass whenever it is his turn to call. The laws, however, do not provide for

other general remarks. They do not provide, and do not pretend to provide, for intentional remarks, including significant or suggestive questions. These remarks and suggestions are covered by the proprieties of the Game, which demand, among others, the avoidance of "any remark, question or gesture from which an inference may be drawn." If, however, any such remarks, etc., are made intentionally, the penalty is only moral and not assessed at so many points. The usual penalty for any such intentional remarks is to give the offender one on the jaw or 'send him to Coventry' and refuse to play with him. The laws of Contract, as played in Duplicate games, however, would appear to be more comprehensive as regards some of these suggestions and remarks, particularly during the period of play. This is due largely to the more or less absolute powers vested in the Tournament Director.

Mr. S. M. K. Shastri writes:—

"Here is a deal that was played at Hospet. How is a slam to be arrived at, with both sides vulnerable and with no intervening bid?

♠ xx	♠ A xxx
♥ A Q J 10 x W E	♥ K
♦ K Q xx (Dealer)	♦ A J x,
♣ A 10	♣ K J xxx

We invite letters from our readers on bridge subjects.

Our Answer.—This is undoubtedly an intriguing hand from the point of view of bidding. Not merely on this account but also from a desire to give an opportunity to our readers to exercise their ingenuity, we would first invite them to give their solutions before publishing our own answer.

NEWS AND NOTES

From Devakotta

A Team-of-four duplicate contest before dinner and a Progressive Pairs duplicate contest, according to Mitchell movement, after dinner were the chief features of the party got up by the Devakotta United Club to bid farewell to Mr. V. Krishnamachariar, on the eve of his transfer from the station. Five teams for the Team-of-four event played the same sixteen deals simultaneously at five tables and Messers M. S. Krishnaswami, S. T. Chari, S. Jagannathiengar and V. Krishnamachariar (the guest of the evening) were the winners and Messers T. R. Sundararajan, A. Vedantam, V. Srinivasiengar and V. Ramaswamiengar were the runners-up. A delightful dinner was served after the close of the event and the Progressive event was commenced at 9 P. M. 20 nice deals were played at five tables in two movements. No, no deal was met with a second time to cause any despair. Messers T. Sundararajan and M. R. Sivaramakrishnaiyer (E. W.) and Dr. M. G. Subramanier and Mr. M. D. Parthasarathi (N. S.) were the winners and Messers M. S. Krishnaswami and S. T. Chari (E. W.) and Dr. P. P. Menon and Mr. N. Arunachalam (N. S.) were the runners-up. The difference in match points between the winners and the runners-up was just $\frac{1}{2}$ a point for E. W. and 4 points for N. S. Handsome prizes were distributed to the successful parties at the close of the function. The departing guest proved his efficiency in coming out first in the team-of-four event and then his generosity in coming last in the progressive event.

The Tiruppur innovation :

Mr. S. Rajam Iyer, Advocate, Tiruppur, deserves our hearty congratulations for his welcome enterprise in instituting "The Master Solvers' Tournament Cup" to be awarded to the competitor securing the maximum credits in the solution of the **American Bridge World Master Solvers' problems**. It would be very educative to our readers to take part in the contest. But from the results we have received so far, we are surprised to find that only an infinitesimal minority among the numerous bridge fans have actually sent in their solutions. In fact, we could not find even one from Trichinopoly. What a sad commentary!

The Christmas Carnival :

The Zone Committees for Madras, Coimbatore, Trichy, Madura and Calicut centres have been formed for the Christmas Championship tournaments. The Zone Committee for Rajahmundry centre will be formed shortly. The response from other centres has not been encouraging. The time before us is very short. Bridge enthusiasts are requested to form zone committees where they are not formed. Entries from the various areas should be sent to the respective Zone Secretaries, where Zone centres have been formed on or before 7-12-'40 and to the Honorary General Secretary on or before the 30th of November 1940. (Particulars and Addresses of Secretaries are given on page 41.)

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The I. C. I. Sports Club Tournaments :

The third of the series of tournaments conducted by the Imperial Chemical Industries Sports Club, Madras, have just come to an end. The number of entries shows how popular these tournaments have become, thanks to the energetic endeavours of the tournament secretaries. In spite of the intellectual pleasures afforded by Duplicate play, the tournaments were confined to "Open Pairs" at Contract and Auction. It is surprising how many players still derive satisfaction from playing "Auction Bridge", so insipid compared to its fascinating younger sister.

Limited as the events were, the tournaments were not without interest. In one of the early rounds at Contract, Sris. T. M. Kasturi and Ramaswami Iyer of the M. U. C. found themselves "tied" with the opponents at the end of the prescribed 24 deals, that is, the total points secured by each pair were exactly equal. In the re-play ordered by the Tournament Committee, the M. U. C. players managed to win but were eliminated in the next round. Another pair from the United Club won an exciting second round match through a flash of brilliance, born of despair. With a bare two plus honour tricks between them, the United Club Pair by bold interference and bluff doubles pushed the opponents into a game contract; the opponents rattled by such swash-buckling tactics failed to place the cards correctly and went down one, and thus lost the match. But all the strategy and experience of the players from the M. U. C. availed them little, for out of the eight pairs who entered, not one reached the final round.

Sris. Ramachandra Rao and Sreeramulu Naidu of The Andhra Mahasabah, who distinguished themselves by winning the Progressive Event at Coimbatore met Sris. M. K. Sreenivasa Mudaliar and P. G. Sankara Iyer of the Vani Athletic Association in the final match at Contract. This interesting Match was really decided in the last but two deals. With six plus honour tricks between them and a favourable distribution of cards, conservative bidding robbed the Andhra Pair of a small Slam when they were vulnerable. The cards never forgave them and the Vani Pair ran out winners.

The Southern India Vysya Association represented by Sris. G. Hanumantha Rao and Sreeramulu won the Auction Event after beating Sris. A. P. Sundarachariar and C. Devaraja Iyengar in the finals in a gruelling fight.

On the afternoon of Friday, the 1st of November, there was a pleasant function. Mrs. C. D. Priestley kindly gave away the prizes, and Sri V. V. Srinivasa Iyengar, that doyen of the Madras Bar, presided and spoke at length on the advantages of healthy and intellectual recreation. The large crowd of bridge enthusiasts appreciated the remarks as they fell from the lips of one who probably ranks bridge with his books and Billiards.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

The Constitution. The Rules Committee appointed by the Executive Council for drafting the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Association have, after considerable spade work, concluded their labours. The Executive Council had considered, and with various modifications approved, the rules relating to tournaments as also a portion of the Constitution at the meetings held at Trichinopoly on the 19th and 20th of October 1940. Mr. J. Subbuswami, Bar-at-Law, the Secretary of the Rules Committee, was present by invitation at these meetings to explain the views of the Rules Committee. The Executive Council hopes to get through the remaining portion of the draft Constitution at an early date before the Constitution and the Rules are placed before the General Body for final approval about the end of this year during the time the final rounds of the Championship Tournaments are played in Madras. Any of the members interested in studying the draft Constitution and Rules before they are placed before the General Body can write to the Honorary General Secretary for a copy of the same.

Our Membership Roll. Applications for membership have been flowing in from individuals and clubs ever since the amalgamation. The result is that we have passed the second century in our membership score board and are now well into the third century. But there is quite a large number of last year's members who are still in arrears so far as this year's subscription is concerned. And we are now about the close of the year! Is our enthusiasm so fleeting that those who had joined the Association only last year have yet to be reminded about the payment of their annual subscriptions? The progress of any Association is fundamentally dependent on the prompt and the regular payment of all subscriptions. We hope and expect that those who are in arrears will remit their dues to the central office immediately.

1940 Open Bridge Tournaments

Having regard to the growing enthusiasm for Contract Bridge and the keen interest taken in this game, The South Indian Bridge Association has decided to conduct the following Tournaments for the year 1940 during the ensuing Christmas Holidays, open only to Members and Member-Clubs of the

Association. Those who are not already members of this Association are requested to enlist themselves as Members on payment of the following rates of subscriptions for the last quarter of this year:—

Individual Life Members	...	Rs. 30 0 0
Life Member-Clubs	...	Rs. 75 0 0
Individual Members	...	Rs. 0 8 0
Member Clubs	...	Rs. 1 4 0

1. Contract Bridge "*Duplicate Team of Four*" for the Sir T. Sadasiva Iyer Challenge Cup (Rolling).

2. Contract Bridge "*Open Pairs*" for the Burke-Johnson Shield (Rolling).

3. Contract Bridge "*Progressive Pairs Duplicate*".

The entrance fee is Rs. 1-4-0 for each individual player for each event.

Besides the Challenge Cup and Shield, the winners and runners-up will be presented with permanent silver cups for each of the events.

With a view to offer facilities to Bridge players from all parts of South India to participate in the Tournaments, the Association proposes to hold preliminary rounds of the Tournaments in the following various Zone centres for the prescribed Zone areas:—

1. **Madras** (confined to the city of Madras). Hon. Secy. Sri M. R. Duraiswamy, B.A., B.L., c/o M. U. C., Park-town, Madras.
2. **Coimbatore** (confined to the Districts of Coimbatore, Salem and Nilgiris). Hon. Secy. Sri V. Srinivasa Iyer, B.A., B.L., 5/14, Bank Road, Coimbatore.
3. **Trichinopoly** (confined to the Districts of Trichy, Tanjore and South Arcot). Hon. Secy. Sri S. V. Natarajan, B.A., B.L., c/o The City Club, Fort, Trichinopoly.
4. **Madura** (confined to the Districts of Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely and South Travancore). Hon. Secy. Mrs. Coorey, c/o Mr. C. D. Coorey, I.C.S., Municipal Commissioner, Madura.

5. **Vellore** (confined to the Districts of North Arcot, Chingleput and Chittoor).
6. **Bellary** (confined to Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah and Anantapur).
7. **Calicut** (confined to the Districts of North Malabar, South Malabar, South Canara, Cochin and North Travancore).
Hon. Secy. Rev. Dr. A. B. Das, M.R.A.S., K. M. Dispensary, Calicut.
8. **Rajahmundry** (confined to the Northern Circars).
9. **Bangalore** (confined to Mysore State).
10. **Secunderabad** (confined to Hyderabad State).

It is proposed to have the preliminary rounds of the tournaments played in the various zone centres before 24th December, 1940. The Zone winners, or the winners and the next one or two in the order of rank according to the number of entries as may be decided by the tournament committee of the Association, will alone be eligible to compete for the final rounds to be played at Madras between the 29th of December, 1940 and 1st of January, 1941.

The Zone winners will be awarded Zone cups (silver cups) irrespective of the results in the final rounds. The object of holding preliminary rounds in Zone centres is to confine the final rounds to the best adjudged players of different localities and to avoid crowding in the final rounds. To add further interest and attraction to the final rounds, the Association has also decided to hold an "Individual Championship" contest confined to the winners and runners-up in the various events in the final rounds.

The Association has been able to fix up the Zone centres in Madras, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and Madura in view of the assured response of the competitors over and above the minimum requirements. The Association hereby appeals to the Bridge players and intending competitors in the other Zone centres viz., Vellore, Bellary, Calicut, Rajahmundry, Bangalore

and Secunderabad to apply to its Honorary General Secretary on or before 30-11-1940 stating their intention to compete for the tournaments. Provided at least 12 pairs for each event (including 6 teams-of-four for duplicate) undertake to participate in the tournaments for each of the above Zones, the Association will be in a position to arrange for preliminary rounds of the tournaments being played in such Zone centres and not otherwise. Full particulars containing rules and regulations for the tournaments will be published in the form of a booklet after fixing the Zone centres.

If for any reason any Zone centre is not formed, the competitors in that Zone area may compete in the nearest Zone. All intending competitors are requested to send in their entries to the undersigned **not later than 30th November, 1940** or to the Zone Secretaries on or before 7th Dec. 1940.

The Association hereby also appeals and requests all Bridge enthusiasts to interest themselves in the formation of Zone centres wherever not formed and make the ensuing tournaments a success.

All communications may be addressed to;

THE ZONE SECRETARY

or to

SRI K. R. SUNDARAM IYER,

Hon. General Secretary, S. I. B. A.,

The Madras United Club, Park Town, Madras.

* * * * *

"Why the black eyes, old man?" a notoriously much-married man was asked by a friend.

"Well, you see," said the black eyed one, "I came home rather late from club the other night and thought I'd read a little before going to bed. My wife came down and caught me, and there was some very pronounced trouble."

"What were you reading?"

"By ill-luck I'd chosen the Indian Bridge World".

HOW DO YOU BID AND PLAY

(For Answers see Page 47)

I. The bidding proceeds:—

(1) North	South
2 NT	3 ♦
3 NT	?

You South hold:

♠ J 5 ♥ 8 ♦ Q 10 9 6 5 2
♣ K Q J 6

What do you bid?

(2) North	South
2 NT	?

You South hold:

♠ J 10 9 7 4 ♥ 8 3 ♦ 5 4 2
♣ 7 5 4

What do you bid?

(3) North	South
2 ♥	4 ♥
?	

You North hold:

♠ A 2 ♥ A K 10 8 6 4 3 ♦ A 3
♣ A Q

What do you bid?

(4) North	South
2 NT	3 C
3 NT	?

You South hold:

♠ 10 7 6 ♥ 8 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ K
10 9 8 7 6

What do you bid?

II. (1) With both sides vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
3 ♦	?		

You East hold:

♠ 6 3 ♥ A K Q J 7 3 ♦ 3
♣ A Q 10 4

What do you bid?

(2) East-West are vulnerable and the bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
3 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠	Double
pass	5 ♦	pass	?

You West hold:

♠ J 5 4 ♥ J ♦ A 5 4 3 2
♣ A 10 6 2

What do you bid?

(3) The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
3 ♠	?		

You East hold:

♠ A J 10 3 ♥ A 4 ♦ 8 7 6 4 2
♣ K Q

What do you bid?

III. Using the Culbertson asking bid conventions, the bidding has proceeded:

North	South
1 ♥	2 ♣
3 ♦	4 ♦
4 ♠	?

In each of the following hands you are South. What is your bid?

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) ♠ Q 6 5
♥ A
♦ K 7 4 2
♣ K 7 5 4 3 | (2) ♠ 4
♥ K 6
♦ K 7 3 2
♣ A Q J 6 4 3 |
| (3) ♠ —
♥ A 2
♦ 10 9 8 7 4
♣ A Q 10 6 4 3 | (4) ♠ K 2
♥ J 8
♦ A 4 3 2
♣ K Q J 7 4 |
| (5) ♠ A 7, 2
♥ 9
♦ K 10 4 2
♣ A 10 5 4 3 | |

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IV.

North	East	South	West
(1) 1 ♥	pass	1 N.T.	pass
3 ♦ (?)			
(2) 1 ♥	pass	1 ♠	pass
3 ♠ (?)			
(3) 1 ♥	pass	2 ♥	pass
3 ♥ (?)			
(4) 1 ♥	pass	1 N.T.	pass
3 ♥ (?)			
(5) 1 ♣	pass	1 ♦	pass
1 ♠ (?)			
(6) 1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♠ (?)	

What is the nature of each of the final bids? Say whether it is (a) Forcing to game.

(b) forcing for one round.
(c) Semi-forcing. (d) Non-forcing.

V.

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

Spades are trumps. South leads and North-South have to win six of the seven tricks.

IT'S SHARMAN

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IS IT ETHICAL OR NOT?

Talking a lot and thinking but little, two old gentlemen had deservedly earned the name of 'Chatter-boxes' in Bridge circles. There are many stories concerning them; and this one occurred during a recent Progressive Bridge Tournament. Our informant and his partner proceeded to their table and there found the two chatty birds bubbling with excitement. It took no urging to have them confide. "We just heard that somebody bid and made a grand slam in hearts. Isn't that thrilling? Did you bid it?"

"No," said our informant, dubiously, trying to recall such a hand as he removed his cards from the Duplicate board. His attention was brought back to his business of the moment, when his right hand opponent sat up in his chair and bid one heart. And the hand to which that attention was given was a sorry-looking mess indeed. It was apparent that the grand slam hand had arrived—for the opponents. Our informant recognised it at once. The opponents should have recognised it too, since they had themselves told him about it. The ethics of the situation were somewhat complicated. But he decided that, with the poor fish before him, it would be unsportsmanlike to demand an average. It was, at the same time, foolish to let the bidding take its untrammelled course. So he doubled. The gentleman at his left glared and redoubled. Our informant's partner bid one spade, and the original bidder jumped emphatically to "Three hearts." Fearing the worst, but unable to do anything more about it, our informant passed. Not so the gentleman on his left. With a withering look that bespoke his contempt at any futile efforts to "psych" him out of a good bid, and putting into his voice every ounce of expression he could command, he chirruped "Content."

So too, were his opponents, particularly when it was found that 7 Hearts was a lay-down.

ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS ON PAGE 44

I. (i) 4 C. or 4 D. Generally you are afraid to bid over 3 N. T. because of the Singleton and doubleton in the majors. But there is a good chance for a slam in Diamonds and a further bid must, therefore, be made. 4 clubs is a safe bid or at least a rebid in Diamonds. It would tell your partner that you are not averse to a slam try. Even if he does not bid slam, a game in the minors ought to be a lay down.

(ii) Pass: The hand is worthless with no quick tricks and poor distribution. The temptation offered by the Five-Card Major Suit must be suppressed. A 3S. bid by you is certainly not going to be dropped by the partner and your long suit might not come in useful at a N. T. Contract. 4 S. also looks a poor contract.

(iii) Pass: By his 4 H, partner informs you that he holds no singleton, no honour higher than a Queen and Five cards in Hearts or at least Four to the Queen. In the circumstances, game is a lay-down but no provision for discards of the losers in the

other suits seems available for a slam contract.

(iv) 5 C: A Jump to 5 C. should indicate to your partner that you are interested in a slam after his strong opening bid. You are not strong enough to bid slam yourself and holding slight additional values and a good fit in clubs, he has to bid slam. In any event, 5 C. is safe.

II. (i) 4 H: A take-out double on your hand is no good because your partner is pretty certain to respond in Spades. You do not need his support in Hearts and 4 H is certainly not a shut-out since the opponents have already shown their best suit. Your bid is, in the circumstances, a strong bid and if your partner is able to bid freely over 4 H, a slam may be possible in Hearts or Clubs.

(ii) 6 D: When vulnerable, partner has bid 4 H showing a strong hand. Your double of 4 S shows him nothing since it might be based on your spade strength. His rebid of 5 D (without any encouragement) shows a powerful two-suiter hand. You hold 5 Diamonds to the Ace

and an outside Ace, a singleton in partner's first suit and plenty of trumps to ruff out losers therein. 6 D, therefore, must be bid.

(iii) Pass: The question is whether to bid or not to bid. You might miss a game, it is true; but consider other possibilities. To play at 3 N.T. you would require a lot of help from partner. If you double 3 S, your partner might not know whether you want it to be left in and the odds are that he will take you out into 4 H or 4 C, both of which you cannot support. You might find yourself ultimately in a contract entailing a huge penalty. Pass, therefore, and if South is crazy enough to go four, you can murder that contract or if South passes and your partner can double,

leave it in for penalty. Discretion is the better part of valour.

III. (i) 5 D. (ii) 5 C. (iii) 4 N.T. (treating the Spade void as second-round control. If partner signs off 5 D, you can then bid 5 S showing your void. Nothing would be lost since partner was in any event prepared for a 5 S response) (iv) 6 D. (v) 4 N.T.

IV. (i) B. (ii) C. (iii) D. (iv) C. (v) B. (vi) A.

V. South leads Spade 10 on which dummy's Ace of Hearts is discarded. Diamonds are then run off and on the small Heart return East's king wins to lead a Heart or a Diamond. If East does not win, South's Queen and Diamond Jack are good. (Problem of hidden re-entry).

Some Don'ts in the Game

Don't employ the forcing system with a timid partner. She will be scared away.

Don't make a jump take-out in a long suit. The suit will be ruined.

Don't start Asking a banker-partner. He will refuse to play with you.

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the Best*

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reasonably
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*Please Come
and See them.*

*They are the
things You*

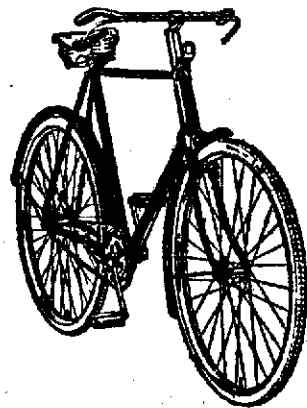
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