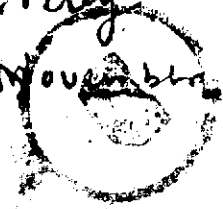


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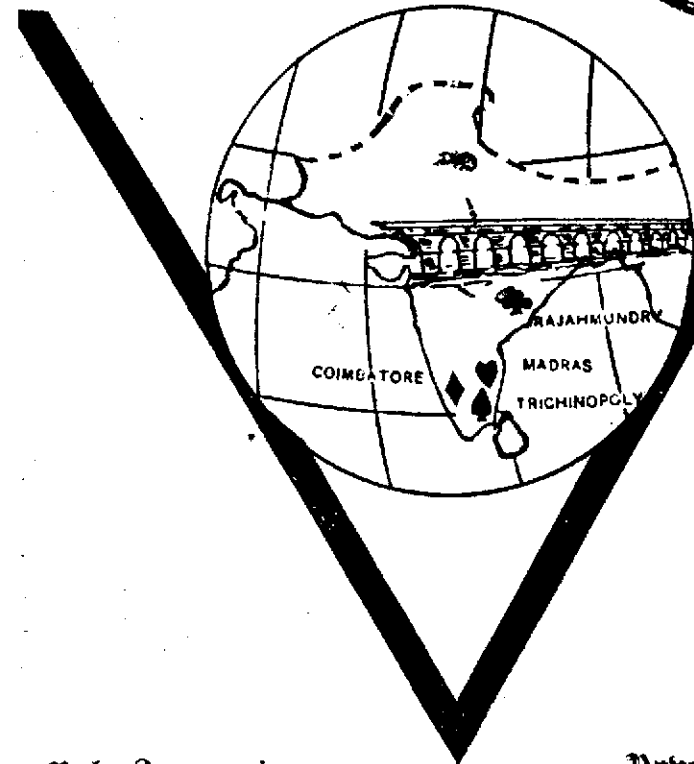
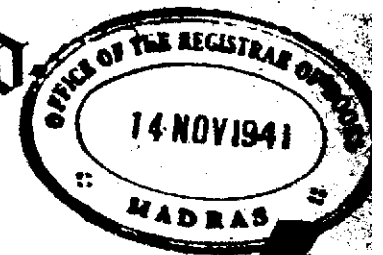
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The
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Vol. 2
Part IV

November 1941
IV Quarter

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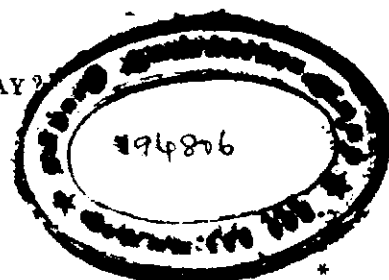
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CONTENTS

November 1941—(IV QUARTER)

	PAGE
SIR ORACLE DUCKS: <i>By 'Bridge fan'</i>	... 3
CARD—SHARKS: <i>By Dr. Musafar Karamchand</i>	... 7
OH, PARTNER! <i>By A. M. R. David</i>	... 11
COUPS & PLAYS: <i>By T. Essex</i>	... 16
BRIDGE RIVETS: <i>By S. M. K. Sastry</i>	... 19
FORCED INTO SLAMS: <i>By T. Kappa</i>	... 23
FROM THE EDITORIAL CHAIR	... 24
THE CLUB SYSTEMS: <i>By F. D. Dhanbhoora</i>	... 27
CROSS—RUFFS: <i>By T. Sogma</i>	... 30
PLAN YOUR PLAY, NO. IV SERIES: <i>By S. Rajam Iyer</i>	... 31
TODDLERS' CORNER:	... 35
READERS' FORUM:	... 38
HOW DO YOU BID AND PLAY?	... 41
NEWS AND NOTES	... 42
ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS	... 45



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

NUM 2.4

SIR ORACLE DUCKS

By 'Bridge Fan'

OUR hero belongs to the expert class of Bridge theorists. His knowledge of the various techniques, intricate plays, and 'coups' of the game is varied and up-to-date. Oftentimes he would "Deschappelle" Kings and Queens, and 'jettison' the Aces, saying that few players really understood the technique of entry-creating and unblocking. He excelled as he claimed in 'end plays' and always appeared to nose out the possibility of a 'squeeze'. In deals where the average player would spread his hand contending himself with the sure and only winners and surrendering the rest of the tricks, our dictator would persist in playing to the thirteenth card (much to the annoyance of those waiting to join the next rubber) to exploit, as he would say, the chances of an overtrick by a 'pseudo-squeeze'. It is his favourite boast that he has never missed a single opportunity of a 'throw-in' play forcing the opponent thereby to lead to his 'tenace'. Like a wizard, he could count the

cards of an opponent in any particular suit, and above all he had the uncanny knack of locating Singleton Kings. In short, Sir Oracle is the acknowledged Bridge Pandit of our club.

Quite recently he had read an article on "Ducking" in the American "BRIDGE WORLD". That article appears to have created a deep impression on him, and he exhorted each and every player in the club to read it so that they may learn the art of ducking. Since that day, he took to ducking almost as a fine art, saying that he was determined to further research and completely explore the wonderful possibilities of the science of ducking. Of course, as a result of his ducking mania his partners in the daily rubber games suffered badly, carrying sure Aces home. But Sir Oracle was unperturbed and continued to revel in ducking—indeed he could not get obviously perturbed because of the standing convention in our club that whoever gets the privilege of

cutting him as partner plays for double stakes himself. It was during this period of our expert's research work that the annual World Bridge Olympic contest arrived. All of us in the club were vying with each other to become his lucky partner in the ensuing contest. The Dictator, however, kept us all in suspense till about a week before the event, when he announced his choice and, surprisingly enough the mantle fell upon me, almost a beginner in Contract. I jumped with joy at my good fortune, for with such a tiger as my partner I felt assured that the World Olympic cup, reputed to be worth several gold Guineas, was as good as in my hand. During my dreams, the gold cup danced before me with scintillating brilliance, and my partner appeared to take the cup and toss it on to me saying "Behold the cup I have won for you!" Not placing complete faith in my dreams, however, I began to read assiduously the "RED BOOK" of Culbertson because the expert had told me that if only I was thorough with the "RED BOOK" the Olympic would be mere child's play.

On the eve of the Olympic, Sir Oracle drew me aside and

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

whispered in low tones "Look here Partner! I am certain that in this year's Olympic there is bound to be a deal in which the key play is ducking, and, believe me, should there be such a deal, the *par* on that hand is undoubtedly only for us." Like a true disciple, I nodded acquiescingly, but I wished in my heart of hearts that in all the 16 Olympic deals the key play should be a ducking 'coup' so that all the *pars* may be assured for us.

On the night of the Olympic contest, we cut for North-South position. My partner bade me sit North, himself sitting South. We finished 15 out of the 16 deals. Although I tried to play my best, not a single deal escaped the comments of the expert, who was heard remarking that either I had missed a beautiful double-squeeze, or that I had failed to strip the opponent's hand of the 'idle cards' before attempting a 'throw-in', or that I was always blind to the hand pattern and that my card placing and hand counting were lamentably weak. As for the deals played by the hero himself, he remarked, in a particular deal, where he kept the contract, that the deal was very simple and not

NOVEMBER 1941

up to the high Olympic standard. In two or three deals where he went down, he remarked that the contract was not there against a proper defence, and that the *pars* in those deals were surely defensive *pars*. As it was my maiden venture in the Olympic, I was content with simply listening in with rapt attention and admiration. But all the time there was a lurking feeling in my heart that the ducking deal prophesied by my partner had not so far appeared. And he, too, had not so far ducked or talked of ducking. With vanishing hopes I took the cards from the last Board. For the benefit of the readers of this article, I give below all the four hands of this deal.

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

South was the dealer, and the entire bidding was prescribed in the Olympic score-card as follows:—

South	West	North	East
1. H	Dble	pass	1. N. T
pass	3. N. T	pass	pass
pass			

The opening lead prescribed was the 6 of Hearts. The deuce was played from dummy, and I played the lone Jack. East promptly took the trick with the Queen. The declarer then thought for a while and played the Jack of Spades. At this stage, the expert went into a long huddle, and after full 15 minutes, (during which time, a large crowd of players who had finished the play in their tables has gathered around our table eager to see the great Panjandrum in action) put on the deuce with a wink in his eye and a smile on his lips. The declarer next played the 9 of Spades and my partner confidently ducked again. The declarer then shifted to Diamonds leading the King from dummy, and when it came to my partner's turn, he put the trey nonchalantly and looked around with a triumphant air courting the approbation of the 'Kibitzers'. The declarer followed with the Queen of Diamonds, when my partner cast a piteous look at the declarer and assuming the air of a hunter who feels sure that the prey has fallen in to the net, released the 8 of Diamonds. Instantaneously there was a suppressed giggle among the spectators. I thought that

Sir Oracle had become the hero of a brilliant and immortal 'coup play' when, to my great bewilderment, East, most unceremoniously spread his hand claiming 10 tricks, viz:- the Hearts queen, the 4 ducked tricks in Spades and Diamonds, the 4 solid tricks in clubs, and the Heart Ace. My partner murmured about my not having a stopper in Clubs, but without waiting to make his usual comments abruptly left the table saying that it was already past midnight. It was, however, whispered among the spectators that in all the other tables the contract was set and that in our table alone it was kept with an over-trick.

The par-sheets arrived from America a week later. I found that with regard to this particular deal, it was a declarers *par* for East-West, and that the correct and proper play was for the declarer to *duck* the opening lead by not taking it with the queen. The reason given was that South was marked with the 2 missing Aces for his opening bid, and the declarer's only chance to make the contract was to

find North with a singleton Jack in Hearts, (which was also the only higher card in North's hand, applying the rule of 1). If the opening heart is not "however" ducked the contract is set (of course against proper defence) for, by the time the second Ace trick is cashed by South, his Hearts are established. When I gently reminded the Dictator that by unnecessarily ducking the opponents had earned an undeserved *par*, he remarked "Partner! I knew that the key play in that deal was *ducking*. The foolish East ought to have ducked the opening lead. He misled me by not ducking and I therefore thought I must ———" I did not wait to hear the rest as I went away saying that I had an urgent appointment. Need I announce our Olympic result? It was a clean ducking for us. But are we downhearted? No! We are both determined to compete for the Olympic next year, by which time the redoubtable expert hopes to finish his researches and lay down clear-cut rules as to when to duck and when not to.

A Good Remedy

Mr. Weak-lung declared "I consulted a Lung Specialist and he said that shouting at the top of one's voice daily keeps one free from chest complaints in old age." "You will get full scope for it, if you become a member of our Bridge club" was the helpful answer.

CARD-SHARKS

By Dr. Musafar Karamchand

Madras Educational Service.

BEWARE of playing cards with strangers while on a sea voyage or holidaying at a seaside town or a hill station. Most card-sharpers work in gangs and sometimes they take the shape of a lovely woman who plays havoc with impressionable fools, particularly middle-aged ones of substance. Some of them are white-headed, are deep in the study of the Bible or Shakespeare, and are the last word in respectability, so much so that they would not play Bridge on a Sunday out of consideration for the feelings of a departed mother! They pretend to be utter strangers to one another and will sometimes caution you against one of the crowd giving him out as suspect. They spend hours, even days, over preliminaries for the creation of a suitable atmosphere, get confidential and ask your views on the political situation in India, tell you how strongly they feel for the freedom of this great land, and then trim you in no time.

How do they do it? Easy as sin. The quickness of the hand deceives the eye. They have dozens of packs of cards exactly similar to the ones you buy from the smoke-room steward or the hotel attendant and they are all set in different ways so that when they are palmed they can deal you just the hand that will land you into trouble. My mind goes back to a lovely afternoon, in early March of the year 1939, at Nice, one of the beauty spots of the Mediterranean. I was restfully reposing in one of the hundreds of easy chairs that line the Promenade des Anglais, when a glamorous lady sat down next to me and was soon deep in a book. Her literary absorption, likewise her looks, elicited my admiration and a little later, when the atmospheric warmth put her to sleep and her book dropped down, I found it to be a copy of "Hamlet". I was highly impressed and felt glad that in these days of senseless talkies and other cheap printed pabulum there

was a sensible damsel who believed in drinking deep. A little later, when she woke up, I was privileged to restore the book to the winsome scholar and was rewarded with a seraphic smile that would have won the heart of St. Joseph. She was delighted to discover that I spoke English and wondered whether I had ever read Shakespeare. I pleaded guilty to the charge and made a thorough ass of myself by giving her a glowing account of my academic distinctions. An excited talk on Shakespeare to Shaw followed and my services were forthwith requisitioned to throw light on some of the obscure speeches of the Prince of Denmark. I readily consented to join her at dinner at an exclusive hotel and the adjourned literary feast was resumed there. I learnt that she was Brazilian, immensely rich, and was doing Europe. Her present fly in the ointment was that she was an awfully keen Bridge player but avoided playing with strangers as she had been badly rooked by sharpers while crossing the North Atlantic. Evidently I had the honour of keeping company with a choice morsel of femininity. From a neighbouring table I heard an Anglican priest invite his aged

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

companion to a game of double-dummy Bridge in the smoke-room. Here, I thought, was an opportunity for a few rubbers of Bridge and walking up to the clergyman asked him whether he and his friend would be so good as to make up a four at Contract. He scrutinised my card and said that, much as he loved Bridge, he had made it a rule of life never to play with strangers or for big stakes but in case I had a partner he would be delighted to take us on, with Sir Henry Jocelyn as his partner, at a penny a point, with the further proviso that the game should end after a two hours' sitting. The prospect of the Brazilian beauty partnering me for two hours, and the vision of easy money from our aged opponents, made me very happy.

The game began. I was in luck. The auction of the very first hand resulted in a call of 4 ♡ by me and it was doubled. I made 240 below the line and scored 100 above for 4 honours. The next deal ended with a call of 5 ♣ by Sir Henry, doubled by my partner. That yielded us 500 on top. Apparently ♡ had a partiality for me that evening as the next auction closed with a call by me of 6 ♡,

NOVEMBER 1941

doubled and redoubled. I made 720 below the line and 1,250 on top. Sir Henry added up the score and announced that we had won £12/10/10. The total was 3000 and at a penny a point it should have been two shillings and six pence, according to my Indian notion of the Bridge language. When we in India talk of an anna a point, we really mean an anna a hundred points. The discovery that I was playing Bridge at over 8 shillings a hundred made me nervous but my confidence returned when I gazed at my lovely partner beaming at me. The opponents lost the next rubber by 984 points yielding us £4 2sh.

As I was dealing the next hand, I thought that I saw the reverend gentleman give a wink to the young lady. I said no bid, the next player passed, my partner called 6 notrumps, was doubled and redoubled. East led the king of spades and my partner triumphantly pointed out that it was a lead from the wrong hand and that I was lucky to be in a position to call a lead. East insisted that hers was the original call and not mine. She said that she had only raised her partner's call of one notrump to 6 notrumps. When I told her that I had

said no bid, she was in anguish for mis-hearing me. East collected 7 tricks in spades and then led his singleton diamond enabling his partner to cash 3 tricks in diamonds. My partner had A Q of clubs and A K of hearts in her hand and would have been perfectly justified in going 6 notrumps over my 1 notrump bid. We were 10 down and paid 5,800 as penalty. Soon the opponents made the rubber with a little slam followed by a grand slam. This rubber cost us £33 and in my mind, I again and again connected this disaster with the clergyman's wink.

The next rubber began with an opening bid of 1 notrump by my partner raised by me to 3 notrumps and resulting in 11 tricks for us. The following three deals passed off with our going down once and our opponents going down twice. During the play of the last but one hand, when I was the declarer, I thought that I again noticed a wink pass between my partner and the aged ecclesiastic. At the end of the game, I managed to drop my cards and the pencil on the floor and while picking them up made a faint mark on the aces of hearts and spades to make sure that

the packs were not being substituted. The deal of the next hand resulted in no bids all round. Then my partner dealt the cards and passed. East also passed. I held in my hand:

♠ A, K, Q, J, 10, 8

♥ A, K, Q

♦ A, K, Q, J

♣ ———

Lo and behold! Neither the ace of hearts nor of spades bore the pencil mark. The conclusion was obvious. The Delilah facing me had substituted a new pack. I was sure of one of the opponents holding the rest of the 7 spades along with 6 clubs with 4 or 5 top honours. The cards had apparently been so arranged as to make me call 7 spades, to double that bid and get it redoubled. That would have resulted in a haul of some £ 17 to the opponents. I rang for the waiter and when he appeared I asked him to send up the manager as the port was abominable. At that hotel they were rather proud of their wines and when the indignant manager arrived, I told him that one of the three players had on him or her a pack with a pencil mark on the aces of spades and hearts and that I strongly suspected one of my opponents holding in his

hand 7 spades and 6 clubs with 4, if not 5, top honours. We were requested to step into a small room and the hotel detectives found several packs of cards, including the one I marked, on my partner. West had the cards nominated by me and my reading of the situation turned out to be perfectly correct. The small sum that I had lost was refunded to me and, in addition, I was offered the hospitality of the hotel for a fortnight. What good old Shakespeare said about a good name in a man or woman is of equal, if not greater, applicability to a hotel. Thanks to that, the bogus parson and his winsome literary protege got off very cheaply with a quick and unceremonious exit from the hotel. Next evening at Monte Carlo, the most fascinating town in the universe, when an American lady, whose brother, she said, was the head of the Lutheran Mission in India, spoke gushingly of Gandhi and severely of the Thakore Sahib of Rajkot and his abettors, the British, and later invited me to a cup of tea and a small game of Poker or Bridge, she was sorely disappointed in my manners as I brusquely told her to try her political stock-in-trade and physical charms on some more gullible greenhorn.

OH, PARTNER!

By A. M. R. David

AS a Contract Bridge player and, as such, a lord in the world of cards, you swagger into a Bridge room to make the welcome find that there are three players already waiting for a "victim." Every Bridge player thinks, of course, that every other player in the universe is a predestined "victim" of his own brilliance. You cut for partners and make a boisterous and a happy beginning. You soon find that the person occupying the opposite chair is just a concentrated mass of imbecility. You impatiently wait for the end of a rubber to get somebody else in front of you. You think that there cannot be any individual in this world who can be more of a dud. The rubber comes to an end. You cut for partners again and you find with a sigh of relief that the mass of imbecility is transferred to another chair. But your relief is fleeting. You now find that you have a quint-essence of senility propped up before you, in the shape of a normal

player. Again, you wait for the end of the rubber. Again you believe, in your optimism, that senility cannot possibly go further. You welcome another change. Your feelings of relief are soon dispelled. You find, to your cost, that a personification of putrid perversity is now enthroned in the opposite chair. You go home, a poorer and a sadder person. You are hardly any wiser at the end, since you come back to the table the next evening to wait for "victims."

The way of a teacher is particularly hard. The most stupid blunders of the pupil are always laid at the doors of the teacher. About six years ago, I was sitting opposite a Major in the Indian Medical Service. The dealer bid 1 spade, the Major passed, the dealer's partner also passed and I looked again into my hand, which stared back at me as if to say, "Am I worthy looking into a second time?" The only picture that it contained was the Queen

of spades. Per-force, I passed. The hand was played at 1 spade and the declarer went 4 down. My partner was dropping Aces and Kings or at least Queens practically every time he played a card. He was as rich as Croesus in honours. "Oh, partner," I said, "Why didn't you bid?" "But haven't you told me over and over again," he retorted, with great indignation, "that I should not open two in a suit without at least 5 to 5½ quick-tricks. My suit was diamonds and I could not bid two diamonds after the dealer's one spade since I had even less than 5 quick-tricks." My attempts at explaining that a simple over-call at the level of two had not even the relationship of an *n*th cousin to an opening bid of two did not appear to make any impression. My partner had a sullen air of disbelief when he left. He didn't even wish me good-night.

A somewhat similar incident, but the other way round, happened a few months ago. I was sitting North with the following hand:—

♠ 10, 5, 3, 2
♥ Q, 8, 2
♦ K, 5, 4, 3
♣ J, 5

West opened the bidding with 1 spade. I passed and

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

East called a no-trump. South over-called with 2 hearts. West passed. So did I and East. My partner was glaring at me with fury. I naturally thought that his ire would abate when I laid down my hand. But his ferocity only appeared to increase. And by the time he finished making 7 hearts, he was foaming at the mouth. This is the hand that he had:—

♠
♥ A, K, J, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3
♦ A, J, 10, 9, 8
♣

He is quite an enthusiastic player and has been playing Contract for over a year, a year of 12-long-months. "But," he spluttered, "You tell us always that one should keep a bid of two alive till a game is reached. Probably you have a different rule for yourself." He was a greater strategist than the Major and believed in carrying the war into the enemy's camp!

About a year ago, I dealt with playing-tricks, and explained them in detail, at one of my talks. The next day, my partner started a two bid and we went along merrily to reach six and go about four down. I ultimately found that my honour strength of 2 to 2½ quick-tricks far outshone that of my partner,

whose glorious opening bid of two was a demonstration to the world of a sublime holding of about 1 to 1½ quick-tricks. He explained, however, with great energy, born of ardent sincerity, that he *did* possess about 5½ quick-tricks. It turned out that he was then counting playing-tricks as quick-tricks and the blunder was duly pointed out to him. He carried such bitter looks for the rest of the evening that any one would have been convinced that he had been greatly wronged.

My worst experiences have been with "clever" players. They commit the most colossal blunders. They would sometimes climb into high contracts on puerile hands but they would have "placed" the cards so well that, according to them, it would be impossible for them to lose. They would then achieve the impossible, to go 3 or 4 down, without any great effort. Oh, partner, you say, Wasn't that bid wrong or couldn't you have played the hand this other way? He talks a dozen words to your two and like Goldsmith's School-master, even though vanquished, he would argue still. He rarely pleads guilty to a mistake. At the worst, when he is definitely

cornered, he has always the ready explanation that a bid or play was a psychic one. He would go on to explain for your benefit how it is necessary to mislead the opponents by false bids and play at constant intervals.

There is an even more clever type that does not talk. Years and years ago, a shining member of the heaven-born service dropped into our club. Tennis over, we asked him if he played Contract. He gave a smile of definite affirmation. "But," he added, "I am not keen on the game." His looks and his language indicated that he had been playing the game from his infancy and that he had long grown sick of it. He was, however, roped in. For two or three evenings he blundered on but would just smile or shrug his shoulders. When he opened on nothing, his smile would imply "But my system may be better than Culbertson's for aught you know." When he stopped short of game on a powerful hand, his shrug would say "But how I can trust my partner's bids?" But my suspicions were roused by an accumulation of little incidents. On probably the 4th evening, I kept the scoring pad with me and as soon as

the game started, pushed it over to him and said, "Please keep the score. It is your turn." He was taken off his guard and told me he didn't know the "exact" scoring. Later in the evening, I forced him into a confession that he had not played the game before. He had had a nodding acquaintance with Auction. A little strut, a bit of pomp and some preciousness of speech and he had fooled us all for three whole evenings!

But after all is said and done, it is the control-taking partners that are the worst of the species. With strong hands, they assert a right to be in control. It is *their* declaration which must ultimately stand. With the most futile of hands, they yet want to be in control. They would start with a courtesy no-trump in these cases and insist on going on with no-trump whatever you might say or do. Or they would afterwards push in a suit call to indicate a ragged suit of 4 or 5, which should, however, be allowed to stand. With hands of this kind, they will always have the naive explanation that it is generally better for the weaker hand to play a deal.

In Bridge, as in life, beauty and charm have their sway.

A fine evening, about two years ago, I cut in with a dazzling thing in pink and it was agreed that I should play for double stakes. To celebrate the partnership, I called for drinks all round. The first deal was an eye-opener to me as to the number of mistakes of omission and commission in bidding and play that can be committed in the course of a few minutes. "Sorry, partner, my fault," I said at the end of the deal. She gave an enchanting smile by way of a charming acceptance of my apology. She played the next deal and the last six cards in her hand were 4 trumps (diamonds), and the master heart, King and 9. Dummy held two trumps, a singleton heart and three clubs. The trumps in the opponents' hands had been already pulled out. But my partner drew a long breath, considered the pros and cons of this difficult situation and finally played out all the trumps, and then the King of hearts and finally the 9 of hearts, which also won. "I got the squeeze all right, partner," she gleefully cried and I, in gallant duty bound, added my congratulations. That was my partner's only "brilliant" achievement.

We afterwards sank deeper and deeper into the mire of unmakeable contracts, thrown-away contracts and, to crown all, sacrifice bidding to save the rubber. The words, "Sorry, partner, my fault" stuck in my throat more and more till they could not be dug out even with a pneumatic drill.

The members of the fair sex, however, are, as a rule, extremely prudent and careful in bidding. They seldom go beyond the deadly-dull limits of absolute safety, with about 3 to 4 extra tricks in reserve for all contingencies. They prefer to hug their treasures in honours in secret modesty rather than expose them to the knowledge of the wily males around. In social Bridge at home, we play at the most for a pie per 100 points. My wife had once, about two years ago, gone one down in a game contract. She confessed, however, that she was then feeling light-headed on account of the amount of Shandy that I was consuming. She has since curbed her spirit of enterprise and is less rash now.

But for heaven's sake, don't play the Asking bids or the Blackwood convention with the fair ones. Prudent or imprudent, they are, by nature,

inquisitive. These conventions give them free scope for satisfying their impatient curiosity to find out how many Aces and Kings you have got. By the time they have elicited the Aces and Kings that you hold, you are naturally in the region of 6 or 7 with merely a couple of Aces and two and odd Kings missing.

But appearances are deceptive. You sometimes find fierce-looking individuals with whirling moustaches subject to this particularly feminine foible of inquisitiveness. They twist their moustaches with vigour and then make a Blackwood 4 no-trump call with even greater vigour, when they are themselves holding some blankety-blank hand. When they go 1 or 2 down, their, by then, drooping moustache indicates their drooping spirit. But they sit up, give another twirl and all is well with them. But what of us, unfortunate mortals, who have no such hairsute appendage to revive our spirit at will?

Our partners lure us on with their smiles. We are invariably trapped by their guiles, while the opponents, for whom they are intended, look on and smile. Their antics, born of senility, very

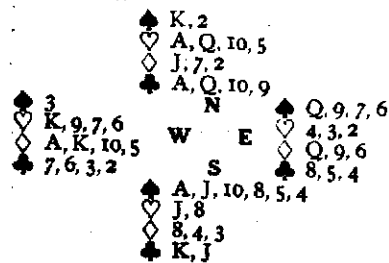
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COUPS AND PLAYS

By T. Essex

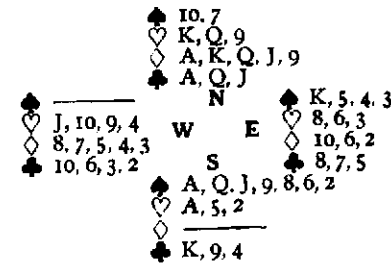
The Grand Coup

This coup is sometimes called "trump-reducing" play. Situations for its use arise when a loser in trumps is certain to the player to the right of the declarer, unless it can be caught by being led through him but there are not enough trumps in dummy to finesse through. The technique is simple. After the trump situation is clear, dummy must be entered again and again and master cards led therefrom and ruffed out, thus reducing the number of trumps in declarer's hand to the level of the right-hand opponent, who holds the potential trump stopper. After the eleventh trick, dummy must be in and a card led which the opponent is compelled to ruff and declarer, holding the tenace in trumps over him, over-ruffs and drops the stopper with his higher trump on the thirteenth trick. An example or two will illustrate.



South is playing a contract of 4 spades. West led K and A of diamonds, East echoing with 9 and 6. West continued diamonds. East took with the Queen. He did not like to lead up to the tenaces in clubs or hearts and so led a spade. South played the 10 and led the 4 of spades. West showed out. Now this leaves East with Q 9 of spades and declarer has A J 8 5. Having already lost three tricks in diamonds, South is top-weight and must make all the remaining tricks to fulfil his contract. He, therefore, plays as follows:—He makes King of clubs and then leads J overtaking with the Queen. He leads Ace of clubs and ruffs with spade 5. This is one trump reduced. He leads J of hearts and, unless West covers, overtakes with Queen, and leads the master club and ruffs it. East, of course, discards a heart, since if he ruffs, South's troubles are over at once. South enters dummy again with Ace of hearts, and leads a heart. East is helpless. He is compelled to ruff. South over-ruffs and drops his Queen on the Ace for the last trick. The hand given illustrates a "double" grand coup as South ruffs out two master clubs.

An example of a triple grand coup is given below:—



South is playing a contract of 7 spades. Obviously he has no losers in the plain suits. The only problem is to find if East holds four trumps to the King and if so, how to catch them. He can finesse only twice through East as dummy has only two spades. He has a number of superfluous tricks in Diamonds. Hence he proceeds as follows:—

West opens with J of hearts. North takes with the Queen and the 10 of spades is led and run. The 7 of spades is also finessed. West has shown already a void in trumps. South has to reduce his remaining 5 trumps to 2, the number held by East. The Ace of diamonds is, therefore, led and ruffed with the 8 of spades. Dummy is put in with a club and the King of diamonds is ruffed out. Dummy is entered again with the Ace of clubs over the King and the Queen of diamonds is ruffed out with the J of

spades. Now the 5 of hearts is led and taken with the Queen. The J of diamonds is led and South discards his Ace of hearts. This is important, as obviously South should not be in at the twelfth trick. The Queen of clubs is led and then the 9 of diamonds and East has to ruff and South over-ruffs with Queen and drops East's King with this trump Ace. A good triple grand coup.

Squeeze Plays.

Perhaps there are still some of our readers who are not familiar with the technique of "squeeze" play. Even if a squeeze is available, its successful use depends on the early recognition by the declarer, sometimes as early as the 1st trick, of the necessity and feasibility of its employment. He must plan accordingly. There are various types of squeezes, but the fundamental principle underlying all of them is similar. After a certain number of tricks which strips one or both opponents of cards in two suits, they are left with minimum guards in the two remaining suits. The declarer has a loser in both of the suits, but he has a long card of a suit already played, generally a trump, of which the opponent or opponents to be

squeezed are void. On the lead of this squeezing card, either or both opponents are obliged to unguard one of their two suits. The declarer then leads the suit thus unguarded to get an additional trick. Or, in a progressive squeeze, he would still further compel opponents to unguard the fourth suit also to get still additional tricks.

Careful timing is essential in this coup. Not merely that, the lead should be in the proper hand at the right moment.

The simplest squeeze is where declarer, say South leads the squeezing card and West, holding the potential stoppers in two suits, has to discard before dummy. A more difficult situation is where dummy has to discard before East who holds the possible tricks. A still more trying situation is where the stopper is held jointly by both opponents, say J x West and Q x x by East and both of them have to be compelled to discard from the same vital suit.

Sometimes an opponent has to be squeezed in three suits. This usually occurs when his stoppers in two suits at least are Jacks, each of which requires three small cards to guard it.

In the Vienna squeeze, declarer cashes high cards in one or two suits and leaves the master cards with the opponent. He or dummy holds the cards below the master cards. An example will illustrate:—

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

Both vulnerable. North dealt. The bidding:—

North	South
1 ♣	1 ♠
2 ♥	3 ♠
4 N. T.	5 ♦
6 ♠	7 ♠

The one-over-one system was used. In the approach forcing system, the bidding would be something like this:—

North	South
1 ♥	2 ♠
3 ♣	3 ♠
4 NT	7 ♠

West led the Queen of diamonds. Now declarer has a loser in clubs, unless the Q drops in two rounds, which is not likely. Hence his only salvation is to get a "squeeze." The play is, therefore, as follows:— South won the first trick

(Contd. on page 34)

BRIDGE RIVETS

By S. M. K. Sastry

VARIETIES of joints are used while assembling the different sections of a bridge, depending on the pattern of the truss chosen by the engineer. Post analysis of duplicate deals naturally enhances mental precision, paving the way for the preparation of the stress diagrams for subsequent designs. Leaving the analogy for the present, I straightaway proceed to an assorted four in duplicate.

1. In the first round of the M. U. C. April tournament, deals 11 and 13 happened to be pivotal, as was seen later on comparing results.

Board 11—Neither Vul:— Dealer South.

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

The Bidding.

S	W	N	E
—	—	2 ♥	—
2 NT	—	3 ♥	—
3 ♠	—	4 ♣	—
4 ♥	—	—	—

7 Hearts made and the Joints snapped.

(Note. We cannot understand North's bid of 4 ♣. As

no trumps were agreed upon, it is not an asking bid. He should have bid 5 no trumps and the hand played at 6 ♣; with proper defence only six ♥ or six ♠ are makable, not 7. Ed).

2. The next deal was thrown in and on board No 13, my partner picked up this spitfire and projected an initial two hearts and the bidding proceeded as under:

N	E	S	W
2 H	—	2 N T	—
3 H	—	4 C	—
5 N T	—	6 C	—
—	—	—	—

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

Taking ♦ A. on the opening lead of ♦ J,* I cashed H. A. and ruffed a small heart, west dropping the queen. ♣ J. was successfully finessed and trumps drawn in three rounds. Entering dummy with a spade another heart was ruffed and a lay down of 7 ♣ was the result in our table. In the other table, the final contract was identical but was one

*[Is this a proper lead? Ed.]

when defence lacks in opening tempo, the declarer's honour values are automatically raised by one trick and so it was in this deal. "When the hunter is short-sighted, the deer dances and trots on three legs within his bow-length."

The bidding gloriously terminated as under:—

E	S	W	N
1 C	—	1 D	—
1 H	1 S	2 S	—
2 N. T.	—	7 C	—
—	db.	—	—

Three gold rivets are outstanding in this gusset joint, the reverse bidding of the opener, the jump to the seventh level by W and the double of South. Never double slams and get caught by the declarer easily. West rushed to grand slam at break-neck

speed but he is an accredited psychological expert, intuitive analysis, and a declared champion. Above all he is the very personification of luck. Play the deal yourself with all hands staring before you, a grand in club is well-nigh impossible under any technique. But, believe me, 7 c was reported to have been made. You should guess how. To avoid suspense, I solve it. North accommodated east by discarding $\diamond Q$ indiscreetly, possibly under the magnetic spell of the west. If readers would join me, I would call this a "Sour de soup," a rolled-gold rivet in our steel bridge. (The bidding here again was very faulty and rather surprising after the statement that E & W were champions. Ed).

OH, PARTNER—(Continued from page 15)

nearly land us in the madhouse. Their acrobatics, born of imbecility, make us old in our youth. Their vagaries, born of perversity, turn our hair prematurely white.

Still we have to put up with our partners. We can't do without them. They are as much a part of the game as a pack of cards. And we can best succeed only to the extent that we can make allowance for all their idiosyncrasies.

It does not pay to shout or squabble. Commend them wherever possible. Congratulate them, when, like my dazzling partner in pink, they make a "successful" coup. And for all mistakes committed by the partnership, "sorry, partner, my fault," is a profitable formula. Even where that is not humanly possible, "Oh, partner," ought to be adequate.

FORCED INTO SLAMS

By T. Kappa

The other day, a curious hand occurred in the Cosmopolitan Club, Coimbatore. Malvolio says, "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." We might parody it as "Some make slams without bidding them, some achieve slams, while some have slams thrust upon them." North's hand was a terrible freak being of the 8-5-0-0 distribution. West as dealer passed, North opened with 3 diamonds (he should probably have opened with 4), East doubled and South bid 4 no trumps! Now, what does that mean? Any-way, North jumped to six diamonds, which East doubled.

The Hands:

$\spadesuit$ ——— $\heartsuit$ K, Q, 10, x, x, x, x $\diamond$ K, 8, x, x, x $\clubsuit$ J, x, x, x, x, x $\heartsuit$ 9, x, x, x $\diamond$ x $\clubsuit$ J, 10, x		W N E S		$\spadesuit$ A, K, x $\heartsuit$ A, K, 10, x, x $\diamond$ x, x $\clubsuit$ A, x, x $\spadesuit$ Q, x, x, x $\heartsuit$ Q, J, x, x $\diamond$ A, J, x $\clubsuit$ Q, 9	
--	--	--	--	--	--

East led the King of Spades. North ruffed and led a small club. East ducked and the trick went to Dummy's Queen. The 9 of Clubs was led back, covered by West and North

and East took with the Ace. He now led the King of Hearts. North ruffed, led a third Club, ruffed it with Ace of diamonds, drew trumps and played out the two established Clubs and thus made his slam.

The hand is a good illustration of the power of distribution against East's array of honour tricks.

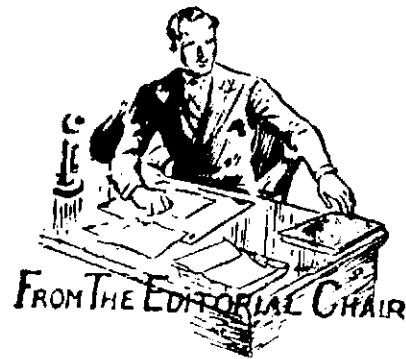
In the last hand at least, North had an option and that was merely to bid 6. But there is even a case when one is forced to bid 7, with the force applied at the level of 7! A few years ago, there occurred at a London Club a sensational sequence of bidding, which was as follows:—

West	North	East	South
5 $\diamond$	—	6 $\diamond$	7 $\diamond$
—	7 $\heartsuit$	—	—

South's hand was

$\spadesuit$ A, K, Q
$\heartsuit$ A, K, Q, 7, 4
$\diamond$ ———
$\clubsuit$ A, K, Q, 5, 3

By bidding the opponents' suit at the seven level to start with, South forced North to show his longest suit. This happened to be the 10 x x x x in hearts. The grand slam in hearts was made. Truly a most remarkable result. North had also J x x x in clubs.



LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

WE have dreams. We see visions. But it isn't merely our imagination running riot. We believe in our dreams coming true. We have faith in our visions being fulfilled.

In the wake of the South Indian Bridge Association, with the inspiration caused by the success of our organisation, we see Bridge Associations springing up in Bombay, in Bengal and in Northern India in the near future. We see again the early federation of all these Associations with our own to form the greatly-needed All-India Bridge Association.

With such a federation of Bridge Associations in the different parts of India in view, the only possible constitution for our own Association is a

unitary one. A federating unit ourselves, we cannot contemplate with equanimity our own Association being a federal one with Bridge Associations in the different districts forming component parts thereof. We want all the unity, all the cohesion, all the simplicity and all the strength that only a unitary constitution can give to our Association.

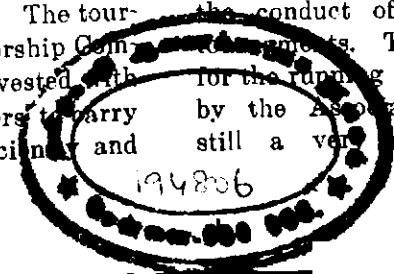
A unitary constitution does of course, imply centralisation of control. But it would not, and does not, imply a monopolistic centralisation of all power and responsibility. The democracy of to-day believes in the delegation of considerable powers and wide responsibility as a necessity in the intensification of all effort and endeavour. The Executives in the different states are given great powers and these Executives, in turn, delegate wide powers to subordinate bodies. Whenever President Roosevelt wants some production or other to be intensified, he creates one Committee after another and clothes them with wide powers. That does not mean that his cabinet is any the less in control. Whenever Premier Churchill wants any exception-

nal work to be turned out in some particular quarter, he creates a new Ministry of State in the Middle East or a new Ministry of State in the Far East. That hardly implies that his Government is any the less in ultimate control.

A decentralisation of power and responsibility is quite essential, if we are to harness the genius and the talent available in the different localities in the service of the Association. Our members are spread over an immense area with very little opportunity of meeting together, except at long intervals. Having to depend on honorary services, it is, of course, impossible to concentrate all available talent in one place.

Even the constitution of different committees and sub-committees with headquarters at different places would not adequately meet our needs, unless we also provide the incentive for real work through the investiture of the necessary power and responsibility. The way in which some of these committees have been working till now is fruitless. The tournament and membership committees must be invested with the necessary powers to carry out their work efficiently and

not act as mere channels for the central committee. It is no wonder that these Committees, thus handicapped, have been practically moribund. We appreciate greatly the world of work that has been turned out by our General Secretary during the last 1½ years. But it is not unlikely that even far greater results could have been achieved if Committees had been properly enabled to do their due share of work. There are still scores of clubs and hundreds of players who are not on our rolls. There are still extensive areas that have not been tapped by our Association. There has not been any real attempt so far to work out a chain of tournaments in the different categories in the various districts in cooperation with the clubs therein. Even the preliminary steps for the conduct of the League Tournament that had been sanctioned as far back as 20-10 1940 have not been taken. We have not yet started building up a body of qualified Tournament Directors or drawing up the final revised regulations for the conduct of the various tournaments. The machinery for the running of tournaments by the Association itself is still a very defective one.



Probably the only Committee that has been turning out any appreciable work till now, in the publication of the Indian Bridge World, is the Editorial Committee. But that has been directly due to the considerable responsibility and the wide powers that have been generously given to that Committee.

In this picture that we have in mind, there is no question whatever of any growth of an *imperium in imperio*. The constitution that provides for the creation of these committees and sub-committees and the delegation of the necessary powers and responsibility to them should, at the same time, provide for the activities of these different committees as also the proceedings of their meetings being reported to the Executive Council at regular intervals, so as to ensure the ultimate control of the Central Council. It can be further expressly provided that the Executive Council, which creates a committee or a sub-committee, can also dissolve it, in whole or in part, at any time. An apprehension that

a conferment of power and responsibility on these committees may lead to any undesirable conflict of authority would then be wholly removed.

What we want is a centralisation in constitution and control but a decentralisation in power and responsibility. We should have place only for workers and toilers in our councils and committees. We would then have the largest number putting forth the greatest possible amount of work. We would have constructive collective work in a parallel co-operative effort, all the work being co-ordinated and controlled by the Central Executive Council. Our Association would then be throbbing with life, vibrating with vigour, and pulsating with activity. But all this music of service and labour would be part of one single symphonic overture. Our labour would then achieve unparalleled results and carry our Association to the highest pinnacle of success. Labour conquers everything.

Labor Omnia Vincit

Two at it!

"I have given up playing Bridge. I had to. My wife has also started playing Bridge and my income wouldn't stand Two Awful Losers in the family", cried Weeping Willie one day at the club.

THE CLUB SYSTEMS

By F. D. Dhanbhora

VERY many of my Bridge-playing friends have been strictly brought up. To them, truth is a sacred thing. They, therefore, keep it to themselves.

To all such friends, the Club systems would come in handy. When you call a club, it does not necessarily mean that you have any strength or even a single card in that suit. Only the other day, a friend of mine opened a Vanderbilt club without having a single card in clubs. His partner, a sedate old gentleman, quietly passed with a pleased smile. "Blitzkreig" began as the opener's 4 hearts was freezed out.

The original Vanderbilt one club system is now seldom played. But we have quite a large number of worthy descendants in the Ingram one club, the Barton one club and the Pachabo one club systems. There are also close relatives of the original Vanderbilt club in the Lederer, Acol, and Reeve 2-club systems.

In most of these systems, and particularly in the 1 club systems, you have two distinct valuations of the cards. Aces and King-Queens are termed quick-tricks or primary tricks, other guarded honours being called honour tricks or secondary tricks. Even to start with, therefore, the very assessment of cards is complicated.

Again, in spite of the innumerable rules that are laid down in each one of these systems, most of them are not even self-sufficient. A one club bid in the 1-club system or a 2-club bid in the 2-club systems are merely the calls that should be made on some particular hands of exceptional strength. In most other cases, it is practically the normal Culbertson bidding that has to be generally followed.

In hands of exceptional strength, you make an initial opening bid of one club with 3 quick-tricks plus 1 honour trick in the Ingram 1-club or with $3\frac{1}{2}$ quick tricks in the

Barton 1-club. This initial one club bid is forcing for one round, except when an opponent intervenes. The partner must bid or die; his is not to reason why. The negative response, when holding less than 2 quick tricks in the Ingram club or less than an Ace plus a secondary trick in the Barton Club, is 1 diamond. A positive response is generally made with a call of 1 N. T. or 2 notrumps, according to the strength of the hand, in some of these systems, and with 1 N. T. or a good 5 card suit in other systems. A positive response is generally forcing to game. But this obligation is, in some of these systems, laid on the responder and not on the opener, who can stop at any time! Again, a jump bid by the opener even after a negative response of 1 diamond is generally forcing to game.

An opening bid of 2 clubs in the 2-club systems means about 5 quick-tricks. These opening bids are forcing to game in most 2-club systems, except the Lederer System. For these opening bids, again, the negative response, when holding less than about $1\frac{1}{2}$ quick-tricks, is 2 diamonds.

But these systems showing some exceptional strength, particularly in respect of Aces

and King-Queens, without any agreed trump suit, would appear to be like putting the cart before the horse. A small mistake in the artificial response by either partner will ruin good hands. Then again, you start the bidding not knowing exactly where and how you would stop. In the words of Mr. A. Sundrarajan, "It is like sailing the high seas in a ship without a rudder, to be tossed about and liable to be dashed against rocks and blown to pieces." [Mr. Essex has refuted this contention in his book on the Libra System. Ed.]

Another disadvantage with these 1-club systems in particular is that one round of bidding is needlessly wasted. It also enables the opponents to overcall at a cheap level, while it would be sometimes impossible to show the real suit if the opponents have bid up to a high level by the time it comes round to the opener. The partner might have a yarborough with, however, a good distribution. But it often happens that the opener cannot show his real strength in clubs or diamonds if the opponents have bid up to the three-level in a major suit by the time the auction comes round to him.

The greatest drawback of these various club systems is that they are so artificial. In the language of Mr. R. A. Johnson, in respect of the Barton system, "We greatly fear that the novice, who would make his entry into contract through the Barton portals, would come to the conclusion that Contract bidding is merely a mass of artificial, arbitrary and utterly confusing conventions. We would prefer to lead the novice through the easy stages of a system which, while losing nothing in accuracy, goes down to the basic theory of cards and explains every bid in terms of simple mathematics. The huge premiums for slams have brought out many artificial bidding systems. But we still believe that it is possible to bid accurately and scientifically at Contract without calling a spade a club."

My friend Mr. Bhatt, who introduced the Vanderbilt system in our Club, knows well how these club systems are even otherwise open to abuse. Since the club systems generally are supplementary

to the normal Culbertson bidding, catastrophies are occasionally bound to occur. The partner either forgets to give the negative response of one diamond or he sometimes gives what he thinks is a negative response by calling 1 notrump. It more often happens that the partners climb to a high level without being in a position to fix the particular suit in which the hands are to be played. The best advice that I can give about these club systems is to leave them severely alone.

[Editorial Note:—The forcing principle is now universally accepted. Game, or if possible, slam, is the goal. We agree that the club systems are certainly artificial. Are not Mr. Culbertson's and other non-club systems so to a considerable extent? Who will deny that Colonel Buller's and Major Buckley's so-called "Natural" systems are really "artificial"? The matter is only a question of degree. So long as the principle that you can score below the line only what you bid is the basis of contract, systems and conventions will hold the field. They may be an evil but, we think, a necessary evil. Though slam premia have been reduced, still they are attractive enough, and slam conventions will continue to form part and parcel of the game].

No Wonder

He was notoriously slow in settling up his Bridge debts, and the other players were tired of it. One day he said in the club "I have been to every club in this city, and I am dashed if I could find one Bridge Table where a place was available." "They all insist on being paid the stakes, when they win, I suppose" quietly remarked a candid member.

CROSS-RUFFS

By T. Sogma

In the London Times Weekly of June 26th, 1930, a hand is given which was said to be a "record cross-ruff", in that the declarer made nine tricks by cross-ruffing. A similar record occurred on the 5th August, 1941, at the Cosmopolitan Club, Coimbatore.

The hands are given below :-

(I)

	♠ x, x, x, x, x	
	♥ K, x, x	
	♦ —	
	A, x, x, x, x	
♠ A, K, x, x	N	♠ Q, J, x, x
♥ A, Q	W	♥ x, x, x
♦ A, Q, J, x	S	♦ K, x, x, x, x
♣ x, x, x		♣ x
	♠ —	
	♥ J, x, x, x, x	
	♦ x, x, x, x	
	♣ K, Q, J, 10	

The contract is 4 clubs by south, doubled by West. West led the King of Spades. Declarer proceeded to cross-ruff Spades and Diamonds, four of each. Declarer then cashes trump Ace and leads the thirteenth Spade. Whether West ruffs or discards Queen of hearts, he can make only three tricks.

(2)

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

South played the contract at 5 diamonds, doubled by West. West led a small club. Dummy put on the King and led the Ace on which South discarded his lone Spade. South then cross-ruffed three Spades, four Hearts and two Clubs and conceded the last two tricks.

In the first case, the contract could have been defeated if a trump had been led originally. In case 2, the declarer is down if West led the Ace of Spades and then a trump. But, of course, he could not be expected to lead from his tenace. The first hand is also a good illustration of the value of distribution as against honour strength.

The Handle

A cool temper at the Bridge Table is a very desirable asset. An excellent example of this was mentioned the other day, when a lady remarked "My husband never loses his temper. When once I revoked, playing a Heart instead of following suit in a Spade lead, he simply said, "you may be colour blind, my dear, but you should remember, that the Spade has a handle while the Heart hasn't".

PLAN YOUR PLAY

By S. Rajam Iyer

NO. IV SERIES—Hand No. 12

AS against a seven no-trump contract by North, East leads heart 6. Here are the hands of north and south.

♠ A, J, 6, 4
 ♥ A, 7, 5
 ♦ A, K, 10, 3
 ♣ 6, 4

North

South

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

Do you see any chance of keeping the contract. Even if club breaks three & three with the adversaries, there is one loser in that suit. Of course you can readily say that the contract could be fulfilled if Q be protected once in spade and if diamond Queen also be protected once with the opponents. Apart from that very optimistic state of affairs, could you think any other distribution, for which also the contract could be kept? Yes, you can, if spade queen and diamond queen be in the same hand and if that hand also contains four cards in club.

You cover the H.6 with the 10, west plays the jack and Ace wins the trick. The next trick is won with spade king. Run hearts and discard from N's hand diamond 3 and spade 6. Then play club ace. Win the next 3 tricks with diamond ace and king and spade ace. Now North will hold three cards i.e., diamond 10, spade jack and club 6. Dummy retains king and two more cards in club. At this stage, if one of the opponents has, as originally supposed, the two missing queens as well as four cards in club, he cannot hold up both the queens and also two clubs. He will have to discard one of the queens and retain two clubs or retain both the queens and only one club. If you find that none of the missing queens has dropped, play club. The last club with the opponent surrenders to your king and the remaining two clubs are good. If one of the queens had been discarded, you play the top card of that suit. Now again the vital hand

is squeezed. The play exemplifies what I would baptize as "Pseudo-stripping". You strip the opponents of the three suits not completely, but within safety limits, that is to say, in this case you strip the opponents in heart completely and in spade and diamond partially, because you cannot do so without conceding a trick, which you cannot afford to. The play of this hand also illustrates another aspect of the squeeze technique—when the squeeze begins to operate, the partner of the player who keeps the lead should have an entry. Take the hand in question. If south holds the trick at the end of the 10th trick, you cannot keep the contract even if the cards be distributed as you desired them to be. If club does not break you cannot enter north's hand. Even players who have a sound knowledge of the squeeze mechanism fail to gear it up properly, chiefly because they do not have an eye on the important aspect of the play—retention of lead and entry in the proper hands.

Hand No. 13

As against a three no-trump contract by south, west leads club queen, then jack and then 7. You south take the third round of club with the

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

ace. How would you proceed to plan and play? Here are the hands of north and south.

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

Of course, you discard two hearts over the two clubs. Now play of club 7 for the third trick by west shows that he has no more club. It is also possible that he has five cards in clubs and because he is sure that his partner has club king—south would not have ducked twice with ace and king with him—west forces east to play out his king. If latter be the case, your contract is doomed. You, therefore, take the optimistic view that west shows only three clubs with him and begin to plan your play. Do you see the only distribution for which you can make the contract. You keep the contract if (1) west holds the spade king, (2) if spade breaks three and three with the opponents and (3) heart ace also is with west. You will presently see how. After taking the trick with club ace, play spade and finesse the

king. The queen holds. Play out the ace and throw west in with the third spade. He has to lead either heart or diamond. If heart be led, you cover with the king. It wins. You take four more tricks in diamonds. If diamond be led, play out ace and king and then lead heart to win a trick with the king.

Hand No. 14

North reached a contract of four spades. East opens with diamond 4. Here are the hands of north and south.

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

Can you keep the contract? There are three losers for the three aces with the opponents. You have to concede a trick in diamond. You may ruff the third diamond, but you cannot enter your hand to lead the fourth diamond, even assuming diamond breaks four and four, without giving the lead to the defenders. The moment opponents gain the lead, spade ace and another spade would be led drawing out dummy's last trump. So

you have definitely four losers not to speak of the fifth loser, if the heart ace be off-side. The contract is lost anyway. But why not try the only possible line of play which may perhaps bring home the contract. You have got a chance of securing the contract, if heart ace and club queen be with east and west holds at least 2 clubs. You proceed to play on that assumption. Take the first trick with the diamond queen, west having followed with the 10. Play club 6. East would certainly play the ace, if he has it, seeing that seven clubs are massed with the dummy. If he does not drop the ace, play the Jack. If west holds both ace and queen, the case is hopeless. Pray that club ace and queen be split between east and west. You are glad to see that the jack is won with the ace. West immediately plays spade ace and exits with a second spade. You win with the king. East shows void. Play diamond 3 and ruff with dummy's last trump. Play club king and discard a diamond from your hand. Play another club and ruff in your hand. Pull out the last trump and lead heart. If east does not cover with the ace, play the king

and close your eyes. If it holds, you have the game in your lap; if it falls to the ace you have the robust satisfaction of having explored all possible avenues to secure the game. The real point in the play is that the natural temptation to discard a ♠ from the dummy on the diamond winner should be resisted. Certainly the temptation is quite natural and you cannot get over the same unless you could see that you cannot keep the contract, whatever be the lay of cards by discarding a ♠

from the dummy. You should be sharp and calculating enough to foresee that you can have only one ruff in the dummy. What does it matter whether you ruff ♦ or ♥. There are two ♦ losers with the declarer and he cannot dispose of them by discarding a ♥ from the dummy. You should confine your ♥ losers to only one and that you can achieve only if east holds the ace. If you discard a ♥ from the dummy, the trick taking potentiality of the ♥ king is destroyed.

COUPS AND PLAYS—(Continued from page 18)

with diamond K and took three rounds of trumps. Now he led a small club and took it with North's King and played the Ace, thus establishing the Queen in East's hand, while he himself held the next lower card, the Jack. He then cashed Ace of hearts and followed with a diamond, taking his Ace. He then took two more rounds of trumps and the end position is as follows:—

♠ —	♠ —	♠ —
♥ 7, 6	♥ K, 9, 2	♥ —
♦ J	♦ —	♦ —
♣ —	♣ N	♣ —
	W E	♠ Q, J
	S	♣ Q
	♠ 7	
	♥ 10	
	♦ —	
	♣ J	

South now leads the squeezing card, the 7 of trumps. East is forced to throw away his Q of clubs or unguard his hearts; in either case, South makes the rest.

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TODDLERS' CORNER

Edited by F. D. Dhanbhoora

The Three O's

"Baa Baa Black Sheep
Have you any 'Pards?'
Yes sir, yes sir,
Three packs of cards;
One for the Master,
One for the Dame,
And one for the Toddlers,
Who can't play the game!"

All Toddlers—(singing in chorus) We can play the game... Slams for the Toddlers... Yarborough for the dame!

Mandu Manikkam—What is an yarborough and why it is so called?

Kettikara Krishnan—A hand containing no higher card than a 9 nine spot. For example, ♠ 4, 3, 2, ♥ 4, 3, 2, ♦ 9, 8, 7, ♣ 5, 4, 3, 2 is an yarborough hand.

All Toddlers—Slam for the Toddlers, & yarborough for the Dame... Now we know the game.

Kettikara Krishnan—Such a hand is so called because a former Earl of Yarborough took on a bet of £1000 to £1 against any given hand containing no higher card than a 9 spot. The true odds against such a holding are about 1827 to 1. Do not bid with a yarborough. If ever you hold a yarborough hand like ♠ 5, 4, 3, 2, ♥ 4, 3, 2, ♦ 4, 3, 2, ♣ 4, 3, 2, Mr. Culbertson will give you an award of Rs. 15.

All T:—Oh, how nice and sweet of him! But what is his address?

K. K.—You don't seem to have read The Gold Book. Write to:—Ely Culbertson, Editor, 'The Bridge World,' 16 A, East 62nd Street, New York.

All T.—Oh then, yarborough for us all and not a penny for the Dame.

Kettikara Krishnan—Now be a bit serious and learn some good Bridge. Just as there are Three R's, Reading, (W) Riting and (A) Rithmetic, so there are Three O's in the game of Contract Bridge.

Mandu Manikkam—What are these three O's? Is it Orthodoxy, Orthology and Orthography?

K. K.—Be a good boy & be patient. The three O's stand for "one over one." The opener starts with the lowest suit in his hand & then the responder bids his suit at the level of one. That enables the opener to bid another alternative suit even at the level of one. Somberi Subban, you seem to be sleeping!

Somberi Subban—No, please, I am no longer lazy, but I was thinking how these three O's can help the opener!

Kettikara Krishnan—Sorry, my dear, for calling you Somberi. You are as busy as an ant, and keen and quick like an eagle. One Over One bid enables the opener as well as his partner to give each other the maximum information about their hands whilst keeping the bidding low. It is a lesson to the prodigal son that in Bridge it is economy of bids that counts.

Mandu Manikkam—Thanks galore. You are indeed our sergeant-major. Can you give us an example?

K. Krishnan—Suppose you have this holding: ♠ 10, 9, 7, ♥ A, K, 8, 7, ♦ A, 5, ♣ A, J, 7, 6. One club is the correct opening bid. If your partner responds with 1 Diamond, you bid 1 Heart. After the partner's response, these bids are forcing for 1 round. So, without any fear of the bids being dropped, you exchange a good deal of information even at the lowest level and there is little risk of your going beyond your depth.

Mandu Manikkam—Simply beautiful, My Ely in the valley!

Somberi Subban—What is this Ely? Is it a sweetmeat!

Sappattu Raman—A sweet meat! Where is the sweetmeat?

Kettikara Krishnan—What! You do not know the name of our idol, Ely Culbertson! After seeing the whole drama of Hamlet, you would probably ask whether Hamlet was the name of a boy or girl!

Somberi Subban—Sorry, carry on sergeant-mjor. So everyone, must bid his lowest suit over partner's bid, is it?

K. K.—No, not always. You must first have 1½ honour tricks or at least 1 honour trick with a good 5-card suit. If you don't have either,

you should see if you can bid a courtesy notrump or make a courtesy raise. These latter require also about 1 honour trick, having in addition trump support (Q x x or x x x x) when you make a courtesy raise. If you can't do even that, you must pass. Do you know what Ely once said to his Joe? "Dearie, the most eloquent bid is a pass. Your "No" is "Yes" to me."

Mandu Manikkam—Who is this Joe? Jack Dempsey the boxer?

Kettikara K.—Joe is the pet name of the wife of Mr. Culbertson. Josephine Culbertson is one of the finest teacher-players of the World.

All Toddlers (together): "By Joe!" Ladies to teach us Bridge! Well, why not a Dhanbhoora then?

* "C. . . . C. . . ."

Pin a little "V. . . . C,"
Long live our "C. . . . C. . . ."

Bridge Fans, Fiends and Friends—What is this "C. . . . C. . . .?"

Editor—Dear Friends, "C. . . . C. . . ." means "Comrades in Cards" also "Contract Coterie." I have an idea of collecting together Bridge Fan Friends from all over India. My mentor A. M. R. David, who has approved of this idea, will, of course, be our first friend, philosopher and guide. Coterie means a collection of friends.

Bridge Fans—What is the object? What about fees etc.?

Editor—You need not worry about fees etc. You have not to spend a pie. Just send me your name and full address (Block letters, please) and you will be sent a membership card. Your name will then be written in letters of gold.

Bridge Fans—What else have we to do?

Editor—To send in your articles for the Indian Bridge World as well as for a column conducted by me in a well-known Weekly of Bombay. Your valued contributions will be quite welcome. But that is only a subsidiary object. The chief object is to enable you to make Bridge a happy idea, isn't it? Come, all Comrades in Cards, flock together in our Coterie!

Bridge Fans—'Well, well, where are you going to, our pretty maid?' 'Off to Bulsar, Sirs, she said'.

Editor—But you can always write to me to the following address:

Framroj D. C. Dhanbhoora, B.A.,
"Baag-e-Shireen," Tithal Road,
BULSAR, B.B. & C.I.Ry.

All together (in loud tones):—
"Pin a little V. . . . C. . . ."
Long live our C. . . . C. . . ."

READERS' FORUM

Edited By K. R. Varadarajan

A Northern India Friend writes:

"The bidding went as follows:—South—One $\diamond$. North—Four $\clubsuit$. Can North's Four $\clubsuit$ bid can be considered an Asking bid?"

According to the 1936 Gold Book of Mr. Culbertson, a bid in a new suit at the level of four by a player over an opening suit bid of one by his partner was considered as an Asking bid, setting the first bid suit as the agreed trump. But in or about 1939, this system was changed. According to the present system, it is purely a pre-emptive bid and a shut-out-bid. It merely shows length in the club suit and also says that North's hand is worth nothing, except when played with clubs as trump. The old system of employing such an Asking bid had its own disadvantages, especially when the agreed trump suit is a minor and the Asking suit is a major. Secondly there was no opportunity for the opener's partner to make a pre-emptive or shut-out bid at the four level once a player opens with a suit bid of one. But this system of Asking bids is even now employed by some expert players in South India. Anyhow after careful study and years of experiments, Mr. Culbertson has thought fit to change the system and ardent followers of the latest system will hence un-

derstand this North's bid only as a pre-emptive bid. The difficulties of employing this kind of Asking bids are as follows:—(1) You cannot make a pre-emptive take-out at the level of four. (2) If the agreed trump suit is club or diamond and the Asked suit is spade or heart, and the partner has only one Ace in the Asked suit, the responder must bid five in the major, in which case bidding is gravitated to the level of six, irrespective of the fact whether the partnership hands warrant a slam bid or not. Hence it is better to follow the latest system.

A Bridge Enthusiast writes:—

"Please send me your final bid and play. How would you bid, as North as well as South? Here our final contract was 6 diamonds and we were one down as two aces were missing. Please send in your bids with Blackwood convention, and also using Asking bids and the 4-5 notrump convention.

South:— $\clubsuit$ — $\heartsuit$ KQJx,
 $\diamond$ KJ1097, $\clubsuit$ KQJx.
 North:— $\clubsuit$ AKx, $\heartsuit$ x,
 $\diamond$ AQx, $\clubsuit$ xxxxxx.

East-West pass throughout. How are we to find out about the two missing aces? Is not slam even a possibility?"

There is no possibility of a slam unless North holds two Aces other than the spade Ace. Hence this partnership must proceed with caution, so as not to risk losing the game. Employing Blackwood convention, the bidding may be like this:—

South		North	
1 $\diamond$		2 $\clubsuit$	
3 $\clubsuit$		4 notrumps	
5 $\clubsuit$		5 $\diamond$	

It is only North that must ask Blackwood 4 notrump and receive the information that South has no Aces in his hand. Then there is definitely no chance for a slam and the bidding must stop at game level. If South asks 4 notrumps in Blackwood, North will show Two Aces and South will gamble into a slam contract only to be one set.

With Asking bids, the contract must be reached as follows:—

South		North	
1 $\diamond$		3 $\diamond$	
4 $\diamond$		4 $\heartsuit$ (?)	
5 $\diamond$		pass	

or

South		North	
1 $\diamond$		2 $\clubsuit$	
3 $\clubsuit$		4 $\diamond$	
4 $\heartsuit$ (?)		4 notrumps	
5 (or 6) $\diamond$			

In the latter case of bidding, South may gamble for a slam contract or sign off in 5 D. There is a way of finding out the aces in the North's hand by employing a repeat Asking bid after a 4 notrump response. For instance, in the second line of bidding, for an Asking bid in hearts by South there is a positive 4 notrump response. If South again asks 5 hearts, it implies that he

(South) wants to know which of the Aces North has. North's response will be as follows:—Having hearts ace and another ace show the other ace by bidding that suit. If he has the aces of spade and heart, he bids 5 spades. If North has the second round control in hearts and two aces, he merely signs off. Hence South can know which two aces North holds. But in this particular instance, since the agreed trump is a minor and the repeat Asking bid has to be made in a major, by the time the response comes for the repeat asking bid, even a sign-off must drive the partnership to the level of six odd. Hence it is not safe to follow that procedure. The best thing is to stop at game level in 5 clubs or 5 diamonds.

With 4-5 notrump convention, the bid must be as follows:—

South		North	
1 $\diamond$		2 $\clubsuit$	
3 $\clubsuit$		3 $\clubsuit$	
4 $\clubsuit$		4 NT	
5 $\clubsuit$		5 $\diamond$ (or pass)	

North's 4 NT bid is a conventional bid according to the Culbertson system showing two aces and a King in the bid suit—viz—spade. South signs off in Clubs, the lowest of the bid suits, saying that he holds no aces. The slam is out of the question and the contract must stop at 5 diamonds.

Mr. F. D. Dhanbhoora, B.A., writes:—All hats off to the persons concerned for bringing out "The Indian Bridge World" for an annual subscription of rupees two only! But three months or a

'Quarter' is too long a period to wait. Why not a monthly edition of our "Indian Bridge World?" Is the dream too good to come true!

Why not Advertise? It is an axiom, "Never criticise unless you sympathise." May I have your permission to twist it a bit and say, "If you sympathise, why not advertise?" There are about ten thousand Bridge-Fans in Bombay and hardly ten know about the "Indian Bridge World." I have a plan—plain and simple. If the Editorial Committee permits me, I will advertise (at my own cost) in Bombay papers, and bring our beloved "Indian Bridge World" to the notice of hundreds of Bridge Comrades of Bombay. I will occasionally make mention of the "Bridge World" (Indian, of Course) in the column under my care in "Jam-e-Jamshed" (Bombay). I have already done so in "Jam-e" Sunday edition of 31st August 1941. May the Indian Bridge World prosper from day to day. Amen!

Psychics! I was more than delighted and pleased to read the article "Psychic Bids" by Dr. Musafar Karamchand. If you refer to page 39 of "the Indian Bridge World" (August 1941, Vol. 2, Part III), you will find the same old story of my Psychic friend, who opens a strong Vanderbilt One Club Bid with an Ukase of a Czar not to close the bid, even if the throat gland is cut off. Then

he opens the bid with not even half but zero honour trick. "Bridge Ceases to be the divine game that it really is," according to Dr. Musafar. That is very true. A kid was every morning watching a tiger passing by the farm-yard. One day the tiger asked the kid, "Are you not afraid of me?" The kid simply said, "Dear Uncle, you do not seem to have any teeth. I see you every day, yet you do no harm to me." Frequent Psychic Bidders are tigers without teeth and claws. They do no harm even to a baby (Bridge baby), who keeps her eyes and ears open.

We are indeed very grateful to Mr. Dhanbhora for his good-wishes and his suggestions. But the Indian Bridge World being merely the organ of the South Indian Bridge Association, it may not be desirable to work for any large number of subscribers in Northern India. Probably a better move for our North Indian friends would be to secure the formation of authoritative Bridge Associations in their areas, which can federate with our Association in bringing into existence that greatly-needed All-India Bridge Association. If our Association can then be prevailed upon to allow the Indian Bridge World to be the organ of the All-India Body as well, there will be time enough, with the talents of the whole of India available to us, to think of developing our Magazine into a monthly publication.

HOW DO YOU BID AND PLAY?

(For Answers see Page 45)

(A) The bidding proceeded thus.

N	E	S	W
1 C.	—	2 D.	—
2 H.	—	2 S.	—
3 C.	—	3 H.	—
4 H.	—	5 N. T.	—
7 H.	—	—	—

Against this seven hearts contract by north, east leads hearts 6. South covers with the 10. Here are the hands of you, west, and the dummy. What card would you play and why?

♠ Q 10 6 5
♥ J 4
♦ Q 9 8 7 5
♣ 6 5

Dummy (South)
♠ A J 8 7
♥ A 10 5
♦ A K 10 3
♣ 8 7

(B) With both sides vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded:—North: 1 C, East: 1 D, South: Pass, West: Pass, you, North, hold: A K 7; A K 7; Q; Q 9 8 6 5 4. What do you bid?

(C) The bidding has proceeded: North: 1 S, East: Pass, you, South, hold: A 7 6; Q 10 8; Q J 9 7 5; 10 6. What do you bid?

(D) The bidding has proceeded: North: 1 S, South: one

no-trump; you, North, hold: K 10 6 5 4; A K 7; A K 3; 7 6. What do you bid?

(E) With both sides vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded: North: 1 S, East: Double, You, South hold: J 10 6; A; 7 6; A Q 10 9 7 6 5. What do you bid?

(F) The bidding has proceeded: North: 1 C, East: 1 D, South: Pass, West: 2 D, North: 3 D, East: 4 D, You, South, hold: K 9 6 5 4; J 10 8 7; 10 3; J 7. What do you bid?

(G) As against six hearts contract, with the following hands of the declarer and dummy how would you plan your play, if east leads club 7?

♠ A J 3
♥ A 8 7 6 3
♦ 7
♣ K Q J

Declarer (North)	Dummy (South)
	♠ K 5
	♥ K 10 9 4
	♦ A 8 3
	♣ A 9 8 6

(H) With north-south 70 on-score, the bidding has proceeded: North: 1 S, East: Pass, You, South, hold: A Q; J 9 5 2; Q 4 2; A 8 7 6. What do you bid?

* Shocking.

"Everything in our club" proudly remarked the metropolitan, "is done by Electricity."

"Yes" said the moffusillite "even the bids at the Bridge Tables gave me such shocks"!

NEWS AND NOTES

Mr. Ely Culbertson

We have great pleasure in publishing this letter dated 24-6-1941 written to our News Editor by Mr. Ely Culbertson:—

"Dear Mr. Krishnaswami,

May I congratulate you and my friends in India on your splendid 'Indian Bridge World.' In these tragic times, when to forget temporarily is an ideal mental rest, you are doing as much good and perhaps more, as if you were running a large hospital for the afflicted.

May I also take this occasion to thank my new friend in time, Mr. T. V. S. Shastri, for his comprehensive review of my 'Strange Lives.'

India is to me the one country that I have always held in profound reverence. It is my dearest wish to visit this, the spiritual mother of civilization. The war has broken up my previous project of visiting India, and now I fear that the war will be a long one. Sincerely yours, (Sd.) Ely Culbertson."

We have always looked up to Mr. Ely Culbertson as the greatest Bridge authority in the world. The man who has transformed the game of Contract into a science and at the same time, strangely enough, into a romance, has always been our idol. But what he says about our country will enshrine him in our hearts to an even greater extent. He may be assured that we would always give him a warm welcome to our country.

The 1941 championship tournaments.

The 1941 championship tournaments have been announced and zone committees are being formed. In the city, Bridge fans are busy forming teams. The Cards Sub-Committee of the Madras United Club, the Headquarters of our Association, has, we understand, sent out invitations to the Clubs' Bridge playing members with a view to select a team or two to represent the Club in the Championship tournaments. We hope similar steps are being taken up by the other Clubs in the Presidency. A busy and successful season seems to be assured.

YET, THE LAST DATE FOR ENTRIES HAD TO BE EXTENDED TO 6 P. M. 15TH NOVEMBER 1941.

The extension is necessitated by the delay in forming the Zone Committees.

The Executive Council will meet before the end of the month and the Zone Committees for Madras, Coimbatore, Trichy and Madura will be formed. The response from the Rajahmundry and Bellary Zones has not been encouraging. The Central Tournament Committee will now decide whether some latitude should not be allowed to these zones by extending the dates of entries while in the meantime, the Central Office will get in touch with the members of the Bridge Enthusiasts in these Zones with a view to forming the Zone Committee and canvassing entries.

All the members and the Bridge Enthusiasts in the Presidency are requested to co-operate with the Tournament Authorities of their respective Zones and the Central Tournament Committee in making the tournaments, the success they should be.

One other matter which is now engaging the attention of the Tournament Committee is the question of dates of play of the preliminary rounds in the Zone Centres. While it will be very convenient for some to play the preliminary rounds during November 1941, it is felt that it will be equally convenient for others to play the Zone rounds between the 23rd and 26th December 1941. It is very likely that the tournament committee will leave the matter entirely in the hands of the Zone Committees to be decided in consultation with the competitors in their respective Zones. Last year many players brought to the notice of the Central Office the strain to which they were put to since they had to play till the early hours of the morning. Still the play in the final rounds was held up as players from some of the Zone Centres had not reached Madras in time. We, therefore, hope that the Zone Committees will take all these into account and arrange the play of the Zone tournaments to suit the convenience of the competitors and to complete the tournaments in time for the competitors eligible to play in the final rounds at Madras to reach Madras in time.

The Annual General Body Meeting.

A Meeting of the General Body will be held at Madras in the last week of December 1941 to consider the following subjects:—

1. Report of the Executive Council from the beginning to the 30th September 1941.
2. To pass the rules and regulations drafted by the Rules Committee and approved by the Executive Council.
3. Election of Office bearers as per Rules.
4. Other subjects for which notice according to Rules has been given.

The exact time and date of the meeting will be announced later.

Many members are still in arrears of subscription for 1941. All the members who are in arrears are requested to remit their subscription to the Central Office direct or through members of the Executive Council in their locality.

1942 Olympic Contest.

We may inform the uninitiated that this is an event organised in New York, the Mecca of Bridge fans. 16 prepared deals are played at various centres all over the World on a given day and at a given time and the results are determined by the Pars fixed even previously. The pairs who secure the maximum Pars in each country are presented with handsome cups and the highest scorers in each centre with small mementos. The educative value of this event cannot be adequately emphasised and it is not without its humorous aspects as well.

The contest is generally held about the month of April. On account of the different centres not having applied to enter the contest in time, the contest was held in only one place, viz. Coimbatore in the whole of India last April. Mr. V. Srinivasa Ayyar, the Secretary of the Tournament Committee of our Association, has, however, arranged for the 1942 Olympic deals being sent to him in 8 sealed covers for being played in 8 different centres in our Province. That would enable the Olympic contest being played in practically every centre that is interested. The players and clubs in the different places would do well to write to the Tournament Secretary as early as possible so as to avoid disappointment. The entrance fees are moderate and the net profits will all go to the Association funds.

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Bridge Gossip

Messrs Rockbottom & Silversteel were associated bachelor members in Structural Engineering, specialising on Bridge, at Lovedale, Leisure Valley, Laughton. International emergency demanded redesigning of bridges to suit the new Culberston Military standard and they parted for field service early in 1941. The former soon fell in love with one Miss Goodbridge, and led her to altar rather hastily to capitalise her Bridge talents. Later in 1941, Mr. Silversteel inquired of his friend enthusiastically how his bridge was in the latter half with his better half. Here is the reply which escaped censorship :—

“ She has wonderful Bridge sense and spans me on correct contracts between safe allotments. But I love the approaches better than the bridge. Believe me it runs always on presurveyed contours. S. M. K. S.”

ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS

(See page 41)

(A) *Hearts 4*: From the bidding, it is evident that north holds five cards both in hearts and clubs. The remaining three cards will be taken care of by the ace of spades and ace and king of diamonds in dummy. There cannot possibly be any loser in trump. If there is one you are all the more glad. Possible loser, if none in trump, can only be in club, if north holds five cards with ace and king and your partner holds four cards with queen and jack. In that case north will have to ruff twice. He cannot pull out trumps twice and yet retain two trumps in dummy. North will readily see, if a shrewd player, that he can make the contract only if club breaks three and three with the opponents, failing which two ruffs in dummy should stand. So he would, after the first trick, run ace and king of club and follow with a third club to ruff in the dummy. Now imagine what would happen if you had been tempted to cover the 10 with the jack, on the well known maxim of cover an honor with an honor. North would ruff clubs twice in the dummy and you would be blinking without an higher ranking card to over-ruff. Your partner can have at the most only three trumps and he would not lead from a three card trump suit headed by either king or queen. So north has both king

and queen of hearts. You cannot develop any winner for your partner by covering with the jack. It is immaterial what you play (jack or 4) so far as the trump suit is concerned. But you present a potential danger to the declarer by preserving the jack. If you retain the jack, clubs cannot be ruffed twice in the dummy. You should visualize the one possible distribution for which the contract may be defeated and co-operate to bring about the defeat by following with the 4 and not the jack.

(B) *Double*: Game in club is not in sight, especially when partner is unable to respond over one diamond. Game in no-trump seems not only problematical, but if east has a nearly ready made suit you may be limited to as few as four or five tricks. It may be that diamonds are massed with your partner and that he is not able to take immediate action because of the general weakness of the hand. You double to hear more from your partner. If he is not able to accept the double, you are prepared to play in any other suit preferred by your partner, or if necessary in club at the level of two or three. No other bid seems to be so elastic. Your partner would drop a rebid in club and your gain would be a trifle compared with the penalty you may extract if your partner

accepts the double. Response of three clubs should be considered rather head-long. It would certainly lead to catastrophe. The force invites your partner to bid three no-trumps with some values in the hand. He would not hesitate to bid three no-trumps with a stopper in diamond and a few honor cards outside. This would spell disaster. *In actual play the three no-trump contract was set three tricks.*

(C) *Two diamonds*: True you have not got the necessary strength to bid at the two level. But for other more weighing reasons, the bid is in order. One no-trump or two spades is too weak for the hand. Your partner may drop the bidding even with a strong hand after such a weak response. Game is in sight, if your partner has a tolerably good hand. The hand is not strong enough for a two no-trump response. Give a co-operative bid of two diamonds just to see what your partner has further to say. You drop the bidding if he bids two spades. Over two hearts you can just try three hearts. You certainly bid three no-trump should the rebid be two no-trumps. Of course, there is the danger of your partner passing your two diamond bid. Even that cannot be very miserable. You may be set one trick if your partner has only three trumps. But the chances of his passing are only one in ten. Such a remote possibility should not scare you out of a possible game.

(D) *Two spades*:—South may hold anywhere between 1 to 2 plus honours without a biddable suit. If he holds about $1\frac{1}{2}$ honours game is just possible. True you have $4\frac{1}{2}$ honours, but they are absolutely bare and club suit is short and wide open. Hence two no-trump should be ruled out. A stalling bid of two diamonds is dangerous in this situation. Partner may have just a minimum for his one no-trump. With a doubleton in spade and three cards in diamonds he would certainly drop your two diamond bid. You will then find yourself in the soup. *Stalling bid can be safely and profitably employed only if it could force your partner to respond.* The only other bid, except pass, is two spades. Pass is just as silly as two no-trumps. If partner is not strong enough to respond over two spades, the contract is certainly safe. If he bids two no-trumps, the only other bid you can expect of him, you can risk three no-trump. The only possible objection to two spades may be that the suit is not rebiddable. There are certain bidding situations in which you have to bid a non-rebiddable suit for want of a better one. This is one such situation. With $4\frac{1}{2}$ honours, you should explore all possible avenues to reach game within safe limits.

(E) *Redouble*:—The best medium to show two to two and a half honours. The hand is dynamic and small slam is in sight, if there is a fit. The redouble would

certainly be taken out by one of the opponents. You need not be sorry if the redouble is passed out. You give a jump bid in club at your next opportunity. By then you could hear more from your partner. Your jump bid after a redouble tells your partner that you are slam-minded, not to speak of the game. Three clubs over the double may be said to be an alternative possible bid. But such a bid is not necessarily strength showing. It only guarantees length and playing values in the suit. Further you show your strength at an unnecessarily high level and there will hardly be pace and time to exchange the necessary information.

(F) *Five spades*:—The bid of three diamonds by North should read as equivalent to an immediate over-call of the opponent's suit at the first instance. The fact that he has already bid a suit and then gives an over-call in the opponent's suit should not be construed as showing the first round control, setting up club as the agreed trump suit and as inviting partner to take the necessary action to reach slam. The reason is obvious. South has already passed. No useful purpose would be served by asking south to take up the captaincy, when he has already told his story. If north wanted to try slam with club as trumps, he should try to pump out the necessary information from South and not merely tell south that he is slam-minded. So North's bid of three diamonds

should be decoded as "I am prepared to play game in any suit. I want to know the longest suit in your hand." Therefore north is prepared to play at four spades even with as little as four trumps in your hand with nothing outside. But you have a five card suit and the king to boot. So the hand could in any event be played at the five level. It is up to north to bid six or not. Your five spades bid cannot mean that you have more than what you actually hold. Four spades will certainly be dropped.

(G) There are no losers outside trump suit. If trumps also break three and one, there is only one loser. But if all the four trumps are massed in one hand, two losers will be developed if you cannot know which hand holds all the four trumps. And there is way of locating the trumps. You can, of course, after taking the first trick with club king lead a low heart and finesse with 9 if east follows or, if he shows void, take the trick with the king and play the 10. There is apparently no danger so far. But do you see any hidden danger of playing the trump from your hand instead of from the dummy? East has played club 7. There is the possibility of east holding singleton in club and west holding five clubs. You hold five hearts. Symmetry of hand pattern suggests that club also may be five-suiter in one of the hands. For aught we know, therefore, west may hold five clubs.

Anyway to provide for such a contingency you should enter the dummy with spade king and play the 10. If west covers with either queen or jack play the ace and clear out trumps. If west does not cover, you also duck. *In actual play, in table I, N, after taking the trick with the king led a low heart and played the king. West showed void and declarer lost two tricks in hearts. In the other table, declarer finessed with the 9 in the dummy and made the contract. I cannot give credit for his success, because his line of play was not absolute proof for any distribution.*

(H) *Two clubs*:—True, game has already been reached and the contract is absolutely safe with such a

powerful hand, however weak the opening may be. But your hand warrants a slam-try. You can stand any rebid from your partner. If you find your partner's rebid is not encouraging, you drop the bidding or make a suitable response. You can play the hand at two level anywhere. The only point is that you should not be persuaded to drop the bidding in the satisfaction that game has already been reached. It may be said that you can make a waiting pass in the hope that you can double the opponents, if they enter the bidding. But with the strength in your hand, your opponents will not intervene unless they have grown crazy.

Championship Tournaments 1941

The South Indian Bridge Association has decided to conduct the following tournaments for the year 1941. The final rounds will be played in Madras during the ensuing Christmas holidays.

1. "Duplicate Team of Four" for the Sir T. Sadasiva Iyer Challenge Cup (Rolling)
2. "Open Pairs" for the Burke Johnson Shield (Rolling)
3. "Progressive Pairs Duplicate"
 - (a) S. S. Vasan's Challenge Cup for North-South.
 - (b) Sri Krishna Challenge Cup for East-West.

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

Besides Challenge Cups and Shield, the winners and runners-up in the final rounds 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, it is proposed to hold the preliminary rounds of the Tournaments in different centres.

All intending competitors are requested to send in their entries to the Honorary General Secretary, South Indian Bridge Association, Madras Urban Club, Madras, not later than 15th November 1941.

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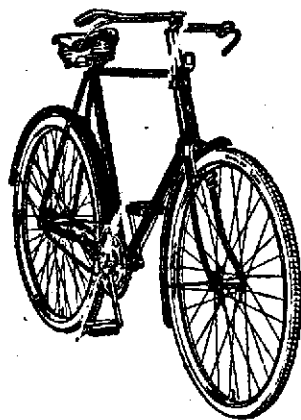
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