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THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

VOL-1

NO-2-3

MAR-1949
June



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N49.1.2-3
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OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF BOOKS
20 APR 1949
MADRAS

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

(The Official Organ of the South Indian Bridge Association)

(2) QUARTERLY (466)

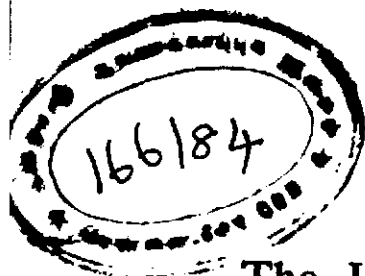
Vol. I	March 1949	No. 2
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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION	SINGLE COPY
Rs. 3/- for individual Members with an Entrance fee of Re. 1/-	12 As. in India 1 sh. 4 d elsewhere.

Published by Mr. T. V. Subramania Iyer, Honry Secretary of the Association. and printed by J. Narayana Rao, at Salem Lakshmivilas Press at No. 50/51, Wallajah Road, Mount Road, Madras. Reprinting of contents in any form without permission is not allowed. Advertising Rates may be had upon application to the Business Editor, 13/14, Pophams Broadway, Madras.



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The Indian Bridge World

Vol. 1

MARCH 1948

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Culbertson to visit India

Bridge players in India will be pleased to learn that Mr. Culbertson plans to visit this country next year. The letter from him to Sri C. S. Narayanaswamy, (Tirupur), reproduced below, will be read with great interest.

Citizens Committee for United Nations Reform
16-A East 62nd Street, New York. 21
N. Y. Templeton 8-6740.

October 18, 1948.

Dear Mr. Narayanaswamy:

Thank you for your letter of August 27th.

Together with the Indians I have rejoiced on your winning the precious gift of Independence. During the war, in my humble way, I have helped the Congress party through Mr. Singh to win over the American public opinion. It is now my dearest wish to come to India and visit my friends both in the peace movement and in Bridge. Unfortunately, the critical events before us will prevent my visiting India until sometime in 1950.

The destiny of the world is being played now, and to a large extent on the stage of American Public Opinion.

As Chairman of the CCUNR, which has now become the dominant movement in the United States, I am concentrating most of my efforts to lead American public opinion away from appeasement of Soviet Russia (which only means an atomic war later) and away from a preventive war by America against Russia. We believe that the only hope for lasting peace is to revise the United Nations now, in such a manner that under an effective World authority, no nation may rearm with impunity for aggression, or attack a divided world with chances of success. We believe that India has a vital stake in this movement, for a third World War would mean almost inevitably, the loss of Indian hardwon Independence, either to Communist Dictatorship, or to Anglo-American Imperialism.

I close this letter with a few words to my Bridge Friends, telling them that Bridge is booming in America, and though most of my time is consumed with the problems of peace, I am quite active in Bridge.

Let me hear from you.

Sincerely and with kindest regards,

Ely Culbertson

MARCH, 1949

deal, however, luck had its say and we were helpless.

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

A slam in hearts was bid in both the tables but in our table East had intervened with an overcall of one spade, and the automatic spade lead came, the only lead that could defeat the contract. Mr. Chandru who is one of our best bridge players would ordinarily not have considered his hand as worth a vulnerable overcall, but he must have had a lucky inspiration in this deal.

Deal No. 12 was another interesting deal in which a faulty plan reduced me to a position when I had to execute a Grand coup to make my contract. This deal is set forth below.

West Dealer
North South Vulnerable

After my partner's one no-trump response to my opening bid of one heart, I felt that a bid of two hearts was inadequate, and two notrumps with nothing in spades being unthinkable, I bid three hearts which my partner raised to four. The knave of diamonds, the queen of diamonds and the king of diamonds, I unthinkingly took with the ace. (I should have ducked the first round, West being a non-dangerous hand, taken with the diamond ace on the return, and immediately finessed the Jack of clubs; as the cards lay I could have made five hearts). After taking with the diamond Ace, I played another diamond and this trick was taken by West. A trump lead into my hand and I trumped the last diamond in the

North
♠ 8 7
♥ A K Q 10 9
♦ A 7 2
♣ A 8 5

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

East
♠ 10 9 5 3 2
♥ 8
♦ J 10 9 4 3
♣ Q 2

South
♠ K J 4
♥ 7 5 4
♦ Q 6
♣ K J 10 4 3

dummy. A trump lead to my king revealed the unhappy news. A spade to the Dummy's Jack was taken with the queen of spades. West cashed his Ace of spades and played a club. East's queen was taken with the king in the dummy and I played the king of spades from dummy ruffing it in my hand with a small trump. The ace of clubs was cashed and I entered the dummy with the jack of clubs. The last two tricks were of course mine as I held the queen and ten of trumps over the knave and small of West. If after cashing the ace of spade West had played a third spade to dummy's king I should ruff the king to make my contract. In the other table our opponents stopped short of a game, since North made a rebid of only two hearts.

In the second session our opponents were Messrs P. S. Reddy and Hanumantha Rao. As we were faced with a deficit of more than 2000 points, we were on the look out for points. We were not however destined to find them as the final result has proved.

Deal No. 7 in this session was the other slam deal that was responsible for our defeat.

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

Our opponents in our table reached a small slam while in the other table our partners generously allowed their opponents play the deal in four spades, to go down two undoubled. The course of bidding there is reproduced below :

N	E	S	W
—	—	1♠	—
1N.T	Dbl	3♠	—
4♠	—	—	—

The bidding in our table was quite different. It proceeded as follows :—

N	E	S	W
—	—	1♠	—
1N.T.	Dbl	Redbl	3♥
—	3♠	—	4♥
—	6♥	—	—

It looked as if East wanted to make amends for some unhappy bidding and play on his part in certain previous deals ; he made a brilliant bid of six hearts over his partner's call of four hearts.

Seven hearts were of course easily made. This deal completely shattered our hopes and placed victory definitely beyond our reach.

Very often we neglect to employ pre-emptive bids with the result our opponents are allowed to exchange information and reach an excellent contract to our detriment. If my partner had only opened with three spades or even four spades our opponents would have found some difficulty in bidding even a game. In the other table West should have bid 4 hearts over the bid of three spades by South and then East might have tried for a slam.

Both the teams failed to bid a small slam in deal No. 11.

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

We bid three no trumps and made seven in our table and our

opponents bid three trumps and made only five in the other table. Six clubs should be bid in this deal. I think that the bidding should proceed as follows.

N	E	S	W
—	—	1♣	—
1♠	—	2♥	—
3♦	} —	4NT. —	
or			
3NT.			
5♦	—	6♣	—

We had a fine match and an exceedingly pleasant one. We led by match points, seventeen against fifteen, and though by predilection I am more attracted to the aggregate score system of assessing the winning team, I could not help wishing that this particular match were decided according to the match-point system in vogue as Coimbatore.

A final remark. I have intentionally selected for this brief review hands where some one or other of the players committed errors, rather than the deals that were bid well and played well—and indeed there were a good many of the latter. Great as the progress in Contract Bridge has been in India in recent years we have to improve a good deal to achieve anything like equality with the great bridge playing countries like the U. S. A.; nothing can help more effectively than a consistent and regular analysis of every individual error on the bridge table and a constant and immediate reference to authoritative books to elucidate the points involved.

The Poor Fish

By A. M. R. DAVIDAR

MOST hobbies leave me cold. A long array of stamps, old and new, used and unused, bore me stiff. Excepting that I acquire a sudden interest, when sacrilegious thoughts, that some of the unused ones may come in handy at posting time, cruise my mind. An exhibition of old coinage gives me a pain in the neck. I would much rather have the continued company of current coins. A collection of antique furniture gives me, both physically and psychologically, an ache in the spine. They can seldom be put to any real use.

But I can play Contract Bridge for hours together and probably for days together. The delights never pall. The pleasures never dull. The excitement never chills. That is because this most fascinating card game so far invented by the ingenuity of man is an enduring artistic delight. Just that spice of luck is therein nicely blended to skill. In the exquisite words of my friend, Dr. N. Karamchand, the

ever-changing combinations of cards, calling for fresh approaches to new problems, stir, lift, inspire, and vitalise the latent instinct of challenge of even the most prosaic, lack-a-daisical and humdrum individuals. No. I do not ride my hobby with pointed spurs and a buggy whip. It is merely a cold and unworthy assessment of a game of beauty.

In what other game would you meet with wild-eyed enthusiasts button-holing you to narrate some exciting hand that they had played a few nights previously? It takes you all your skill to unhook that clutching hand and wriggle out of the view of those wild eyes. In which other game would you find men and women of great eminence and distinction make asinine exhibitions of themselves and submit to these exhibitions being analysed and dissected in blistering terms, with docile humility? Where else would you find thousands of persons playing the game for hours and days together, merely for the love of it, with not even

nominal stakes involved? Where else, again, would you find innumerable people sacrificing all domestic and even non-domestic delights and risking domestic upheavals by gluing themselves to bridge chairs for hours together, with no thought for food or drink or other necessities of all normal mortals?

And yet it is both sad and strange that you find innumerable players crowding around poker and rummy tables in our clubs. I had the surprise of my life the other day, when a poker player had, with a superior air, looked down the length of his patrician nose, while going past our bridge table. The poor fish! He has no idea of the delights and the enjoyment that he is denying himself. He is just a type that wastes its time and energy in such futile games as poker and rummy. What else are these games but mere gambling rackets? The goddess of luck makes you or breaks you. The idea of some of the frenzied addicts of the game that their skill has anything substantial to do with the results is a pernicious delusion, excepting that some stupid and inane players lend strength to

this delusion for temporary periods.

It is not that I have not joined at these tables. But I have done so only when I cannot get any decent Bridge. It is mostly for the sake of company. It is specially intriguing to "sit in", when there are nice young "things" in pink and blue. But I have always found that even these are gathered together merely because of the gambling fever riding high in their blood. They laugh with you and smile at you, so long as you lose. You are then an angel. But woe unto you, if you are in a winning streak. You are then no longer an angel. You are then not even a man. You are a despicable worm. You might brave these losses and stand these frowns when you are young, for the reason that the pink and the blue do not generally obstruct the view. I am, however, no longer young.

There are other card games, like literature, that are played in mere conventional circles, like missionary gatherings. The players are generally solemn, sedate and stolid. Their faces properly portray their super-eminent respectability. God alone knows

what pleasures they derive from straining their memories, and racking their brains, to achieve the remembrance of the preceding enquiries and collections. Their pleasures are anyway seldom evident. I always feel like a mongrel among high-pedigreed Alsations, when I have found myself roped into these games. They would probably be good enough, when one is old and senile and can find no better company. But I am not quite old yet. I would take to these games, when I start blazing a trail to heaven.

I can, however, understand people of this kind, who can have no idea of the delights of Contract, continuing to play these speculative or these old-fashioned games. I cannot, however, understand a large number of players still indulging in Auction. I am told that in the advanced, cosmopolitan town of Bangalore, there are still more Auction players than Contract players. They probably do not yet know that once they play Contract, they would not touch Auction, even with a pair of tongs. And it is so easy for an Auction player to glide into

Contract. The game is exactly the same, except that there is some difference in bidding. To that extent, Contract may, of course, be deemed to be a little more difficult. But that is the necessary price for the introduction of skill in a larger measure in the game. It is more than compensated for by the infinitely greater fascination that it yields to its votaries. Any keen rider would always prefer a pedigreed Australian thorough-bred to a half-starved jutka pony. But surely the Australian thorough-bred is more "difficult" to manage than the half-starved hack. As I had written in one of my earlier articles, a man, who is on the look-out for a wife, would any day prefer a young, radiant, lithesome and lovely maiden with sparkling eyes to an old, gawky and dull-eyed woman. But surely the latter would be less 'difficult' to manage. Probably, these Auction players are easily satisfied or their tastes are different. Perhaps, they would rather continue to play an insipid and comparatively futile game, merely to avoid a few hours' learning.

But if they wish to have any real thrills and any real excite-

ment, the gates of the wonder-land of Contract are easily open to them. These gates are not the less open to the poor fish, who haunt the poker and the rummy tables, with happy grins widening their faces when they are winning and with gloomy sorrow

widening down their faces when they are losing. These gates are even open to the solemn and sedate players of games like literature, with little or no happiness shining in their faces, either when they lose or even when they win.

ZONAL RESULTS.

Winners.

MADRAS

Team of four : Sri Dr. Achar, C. R. Srinivasan,
K. R. Sundaram Iyer and M. R. Doraiswamy
Progressive Pairs: N. S. Pairs :—Sri C. Devarajan and
K. Gopalaswamy
E. W. Pairs :—Sri Veeramani and C. Subba Rao
Open Pairs : Sri Ganesan and Annamalai.

TIRUPUR

Team of four : Sri P. V. Ranganath, M. S. Seshasayee,
P. R. Venkaswami Naidu, A. Venkata-
narasimhan and G. Gurumurthi Rao.
Pairs Progressive: North-South : Sri. K. R. Varadarajan and
S. Sundaram
East-West : Sri Perumal and T. Raj
Open Pairs : Sri C. S. Narayanaswamy and S. Rajam Iyer

BELLARY

Team of four : Sri K. C. Muthanna, Dr. Amaranna
Sri M. Raghunatha Rao and A. R. Rajan
Progressive Pairs: North-South : Sri P. S. V. Iyer and Srikantan
East-West : Sri K. C. Muthanna and Venugopal
Open Pairs : Mrs. and Mr. K. M. S. Reddy.

THIRUCHIRAPALLI

Team of four : Y. Duraiswamy Iyer's Team
Progressive Pairs: North-South : Sri T. G. Gnanadurai and
Dr. Gnanaraj
East-West : Sri Suryanarayana and Gopu
(Continued in page 33).

Bridge of Sighs

By ISOBEL COOREY

"What system would you like to play, partner?" said I brightly, giving her the teeth. "System?" she snorted, "I play commonsense bridge—no systems for me", and gave me a gimlet look, which stemmed my conversation but not my inward groans.

I have met these "Commonsense" creatures before and I have never yet found one who could do anything without every top card in the pack plus two imbeciles as opponents. However, I told her to just ignore my conventions and stick to her "Crosswords". This was not a very good beginning, but when I opened my hand and found 6½ H. T., I was cheered and even "Sour-puss" sitting across the table from me could not stop my elated Two spades. West passed. My partner, North passed. East passed and I nearly passed out. West led out her card and my partner put down a most colourful array of pretty cards, enough to cover the wall of a picture gallery. My teeth came into evidence again but

this time not in a smile. "Why didn't you call?" I screeched. "Call" she echoed "what for?" "What for?" I roared parrot-wise. "I forced you. You must call". "Must I?" she said, as sweet as strychnine, "well I didn't, did I?"

I could have gone on and so could she but I just made my seven spades and put down my part score of 60 and my 150 above the line, lifted my eyes to heaven and prayed for strength. Finishing the rubber as soon as possible, I moved over to the next table and cut in. I got a sweet-faced girl this time. She spoke up and asked me "What system would you like to play, partner?" My spirits soared. "Oh anything you like, partner" said I. "Ah no, I'll play *your* way" she said sweetly. This went on for about five minutes and so I waved the flag of truce and we agreed on "Blackwood". This was to be my lucky day, I imagined, as I picked up a beautiful hand, with great possibilities. I was still sitting South. "Two Diamonds" I said (hoping the old dragon at the next table

would hear me and be envious). West passed, North trilled "Two Hearts". East passed. "Oh!" I thought to myself, "what fun Bridge is, with the right partner. Here she is giving me a positive response". I settled down to some facial contortions, commonly believed by some to be the necessary accompaniment to one's thinking. After a period of "Ums" and "Ahs", I bid Three Clubs. My blue-eyed partner, without hesitation, sang out "Four No-trumps". "This" I thought to myself, "is something. She is asking me for aces," so I gaily gave her the response of "Five Spades." "Five No-trumps", she said next, looking a little green about the gills. (Poor child, I thought to myself, she is a little nervous). I gave her a motherly beam and called Six Spades. If she looked greener than ever, I did not notice it, as I was visualising the grand slam I was going to make and adding up the points in my mind. I suddenly came back to earth to hear my partner say "Pass". The East-West combination were smugly passing each bid, and I was hoping for a double from East to give me a chance of bidding, for it did not need a

mastermind to know that something had gone wrong. But, no, there were no guardian angels hovering around my head and so I waited to see my partner's hand go down.

The ace of spades was the first bad omen and considering that I had just king and a leaf I was anything but happy. My blue-eyed doll seemed to change before my very eyes. I felt sure I could see horns growing out of her golden curls and, did I ever think for a moment that her smile was sweet? Surely it could be better described as "sardonically leering". There was no use trying to hide anything from my opponents in this hand. They held all the Spades, and knew it. They were, in turn, giving me the superior smile—meaning in English "Oh!" you experts—See, we didn't double because you would have escaped into Diamonds or N. T. Aren't we clever." This was the last straw and I glowered at my partner and said nastily, "What on earth do you think you're doing, leaving me in Spades?" The horns grew longer. "Why did you keep on bidding them?" she rattled. "We are playing

Blackwood" I roared. "Teak-wood" said one of my fatuous opponents. I stopped her frivolity with a look that would have killed the ordinary woman. "I didn't know what you meant" said my idiot partner. "I thought you wanted to play it in Spades." Well! I really *did* give up. I gave them a nice fat rubber and made a hasty departure.

"Funny how these experts always manage to lose the most, isn't it?" I heard the old dragon say, in a penetrating voice that

would have carried to China. "She *did* bid Spades *twice* and I had the Ace", the blue-eyed devil was simpering.

I staggered to the door and was barred from flight by a lady with a form—a paper one. "Will you fill up please, Mrs. Coorey?" "What is it", I moaned? "Membership form" she said, without batting an eye-lid. I muttered something about "later"—"later" and made a dash for the door, while it was still within reach. Oh! Yes, I forgot to mention. It *was* a ladies club!

There was a guy ; when at game and seventy

He had spade Ace, King, Queen, Jack,
And all honour tricks in the pack,

He looked up, looked down, then, aside
Sneaked in with a bid of one spade.

Pearls cast before swine ; examples are indeed plenty.

Hey ! Stop !!

By M. S. KRISHNASWAMY

"Hey! Stop!!" I was involuntarily led into crying out as Mr. P. proceeded to lash out Trumps "Dash it all—I have Umpteen entries in the dummy. What is eating you" was the impatient reply. The reference to 'Umpteen entries' was apparently to the article in the last issue of our magazine where the necessity for retaining 'Busy Trumps' in the dummy as entries for establishment and play of side suits had been pointed out.

It was the first deal of the rubber, Mrs. H. sitting North dealt this hand. She was clearly in a dilemma. From the agonised glances she cast at her partner, it was obvious that she could not decide whether to bid or not. In the end, however she reluctantly called One Spade.

North

♠ 9 x x x x
♥ K 10 9 x
♦ A K x
♣ A

West

♠ A K J 10 x
♥ x
♦ J 9 x x
♣ J x x

East

♠ Q x
♥ 8 x x x
♦ Q x
♣ K 9 8 x x

South

♠ x
♥ A Q J x
♦ 10 x x x
♣ Q x x x

East passed and Mr. P optimistically called Two Hearts. Mrs. H. with a sigh of relief jumped to Four Hearts. All passed and Mr. P was left to play the hand for ten tricks. West led his king of spades and sensing a cross-ruff situation shifted to trumps. P took it in the dummy with his king and drew out a small heart. It was then that he silenced me with his 'Umpteen entries.' He took the trick with his jack of hearts to find that West had no more trumps and the two outstanding trumps were with East. He went into a huddle ; emerging out of it, he played a small Club to dummy's ace and played a second spade from the dummy to ruff in his hand. Ace of diamonds, and then East dropped his queen of diamonds on the third spade. South had nothing else to do but to ruff and lead his small diamond to dummy's king which East comfortably ruffed and played the king of clubs. Mr. P had to ruff it and with some impatience played out his last trump and finished two short, with the characteristic remark "Beastly distribution, partner."

If only Mr. P had taken stock of the situation at first, he would have noticed that he had three losing clubs, one or two losing diamonds, one spade lost already and that to make his contract, he must take his ace and king of diamonds, ace of Clubs and ruff out his three losing clubs in the dummy and make three independent tricks in hearts with the trumps in his hand.

A second 'if': If he had played out his diamond king before playing the third spade he would have finished only one down. The ace-king of Diamonds and the ace of clubs were idle cards that could have been immediately pulled out and every one of the trumps in the dummy 'Busy ones' needed for ruffing out his losers. A kibitzer pointed this out to him and he cheerfully remarked 'So it might have been. Sorry partner. But are we down-hearted, no' and the next deal had been dealt.

A third type of busy trump which serves as a stopper is illustrated in the following hand :—

		North	
		♠ Q 10 x x	
		♥ K Q x	
		♦ K J 10 9	
		♣ A x	
West	East		
♠ x	♠ J 9 x x		
♥ 10 x x x	♥ J x x		
♦ x x x x	♦ A x		
♣ K Q J x	♣ 10 9 x x		
		South	
		♠ A K x x	
		♥ A x x	
		♦ Q x x	
		♣ 8 x x	

The contract is four Spades by South. West leads the clubs king which is taken with the ace in the dummy. Ace and king of Spades played out by declarer reveals the uneven distribution. South cannot afford to pull out a third round which would leave the jack with East a master. South has to establish his diamond suit and if he proceeds to do so after playing his Queen of spades. East will take the trick with his ace of diamonds, pull out with the Jack of Spades the trumps in the dummy and the declarer's hand and run his clubs to defeat the contract. Therefore the queen of Spades, if left in the dummy until the Diamond suit is established, will effectively prevent East playing the trumps

or running his Club suit. South after playing his ace and king of Spades should play out his diamond suit until the ace is played by East. The situation of the hands would then be :

		North	
		♠ Q 10	
		♥ K Q x	
		♦ K J 10	
		♣ x	
West	East		
♠ —	♠ J 9		
♥ 10 x x	♥ J x x		
♦ x x x	♦ x		
♣ Q J x	♣ 10 9 x		
		South	
		♠ x x	
		♥ A x x	
		♦ x x	
		♣ 8 x	

If East after taking his ace of diamonds leads ten of clubs, and then another club, dummy ruffs it with the ten of Spades, plays the queen and then runs the diamond suit for East to ruff whenever he chooses. Declarer has still a trump left to ruff out a club and play his long diamonds if any and hearts. The queen of Spades in the dummy is useful as a stopper to prevent East from drawing trumps and to help

declarer to establish his side suit.

The problem of Trump Management by declarer is best solved by the declarer asking himself the following questions : 1. Do I need the trumps as entries for establishing other suits ? 2. Do I need them for ruffing out my losers ? 3. Are they necessary to prevent the adversaries from running off their established suits ? If the answers to these three questions are in the negative, draw out all trumps. If the answer to any one of them is in the affirmative, draw only the idle trumps and keep the busy ones till after the side suits are established or use them for establishing the other suits or getting rid of your losers.

Trump management by the defenders is quite a different matter. To the question by a defender 'Should I lead trumps' I should answer, "Don't, unless you have a definite reason for doing so". Set rules have not been and cannot be laid down for guidance of defenders and they will have to be guided only by circumstances, course of bidding etc. A few illustrations may be usefully given :

North	
♠	x x
♥	Q x x x
♦	A x x
♣	K J 9 x
West	East
♠	Q J x x
♥	x x x
♦	x
♣	A Q 10 x x
♠	K 10 9 6
♥	A K
♦	K J x x x
♣	x x
South	
♠	A x x
♥	J x x x
♦	Q 10 x x
♣	x x

East was dealer and the bidding went :—

E	S	W	N
1 ♦	—	2 ♣	—
2 ♣	—	4 ♣	—
—	—	—	—

From the bidding South who is on lead can see that East-West have probably a four-four trump fit and a lead of trumps would serve to minimise the opportunities of cross-ruffing by declarer. Having the ace and two small ones in trumps it is fairly obvious to him that his partner North cannot have more than two. Therefore if he leads the ace and then a small one from his hand, he has no quick entry for playing out a third round and even if partner gets the lead he cannot help as the two trumps in his hands had

already been played out by South's lead. Therefore, South must lead initially a small trump from his hand, hoping that his partner will lead a second round if and when he gets the lead. Declarer has to take the first trump trick and immediately lead a diamond with a view to establish that suit. North can jump with his ace, and lead a trump to enable his partner to take it with the ace and lead a third round of trumps. This would leave declarer with only one trump in each hand and his diamond suit cannot be established without conceding one more diamond trick to the opponents. Two in diamonds, one in clubs and one in trumps defeat the contract.

If trump had not been played initially by South, I can visualise Mr. P saying 'lead through the strength of the dummy' and so leading club. East takes it in the dummy with the Ace, leads the lone diamond from the dummy and no matter what the defenders do, the suit is easily established with the loss of only one trick therein. One in clubs and one in spades are the only other tricks that the defenders

can make and the declarer romps home with the contract.

I read about a rather unusual hand in an article by Karl Righter which is worth repeating. The bidding went :

S	W	N	E
1 ♥	Double	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West's hand was : ♠ K Q J 10
♥ K Q J 7
♦ K Q 9
♣ K Q

On this holding West must see that apart from the 'four Aces', the other tricks for declarer have to come from his small trumps. He has therefore to set about extracting them as quickly as possible to avoid cross-ruffing by declarer. Now for the complete deal :

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

West's first impulse will be to lead his king of spades with a

mental picture of three sure tricks in hearts and at least one more in the other three suits. On this opening declarer will be able to make his contract. Here follows the complete play of the hand :

West	North	East	South	
♠ K	♠ A	♠ 2	♠ 4	Trick 1
♠ 10	♠ 3	♠ 7	♥ 2	„ 2
♦ 9	♦ 2	♦ 3	♦ A	„ 3
♦ Q	♥ 4	♦ 4	♦ 5	„ 4
♠ J	♠ 5	♠ 8	♥ 3	„ 5
♦ K	♥ 5	♦ 6	♦ 8	„ 6
♠ Q	♠ 6	♠ 9	♥ 6	„ 7
♠ Q	♠ 4	♠ 2	♠ A	„ 8
♥ K	♠ 7	♦ 7	♦ 10	„ 9
♥ Q	♥ 8	♠ 3	♥ A	„ 10
♥ J	♠ 9	♠ 5	♦ J	„ 11
♠ Q	♠ J	♠ 8	♠ 6	„ 12
♥ 7	♥ 10	♠ 10	♥ 9	„ 13

From the play of the declarer detailed above it will be seen that at trick 9 West is forced to ruff high a good diamond and lead the queen of trumps. The lead of the Jack of diamond at trick 11 leaves West helpless. He must ruff with his trump jack and concede one more trump trick to the declarer. The expectation of three sure tricks in Hearts did not materialise.

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A trump opening by West, however, will hold declarer to just nine tricks and the contract may be defeated. Opening lead of the king of hearts by West is taken by the declarer and he proceeds to cross-ruff diamonds and spades. When the fourth diamond is led by declarer the situation will be:

North		East	
♠ —		♠ —	
♥ 10		♥ —	
♦ —		♦ 7	
♣ J 9 7		♣ 10 8 5	

West		South	
♠ —		♠ —	
♥ Q J 7		♥ 9	
♦ —		♦ J 10	
♣ K		♣ 6	

Declarer has so far made nine tricks and in an endeavour to make his tenth, he leads the ten of diamonds. West ruffs it out with his jack of trumps and plays the queen to pull out the remaining trumps with declarer and dummy and makes the king of clubs and the seven of hearts to defeat the contract by one trick. A trump lead by the defenders alone will defeat the contract.

A deal occurred the other day. East dealt and Mr. P was sitting

South. The bidding was:—

E	S	W	N
1 ♠	—	2 ♣	—
3 ♣	—	4 ♠	—

North		East	
♠ x x		♠ K 10 9 8 x	
♥ x x x		♥ A J x	
♦ Q x x		♦ A x x	
♣ A J x x x		♣ x x	

West		South	
♠ Q J x		♠ A 5 2	
♥ K Q 10 x x		♥ x x	
♦ J x x		♦ K 10 x x	
♣ K x		♣ Q 10 x x	

It is South Mr. P's turn to lead. With a cheery remark "When in doubt lead a trump, Eh!" and a wink at me, he led his deuce of spades. On this opening East proceeded to establish immediately four tricks in spades. These with his five tricks in hearts and the diamond ace gave him his contract. The bidding ought to have warned Mr. P that East West had a good fit in two suits and unless the defenders set about collecting their defensive tricks immediately the tricks may not ultimately be there to be collected. On a club or diamond opening the defenders make four tricks defeating the contract.

Misleading Cases

1. *Rex vs. Jones and another*

CONVENTIONAL BIDS

(Reported by *The Deuce of Clubs*)

The trial of this case was concluded at the Fifth Presidency Magistrate's Court today.

The Advocate-General (in his speech for the prosecution): This case, Your Worship, though it comes up for decision in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction only, raises issues of great importance to the Bridge World. Otherwise, I need not say, I should not be appearing before a mere magistrate.

The Bench: Who are you?

Sir Thomas Tenace: I am the Advocate-General.

The Bench: Ah, yes, we have heard of you.

Sir Thomas: The prisoners in the dock, Your Worship, are charged with an offence against the Laws of Contract Bridge, in that they have acted in flagrant defiance of the injunction "to avoid giving by word, manner or gesture an indication of the nature of the hand held." The prisoners Jones and Smith are

both members of, that very respectable institution, The Wanderer's Club, both are members of the legal profession, and both occupy enviable positions in public life. These, Your Worship, are considerations which, if the offence with which they are charged is proved, as I shall presently prove, call for a deterrent sentence.

Now, Your Worship, Contract Bridge is a very highly entertaining and stimulating game. Every deal is an adventure, an exploration, in the realms of probabilities, permutations, and combinations. The ultimate results of this adventure, this exploration into the unknown, may be costly and disastrous, but, the true player finds his joy and his thrill in the very act of endeavour, not in the end itself.

This game, Your Worship, is governed by the Laws of Contract Bridge, the Statute under which the prisoners in the dock stand charged. These Laws have been gradually evolved over a

period of several years, and as a result of the experience of millions of deals played all over the world. Like the Laws of the Road, these Laws have been enacted by Parliament solely with a view to regulating the course of the game in all its stages, so that every one of those participating in it may derive or draw out of it the highest possible pleasure, enjoyment, or stimulation. It is such a Law enacted in the interests, and for the benefit of the community of Bridge players as a whole that the prisoners have offended against. The nature of the crime is so anti-social, its magnitude so enormous, the motive so cold-blooded, a mind capable of it so depraved, that the continued existence of these criminals is a real danger and menace.....

The Bench: Be brief, Sir Thomas. We are not accustomed to orations here.

Sir Thomas: I was presently coming to the point, Your Worship. But, before that, I should like, for Your Worship's benefit, to briefly dwell upon the Law relating to the case.

The Bench: Do not go on about that. Proceed with the facts of the case.

Sir Thomas: I am obliged to Your Worship. I need not say...

The Bench: Then, do not say it.

Sir Thomas: Your Worship is very good.

The Bench: I am not very good. I am very dyspeptic.

Sir Thomas: Perhaps, Your Worship would care to try one of these infallible tablets! One or two taken in a glass of water. Your Worship...

The Bench: Thank you, Usher, the tablets!

(His Worship then took two tablets, and appeared to experience considerable relief.)

The Advocate-General(continuing):

The facts, Your Worship, are as follows: On or about the third of this month, at about half past six in the evening, the prisoners, Jones and Smith, were, as partners, playing the game of contract bridge at the Wanderer's Club. At a very early stage of the play Jones, as dealer, opened the bidding with one Spade, and, thereafter, the bidding went on like this, Your Worship, the other side never intervening:

Jones:	Smith:
One Spade	Two Hearts
Three Diamonds	Four Spades
Four No Trumps	Five Clubs
Six Spades	Pass

All these sound perfectly innocent bidding, Your Worship.

The Bench: Where do you get these tablets?

Sir Thomas: Crux. Your Worship, Crux & Crumbs in Lavender Road. This bidding, Your Worship, is not so innocent as it looks. It is in cold, calculated, deliberate, and unscrupulous defiance of the Laws of Contract Bridge.

The Bench: How do you say that?

Sir Thomas: I am coming to that, Your Worship. The Bid of Four No Trumps by Jones. Your Worship, was no bid in Law. A bid in Law is "a call by which a player offers to contract that his side will win at least as many odd tricks as he specifies, provided that the hand is played in the denomination he names and that his side becomes the contracting side." Jones knew perfectly well that his bid of Four No Trumps was no bid in Law. What else, then, was it? They

were just words, but words, Your Worship, with intent "to give an indication of the nature of the hand" he held, the indication being that he, Jones, was having three Aces, or in the alternative, two Aces and the King of any suit previously bid by either partner.

The Bench: We see what you mean, Sir Thomas.

Sir Thomas: I am obliged to Your Worship. But that, Your Worship is not all. Smith, when he bid Five Clubs, had no intention of being left in with a contract of Five Clubs. His, too, was no bid in Law. He was, in his turn just uttering words, but words. Your Worship, with intent "to give an indication of the nature of the hand" he held, to wit, that he, Smith had, of all the Aces, only the Ace of Clubs. Thus, both the prisoners, by uttering the material and offending words were not conveying what those words in their ordinary context purport to convey, but, something most reprehensible in Contract Bridge, to wit, illegally and improperly conveying and exchanging information, and thereby, committing a grave offence against the Laws. It is

not as if the offenders are unaware of their offence. They are more than aware of it, and, among themselves, and out of ear-shot, they distinguish these bids by calling them Artificial or Conventional Bids. Several such Bids are, alas, in wide vogue and every time any of them is employed, the purpose is the same and the offenders are, in effect, openly snapping their fingers at the sacred Laws of Contract Bridge. Culbertson...

The Bench: Who is he?

Sir Thomas: He is worshipped almost as a God, and his words carry, to his disciples, all the weight and authority of a Gospel. To others, Your Worship, he is just a genius, with an extraordinarily clear and analytical mind, with a flair for writing readable and charming English prose, and is known as the author of a system of bidding and play called by his name. Throughout the world 98 percent "play Culbertson" as Jones and Smith were playing the other day, and every other day. This means, Your Worship, that throughout the world 98 percent are criminals in the eye of the Law. The Blackwood Convention ..

The Bench: You needn't bother, Sir Thomas, about these conventions. I quite understand, Please, go on.

Sir Thomas: I am really obliged to Your Worship. These and other numerous conventional Bids in use every day, everywhere and by every player are in gross violation of both the letter and spirit of the Laws of Contract Bridge. They are not merely illegal, they are immoral. And yet, upon these deliberate offences, not one of our Bridge moralists has made any of those severe pronouncements which the spectacle of our other indulgences so often extracts from them.

The Bench: Has all these, Sir Thomas, anything to do with me?

Sir Thomas: Your Worship, the rising generation has set its face against all manifestations of this vice which is lowering the moral and ethical standards of our players. It is bent in directing all its resources and all its power towards a rigid enforcement of the Law. The pleasure and enjoyment which loyal devotees of Contract Bridge derive is a precious treasure and we have a duty to preserve and safeguard this treasure and maintain its pristine

purity. And this duty can be discharged only by a vigorous drive against every breaker of the Law. Those who know the Law, and yet deliberately choose to break it, should also know that they cannot escape the penalties the Laws provide. The confused and wavering mind of Parliament, Your Worship...

The Bench: I beg your pardon.

Sir Thomas: The confused and wavering mind of Parliament...

The Bench: Yes, what about it?

Sir Thomas: I was saying, Your Worship, when your attention wandered, that the confused and wavering mind of Parliament has left many wide gaps and large loop-holes in the Laws of Contract Bridge. If the prisoners, and players like them, take advantage of them, they may not be acting illegally, though they may still be acting immorally or unethically. These, Your Worship, we are unfortunately powerless to prevent. But such flagrant defiance and violations of Law like the one with which the prisoners are charged, namely, illegally and improperly giving an indication of the nature of the hand held, must be punished,

and punished with a heavy hand.

It is no excuse for the prisoners to say that the indications given are given to all including their opponents or to say that it is given with the knowledge and condonation of the opponents. This, I submit, is no excuse because the offence is not that of indicating to one's partner, or to one's opponents, but that of the act of indicating itself. And it is against public policy that so serious a crime should be compounded out of Court between the offenders and their opponents.

It is also no excuse for the prisoners to say that the alleged act is an offence against only a Propriety, which has not quite the force of Law. This is founded on quite an unwarranted assumption that Proprieties do not form part of the Laws. The Laws have endowed these Proprieties with all the dignity, power, and majesty of the Laws themselves. In fact, the Proprieties are a sort of schedule to modern Acts of Parliament. The object of the Proprieties, the Laws say, is "to enlighten players...when or how they are improperly conveying informa-

tion, often a far more reprehensible offence than a mere unintentional violation of a Law."

None of the excuses, then the prisoners could possibly advance in defence is available to them, and I, accordingly, ask Your Worship for a conviction.

The Bench: Anything you say, Sir Thomas. They are convicted.

Sir Thomas: Your Worship, that was in the nature of a test

case. In the next case, three hundred and eighty six bridge players are charged with the same offence.

The Bench: Can they all be convicted before lunch?

Sir Thomas: I think not, Your Worship.

The Bench: Then we had better have lunch. Can you spare another tablet?

The Court adjourned.

All the five Honours in the trump suit will occur in one hand in every 11 deals out of 4,095; and any four such honours in every 11 deals out of 819.

* * * *

The chances of all the four Aces being found in one hand are 11 in 850.

* * * *

If one player has just one Ace, the odds in favour of his partner having the other three Aces is 22 to 703.

News and Notes

By J. SUBBUSWAMY

The Association

IT is but proper that in this Magazine, news of the South Indian Bridge Association should take pride of place and be recounted first. The Association has entered upon a new year of useful work with the Annual General Body meeting held at the Madras United Club on the 16th of January 1949 at 6 P.M. Mr. A. M. R. Davidar was in the chair, and quite a large number of players, local as well as from the mofussil, participated in the proceedings. The following new members were elected for the Council (viz) Sri. M. K. Srinivasa Mudaliar, S. A. Ayyaswamy Chetty, K. M. S. Reddy and G. K. Sundaram.

While rendering our grateful thanks to the Calavai Ramanujam Chetty Choultry authorities for so kindly permitting the Championship Tournaments to be held in the Choultry, the authorities of the Cosmopolitan club for giving us the use of their spacious cards hall for the Pairs Progressive event of the

Madras Zone, and the authorities of the Madras United Club for allowing the prize-distribution and the Annual meeting to be conducted in their premises, we cannot help hoping that the day is not far off when the Association will have a building of its own in the city, adequate to its needs.

The S.I.B.A. Championship Tournaments.

For the first time since the war, the tournaments were revived in their full vigour and conducted on a Zonal basis as of old. This is a good augury for the growth of Contract Bridge in South India, for a tournament with the qualifying rounds held in the zonal centres, and the final rounds at Madras, helps to keep Bridge interest at concert pitch not only in the City but also in the Districts. Though the early rounds were played at five centres, the response was hardly equal in all of them. The Bellary and Madura centres, though they struggled bravely on and finished the

events, were ultimately unable to send their full quota of players to compete in the tournament rounds at Madras. But the centre at Madras evoked a response gratifying beyond expectation. Sixty four entries for the open pairs, twenty four teams of four, and fifty pairs for Pairs Progressive are easily records for Madras. This enthusiasm for Contract Bridge in the City should not be allowed to dissipate itself but should be preserved for the game. Considering that Duplicate Contract was more or less a gift to the city from the districts in the early days, it is difficult to understand the sudden lack of interest in the Districts at this crucial stage in the history of the game in South India. We can only hope that this is but a passing phase and that the players in the mofussil can be brought back to contract Bridge, their first love, notwithstanding the wiles of Poker, Rummy and Pick.

Other Tournaments

Though the S. I. B. A. Championship Tournaments are looked upon as the Blue Riband of all tournaments, there are quite a number of established tourna-

ments conducted during the year. Thus the Cosmopolitan Club, Coimbatore, held a tournament in early May 1948, which was well attended by City teams. Sri V. Srinivasier with his band of helpers made this tournament thoroughly enjoyable. The Lawley Institute Tournament held at Ootacamund during May 1948, once again showed the waning interest of the mofussil players. It was lucky that there was a strong representation of City teams this year which kept the Tournament going. One dreads to think as to what will happen if this year, for some reason, the City teams find it inconvenient to attend the tournament. It would be a great pity if such an established tournament has to be given up for lack of sufficient entries.

Sri Mylappan deserves our warm congratulations for staging a new tournament at Tiruchirappalli, the P. R. Thevar Memorial Tournament. One was reminded of the full blooded activities of the Deccan Bridge League, when this city was its headquarters. We sincerely hope that this will be an annual event and that Sri Mylappan

will continue to be associated with it.

The City tournaments were adequately supported. The Theagaroya Nagar Social Club conducted their annual tournament in their own fine and inimitable way. The South Indian Vysya Association tournament was a great success. It can perhaps be said of this tournament that it has always been conducted with such tact and bonhomie that the competitors felt that the tournament was theirs. The Madras United Club conducted their tournament in their usual efficient way.

Proposed League Tournament

Though a number of tournaments are conducted in the City there are still a large number of players who are unable for various reasons to take part in all of them. Moreover, Bridge, unlike field games, need not be limited to any particular season but can be played throughout the year. As public holidays have to be utilised for bringing a large and representative gathering together, the S.I.B.A. Championships have been held during the Pongal holidays; the

Coimbatore and Lawley Institute tournaments are conducted during the Summer vacation and the other tournaments in the city attempt to bridge the gap between the events. Nevertheless, there are days during the year when there is no tournament attraction in the City. To remedy this defect and to provide an abiding interest for members and member clubs in the city throughout the year and to improve the standard of the game in the city, there has been for very many years past an urge to conduct a League Tournament. This year Sri P. S. Reddy and his friends have generously come forward and offered to donate a trophy for such a tournament, and the Association has accepted this offer. An *ad hoc* Committee has been formed for drafting the rules for the conduct of the tournament. The idea of a league tournament is a well known one and has been tried with beneficial results in other branches of sports. We hope that a League Tournament in the City will soon be a *fait accompli* and will not only keep the interest alive right through the year, but will also greatly

improve the standard of the game.

Scope for improvement

Taking stock of the tournaments run last year, one cannot help feeling that there are defects which can easily be remedied with a little more co-operation from the competitors and a little more strictness on the part of the tournament authorities. The first of these defects is the inordinate time taken up by the Progressive events which, from their very nature, should be played in a strictly prescribed time, demanding as they do from the competitors, quick decision and prompt execution of ideas. An average of over fifteen minutes for a deal is enough to kill one's enthusiasm for the game. If not checked, Progressive events may deteriorate into endurance tests and possibly drive away as many players as are attracted by the novelty of the events.

The second defect noticeable of late is the ease with which teams are able to secure postponements of matches, thereby leading to considerable inconvenience to the survivors in tournaments. After all, when

players or teams enter an event, they owe something to the competitors and to the tournament authorities, and it should be their endeavour to keep to the time schedule for matches. The frequent postponement of early rounds not only penalises the good players who are in more than one event but also pushes the finals far beyond the scheduled date. A final played after the dispersal of the majority of the competitors cannot evoke the same interest as one finished in its appointed time.

There is a general slackness in tournament discipline which, if not controlled, may seriously undermine the tournaments themselves. During the running of an event, there is practically no deal which is not discussed aloud by some pair or other; players never stay in their seats after finishing the deals, but keep wandering around; and to make the cup full, there were at least three instances in a recent Duplicate Progressive event where-in players sat and played in a direction different from that given in their charts.

We have, however, an energetic Tournament Committee

which is quite competent tournaments will be run on to tackle these lapses and we model lines. feel confident that the future

S. I. B. A. Championships 1948.

Knockout Team four :

Winners :—Sri. P. S. Reddy, G. Hanumantha Rao, T. S. Chandrasekharan, K. C. Ramaratnam and V. C. Vaidyanatha Baghavathar.

Runners-up :—Sri M. K. Srinivasa Mudaliar, T. M. Kasturi, C. Devarajan, K. Gopalaswamy and K. Ramaswamy.

Duplicate Progressive :

Winners :—Dr. Achar, C. R. Srinivasan, K. R. Sundaram Iyer and M. R. Doraiswamy.

Runners-up :—Sri P. S. Reddy, G. Hanumantha Rao, V. C. Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar and K. C. Ramaratnam.

Progressive Pairs :

North South :

Winners :—Dr. Achar and C. R. Srinivasan.
Runners-up :—Sri Mylappan and Victor.

East West :

Winners :—Sri Veeramani and Subba Rao.
Runners-up :—Sri T. V. Subramania Iyer and K. C. Ramaratnam.

Master Pairs :

Winners :—Sri A. M. R. Davidar and N. S. Shanker.
Runners-up :—Sri Aiyaswamy and S. R. Subramaniam.

Individual Championship :

Lt. Col. A. D. J. Victor.

Open Pairs :

Winners :—Sri Veeramani and Subba Rao.
Runners up :—Dr. U. Krishna Rao and C. T. Krishnasamy.

(For zonal results, see page 13)

Pro et Contra

Edited by P. S. SUNDARESAN

Question : This board came up during the Weekly duplicate match at our club and became the subject of much heated discussion. At Room I the N-S pair was the Club's crack pair and although their four obtained a narrow victory in the aggregate of the deals played there was much criticism of the pair's handling of this deal.

The hands were :

North
 ♠ K 10 8 7 3
 ♥ A 8 7 4
 ♦ 5 3 2
 ♣ 2

South
 ♠ Q 9
 ♥ K 9 6
 ♦ A K J 8 7
 ♣ A K 9

The bidding was as under :

Room I	
S	N
1♦	1♣
2 N.T.	3♥
3 N.T.	—
Room II	
1♦	1♣
2 N.T.	4♣
6♣	—

The slam in spades was easily made as the spades A J x was with West and the queen of diamonds with East. Would you please comment on how the bidding should have proceeded with special reference to the following points :—

(1) Whether South's two notrump rebid was the correct bid.

(2) Whether North had sufficient values to bid four spades over partner's two notrumps.

(3) If the answer to (1) is in the affirmative, whether North's three hearts rebid was wrong. The argument was that South's two notrump rebid practically denied a fourcard heart holding in his hand and it was therefore unnecessary for North to make an exploratory three heart bid in the hope of finding South with a fourcard fit in the suit.

*Answer :—*We would answer the questions in their order.

(1) The South hand has five honour tricks, including the + value for his honourcards, and technically it is barely worth a three notrump rebid. But the lack of the double stopper in

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hearts, as well as the overcrowding in bidding that would result inclines us to prefer the bid of two notrumps as more suitable. The danger is negligible that the bidding would be dropped.

(2) There is not the slightest justification for North's four spade bid. Once a force had been given, the bidding thereafter should go slow, so as to facilitate the exchange of precious information. Any jump bid is a bid out of the ordinary and carries with it the special significance that the hand is very strong and has slam potentialities. In the actual hand North obviously meant no such thing, but simply concluding that there was a game in the hand straightaway jumped to four spades. But South could not know this and quite properly accepted what he conceived to be a slam invitation.

(3) South's two notrump bid does not negative a fourcard heart suit. Change the nine of clubs in South's hand to the ten of hearts and what is he to do? He could not bid two hearts, for though a reverse and a strong bid, it would still be an underbid; he cannot bid three hearts,

his hand not being strong enough. The only bid available is the jump bid in notrump. Even if North assumed that South could not have a four card heart suit, he should still have bid three hearts to show his distribution, since with such strong hands between them, a four hearts contract, though with only seven trumps between them, should not be unmakeable.

In the result we are in complete agreement with the bidding in Room I. The heated discussion referred to need never have taken place, if only the players had recognised that in any session of play, there are bound to arise some hand or hands in which though a game or slam is actually made, it could not be bid, and in some cases should not be. It is one of the fundamentals of slam bidding that apart from honour tricks and the actual count of winners, the trump suit in the joint hands should be solid, or at any rate, should not contain more than one loser. If the trump suit be ragged, as it is in the present case, whatever the wealth of outside honour tricks, a slam should not be thought of.

Problems for Jan.-March 1949

By S. RAJAM IYER

A. The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	?	

You, South, hold:

♠AQ743, ♥5, ♦A63, ♣Q1074
What do you bid?

B. The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1N.T.	Pass	2♣	Pass
2N.T.	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

You are West, on lead against four spades and hold:

♠Q63, ♥Q74, ♦A96, ♣Q653
What do you lead?

C. The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	2N.T.	Pass
3♥	Pass	3N.T.	?

You are West, on lead against three no trumps and hold:

♠876, ♥93, ♦AQJ32, ♣954
What do you lead?

D. The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	Pass	1N.T.
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Rdbl	Pass	Pass
?			

You, North, hold:

♠83, ♥KQ865, ♦A98, ♣1042
What do you bid?

E. You are vulnerable and opponents are not. The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1♠	2N.T.	?	

You, South, hold:

♠Q1086, ♥KQ84, ♦K1063, ♣3
What do you bid?

F. North-South not vulnerable, and East-West vulnerable the bidding has proceeded:—

North	East	South	West
1♠	2♣	Pass	?

You, West, hold:

♠986, ♥KJ972, ♦A853, ♣7
What do you bid?

G. The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♣	Pass	?	

You, South, hold:

♠A10, ♥1063, ♦J92, ♣AK832
What do you bid?

H. The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	?	

♠Q6, ♥9765, ♦A83, ♣KQ92
What do you bid, as South?

Answers to Problems for October-December, 1948

(A) Your partner opens the bidding with one Diamond. You naturally respond with one Spade. Your partner bids Two Spades. Your hand is:—

♠KQJx, ♥952, ♦QJ, ♣K943
What do you bid?

Answer: Two notrumps. The bid of two Spades is theoretically the equivalent of one no trump, but in practice is slightly more encouraging, and shows a preference for a suit contract. Your hand has substantial rebid values, and though it lacks stoppers in hearts two notrumps is the best bid available and indicates all that you wish to convey to your partner viz good strength somewhat weak for an original response of two notrumps, a four-card spade suit, a fit in your partner's diamond suit and a stopper in one of the unbid suits. You are inviting your partner to raise to game if his hand justifies it. The alternative bid of three clubs that suggests itself is ambiguous and rather fancy. If, as in this case, it means an invitation to partner to raise to

three notrumps if he can take care of the heart suit, it is unwise since it suggests to the opponents the very defence that may defeat the contract. The bid may, on the other hand, be construed as indicating an unbalanced hand suitable for play in either spades or clubs, but it is hardly the case here. Two notrumps is decidedly the better choice.

(B) Your partner, dealer, bids one Diamond. You bid Two Clubs. Your partner bids Three Clubs. You hold:—

♠A97, ♥108, ♦K94, ♣K9732
What do you bid?

Answer: Three Diamonds. You have no rebid values over your original bid of two clubs. Notwithstanding, with mutual support in each other's suit it is hardly advisable to pass when your partner makes a strong invitational raise of your club suit. You should stretch your hand a little to bid three Diamonds. The bid does not mean that you wish to play the hand at five Diamonds. You merely wish to indicate that the diamond

suit is probably solid and that you lack a stopper in one of the unbid suits. You appeal to your partner to finish at three notrumps if there be the slightest excuse for it. If, however, the unbid suits be full of holes, then you tell partner, beware.

(C) Your partner opens the bidding with Two Spades. You hold:—

♠-♥ Jxxxxx ♦ Qxxxx ♣ xx

What do you bid?

Answer: Three hearts. The response to an opening bid of two in a suit is two notrumps if the hand contains less than one honor trick and no long suit to show. But if there is a *six card or longer suit*, that suit should be bid regardless of the weakness or strength of the hand. (Vide the chapter on 'Opening suit bids of two' in the Gold Book). From the commonsense point of view as well, the bid of two notrumps would unduly crowd the bidding and would prevent your bidding both the suits in time for the partner to make the choice. If the best contract happens to be in diamonds, it may not be reached. Three hearts should first be bid and the diamonds

could be shown in the next round.

(D) The bidding has proceeded:—

North	East	South	East
3♥	4♣	Pass	!

You, West, hold:—

♠xxx, ♥xxxx ♦KJxx, ♣Ax

Answer: Five Clubs. The bid of Four Spades by East is very strong, and from your holding, there can be no doubt of a small slam being available. There is just a possibility of grand slam, and the possibility should not be missed. Your bid of five clubs will not be understood as a desire to play in that suit. Even when you do not like a spade contract there is no necessity for you to cry before you are hurt, especially when a game contract has already been reached. Your hand could not be strong enough to play at five clubs without hearing from your partner in that department. So your partner can interpret your five clubs bid only as an indication of your slam mindedness, at the same time disclosing the ace of clubs. If the partner with the above information be still doubtful of a slam and signs off at five spades, you bid six diamonds: the only

meaning which could be attached to that bid would be that you hold the king of diamonds. You have told him that you have the ace of clubs, the king of diamonds, and at least three trumps, for otherwise you would not invite for slam. Your partner can bid six or seven spades just as his hand warrants.

Five Spades is also a possible bid that would indicate your slam aspirations. But it lacks the preciseness of the above sequence. If your partner bids six spades, you can do nothing further.

(E) Your partner, North, opens the bidding with one Heart, East passes and you hold:

♠ Qx, ♥A Jxxx, ♦Jxx, ♣Axx

What do you bid?

Answer: Two Clubs. The future of the hands is only in heart, and four hearts must be reached at some stage or other, not to speak of higher possibilities. The hand is barely sufficient for a jump bid in three hearts, and should you bid it there is the danger that your partner may not stop short of slam, assessing your hand at more than you hold. So you temporize with a semi-strength showing bid of two clubs. After this bid the contract will not be

stopped short of game; your partner gets a wider field of choice, and there will be greater precision in assessing the combined value of the hands.

(F) You are the dealer and hold:—

♠KJxx, ♥K Jxx, ♦xxx, ♣AQx

What do you bid?

Answer: One club. This is one of those rare cases, when having two biddable major suits, you have to bid a three card club suit. In the usual course you can bid only spade. Your partner will have to bid one notrump though he may have a heart suit, being unable to bid it at the level of two. You yourself dare not bid two hearts, your hand not warranting a rebid at the two level. In the event a game in hearts may easily be missed. By bidding one club, you give your partner ample opportunity to mention his trump suit at the one level. You can thereafter adjust your subsequent bids.

(G) You, the dealer, open with one diamond. The next hand passes and your partner responds one heart. The next hand passes. You hold:—

♠Axx, ♥xx, ♦A10xxx, ♣AKQ

Answer: One spade. This cer-

tainly appears to be a queer bid, the more so as the bid is made in the top ranking suit, with the possibility of your partner dragging you to four spades. There is however no danger. The game possibility of the hand is only in notrumps. To be safe at three no trumps, you should know only whether spade be sufficiently protected in the joint hands. If your partner supports spades, you can straightaway bid three notrumps. Your partner guards both the majors. You have five tricks in top honors, and one more trick in diamond, if not two; you can safely rely on your partner for the balance of the tricks. If your partner bids four spades after your three notrumps the contract should be makeable.

(H) As against a three no-trumps contract by you, (South), West leads the three of spades. You hold AQ x and your partner, 10 9. East plays the jack. What will you play and why?

Answer :—The problem has been cryptically framed without disclosing both the hands in full to test whether competitors are able to foresee the contingencies without reference to the lay of the cards.

There may be paucity of entries in the dummy and you may have to create an additional entry. You therefore play the ace of spades. West cannot know that you have played the ace, holding the queen. When you try to throw in the lead immediately to West, the latter crediting East with the queen, and himself holding the king, may underlead, in which case you gain an entry to the dummy with the ten of spades.

This play can also be used to meet another contingency. If there is a danger suit, say king and rag in the dummy and three rags with you, West will shift to that suit as soon as he gains the lead, *if you play your queen of spades*. He knows that you have the ace of spades, and rather than persist in spades, would lead through the king and rag in the dummy. If however you play the ace, spade is sure to be returned; from whatever quarter it is returned again you are sure of two tricks, which is all you can gain even if you take the first trick with the queen.

If you do not want to provide for either of the two contingencies indicated above, you would, of course, play the queen.

A. Problem in Play

You have reached a contract of six hearts with the following makeup of your hand and partner :—

Dummy

♠ — —
♥ A J 9 8 x
♦ A K 10 x
♣ A x x x

♠ — —
♥ K Q 10 x x x
♦ x x x x
♣ K J 9

The opening lead is the king of spades. How will you settle your line of play?

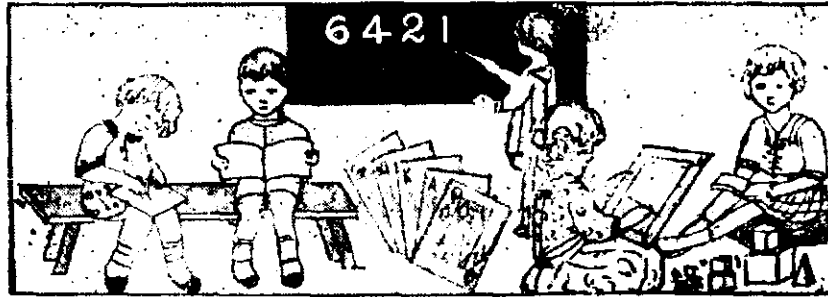
Answer :—The only problem that arises is how you should manage the play of the hand if diamonds do not break three and two. If they do break, the play for the contract is automatic; the trouble comes when they do not. You should so plan your play, that you will not be hurt whatever may be the distribution of diamonds and clubs. In the line of play set out below, we need not worry as to how clubs are distributed. We shall assume that the club honors are unfavourably placed.

You ruff the opening lead in dummy and discard a diamond from your hand. Then draw

trumps, and as one of the hands shows void, you have to run two rounds.

Then play the ace of diamonds. If both follow to the first round, you enter your hand via another trump and lead for a second round of diamonds. If the player to your left follows, *finesse ten of diamonds*. Either the last hand follows suit or it does not. If it does not, the ten of diamonds should hold. If the fourth hand follows also for the second round, then the third round of the suit with the king of diamonds pulls out the remaining adverse honor and the fourth diamond is established to discard one of the clubs in your hand.

Suppose the player to the declarer's left shows out at the second diamond lead. Then you play the king of diamonds and lead a club from dummy and cover with a card higher than what is played by the second hand. If the second hand plays small you play the nine. The last hand may have Q 10 8. After winning the first club lead, he has to play either into the tenace in clubs or for a ruff and discard.



TODDLERS' CORNER

Better Bridge: Gentlemen Players.

By F. D. C. DHANBHOORA.

*"Full many a 'spade' of purest steel serene,
The dark unfathomed, 'clubs' of continents bear;
Full many a 'Heart' is born to burn unseen,
And waste its ashes on the 'Diamonds' 'glare'*

Guru : My salaams, grand and small, to ye all, happy we parted and happy we meet again. On receipt of "The Indian Bridge World", I silently prayed, "welcome ye, a long expected saviour," because to me "Better Bridge" means more than anything else in the world.

Mandu Manikam : Oh, Gurudev, we all missed you a lot...

Guru : And so did I, my lost lambs.

Mandu Manikam : Well, what have you this time up your sleeve? Some freak hand or faint heart?

Guru : No, dear, this time I desire to see you all comrades in cards as gentlemen players.

Kettikara Krishnan : I read somewhere, Sir, "Babies, poets, fools and gentlemen are born, not made".

Guru : Oh, you are indeed clever. Just add the word players to those born, not made. Some are born learned, some are made learned ... and....

Mandu Manikam : And some have learning thrust upon them. Please talk now about your "Better Bridge".

Guru : Well, I dedicate this

talk to the gentleman player, uncomplaining, ungrudging friend, whose only ambition is to enjoy the game and who neither lives to play Bridge and only Bridge...

Somberi Subban : "Nor plays Bridge in order to live."

Guru : Gentlemen players, even if the rest of their lives are spent behind bars, observe a strict ethical code at the card table. Some others, however, do not.

For instance: A player picks up his cards, gapes at them for long, meditates for a longer while, and then says "No Bid", "No Bid".

Kettikara Krishnan : Yes, and if I be his partner, I can infer immediately that he has a count of nine or ten, i.e. nearly two plus honour tricks.

All other Toddlers : What is this count, Guru-dev?

Guru : Ace counts 4; King 3, Queen 2, and Jack 1 point.

For instance: ♠ A, Q, 4, 3; ♥ K, J, 6; ♦ Q, 10, 8, 6; ♣ Q, 2. Here you have a count of 14. If here you hesitate and like a yogi meditate, you cheat.

Somberi Subban : Yes, pretending like Buddha with folded feet.

Yes, sir, it is a daily occurrence. City magnates, with pearl tiepins, even lawyers in striped trousers, learned doctors with kindly expressions, kindly farmers without expressions, politicians and gigolos, in short, all have been known to lapse from the goodness and grace of the game.

Guru : "Oh, wad some power
the giftie gie us,
To see ourselves as others
see us".

Mandu Manikam : What about the poor palooka? Can't he think for a minute, without being accused of gross cheating. Are people always dishonest?

Guru : Of course, a player may, and can, think and take time. No one expects him to be a human metronome. But what he must not do is to call a "No Trump" on one hand, before, quite sorting his cards, and to pass slowly and sadly (reluctantly) on the next. Think not, if you have nothing to think about. The real cheat and the greater culprit is the partner—if he takes the advantage of the trance.

The code is "Pause and pray" but then double or something say

Kettikara Krishnan : What about intonation, hesitation and con-

versation, the 'Triputi' Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva? Only the other day I dealt and opened one Heart and my partner held: ♠Q ♡A, 10, 8, 6, 2; ♢K, 9, 8, 4. ♣Q, 8, 5. He felt he was too good for two Hearts and not quite strong or good enough for three. So he cleverly compromised by calling "Two Hearts" in a bold and resonant tone, meaning that the bid plus the inflection equals a near "Jump Bid" amounting to "Two-and-half" Hearts and not two only.

Guru: And what did you subsequently bid then? Did you succumb to the temptation before taking counsel's (conscience) opinion, insuring your life and making your last wishes known to your prospective widow? Tell the truth and....

Kettikara Krishnan: Yes, I did bid and scored the game.

Guru: Then you are a cheat with crooked feet. If I were you I would have said "No Bid", in spite of my holding four plus honour tricks. This intonation medium is employed by some of the best people, from solvent aristocrats to venerable book-makers. Pray remember "Friends forgive, nagging wife and nature

never". Do not cheat, inflection is cheating requiring no accomplice.

Mandu Manikam: Is there any remedy for this disease.

Guru: Yes, ostracise such bandits of Bridge, and g-men or gangsters of the game of the Gods. Refuse to play with such people and banish them once and for all from decent society. Honesty may cost a few coins (points) but the inflector's discomfiture is well worth the price to say nothing of one's own honour and reputation.

Kettikara Krishnan: When a contract is doubled, my partner folds his hand and says "Content". Is the term "Content" legal and also ethical?

Guru: A more venial offence is the use of the word "content" or "All right" etc. It is not even cheating in the twilight, but at most in the black-out, and I have yet to hear such archaic expressions from any one but a 'Palooka'. If 'content' and "No Bid" were synonymous, it would not much matter. But they are not synonymous. 'No Bid' means well, I am doubled, I shall have to take my medicine. partner, dear, come on, Steve, and switch

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on to some better suit". Whereas "content" indicates, "not at all a bad contract, even though doubled; in fact, I should not be surprised if we made it. Worry not, my 'woolie'.

Somber Subban: Yes, I go with you. It is better to expunge all equivocal expressions from one's Bridge vocabulary. The most flagrant piece of fraud is to hesitate when declarer finesses an honour card, which you do not possess.

Guru: The code is do not wait or hesitate, if you have not the honour card. If you happen to have the honour card, you may take some time to think. The fumble and flick is a form of cheating.

Mandu Manikam: My opponent holds his cards so badly that I feel like bidding them for him. Is it an offence to look into neighbours' hands? They would rather show their hands than be uncomfortable.

Guru: It is an offence to peep. What would you think of your brother, if he goes on peeping through the key hole? Rely on your skill, rather than on your eye-balls and neck muscles. Cheating does not pay and it is bound to be found out. Peep not into your opponents' cards, please.

"I care not, if ye be a Culbertson to the very core,
A gentle-man player I love,
worship and ever adore."

There was a chap from Hollywood, not Clark Gable,
He went to all the races,
Lost all the Wins and Places:
Could swallow a camel, in fact;
But would strain at a gnat
When it came to his losses at the Bridge Table.

* * * * *
You are bursting with information regarding bridge in your club and in your district. Do tell the Editor about it.

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The Genesis of Contract

By A. M. R. DAVIDAR

The United States of America leads the world in Contract Bridge. The Americans are the recognised champions in the game. They have hundreds of masters and experts. They have thousands of certified teachers all over the country. They have tens of thousands of regular addicts. They have hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic votaries, burning incense at the altar of the game.

The game itself was first commenced to be played in the United States of America in about 1927-28. It had taken root in England only in about 1929-30. It had come to be played in various English clubs in our country as from 1930-31. It had taken two to three years to dribble into a few Indian clubs in the southern districts in 1933-34. It had spread to most of the Indian clubs in southern India, including those in Madras, only about three years still thereafter, as from 1936-37.

It is not surprising, therefore, that we have come to identify the game with the United States of America, particularly since the greatest exponent of the game, Ely Culbertson, is an American. We have also come to assume that the game is an American one. Such an assumption, however, has had a pernicious effect on our game. It has led to an inferiority complex. It has given rise to a vicious feeling that we have to adapt ourselves to the Western methods and to the Western systems to excel the originators of the game and its advanced adherents.

It is high time that this inferiority complex is obliterated and it is proved that the game has had its real origin in our own country and can be developed according to our own genius. The merely earlier starting of this particular game a decade in advance would count for nothing in the history of a game. The sweeping victories of the Madras



The INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

players in most of the recent tournaments would demonstrably show how easily they have overcome the handicap of a three years' later start that they had, as compared to the players in some of the southern districts. A wider popularity and a more scientific study of the game would enable us to easily overcome the greater progress made in the game in the United States of America.

The basic fact is that Contract Bridge is an Indian game. It merely represents an evolution of, or a development from, the Indian game called *Chadurangam*. As most of us know, this is a four-army game played on four squares, with an army in each square. This ancient game had developed into the game of Chess, on the one hand, and the game of cards, on the other. The board had been retained but the forces reduced to two armies, in the game of chess. The board had disappeared but the four armies had been retained intact in a cards-pack, so far as the game of cards is concerned.

Even after the pack of cards, had made its appearance, our own *pidiatam* would take the

pride of place as being the earliest, if the most crude game embodying all the fundamental principles inherent in Contract Bridge. It is only subsequently that the Western countries had developed the game of whist, which is generally considered to be the ultimate ancestor of Contract Bridge. Whist itself had given place to Auction, which, in turn, had given place to Contract.

We need only fully absorb the fundamental principles inherent in our original Indian game of *Chadurangam*, successively inherent in *Pidiatam*, Whist and Auction, to fully master this fascinating game of Contract. Originally a war between four armies, it is still a war between four armies, with two armies allied against the other two. Every Bridge player is in command of an army, with an ally commanding another army. The first prerequisite to victory and success is that the two allied commanders should fully understand each other. They should be in a position to assess and realise all the implications of the different commands or calls of his ally. Otherwise, you would merely

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have a resultant Tower of Babel, where each man went his own way, without being in a position to understand the language of the others. A Napoleon giving excellent commands in French and a Shivaji giving brilliant commands in Mahratti, each not understanding the language of the other, would yet, as allies, achieve nothing but dire debacles. Perfect understanding and perfect co-operation between two players, as between two allied commanders, is the first essential to success. That is where systems and conventions come into necessary play.

A great Bridge player, even as any great commander, should be a master of strategy and tactics. There is nothing to his credit if he achieves victories with superior armies, with power-houses of men and material. He proves his worth only when he can stand his ground with even a poor ally and weak forces, against strong allies and great strength. It is not always the heavier armour and the greater panzar strength that succeed. The skill of the allied commanders can count for a good deal. It is because skill commands nearly as much place

as luck in this game that it is so fascinating.

When the war starts and when the allied armies have been marshalled, they have first to secure the best position for battle. It is then that you apply all your skill in strategy and tactics to manoeuvre into the best position. Where the only available battle-ground is a level terrain in the way of balanced hands, it is probably not easy to achieve any great brilliance. But even here, you should always indicate to your ally in which particular area or direction your strength lies and he can get the greatest support. Anyway every command that you give should be part of a co-ordinated whole and the result of a planned-out course of action and not merely spasmodic efforts due to conflicting ideas at different stages. Your armour strength in the way of honours as compared with your infantry strength in the way of length of suits should determine whether the enemy is allowed to finally choose the ground for battle or you force him to allow you to choose your own ground.

You have, of course, to make the maximum game out of the

strength of your forces and the forces in the hands of your allied commander. If, for instance, you have both heavy armour in the way of honour-strength and compact panzar battalions in the way of solid suit lengths, nothing need stand in the way of your sending out helicopters and reconnaissance planes in the way of the conventional slam enquiries, to find out if even slam fortresses can be taken and a sweeping victory achieved. But, if you are only assured of an advance of two miles, you will surely not risk a reverse and a loss by attempting a problematical advance of three miles. Eisenhower was quite satisfied with a normal advance of his encircling forces, driving in the two pincers to close the Falaise-Argentan gap, lest the chain of his encirclement was broken anywhere. That had resulted in a great victory, which destroyed the flower of the German army. That was due to both brilliance and caution. In the same way, with every bridge player courage has to be tempered with caution. Adventurous aggressiveness has to be always leavened with careful circumspection.

It is when you have no armour and little artillery and your forces merely represent a long array of ill-equipped men, by way of a long suit of 7 or 8 cards, with little or no aces or kings, that you rush your forces into the shelters of a swamp or a stream or to the protective heights of a mountain. You pre-empt to the fullest extent, risking any necessary loss. You thereby immobilise the Aces and Kings and Queens of your opponents, which can hardly escape through the small gaps of the singletons and doubletons in your hand. You might, in so doing, sustain a reverse. But you would generally see that you have lost much less than what the comparative strength of the opposing armies entitled your opponents to secure. Your pre-emptive bid has thus shown a good balance-sheet. Likewise, your sacrifice bids should yield a profitable balance.

In these manoeuvres for position, there is a good deal of tactics, strategy and feinting that can be brought into use. Some of these would directly flow from the forces at your command. Some others would

merely camouflage the weaknesses of your position. But in all that you do, you should be careful that you mislead the enemy commanders rather than your ally. You may profess to throw your forces into some part of the battle area, merely by way of a camouflage to force the opponents into some other positions, advantageous to yourself. For instance, you make a call of one suit where you are weak, to either force the enemy to purchase the contract in another suit where you are strong, or you do so with the intent that he would not, in the subsequent battle, attack this weak position of yours. All these and similar calls would, even apart from bringing any immediate and substantial results, tend to demoralise the enemy. You thereby seek to destroy his morale. If you succeed in doing so, half the battle is won.

Once the manoeuvres for position are at an end, the battle begins in the actual play of the game. The winning of a trick is the capture of a position, which is good or bad, according to the extent of the losses invol-

ved. When you are commanding the aggressive and advancing forces, you take stock of the forces on your side and the forces of the enemy, even at the very start. You employ your entries and stoppers as bridges and fortresses to link up your army with that of your ally. You take finesse so as to lose the smallest force to achieve a positive result. You try a feint in one front, with a view to invite the enemy to attack you on another more convenient front. Your plan squeezes and coups, so that the enemy cannot guard different fronts at the same time. You employ all possible strategems, avoiding at the same time all the traps laid by the enemy. When ultimately you sweep through the battle-front and achieve a victory in the way of keeping a contract, you have a glow of satisfaction in having done something well.

When you are leading the defending forces, your difficulties are of a different kind. You have to link up your army with that of another, which is still outside your view. You have to bring your signal and your engineering corps into work

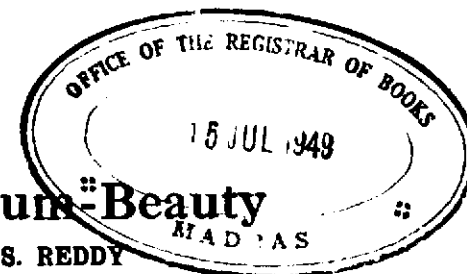
in all your leads and play, through playing high-low, high or low, etc. You have to keep hammering at particular weak points of the advancing forces, either to secure immediate gains or to reduce the trump strongholds of the enemy. When you find that the advancing forces have consolidated their position on various fronts, you indulge in desperate sortics, with for example, an unprotected King or a tenaced Ace-queen.

In bridge, as in war, behind every manoeuvre, stands the relentless shadow of time. Tempo is the essence of the play. While the passage of the enemy in a particular direction is temporarily stopped by the fortress of a trump or an Ace or a King, you mobilize your resources to establish a winning front in another direction or suit. The conflicts are frequently decided on the basis of which side retains one more fortress, in a lead or a stopper. The inevitable factor of time dominates the destinies of paste-board armies, just as it dominates the battles of uniformed men. The

anguish of Wellington's cry at Waterloo, "Night or Blucher" is echoed at almost every play of a bridge hand.

The game of Contract Bridge is, apart from various other things, an understanding of the art of military science. Properly played, with due regard to its basic principles, there is no limit to the sublime heights that it can reach. We should therefore, not merely continue to play this fascinating game but also bring in more scientific study to bear on it, so as to make it richer and grandeur. We should also bring in more votaries to its altar, so as to get the assistance of larger numbers in improving the standards of the game. We should develop the game on our own lines according to the genius of our own country.

Playing this game of our own which has had its genesis in our country, we should then be in a position to challenge and excel every one else. We should then add further splendour to our country and force its acceptance on the world as the champion country in Contract Bridge.



Bridge-Cum-Beauty

By P. S. REDDY

I have always been of the opinion, that the fairer sex, however good they may be at other games, have obvious limitations where bridge is concerned. My subsequent experience has tended only to confirm this feeling. I am making this statement, even at the risk of offending the susceptibilities of the tender sex, as I feel no harm has ever resulted in facing facts once in a while.

It was early forty one, and I was on a holiday with three of my friends in a small sea-side resort. Somehow the news got round that we were all bridge players and the result was that we received an invitation from the local ladies' club to join them for a game of bridge. My friend Monsieur Ferdinand, who is incidentally a Frenchman, jumped at the invitation and without any hesitation committed us all for the evening. I must state at the outset that Mr. Ferdinand was an expert bridge player but even more

than bridge, he took an absorbing interest in the opposite sex.

As the evening approached, we dressed up meticulously, took a cab and arrived at the club a few minutes before the appointed time. We were received at the entrance by a very pretty looking secretary, who took us round the club. As I am by nature very uncomfortable in the company of the opposite sex, I pretended I had a headache and took no part in the game.

A table was arranged and my friend Mr. Ferdinand sat South. One of my friends sat North. A middle-aged lady sat West and a most beautiful girl sat East. Looking at her, I wondered why she was wasting her charms at a bridge table. As was only natural in the circumstances, I took my seat between Mr. Ferdinand and East. For a good part of the time, my friends concentrated more on East and less on bridge. The young lady, whenever she made a bid or play, invariably when she made a

correct finesse, looked at me, as if to impress on me the superiority of the female sex in the art of play. Of course, I was all admiration for her from the first time I met her and a successful finesse offered me an opportunity to express my ardent feelings. This went on for a few deals, when Mr. Ferdinand, sitting South, dealt this hand :—

North	
♠ A K 9	
♥ 53	
♦ Q 1073	
♣ Q 864	
West	East
♠ 87	♠ Q 1064
♥ K 9862	♥ Q 74
♦ 65	♦ A 92
♣ 10753	♣ K J 9
	♠ J 532
	♥ A J 10
	♦ K J 84
	♣ A 2
	South

Mr. Ferdinand finally arrived at a contract of three notrumps, East vigorously doubled and all passed. Six of hearts was led by West and South took East's queen with the ace. Diamond four was next played and East took the trick with the ace and

returned the seven of hearts. South played the ten and as was explained to us later, West intended to take the trick with the king but, by a slip of the hand, dropped the two, which happened to be the correct play. South then cashed the ace and king of spades and played out the diamonds ending in his own with the king. The position then was as follows :—

North	
♠ 9	
♥ —	
♦ —	
♣ Q 864	
West	East
♠ —	♠ Q 10
♥ K 98	♥ 4
♦ —	♦ —
♣ 107	♣ K J
South	
♠ J 5	
♥ J	
♦ —	
♣ A 2	

Mr. Ferdinand played the jack of hearts. West's face brightened up and she pounced on it with the king, profusely thanking South for his gesture. She then jubilantly proceeded to cash her three heart tricks. I looked

excitedly at East's cards and shouted 'you are squeezed'. East turned to me and wanted to know what I meant. I was a little embarrassed and by way of explanation put in 'your partner has squeezed you—I mean your hand. Anyway, it was all over. When the last heart was played, East had either to throw the queen of spades, in which case South's jack became good or unguard herself in clubs. In either case, my friend keeps his contract. A few more deals and the following hand was dealt by East.

North	
♠ 32	
♥ Q J 1092	
♦ 7653	
♣ Q 3	
East	West
♠ J 54	♠ A K Q
♥ A 65	♥ K 83
♦ K 1042	♦ Q
♣ J 65	♣ 1098742
South	
♠ 109876	
♥ 74	
♦ A J 98	
♣ A K	

West arrived at a contract of three notrumps. North led the

queen of hearts, which was taken by East's king. A low club was then led. South took it with the king and led a low heart. West ducked and North took the trick with the nine and returned the jack of hearts. South thought for a while and nonchalantly discarded the ace of clubs. In great surprise West stared at the card for a full minute and came to the conclusion that South had dropped the ace by mistake. She gently turned to my friend Mr. Ferdinand and told him "Monsieur, we are not very strict about rules in this club, especially to visitors. You are welcome to pick back your ace and play what you wish". I heard my friend politely declining her offer, murmuring that everyone must pay for his follies. Poor West took some time to realise that the brilliant discard of the ace of clubs by South irrevocably ruined her chances of keeping the contract, as the queen of clubs in North's hand is now promoted as an entry for cashing his established heart tricks.

A little later the following deal was dealt by my friend, Mr. Ferdinand.

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

My friend, South, reached a contract of seven spades in spite of the intervening bid of hearts by West. I have a suspicion that my friend arrived at this high contract, with a hope that he might steal a trick or two. Considering the opposition, I feel he was justified in his optimism. The contract was doubled by West, who was heard to remark "What cheek."

West led the king of hearts which was taken by the ace. South then led a low heart and ruffed with the two of spades in his own hand. A small spade to North's ten and another heart was led and trumped in South's hand. He then played out three rounds of trumps. The position then was as follows

North		East	
♠ —		♠ —	
♥ 9		♥ —	
♦ Q 9		♦ 10 6 5	
♣ A J 7		♣ 8 6 5	
West		South	
♠ —		♠ J	
♥ K		♥ —	
♦ K J		♦ A 7	
♣ K 10 9		♣ Q 4 2	

South now played the jack of spades. West, now on squeeze in three suits, after a long hesitation, dropped the king of hearts. North discarded the seven of clubs. South then played a low club, finessed with the jack and led the nine of hearts, which is now the master card. He discarded the seven of diamonds from his own hand. West was again on squeeze and whatever she discarded, South kept his contract. I envied the admiring glance cast at my friend who further enhanced his reputation, after the following hand dealt by East a little later.

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

The charming East, more by accident and less by design, arrived at the correct contract of three notrumps. South led the queen of hearts. East could see nine tricks if the club finesse came right. Even if that failed she had a chance of keeping the contract by finessing diamonds.

After careful planning East took the trick in West's hand with the king of hearts and played a low club which she finessed with the ten. South, that is, our friend Mr. Ferdinand, without even a moment's

hesitation, dropped the three, East's face glowed, for, at least to her way of thinking, the contract was in the bag. So she entered the dummy with the ace of hearts and led a low club and confidently played her jack. South coolly took it with the singleton king of clubs, cashed his three heart tricks and then exited with a spade. As there was no further entry in West's hand, diamond could not be finessed and so the contract was set by one trick.

In the course of the play, East realised that she would have made ten tricks, if only she had put the ace of clubs on the second round. She turned to Monsieur Ferdinand and wanted to know what was his idea in ducking with a doubleton king of clubs. My friend in reply explained to her "Madam, it is true by ducking with a doubleton king of clubs, I risk losing a trick, if you happen to put the ace of clubs on the second trick. But in practice the chances are very much against your putting the ace, unless you suddenly happened to get one of those feminine

intuitions which defy all logic." She giggled at my friends' explanation and turning to me wanted to know how I would have played the hand. I promptly replied, "Just as you did, and what is more, I am sure all the experts would have played likewise." She was so pleased with my remark that she turned her angelic face towards

me and remarked that it was a pity I did not play bridge that evening, as judging from my comments I was easily the best bridge player she had come across.

Things appeared to be looking up and it was just a matter of routine that we made an appointment to meet the next day.

Freak Hands

By K. A. MASTER

BRIDGE is fascinating because each deal presents its own problem in calling and play. I think freak hands are the most fascinating and are the spice of the game. They call for skill both in calling and play. I give below some freak hands which were dealt with and played at my table.

(1) I was dealer sitting South and held this hand.

♠ A K 10 6 4 3 2
♥ x x
♦ x x
♣ x x

My partner is a habitual fumbler who has the habit of gaping at his cards, whether he says "no bid" or "no trump". The opponents were very shrewd players who took full advantage of my partner's weakness. I believe in gaining control with a weak partner as it subdues the opponents to some extent. I opened the bidding with three spades. West passed. My partner in his usual way pondered a lot over his hand. He asked several times: "Did you call three spades, partner?" I

began to repent my call. I thought my partner may confuse it with a two spade call. After much hesitation he threw a bombshell which staggered us all. He called four No Trumps. There was not a ghost of chance of making slam if my partner thought I had a bigish hand. We were playing Blackwood. As the calling went I did not see sense in telling my partner I had one ace. I called five spades and hoped that he would understand. I had only a long suit of spades and I wanted him to pass when it was his turn to call. Did he pass? No. Very confidently and without hesitation he bid six spades. All passed. My opponents looked happy thinking my partner had made a bloomer. West led spade eight. My partner put down his hand and remarked: "I have five honour tricks, partner. You must agree my bidding was correct." I replied: "Perfectly correct. My fault, if we go down." His hand was:—

♠ 9
♥ A K x x
♦ A K x x
♣ A x x x

I played spade nine from dummy. East put up the Jack and I won the first trick with the spade king. There seemed to be a certain loser in spade and one in club. I started thinking. I suspected East had four spades and in a flash the idea came to me that if I could use 4 small trumps for ruffing there was a chance of catching the spade queen in East's hand. The top five honour cards in dummy were entries for ruffing two diamonds and two hearts. The last three cards left in my hand were the ace and ten of spades and a small club; and I played the small club. The queen of spade in East's hand was now trapped and I made my contract. My partner was overjoyed as the result justified his call and quite candidly said: "I could never have played in that way." It was the most beautiful slam bid I have played for a long time and it gave me pleasure to have fulfilled my contract.

(2) East dealt and called one spade. I was sitting South and held the following hand:—

♠ — ♥ K Q x x ♦ K J 10 x ♣ K J 10 x x

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Having three biddable suits in my own hand I considered it better to show my suits from the very first call rather than double one spade. I called two clubs. West called two hearts. I expected a pass from my partner after West had bid, but to my surprise he bid three diamonds. East called three hearts. Having underbid in the first round I jumped to five diamonds. East doubled and all passed. East led heart ace. My partner held :—

♠ x x x
♥ —
♦ A Q x x x
♣ Q x x x

We made 12 tricks. The problem is how to reach a contract of six. If I doubled one spade or called 3 clubs instead of 2, perhaps 6 diamonds or 6 clubs could have been bid. What would you have called if you were South? How should North South have bid to reach a slam. (Nobody plays asking bids in Delhi.)

(3) This is a hand that calls for an inspired lead. The bidding was as follows :—

W	N	E	S
3♣	3♦	3♥	—
4♣	—	4♥	—

The complete hands were as follows :—

North	
♠ A K x x	
♥ x x	
♦ K Q x x x	
♣ x x	
West	East
♠ —	♠ J x x x x
♥ 2	♥ A K J 10 x x x
♦ J x x x x	♦ A
♣ A K J 10 x x x	♣ —
South	
♠ Q 10 x x	
♥ Q x x	
♦ 10 x	
♣ Q x x x	

I was South and I led the diamond ten which enabled East to make his contract. East was able to ruff-spade with the solitary Heart 2 in dummy and to discard two Spades on the Club A. K. Only the lead of a Heart would have defeated the contract and I did not have the inspiration to lead it. Would any one have led a Heart sacrificing his certain trick in trumps?

JUNE 1949

I wish to conclude with a hand from a duplicate tournament which my partner, an American lady and I had the good fortune to win playing East-West.

The calling was as follows :—

E	S	W	N
1♥	2♠	—	3♥
—	4♣	—	4♣
—	4 N. T.	—	5♦
—	5 N. T.	—	6♦
Double	6♣	Double	—
—	Redouble	—	—

An old Colonel was sitting South and his wife North. I held the diamond ace. So it was apparent to me that North's five diamonds was a Blackwood response showing one ace and six diamonds showed a king. I doubled six diamonds to indicate a diamond lead to my partner, as I had no doubt that the Colonel would bid six spades. With a contemptuous look at me (he thought I was a palooka) the colonel snapped out six spades. My partner promptly doubled and the colonel had no hesitation in redoubling. My partner hesitated for a moment and spoke aloud in American twang for bystanders to hear. "This is a most important decision for me.

My partner calls hearts and doubles diamonds. What should I lead?" That outburst was only to gain a second to come to a decision. She led a diamond. The wife of the colonel laid down her hand and quietly said :—"I merely put you back into spades." The colonel remarked "Do not worry. I hold top Honours."

The complete hands were as follows :—

North	
♠ x x	
♥ A K J x x	
♦ J x x x x	
♣ x	
West	East
♠ 10 x x x x x	♠ —
♥ x x	♥ Q x x x x
♦ x x	♦ A K Q 10 x
♣ x x x	♣ K x x
South	
♠ A K Q J x	
♥ x	
♦ x	
♣ A Q x x x x	

I took the 1st trick in diamond and led a diamond which the colonel ruffed. The colonel was flurried. Instead of going down two he went down four which gave us 2200 and helped us to win the tournament by a big margin.

Poor Fish Indeed!

By KAMALA SATHIANATHAN

IF I did not know Mr. Davidar so well, I would liken him, when he wrote his article "The Poor Fish", to the man in the Bible with the beam so big in his eye that he could not see the mote that was in his brother's eye, the beam being the Bridge that he admires so much and the mote, the poor little other games like Poker and Rummy. True, I am as much an admirer of Bridge as he is. I too could play it for hours together, if it were not for two facts, viz. the high stakes by which it is often hedged and my own unfortunate luck at cards, probably due to my inefficiency. Bridge is certainly the king of indoor games, a "game of beauty" of "enduring artistic delight," where luck and skill are finely combined.

But, surely, other games of cards are as pleasant to some individuals, as Bridge is fascinating to others. Poker and Rummy, in the first place, are easier games to play, not need-

ing that high altitude of intelligence and concentration, which is wanted in Bridge. There are people, who simply have not the patience or the intricacy of mind necessary for Bridge. They are quite happy in "wasting time and energy in futile games" and "mere gambling rackets," like poker and Rummy. Here also they can wax as fervent as Bridge fiends. Here also, there is wild enthusiasm, careful analysis and dissection; here also there can be sacrifice of "domestic delights" and braving of "domestic upheavals."

The chief asset of Poker and Rummy is that they are solo games—there is no responsibility to partners. Hence, there is none of the seemingly bitter squabbling of post-mortems, which sometimes can turn a Bridge table into a roaring Billingsgate, upsetting, not only the opponents, but very often the whole room sometimes, and occasionally the next room too! And these squabbles and recriminations sound so futile and

silly to outsiders and often so irritating, though no doubt they are merely temporary to the players themselves. It is at such a height of "asinine exhibition" that I can imagine Mr. Davidar see a Pokerite "looking down the length of his patrician nose, with a superior air" when going past his Bridge table. There are no doubt arguments also at the Poker table, but surely they are in a much more friendly spirit! There are again "frenzied addicts" who play these games just for the sake of winning money, for stakes are running high also at Poker. But are they not doing the same at Bridge? I have known high stake Bridge players looking down their long noses at the lower stakes. If they play at the latter at all, it is only for passing the time till the higher stakers arrive. Of course, the desire here also in many cases is to make as much money as possible—which card game is not like that? But perhaps, there is also an idea that the people at the lower stake table are much more puny in skill than those at the higher ones—an idea

which also shows that more trouble can be taken for higher stakes than for the lower ones!

Moreover, what about the time taken by the Bridge fiend to play an intricate game? Sometimes even twenty minutes to my knowledge, drags on in ponderous grappling with the mind. Poker, be it noted, is swift. The quicker and more sleight of hand you can employ in dealing, the better. The faster you bluff and grab the chips, the more you are respected.

And then, what about the intricacies of Culbertson, Blackwood, Crane, losing count, common-sense, asking bids and a psychic systems which are used at Bridge? And then, do not Bridge players eat and drink as much as they can, when playing? I have seen them at it, and I know!

Mr. Davidar says that he only joins at Poker, Rummy, etc., when he cannot get decent Bridge. But I have seen him playing Poker and he is good at it and must know its "niceties" I am sure he has also experienced the thrills of Poker, the excite-

ment of bluff and the display of observant and inductive skill, which is so very necessary to defeat bad luck and lead to average winning. Besides, he is the lucky possessor of a perfect poker face! A good player can often lose, but if he is patient and careful, he more often wins. And then, I can assure you there are many who surely are glad that other players are winning sometimes—especially if they are heavy losers usually. They do not think successful opponents "despicable worms," "no longer an angel," sometimes "not even a man"; they pay them the higher compliment of crediting them with the infernal luck of the devil!

No, Sir, I do not agree with you that Bridge is the game for everyone, the only game for "real thrills and real excitement." The gates of the wonderland of contract, no doubt, throw you open to en-

trancing fields of delight; but such can be the privilege of other games, too, to people who like them. Ah! there is the rub! To people who like them! You see the point, don't you?

Let the Bridgites enjoy their game, but let the "poor fish, who haunt the poker and rummy tables" enjoy theirs also. If you watch them closely, you will see both "happy faces and gloomy sorrow" at both. Have I not known Bridge players so absorbed that they do not even reply to courtesy questions? There is gambling fever everywhere, "pressed down and running over," to satisfy all parties. Please be tolerant, at least for the sake of "the nice things in pink and blue." Don't tempt them to the Bridge table, where they may lose and lose, while it may be quite otherwise, at the other games. Leave well alone!

Misleading Cases

2. *In Re Oldford.*

WHO IS A BRIDGE PLAYER?

(Reported by *The Deuce of Clubs*).

The hearing was continued today of an action in the Probate Division arising out of the will of the late Mr. Oldford of Lovedale, who left a legacy of one crore of rupees "to the person who best plays the game of Contract Bridge."

Mr. Justice Carrot (in his judgment): In *West Coast Saw Mills vs. Food Products Ltd.*, Lord Beetroot said, "Dead men tell no tales." and it were better some-times if they made no wills either. In the painful case now nearing its end, the defendant, Mr. Hudson, is the executor of a Mr. Oldford, and the several plaintiffs are thirteen persons, each of whom asks for a declaration that he is the best bridge player and is, therefore, the proper recipient of a legacy of one crore of rupees. The testator, an unmarried man of great age, was, it appears, a very

active and enthusiastic bridge player, when Contract Bridge first came into this country, and when senility began to tell, retired to live the life of a recluse in a mountain cottage. It is therefore not surprising that out of touch with modern conditions, he did not describe the object of his bounty in terms of greater precision. That has been unfortunate, and testators would do well to provide some indications of the particular bridge player they have in mind such as the telephone number or street address.

All the plaintiffs are very clever bridge players. All of them are experts, both in attack as well as in defence, in tactical strokes in the middle of the game, such as, Safety plays, Communication plays, and Deceptive plays, and in end game plays, like, Throw-in plays,

Elimination plays, Trump Coups, and Squeeze plays. If at any time, I had entertained doubts on this point, they were set at rest at a very early stage of the case. No one who knows anything of bridge could have been left unimpressed by the stories these plaintiffs have told in this Court of the several neat and clever stratagems they have employed, the little wiles and devices adopted, and the daring and audacious coups executed, each an evidence of an analytical and masterly mind. They have also produced numberless trophies, press-cuttings, and other testimonials to their surpassing skill and superiority.

From such a string of close runners, it was rather difficult for me to spot out the winner. I therefore first probed the possibility of declaring a deadheat and dividing the spoils equally between them all. The efforts I made to bring about a compromise between the plaintiffs were, however, unsuccessful. For, the relations between these plaintiffs are such that no one will willingly share a taxi with another, and each of them is accustomed to foam at the

mouth at the mere mention of any of the others. Indeed it says much for the sincerity with which these colleagues detest each other that rather than enjoy a common bank balance, they would cheerfully suffer thirteen independent overdrafts.

I was asked by the Counsel for the fourth plaintiff to base my decision on considerations of principle, and to say that that bridge player is the best who, on the table, upholds and preserves intact and untarnished, the holy banner of the true principles of Contract Bridge. But, when I followed this line of enquiry, I was disappointed to find that each of the plaintiffs was the one authentic repository, torch, trumpet, and organ voice of the principles of Contract Bridge. And, though few of them were so far in agreement as to be able to construct a common catalogue of these principles, they were all agreed that the others had consistently ignored them. Further, though many of them were insistent that principles were everything and persons nothing, the discussion of principles in this Court has invariably led to the

most distressing exchange of 'personalities', for those who attached the most importance to principles were loudest in their denunciation of persons

The tenth plaintiff invited me to ignore the question of principles and direct my mind to the realities of the situation. He said that the other plaintiffs consisted for the most part of collections of fossils of great age, embedded in the rock of principles, and having none of the attributes of life except a miraculous and enviable power of polysyllabic speech. And he argued that it could not have been the intention of the testator to leave so much money to a number of talking fossils while there was any bridge player who could be said to be actually alive and possessed the substance of popular approval, if not the shadow of principles. But, probates are not granted on popular approvals, and in any case, this is not a case for the jury.

My attempt at an equal division having failed, and my pursuit of the different paths of principles and popularity having

led me nowhere, I next turned my attention in another direction which was suggested by the thirteenth plaintiff, a Mr. Stranger of Silvertown. Mr. Stranger frankly confesses that his claims are founded not on his skill or ability to execute a coup or a squeeze. He has never won a trophy, nor does he care to win one. He loves the game, he says, and is most ardently devoted to it. He has asked me to take a reasonable view of the testator's intention when he used the words "the person who best plays the game of Contract Bridge." And, in support of what he thinks is a reasonable view of the testator's intention, he has cited the Oxford Dictionary where "playing the game" is defined as "keeping to a code of honour." It has struck me as odd that not one of the other twelve distinguished bridge players concerned in this case has used the words "playing the game" in this sense, and had it not been for the meek and obscure Mr. Stranger, the subject might have never entered my head.

This line of enquiry did really look promising, and, I followed

it up. I asked Mr. Stranger what he meant by keeping to a code of honour. He said that the code of honour he had in mind could not be exhaustively defined. It could be done only illustratively. Could he give examples? Yes, he said. For instance, when he deals, he does not look at the bottom card. He does not vary the formula ordinarily used when calling. When he makes a call, he makes no undue delay which may result in conveying improper information. He makes no unnecessary request for a review of the calls already made or for any information as to the cards played to a trick by each of the other players. He makes no remark, question, or gesture from which an inference may be drawn nor does he allow his call or play to be influenced by his partner's hesitation, remark or manner. He never attracts attention to the score. He does not indicate in any way his approval or disapproval of his partner's call or play. He does not double or pass with exceptional haste or reluctance. In playing to a trick he makes no undue delay when the play does

not need any consideration. He never detaches a card from his hand before it is his turn to lead or play. He does not watch the place from which a player draws a card with a view to drawing any inference therefrom. He always keeps the tricks in correct order, and, distinct from one another. He does not call attention to the number of tricks needed to complete or defeat the contract, nor, to the fact that it has already been fulfilled. He does not play out of turn, nor does he prepare himself to gather a trick before all the four hands have played to it. He never volunteers information. When he becomes the declarer's partner, he does not inspect the declarer's hand after the auction is over; neither does he leave the table to watch the declarer play the hand; neither does he look at the hand of any of the defenders. And, so on. It is needless to reproduce the entire evidence of Mr. Stranger.

After this, I began to see light. Playing the game is not the same as playing with skill, ability, or cleverness. Neither skill nor cleverness is a criterion of goodness. Thieves are skilled and

clever. And so are pick-pockets, and pirates. And, yet, we do not exhort our good and law-abiding citizens or bridge players for that matter, to fashion their lives after them. Skill may, perhaps be necessary, but certainly not sufficient, and, I have no doubt now, that that was what the testator had meant when he used the words "plays the game."

I said before that it was rather remarkable that none of the other twelve players has based or put forward his claim for the legacy on his playing bridge in this sense. If they had, I would have been most embarrassed. Now, however, I am entitled to draw from their silence the very obvious and only inference. I am, therefore, of the view that

Mr. Stranger plays the game best in the truest sense of the word. The first twelve plaintiffs may derive whatever satisfaction they can from the possession of their trophies, press-cuttings and testimonials, tributes, perhaps to their skill, but, let it not be forgotten, for nothing more than their skill. But, Mr. Stranger is entitled to enjoy every rupee of this legacy, a rich and well-deserved tribute to his playing the game, to his keeping to the code of honour. I have, therefore, decided that Mr. Stranger alone of all the plaintiffs, that made good his claims to be that bridge player the testator had in mind, and, an order will be made accordingly. The first twelve plaintiffs will pay Mr. Stranger's costs.

Contract Bridge League Tournament FOR DUPLICATE TEAMS OF FOUR

(Under the auspices of the South Indian Bridge Association)

Open to all Clubs, Associations and individual teams in the City of Madras, who are members of the South Indian Bridge Association.

Entrance fee per team is Rs. 20.

Entries close by 6 p.m. on 15-7-49

All entries should be sent to the undersigned.

Draw will take place at 2 p.m. on 17-7-49 at Madras United Club. Representatives of each team are requested to be present then.

T. S. DORAISAMI, Hony. Secretary,

League Committee, c/o Madras United Club, P. T., Madras.

News And Notes

By T. S. CHANDRASEKHARAN

MR. J. Subbuswamy has relinquished charge of this Section, as he had to leave for Delhi on his selection for an appointment in the Indian Administrative Service. We shall greatly miss him in Madras, but, we, however, hope to have his active co-operation in the production of the Indian Bridge World, particularly, by way of regular contributions on the game as it is played in the North.

We regret to learn that Mr. P. S. Desikan, a prominent member of the Association, died of heart failure on the 16th April, 1949. Mr. Desikan evinced great enthusiasm for the game and was a regular competitor in all the local tournaments.

Proposed League Tournament

The rules and regulations of the League Tournament have now been finalised by the Committee, and the matches are scheduled to commence in July.

These Weekly Duplicate Contests will sustain the interest for the game among the Bridge players in the City of Madras and provide them with regular playing opportunities all the year round.

Other Tournaments

The Presidency Club, Madras, held an open tournament in Contract Bridge during February-March, 1949. Four events, including the individual championship, were played and all the local clubs were fully represented. Considering the large number of competitors for each event and the short time within which the entire tournament was completed, the organisers deserve to be congratulated for the able manner in which the entire tournament was organised and conducted. A feature of this tournament was the elimination of teams failing to turn up at the scheduled hour, their opponents being granted a walk-over. Postponements of matches were hitherto the rule rather

than the exception. Often players have had the annoying experience of having to wait for over an hour and then being informed in the most casual manner that the opposing team was not turning up and that the match would be played on a later date. On this occasion, however, Bridge players realised that if the inconvenience to the players and the difficulties of the organisers were to be minimised, if not altogether eliminated, it was important that all matches should be played strictly according to the time table.

A Rolling Trophy has been instituted for the knock-out team of four duplicate in memory of the late Mr. Ratnam Choudhry of the Presidency Club. Mr. Choudhry stormed the local tournaments a few years ago by his "Psychics." Indeed, his unconventional biddings in those days would have provided rich material for an interesting report by the "Duce of Clubs."

The Madras United Club conducted their usual Annual Open Tournament during April-May. Quite a large number of teams participated in the various events including one or two from

mosfussil. The knock-out event of four provided a few surprises, some of the favoured teams losing to apparently inexperienced opponents in the initial rounds. The finals are yet to be played and bridge fans can look forward to another interesting match.

The R. S. Puram Club, Coimbatore, conducted an open tournament (Pairs events and progressive duplicate only) during April.

The Lawley Institute, Ootacamund, staged open tournaments in contract Bridge during the third week of May. These tournaments were largely attended. Madras, Tiruppur, Tiruchi and Coimbatore were represented, although the usual full Madras contingent did not participate.

It is good that these competitive tournaments have now become regular annual features. These contests help to raise the standard of the game and promote a spirit of keen and healthy rivalry among the players. In a letter to us Mr. Mylappan of Tiruchirapalli points out that the teams from Madras City swept

the boards in the recent S.I.B.A. Championship Tournaments. He attributes the success of the Madras teams to the practice and training afforded to the players by the frequent tournaments in the City. While congratulating the City teams on their well-earned victories, he deplors the deterioration of the game in the mofussil. This deterioration is largely due to the lack of adequate practice and also to the introduction of comparatively high stakes in rubber bridge which reduces the game to a mere gamble. He concludes with an appeal to the mofussil players to make an all-out effort to regain lost ground.

Membership Campaign

In spite of the energetic work of the Membership Committee, the Association is far from being financially self-sufficient and has still to rely on the generous support of its regular patrons. We hope that the efforts of the Committee in its drive for enrolling more members, will meet with greater response among the Bridge players in India and that thereby the resources of

the S.I.B.A. will be considerably strengthened.

The Indian Bridge World

It is now more than six months since the Indian Bridge World has been revived, and it is really gratifying to know that the Journal has been very warmly and enthusiastically received in Bridge circles everywhere. We are deeply grateful for this encouraging response.

We have received several requests from our readers to bring out the Indian Bridge World as a monthly. Nothing would give us greater pleasure and satisfaction than the conversion of our Journal into a monthly, but, we are afraid that the present resources of the Association will not permit the realisation of such ideas of expansion in the near future. Another difficulty has been the dearth of really first-class articles and other matter suitable for publication in the Indian Bridge World. The Indian Bridge World is the only journal in India solely devoted to Bridge and naturally we have set for ourselves a rather high standard for matters appearing in the journal. There should

be a large number of players, of skill and experience, among our readers who can write and tell us of the very many interesting hands they have played, or recount the interesting experiences they have had. The Indian Bridge World will be the best medium through which all these rich and varied experiences can be shared by the other Bridge players. We have yet to tap this vast and unexplored reservoir and when we succeed in this,

and when our financial resources improve, as we all hope it would, we can confidently venture in bringing out the Indian Bridge World as a monthly journal. We appeal to our readers and to every lover of Bridge in India to assist us in every way they can. We are confident that if this assistance is forthcoming in as free and abundant a measure as we expect, the Indian Bridge World can render better and richer service.

Tournament Results

PRESIDENCY CLUB, MADRAS (WINNERS)

Duplicate Team of Four (Knock-out)

T'Nager Social Club:—P. G. Sankara Iyer, K. C. Ramaratnam, T. S. Chandrasekharan, T. R. Ramachandra Rao, and S. Palaniswamy.

Progressive Pairs:

North-South:— Dr. Achar and C. R. Srinivasan.
East - West:— M. K. Srinivasa Mudaliar and T. M. Kasturi.

Progressive Duplicate:

Lt. Col. A. D. J. Victor, Mylappan,
P. G. Sankara Iyer, N. S. Shanker.

Individual Championship:

A. M. R. Davidar, T. M. Kasturi.

Lawley Institute, Ootacamund

Duplicate Team of Four:

P. S. Reddy, C. Subba Rao,
Lt. Col. A. D. J. Victor, Raja Saheb N. Kondal Rao.

Progressive Pairs:

North-South:— Kadir Md. Nainar and Dasaratharama Reddy.
East - West:— K. Eswara Iyer and S. Rajam Iyer.

Master Pairs:

S. Sundaram and Seshasayee.

Individual Championship:

K. R. Sundaram Iyer.

Pro et Contra

Edited by P. S. SUNDARESAN

Question: Kindly enlighten me on the following:—

(1) The bidding went,

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	2♦	—
2♥	3♠	—	3♠
4♥	Dbl	—	?

South had,

♠ 10xxx ♥ x ♦ xxxx ♣ Qxxx

Was South right or wrong in showing his preference in spades and should he have taken out the double to four spades

(2) North-South had a part-score of 60. The bidding went,

North	East	South	West
1 N. T.	—	2♠	—
3♠	—	?	—

What should South do, holding,

♠ KJxxxx ♥ x ♦ xxx ♣ xxx

Answer: (1) The obligation to express preference, save in one or two rare cases, is absolute and South had no option but to call three spades.

That North's bid, though strong, is limited in defensive tricks to not more than three can be inferred from his failure to make the take-out double or the jumpover call and from the

free bid of two diamonds by East. South's miserable holding contributes not a single trick, and on the contrary, his four spades and four clubs make it seem likely that at least one of the tricks on which North is relying may be ruffed out by West. The contract should be not only made but may be made with an overtrick. The vulnerability conditions have not been specified, but it looks as if, notwithstanding South's meagre hand, the singleton heart and the four spades should enable the contract of four spades being set not more than two tricks. Though we are usually against taking partner's penalty doubles, we would definitely advise the call of four spades in this instance.

(2) The partscore situation is apparently responsible for the somewhat queer bidding sequence in this deal. The overcall of two spades, being weak, should have been left in, especially when as in this case, it makes game. The takeout of three clubs suggests that North, having opened with one notrump on the strength of a long solid suit

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in clubs with some outside strength does not consider two spades to be safe. For instance, with

♠ x x ♥ A x x ♦ K J x
♣ A K Q 10 x x

the hand should be played at three clubs rather than at two spades. South should pass.

Question: This hand appeared in a recent duplicate match and though we made seven diamonds, five diamonds was the final bid at our table and three notrumps at the other.

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

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

Room I

N	E	S	W
—	1♦	—	1♠
2♥	—	—	4♦
—	4 N.T.	—	5♣
—	5♦	—	Pass

Room II

N	E	S	W
X	1♦	—	1♠
—	2♦	—	3♠
—	3 N.T.	—	—

Please comment on the bidding and as to how it should have

proceeded i. e. if the small slam in diamonds should have been bid at all. Actually the club king and the diamond king were favourably placed and with QJx in spades in the North hand, seven diamonds were made.

Answer: Since players have not had time to study the new changes in the Culbertson system and put them into practice, we assume that the present question is addressed to us for answer on the basis of the old Gold Book.

West's hand is almost strong (though not quite, technically) for a jump response in diamonds, but with a major suit in his hand, he quite properly suppressed his strength in his initial response, choosing to show it in his rebid. East's hand has additional values, a rebiddable diamond suit with 3 plus honor tricks; but the really strong feature of the hand is his possession of the three aces, advantageously placed over the only opponent who has shown and apparently does possess, some strength.

West's jump bid to four diamonds, having passed the three notrumps level gives assurance

of a eleven trick game, and since any safe minor suit game may be a possible slam, East is anxious to explore the possibilities. The following inferences from the bidding, though not inevitable, seem to be quite probable.

1. There is probably no loser in spades or diamonds. In case West is lacking in one of the kings, he may have cards, eg. Q J of spades or the queen of diamonds, which would render possible the capture of the adverse king.

2. West has probably an unbalanced distribution, with the singleton most likely in hearts. There is therefore probably no heart loser.

3. It is difficult to envisage any hand with West, justifying such strong bidding, without his possession of the ace of clubs or its equivalent K Q or even K Q J. The two losers remaining in clubs on that assumption should be limited to one in actual play, by discard, finesse or some endplay.

The problem for East is to check as far as he can, the correctness of these inferences. He has two alternative bids at his disposal—an asking bid of

four hearts which would, with a five club response, reassure him with regard to the heart position, or, a bid of four notrumps in respect of which the response of five notrumps would relieve his anxieties regarding the two kings of the bid suits (viz) spade king and diamond king. West assuming the singleton heart, chose the latter alternative, the bid of four notrumps. The response of five clubs was discouraging, since it denied the possession of at least one of the two kings. Not desiring to venture the slam, he bid five diamonds and West, in his turn could do nothing since it was obvious that East did not consider the response of five clubs as good enough for making a slam bid on his own account.

We are however inclined to think that in view of the relative position of the cards already adverted to (viz) the three aces over North's hand, the discouraging response need not have been given such overwhelming importance. A slam might have been bid though we are hardly sure that it should have been.

In contrast to the fine bidding in Room I, the bidding in Room II

Continued in page 39.



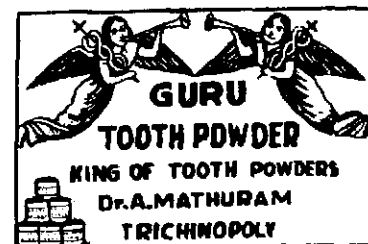
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Problems for July-Sep. 1949.

B, CRITICUS

A. The bidding has gone:

North East South West

1♣ Double ?

You, South, hold.

♠KQJ10832 ♥E64 ♦32 ♣9

What do you bid ?

B. Both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone:

North East South West

1♣ 2♥ ?

You, South, hold.

♠42 ♥KQ84 ♦K1062 ♣986

What do you bid ?

C. The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

3♥ Pass 3 N.T. Pass

?

What do you, South, bid holding.

♠1032 ♥AKQJ842 ♦84 ♣2

D. Both sides vulnerable. Bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

3♥ Pass Pass Double

Pass ?

You, West, hold.

♠983 ♥- ♦AQ863 ♣K10987

What do you bid ?

E. North - South vulnerable.

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

2♥ Pass 2 N.T. Pass

3♣ Pass ?

What do you, South, bid, holding,

♠9432 ♥862 ♦102 ♣Q643

F. North - South vulnerable.

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1♣ 1♦ 1 N.T. Pass

2♦ Pass ?

You, South, hold:

♠K92 ♥Q82 ♦K104 ♣K984

What do you bid ?

G. East-West vulnerable. The bidding has gone.

South West North East

1♣ 1 N.T. Pass 3♥

Pass 3 N.T. Pass 4♥

Pass Pass Pass

What do you South, lead, holding:

♠Q6 ♥Q103 ♦J104 ♣AK862

H. You, East, have reached a contract of five spades. South leads the ace of clubs and shifts to the two of spades. How do you plan, holding the following hands of yourself, East, and Dummy West.

West

♠863

♥K42

♦864

♣6432

East

♠AKQ94

♥AQJ5

♦A32

♣9

Answers to Problems for

January-March 1949

A. The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1♥ Pass 1♣ Pass

2♦ Pass ?

You South, hold:

♠AQ743, ♥5, ♦A63, ♣Q1074

What do you bid ?

Answer: Three clubs. The rebid of two diamonds by North, passing the one notrump level, shows some additional values either in honor trick or distribution. Your hand has an opening bid and the combined strength should certainly produce game, if a good fit could be found.

Two notrumps seems at first sight to be the natural call, and you even toy with the idea of three. But the two notrump bid is attended with the danger that your partner, assuming some heart support in your hand, however slight, may with a rebiddable heart suit decide that it is the best suit to play in, and jump to four hearts — with obviously disastrous results. A rescue bid of four spades may hardly improve matters.

The suggested bid of three clubs, while it is a strong bid, has the advantage of warning partner of the misfit and of the need for some exploring to arrive at the proper spot. Depending on the response to three clubs, the hand will ultimately be played at three notrumps or four spades (or even five diamonds, should the response to three clubs be three diamonds, showing a 5-5 distribution of hearts and diamonds).

B. The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 N.T. Pass 2♣ Pass

2 N.T. Pass 3♣ Pass

4♣ Pass Pass Pass

You are West, on lead against four spades and hold:

♠Q63, ♥Q74, ♦A96, ♣Q653

What do you lead ?

Answer: The six of diamonds. South has made a sign off, showing an extremely weak hand with little or no honor tricks and with a six card spade suit. A spade lead is obviously out of

the question since it would result in the certain loss of a probable trick. The lead of a heart or a club may result in presenting the declarer with an opportunity to finesse, which, from the paucity of entries in his hand, he may be unable to manage by himself. For instance, A J 10 in hearts in the dummy may require two leads from the hand to develop two tricks and the initial lead of heart would advantage the declarer considerably.

The lead of the low diamond is relatively safe as well as constructive. Should your partner hold the queen of diamonds over the dummy's king the lead would serve to establish it. It is also a fine deceptive lead. With K J x of diamonds in the dummy, the declarer is faced with a difficult choice in play and, arguing that you are hardly likely to have underled your ace, may choose to play the jack.

C. The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ♡	Pass	2 N.T.	Pass
3 ♡	Pass	3 N.T.	?

You are West, on lead against three no trumps and hold:

♠ 876, ♡ 93, ♢ A Q J 32, ♣ 954
What do you lead?

Answer: Three of diamonds. Clearly a waiting lead is out of the question for it would mean that you expect your partner to produce two tricks and, further, rely on him to make the inspired lead of the diamond each time he is in with his hypothetical trick. Any hope of setting the contract lies in your establishing the diamond suit for four tricks and relying on your partner for the additional trick. Assuming this additional trick, the problem is, which diamond is to be led. The lead of the queen of diamonds will cover the case where the declarer has K x x in diamonds. The lead of the small diamond, however, will in addition, take care of the position when declarer has K x x x, provided that your partner has 10 x x, and even in the case of your partner having 10 x, if the 10 is immediately taken with the declarer's king. The lead will also develop four tricks, if the dummy has the K x of diamonds with the declarer having 10 9 x x. The essential point is that you have no outside entry and you have to depend on your partner to lead diamonds again, when he gets in.

D. The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 N.T.
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	R dbl	Pass	Pass
?			

You, North, hold:

♠ 83 ♡ K Q E 65 ♢ A 98 ♣ 1042

What do you bid?

Answer: Two hearts. With a hand containing two honor tricks you passed your partner's re-opening double, though after an original pass, for penalties. When the opener's partner came to life with a double, showing some strength in his hand, you are not so sanguine of setting the opponents' contract. With the honor tricks equally divided, it is a fifty-fifty chance, but you are hardly desirous of risking the danger of the contract and game being made. You, therefore, bid two hearts.

E. You are vulnerable and opponents are not. The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	2 N.T.	?	

You South, hold:

♠ Q 10 86 ♡ K Q 84 ♢ K 10 63 ♣ 3

What do you bid?

Answer: Four spades. This is hardly a difficult problem. It is patent that East's two no-trump bid is based on a long solid suit in clubs together with a sure spade stopper. You have a powerful hand, having at the utmost to lose one in clubs, one in spades, and perhaps another. There is no point in your bidding only three spades, which may be passed by your partner. You should straightaway jump to four spades.

F. North-South not vulnerable, and East-West vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	2 ♣	Pass	?

You, West, hold:

♠ 986 ♡ K J 972 ♢ A 853 ♣ 7

What do you bid?

Answer: Pass. Bidding technique has improved to the degree that the class of players is fast dwindling who, nervous with the singleton club, would with the above hand bid two hearts with the object of rescuing. It is now fairly well-known that a vulnerable overcall of two clubs almost guarantees six winners, which there is no need to rescue with two or three winners in the hand.

But, there is a larger number of players who, notwithstanding the singleton club, would bid two hearts, with a view to explore the possibilities of a fit and a game in hearts. A vulnerable overcall at the two level is a strong bid and is sometimes made with a hand even stronger than an opening bid. They, therefore, argue that if there be a good fit in hearts, a game may be quite possible. This argument ignores the safety factor (viz) if the hoped-for fit is not there, there should be some semblance of a fit in clubs, which would make it safe to return to clubs at the three level. If, for instance, the hand contains Q x in clubs, or even a singleton king of clubs, the bid of two hearts is quite proper. In the hand in question, the pass is the better course.

G. The bidding has proceeded :—

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	?	

You, South, hold :

♠ A 10
♥ 10 6 3
♦ J 9 2
♣ A K 8 3 2

What do you bid ?

Answer : Three spades. Your hand is strong, having an opening bid in its own right. Notwithstanding, you have not got sufficient data to come to a final conclusion regarding the combined hands. Your partner has not made a strong bid and his hand may be as weak as 2 — honortricks with a six card spade suit. There is no assurance that your ace will solidify the spade suit and even if it does, you cannot bid notrump, since, being weak in hearts and diamonds you should fear a lead through your partner's possible king in one of the suits. You cannot rely on the club suit to help you in making ten tricks on a four spades contract, for unless the club suit is solidified by your partner's holding you have no entries to run the clubs after clearing trumps and establishing the suit. And your hand is too strong to pass. That leaves the bid of three spades, which passes the decision to your partner, who would probably bid three notrumps, if he could feel satisfied with regard to the solidity of the spade suit.

H. The bidding has proceeded
North East South West

1 ♣ Pass ?

♠ Q6 ♥ 9765 ♦ A83 ♣ KQ92

What do you bid, as South ?

Answer : One diamond. You have a fine responding hand containing 2+ honortricks. The hand, however, is not strong enough for a jump bid in clubs. The bid of one diamond, though apparently unusual, is the best under the circumstances, calculated to elicit the information you need for further action.

Above all things, you are interested in finding whether your partner has got a biddable heart suit, for which you have fine support. A bid of one notrump, besides being unduly discouraging, would shut your partner's heart bid, should be happen to have one. Your subsequent rebid should be strong, dependent on the response you receive. Should your partner bid one heart, you call three hearts. If one spade three clubs; and so on.

continued from page 32.

was fatuous to a degree. Blissfully unconscious of the possibilities of the combined hands, West chose to steer the bidding to a final contract of three notrumps, though the pattern of his hand shrieked for a contract either in five or six diamonds. We have no quarrel with the three club bid of West which we consider superior to four diamonds, since the latter

might be passed by East, but an expert West would, on receiving the three notrumps response, have jumped to five diamonds which an equally able East might have raised to six, on the assumption that, with his three aces and his partner's obvious strength, there should be a good play for the slam.

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Y
♠ 10 3
♥ J 8 5
♦ Q J 8 2
♣ A K J 6

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

—
♥ A K Q 9 7 3
♦ A K 7 5 3
♣ Q 2
Z

Clever Chandran : Please argue not with a woman or a fool. Both are never convinced. The woman will not see a mistake and a fool cannot see it.

Naughty Naomi : The woman will not see a mistake for the simple reason that there will not be any.

Inquisitive Indira : How should it be bid, Gurudev ?

Clever Chandran : If I were Z I would bid two hearts (though some experts may choose to bid one heart only) ; A would preempt with four spades ; Y should bid five hearts ; B, no bid. Z now sees "strawberries" and "champaigne" i.e., possibilities of of a slam. So his (Z's) next bid is five spades.

Stupid Subban : What ! a bid of five spades without a single spade ? It is madness, nothing short of it. A would double five spades and Y-Z would be landed in chicken-soup. Say what you

Stupid Subban : In my dream I held the above hand as Z and straightaway bid, played and scored four hearts (vulnerable), Should I not play Bridge ?

Guru : You had better play marbles instead, my dear. It is bad enough to commit mistakes. But it is a sure sign of stupidity that you do not even recognise them afterwards.

Stupid Subban : Why do you curse me like that, Gurudev ?

Guru : A professor's mistakes become idioms and a Guru's cursing is a blessing.

may, but my "Origibid" (original bid) is four hearts, even though it be in dream only.

Guru: Y's bid should be five clubs and not five hearts. But Z's bid of five spades is correct. It is an intimation to Y that Z has no losers in spades, and that Y need not fear the suit. It is a cue-bid. It is not a literal or a true bid.

Rash Raman: In that case, Z is not a gentleman. Why should he lie whether it be for bridge or bride? It is just like telling your wife that 'Iris' is the name of a race-horse, while in reality she is your lady-love.

Guru: Yes, many votaries of the game think in the same vein. They say that a cue-bid or conventional bid is unsportsmanlike and ungentlemanly, verging on cheating. But the recognised view is that a lie which is known to all is no longer a lie.

Lazy Lakshmi: What does it matter whether a lie is white or black.

Guru: A does not double Z's five spade bid as, of course, he also knows that the bid is only informative, unless for the purpose of ensuring a lead of spade if B has to open. Y now calls

six diamonds showing strength enough to reverse at that high level. When B passes, Z begins to sip champagne (not champagne) and jumps to seven hearts or seven diamonds.

Naughty Naomi: Oh! my dear, five clubs, five spades. Why not twenty-five? Six diamonds. It would equal a 'Koh-i-noor.' Seven hearts? What dizzy heights and what headlights? It is indeed a game of the gods.

Lazy Lakshmi: I think you all are mad.

Clever Chandran: Yes but there is method in the madness. Study carefully the science of slam bidding and also its rather peculiar logic. Do not take it into your permanently waved head that contract is just a silly game. The "Origibid" of two in a suit is rich, rare and refreshing.

Inquisitive Indira: How on earth can we know whether our hand is good enough for a "two bid."

Naughty Naomi: Well, I can easily say whether a hand is good enough for a two; when it results in the glistening of your eyes and the throbbing of your heart, it should be good enough for a "two."

Guru: An opening two bid (in a suit) should be made with five or more honor tricks. Only with freak hands containing one or two unusually long suits, four or four and a half honor tricks are enough. This suit should be a strong one headed by at least two top honors.

Alert Alec: Is that the only condition? Are mere looks good enough for a bid of two?

Guru: No. First count your honor tricks, then count your winners; add your honor tricks and winners together. If the total is thirteen or more, open with a two bid on a strong rebiddable suit. Is it alright?

Inquisitive Indira: Please give us a concrete example to demonstrate the principle.

Guru: Take this hand:—

♠ A K 10 4
♥ K Q J 9 8
♦ A K 7
♣ 6

There are five and a half or five plus honor tricks and eight winners. The total is over thirteen. So by all means, bid two hearts.

Alert Alec: Will you please tell us why Subban's bidding justifies his name.

Guru: Subban overlooks the first principle in bidding that with strong hands, the bidding should not be crowded. It should begin at low levels and give ample scope for free exchange of information. It is only with desperately weak hands that you preempt. The weaker the hand is, the greater is the necessity to preempt, with a view to render it impossible for the opponents to get together. If, for instance, one holds ♠ K Q J 10 x x x x and four rags in the other suits, you are defensively very weak, since you cannot get even one trick, if the deal is played by the opponents in another suit. In this case, therefore, it will pay to make a preemptive bid of four spades. In the very dream hand of Subban, it is the preemptive over-call of four spades by A that renders it difficult for Subban, and his partner to reach seven hearts with certainty, after finding out the aces and kings held by each other. As it was, Y-Z had to reach seven hearts in a sense, blindly.

Naughty Naomi: The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Subban's bidding meant stopping at four hearts to eat a cold and

