

INDIAN BRIDAE WORLD:

Quincy (1940).

Vol. P 5.

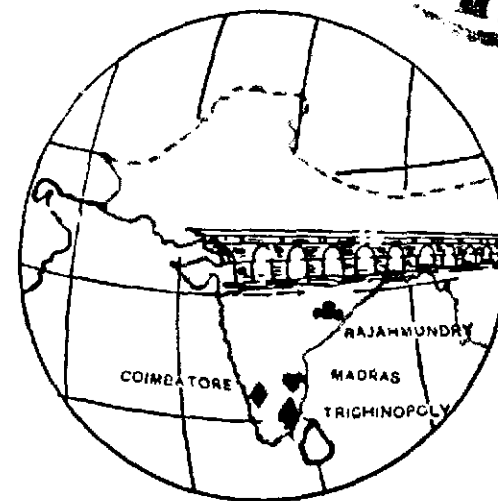
February, 1942.

MY 322 000, 0000.
N 4 2 2 5

1942 /

128

The Indian Bridge World



Vol. 2
Part V

February 1942
1 Quarter

THE LIBRA SYSTEM!

The First Indian System
in Contract Bidding ! !

The First System placing proper emphasis on the nature
of the hand, viz., balanced or unbalanced ! ! !

THE LIBRA SYSTEM OF CONTRACT BRIDGE

BY "T. ESSEX"

Price Re. 1-4-0. Foreign 2 Sh. or 50 c
(All profits go to the Governor's War Fund)

For copies, apply to:—T. S. KRISHNAMURTHI, M.A.,
College House, RACE COURSE, COIMBATORE.

BRIDGE ACCESSORIES

For the convenience of Bridge Enthusiasts and particularly the
members of our Association, the following items will be stocked by the
Central Office and available for sale at the prices mentioned against each
item.

1. Plywood Boards for Duplicate Play, nicely
finished with printing; complete set of 16
boards. Rs. 14-0-0 per set.
2. "Contract Bidding Made Easy" by Mr. A. M. R.
David. " 1-0-0 each.
3. Printed Score Sheets for "Team-of-four"
32 Deals " 0-15-0 per 100
4. Do for "Open Pairs" " 0-15-0 " "
5. Bidding Slips. " 0-4-0 " "
6. Scoring Cards for Progressive Pairs matches
one for each Deal, per table. " 0-4-0 " "

**N.B.—A Special Discount of 12½% will be allowed for
Members of the South Indian Bridge Association.**

Packing, Postage and other charges extra.

Write to:— **HON. GENERAL SECRETARY,**
South Indian Bridge Association, M. U. C., Park Town, MADRAS.

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

(Formerly known as the Deccan Bridge Magazine)
(Being the Official Organ of the South Indian Bridge Association)

PUBLISHED EVERY QUARTER

VOL. II

FEBRUARY 1942

PART V

I QUARTER

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

DR. MUSAFAR KARAMCHAND, M.A., Ph.D., (Lond.)

DR. T. V. S. SHASTRI, L. M. & S.

MR. J. G. GNANADURAI, B.Sc.

SRI S. M. K. SHASTRI

SRI T. A. KRISHNAMACHARI

MR. M. S. KRISHNASWAMI, B.A., B.L.

MR. S. RAJAM IYER, B.A., B.L.

MR. P. W. DAVID.



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

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

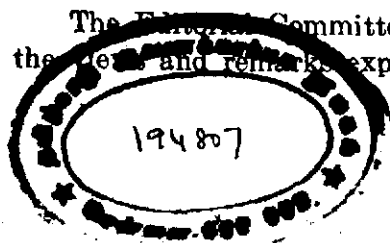


CONTENTS

February 1942—(I QUARTER)

	PAGE
ECHOES AND SIGNALS: <i>By T. Essex</i>	... 3
BRIDGE CUB: <i>By Dr. T. V. S. Shastri</i>	... 8
OPTIMISTIC SLAM BIDS: <i>By G. K. Nanjunda Iyer</i>	... 10
SACRIFICES AND FLAG-FLYING: <i>By T. Essex</i>	... 11
LURE OF THE SLAM: <i>By Toe Sigma</i>	... 13
THE 'GREENE' SYSTEM: <i>By P. S. Ramaswami</i>	... 20
EDITORIAL	... 23
TODDLERS' CORNER: <i>By F. D. C. Dhanbhoora</i>	... 24
PSYCHIC PLAY: <i>By P. W. David</i>	... 28
THE OPENING FOUR NO-TRUMP CALL: <i>By A. Ramamoorthy, Salem</i>	... 30
READERS' FORUM <i>Edited By K. R. Varadarajan</i>	... 33
NEWS AND NOTES	... 36
PROBLEMS	... 39
BOOK REVIEW	... 40
ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS	... 42

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



M/ 122 m 2/14010
N42.2.5

ECHOES AND SIGNALS.

By T. Essex.

NO, Clarence, this article has nothing to do with reverberations in hills or the war. It deals with an important weapon available to the defenders at contract bridge.

The "Echo" or the "Peter" is the playing of a higher card to the first lead of a suit and a lower one to the second, whether these leads are consecutive, as is usually the case, or whether they are not. Echoes are used to show that the player has only two cards of the suit and is able to ruff the third one or that he holds the Queen of the suit on a King-Ace lead. They are used against a trump contract. Two echoes against a N. T. contract are used for 2 different purposes, as will be explained presently. There is, fourthly, the "trump echo," with which even many leading players, I am afraid, are unfamiliar.

"Signals" include "echoes." Echoes are sometimes called "high-low" signals or "down and outs." But "signals," technically speaking, are used for a different purpose. First, the high card signal. The play of a high card (a six or higher) of the same suit is encouraging and asks leader that he may continue the

suit, if advisable, as the signal-er holds a trick in the suit. A high discard on another suit tells partner that the discarder wants that suit led or that he can stop the suit against an adverse N. T. This facilitates his partner's discards and is a valuable defence against squeezes. Conversely, the play or discard of a card lower than six-spot is discouraging, and tells partner that the player has neither a doubleton in the suit nor the Q, or that he has no stopper in it against a N. T. contract. There is a third signal known as the "suit-preference" or "lead-directing" signal. The occasions for its use will be explained later on in this article.

These weapons are not sometimes capable of employment; for instance, if a player has no card higher than a six-spot for an encouraging or come-on signal. In this case, the leader is in doubt, until the next discard is made. Similarly the lowest card of the signaller may be a six and doubt arises whether it is encouraging or not. But in the vast majority of cases the system works out effectively.

The "trump-echo" is made on declarer's trump leads or

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

when two ruffs are made by a defender. Here the echo has the opposite significance to that of the ordinary echo. The play of a higher trump followed by a lower one by a defender tells his partner that the signaller has at least one more trump in his hand. The opportunities for its use will be illustrated below.

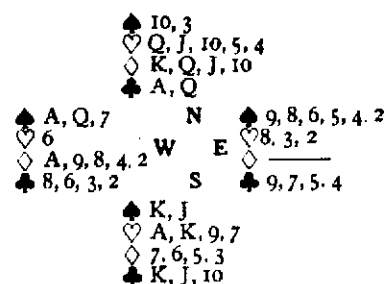
Now, a word of caution. Signals are two-edged weapons. The information disclosed to partner is equally available to a wide-awake declarer. In the case of the fourth-best lead, the information is especially useful to the declarer. That's why, sometimes, especially against a N. T. contract, some players lead the fifth best, to deceive the declarer, especially if this card happens to be the deuce. Again, petering should not be resorted to as a rule of thumb, merely because the player happens to have a doubleton. If the continuation of the suit is likely to establish a long card or more for declarer, though the signaller may get in his ruff, it is not profitable to echo. Similarly, if the declarer is likely to over-ruff the signaller, the leader should consider if this is advantageous to himself. Again, with a sure trump winner irrespective of a ruffer, the defender should not

signal, unless thereby that winner is not jeopardised. There are other signals by discards of high cards, with which I shall deal in a subsequent article in our next issue. Again, it may be inadvisable to disclose the holding of a stopper or a finessable honour to declarer, especially against high contracts. In such cases, encouraging cards should not be used. I have already mentioned 2 kinds of N. T. echoes. Against a N. T. contract, one such high-low signal is made when the partner of the leader has four or more cards of the suit led. The cards played are the highest but one and the lowest but one.

Again, suppose the holder of a long suit holds an outside entry. He should not, generally, disclose his holding of such entry till his suit is established. Otherwise the declarer will remove that entry at once and the long suit may never come in at all.

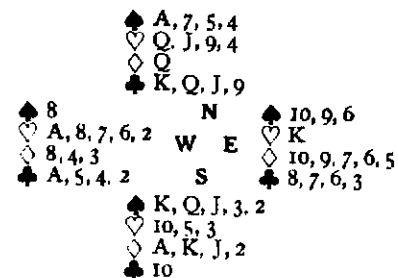
Now, let me take up the cases in order. The peter against a trump contract is familiar to most players, and I need not deal with it at length. One kind of peter against a N. T. contract has also been dealt with in the last paragraph.

I proceed to deal with the *Trump-Echo*. Let me take a concrete example:—



Contract :—4 hearts by South. West leads the ace of diamonds and East shows out. Now West knows the declarer holds 4 diamonds. He can give three ruffs to East, provided East holds three trumps and can also be directed to put West in twice. Hence, to the second trick, he leads the 9 of diamonds, to show that he wants his partner to lead spades, the higher of the two suits outside trumps. East ruffs and leads spades, and West gives him a diamond to ruff again. West is put in again with a spade and East gets a third ruff. The contract is 3 down. Now the point here is that East ruffs first with the 3 of hearts and next with the 2, showing that he holds a third trump. This illustrates a combination of the trump echo and the lead-directing signals.

Lead directing signal :—



Contract.—4 spades by South. West leads the ace of hearts & East drops the king. From dummy's cards it is clear that the king is a singleton and East can get in a ruff. West holds the ace of clubs also. If a fourth trick can be got, the contract is set. In order to direct East to put West in, West next leads the 2 of hearts, asking his partner to lead clubs. The converse case is where the opener leads a singleton and his partner, in order to show how he is to be put in to give the opener another ruff, leads a high or low card of the suit to direct the opener to lead the higher or the lower of the two suits, outside trumps, respectively. A third case is where the third hand can take second round of the suit and has a doubleton. In other words, when the lead is from ace and others & 3rd hand holds K. Q. doubleton or when the lead is from Ace king and small, he

has Q. J. doubleton. The following hand illustrates this:—
Game all Dealer—South

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

The bidding:—

S.	W.	N.	E.
2S—	—	3C—	—
4S—	—	—	—

I do not know on which system South opened with two spades, but there it is. West led the ace of diamonds on which East played the king. Of course this means, Q or no more, and hence South must have three or four diamonds. South's trumps must be solid for his bid, and looking at Dummy, he must have A, Q of hearts. The only hope of defeating the contract is to give East a diamond ruff. In order to direct the lead after East takes the 2nd trick, West leads the 2 of diamonds, indicating that he wants clubs led, and not hearts. West gets in on club Ace and gives East the ruff and the contract is one shy.

Another Example:—

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

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Contract:—4 hearts by South. West led the 7 of diamonds. After cashing his ace and king and noting the echo by West, East can defeat the contract at once by laying down his ace of spades and then giving West a diamond ruff. But he wants to set the contract more. Hence he leads the knave of diamonds, to ask West to lead a spade and the contract is two down. If West leads a club, South makes his contract as he can discard his two losing spades on North's long clubs.

A clever ruse was employed in the following hand by West:—

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

Contract:—4 spades by South. West led Ace of hearts and East dropped the 9. West has no hope of getting in again to give East a second ruff. Hence he resorted to the ruse of leading the 8 of hearts to the second trick, suggesting a diamond lead. South, on this lead, dare not hold up his Ace, as, if West has the king,

a 2nd H. ruff sets the contract. Eventually declarer lost two diamond tricks and the contract was set one.

No-Trump Echoes

I have already mentioned that one such echo is made by the partner of the defending leader to show four or more cards of the suit led. There is another kind of echo which is made on declarer's leads of a suit. This echo is used to show partner how long he may hold up the stopper in the declarer's suit, so that dummy may be killed if it has no outside entry for the suit. Some examples will illustrate:—

♠ K, Q, 10, 7, 5	♠ K, Q, 10, 7, 5	N	♠ A, 6, 2
(no outside entry)	(no outside entry)	W	♠ 9, 3
♠ 8, 4	♠ 8, 4	E	
		S	

South leads J of clubs. West plays the 8 and, on the next lead, plays the 4 showing a doubleton. Hence East must hold up his Ace till the third round.

♠ Q, J, 10, 7, 3	♠ Q, J, 10, 7, 3	N	♠ A, 6, 5
(no outside entry)	(no outside entry)	W	♠ K, 2
♠ 9, 8, 4	♠ 9, 8, 4	E	
		S	

South leads the king of clubs and then small. West plays the 4 first and then the 8,

showing that he holds a third card of the suit. Hence East should put up his Ace to the 2nd trick as South cannot lead clubs again. Holding up might present South with that one extra trick he may require to fulfil his contract. This echo may also be used against a trump contract to prevent the establishment of a side suit in dummy.

A different position arises when second hand has the stopper instead of the fourth. Take the following example:—

♠ K, Q, 10, 6, 2	♠ K, Q, 10, 6, 2	N	♠ 9, 8, 4
		W	
		E	
		S	
			♠ J, 7

Here West has to play before East can echo or show three of the suit. South leads the J and follows with the 7. East plays the 4 to the first trick. Apart from the fact that the 2 and 3 are visible and hence East's 4 is his lowest card, South's play probably marks East with the 9 and 8. Had East only one of these two cards besides the 4 he would have played it. Hence West goes right up with the ace on the second lead and dummy is dead as a door-nail.

[To be continued.]

THE BRIDGE CUB.

By Dr. T. V. S. Shastri.

IT happened in Madras. Little Indra was only a year and a quarter old. She could just walk and lisp a few words. As in the Chinese language, each word of hers or half word had to convey several meanings according to the context.

A series of coincidences occurring on the same day made this tale possible. Her mother had to attend her Sister's Bangle Ceremony, a function attended by ladies mostly, and the child with the instinctive contrariness inherent in children elected to remain with her father.

He took her to a friend's house where in spite of protests he was persuaded to join his friends on a trip to Mahabalipuram. He entrusted the child to his servant and asked him to take her to her mother and started on the trip.

The servant permitted her to walk a little along the China Bazar delightedly looking at the toys, toy cycles and other things exhibited there. It was then that a

small motor accident occurred at the Broadway end which, as usual, attracted a crowd amongst which the servant, with his morbid taste for witnessing accidents, was one.

A passing cyclist knocked the servant down and he lay down with closed eyes for such a long time, wondering whether he had died that the policeman had to take both him and the cyclist to a police station. Though he rushed back, remembering that he had left little Indra in the bazar, in the midst of his statement, little Indra had strolled away from the place where he had left her.

The servant in dismay ran hither and thither, loth to go to the mother and confess the loss of the child. Thoughts of running away from his job and even Madras and even of committing suicide raced through his mind while he continued the search.

Little Indra was in the mean while picked up by a kindly stranger, who finding that he could not deal with her varying moods lodged her in a police

station. It was not easy for the guardians of law and order too, as she had such scant respect for their admonitions. By fairly vociferous yellowing she even successfully prevented bearded policemen from entering the room. While they were wondering, as to what they could do about her, Dr. Rama Iyer walked into the thana.

Little Indra somehow took to the police surgeon, pulled his buttons, watch etc. and started a detailed search of his pockets. The kindly doctor co-operated by patiently submitting to all this and even pulled out the contents of his pockets.

As soon as she saw a number of visiting cards, the child picked them up eagerly, shouted for 'more' and collecting a lot and crying "cards, cards," gleefully invited him to play with her. And what was more, wanted two other policemen also for playing and pretended to deal the cards.

The observant doctor, who noticed that she wanted a good number of cards and four people to play guessed that the child must have witnessed her father or others playing Bridge and asked the police to telephone the M. U. C. and other clubs where they played Bridge. But since neither the mother, nor the father realised the absence of the child, till late at night, when they met, the child was restored to the bewildered parents only the next day, through the good offices of some bridge members who informed them of the previous evening's enquiries about a lost "Bridge Cub" named something like "Indu."

"Begin early" my friend T. S. K. used to say, placing a cigarette in his infant's mouth! Little Indra by attempting to begin early—Playing Bridge—was safely restored to her distracted parents, and earned for herself the soubriquet of "The Bridge Cub."

* * * * *

OPTIMISTIC SLAM BIDS.

By G. K. Nanjunda Iyer, Gobi.

1st series:

I have seen very many players who either fear or smell slam on seeing their hand or on hearing their partner open the bid. In their case the scientific process is of no avail. They rush to their goal irrespective of any impediments on their way; a positive or negative response for the Asking Bid or 4 N. T. (under 4-5 N. T. convention) bid is the same to them.

The following two hands will amply prove the optimism of the bidders because the results justify their hunch that the hands are slam ones.

Hand No. I:—

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

The bidding:—

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

The bid of 7 D. or 7 NT. is highly imaginative. South's losers have not been accounted for by North's bidding as neither of South's suit has been supported by North. At any rate South visualised a grand slam and he clutched at it.

The opening lead was the ten of clubs. Two rounds of with A and K drop the clubs Q of clubs. The remaining clubs are run and two small spades and the small hearts are discarded in South's hand. A small spade is played from the dummy. The spade A and K are cashed. In the meanwhile East was getting squeezed. He cannot keep four diamonds to J and Hearts K guarded. The contract is made. The success of this hand makes the optimist a hero and the champion of the day.

Hand No. II:—

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

(Contd. on page 12)

SACRIFICES AND FLAG-FLYING.

By T. Essex.

NO, Reggie, I am *NOT* writing about ceremonial worship or of His Majesty's Birthday Festivities. You have got it now, this article is about a particular form of defence at contract bridge.

The virus of sacrificitis has chronically infected some players. There is a player in our club who is never so happy as when he is making what he considers a heroic sacrifice to save the game or rubber. I cannot say that his partner is equally happy; nor does he agree that there is any heroism about the matter, and he would rather term the action foolhardy. The sacrifice or suicide complex is difficult to get rid of even with the aid of psychoanalysts. Woe unto the unlucky wight who cuts the sacrificer as partner. The scores go mounting up in the opponents' column above the line like a sky-scraper.

To sacrifice or not to sacrifice, that is the question. The answer depends on various factors. It calls for rare judgement. At Duplicate, such bids have a distinct value and are often effective. But ordinary Rubber Bridge is another story.

Theoretically, the invisible bonus for making the first game is 350 and the game itself is worth at least a 100 more. If a vulnerable side is likely to make rubber against their non-vulnerable opponents, they may score 700 for the rubber and at least 100 for the game, not to speak of honours. Hence it may be a saving to go 3 down doubled to save the first game and 4 down to save a two game rubber.

But, are you sure you are not begging the question? Is it so certain that the opponents will make the game or rubber? Is it not actual experience that the opponents, trading on your sacrifice complex, overbid their hands and would have gone down if left to play the hand? In this case, is not the sacrifice futile? Is it possible, again, to calculate accurately the penalty you are likely to incur by your going down on your doubled sacrifice bid? And, finally, supposing it is a save for the time being, and the odds are evens (this sounds Irish) on your eventually getting the rubber, are you certain of getting it or are you merely postponing the day of

reckoning and adding to the opponents' score?

When both sides are vulnerable, the points to be saved by sacrifice are at least 620 and therefore a two-trick set, doubled, is theoretically sound. But similar considerations to those quoted above apply here. Is the sacrifice worth while, after all?

Against sure slams, a heavy penalty sometimes shows a profit once in a blue moon. But are slams certain? Is there anything certain in Bridge, except that the loser

must pay? (In our club even this is not certain, with some losers). Theoretically, a set of 8 down non-vulnerable, or 5 down vulnerable is a paper-saving against a vulnerable grand slam by opponents. But —there *IS* a 'but.'

Judicious sacrifice at duplicate is sometimes very effective, but in ordinary rubber bridge the sacrifice bid is mostly a snare and a delusion. The player who indulges in such is hardly popular and other players fervently hope that they may not cut him as partner.

OPTIMISTIC SLAM BIDS—(Continued from page 10)

The bidding:—

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

The opening bid & the subsequent forcing bids of the opener are too optimistic & show his determination not to stop short of slam. The poor partner is dragged and thrown from one pit to another until at last he surrenders with a 6 N. T. bid.

In this deal all the troublesome cards for the declarer are distributed favourably to him. The opening lead was the 10 of clubs. The A and K of clubs were cashed. A small heart

was played from the dummy and won by South with the jack. Then club 9 was played from the hand and East took the trick with the Q and returned the last club which was taken by the jack. South played a small diamond and won the trick with the Q. H. A. and then the 10 were played from dummy, the third heart being taken in the hand. The 4th heart was cashed. For the next trick, a small D. was played by S covered by the K. from West and the ace from the dummy and then D. J was cashed leaving A Q of spades to win the last 2 tricks.

THE LURE OF THE SLAM.

By Toe Sigma.

THERE is a unique fascination about the bidding and making of slams, apart from the large bonuses for a successful slam contract. Even after these bonuses were reduced after the last revision of the laws, the premia are still substantial enough to tempt the enterprising player. Hence the crop of conventions alleged to enable one to arrive at makeable slam contracts. I may say at once that though their name is legion, the chief ones are about half a dozen. Nevertheless, not one of these can guarantee success. Apart from intrinsic defects in them, the imp of unfavourable distribution may trip up even an apparent dead certainty. "The best laid schemes of mice and men oft gang agley." There is only one thing certain at Bridge—the loser must pay.

In the first place, the reader may ask, why conventions at all? Were not slams bid before the invention of conventions? Yes, sir, they were. But, at best, they were but a leap in the dark. Even with conventions, they are by no means a sure thing.

It goes without saying that to make a grand slam, all four suits must be controlled in the first round. For a little slam, at least three first round controls and the second round control in the fourth suit are *sine qua non*. If the defenders can steal the first trick against a grand slam or the first two tricks against a small slam, there is no point in double-locking the stable thereafter. I shall proceed to describe in brief the leading slam conventions now being used.

4-5 N. T. Convention

In 1933, Mr. Culbertson introduced his 4-5 N. T. convention. After trumps are agreed upon, explicitly or implicitly, a bid of 4 N. T. shows two aces and the king of a suit bid by either partner or three aces. The responses are as follows:—

Responses	To show
Five of a suit other than trumps.	Ace of that suit.
Five of the trump suit.	No ace.
Six of the trump suit.	Ace of trumps.
Five N. T. ...	Two aces or the 4th ace and the king of all bid suits.

The convention works out satisfactorily only in about 60% of cases. But there are snags. It is sometimes not possible to use it, as the initial requirement of two aces and the king of a bid suit or 3 aces is lacking. Again, it is doubtful, in many cases which of these 2 holdings is shown. Thirdly, this convention, as well as some of those described below, such as the Norman and the Blackwood, are robbed of much of their value where there is a void suit. Control of that suit cannot be indicated positively and there is a great risk of duplication of values. Mr. Albert Sheinwold modified the convention to minimise one of these defects. Lastly, when the agreed suit is a minor, there is the danger, as in the employment of Asking Bids, that the response may land the partners into a compulsory small slam. Hence caution is necessary.

Asking Bids

In 1936, Mr. Culbertson introduced his Asking Bids. Here the asker bids a suit at the 4 or higher level (after trumps are agreed upon) asking specifically for first or second round control of that suit as well as first round control of other suits. Asking

bids must be made in a suit other than one bid by either partner. Great caution is necessary in making the asking bids in proper sequence, if there are more than one or, even if only one question is put. Especially if the agreed suit is a minor, a response of five of a major willy-nilly forces the contract to a little slam, which may not be there. It is generally advisable to ask in a suit in which one holds the ace. The responses are as follows to an asking bid at the four level:—

Responses	Show
Four of a suit other than trumps or five if the asked suit is of higher rank.	Second round control of the asked suit and the ace of the responded suit.
Four no-trump.	Ace of the asked suit and another ace or second round control of asked suit and two other aces.
Five no-trump.	Ace of asked suit and two other aces.

For example:—

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

The Bidding:—

N	E	S	W
1 ♠		3 ♠	—
4 ♦		4 N T	—
6 ♣		—	—

To the asking bid of 4 diamonds, South shows second round control of diamonds and two other aces. As pointed out already, even asking bids are by no means the last word. There are snags and pit-falls. They must be used with caution, always with a view to the possibility of ability to sign-off at the 5 level. For instance, in the following hand, Mr. Culbertson advocates "cheating" (of course in a technical sense) in lieu of giving the proper response.

West	East
♠ A, J, 9, 3	♠ K, Q, 10, 8, 6, 4
♥ A, 3, 2	♥ 6
♦ 10, 7	♦ A, 8, 5, 2
♣ A, Q, 7, 5	♣ K, 6

Bidding suggested by E. C.

East	West
1 ♠	3 ♠
4 ♦	4 ♥
4 ♠	5 ♣ or 4 N. T.
6 ♣	—

To the asking bid of 4 diamonds, West's regulation response is a sign-off. But with his three Aces, this is unthinkable.

Hence he "cheats" by showing second round control of diamonds (which is not there) and the heart ace. After East bids four spades, West either bids 4 N. T. showing 3 aces or asks in 5 clubs. In either case, East bids the small slam.

No doubt this is far-fetched and illustrates one of the snags in the system. The Bridge Editor of the London Times Weekly suggests an alternative bidding for the above hand:

East	West
1 ♠	3 ♠
3 ♦	3 ♠
4 ♠	5 ♣
5 ♦	5 ♥
5 N. T.	6 ♣

West gives the game force by the jump bid of 3 in another suit. East bids his secondary suit and West prefers spades. East signs off in 4 spades but West is not finished yet. He makes an asking bid of 5 clubs. East shows second round control and the ace of diamonds. West asks again in hearts and East shows second round control of that suit. West now bids the small slam.

It may be noted en passant that second round control of a suit is shown to a second asking bid by bidding the same number of no-trump. After a forcing two-opener second round control is shown similarly by bidding the minimum number of no-trump.

I consider this bidding much better than the cheating method.

The Blackwood convention.

The Blackwood 4-5 N. T. convention invented about 1940

by Mr. Easley R. Blackwood, has a large number of adherents. Here, after trumps are agreed upon, a bid of 4 N. T. asks for the aces in partner's hand; a following bid of 5 N. T. asks similarly for the kings in the responding hand. The responses are as follows:—

Responses to 4 N. T.	Show in responding hand
5 ♣	No aces
5 ♦	One ace
5 ♥	Two aces
5 ♠	Three aces
5 N.T.	Four aces. (It is not likely that the asker has no ace at all.)

Responses to 5 N. T.	
6 ♣	No kings
6 ♦	One king
6 ♥	Two kings
6 ♠	Three kings
6 N.T.	Four kings

It is obvious that there are snags here too. If the agreed suit is a minor, the response may land the contract in a compulsory small slam or even a grand slam.

Even when the asker holds four aces, the bid of 4 N. T. must be made, though the response must necessarily be five clubs. A bid of five N. T. straightaway is reserved for a hand in which the bidder wants to indicate that 6 N. T. is a probable contract. This is especially valuable at duplicate with match-point scoring.

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

In the case of voids, as already indicated, there may be the danger of duplication of values. Mr. Blackwood gets over this difficulty by giving the responding hand the right to override a sign-off by his partner.

For example:—

Responding hand	Asking hand bids 4 N. T.
West	East
♠ K, 10, 4, 3	♠ —
♥ K, Q, 9, 6, 3	♥ —
♦ —	♦ —
♣ A, 10, 7, 4	♣ —

Agreed suit, hearts.

West responds 5D and East signs off with 5 hearts. Now West bids six hearts showing his void in diamonds.

Responding hand	Asking hand bids 4 N. T.
West	East
♠ K, 10, 4, 3	♠ —
♥ —	♥ —
♦ K, Q, 5, 6, 3	♦ —
♣ A, 10, 7, 4	♣ —

Agreed suit, diamonds.

West's response should be normally 5 diamonds, showing one ace. But as East is likely to leave this in, West is told to bid six diamonds straightaway, showing a void and an ace.

When you or partner has not bid a suit but only no-trump, the 4 no-trump bid is not conventional but a slam try. Again after a double by

an opponent, a bid of 4 no-trump may be a rescue and not conventional.

For example:—

N	E	S	W
1 ♥	—	2 ♣	—
3 ♥	—	3 N. T.	—
4 ♥	—	—	Dble
—	—	4 N. T.	—
		(rescue bid)	

The Norman 4 N. T. Convention.

Introduced about 1939, is named after its inventors Sir Norman Bennett and Mr. Norman Hart. A bid of 4 no-trump makes an inquiry about aces and kings on a point count, an ace counting as one point and a king as half a point. After a bid of 4 no-trump, the responses are as follows:—

Responses	Show
5 ♣	Less than 1½ points
5 ♦	1½ points
5 ♥	2 points
5 ♠	2½ points
5 N. T. &c.	3 points and so on, each higher bid showing ½ a pt. more.

When originally introduced, the convention placed some restrictions on the asker. With clubs as the probable trump suit, the asker must have himself 3 points, with diamonds 2½, with hearts 2, and with spades 1½. This was laid down in order that the con-

tract may stop at the five level if necessary. But now-a-days players use this convention irrespective of the holding of the asking hand. It will be noticed also that there is no separate enquiry about Kings in this convention.

An example:—

West	East
♠ K, Q, J, 9	♠ 10, 6, 4, 3
♥ A, K, Q, J, 7, 4	♥ 9, 2
♦ 2	♦ A, 10, 9
♣ A, 2	♣ K, Q, 10, 5

West bids 4 no-trump, after hearts are agreed upon. East bids five diamonds showing 1½ points. This may mean 3 kings or an ace and a king. From his own holding West knows it must be an ace and a king. Hence he bids 6 hearts. It must be noted that the response does not necessarily show the diamond ace and king of clubs. It may mean spade ace and king of diamonds, in which case the slam is not there. The system is not infallible. But, I consider that it is simpler than the systems already described and works out well in a vast majority of cases. There is only one question put and the answer may be correctly interpreted in most cases.

Another example:—

♠ J, 10, 5, 4
♥ A, 9, 7, 6, 4, 3
♦ A, J, 2
♣ —

North

South

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

The bidding:—

S	N
1 ♠	2 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♠
4 N. T.	5 ♥
6 ♠	—

North's response of 5H shows 2 points. This may be two aces or one ace and two kings. If it is the former, two kings are missing, but a heart can be discarded on the ace of diamonds and the trump finesse is an even chance for a slam. If it is one ace and 2 kings, only the missing ace is likely to make.

The Smith slam convention.

This is, in some respects, similar to the Norman convention, in that the responses are based on a similar point count, an ace being reckoned as 1 point and a king as half a point. Either partner may make an asking bid of 4 no-trump. But the asker must hold $2\frac{1}{2}$ points himself. (This may be two aces and a king or one ace and three kings). The responses are as follows:—

Responses	Show
5 clubs	Less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ points
5 ♦	$1\frac{1}{2}$ points
5 ♥	2 "
5 ♠	$2\frac{1}{2}$ "

and so on, raising the bid for every half point extra in the responding hand. When the opening bid is forcing to game, however, the responses are shaded $\frac{1}{2}$ point; that is, the response to 4 no-trump is 5 clubs if less than one point is held (instead of $1\frac{1}{2}$); it is 5 diamonds with 1 point; and so on.

In order to deal with hands which are strong distributionally, the 4-no-trump bid is replaced by a jump bid in a new suit or an overcall of the opponent's suit. The response should show only the number of points held *outside the opponent's suit or the jump-bid suit*. Here again, as in the game-forcer opening bid, the response begins with 1 point instead of $1\frac{1}{2}$.

An example or two will illustrate:—

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

The bidding:—

W	N	E	S
1 ♥	1 ♠	3 ♦	—
3 ♥	—	3 ♠	—
4 ♥	—	7 ♥	—
—	—	—	—

East's bid of the adverse North suit is asking. West's response of 4H shows two points. From his hand, East knows that these must be the aces of hearts and clubs, and the grand slam is a practical certainty.

(2) West	East
♠ A, Q, 6, 3	♠ K, 9, 8, 4, 2
♥ A, Q, J, 10, 4	♥ K, 5
♦ A, Q, J, 2	♦ K, 9, 3
♣ —	♣ Q, 8, 5

The bidding:—

W	E
1 ♥	1 ♠
3 ♠	3 N. T.
5 ♣	5 ♠
7 ♣	—

West's jump bid of 5 clubs asks for controls *out side the club suit*. East's response of 5S shows $1\frac{1}{2}$ points. It is obvious from West's hand that these points are made up of the kings of spades, hearts & diamonds.

Hence West bids the grand slam with confidence.

Lastly, the P-Smith Convention

To end in a lighter vein, I mention this convention, or rather old joke, some what apocryphal. This is supposed to be used by sharpers on Atlantic Liners to rook victims. One of this fraternity on picking up his hand finds that it is a bust and announces that it must be a misdeal as he has only 12 cards. If his partner has also a poor hand he says that he has fourteen cards and they throw down their cards together. If, on the other hand, the partner's hand is good, he says, "I have only 13 cards," "count your cards again." Needless to add, this convention is not used by members of the South Indian Bridge Association.

A Garland of Forget-me-nots.

By Framroj Dhanjisha Dhanbhora.

- A (1) Do not scream or shout at the mistakes of others; the next mistake may be yours.
- (2) If you have made a mistake, do not make silly excuses; even experts make occasional mistakes.
- B (1) Lose and give graciously or gain and receive courteously.
- (2) Do not play for stakes beyond your means; playing for high stakes is not a game but mere gambling.
- C (1) It is better to lose a game than to lose your honour.
- (2) It is not fair to stop and think when there is nothing to think about, e. g., while throwing a singleton card.

THE 'GREENE' SYSTEM

By P. S. Ramaswami, M.A.

THE Greene System of Contract Bridge, expounded in the 'Greene Book on Contract' by Ernest Greene, Canada's foremost teacher, is an intelligent attempt at simplifying Bridge. It certainly is easier to learn than the Culbertson System, though the claim that it is superior to the Culbertson System in every way cannot so readily be conceded. In certain aspects of the bidding the Greene System is no less artificial than the Culbertson System and no more helpful. Slam bidding, which is at once the glory and the despair of the bridge player, is easier or more difficult according to the type of hands given. But if the four-five N. T. Convention and the Asking Bids are the bugbear of the average bridge player, as they no doubt are, the Greene bidding is an alternative well worth considering.

The Greene trick count is the basis of all Greene bidding. The trick-taking values assigned to the high cards are as below.

Ace $1\frac{1}{2}$, King 1, Queen $\frac{1}{2}$.

These when added up total 12 for all the suits. In N. T. the Jack is assigned $\frac{1}{4}$. Greene calls these high-card tricks 'Taking Tricks.' The

long-card tricks, viz., $\frac{1}{2}$ for the fourth and 1 for every additional card of the suit, he calls 'Hand-Made Tricks.' The two added up give the 'total taking-trick' value of the hand.

The minimum for an opening bid of one of a suit is a biddable suit and 4, 5 or 6 'total taking tricks' of which 4 or at least $3\frac{1}{2}$ should be in the 'Ready-mades,' i.e., high-card tricks. The assisting hand raises, with normal trump support, *once* for every trick held above 3 tricks; and without normal trump support, in N. T. There is no material difference between the two systems in regard to this, but the Greene bid of one of a suit is a more precise indication of the strength of the opening hand, as that strength ranges from 4 to 6 total taking tricks and no more while the Culbertson 1 bid of a suit may mean anything between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $5\frac{1}{2}$ 'Honour Tricks.'

The requirements for preemptive bids and for raises by the assisting hand are the same in both systems. But bids indicating strength are different. While in the Culbertson System strength is indicated by an opening *two* bid of a suit, in the Greene System

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD, FEBRUARY 1942

21

it is shown by an opening bid of 1 N. T. The specification for a 1 N. T. bid in the Greene System is a count of 6 in three suits or of $5\frac{1}{2}$ among the four suits irrespective of the hand pattern. Partner adds up his 'Ready-made' count, and before bidding stops he gradually raises his partner's bid, *once* for every count of 1, *twice* for a count of 2, and so on. In this way he tells partner, not only how much of the remaining count he holds but (what is still more important for slam purposes) what suits the raisers are in. All responding hands containing at least a king are bid. The first response is in the lowest ranking suit containing the highest count, i.e., an ace, then in the immediately higher ranking suit with an ace or a king, and so on. Where no aces or kings are held, but only two queens and any six or five card suit headed by the queen, such suit is bid at the three level. If only 2 Queens are held, the raise is to 2 N. T. Likewise, four queens would allow a raise to 3 N. T. If length and strength are all in one suit without a re-entry card, such suit is bid and rebid. Here is a typical Greene 'No-Trumper' and the responses.

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

The 2 H. bid by N. tells S. that the D. A. is missing. South's club bid reveals an uneven type of hand. North next shows his count of 1—(his D. K. before S. K.). South's 3 H. bid is intended to give N. a chance to mention spades if he has the king. North now shows an important card, the S. K.; if he did not have it he would rebid his hearts. South's bid of 4 C. should enable N. to show his preference. North now bids 6 H.

The Greene 2 N. T. bid shows still greater strength, but the strength is well distributed in all 4 suits. It is a slam invitation bid, requiring a count of 7 tricks among the 'Ready-mades.' The responses and raises are similar to those in 1 N. T.

A unique feature of the Greene system is the 2 bid of a suit. It is a two-suiter with five losers and with no specified 'Ready-made' holding. The assisting hand realizes that

partner holds a freak, and uses his own judgment in raising the bid. As in the No Trumper the raises could be made only on 'Ready-mades.' The responses start with the lowest ranking suit holding the greatest 'Ready-made' count. This is very informative, for, if the first response was in one of the major suits, and then later on, the minor suit was mentioned in the bidding, it would be denying an ace in the minor suit. There are no preference bids. That is to say, taking the original bid out from 2 C. to 2 D. shows a count of at least 1 in the diamond 'Ready-mades.' After opener bids his second suit, say for example hearts, a response of spades would again show a count of 1 in spades. Now if opener rebids his Clubs, i.e. 3 C., partner would have to produce the H. K. to bid 3 H; otherwise 3 N. T. is the correct response. Here is an example:—

♠ A, K, 7, 3, 2
♥ 9, 7
♦ 3
♣ A, K, 7, 6, 2

North

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

North starts 2 clubs. South responds with 2 hearts. North shows his second suit, bidding

2 S. South's response is 2 N. T., a denial of any more aces or kings. North rebids 3 S., his major suit and S. raises to 4 S., the raise pending on the distributional advantage.

The great merit of the 2 bid is that hands which are not likely to be bid in the first round for want of the minimum of ready-made tricks and therefore likely to be thrown in, could be bid with a view to a part score or even game. But the claim that the bid is 'danger-proof' is open to question. For instance, take the following deal:—

♠ Q, J, 10, 9, x, x, x
♥ x
♦ Q, J, 10, x, x
♣

North

South

♠ x, x
♥ A, K, x, x
♦ x, x, x
♣ A, K, x, x

The bidding will be as below:—

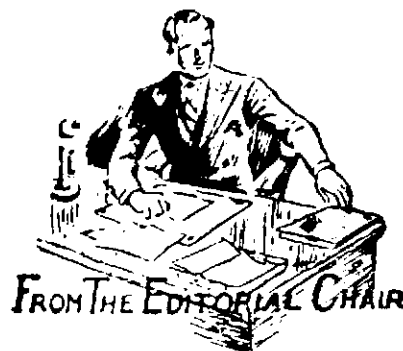
North

South

2 ♦
3 ♠
4 ♠
5 ♦
5 ♠

3 ♣
4 ♣
5 ♣
5 ♥

In the result the contract will be pitched too high to be safe. To avoid duplication of values is sometimes no easier in the Greene System than in the Culbertson.



ANOTHER year of the life of the S. I. B. A. has rolled on. Looking back, though we have advanced in certain directions, yet the progress made has not been as satisfactory as we expected. We hope that each member will make it a point to enroll at least one new member this year, so that we may reach at least the five hundred mark. All members are requested to note that this work must not be left only to the membership committee.

We regret to state that Mr. A. M. R. David, till now Chairman of the Editorial committee, is unable to continue in the post owing to pressure of

work. We are sure all members will join us in placing on record our thanks for the valuable work he has done as Chairman hitherto. We hope Mr. David will continue to help us.

The Editorial offices will be removed to Coimbatore from March 25th. Mr. T. S. Krishnamurti will take over the Chairmanship and Mr. N. R. Srinivasan will be Business Editor in place of Mr. P. W. David, who has done most efficient work hitherto and to whom we render thanks.

Owing to changes in personnel, it was not possible to bring out this issue in time. We apologise for the unavoidable delay.

We appeal to all members to contribute articles on various aspects of play and bidding. At present the whole thing has to be done by two or three members of the Editorial Committee. We would much appreciate co-operation from all members.

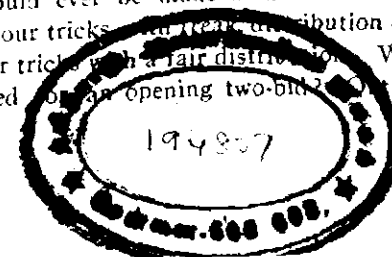
* * * *



By F. D. C. Dhanbhora.

Mandu Manikkam :—Oh you Madras Moliere ! Are you in love with any "La Saree Princess" that you are talking French? What does it mean, Somberi Sweet?

Editor:—Don't quarrel dear brethren, simplicity is dignity of fraternity. Now no two-bid should ever be made without at least a strong biddable suit and four honour tricks, or a fair distribution or at least five or five and a half honour tricks with a fair distribution. Well Kettikaran, what else is required for an opening two-bid? Put with your explanation.



Kettikara Krishnan :—I don't know sir.

Mandu Manikkam :—What a clever Culbertson? He does not know the A. B. C. of Bridge. I will tell you, sir.

Editor :—Don't call me "sir". We are all coterie comrades in cards; we are all friends and brethren.

Mandu Manikkam :—Well, brother dear, the most necessary condition for an opening bid of two is "Open with a two-bid in a suit only when your hand contains more honour tricks than losers"

Kettikara Krishnan :—I am sorry dear brother; you are no longer Mandu. Now I understand that even if we have as many H. T. as losers we cannot and should not risk a two-bid. We must have more H. T. than losers.

Editor :—Quite so, dearie. Supposing you hold: S.—K, Q, J, 7, 5, 3. H.—A, Q, 10, 4. D.—A, K. C.—A. You may bid 2 spades as you have $1\frac{1}{2}$ in spades, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in hearts, 2 in diamonds and 1 in clubs or a total of six honour tricks and only about three (or 4 at the most) losers. Do you understand it now?

Mandu Manikkam :—Oh yes, it is now all clear and quiet on the Western Front.....What say you K. B. Pettigard? I mean Kettikara.

Editor :—Now at a glance let us memorise:—(1) Strong biddable suit. (2) Four to five and a half H. T. (3) More honour-tricks than losers. (4) Partner must respond even with a yarborough. (5) Negative response is Two No-trump. A response must be made, no matter how weak our hand is, unless the next opponent bids & assures our partner of a chance to re-bid. (6) Partner must keep the bidding open until game is reached or penalty exacted.

Mandu Manikkam :—Oh! then we can keep quiet when the next opponent chatters or interferes. I will pray to god, the next opponent may chatter to his cost.

Kettikara Krishnan :—You yourself...a chatter-box. Oh Tempora! Oh Mores! When, if ever the giftie give us...to see ourselves as others see us!

Mandu Manikkam :—The poet Burns...the heart burns at the thought of a Scottish sweet-heart...a merry glance of a mountain maid! Well, dear captain, on with your show.

Editor :—"Oh memories that bless and burn!
Now let us to our subject turn!"

Mandu Manikkam :—Oh you are a Poet Laureate! I too can say,
"Bridge and Belle in us dwell
Which is lovelier, Who can tell?"

Kettikara Krishnan :—Poets and babies are born, not made.

Editor :—(1) When your partner has opened with a two-bid you cannot pass; keep the bidding open at any cost. (2) If you have adequate trump support and one honour trick, you may raise him once. A double raise is a weak bid, showing Q x x x or better in trumps, but no honour tricks, no card as high as a king in the hand (hand means 13 cards held by you) and no void or singleton.

Mandu Manikkam :—Suppose I have a biddable suit, but no support in my partner's trump suit what should I do? Besides, is an opening Two No-trump bid forcing?

Kettikara Krishnan :—A mandu is a mandu though he be clad in... It is explained to us three times thrice that an opening two-bid in a suit only is forcing to game. A two no-trump bid is not forcing; partner may pass with yarborough cards and needs half a trick to raise it to three no-trump.

Editor :—Quite so, my dear. (3) Now if you have a biddable suit of your own headed by at least the Ace, King or Queen-Jack and about one plus or one and a half honour tricks, you may show your biddable suit. (4) Without adequate trump support, or a biddable suit, but with one and a half honour tricks and some kind of a stopper in the other suits, you should bid Three No-trump (a jump of one more than necessary.) Now, let us stop here. It is Mr. Culbertson who wisely said "Do not try to learn too much at one sitting." Napoleon was not made in one night only.

Mandu Manikkam :—One thing puzzles me, dear captain..... Aqua Pura...Why do all these American authors write and spell colour, honour, as color, honor, etc.?

Editor :—Because I think they do not like you (U) in colour, and they must be frightened to see you (U) in colour as well as in honour. What say you, Kettikara?

Kettikara Krishnan :—Oh you are a chip of the old block: both witty and learned. We thank you so much for loving us.

Editor :—On the contrary, I am obliged to you all. "Bridge is a glorious game indeed! It knows no color, caste, or creed."

PSYCHIC PLAY.

By P. W. David.

THERE is nothing so sweet to the soul of a bridge player as a successful Psychic bid or Psychic play. Squeezes, Coups, End plays, etc., are all very fine plays but there's something cold and impersonal about them. A bluff is warm, colourful, and carries with it the very pleasant feeling of a personal victory.

We often hear of psychic bids and from experience one must know that these bids are very dangerous unless you employ them with caution only on certain types of hands and only when you play with partners who can reason things. Further, inexperienced players are always afraid to partner a psychic bidder. He earns the notorious name of 'Psyche' in his club. But psychic play will, I feel, keep all these troubles away. Let me just illustrate to you with two examples of such plays and ask you to look out for such deals when you are desparate to snatch the winning trick.

The other night, this hand was dealt by E and he passed, EW being vulnerable.

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

Sitting south I opened the bidding with one club and my partner raised it to two clubs. I gambled on 2 N. T. and my partner raised it to 3 N. T. remarking it was my funeral.

The opening lead was the 4 of spades and I could see only 8 tricks-five in clubs and three in spades. But where was my ninth trick coming from? It will be futile to develop a heart trick by leading the suit myself. *The only chance was to induce the opponents to lead hearts for me.*

I, therefore won the first trick in dummy with the spade J to show that I had enough tempo in spades and led a small diamond. East played low and I played the Jack. West won with the Q and knowing that I had enough controls in spades and thinking that I was trying to establish dia-

monds, led a heart. East took it with the Ace and led back a heart. West took it with the king and expecting to cash his fourth heart when I tried to establish my diamond suit and thereby set the contract led heart 6. I got my ninth trick and spread my hand for nine tricks—5 club tricks, 3 spade tricks and 1 heart trick. West found to his dismay that the contract could not have been kept if he had not played hearts and that he and his partner had, between them, 6 tricks cold in hearts and diamonds.

Another night the following hand was dealt.

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

The bidding went as follows, neither side being vulnerable. South (myself) was dealer.

S	W	N	E
1 C (artificial club)	pass	1 D	pass
1 N. T.	"	2 N T	"
3 N. T.	"	"	"

West led the Jack of spades. It was covered and East took it with the Ace and led back a small spade. I played a small spade and W. took it with the 10 & led a D. which was taken by dummy's A. Just to stop the opponents from playing spades & to show that my club bid was a regular one, I led a small club from dummy & played the Q from hand. West probably thinking that I was trying to establish the club suit ducked. A small heart was played from hand to make sure of two tricks in hearts. West played the king and led and small Diamond hoping that his partner would have at least the K. of diamonds to set the contract. I made my nine tricks and while entering the scores the opponents were vehemently quarrelling with each other.

Readers beware of such Psychic Plays.

THE OPENING FOUR NO-TRUMP CALL

A. Ramamoorthy, Salem

THE existing Culbertson Convention for an opening 4 N. T. call restricts it to a 4-3-3-3 distribution. It is obligatory on the partner to raise it by the number of N. T. equal to the top honours (A, K, Q) he holds in his hand. But consider the 2 hands shown below,

Case I:—

♠ A, K, J, 10, 9
♥ A, K
♦ A, K, Q
♣ A, K, Q

North

♠ Q
♥ J, 10, x, x, x
♦ x, x, x, x
♣ x, x, x

South

The distribution does not permit North to open 5 N. T. Even if he stretches a point and opens, his partner raises it to 6. Even if he should hold the queen of hearts instead of spades, the response is the same. That the Q of hearts does not count is not known to S. Nor can North know which queen is held by South. The hand is played at 6 N. T. while a grand slam is cold. Even if North opens 2 spades, there is no way for South to show queen. With a singleton he

will not raise in trumps. The final contract will be reached at best at 6 N. T. called by North.

Case II:—

♠ A, K, J, 10, 9
♥ A, K
♦ A, K, x
♣ A, K, Q

North

♠ Q
♥ J, 10, x, x, x
♦ x, x, x, x
♣ x, x, x

South

The opening bid of North can be 4 N. T. The response of South can only be 5 N. T. The bidding stops there. North dare not go 6 N. T. for, if South holds the queen of hearts, and if the queen of spades is on the wrong side guarded twice, the contract that can be made is only 5 N. T. This case is equally tragic for the small slam is lost.

Should the distribution be 4-3-3-3, the question does not arise at all. For, the Queens, Kings or Aces exactly fill the gaps & no more N. Ts. can be made than those bid by S. who raises by exactly the number equal to the top honours he holds. It is there-

fore necessary that a change in the requirements of distribution of suits in the opening hand and responses to the opening 3 & 4 N. T. should be made, so that such hands, as shown shall be cashed to their maximum value.

The opening bid of 4 N. T. :—

This bid is forcing. It is as much obligatory on the partner to respond as it would be if the opening is two in a suit. The value of a 4 N. T. call, passed by the partner with no top honours is the same as the 3 N. T. call, 4 made. The opener is certain that one missing top honour (A, K or Q) in his partner's hand will give them a slam, and in its absence he should be able to play the hand at 5 N. T. If his hand is only capable of making a 4 N. T. contract he cannot possibly make a slam with one top honour in his partner's hand. He can open then with a 3 N. T. call and should the presence of 2 top honours in his partner's hand enable him to make a slam, it can be bid. The responses and rebids to a 3 N. T. opening call are discussed later.

The distribution of suits in the opening hand should be at least 5-3-3-2. The two card suit should be A K. If 2

controls are not held in any suit and if the opening lead is in that suit, the declarer may receive a good knock on the head when a trick is lost in the five card suit, to establish the rest.

The responses & rebids to an opening 4 N. T. are as follows:—

I. If the responder holds no top honour at all:—Responder bids 5 N. T. If the opener can make 6 N. T. on his own hand he may bid so. The responder should then pass.

II. If the responder holds one top honour, responder should bid five in that suit.

Opener's rebid: (1) If that honour is the only one required to make a grand slam, bid 7 N. T. (2) If that honour can only help to make a small slam, the opener should try to locate the other missing honour which is required in the partner's hand to make a grand slam. He should then ask for that honour by bidding six in that suit. This bid is forcing on the responder. (3) If the honour shown by responder does not help the opener's hand in anyway, bid 5 N. T. This is a Sign-off bid.

Responder's rebid: (1) As the responder has shown the

only top honour he holds, he bids the required number of N. T. if the opener asks for an honour in a second suit. (2) If the opener bids 5 N. T. pass.

III. If the responder holds two top honours in his hand, the responder should first bid five in a suit in which he holds the A or K. If both the top honours he holds are Queens, he should bid five in the lowest suit in which a queen is held.

Opener's rebid: (1) If the responder shows the A or K in a suit, 6 N. T. is a lay down. He should therefore ask for the missing honour required for making a grand slam. (2) If the responder shows a queen that helps to make a small slam, the opener, as in the previous case, should ask for the missing honour required. If the queen shown by the responder is of no use, the opener bids 5 N. T.

Responder's rebid: (1) If the opener rebids 5 N. T. bid six in the suit in which the other

honour is held. (2) If the responder holds the queen asked for by the opener, he bids 1 N. T. more than the required number. If he does not, he bids the exact number of N. T. required to cover the opener's asking bid. If the responder holds the top honours asked for and another he has not yet shown, he holds the three missing cards. In that case he should always jump to 7 N. T. on the opening 4 N. T. bid.

The Opening 3 N. T. Call:—

This is only an optional force. The opener may have a hand to make 3 N. T. or 4 N. T. on his own. Should he have a better hand to make 5 N. T. he would have opened with 4 N. T. So the responder should pass unless he holds at least two top honours. With less than that, the slam is out of the question, and 4 or 5 N. T. called and made is the same as 3 N. T. called and four or five made.

The responses and rebids for the 3 N. T. are similar to those for the opening 4 N. T.

READERS' FORUM

Edited by K. R. Varadarajan, B.A., B.L.

Mr. A. Sridhara Menon writes:—

"How to reach a slam in either spades or hearts in the following partnership hands by employing any of the recognised systems of bidding?"

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

North

♠ 9, x, x, x
♥ A, Q, x
♦ —
♣ Q, J, x, x, x, x

South

Suppose North is the dealer and begins one spade. The bidding must be as follows:—

N.	S.
1 S	2 C
2 H	4 D?
4 H	5 C?
5 S	6 S

After North's response of 2 H South misleads North into thinking that hearts are the agreed trump and comes with an asking bid in diamonds. The reason is this. South is able to gauge the hand of North. The partnership has no loser in hearts, probably no loser in trump, no loser in diamond because South is void in that suit. The only losers must be in clubs. So South must know North's control in the club suit.

He cannot ask in clubs because it is a bid suit. So he chooses the diamond suit for the first asking bid, though it is absolutely unnecessary, and the repeat asking bid comes in the club suit. In these hands the employment of The Blackwood 4-5 No Trump convention will not work properly because South's hand which is void in diamonds cannot show the first and second round control in that suit. The final contract of 6 S must come as a surprise to North who was all along under the impression that hearts are the agreed trump. But South chooses the black suit because there are at least 8 trumps with the partnership, whereas in hearts there are only 7 trumps and South's hand must ruff diamonds with the Ace and Queen of hearts in the second and third round. Hence South prefers to play at 6 S instead of 6 H.

2. A Bridge enthusiast wants to know how a pairs progressive duplicate match should be run when there are teams for an even number of tables only.

The above question has been answered in detail in one of the

issues of our then Deccan Bridge Magazine. Anyhow we here repeat the instructions-taking for example a ten table match.

For 20 teams, 10 tables and one relay table or stand should be arranged. The movement is very slightly different from the Mitchell movement. At least 20 deals or boards should be in play and successive sets of two boards each should be assigned to tables 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Between tables 5 and 6, there should be the relay table where the 6th set of deals numbered 11 and 12 should be placed, dealt out by the Tournament Director. Tables 6, 7, 8 & 9 would then receive the remaining four sets of 2 boards each. No deals would be left for table No. 10. But this difficulty would be over-come by having players at table No. 10 share the boards played at table No. 1. This can be done easily enough so long as more than one board is played during a round. For example, during the first round, there are two boards in play at table No. 1, i. e., boards Nos. 1 & 2. While the four players at table No. 1 play board No. 1, the four players at table 10 should play board No. 2. At the end of each round, the E-W pairs move to the next higher numbered table, just as in the Mitchell Movement for odd number of tables. The players

disregard the stand on which two extra boards are placed. But in moving the boards down to the next lower numbered table, the relay stand is considered to be a regular table. In this case, boards Nos. 11 & 12 should be moved from the relay stand to table No. 5 for the second round and boards Nos. 13 & 14 should be left in the relay stand. Thus in a game for an even number of tables, one set of boards left in the relay table is always out of play. It is also important to remember that deals played at No. 1 table should be shared by players at the last table where no boards will be placed.

3. Mr. K. S. Krishnamurthy Iyer writes:—"I was sitting East at a Bridge Table and the bidding of the North—South players was as follows:—

N	S
1 ♠	2 ♥
2 ♠	4 ♠?
4 NT	6 ♣

South's asking bid of 4 diamonds was answered by a positive response of 4 NT, thereby disclosing first or second round control in the asked suit and altogether two aces in the hand. The contract was made. But ultimately it turned out that North had only two rags in diamonds and (no first or second round control). Had he signed off I would have played my diamond Ace and seeing a

come-on signal by my partner would have continued the same and defeated the contract. Evidently North has misled the opponents so that there may not be an opening lead of diamonds. Is this permissible?"

The answer is not so easy. Of course North ought to have signed off, which is the correct response to the South's asking bid. But any player can mislead the opponents provided the partner also is so misled. A player cannot mislead the opponent whereas his partner understands him alright. That is certainly objectionable. So, in the absence of sufficient materials from Mr. Krishnamurthy Iyer, as to whether the partner of North was also misled or not I am not able to give a direct answer to him. Under these circumstances I have no other alternative but to remand this question back to Mr. Krishnamurthy Iyer and call upon him to give a finding before the appearance of the next issue

of our Indian Bridge World on the following issue:—"Whether the opponents alone were misled or the partner also."

Since the time for giving the finding has been fixed till the appearance of the next issue, it may not be possible for me to give the final judgment after receipt of the finding from Mr. Krishnamurthy Iyer. So I request him to have the alternative final judgment also even now. If the partner also was misled, there is nothing wrong. If it is otherwise, the bid is certainly objectionable.

It is only to avoid such difficulties there is provision for this. If you suspect that the response of 4 NT. by North was incorrect, you may take South aside and ask him as to the meaning of North's bid of 4 NT. From the information he gives as to how he has also understood his partner's bid, you can ascertain whether the mislead was intended for the opponents alone or to the partner as well.

*

*

*

NEWS AND NOTES

Championship Tournament 1941 :

This year's tournament was conducted at 6 centres. Vellore and Rajamundry were welcome additions. The entries at the various centres were as follows :—

<i>Madras</i>	Team of four	20	Teams
	Open pairs	48	Pairs
	Pairs progressive	34	"
<i>Coimbatore</i>		13, 26 and 22	
<i>Trichy</i>		6, 15, 10	
<i>Madura</i>		6, 16 and 14	
<i>Vellore</i>	Open Pairs	16	
	Pro. pairs	10	
<i>Rajamundry</i>	Pro. pairs	8	

The finals were conducted at Madras between the 27th and 30th Dec. 1941. The following are the results

<i>Team of four</i>	Gobi Reading Room	Winners
	Devakottah Team	Runners up
<i>Open Pairs</i>	S. R. Rajam and Varadarajan, Pritchard Club, Tiruppur	Winners
	K. Rajagopalachari and R. I. Kuppuswami Iyengar, Trichy	Runners up
<i>Prog. pairs N. S.</i>	Mani and Gopalswami, Tyagarajanagar Social Club, Madras	Winners
	V. J. Sankaran and N. A. Sankaran, Coimbatore	Runners up
<i>" " E. W.</i>	Rajam and Varadarajan, Pritchard Club, Tiruppur	Winners
	Ramaswami and Ramaratnam, T. N. S. Club, Madras.	Runners up
<i>Individual championship</i>	V. Srinivasa Aiyer, Coimbatore	I
	M. Ramachandra Rao, C. A. Maha Saba, Madras	II

The following are the winners of the various zones :—

<i>Madras</i>	Team of four	Vani Ath. Association	Winners
		1. M. K. Srinivasa Mudr.	
		2. C. Devarajan	
		3. Dr. Hanumantha Rao	
		4. Sriramulu Chetty	

	Open pairs	A. N. Chari and B. Lakshappa Rai	M.N. Club } Winners
	Prog. pairs N. S.	A. Narasimha Aiyar and G. Krishna Aiyar	Cosmopolitan Club }
	E. W.	Hanumantha Rao and Sriramulu	Vani Ath. Ass. }
<i>Coimbatore</i>	Team of four	Gobi Reading Room	Winners
<i>Trichy</i>	" "	City Club	Winners
		1. Y. Duraiswamy	
		2. Md. Gani	
		3. P. E. Subramani Iyer	
		4. M. Subbiah	
	Open pairs	A. K. Shariffuddin and K. P. Kanakaraj	
	Prog. pairs N. S.	Y. Duraiswamy & Md. Gani	
	E. W.	R. I. Kuppuswamy and K. Rajagopalachari	
<i>Madura</i>	Team of four	Devakottah United Club.	
	Open pairs	Chari and A. Sundararajan	
	Prog. pairs N. S.	Mrs. Coorey and A. D. Nayak	
	E. W.	A. M. R. David and Chari	
<i>Vellore</i>	Open pairs	C.S. Ekambaram and D. Govindaraj Mudr.	
	Prog. pairs N. S.	Muniratnam and Narasimhayya	
	E. W.	K. Visvanathan and V. R. Subramanier	
<i>Rajamundry</i>	Prog. pairs N. S.	Dr. Venkat Rao and W.V.V. Sundar Rao	
	E. W.	Nagaraju and Yegyanarayana	

We take this opportunity to congratulate the winners and to thank the various Tournaments authorities for their splendid co-operation. The zone secretaries are particularly requested to send their reports as soon as the competitions are over in their centres.

Our thanks are due to the authorities of the various clubs and institutions who kindly placed their premises at the disposal of the Association for conducting the Zone matches.

The General Body Meeting, after due notice was held in the Progressive Union School, G. Town on 31-12-41 with Sir P. T. Rajan one of our vice-presidents in the chair. The Annual Report of the Editorial Committee with the audited accounts up to 30-9-41 was unanimously adopted and the budget for the ensuing year was sanctioned. The draft rules were then taken up for consideration and a set of rules has been finally framed. (The rules books are now ready). The office-bearers for the year 1942 were also elected.

On the evening of the 31st December the Zone Committee, Madras were at home to the members of the Association. After a pleasant evening when the chairman of the Zone Committee Mr. S. M. K. Sastri and a few others spoke highly of the good work of the Association the function came to a close.

Tiruppur Pritchard Club Tournament (Open)

The Pritchard Club, Tiruppur conducted a Contract Bridge Tournament on the 21st and 22nd February 1942. The Tournament consisted of two events, viz., Pairs Progressive and Duplicate Progressive "Team of four". The Tournament was very well represented and it was a great success. Four teams from Coimbatore, one from the Agricultural College, one from the Madras United Club and three local teams competed for the Duplicate "Team of four" Prog. Tournament. The Duplicate Match was played in two sessions with 20 deals on the 21st and 30 deals on the 22nd. The Local team consisting of Messrs. S. Rajam Aiyar, K. R. Varadarajan, C. N. Narayanaswamy Iyer and A. Ramamurthy were the winners. The Madras United Club Team consisting of Messrs. A. Ramaswami Aiyar, Chandrasekaran, Sivaramakrishnan and T. R. Samoo ran a good second.

The Progressive pairs event provided a good deal of fun consequent on the confusion caused by a relay table. Ten tables were arranged on the 21st evening and the game started at about 3-30 P.M. After a few deals players found that they were getting the same deals and naturally the game had to be scratched. The Bridge experts pondered, deliberated and cried Ureka at the end of an hour's discussion. The tournament was re-started and after an hour's game the experts much to their regret, and chagrin found themselves in the same predicament as in the last session. The game was then definitely given up not before various attempts at completion. The authorities very wisely replayed the Tournament the next day with only 9 tables and of course the movement was very smooth and successfully terminated.

The winners	N. S.	T. R. Ananthasubrahmanian
		&
		C. K. Ramachandra Rao
		(Coimbatore)
E. W.	K. S. Krishnamurthy Iyer	
		&
		A. R. Gurumoorthi Naidu.
		(Pritchard Club)

The Tournament was held in the spacious Nanjappa High School premises where the competitors were also lodged. The Pritchard Club and the school authorities spared no pains in making splendid arrangements for all the competitors. The club also entertained the competitors at a sumptuous dinner on the 21st night. The club is really deserving of congratulation on its success in their attempt.

The Chennapuri Andhra Maha Saba, Madras, is conducting their open Tournaments and more about it in the next issue.

PROBLEMS

(For Answers see page 40)

(A) In Duplicate match, with neither side vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded: North: Pass, East: 1 Heart, South: 1 Spade, West: Pass, You, North, hold: 9 8 7 5; 8 4 2; Q J 10 8; A K. What do you bid?

(B) With neither side vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded: North: 1 Diamond, East: Double, You, South, hold:—A Q 10 3; A Q 9; 7 6; 6 5 4 3. What do you bid?

(C) With both sides vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded: West: 3 Spades, You, North, hold:—Q 8; A K 5 2; A J 4; Q J 10 9. What do you bid?

(D) With both sides vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded: South: Pass, West: Pass, North: Pass, East: 1 Diamond, South: Pass, West: 1 Spade, North: Pass, East: 3 Clubs, South: Pass, You.

West, hold:—K Q 5 3; K J 10; 7 3; 6 4 3 2. What do you bid?

(E) The bidding has proceeded: West: 1 Diamond, North: 1 Heart, You, East, hold:—A Q J 9; J 9 7 5; 7 5 2; J 10. What do you bid?

(F) In Duplicate Match, with both sides vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded: East: Pass, You, South, hold:—Q 10 7 2; A J 6 4; Q 8 4; J 4. What do you bid?

(G) With North-South vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded: East: Pass, South: Pass, West: 1 H North: Pass, East: 1 Spade; South: Pass, West: 2 Diamonds, North: Pass, You, East, hold: Q J 9 5; K J 9 8 4; 8 2; J 6. What do you bid?

(H) With both sides vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded: North: Pass, You, East, hold:—A K Q 8 5 4; K 9 6 2; A; J 3. What do you bid?

You can begin right now

Mr. Cutting:—We are already six here, Mr. Borem and you know six form a table.

Mr. Borem:—Can't I sit here and, if need be, advise you, whenever you are in difficulty.

Mr. Cutting:—You can begin right now, even without sitting. Tell us how we could get rid of you.

BOOK REVIEW.

by
The General Editor.

"Simplified Contract Standards", by Frank K. Perkins. (George Coffin. 1 dollar or 4/-) This book does not propose any new "System" of Contract Bridge. We have too many systems already. It explains succinctly the basis of the three most widely followed systems, namely the "Culbertson System," the "Standardised Code," and the "Four Aces" system. Probably most of our readers know the author by reputation. He is the author of that famous book "Vital Tricks." He is also the Bridge Editor of the Boston "Herald-Traveler", and one of the leading players of the United States. In the small compass of 68 octavo pages, Mr. Perkins has expounded the basis of the theory of the best systems. As Mr. Lombard Williams remarks in his preface, this is the book we have long awaited. The beginner and the expert will find the solution of their bidding problems in "Simplified Contract Standards." Mr. Perkins is a keen analyst and is able to say what he wishes in a simple understandable way. There is no verbiage or unnecessary frills. He goes straight to the point. His reasoning is cogent and arguments convincing.

That good bidding is based on high cards as well as distribution is the key-note struck by the author.

The Culbertson (pre-1940) honour-trick table is adopted. A condensed honour-table is also given, which is extremely simple and sufficient for all practical purposes. Examples of H. T. valuation by the application of the above tables are next given.

As regards biddable suits, the requirements are a bit relaxed. For instance, any four card suit headed by Q-J or K-10 or better is considered biddable; any five card suit is equally so. Any card added to the above lengths makes a suit rebiddable, even without support by partner. Longer suits are twice rebiddable.

A suit can be raised with Q x x, a rebid suit with Q x. Shaded bids may be made in certain circumstances. But if the suit is a major, the minimum is one of four cards headed by at least the Queen, but not as an opening bid, but only as a response. As an opener, any four card or even three card *minor* suit may be bid, in the absence of a better bid, provided of course, that the minimum honour strength of the hand as a whole is there.

The approach principle is advocated. A suit should always be opened in preference to no-trump. It is easy to go from suit-bids to no-trump but not vice-versa. The forcing principle is also incorporated.

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD, FEBRUARY 1943

41

Every bid shows generally a minimum and a maximum. The range is narrow for some bids but wide for others. As the bidding progresses and information is exchanged, the partner must visualise the limits of the strength of the combined hands and reach a slam, a game or a part score as the case may be. If the limit is one trick short of game, chances may be taken in some cases.

The principle of anticipation is emphasised. Each bid should generally be made with an eye on the rebid anticipating partner's possible responses.

The precautions to be observed when sitting first, second, third or fourth hand are then laid down.

No-trump bids are next treated of with numerous examples. Opening suit bids are followed by the treatment of two-suiters and the reversal of suits, adjacent or non-consecutive.

Responses, raises and take-outs follow. Jump responses and rebids are next considered, and this is succeeded by rebids by responding hand.

Defensive bidding has a chapter to itself. Minimum overcalls, jump overcalls, take-out doubles, no-trump overcalls, one-over-one bids and competitive bidding are explained clearly with numerous illustrations. Doubles of suit bids and no-trump bids, and responses to such doubles are dwelt on. Redoubles by third hand and action thereon by the fourth are referred to. Doubling standards are clearly indicated and the reasons for a choice between penalty doubles and game or rubber.

Pre-emptive bids are dealt with in the next chapter and the defence against such bids. In the same chapter, the forcing two bid and responses thereto are also taken up. Slam bidding is next in order and for suit controls the Culbertson 4-5 N. T. convention and the Blackwood 4-5 N. T. convention are favoured. Personally, I favour the Norman or Smith conventions about which I have written in another article in this issue.

The adaptation of bidding methods to match-point scoring is next explained. The book closes with a couple of hands illustrating safety play when the adverse trump distribution is unfavourable.

A hand is given as a problem. The contract is a small slam. The publisher offered \$ 250 worth of prizes for solutions to be sent before 1-1-1940.

I can heartily recommend this book to all readers, whether experts or toddlers. It is by far the simplest and best book on bidding I have come across, and I may claim to be acquainted with almost all the systems so far published.

ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS

(A) *Three Spades*: The question is whether to bid three spades or four. Two spades bid is unthinkable. Having originally passed, you cannot expect your partner to rebid over two spades even with additional values. You have five playing tricks. Tell your partner that you credit him with a minimum of four tricks for his non-vulnerable over-call and that your hand warrants absolute safety for a three spade contract. Your partner will jump to game with any the least excuse. Four spades over one spade is rather rash. You overlook the possibility of your partner having just the minimum for non-vulnerable over-call, in which case four spades can never be made. Then why take the unnecessary risk of jumping all at once to game, ignoring your partner altogether?

(B) *Three no-trump*: East, to justify the double, unless he has bluffed, holds all the missing honor cards in both the major suits and the top honor cards in one of the minor suits. West must have a near bust. Your high cards in both the majors are sure winners. Your partner's strength is evidently in the minor suits. As between you and your partner all the suits are very well guarded. The middle honor cards with East get whittled down hopelessly, inconveniently caught between you two. "Re-double" may be suggested as an alternative bid. Unless East is psyching, North has a bare minimum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ H. T.

After your "re-double" West, with little better than a bust will raise his woeful cry in some suit. You cannot expect your partner to open his mouth. If East finds a fit in the suit bid by his partner, he passes. Otherwise he bids his long suit. If you bid 3 N. T. thereafter, East may double, thereby enabling West to open the right suit. If East bids hearts and then doubles, sure enough hearts will be led by West. Your 3 N. T. contract may be defeated if East holds five hearts and has sufficient *tempos* to develop his hearts. Then why not straight away bid 3 N. T. without giving an opportunity to the opponents to exchange useful information? To stop short of game is sheer cowardice.

(C) *Pass*: It is a very tempting hand to double, at first sight. But consider just what the sequence would be. You have four honors and West may be credited with two odd. Four spades can be made only if all the unaccounted honors are with East. If your partner has by chance one honor it seems highly problematical whether the opponents can pick up ten tricks. If the combined strength of the opponents can manufacture only nine tricks, you are unnecessarily creating a debacle by doubling. Your partner cannot pass the double lest the opponents should make game. Neither can he take you out at the four level. He will find himself on a fence, not knowing which side to jump.

If he passes you are presenting the opponents with a game, which they cannot probably otherwise secure. If you are taken out at the four level you run the grave risk of a heavy penalty being extracted from you by the opponents, if they double. Since all your suits are short, the prudent course is to pass, thereby encouraging your opponents to reach game without fear of helping the opponents make game and then to double for sure penalties.

(D) *Five Clubs*: Your partner has forced you to bid. If you bid four clubs, you are only making a forced bid, just showing your preference for clubs, rather than diamonds, or no-trumps. You have originally passed. Your partner may not possibly even bid game over your four clubs. He does not know that you have four trumps and a doubleton in diamonds. You have second round control in both the majors. Game with clubs as trumps is a cinch. Why then bid four and then gape awhile waiting for your partner's response? Further, if your partner has additional values, he may aim at a slam over your five club bid. But if you bid only four clubs your partner will not even think of a slam. Four clubs will be quite in order if your partner had not made an unconditional forcing bid. Raise in the last bid suit is sufficient encouragement to the partner.

(E) *One no-trump*: The urge to bid one spade should be sup-

pressed. It is clear that your partner's strength is in the club suit apart from the bid suit, diamonds. The distribution of your hand is balanced, you do not mind South leading hearts against your no-trump contract. If you bid one spade, your partner will bid 1 N. T. up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4 honors with him, if the distribution be balanced. Not knowing the exact strength of your partner you cannot do anything better than "pass" over 1 N. T. On the other hand, if you bid 1 N. T. your hand of course warrants it, you can bid 3 N. T. if your partner bids 2 N. T. or give any other bid suitable to your partner's response. By bidding 1 N. T. you keep the path clear to reach the goal.

(F) *One Spade*: True, you are deficient in honors required for an opening bid. But you are playing Duplicate. It is evident that West and North as between them hold not less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ honors. If the $4\frac{1}{2}$ honors are equally divided, West may possibly open the bidding. North may not possibly bid and the opponents may snatch a part-score. It may not be possible for you to bid at your next turn. Even if West passes, North will not open the bidding with minimum honor strength, being fourth hand. If the missing honors are massed with West and East, West will surely open the bidding, if you pass. You lose nothing by interposing a bid meanwhile. Even if your partner

has a poor hand, in all probability, the opponents may be scared out of game if you open the bidding. If you pass the bidding second hand, your opponents with the slightest excuse may reach a game. You must try to put a spoke in their wheel. If it works, well and good. Even if your bidding does not stop the opponents short of game, you lose nothing in the bargain. Incidentally, you are also suggesting a lead to your partner. If your partner has a powerful hand, you easily reach a game. Again, if your partner has about 2 honors, he will not open the bidding. You thereby lose the chance of grabbing at a part-score. With your honor holding and about two honors with your partner, part score can easily be snatched. Part-score, however small, is as valuable as game in duplicate bridge. If you are playing rubber bridge, it is not worth while bidding on such a scrappy hand.

(G) *Three Hearts*: Your partner has certainly values better than what is required for an opening bid, either in honors or distributional strength. Otherwise, with about just the minimum, he should bid only one no-trump. You have about four playing tricks, with hearts as trumps. You tell your partner that you hold values which warrant a stronger bid than mere no-trump. Since you have passed initially, your partner cannot expect a powerful hand with you and there-

fore there is no fear of the bidding soaring to the slam region. Let your partner bid game or drop it.

(H) *One Spade*: Three spades or four spades is what usually jumps to one's mind looking at the hand. There are more reasons than one why a pre-emptive bid should be avoided on this hand.

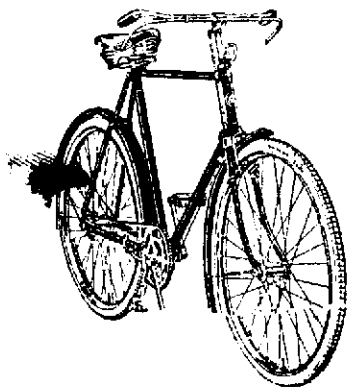
(1) If your partner holds ace to five in hearts and ace or king of clubs, with nothing outside, grand or small slam is in the offing. If you bid three spades, your partner, with just $1\frac{1}{2}$ H. T. may not like to bid hearts at the four level. He may just bid 3 N. T. and the bidding would die at four spades. If you bid one spade, your partner will bid two hearts with just that strength and you can explore slam possibilities. (2) Your partner may have a biddable suit in club with just 2 H. T. (Heart ace and king and queen of clubs.) Your partner cannot bid four clubs over your three spades and you are likely to lose a little slam. Over one spade, your partner will respond with two clubs and you can easily arrive at a little slam. By bidding four spades you are shutting out any further bid. It is always a wholesome principle not to pre-empt if there are 4 cards in one of the unbid major suits. The reason is that you may find a better fit in that suit with your partner. By pre-empting you are shutting out the opportunity of your partner showing a major suit, which can, in which you hold four

194857

MY 322 m2 m m m

N 42-2-5

The World's Best - -
**RUDGE
WHITWORTH**



BICYCLES

AT ———

**ROYAL CYCLE & MOTOR Co.,
13/14, BROADWAY, MADRAS.**

Branches :

**PIONEER CYCLE HOUSE, West Tower Street, MADURA.
PIONEER CYCLE & MOTOR Co., COCHIN.**

ad
oid
ength
ibi-
we