

467

THE INDIAN BRIDGE
WORLD

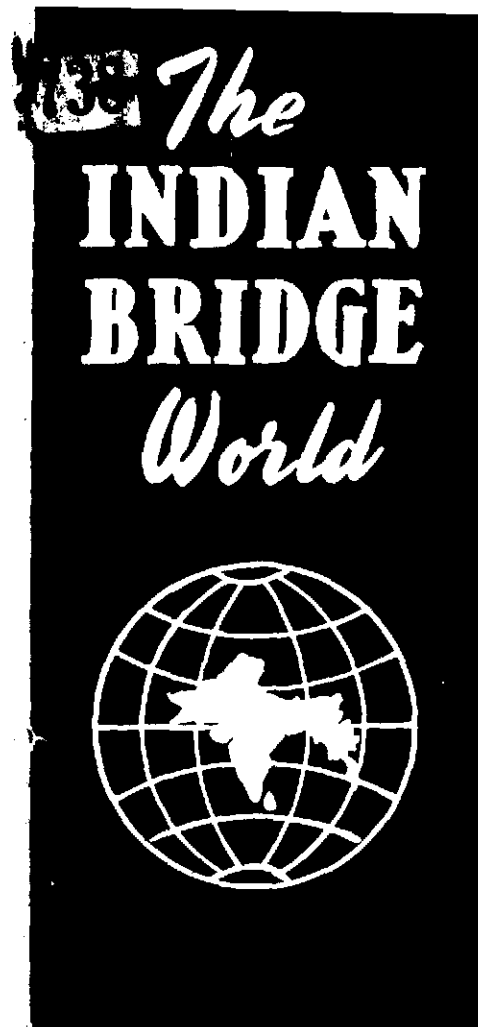
VOL-V



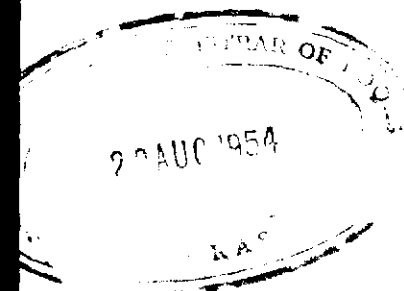
NO-2,3

MAR-June-1953
SEP-DEC-1953

JL
MY31-2, N44
NS3-5-2-3
166185



467



VOLUME V
NUMBER 2

138
1 54
2

MARCH—JUNE
1953

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH INDIAN
BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Vol. V

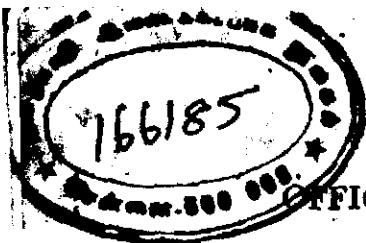
2 AUG 1954
March—June 1953

No. 2

CONTENTS

	PAGE
LEND A HAND, by P. S. N. Sarma.....	4
FOUR-THREE TRUMP SUITS, by M. J. Sullivan, Brisbane, Australia	6
A BRIDGE PLAYER'S CAUSERIE, by P. S. N. Sarma.....	10
CULBERTSON'S SYSTEM—IN A NUTSHELL, by Teaks.....	16
OUR POINTS SYSTEM OF BIDDING, by V. Subba Rao & P. Ramanujiah	20
TEST YOUR SKILL—PROBLEMS, Edited by P. S. N. Sarma.....	22
PRO ET CONTRA, Edited by P. S. Sundaresan.....	24
MANY A SLIP, by M. Sunderraj.....	29
PAR CONTEST AT T'NAGAR SOCIAL CLUB, A Review by Saturn....	33
TEST YOUR SKILL—ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS, Edited by P. S. N. Sarma	36
NEWS SECTION, Edited by T. S. Chandrasekaran.....	40
STANDARD BRIDGE, by M. Harrison-Gray.....	47

The *Indian Bridge World* is published quarterly by Mr. T. S. Chandrasekaran, M.A., Honorary Secretary of the Association, and printed by Mr. N. RAMARATNAM, M.A., B.L., at The Madras Law Journal Press, Mylapore, Madras. Annual subscription—Rs. 3 for individual members, with an Entrance Fee of Re. 1. Reprinting of contents in any form without permission is not allowed. Advertising rates may be had upon application to the Business Editor, *Indian Bridge World*, c/o Thyagarayanagar Social Club, Thyagarayanagar, Madras 17.



MY 31-2, N 49
N 53-5-2-3

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1952-53.

PRESIDENT : *Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Rajagopalan.*

VICE-PRESIDENTS : { *G. K. Sundaram.*
 P. S. Reddy.

HONY. SECRETARY : *T. S. Chandrasekaran.*

HONY. ASST. SECRETARY : *R. Sankaran.*

HONY. TREASURER : *M. Sunderraj.*

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

R. S. MANICKAVELU CHETTIAR, Karaikudi.

M. S. THIAGARAJAN, Madurai.

C. S. NARAYANASWAMY, Tiruppur.

DR. P. SAMBASIVA RAO, Vijayawada.

S. V. NATARAJAN, Tiruchirapalli.

LT.-COL. C. S. V. RAMANAN, Tanjore.

DR. V. N. C. RAU, Madras.

K. S. NARAYANA, Madras.

C. V. VENKATESAN, Madras.

P. S. N. SARMA, Madras.

M. R. DURAISWAMY, Madras.

J. SUBBUSWAMY, Madras.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT : *Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Rajagopalan.*

GENERAL EDITOR : *Mr. P. S. N. Sarma*

BUSINESS EDITOR : *Mr. N. Ramaratnam.*

OTHER MEMBERS

Mr. P. S. SUNDARESAN

„ *J. SUBBUSWAMI*

„ *K. C. RAMARATNAM*

„ *T. RAMACHANDRA RAO*

„ *R. SANKARAN*

„ *M. SUNDERRAJ*

„ *T. R. SAMOO IYER*

„ *T. S. KRISHNAMOORTHY*

„ *B. HANUMANTHA RAO*

„ *S. S. S. AIYER*

„ *T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN*

467

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Vol. V

March—June 1953

No. 2

LEND A HAND

It is not our practice to write about ourselves. If we break the tradition now it is not from lack of modesty, but because all is not well with us.

Subscribers would have noticed the interruptions in the publication of the *Indian Bridge World*. Regrettable as they were, they could not be avoided. It is our hope that, with greater co-operation from readers than has been forthcoming hitherto, such interruptions shall not recur.

It is a truism that the success of the magazine depends entirely on the members of the S.I.B.A. The *Indian Bridge World* is not a commercial undertaking. It is not run for profit. It derives no revenues from advertisements. Its circulation is limited. The services of its editorial committee are purely honorary. It subsists entirely on the enthusiasm, goodwill and co-operation of the small coterie of bridge-lovers who constitute the S.I.B.A.

We regret to observe that the interest evinced by members in the Journal has been perfunctory. We are aware that

the votaries of bridge are not all of the same category, and not all are interested in bridge writing. There are players whose approach is casual, who look upon bridge as any other card-game, say rummy or brag—a sacrilegious view. There are others to whom the be-all and end-all of bridge is the winning of cups and the means whereby they win or lose the cups are secondary. There are the real lovers of the game to whom a Vienna Coup, deftly executed, whether by themselves or by others, is an artistic experience.

It is to this last class of players that we address ourselves. If you, reader, belong to this chosen few, remember we are a minority and it will contribute to our greater enjoyment of the game if we get together and share our knowledge and experiences of the game. Our game does not appeal to all and sundry. It is the least popular game in clubs, and the average clubman looks upon the bridge-fiend as a sort of harmless lunatic. Newspapers which record in detail the feats of dumb animals on Saturday afternoons or the results of egg

MARCH—JUNE 1953

5

and spoon races in elementary schools scarcely give a thought to this kind of indoor games. It is up to us bridge players to see that the game flourishes in our midst and does not languish for want of interest.

If you wish to serve the game you cannot do better than serve the magazine. Remember it is your magazine. Its success is your success and its failure is no less yours. It is a pioneer venture in this country, if not in the East, and it should be a point of honour with every lover of bridge in Madras to see that it grows in stature and takes its place by the side of the *European Bridge Review*, the *Contract Bridge Journal*, and the *American Bridge World*.

We present below for your consideration a few suggestions for the improvement of the game in general and the magazine in particular.

1. It is of fundamental importance that we should widen our circle. There are far too few people in our midst playing *class* bridge. Contrast the position in our country with the enthusiasm for the game in a State like Sweden where the last National Pairs tournament attracted 6,704 players! We request you to enrol as many players as you can as members of the S.I.B.A. This would let in fresh air into the local bridge world, which will certainly profit by new talent.

2. You as a bridge player must have your private collection of interesting hands. Give them *due publicity* through the columns of the *Indian Bridge World*.

3. If you are connected with any tournament, make a note of deals which have presented unusual features from the point of view of bidding, dummy play or defence. On an average a dozen tournaments are held every year under the auspices of the S.I.B.A. and each tournament consists of several events. If only each event is covered by a player we shall have enough material for publishing the magazine as a monthly instead of as a quarterly.

4. We are fortunate in having at the head of our *Pro et Contra* section, a veteran whose devotion to the game is unrivalled and whose services to *The Indian Bridge World* have been inestimable. We invite you to refer your problems to him. His analysis would be found to be useful, because painstaking.

5. We invite you to test your skill—and ours!—through our Problems Section which we have improved—we hope!—by publishing the answers in the same issue as the questions.

There must be other ways and means which will occur to you if only you make up your mind to serve the magazine. Our appeal to you is, in a nutshell: Lend a hand.

FOUR-THREE TRUMP SUITS

By M. J. SULLIVAN, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.

Recriminations between partners can be highly entertaining. The bitter verbal encounter is already half won by the contender who manages to get in first—and effectively!

"500 down . . . and all your ruddy fault! You knew I had only four hearts. . . . yet you go and raise me with three lousy trumps. No wonder we get bottoms!!!"

Spat out at once with dogmatism and scorn, an attack like the foregoing may save your disintegrating reputation by blinding partner to the fact that what really caused the disaster was your own poor technique in play, and not the so-called 'lousy raise'.

I know, because, long ago, I frequently found myself on the receiving end of such an outburst. Nowadays, however, thanks to better analytical knowledge, I am experienced enough to ignore the ranting until I have ascertained whether or not the hand has been correctly played. And I have been agreeably surprised at the number of times it has been possible to deflate the fuming balloon across the table with a quiet, indisputable outline of correct play that could have brought home the bacon.

It is a curious psychological phenomenon that the self-same

players who tackle tasks like trump coups or squeezes with admirable aplomb become demoralised when compelled to manipulate a four-three trump outfit at some high contract. In direct contrast, such tenuous trump holdings are handled with confidence and skill at part score levels. Why this remarkable difference? After all, if maximum points are to be garnered, innumerable games and slams simply must be played with four-three trump holdings.

There is, of course, special technique for handling such frail trump combinations. Proper procedure may be summarised as (a) counting; (b) timing; (c) caution; and (d) avoidance of greed. A hand or two to illustrate:—

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

Dealer: South. Vul: All

Dealt in a pre-war Brisbane duplicate, this board produced varied results. Sole North-South plus score was 130 to a pair that finished in three clubs and won ten tricks.

Sitting North, I had put partner into four spades. After going two down, he delivered a homily on three-trump raises. At the time, I hung my head in shame and apologised. Today, I would "blow the socks" off him for missing a cold top.

And I would be quite justified, for all he had to do was count to ten, viz., four trumps, four clubs and two red aces. After that little abusable preliminary, he could have won the heart K opening and played three rounds of clubs to await the defence.

If hearts had been continued, diamonds could have been discarded until dummy was voided of hearts and able to ruff: if a switch has been made to diamond the ace could have been grabbed to draw trumps and cash the long clubs; if a fourth round of hearts had been produced, dummy could have ruffed high to prevent South's trump length being shortened.

To summarise, correct procedure lay in establishing the side suit while retaining trumps in dummy for the dual purpose of stopping the fourth round of hearts and furnishing vital re-entry to South.

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

Dealer: East. Vul: N-S

On this deal from a more recent Brisbane duplicate, a few pairs did get into four spades but only once was the contract made. Yet, when West makes the normal heart opening and continuation, ten tricks can be won against all but the most monstrous adverse distributions.

South must plan carefully. After counting six side-suit top cards, he realises that should neither minor suit break favourably, four tricks in trumps will be indispensable; conversely, he perceives that the loss of one heart and two trumps can be afforded. Sesame to success lies in timing the loss of those two trump tricks.

South should ruff the second heart and, as the first of the only two trump leads he intends to make, should lay down spade

Q or spade 10 forthwith. If West stays off, South will follow with spade A, enter dummy, *via*, clubs K to lead and ruff the last heart, and then play clubs and diamonds; if West takes the King of trumps, South wins any return for the same subsequent procedure. West will be able to win a heart and two trump tricks but nothing more.

This time, correct procedure involves planning the loss of two trump tricks in timing designed to prevent a disastrous third round of trumps being led by the defence. Note how in the interests of safety the trump finesse must be scorned.

Analysts, of course, will be quick to discover that four spades can always be defeated, either by a club opening, or by a club switch at trick 2. This defence, however, depends on East holding the singleton ten. Give the card to North or South and four spades is iron-clad.

FOUR-THREE SLAMS.

In most expert circles, eyebrows will be raised in pious horror at any suggestion that four-three trump slams should be bid. It is undeniable, nevertheless, that numerous deals occur where utilisation of such a trump combination is the one way to gather in the juicy slam bonus. Here is an example:

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

Dealer: East. Vul: All

This is a rubber bridge deal from my private collection. North played 6 N. Ts. for a one-trick set.

Slip it into any expert contest and it would be safe to predict that few pairs, if any, would find and bid the only makeable slam which nestles so coyly in the four-three club suit.

There is hardly anything to the play. Despite a four-two trump break, South can win twelve tricks with little effort.

OPERATION DESPERATION.

When trailing badly in a team-of-four contest, the problem of whether or not to gamble on a doubtful grand slam venture can easily arise. Here again, a four-three trump suit may well be the pathway to success. The problem deal, for example, might resemble this little gem from my rubber bridge hoard:—

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

Dealer: South Vul: North-South

Assume that, instead of, the actual 3 No Trumps contract, South has landed in seven clubs, and that West had made the natural opening of diamond Q. A correct view, followed up by brilliant play, can crown the gamble with dazzling success.

Right at the outset, South must choose between (a) a plan to ruff twice in dummy and (b) reliance on an even break in trumps for

a dummy reversal. Deeper analysis reveals that an even trump break is indispensable for the first plan also—because for it to be practicable, a trump at South must be used as a ruffing re-entry. The dummy reversal, therefore, logically is chosen.

The Opening lead is permitted to coast to the Ace, a top spade is cashed and a low spade ruffed high. A heart to the King permits another high ruff of a low spade. South's last high trump is cashed, and clubs 4 to dummy's honours permits trumps to be drawn and a diamond discarded. At this juncture, dummy's carefully preserved diamond K administers the *coup de grace* to a major suit guard at unhappy East.

Why not hunt around a little more for these lucrative four-three trump suit ventures? Occasional losses are certain to be incurred, but these will be more than offset by rich rewards on other deals and, more satisfying still, by extra thrills in play!

A BRIDGE PLAYER'S CAUSERIE

By P. S. N. SARMA

SLOPPY DEFENCE.

My partner dealt and this is what he dealt me :

♠ 4 3 2
♥ J 8 2
♦ 8 4 3
♣ 10 8 7 2

I am not complaining. The collection looks like something the cat brought, but I am one for concentrating on the bright features. This hand had several.

1. It called for no valuation, rigid or plastic.

2. After partner's pass I was out of the bidding. (Nobody dropped me on my head when I was young, and so I am free from that mental disorder known as psychic bidding.)

3. As defender all that I would have to do would be to follow suit and not play out of turn or drop off to sleep. No planning, no plotting, no racking of brains for me. Chill penury spared me all that.

4. Above all, the hand was a good weapon against partner if he should interfere in the auction and there should be rough work round the corner. Suppose partner made a light overcall or a lighter take-out double and got

hammered, wouldn't I have the time of my life telling him some of those subtle things we all save up against our partners?

The opponent to my right opened the bidding with two spades and ultimately finished up in six spades. The less said about that bid the better. If ever there was a slam that should not have been bid this was the one. Give some fellows three-fourths of the high cards in the pack, and you should see how they go off the handle. Malays run amuck or Zulus on the war-path aren't a patch on them. At the risk of losing our subscribers we record the bidding.

Dealer East. Neither side vulnerable.

♠ J
♥ K 10 4 3
♦ 9 7 6 5 2
♣ J 9 3

♠ 4 3 2
♥ J 8 2
♦ 8 4 3
♣ 10 8 7 2

♠ K Q 9 5
♥ 7 6 5
♦ K J 10
♣ Q 6 5

♠ A 10 8 7 6
♥ A Q 9
♦ A Q
♣ A K 4

The bidding :

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

Dble.

I winced when partner doubled the contract. Had he misread me for half a trick when I was only smiling sardonically at the sad array of orphans which was my hand? Was it the Lightner double? If it was, what was I expected to lead? I did not bother much because the double was entirely his business, and maybe he would produce a couple of aces to set the contract. If not—here I found myself exultantly rehearsing those subtle things I told you about.

I led the deuce of clubs, the nine was played and it stood up. A diamond was led to declarer's queen. The diamond ace followed. Declarer led the nine of hearts, I followed with the deuce, the ten was played from dummy and it won. A diamond led from the table was ruffed by declarer, who then played the ace and king of clubs, the ace of hearts and the queen of hearts which he overtook with the king. A fourth diamond was led from the table which my partner ruffed feebly with the five, and declarer with the seven. The eight of spades from the closed hand fixed my partner and landed the slam.

Excited kibitzers murmured appropriate words of praise for the grand coup that had been accomplished. The declarer tried to look modest about his achievement. My partner was crest-fallen and rather dazed. I hastily gathered the cards and started shuffling them.

"Hard luck, partner," I said. "You had to double. My hand was a bust. Never mind. Let us go on to the next deal."

Very sporting of me, you will say. No. Don't you see it was only tact? I was trying to cover up the fatal error I had committed, not in the opening lead—that was excusable, but at trick 3.

My reluctance to part with my only face card was probably human, but it was bad defence. I could have wrecked the slam by tossing that knave. Instead I had played like a booby. As usual.

BEWARE OF BROMIDES.

Have you ever given a thought to the points you have thrown away by faulty defence? You will despair of your bridge if you do, but the consolation is that mistakes in defence are very common. It is not only the palooka who commits them, but also the panjandrum. Bidding is comparatively scientific and there are systems and counts to help one in bidding. Dummy play is no doubt a difficult matter, but here again there are time-honoured

techniques to cover most situations, though they aren't everything. As regards defence one has largely to depend on one's skill and imagination, and the few sleeping tablets like those about leading away from a king or covering an honour are more often a hindrance than a help.

I would go so far as to say that the first lesson in defence is to unlearn some of these *cliches* which we all imbibe at some stage in our bridge career, and which tend to become conditioned reflexes in the long run. The lure of the mechanical routine play is fatal. See what happened when West thoughtlessly succumbed to a good old *soporific* in this deal.

The contract was four hearts by South. West led the four of Spades.

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

South won with the Ace and led the Queen of trumps, West covered, and the contract was made

by dummy reversal. It is elementary defence not to cover the Queen.

Now don't be afraid. I do not propose to expatiate on when to cover and when not to cover. Such dissertations have generally struck me as somewhat absurd. In bridge, as in life, there are no ready-made formulae to meet all situations.

NOW OR NEVER.

It often happens that the defender has to make a vital decision quite early in the proceedings. If he temporizes, the tide turns against him, and he is left high and dry. The following deal will serve to illustrate the point.

You are East defending against a contract of two hearts which you rightly double. The bidding is typical of the salamander spirit of certain players who overdo the take-out double — what they call a double-after-a-pass.

South Dealer. East-West vulnerable.

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

The Bidding:

S	W	N	E
—	—	—	1S
Dble.	—	2H	Dble.

You lead the king of spades. Where do we go from here? You are already at the cross-roads. Your next lead decides the fate of the contract.

1. Do you lazily lead another spade, leaving it to declarer to find his tricks, on the theory that everything comes to those who wait? Let us see what happens if you do. Declarer ruffs the spade, enters dummy via the Queen of clubs, ruffs a third spade enters with club Ace and ruffs a fourth spade, enters with diamond Ace, ruffs the last spade with the Ace of trumps, and dummy's guarded Queen scores the winning trick.

2. Do you lead a trump following the old adage about what to do when in doubt—a piece of advice that appeals to people who concentrate more on the coffee they happen to be drinking than the game that is in progress?

The trump lead is equally ineffective. If a small trump is led the queen is put up, a spade ruffed, the club queen is finessed, the third spade ruffed, the Ace of hearts and the Ace of clubs are cashed, and the lead surrendered to East with the fourth spade for a simple throw-in. The play is

similar if the King of trumps is led. The trump play is not so good. So guess again.

3. The King of Diamonds looks attractive. Partner may have the Queen. And also he may not! As it happens he does not and the diamond lead is easily the worst.

4. The killing lead is a club. I think the club lead is not a double dummy play. An expert should make it. If one thinks long enough and hard enough, one would arrive at it by a process of elimination. But the more likely lead is the second spade. The surprising thing is that even a most unreasonable partner, the kind who will fall foul of you for taking a finesse towards the knave instead of towards the ten, will not blame you for failing to lead a club. I suppose that is because mistakes in defence are less obvious than mistakes in bidding or dummy play.

THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE.

The lead of the second spade in the above hand is the unthinking automatic play I said one should guard against. I remember a deal in which I avoided that play, but my subsequent defence dropped to my usual pedestrian standard. I was West, on lead against four spades after I had opened the bidding.

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

♠ A Q 4
 ♥ 4 3 2
 ♦ A 7 3
 ♣ A 10 4 2

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

 ♠ 5 3
 ♥ 8 7 6 5
 ♦ 10 9 8 6
 ♣ J 9 6

 ♠ J 10 9 7 6 2
 ♥ K 5
 ♦ 5 4
 ♣ K 7 5

I led the king of diamonds. The declarer ducked and I went into a trance. I have been going regularly into a trance ever since the late S.J. Simon recommended trancing as an aid to better bridge. The only effect of the trance is generally to upset the other three at the table, but I emerged from this one completely illuminated.

"You can't pull that one on me Mr. Declarer," I said to myself. "I know most of the tricks. This one is a chestnut, I must say. If I play the Queen you will duck that too, then set up the long club in dummy for a heart discard by chucking a club from the closed hand on the diamond ace and ruffing the third club. Smart, no doubt, but I am smarter. So I present you the king of spades instead of the Queen of diamonds, my friend, and with my best compliments."

It was declarer's turn to go into a trance. He played the ace and

the queen following high to both from his hand. Next he led the deuce of clubs from dummy. My partner played the nine, declarer the king and I the *tray*.

That was the end. I had avoided one reflex play only to fall for another. My partner had made a good play, but I had not risen to the occasion. I was left in to hold the baby on the subsequent lead of a club, and that was the last thing I wanted to do.

To jettison the queen under the king is certainly not double dummy. The bidding had surely shown South's values, and the only way to put partner on lead was to promote his knave of clubs. It needed no clairvoyance to place that card after his play of the nine.

BRIDGE WITHOUT BLOWS.

How does it happen that good manners are incompatible with good bridge? Watch any foursome at the game, and you will observe that if they behave like gentlemen they play like palookas, but if their play is superior their language is unprintable. I listened to this decorous dialogue between two defenders who had let the game slip out of their hands.

"My mistake," said one. "I should not have led the fourth heart."

"It was entirely my fault," said the other. "I need not have played a second heart, I should have led back a diamond."

"No, I could have made things easier for you by cashing the ace of clubs before leading the last heart."

"It was the simplest thing in the world for me to have ruffed your ace of hearts and led back a diamond. I played like a mug."

"I shouldn't have forced you to make all those fancy plays. I should be sitting pretty, leading a trump after cashing my winners. What a fool I was!"

What had happened was that these two Cheerybille brothers had allowed the declarer to make eight tricks when they could have held him down to seven. The deal was:

♠ 8 6
 ♥ 9 7 6 4
 ♦ J 9 4 3
 ♣ K 10 2

 ♠ Q 3
 ♥ A Q 10 8
 ♦ Q 8 7
 ♣ A J 8 3

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

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

Against two spades by south, west led the middle diamond, a lead from three to an honour much fancied in certain quarters.

East won with the Ace and returned the knave of hearts, which was allowed to make and another heart. West took with the queen and played the ace, followed by the ten, east discarding two diamonds. Declarer ruffed the ten of hearts and played the ace, king and knave of trumps. He then led the queen of clubs and west was obliged either

(i) to let it ride and give declarer his eighth trick, or

(ii) to win with the ace and give declarer his eighth trick.

He did not tear his hair (or his partner's), did not bat an eyelid, but graciously blamed himself for the mishap that had occurred.

His partner, not to be outdone in sportsmanship, remonstrated and thus ensued the gush of courtesy so rare at bridge tables.

I am not sure if I quite like that sort of thing. On occasions like this an honest outburst seems to me to be natural. Bridge is not an outdoor game, I agree, it should not be played with bare fists or unbridled tongues, but neither is it a pastime for maiden ladies. I have a suspicion that very often when a player says, "My fault entirely, partner," he adds under his breath: "I didn't expect anything better from you, you idiot."

CULBERTSON'S SYSTEM—IN A NUTSHELL

By TEAKS.

The plain, common man, might well put the question "Why should I play Contract Bridge?" It is a perfectly legitimate question. He might add that it is a great devourer of time and unsuited to the world of today where life is lived at high pressure and consequently our leisure must be planned to the best advantage and not merely idled over Bridge play. The answer to this question is simple. There is no law that compels any individual to read his scriptures. Nor is there any law that enjoins contact with culture. But still the common man finds the intelligentsia reveling in Contract Bridge all the world over. It is because he who desists from contact with a great game like this should be compared to one that walks the world of pastime in darkness. More than that, it is the magic of Contract Bridge that has gathered the world's intellectuals around it.

It is a great game with unsurpassed riches for the mind. It has a method and a system quite appealing and congenial to a trained and critical mind. To those like me who have a metaphysical bent, it has its own philosophy. More than all these, it hacts as agood intellectual check up. Whenever I feel lazy or out of sorts or unaccountably fatigued

I sit at a Contract Bridge table and play a few deals to be sure if my mental alertness is at its maximum or ebbing. If I play right I get assured that my mental vigour is stable. The poet of Nature says: "What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! how infinite in faculty!" It is no surprise that this 'fine piece of work' is wedded to Contract Bridge—and a man of reason and faculty turns to it as a cat turns to milk. Histories make men wise, poets witty, mathematics subtle and Contract Bridge logical and acute.

The best minds would like to play this game under a system and a discipline. Regimentation is a necessity. Are we not having now a regimented control of even our personal habits and movements? Discipline is no curtailment of freedom. And freedom must be distinguished from license. No doubt, an excess of restraint is a positive harm. In that view, most of us Bridge players look to a system of play which is complete as far as possible and convincing. There are many methods of play but almost only one system and that is Culbertson's. Let me not be misunderstood. That method is a system which can give us reasonable data for bidding and playing from the start to the finish.

From the moment the dealer deals the cards right down to the play of the last card Culbertson has given us rules and conventions helpful to beginner, averager and expert. The others are almost only methods including the point-count. That is the reason why I am before you all, veterans in the game included, to put in a nutshell this system of Culbertson. I may add that statisticians claim that 98 per cent. of the Bridge players of the world believe in it and swear by it. A mastery of the entire system on its technical side is essential for an expert, and for the beginner and the average player, it will enable him to make a daily advancement in Bridge learning. For, though players men and women, can rely on their card sense or common sense to an appreciable extent, it will be rash to say that these two commodities can be brought into play without a faultless understanding of the entire system.

In this series of articles, I shall give you a faithful summary in detail of this comprehensive Culbertson system. There are summaries in print but they miss many details of this convention and it will be my endeavour to place the whole of it in all its bearings and with all its niceties. For, in the words of Culbertson himself, there are bridge players who know but cannot play and others who can play but do not know. If this series of articles

can carry knowledge of this system including its finer points and increase the number of bridge players who both know and can play, I, as a lover of this game, shall feel delighted.

As soon as the cards are dealt to the players, begins the complex process of bidding which to a beginner is a problem every time, to an average player a puzzle and to the expert a real pleasure. This bidding process consists of Valuation, Information and Strategy. These three are styled "The Three Musketeers in bidding." They are inseparable. The player should value his cards on the basis of quality or quantity which will be described later and then convey information to his partner. Otherwise, valuation will be without precise information and reduced to crude guess-work. This information which may also be styled as 'partnership language' consists of positive and negative inferences gathered from the kind and level of the bid made. Mere valuation and passing of information is a good start. But the full weight of your strength can be utilised by a proper preception and practice of strategy. For, a strategist can turn apparent defeat into victory even with poor partners or inferior hands. The enemy's greater resources and numbers can be controlled by the strategist's superior technique, character and psychology. He is a thoroughbred diplomat who

adapts himself to the mental and emotional level of his partners and inspires them to new heights and who outmanoeuvres the opponents, in the struggle for the best bid. This presupposes good anticipation or looking ahead. And if this strategic habit is acquired and practised, it will be an invaluable asset to any player.

Bidding valuation.—Bidding is like selling a hand at the bridge auction for the best price especially in the fluctuating market in the table where bidding and re-bidding proceed. The sale must be for proper consideration and based on proper bidding valuation. This bidding valuation can be defined as the count of expected winners and losers at a specified bid. To obtain the best results, this bidding valuation should be a three-way one. It means that the hand must be valued in three ways and possesses two standards of values, *viz.*, value in attack when played at one's own or partner's trump bid; and value in defence when played against the opponent's trump bid. The total number of tricks or winners in the same hand increases or decreases according to whether the trump bid is (a) the player's own or (b) in support of the partner's bid, or (c) has been made by the opponents.

Honour-tricks.—Even with honour-tricks there is a double standard of values—one in attack and the other in defence. In

attack (*i.e.*) at the declarer's own or in support of his partner's trump-bid the honours are counted at their full playing value. In defence only the cream of honour-sequences is skimmed.

These honour-tricks come under three heads, namely, sure, probable and 'plus' honour winners. An ace is a reasonably certain winner. A king is a probable winner. A queen is only an embryonic trick and is given a + value which means a value between zero and one-half. Many honour combinations depend for definite values on finesses (*e.g.*) A Q in a hand may get two tricks or only one depending on the favourable or unfavourable location of the king of that suit. The standard table of *honour-tricks* is based upon a scientific analysis of their values relying also on experience. The gist of it is as follows:

A K in the same suit — 2 honour-tricks.

A K J	"	— 2+ "
A K Q	"	— 2+ "
A Q	"	— 1½ "
A Q J or } A Q 10 }	"	— 1½ "
K Q J	"	— 1+ "
A J x or } A J 10 }	"	— 1+ "
Ace alone or } with others }	"	— 1 "
K Q	"	— 1 "
K J 10	"	— 1 "

K x and K x in } different suits }	— 1 "
K J x and Q x in } different suits }	— ½+ "
K J x in the same suit	— ½+ "
K x " " "	— ½ "
Q J x " " "	— ½ "
Q x and Q x in } different suits }	— ½ "
Any singleton or void	— + value.

But for valuation, if there are singletons or voids in more suits than one, only one such should be counted. I might now add that this valuation based on honour-trick is said by some to be less simple than that based on point-count. I do not share that view. It is needless to load a player's mind with 40 points instead of eight honour-tricks and then ask him to indulge in the arithmetics of addition, subtraction and the like. Further, the point-count method is not uniform but is varying. In fact the method of Mr. Panikkar who desires the bid to be made at the start and for response merely on the holding of points and not on the strength of the suit, does not carry conviction to me and must, besides, be puzzling and mystifying to the beginner and the averager. Why should the players not show their real disposition of cards at the start itself but wait for the next chance. This is purely opinion-

tive and I wish to avoid any controversy thereon. In fact the cards do not care a pin as to how we value them. They are most democratic in their behaviour. They sit placid on our hands whatever method we adopt to announce them. But if we do not utilise them properly they rarely excuse us. And that is why I would rather pin myself to a scientific start in bidding than to an artificial bid which, in inexperienced hands and with inexperienced partners may lead to needless confusion and loss of final rounds in the bidding process.

This honour-trick valuation is based on the rule of eight. It means that each of the 4 suits has the value of 2 to 2½ honour-tricks taking the total of honour-tricks in a pack to between 8 and 9 honour-tricks. As a rule, the materialisation of the 9th trick will depend on a finesse. Thus for simplicity's sake this Count of Eight honour-tricks is styled "The rule of eight." If this rule is kept in mind throughout the bidding, even psychic bids by opponents can be easily smoked out. This rule has to be applied rather rigidly in slam bids. For, if the pattern of the hand is 4, 3, 3, 3, it is always better to deduct ½ to 1 honour-trick from the total holding of both hands, since invariably slam contracts are kept only with the help of at least one sure long suit.

(To be continued)

OUR POINTS SYSTEM OF BIDDING

By V. SUBBA RAO AND P. RAMANUJAH.

After having played Contract Bridge according to the points system of counting familiarised by our friend Mr. Panikkar and having had good success in a couple of Progressive Pair Events, we abandoned the system having discovered certain obvious disadvantages which prevented us from getting to the first place in one or two events. We shall illustrate this by reproducing the following deal played by us as North-South.

NORTH

♠ A 10 7 2
♥ A K 4 3
♦ K J
♣ Q x x

North called 1 heart having a count of 17 points. East passed and South holding

♠ 9 8 6
♥ 10
♦ Q x x x x
♣ K J x x

called two diamonds. North, called two hearts. East doubled. South passed. North called two spades. West doubled and North South went one down. On comparing this with the performance of other teams, we found to our amazement that every other North-South pair made just 1

Spade or 1 No Trump and we got a rank bottom here. This robbed us of the first place in this event.

On analysis of the hands in this and a number of similar deals it became clear that the obligation to call two of a suit on a worthless hand after partner's opening bid of one heart or one spade (according to the Point Count) deprived us of the very valuable One-No-Trump response which shows a game force in this system of bidding. To overcome this difficulty we adopted the convention of an *artificial two club response to indicate game force on an opening bid of a major suit showing 17 or 19 points, and a One-No-Trump response to indicate a poor hand.*

We can already see Mr. Panikkar rising up and shouting, "Well my dear fellows, one swallow does not make a summer and you blokes can't go on changing your systems to meet stray cases." But we have concluded that this difficulty was one of common occurrence and the variations we have introduced have successfully remedied this defect.

Our variation is as follows:— The One-No-Trump response to partner's opening bid of *One Club and One Diamond only indicates game-going hand.* The One-

No-Trump response to partner's opening bid of one heart or one spade is indicative of a most worthless hand. Game force in response to one heart or one spade is given by an artificial bid of two clubs.

It will be seen that when partner is holding a game-going hand after an opening bid of one heart or spade, an artificial bid of two clubs by the responding hand actually leaves plenty of opportunity for exchange of information to reach a game bid.

Another deviation we have made from Mr. Panikkar is in regard to the strength of the redouble at the one level. Though Mr. Panikkar's article does not make this clear, I have heard him answer that redouble indicates game going strength.

We have chosen to stick to the force of a redouble as under the Culbertson system of Bidding, i.e., showing 1½ Honour tricks or 7 to 9 points and a regular Suit or No-Trump over call to indicate a game-going hand.

Let me illustrate. North —1 club. East—Double.

South? If South redoubles he shows 7 to 9 points and assures North that the combined North-South hands can be safely played in any contract at the one or two level. If North has additional features like a length of 7 or 8 in a suit or void in two suits, etc., he makes a game bid, too, after this redouble showing 7 to 9 points. These modifications, we can assert confidently, have been working very satisfactorily.



TEST YOUR SKILL—PROBLEMS

Edited by P. S. N. SARMA

1. North dealer, both sides vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 D	—	1 H	—
1 N T	—	?	—

What do you, South, bid holding: S. Q 8 3, H. A Q 9 2, D. J 10 3, C. Q 9 6?

2. You, South, are in a contract of six spades. West leads the deuce of diamonds. Your hand and dummy are given below. How do you proceed to play?

NORTH
 ♠ K
 ♥ Q 8 7
 ♦ K Q 6 5 4 3
 ♣ K 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 10 9 8 7
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ A 7
 ♣ A 8 6

3. South dealer, both sides vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
1 H	—	2 D	3 C
—	—	4 H	—

You West, lead the 10 of clubs. Your hand and the dummy are given below:

North
 ♠ Q 5 4
 ♥ A Q J 9 8
 ♦ Q J 10 2
 ♣ 7

West
 ♠ K J 9 3
 ♥ 8 6 5
 ♦ K 6 3
 ♣ 10 8 6

Your partner plays the Queen and declarer the Ace. A trump is led to an honour in dummy, on which your partner discards a club. One more trump is played, followed by the Queen of dia-

monds from dummy on which East plays the 4 and declarer the 5. You rightly take with the King. What do you lead next?

4. South dealer, vulnerability immaterial, the bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
—	—	1 C	—
?	—	—	—

What do you, South, bid, holding: S. K Q J 10 4, H. J 2, D. A 6 5, C. 8 7 3?

5. West dealer, North-South vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 S
—	1 N T	—	3 H
—	3 S	—	4 S

West leads the King and Ace of diamonds, and following his partner's pique, a third diamond. What is declarer's best play for the hand? The North-South hands are given below:

North
 ♠ 10 8 2
 ♥ 6 3
 ♦ J 8 3
 ♣ K Q J 4 3

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

6. East-West vulnerable, West dealer, the bidding, quite adventurous, has proceeded:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 S
2 D	2 H	—	2 S
—	3 S	—	4 D
—	4 H	—	6 S

West leads the Queen of clubs. You are South. Your hand and the dummy are given below. How do you proceed to play?

North
 ♠ Q 10 3
 ♥ A 10 9 8 7 4
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 10 8 2

South
 ♠ A K J 9 4 2
 ♥ J
 ♦ A 8 7 4 3
 ♣ A

7. South dealer, North-South vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
1 C	—	1 S	—
?	—	—	—

What do you, South, bid, holding: S. K Q J 2, H. A Q J, D. 9 3, C. A K 5 4?



Pro et contra

Edited by P. S. SUNDARESAN

Question.—Playing duplicate at our club recently, I got into a four heart contract on the following hand :

♠ A 9
♥ J 9 8
♦ 9
♣ A K Q J 8 7 3

The bidding was :

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
(me)			
1 C	Dbl.	1 H	—
2 N T	—	3 H	—
4 H	Dbl.	—	—

The contract was set three tricks. During the usual post-mortem I pointed to partner that I was doubtful of a diamond stopper in his hand and did not therefore bid three no-trump which was cold as partner held :

♠ Q 3
♥ 8 7 6 5 4 3
♦ A 4 2
♣ 6 2

Please criticise the bidding sequence in your columns. East's hand, incidentally was :

♠ K 9 5 4
♥ A K Q 10
♦ K Q 7 3
♣ 10

Answer.—In our view, the North player is hardly being consistent with himself. The necessity for a stopper in diamonds is just as urgent in the rebid of the two no-trumps that he chose to make, as in the bid of three no-trump he conceived himself unable to make because he lacked a diamond stopper and was doubtful of his partner having it. If, with a long solid string of clubs, in expectation of a favourable lead, he hoped to get away with an ultimate contract of three no-trumps he need hardly have allowed himself to deviate from his plan and could have persisted, with, in this case, considerable profit to his side.

But deviation or no deviation, the four hearts bid he decided on was certainly inviting disaster. And for this reason. The ability of North-South to make

MARCH—JUNE 1953

25

the game in hearts is obviously dependent on their ability to use their long string of club winners, which again is dependent on their ability to draw the adverse trumps. North on the bidding could scarcely expect his partner to be able to do so. We think that after North decided not to persist in his original plan of ending in a three no-trumps gamble, he should have passed his partner's Three hearts bid. This bid would almost certainly have been doubled ; and then North should have come out with a save of four clubs which would clearly be read by any intelligent partner for what it was.

We wish to say that our preceding remarks should in no way be construed as our being in favour of the tactics commenced by North and so unceremoniously abandoned by him. Normally, we are against such bids ; an occasional success is too high a price for the resultant loosening of partnership confidence. We are of the view that the bidding in this case should have gone :

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 C	Double.	1 H	—
3 C			

And with the bid of three clubs, the bidding should have stopped, so far as North-South were concerned. This common-place, pedestrian, non-brilliant sequence would, even if it did not secure a

plus score for North-South, have saved them from the very costly penalty they actually incurred.

Question : Sitting West, I picked up the following hand :

♠ K 4 3
♥ J 10 9 7 6 4
♦ K 3 2
♣ 2

With both sides vulnerable and partner opening, the bidding went :

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 S	2 D	—	—
Dbl.	—	?	

What would you recommend as West's bid in the circumstances.

In the actual case west bid three hearts which was unfortunately passed all round. East's hand was :

♠ A 10 7 6 5
♥ A 2
♦ A 8 4
♣ A 6 2

Twelve tricks were made by East-West as South held the Queen and jack of spades bare, and North-South made only one heart trick. Please comment.

Answer : We think that East is entirely to blame for the fiasco in this deal. The actual slam made was of course purely adventitious, but the game could, and should have been bid.

East's hand, with its four aces, even though with nothing besides,

comes under the category of a strong hand, its strength consisting not so much in its count of actual playing tricks as in its hidden potential. Besides giving added, promoted values to partner's lesser honor-cards, the aces give to the declarer quite a considerable advantage in timing in the actual play of the hand, in that they operate as powerful barriers to the defence. The defenders, with anything but solid sequences, are compelled, in trying to establish their tricks, to lead away from their broken holdings and present surplus tricks to the declarer, which the latter would not have been able to make by himself.

Beside his failure to appreciate the strength of his own hand, East was obviously unduly influenced by his partner's original pass. The apparent weakness of the pass had however been negated by the later jump bid which should have indicated to East that though West's hand was not quite up to the technical requirements of an original free bid, it was but slightly short of it and could be depended upon for good playing strength. It is very difficult to visualise any holding of West's justifying his bidding, which would, opposite East's strong hand, fail to produce game. We are of the view that East could, and should, have called four hearts, or at any rate, three no-trump which West would automatically have taken out to four hearts.

Coming now to West's action on his holding, there are two questions arising for consideration, which we shall treat briefly:

1. Should West have made a free bid of two hearts over South's overcall?

2. Should West have called four hearts straightaway, obviating the danger of a possible pass by East in a game situation?

To both these questions our answer is in the negative.

1. West has an unbalanced hand with a fair six card suit headed by the J 10 9; he holds the two right kings, one in the suit opened by his partner, and the other in the suit overcalled by his righthand opponent. His count of winners is 5. Quite a good hand, it however lacks the minimum technical requirements (1½ to 2 honor-tricks) for the free bid of a new suit at the level of two. There are quite a few, even amongst the experts, who would be unwilling to pass this hand. We are hardly inclined to quarrel with them. But speaking for ourselves, we would advocate a conservative adherence to the standard requirements, since such adherence would best serve to promote partnership understanding and keep the partnership away from pitfalls, should the bidding rise above the game level. The pass in the first instance is not likely to do any harm, since the bidding is sure to come round again and the player can take

strong action with no danger of being misunderstood.

2. East's take out double might well have been a reopening double, made for competitive purposes, with not quite the strength which he actually held. From the point of view of West, there is no assurance that the combined hands would produce a game in hearts. The bid of three hearts actually made is, in our view, the proper bid, and should have been quite enough, since most partners with some added values could be depended upon not to stop short of game. Happily for bridge, partners of the kind East proved to be in the present instance are negligible exceptions and not the rule.

Question: Please elucidate how the accompanying East-West hands should be bid:

WEST	EAST
♠ 10 9 8 3	♠ A Q J 7
♥ 10	♥ Q 9 4 3 2
♦ K 10 7	♦ —
♣ Q J 8 7 6	♣ K 9 4 3

North was dealer, Both sides vulnerable, and the bidding at the two tables went:

Room I

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 H	—	2 D	—
2 H	—	3 D	—
—	—	—	—

Room II

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 H	—	2 D	—
2 H	—	4 D	—
5 D	—	—	—

Neither East west overcalled their hands though a game contract of four spades or five clubs appears cold.

The full deal:

NORTH		EAST	
♠ K 5 2		♠ A Q J 7	
♥ A K J 8 5		♥ Q 9 4 3 2	
♦ Q 9 4		♦ —	
♣ A 7		♣ K 9 4 3	

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

SOUTH		EAST	
♠ 6 4		♠ A Q J 7	
♥ 9 2		♥ Q 9 4 3 2	
♦ A J 9 7 6 5 3		♦ —	
♣ 10 2		♣ K 9 4 3	

Could East have reopened the bidding?

Answer: Not infrequently, the combined hands of a partnership produce a game or a slam, due to the presence of specific honor-cards, or to a specific distribution, of which there is no means of determining the existence by any known system of bidding. Such games or slams are unbiddable and must be calmly accepted as such. The present E-W holding seems to furnish an instance.

We are hardly concerned with the bidding in Table II since the bidding there, by the time it came round to East, had reached too high a level for any possible action by him. We have this, however, to say of South's rebid of four diamonds that it seems to us to savour not of Culbertson, but of Acol. According to Culbertson, the four diamonds bid is a strong bid and invitational, which however it actually could not be in the present instance; while according to Acol, it is not as strong, but means merely what it says (*viz.*) that South thinks that he can make four diamonds.

Let us go to Table I and putting ourselves in the position of East, try to follow his possible train of thought in the first person at the time when South's bidding of three diamonds comes round to him:

1. "The bidding has suddenly stopped at three diamonds and has come round to me, what exactly is the matter? Can there be anything for us in our combined hands?"

2. "North has opened in hearts and rebid hearts—at least a five card heart suit and apparently not overmuch strength."

3. "South has signed off at three diamonds—a six card, perhaps seven card diamond suit and weak in Honor-trick, not more than 1 + or 1½."

4. "West, my partner, apparently should have some honor-

trick strength—where or how much? I cannot tell.

5. "South and West can have at most three hearts? How are they distributed? It seems that South with his length in diamonds is more likely than my partner to have the singleton."

6. "How are the diamonds distributed? I shall tentatively assume that my partner has three, though there is no certitude about it."

7. "My partner should have about eight cards in the black suits, and if he has nine, as is not improbable, there should be a good fit in our combined hands, especially if he has a singleton in hearts as well."

8. "Assuming that there is such a fit, dare I reopen at the three level? We are vulnerable and I should require greater certitude than is at present possible to make any sort of try."

9. "Supposing that I do make a gambling attempt, my partner cannot be placed with strength enough to give me the confidence that he is likely to co-operate with me in reaching game, should there be one. At best I can have a part score, and there is a considerable chance of my being successfully doubled for penalties, should my unverifiable assumptions turn out to be incorrect."

10. "I think that the best policy is to pass."

And we cordially agree, especially considering that it is we who have hypothetically put the above thoughts into East's head.

MANY A SLIP

By M. SUNDERRAJ

Of course the sad fate which overtook X was bound to occur some day or other, and if the game of bridge had had nothing to do with it, some other agency would have been the instrument. It was, one might say, in the logic of X's character to immolate himself.

Poor X! so gentle and so pure! so refined and poetic a soul! Who could not believe evil of any man and who would tolerate no company that spoke evil of any woman! so loveable that even we, a gang of hard-bitten, bridge-loving bachelors had formed all unconsciously a ring round him to protect him from the thorns of life and the wiles of woman!

Alas! In one unguarded moment we left him unprotected, I also who love him so! *Mea Culpa! Mea Culpa!*

The first signs of the impending tragedy appeared one night when X returned from a party to which we had all been invited but which none of us except X could attend. We had hesitated in allowing X to go alone, but since the poor fellow had just recovered from a long spell of flu we thought the party would tone him up.

That night when he returned he was glowing with happiness,

and there was a far-away look in his eyes. He was bubbling and bursting over with enthusiasm. "Oh! what wonderful bridge" he kept repeating over and over again. "What superb bidding! What perfect play! What brilliant defence!" In one of the few occasional moments of return to earth he seized pen and paper to give us an example of her (our hearts sank when we heard the pronoun) bidding and play.

It appeared that Y had also commented favourably on X's play though they had not been partners in any of the rubbers.

Our misgivings on this occasion were, however, to a large extent allayed because we knew that Y—we learnt her identity in due course—whatever her ability at the bridge-table was, to say the least, not much of a charmer. But how wrong we were to have bestowed a pair of non-existent eyes on cupid!

Shortly after, X had to play against Y in an open pairs match, and we thought that as this was a match, there would be little chance for any havoc and at any rate we would be there. But bad judgment again! For X was simply not there throughout the match. He fumbled and

fidgetted, dropped cards and mis-dealt, bid out of turn and re-voked, and finally threw away the match.

Our bitterest humiliation was, however; reserved for the end. We were all gloomily looking round and half-heartedly congratulating the winners, when we found X beaming with joy because Y was seductively murmuring, "Bad luck, Mr. X, You put up quite a good fight, but luck was against you."

For some days after this X began to avoid our company. He was frequently out on mysterious visits from which he would return with glowing face and springing steps and we viewed all this with sorrow in our hearts. Our cup was full when on return late one night he rather incoherently gave hints as to a certain event with a certain person being likely to come off shortly. There was little gaiety in our room then.

Events however took a strange and unexpected turn shortly after. One evening X made it known generally that he was attending a bridge party where Y was also to be present, and it was a measure of our despair that we said nothing.

X returned home late that night after all of us were in bed; when he came down to breakfast next day it was with such a gloomy face and dragging steps that the table talk broke off in the middle. The

air of tragedy was, however, too great for us to ask him anything.

X talks with us now-a-days only in mono-syllables, he reads nothing; he doesn't go anywhere and he looks so like a wounded deer that even hardened materialists like us cannot help feeling that the perpetrator of the wound will have a heavy penalty to pay one day.

It was only through a friend of ours who was also present at the party on that day that we learnt long afterwards the events that had shattered X's castles. It appeared that after playing against each other for some rubbers X and Y cut each other as partners for the last two. The *bonhomie* which had prevailed earlier between them began to wear off slowly. X began to have a run of bad luck, his finesses went wrong, and the fiend of distribution began to play pranks. Y began to find faults and X who knew all about probability and little about tact tried to defend his play. The last deal proved his undoing and the things that Y said at the end clearly meant no wedding bells.

Here is our friend's version of the three deals from which X came out none too creditably. We leave it to the reader to view his play sympathetically.

Deal No. 1

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable. The bidding went:

MARCH—JUNE 1953

North	East	South	West
	X	(Y)	
	1 D	Dble	—
2 H	3 C	3 NT	—
4 H	—	5 H	—
6 H	—	—	Dble!

East led club king. The four hands were:

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A 3 2		♠ 10 9 4	
♥ K J 10 9 8 6 4		♥ —	
♦ Q 3 2		♦ K J 10 8 5	
♣ —		♣ A K 9 4 6	
WEST		SOUTH	
♠ Q 8 7		♠ K J 6 5	
♥ 7 5 2		♥ A Q 3	
♦ 7 6		♦ A 9 4	
♣ 8 7 5 3 2		♣ Q J 10	

Declarer played the hand nicely; ruffing the Club King in his hand and entering dummy with the Queen of trumps, he led the club Queen on which he discarded a spade. Whatever East now led declarer won, drew trumps, played Ace King of Spades, ruffing a third, thus providing a parking place for the 2 losing diamonds in his hand, one on the set up spade and another on the knave of clubs. Well played declarer! X rather tactlessly

asked partner what her double meant and prompt was her retort, "Have you heard of the 'Lightner double' partner? My double asked for an unexpected lead; you will see that any other lead except the one you made would have set the contract."

On the subsequent deal X, although nervous, valiantly bid seven No Trumps as if to atone for his careless defence on the last deal.

Deal No. 2.

South dealer: E. W. Vulnerable.

The bidding:

S	W	N	E (Mr. X)
—	—	—	2 D
—	3 NT	—	4 NT
—	5 H	—	5 NT
—	6 D	—	7 NT

South led 3 of clubs.

The four hands were:

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

East could make all thirteen tricks by a simple squeeze on North who is forced to unguard his spades or diamonds when the four clubs and the two top hearts are cashed. Unfortunately X chose to finesse for the Heart Queen and was one down.

Worse still was to follow. On the final deal, haunted by all his rotten 'luck,' he completely lost his head and messed up the play. The contract was four spades and the full deal was.

Deal No. 3.

N.

♠ A 9
♥ 10 8 6 3
♦ J 9 5 3
♣ 7 5 4

W.

♠ J 8 7 2
♥ 4
♦ A K 4 2
♣ A Q 10 2

E.

♠ K Q 5 4
♥ Q 9 7 5
♦ 8 7
♣ K J 3

S.

♠ 10 6 3
♥ A K J 2
♦ Q 10 6
♣ 9 8 6

South led Heart K and shifted to the 9 of clubs seeing the singleton in the dummy. Declarer could easily count 10 tricks if the spades broke 3 and 2 viz. 3 tricks in trumps in his own hand, at least one heart ruff in the dummy, the two top diamonds and four club tricks. Instead of this simple

play, X began ruffing hearts in the dummy and diamonds in his own hand arriving at this end position at trick 10.

Trick

No.	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1	H K	H 4	H 6	H 5
2	C 9	C 2	C 4	C J
3	H 2	S 2	H 3	H 7
4	S 3	S 7	S 9	S Q
5	D 6	D A	D 3	D 8
6	D 10	D K	D 5	D 7
7	D Q	D 2	D 9	S 5
8	H K	S 8	H 8	H 9
9	S 6	S J	S A	S 4

N.

♠ —
♥ J
♦ J
♣ 7 5

W.

♠ —
♥ —
♦ 4
♣ A Q 10

E.

♠ K
♥ Q
♦ —
♣ K 3

S.

♠ 10
♥ A
♦ —
♣ 9 8

North now led Diamond Jack and the defence made two more tricks to beat the contract whatever East plays. Poor X was visibly shaken and rushed out when the table broke apologising profusely for his bad play. Miss Y was in a rage and was heard to murmur "This is not bridge; this is murder."

PAR CONTEST AT T'NAGAR SOCIAL CLUB

A Review: by SATURN.

The T'Nagar Social Club became the pioneers in yet another interesting event in Contract Bridge, the Par Contest. Thanks to the energetic efforts of a handful of enthusiasts led by Mr. T. S. Duraiswami Iyer, they organised a Par Contest on the lines of the Australian Olympic of 1951. Sixteen interesting deals were specially provided by Mr. K. C. Ramaratnam for the competition. Almost all the top-ranking pairs in the City competed in the event besides two pairs from Vijawada and keen interest prevailed throughout. This event has become so popular that one wonders why this should not be made a regular item in the annual S.I.B.A. Championship Tournaments with a Special Trophy being presented to the winners.

As is usually the case with many of the local tournaments nowadays much of the hard work devolved upon the Tournament Director Sri T. S. Duraiswami Iyer who had to copy all the hands, and compile details of par points and playing instructions besides making the final valuation. The work involved in all this was too strenuous and quite out of proportion to the duration of the contest itself, and the sponsors hope that competitors will appreciate the tremendous responsi-

bilities shouldered by the Tournament Director and co-operate with him in all respects instead of making frivolous complaints.

And now for the hands.

Deal No. 1: Neither side vulnerable: North dealer.

N.

♠ 9
♥ Q J 10 7 6
♦ J 8 7 6 4
♣ 7 2

W.

♠ Q 10 2
♥ K 4 3 2
♦ A 8 3
♣ Q 10 4

E.

♠ A K J 7 5 3
♥ A 5
♦ Q 10
♣ 8 6 5

S.

♠ 8 6 4
♥ 9 8
♦ K 9 2
♣ A K J 9 3

N. E. S. W.

Bidding: — 1 S 2 C 2 S
— 3 S — 4 S

Bidding Par: East-West for bidding 3 N T or 4 S.

Playing Par: E. W. for 10 tricks at a 4 Spade Contract only if the Diamond Queen is played from the East hand forcing out South's King of Diamonds for a transfer squeeze on North.

Nine tricks at 3 N.T. are of course on ice but good play

is required to make 10 tricks with spades as trumps after the defence take 3 tricks, viz., Ace and King of clubs and a ruff of the third Club. The point of play involved was a little intricate and none of the 9 East Wests who played the hand made the correct play. Apparently this being the very first deal their minds did not rise to such heights but it is regrettable that not one pair attempted the correct line of play since an almost identical hand detailing the same point of play appeared in the 'Hindu' of 25th January, 1953.

Deal No. 2 was one of the most interesting hands in the series and involved a fine defensive play for North South. The four hands were :

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

The Bidding :

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

North leads Diamond Queen. With South holding off his Ace of clubs till the third round and continuing diamonds declarer has to look to the spade suit for the ninth trick hoping that the honours in the suit are divided. At this point, when North cashes his two diamonds and is forced to lead spades or hearts his best return is the Queen of spades in the hope that declarer has only two cards in the suit and will therefore be restricted to only 1 trick in that suit. On this play of the Queen of Spades West's plan to make 2 tricks in the spade suit is foiled and the defence makes 5 tricks, 2 diamonds, a club, a spade and heart. A fine piece of defence and it was good to see two pairs, Messrs. P. S. Reddi and Giri, and Dr. Achar and B. Hanumantha Rao make this defence to defeat the Contract.

Deal No. 3: South Dealer E. W. vulnerable.

The four hands were :

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

The Bidding :

S	W	N	E
1 C	—	1 D	—
1 S	—	3 S	—
3 N T			

West leads 6 of club covered by East's Jack.

At first sight with the 'favourable' lead of the club suit declarer easily counts 9 tricks, 2 clubs, 2 spades, three hearts and two top diamonds. But on the distribution of the club suit East West are able to cash three clubs and the Ace King of spades if South carelessly takes the first trick with his club Q or King. Ducking the first round of clubs proves a wise precaution as on winning the first spade trick with his King, East is unable to return a club and this tempo is invaluable to the declarer who now proceeds to drive out the Ace of Spades retaining control of the club suit. A finesse in the diamond suit, if it fails, will be too costly as East West will straightaway make two spades a diamond and 2 clubs or 3 clubs. Only two pairs made the correct safety play to fulfil the contract.

Deal No. 4

West dealer: Both sides vulnerable.

W	N	E	South
1 S	—	2 H	—
3 S	—	4 S	—

The four hands were :

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

North leads D. Q.

There is little to play in a four heart contract as E.W. simply clear trumps and make 3 spades, 3 hearts and two diamond tricks but played at spades West cannot afford to draw trumps in a hurry as South will then make one trump, and three club tricks. West's best play, providing for a 4-1 trump break and a similar bad break in hearts will be to play a low spade from his hand and let it ride through. West can win any return by South, pull out all adverse trumps and proceed to make his contract making in all 5 spade tricks, three hearts and the Ace King of Diamonds. The defence can make only two clubs and a trump. Only two pairs out of the nine made this obvious safety play to make the contract.

(To be continued)

TEST YOUR SKILL—ANSWERS

Edited by P. S. N. SARMA

1. North dealer, both sides vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 D	—	1 H	—
1 N T	—	2	—

What do you, South, bid holding: S. Q 8 3, H. A Q 9 2, D. J 10 3, C. Q 9 6?

Ans: Two No-trump.

There may be ultra-cautious players who would decide that there is no game in the combined hands after partner's rebid of one no-trump and pass, holding that it is pointless to stretch the part score. Those who use any point system of bidding, on the other hand, would unhesitatingly bid two no-trump. The hand will make a good dummy in no-trumps on account of its queens in the black suits and the J 10 of the suit bid by partner. If partner's rebid has been made on the barest minimum requirements, the combined hands may not produce game, but it is even money that the opening bidder has something to spare over his one no-trump which he is not able to indicate in an effective manner. (This is a difficulty peculiar to many players who fight shy of an opening bid of one no-trump). In the former case the opener

will pass two no-trump; in the latter, he will raise it to three. The full deal from which the above hand is taken is given below:

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

2. You, South, are in a contract of six spades. West leads the deuce of diamonds. Your hand and dummy are given below. How do you proceed to play?

NORTH	SOUTH
♠ K ♥ Q 8 7 ♦ K Q 6 5 4 3 ♣ K 5 4	♠ A Q 10 9 8 7 ♥ A 3 ♦ A 7 ♣ A 8 6

Ans: Take the trick in the closed hand and play the ace, queen.

and ten of trumps in that order. This is hundred per cent safe as it conserves entries for setting up dummy's diamond suit on which your contract depends. The complete deal is given below:

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

3. South dealer, both sides vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
1 H	—	2 D	3 C
—	—	4 H	—

You, West, lead the 10 of clubs. Your hand and the dummy are given below:

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

Your partner plays the Queen and declarer the Ace. A trump

is led to an honour in dummy, on which your partner discards a club. One more trump is played, followed by the Queen of diamonds from dummy on which East plays the 4 and declarer the 5. You rightly take with the King. What do you lead next?

Ans: The knave of Spades.

Declarer is obviously trying to get a discard in the diamond suit and you must be in a hurry to wreck his plan. The declarer must have one more ace in addition to the ace of clubs for his opening bid, if not both the missing aces. If he has both it is immaterial what you play, for the contract is cold. So take the view that he has only one of the aces. If it is the ace of spades, you cannot set the contract, for his losers are only one spade and two diamonds. But if it is the ace of diamonds, the contract can be set provided he has three spades. The spade suit must be attacked, attacked immediately, and attacked right! The complete deal was:

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

4. South dealer, vulnerability immaterial, the bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
—	—	1 C	—
?			

What do you, South, bid, holding: S. K Q J 10 4, H. J 2, D. A 6 5, C. 8 7 3?

Ans: Two spades.

We suppose you would say it is childishly simple, but you would be surprised at the number of players who miss this obvious bid. You have to make up for the fact that you passed originally. The bid is not necessarily forcing. The opener must bid again if he has opened on a fair hand, but may pass if he started with less than normal requirements.

5. West dealer, North-South vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 S
—	1 N T	—	3 H
—	3 S	—	4 S

West leads the King and Ace of diamonds, and following his partner's pater, a third diamond. What is declarer's best play for the hand? The North-South hands are given below:

North

♠ 10 8 2
♥ 6 3
♦ J 8 3
♣ K Q J 4 3

South

♠ A K J 9 3
♥ A Q J 5 4
♦ 7 6
♣ A

Ans: Ruff the Queen of diamonds with an honour, cash the black aces and lead a small trump. On the bidding East is more likely to have the King of hearts than West. If the trumps break 3—2 there is no problem. If they break worse, there is the chance that the hand with four trumps has also four clubs.

6. East-West vulnerable, West dealer, the bidding quite adventurous, has proceeded:

West	North	East	South
—	—	—	1 S
2 D	2 H	—	2 S
—	3 S	—	4 D
—	4 H	—	6 S

West leads the Queen of clubs. You are South. Your hand and the dummy are given below. How do you proceed to play?

North

♠ Q 10 3
♥ A 10 9 8 7 4
♦ Q
♣ 10 8 2

South

♠ A K J 9 4 2
♥ J
♦ A 8 7 4 3
♣ A

Ans: The best play, we would say the only play, is dummy reversal. If the trumps break even the contract is easily made by ruffing hearts provided the latter are not distributed worse than 4-2 in the opponents' hands. If the trumps do not break, the heart suit may, and that would be enough. To ruff declarer's losing diamonds in the dummy is not sound play. The general pattern of the hands would indicate that west has six diamonds to the King. Lacking the Ace and Queen, and the King of Clubs West would not have risked a vulnerable overcall at the 2-level without a six-card suit.

7. South dealer, North-South vulnerable, the bidding has proceeded:

South	West	North	East
1 C	—	1 S	—
?			

What do you, South, bid, holding: S. K Q J 2, H. A Q J, D. 9 3, C. A K 5 4?

Ans: Four Spades.

Do not bid three spades. Partner might have made an one

over one response with one honour trick or less. The practice among good players now-a-days is to make such a response, especially over one club or one diamond, in a suit on weak hands rather than bid one no-trump. With a poor hand partner is sure to, and at liberty to, pass. It is true that on a bad trump break and finesses going wrong, four spades may be set, but the risk is definitely worth taking.

Another point to remember is that a jump to four Spades does not rule out a slam. There is a notion among certain players that a leap to game in responder's suit is a shut-out bid. It is nothing of the sort. The bid tells partner that the opener has a good hand with thumping support in trumps, and that game is a certainty even with practically nothing in the responder's hand. If the responder has additional values which his bid of one over one has not disclosed, he may make a slam try. In fact he should, holding something like this: S. A 10 4 3, H. K 9 8, D. K 10 7 2, C. Q 6.

While three spades is a bad bid, there is a worse one, and that is a leap to asking bids. An asking bid at this stage may be nothing more than asking for trouble, for the response might have been made on a holding as thin as: S. 10 9 8 4, H. K 8 3, D. Q J 2, C. Q 8 2.



THE NEWS SECTION

Edited by T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN

The newly constituted Editorial Committee appear to be determined to bring out the *Indian Bridge World* more regularly and it is hoped that they will succeed in their endeavour despite the apparent indifference of members. Two new features are being included from this issue. Firstly a simplified summary of Culbertson's bidding which, though it started as a rejoinder to the various point count systems advocated in recent times, will certainly serve as a useful guide to the newcomer to contract. The ex-Auction Bridge player will, for one, find it immensely useful and instructive.

Secondly the Problems Section which was not published in the last issue will henceforth be edited by a new member assisted by a Committee. The problems will, in fact, be vastly simpler and appeal more to the average player and the beginner rather than the expert. No prizes are

being offered for the correct answers as before, and readers are requested to compare their answers with the official answers which are being published separately in the same issue. We trust this will prove more interesting to readers.

The experts had their day on 26th January, 1953, when the Thyagaroyanagar Social Club arranged a Par Contest on the lines of the Australian World Olympic of 1951. Sixteen specially selected hands each involving a subtle point of play were set by Mr. K. C. Ramaratnam of the T. S. C. The hands were all very instructive and interesting and covered a variety of safety plays and advanced technique. Much of the success of the event was due to the immense zeal of the tournament conductor, Mr. T. S. Duraiswamy Iyer, who along with the other members of the Committee, Messrs. T. R. Samoo Iyer, P. S. Sundaresa

MARCH—JUNE 1953

Iyer, S. S. S. Iyer and the writer did the necessary spade work in scrutinising the hands, copying and typing out instructions, par details, etc. A review of some of the interesting deals appears elsewhere in this issue.

The popularity of the Par Contest is so great that more and more local clubs are thinking of arranging similar events. The Madras United Club deserve to be congratulated on getting sixteen selected deals, par pointed by Mr. M. J. Sullivan, organiser and author-in-chief of the last Australian Olympic. This event which had been originally scheduled to take place on 23rd May, 1953, was played on 18th July, 1953. Details of the 16 deals and how they were played together with Mr. Sullivan's comments will appear in the next issue. Meanwhile the deals are being sent to Trichy and Coimbatore and we hope that bridge enthusiasts will avail themselves of the opportunity to play these hands.

Four tournaments were conducted in Madras City since our last report, viz., the B. & C. Mills Assistants' Association, the Chennai Andhra Maha Sabha, the Mylapore Club, (as part of their Golden Jubilee celebrations) and the Madras United Club respectively. The complete results were:

41

THE T'NAGAR SOCIAL CLUB PAR CONTEST, 1953.

North-South : Joint Winners :

Sri P. S. N. Sarma
" M. Sunderraj
&
Sri P. S. Reddy
" A. S. Giri

East-West : Joint Winners :

Sri P. S. Natarajan
" V. Kuppaswamy
&
Sri T. K. N. Panikkar
" A. Sreeramalu Naidu

THE B. & C. MILLS ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT, 1953.

Knock-out Team of Four.

Winners : (T' Nagar Social Club)

Sri K. C. Ramaratnam
" T. Ramachandra Rao
" C. Devarajan
" G. K. Gopalaswamy
" T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Runners-up (Vijayawada Team)

Sri P. Tilak
" Subharamiah
" A. Ramamoorthy
" P. R. Sastri.

Progressive Duplicate

Winners (Mudaliar's team)

Sri M. K. Srinivasa Mudaliar
" T. M. Kasturi
" C. Devarajan
" G. Hanumantha Rao.
" A. Sriramulu Chetty.

Runners-up (Modern Institute of Commerce).

Sri S. Narasimhan
 „ S. K. Subramanian
 „ K. Guru Dutt
 „ M. R. Krishnan.

Pairs Progressive :
 North South Winners

Sri Namberumaliah
 „ Ellayya

North-South Runners-up :

Sri R. Sankaran
 „ M. Sunderraj

East-West Winners :

Sri N. S. Shankar
 „ G. K. Chidambaram

East-West Runners-up :

Sri M. Venkateswaran
 „ C. Rajasekharan.

THE CHENNAIPURI ANDHRA MAHA SABHA TOURNAMENT, 1953.

Knock-out Team of Four

Winners : (P. S. Reddi's Team)

Mrs. K. Hashim
 Sri P. S. Reddi
 „ A. S. Giri
 „ B. Hanumantha Rao
 Dr. S. T. Achar.

Runners-up (Gopalaswamy's Team)

Sri G. K. Gopalaswamy
 „ C. Devarajan
 „ T. R. Ramachandra Rao
 „ K. C. Ramaratnam
 „ T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Progressive Duplicate :

Winners (Modern Institute of Commerce)

* Sri S. K. Subramanian

Sri R. Sankaran
 „ P. S. N. Sarma
 „ T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Runners-up : (M. C. O. P.) :

Sri K. Balasubramanian
 „ A. K. Tirumalai
 „ G. V. Raghava Rao
 „ Jagannatha Chetty

Progressive Pairs :

North-South Winners :

Sri M. K. Srinivasa Mudaliar
 & Sri T. M. Kasturi.

North-South Runners-up :

Sri M. R. Krishnan & Sri
 K. Guru Dutt.

East-West Winners :

Sri S. Ethirajulu Chetty
 & Sri Damodara Mudaliar.

East-West Runners-up :

Sri C. Devarajan & Sri G. K.
 Gopalaswamy.

Individual Championship

Winner :

Sri T. R. Samoo Iyer.

Runner-up :

Sri Damodara Mudaliar.

The Individual Championship was a special feature of this year's tournament and a Rolling Trophy has been donated by Sri P. Ramanujiah, for this event.

THE MYLAPORE CLUB (GOLDEN JUBILEE) TOURNAMENT, 1953.

Duplicate Knock-out (U. S. Ramasundaraya Rolling Trophy)

Winners : (Gopalaswamy's Team)

Sri G. K. Gopalaswamy
 „ C. Devarajan

Sri K. C. Ramaratnam
 „ P. S. Sadasivan
 „ T. Ramachandra Rao.

Runners-up (Modern Institute of Commerce)

Sri K. S. Narayana
 „ S. Narasimham
 „ K. Guru Dutt
 „ M. R. Krishnan
 „ K. Sakarama Rao.

Progressive Duplicate

Winners : (Devarajan's Team)

Sri C. Devarajan
 „ S. T. Achar
 „ T. R. Samoo Iyer
 „ G. K. Gopalaswamy
 „ P. S. Sadasivan.

Runners-up : (The Modern Institute of Commerce and the Mylapore Club teams tied for the second place).

Modern Institute of Commerce :

Sri M. Sunderraj
 „ P. S. N. Sarma
 „ R. Sankaran
 „ T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Mylapore Club :

Sri N. Ramaratnam
 „ B. Ramamurthy
 „ G. N. Chari
 „ R. Sundararaman.

Progressive Pairs

North-South Winners :
 (Modern Institute of Commerce).

Sri K. Guru Dutt
 „ M. R. Krishnan.

Runners-up :

Sri A. R. Krishnaswamy
 „ B. Ramamurthy.

East-West Winners : Mylapore Club.

Sri G. N. Chari
 „ R. Balaraman.

Runners-up : Modern Institute of Commerce.

Sri R. Sankaran
 „ S. K. Subramanian.

THE MADRAS UNITED CLUB TOURNAMENT, 1953.

Duplicate Knock-out Team of Four :

Winners : Reddy's team :

Sri P. S. Reddy
 „ A. S. Giri
 Dr. S. T. Achar
 Sri B. Hanumantha Rao
 „ T. K. N. Panikkar

Runners-up :

Ghennapuri Andhra Maha Sabha :

Sri Jagannatha Chetty
 „ Annapurniah
 „ Raghava Rao
 „ Gopal Chetty

Progressive Duplicate

Winners : Modern Institute of Commerce

Sri K. S. Narayana
 „ S. K. Subramanian
 „ R. Sankaran
 „ P. S. N. Sarma.

Runners-up : Sundaram Iyer's team

Sri K. R. Sundaram Iyer
 „ M. R. Duraiswamy
 „ P. S. Sundaresa Iyer
 Dr. K. L. Narayana Rao.

Progressive Pairs :

North-South Winners : (Mylapore Club).

Sri N. Ramaratnam
 „ B. Ramamurthy

North-South Runners-up :
Chennapuri Andhra Maha Sabha.
 Sri Ramanujiah
 „ Subba Rao.
East-West Winners : (T Nagar Social Club)
 Sri G. K. Gopalaswamy
 „ K. C. Ramaratnam.
East-West Runners-up (T Nagar Social Club).
 Sri A. Ganesan
 „ T. S. Chandrasekaran.
Master Pairs : Winners (Modern Institute of Commerce) :
 Sri R. Sankaran
 „ P. S. N. Sarma.
Runners-up (T Nagar Social Club)
 Sri K. C. Ramaratnam
 „ G. K. Gopalaswamy.
Individual Championship :
Winner :
 Sri P. Elliah (M.C.O.P.).
Runner-up :
 Sri S. Narasimham (M.I.C.).
Par Contest :
North-South Winners :
 Sri G. K. Gopalaswami
 „ T. S. Chandrasekaran
Runners-up :
 Dr. S. T. Achar
 Sri B. Hanumantha Rao
East-West Winners :
 Sri R. Sankaran
 „ S. K. Subramaniam
Runners-up :
 Sri K. C. Ramaratnam
 „ T. R. Ramachandra Rao
 Two mofussil tournaments were also held during the summer

months, one at Tanjore by the Tanjore Union Club, and the other at Karaikudi by the Town Club, Karaikudi. Both were well contested and all the leading teams from the City and the Districts competed in the various events. The Madras team led by Sri A. M. R. Davidar swept the boards in all the events in the Tanjore tournament, but the mofussilites had their own in the Karaikudi tournament.

TANJORE UNION CLUB TOURNAMENT, 1953.

Duplicate Team of Four Knock out :
Winners : (Madras Team).

Sri A.M.R. Davidar
 „ P. S. Reddy
 „ Hanumantha Rao
 „ Giri
Runners up : (Tiruvayyaru Team)

Sri G. Sundaram
 „ V. Subramania Iyer
 „ Panchapakesan
 „ Dr. T. M. Pillai

Master Pairs :

Winners :
 Sri A. M. R. Davidar
 „ Hanumantha Rao

Runners-up :
 Sri P. S. Reddy
 „ Giri

Progressive Pairs :

N.S. Winners :
 Sri A. M. R. Davidar
 „ Hanumantha Rao

E. W. Winners :
 Sri P. S. Reddy
 „ Giri

The Town Club, Karaikudi, held its first Presidency Contract Bridge Tournaments on 15-7-'53. and the following four days. The matches were held in the spacious hostel of the Alagappa College, Karaikudi. In the unavoidable absence of Dr. Alagappa Chettiar, who had kindly consented to preside and distribute the prizes, Sri Sa. Ganesan, presided and distributed the prizes to the Winners and Runners-up on 20-5-'53. Teams from Gobi, Tiruchi, Tanjore, Madura, Virudhunagar, Kothamangalam, Devakottai, and Karaikudi took part in the Tournaments. At the end, Sri M.R.S. Manickavel Chettiar, President of the Tournament Committee, entertained all the competitors to Tea.

The following are the Winners and Runners-up in the various events :

Duplicate knock-out, Team of four:
Winners (Kothamangalam Nehru Club) :

Sri L. Natesan
 „ Rm. Kuttian Chettiar
 „ Rm. Olagappan
 „ S.Ry.Sa. Muthia Chettiar

Runners-up : (Devakottai United Club).

Sri S.T. Chary
 „ T. Sundararajan
 „ C. Srinivasan
 „ A. Sundararajan
 „ T. R. Sundararajan

Progressive Duplicate.

Winners (Gobichettipalayam) :

Sri K. R. Sundararajan
 „ G. K. Nanjunda Iyer
 „ G. N. Jarayaman
 „ J. Subramaniam

Runners-up (Union Club, Tiruchi) :

Sri M. A. Arunachalam Chettiar
 „ L.Ct.Sp.L. Lakshmanan Chettiar
 „ R. Rethinam
 „ Cherian

Master Pairs :

Winners (City Club, Tiruchi) :

Sri E. N. Mylappan
 „ A. K. Sherifuddin

Runners-up (Union Club, Tiruchi) :

Sri M.A. Arunachalam Chettiar
 „ L. Ct. Sp. L. Lakshmanan Chettiar

Progressive Pairs.

Winners (North-South) :
Devakottai United Club) :

Sri C. Srinivasan
 „ A. Sundararajan

Runners-up (Madura Union club) :

Sri Ramalingam
 „ Sundararajan

Winners (East-West) Gobichettipalayam) :

Sri G. N. Jayaraman
 „ J. Subramaniam

Runners-up (Nehru Club, Kothamangalam) :

Sri N. Ar. Arunachalam
Chettiar
,, Ramánarayan

MADRAS CITY LEAGUE TOURNAMENT, 1953.

Twelve teams have competed for the annual League tournament organised by the League Com-

mittee. The first round matches were played on 14th June, 1953, and the series will be played every week, with a few exceptions, till 5th September, 1953. All the local teams have entered for the event and it is hoped that they will put up a spirited fight this year and try to prevent the T'Nagar Social Club, Champions for the last two sessions, from winning for the third year in succession.

STANDARD BRIDGE

by M. HARRISON-GRAY

DEALER : EAST

Game all

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

a defiant Six, which was passed out.

It transpired that this pair were using Four Clubs as a form of Blackwood. South's Four Hearts being the conventional response to show one Ace, a fact overlooked by North. The slam went down, however, after the bright lead of ♣ A followed by ♣ 2.

A misunderstanding over the meaning of a call of Four No-Trumps is apt to prove costly.

The three provisions listed in last week's article are reasonably simple and cover the great majority of cases where possible ambiguity might arise.

South for instance, opens One Diamond, North bids One Spade and South Two No-Trumps. North holds :

♦ K Q 9 6 3 ; K ♥ Q 10 7 ;
♦ 3 ♣ A 3 2.

A bid of Four No-Trumps will be read as non-conventional, as all three of the provisions to this effect are in operation. He should first bid Three Hearts ; If South's next call is Three Spades Four Spades or Four Hearts North can make an un-

The spectators nearly had heart-failure during the bidding of this freak hand from one of the matches in the women's event at the 1950 European Championships.

South and West passed, North bid One Diamond, South Two Spades, North Three Clubs, South Three Spades, North Four Clubs and South Four Hearts, which North passed ! Obviously a costly misunderstanding — but East obliged by doubling. South hurriedly bid Five Clubs and North

mistakable Blackwood inquiry, after Aces.

Controversial situations sometimes arise from a forcing take-out. After One Heart—Three Diamonds. Three No-Trumps, Four No-Trumps, some players maintain that the last bid is natural. This is quite wrong. Responder may well have forced on the strength of exceptional support for Hearts or he may have a set-up Diamond suit. Unless Four No-Trumps can be used in its Blackwood sense, the player has no way of checking up on his partner's Aces. His hand might be this :

♠ 6 ♥ A K 8 6 3 ♦ K Q 10 8
♣ A K 2.

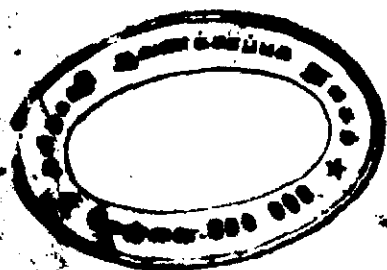
In this case responder had no time to agree Hearts before using Blackwood. The next situation is different : One Heart—Two

Spades ; Two No-Trumps—Four No-Trumps. Here responder has passed up the opportunity to support Hearts or rebid Spades. He is evidently trying to coax opener into bidding a slam in No-Trumps if his hand is better than a minimum.

Another situation : One Diamond — Two Spades ; Three Diamonds — Three No-Trumps ; Four No-Trumps. Opener's hand:

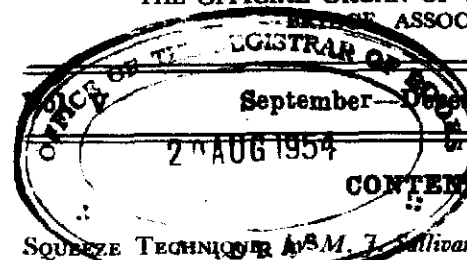
♠ J 3 ♥ A 6 4 ♦ A K 10 7 5 3
♣ Q 6

This example appeared in a recent magazine article which is likely to cause confusion. It was suggested that Four-No-Trumps should be treated as natural, as otherwise it was impossible to find a suitable bid. The writer fails to appreciate that a natural raise to Four No-Trumps on this hand is an absurd underbid.



THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH INDIAN
BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



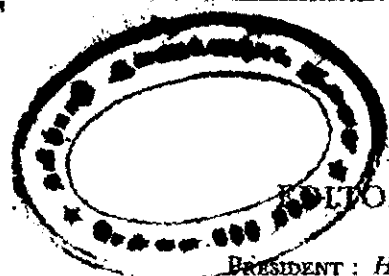
September-December 1953

No. 3

CONTENTS

	PAGE
SQUEEZE TECHNIQUE by M. J. Sullivan.....	3
LIGHT BUT NOT SOUND, by P. S. N. Sarma.....	10
THE M. U. C. PAR CONTEST—DEALS.....	17
CULBERTSON IN A NUTSHELL, by Teaks.....	30
BRIDGE PLUS BADAMKSHEER, by X.....	39
TEST YOUR SKILL—PROBLEMS, by P. S. N. Sarma.....	44
IN DEFENCE OF KIBITZERS, by Kibitzer.....	46
TEST YOUR SKILL—SOLUTIONS, by P. S. N. Sarma.....	47
A REVIEW OF THE M. U. C. PAR CONTEST, by Saturn.....	52
PSYCHICS, by Syke.....	54
NEWS SECTION, Edited by T. S. Chandrasekaran.....	55
A NOTE ON THE SCORE.....	61

The *Indian Bridge World* is published quarterly by Mr. T. S. Chandrasekaran, M.A., Honorary Secretary of the Association, and printed by Mr. N. RAMARATNAM, M.A., B.L., at The Madras Law Journal Press, Mylapore, Madras. Annual subscription—Rs. 3 for individual members, with an Entrance Fee of Re. 1. Reprinting of contents in any form without permission is not allowed. Advertising rates may be had upon application to the Business Editor, *Indian Bridge World*, c/o Thyagarayanagar Social Club, Thyagarayanagar, Madras 17.



EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Rajagopalan.

GENERAL EDITOR: Mr. P. S. N. Sarma,

BUSINESS EDITOR: Mr. N. Ramaratnam.

OTHER MEMBERS

Mr. P. S. SUNDARESAN

„ J. SUBBUSWAMI

„ K. C. RAMARATNAM

„ T. RAMACHANDRA RAO

„ R. SANKARAN

„ M. SUNDERRAJ

„ T. R. SAMOO IYER

„ T. S. KRISHNAMOORTHY

„ B. HANUMANTHA RAO

„ S. S. S. AIYER

„ T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Vol. V

September—December 1953

No. 3

SQUEEZE TECHNIQUE

By M. J. SULLIVAN, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.

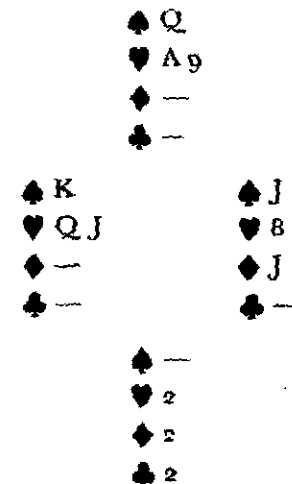
THE SQUEEZE undoubtedly is one of the most fascinating, effective, and spectacular, weapons in the armoury of any declarer. A thorough knowledge of the potency of this powerful ally makes it easy for a resourceful player to eliminate entirely the necessity to take many a losing finesse—while even the stiff hurdles which adverse distributions so often provide can frequently be surmounted by an intelligent application of squeeze technique.

to the squeezes which arise most frequently in actual everyday play. In every instance, the contract may be either Clubs or No-trump. Provided South is on lead, the declarer (either North or South) by laying down the squeeze card (♣ 2), can win every remaining trick with ease in examples 1, 3, 4 and 6.

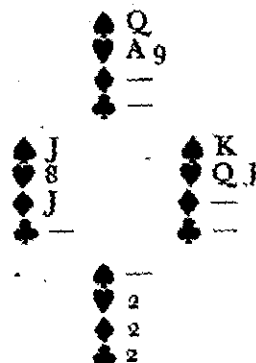
(1)

A really comprehensive analysis of squeeze principles and procedure would require the entire space of an enlarged edition of this magazine. In the limited space of the current article, therefore, it will not be possible to include more than a very brief summary of principles, supplemented by a few useful hints on technique.

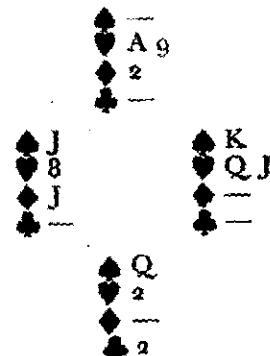
The following diagrams, portray the end plays incidental



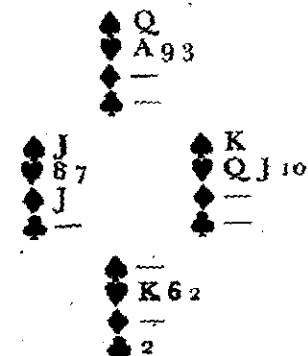
(2)



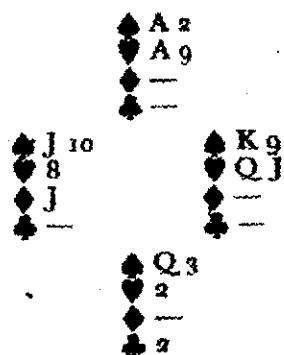
(3)



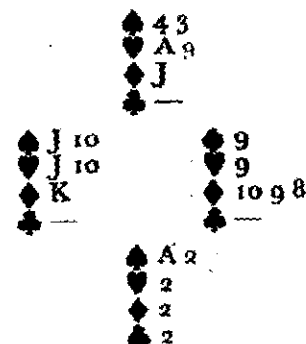
(4)



(5)



(6)



IMPORTANCE OF POSITION.

No. 2 diagram depicts an endplay where, because ♠ Q is wrongly placed, no squeeze against East is possible. To ensure an East-West trick, East simply discards from the same suit as North does. But, transpose ♠ Q and ♥ 2 (as in diagram 3), and East is brought inexorably into the jaws of the vice.

This little analysis of the situations depicted in examples 2 and 3 reveals the fundamental

principle that, to squeeze the player sitting *under* the squeeze card (East in those cases) over two suits, the one-card threat (with one special exception) must be located in the same hand as the squeeze card.

The player sitting *over* the squeeze card (West in those cases), however, may be subjected to the agency of a two-suit squeeze regardless of where the one-card threat happens to be located. Take another look at diagram 1. In this situation, West is squeezed with the one-card threat nestling opposite the squeeze card. But West can be squeezed just as effectively if ♠ Q is put into the South hand and ♠ 2 transferred to North.

SPLIT THREATS.

Regarding the afore-mentioned exception to the impossibility of applying a two-suit squeeze to the player sitting under the squeeze card unless the one-card threat is located in the same hand as the squeeze card, study the layout of diagram 4.

In that diagram, although the one-card threat is not so located, an effective two-suit squeeze can be operated on East. This is due entirely to what is known technically as a split threat—a term used to designate a holding of a suit which contains a top card in either hand as well as

at least a three-card length in the portion opposite the one-card threat. Note the existence of these requirements provided by the distribution of the Heart suit in diagram 4. And, if North's ♥ 9 or ♥ 3 is replaced, by, say, a losing Diamond, the position, fundamentally, would not be altered.

Split threats derive their potency from the fact that a card of the suit may, if necessary, be discarded on the squeeze card, without diminishing the power of the threats.

THE VIENNA COUP.

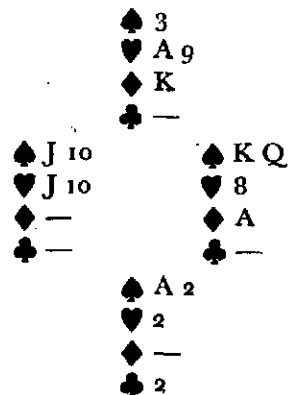
Observe that, in example 5, East merely discards from the same suit as North to avoid being squeezed. But observe also what the position would have been had ♠ A been played off earlier—the exact situation depicted in diagram 3. This early play of a top card which, at the same time, sets up a card in an opponent's hand as the master card of the suit, known as the Vienna Coup, is also a fundamental principle of squeeze technique. Visualise the cards that will remain opposite your squeeze card when same is led and, if at that stage, it is necessary to bare a top card in order to retain the entry-threat intact, play off that top card while still holding entry to the (other) hand containing the squeeze card.

ENTRY-THREATS ESSENTIAL.

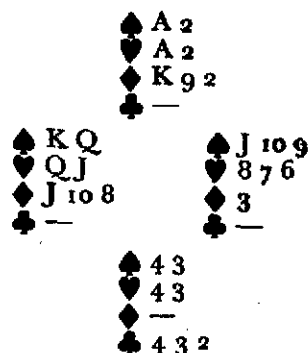
Another principle, very obvious in all these situations, is that a two-card or longer entry-threat must always be located in the hand opposite the squeeze card. Note that, in every diagram, this particular requirement is met by the distribution of the Heart suit.

The five first diagrams portray the commonest situations where in one particular adversary may be squeezed over two suits, i.e., simple squeezes. Situations in which either, or both, opponents may be squeezed over three suits, such as those depicted in diagram 6 above or in diagrams 7 and 8 below, are termed complex. So numerous is this family of complex squeezes and so radically different are the characteristics of its various members, that, because of space limitations, nothing beyond passing reference to them can be attempted here.

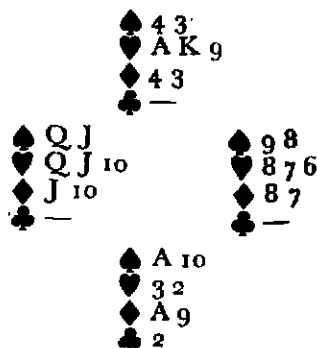
(7)



(8)



(9)



THREE-SUIT SQUEEZES.

If, without sacrificing vital threats or entry-threats, it is not possible to bring the combined hands within one trick of contract, no squeeze exists unless one adversary is holding the guards in three suits and the combined hands are—or can be—brought to within two tricks of the contract. Diagram 6 illustrates such a situation. Indispensable requirements for such a squeeze nearly always are

a two-card, or longer, entry threat in each hand together with a one-card threat over the player to be squeezed. In the example referred to, West is helpless because of the presence of these threats. Give West's hand to East, however, and the latter cannot be squeezed. But transpose ♦ J and ♦ 2 in the North-South hands, and East will then be as impotent as is West in the actual diagram!

Example 7 is one of the commonest of several situations where in both opponents can be squeezed over three suits. A basic requirement for this type of squeeze is that the guards in two suits must be held by separate opponents, with each of them holding a guard in the remaining suit. Note, that in this diagram, West has the Heart guard, East the Diamond guard, and both of them a Spade guard.

The principle to remember about this particular squeeze is that the two-card (or longer) threat against both opponents must be held over the adversary who holds the single guard. Transpose the East-West hands in the diagram and a squeeze will develop only if the Heart and Spade suits in the North-South hands are also transposed.

REPEATED SQUEEZES.

In some complex situations, an opponent is subjected to repeated squeezes. Diagram 8 illustrates

such a situation. Clubs are trumps and South has still three of them remaining. When a trump is led, West, to prevent Diamonds being established by a ruff, is squeezed out of a Heart or Spade. Dummy discards from the same suit and then cashes the Ace thereof. This is the Vienna Coup which leaves East with the master card of the suit. ♦ K is then cashed for a discard from the other major suit in South. A Diamond ruff, followed by the last trump, squeezes both opponents inexorably.

GENERAL HINTS.

1. If the hands are, or can only be brought to within two tricks of contract, a squeeze can develop only if one opponent holds the guards in three suits.

2. If the hands are, or can be brought to, within one trick of contract, it may be possible to squeeze either opponent over two suits, or both of them over three.

3. If more than one or two (as the case may be) seemingly inescapable losers are held, the count must be rectified early in the play of the hand by deliberately losing one or more tricks. A hold-up on the opening lead is often effective for this purpose. (There are exceptions to this requirement but they occur so rarely that they may be ignored for practical purposes).

4. If it is apparent that both opponents hold guards in a suit

where it is necessary to establish a one-card threat against a particular opponent, the guard or guards in the hand of the other opponent must either be removed or ruffed out.

5. Before playing to the very first trick, visualise the discard that will have to be made from the opposite hand when, later on, the squeeze card is led. If, to retain intact the entry-threat in that hand, it then will be necessary to bare another top card there, unblock by playing off that card as soon as possible (Vienna Coup).

6. Always choose a redundant card from the opposite hand when discarding on the 'squeeze card. Should it be necessary to discard from one of the threats embodied there, select the suit which intervening opponent *has not* discarded. Then *play immediately* the suit which he *has* discarded.

7. Exercise care in choosing the squeeze card, which, usually, is the last card of a long suit in declarer's own hand. Occasionally, however, it may be the last card of a shorter suit in the dummy, after declarer's own long suit has been entirely, or partially, played out.

DEFENCE.

If the declarer has been dealt a true squeeze, defenders can do nothing to ward off the pressure.

In many cases, however, they can completely frustrate declarer's attempt to set up a squeeze situation; in others, by co-operative discarding, they can avert the mortification of discovering too late that they have been hoaxed and victimised by a pseudo-squeeze or, equally galling, by a squeeze which, although ultimately perfect, could have been killed earlier.

Main principles of defence against impending, or pseudo-squeezes are :

1. Attacking the threats, especially the entry-threats, at every opportunity.

2. Refusing to assist declarer to rectify the count.

3. Abstention from discarding a first, second, third, or even fourth-round guard of any suit that partner may have to unguard in order to hold others. It is sometimes vital to hang on like grim death to an innocuous-looking holding such as 7-2 or 6-3-2 of a suit in order to relieve the pressure on partner's hand.

4. When sitting *over* dummy, avoid shedding a guard to the entry-threat reposing there; if sitting *under* dummy, hold the guards in the entry-threat and/or single threat, suits that declarer is actually, or probably, holding. As a general rule, when confronted with the problem of which

suit to unguard, discard from the suit in which the threat is held *over* you. In conformity with this principle, when, in diagram 9, Declarer leads the ♣ 2 squeeze card, West sheds a Heart and not a Spade or Diamond. Note that, if West is unwise enough to part with either a Spade or Diamond, South has merely to play the unguarded suit immediately to win all the

tricks; but if West follows the principle enumerated and sheds a Heart, North-South win an extra trick in Hearts but lose a Spade or Diamond at the end.

If, in consequence of this article, even a few readers improve their knowledge of squeeze technique, it will not have been written in vain.

LIGHT BUT NOT SOUND

By P. S. N. SARMA.

With greater specialisation in bidding, some of the old conventions are tending to disappear. In fashionable circles, opening bid requirements, like the bathing costume, are getting progressively abbreviated. We shall soon have the spectacle of experts opening the bidding in order to advertise the weakness of their hands and *not* to show their strength, even as the Bikini is worn to serve the purpose of clothing in reverse.

I don't like the Bikini, and I don't like the light opening bid. I have no pretensions to being an expert, and readers may be tempted to compare me to a bull in a china shop when I venture into a subject on which the high priests have pronounced judgment. Call me a presumptuous *parvenu* if you like, or a hide-bound die-hard, but my aversion to the light opening bid is based on what I consider sound reasoning, and in the following paragraphs I shall try to substantiate my view.

Having expressed that view, however, I must qualify it with a number of if's and but's.

One is that a shaded bid is passable strategy in progressive bridge, but an unsound practice in total point duplicate and in rubber bridge. In the former, one is not bothered about game prospects, but must strive after

the match-point bid—game, slam, part-score, or sacrifice. In rubber bridge, on the other hand, and to a great extent in aggregate team-of-four, game is the main objective, and no great harm can result from passing up an indifferent hand. In progressive bridge, again, you may get doubled at a low contract and lose 1100 points; the result is only a bottom score which can be neutralised by a top score in a subsequent deal. But to lose 1100 points in rubber bridge or aggregate team-of-four might very well mean losing the match altogether. A light opening may lead to a heavy penalty. It is playing with fire.

A sub-minimal opening can be made, and is made, in third position. The *raison d'être* of the shaded third hand bid is that the opener is under no obligation to rebid, and no response made by partner is forcing and may be passed. But the shaded bid must be intelligent. In the words of Goren, "In third position, the bidding may be opened with as little as 11 points, *provided a fairly good suit is held*" (italics mine). The qualification serves to avert major tragedies. For instance, it is perfectly sensible to bid One Spade in third position on:

♠ A J 10 8 4, ♥ J 2, ♦ A 10 5 3, ♣ J 3, but it is stupid to open the bidding on:

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

In fourth position also one may shade the requirements a bit, because one need not rebid. In match points events in particular the light opening may be effective, because the high card strength is most probably distributed evenly round the table, and whoever gets in with a bid might win the part score and the match point. It follows that for the fourth hand opening to be profitable, the opener's strength must be in the major suits, as otherwise, opponents can outbid him and secure the part score themselves. It is very poor tactics to open the bidding on this holding in fourth position:

♠ A 8 7, ♥ A 10, ♦ 8 6 4 2 ♣ A 10 9 7. In the deal from which the hand is taken, South opened the bidding after three passes, and opponents bid and made Two Hearts, the complete deal being:

♠ Q 6 5
♥ K 7 3
♦ Q 9 7
♣ J 6 5 4

♠ K J 10 4
♥ Q 9 8 6 4
♦ A J 2
♣ 2

♠ 9 3 2
♥ J 4 2
♦ K 10 5
♣ K Q 8 3

♠ A 8 7
♥ A 10
♦ 8 6 4 2
♣ A 10 9 7

There are several reasons why a light opening bid in first and

second position should be avoided. The first and most elementary is that the bid may be challenged at the one level and partner may turn up with one of those hands which ought to be banned by law. To go three down in a contract of one in a suit is a blow not only to a player's morale, but also to his *amour propre*. It is indefensible because it is so easily avoidable.

I give below as an illustration the following deal from the final of one of the City tournaments in which East, dealer, opened the bidding, and East-West altogether made four bids on their sparse holdings, before North stepped in and doubled "for keeps".

EAST dealer:

EAST-WEST vulnerable:

♠ 10 4
♥ A K J 2
♦ K Q 9
♣ A K J 9

♠ 3 2
♥ 8 6 5 4 3
♦ A 8 7 5 2
♣ 3

♠ A K 9 7 5
♥ 10 9
♦ 4
♣ Q 8 6 5 4

♠ Q J 8 6
♥ 7
♦ J 10 6 3
♣ 10 7 2

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 C	Pass	1 D	Pass
1 S	Pass	1 N T	D'ble
2 S	Pass	Pass	D'ble

On a Diamond lead the contract was set three tricks, instead of two, because, as often happens, declarer tried to restrict his losses to one trick.

The second, and also somewhat elementary, reason why one should not open light first or second in hand is that partner may make a bid that is forcing by all the rules, and one may not be able to bid further without courting disaster. Suppose you open one Heart on this hand:

♠ A 8 3, ♥ K 8 7 5 3, ♦ 10 2, ♣ A 5 4, and partner responds Two Diamonds, what is your next bid? The sketchy Heart suit is not worth a rebid. Two No-trumps is a strong bid unwarranted by the hand. A pass is out of the question, for partner's Two Diamonds is forcing for one round—unless the partnership is playing a secret system of its own, which, of course, would be unethical. The response might have been made on anything between two and three and a half honour tricks. A game or even a part score is out of the question on this hand unless partner can produce a regular opening hand. If he has such a hand, he will open the bidding, or double your left hand opponent's opening, and then is the moment for valour; at your first call, discretion must rule and valour can wait.

Returning to the hand let us assume that you open and partner responds Two Diamonds.

As the least of several evils you will choose Two Hearts as your rebid. Partner will raise to four holding:

♠ 9 6 4, ♥ A 9 2, ♦ K Q 8 6 3, ♣ K 3. On a Spade lead the contract will go down a minimum of one trick, and partner will not feel too satisfied with you.

The situation could be infinitely worse. Partner's response to your one Heart may be one No-trump with the minimum requirements for that bid. It may be doubled for a very heavy penalty. And this time partner will make no effort to restrain his language.

It is not only the chimerical game that will result from an unsound opening, but also the chimerical slam. I remember two almost consecutive deals in a practice team-of-four game. The North-South hands in the first deal were:

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

In Room No. 1, South opened One Heart, North bid Four No-trumps (Blackwood), South Five Diamonds, and North Six Hearts. In Room No. 2, South passed, North opened one Heart and South bid Four Hearts and that closed the auction. A Club

was led in both rooms, and the player who bid a slam finessed the Knave of Spades as the only chance of making the contract, lost and went down two instead of one.

North's slam effort was perfectly in order, so was the play of the Spade suit. The finesse might have succeeded and the contract made—it was a fifty-fifty chance. (When a finesse like this succeeds, one of the paradoxes of bridge, namely, that it is the bad bid which sometimes nets the best score, is illustrated. En passant, one wonders if hands like the above do not lend support to the view held by many that the slam bonus is a sort of unearned income and the one flaw in total point duplicate which is acknowledged on all hands to be the best test of skill so far devised). Even if the finesse wins, South's opening bid remains a bad bid.

This was better illustrated in the other deal.

NORTH	SOUTH
♠ A 2	♠ 7 5
♥ Q 9 4	♥ A J 8 7 5 3
♦ A 9 8 2	♦ J 7 6 4
♣ Q 7 3	♣ A

The optimistic South again opened the bidding, and this time the bidding was:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	5 ♥	

The contract was off by one trick. At the other table the bidding was exactly as in the previous deal.

The team-of-four final referred to earlier provided another injudicious opening bid by the losing side. For the losers South, dealer, opened the bidding with One Spade and North was not very much to blame for pushing the bidding up to the six level.

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

Six Spades was off by two tricks. At the other table West opened with One Club (the light opening again, this time in the dark club suit. Reverting to our sartorial analogy, one never knows whether the Club suit is a lounge suit or a bathing suit until more of it is revealed). North doubled, South bid Two Spades, North Three and South Four—sound, sensible bids.

Yet another reason why you should not indulge in the light opening bid is that partner may double an overcall made to your left, and you will be in a quandary. Technically the double is a penalty double, and you are under no obligation to take it out. But when technically your

opening is incorrect, is the double entirely your partner's business? It is not. You are morally responsible for the double in equal measure with your partner, because by opening the bidding you have promised a minimum of defensive values, and it is on the strength of those values your partner has acted. Therefore, when you have opened on a poor hand, it becomes your duty to take out the double, but, then, is it safe for you to bid again? For all you know, if you do, the boot may be on the other foot. Your partner might have doubled the overcall on a strong hand with all suits well padded, in which case, your take-out may not cost you much, though partner will surely stick his neck out and bid a game which may not be there. On the other hand, partner might have doubled purely on trump strength denying support for your suit, in which case your take-out may prove disastrous. How are you to distinguish the one case from the other? It is a difficult problem, no doubt, but it is a problem of your own making. You could have avoided it if you had remembered that magic word which averts so many tragedies in bridge, "Pass."

To illustrate the foregoing, let us suppose South opens One Heart holding:

♠ K J 6 5, ♥ A Q 5 4 3, ♦ J 8 7 3, ♣ None. West overcalls

Two Clubs, East-West being vulnerable. North doubles. The complete deal may be:

♠ 3	♠ A 4 2
♥ K J 10 8	♥ 7 6 2
♦ 9 6 5	♦ K Q 10
♣ K Q 7 6 4	♣ A 9 8 3
♠ K J 6 5	♠ Q 10 9 8 7
♥ A Q 5 4 3	♥ 9
♦ J 8 7 3	♦ A 4 2
♣ None	♣ J 10 5 2

If South passes, East-West make Two Clubs. If South bids over the double, North leaps to game as much in anger as on the strength of his cards, and the contract is defeated.

Suppose the deal was:

♠ A Q 10	♠ 9 3 2
♥ 2	♥ 10
♦ 10 9 2	♦ A 6 5
♣ A Q 10 5 3 2	♣ K J 9 8 6 4
♠ K J 6 5	♠ 8 7 4
♥ A Q 5 4 3	♥ K J 9 8 7 6
♦ J 8 7 3	♦ K Q 4
♣ None	♣ 7

If South passes the double, East-West can make Two Clubs by average play, or go down one by bad play. If South takes out,

the take-out will prove worse than the double. In either case North-South will not get a good score, because if South had passed East-West would have bid a misfit inconveniently high and got doubled.

Of all the arguments advanced in favour of light opening bids, the most fallacious is that it will prevent opponents bidding their hands to the maximum. To presume that the other fellow is a mug is very bad bridge. When slams are bid and made by the veriest tyros regardless of opponents' opening bids, it is ridiculous to think that your opening will deter anybody. It may, on occasion, act as a brake on opponents' bidding, but it would be to their advantage. Whereas without your bid they would have hurtled headlong into an unmakeable game or slam, your light opening may be the red light that helps them to stop at the right contract.

The light opener always excuses himself on the plea that his rebid shows the weakness of his hand. He has a variety of these rebids: (1) Pass, (2) One No-trump, (3) rebid of his suit (4) raising partner's suit one level higher, (5) showing a new suit at a cheap level. But what he overlooks is that there is no rebid so weak that it can efface the guarantee of values held out by his opening bid. He actually practices a fraud on his partner. I

would define the light opening bid as a confidence trick played on partner, that is, when it is not an attempt at suicide. The opening bid promises certain values, on the strength of which partner bids games and slams or doubles opponents' bids. But when the game is not on the cards, when the slam is imaginary, and the double acts as a boomerang, partner feels badly let down. He may react badly if he is temperamental; he does not know whether you are a real lion or a suckling dove when you open; he suspects every bid you make; he is wary of games and slams; will not double opponents' calls, because he won't be knowing whether you hold 1½ tricks or 3 tricks and whether the partnership is standing on its feet or on its head. Worse still, he may develop hypertension, or give up bridge altogether.

I must hasten to correct an impression I may have given that I am a dyed-in-the-wool rubber bridge player with an aversion for part scores. Far from it. I yield to none in my admiration for those who bid part scores—the right part scores. Part score bidding is a real test of bidding skill—as much as the short single is a test of batting skill. But the light opener somewhat overdoes this business of part scores. He is so much obsessed with half-a-loaf that he will either throw away the whole chunk when it is there for

The INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

the asking, or in chasing the half-loaf he will stumble into the soup. The light opening is not an aid to part score bidding—it is a positive obstacle. The part score bidder has a fine array of weapons in his armoury: third and fourth hand openings,

the inferential overcall when opponents' bidding stops low, the take-out double after a preliminary pass, and so on. The shaded opening bid is not one of them. It is suited only for *hara-kiri*.

THE M. U. C. PAR CONTEST—DEALS

Deals Set By M. J. SULLIVAN, Australia.

HAND 1

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

Dealer: North. Vul: Nil

BIDDING PAR

N-S, for finishing in 3 N.T.s or 4 ♥s: 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING.

North East South West

1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass

3 N.T.s Pass Pass Pass

North to play hand in 3 N.T.s

♠ Q must be led by East.

INSTRUCTIONS.

Nil.

PLAYING PAR

N-S, for taking 9 tricks, But only if a second diamond trick was established before hearts were played: 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING: Good bidders should encounter no difficulty in reaching

3 N.T.s or 4♥s on the North-South cards.

PLAY: ESTABLISHMENT OF NEEDED TRICK WHILE KILLING DANGEROUS ENTRY.

North can count 9 sure tricks if heart finesse succeeds but only 8 if it loses; in latter contingency, another trick will need to be developed. This vital trick can be found easily in the diamond suit and should be set up (as insurance against a losing finesse in hearts) before East's spades become established. Lacking any entry to dummy outside the heart suit, North must play safe by conceding a trick to ♠ K immediately—followed by a hold up in spades prior to taking the heart finesse. Opening lead should be won and ♦ Q or ♦ 9 laid down. This is better than ♦ A followed by Q or 9 because West might hold five or more diamonds plus ♥ K.

HAND 2

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

Dealer : East. Vul : N-S

BIDDING PAR

E-W for finishing in 3 N.Ts :
2 Points.

E-W, for finishing in 5 ♣s :
1 Point.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

East	South	West	North
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 N.Ts	Pass	3 N.Ts	Pass
Pass	Pass		

East to play hand in 3 N. Ts
South must lead ♠ 4

INSTRUCTIONS

North.—Take ♠ A, then lead
♦ K, followed by ♦ 2 if declarer
holds off ; Hold up ♣ A.

South.—No Instruction.

East.—No Instruction.

PLAYING PAR

E-W, for taking 9 tricks
But only if 4 tricks were won
in hearts : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

Bidding : Game is a justifiable
final contract, with 3 N. Ts pre-
ferable to 5 ♣s.

PLAY: FRUSTRATING A DEFENSIVE
ENTRY KILLING MANOEUVRE.

Opponents having knocked out
dummy's only side entry, East-
should perceive futility of count-
ing more than one club trick.
That trick, plus three in dia-
monds and one in spades, totals
but five. Therefore, to make

the hand, four tricks will need
to be won in hearts. The ♥ 9
must be finessed immediately
and dummy re-entered with a
club for a subsequent finesse of
♥ J.

The defence against a club
contract to ensure three defens-
ive tricks is worth studying.
A heart opening, trump-Ace hold
up and another heart onslaught
can hold West to ten tricks.

HAND 3

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

Dealer : South. Vul : E-W

BIDDING PAR

E-W for finishing in 4 ♠s :
2 Points

OFFICIAL BIDDING

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 N.T.	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	5 ♠ !!	Pass	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

East to play hand in 6 ♠s
South must lead ♠ 8

INSTRUCTIONS

Nil.

PLAYING PAR

HAND 4

E-W, for 12 tricks, *But only if*
hearts were finessed and ruffed, a
diamond discarded on ♣ K, and
the diamond finesse NOT taken :
4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING : The 6 ♠s Official
Contract is, of course, ridiculously
optimistic. Desperation bidding
such as that outlined in the Offi-
cial Sequence would be justi-
fiable only in a contest where
East-West were trailing badly.

PLAY: TIMING, PLUS FINESSE- REFUSAL.

To fulfil this precarious slam,
Declarer (East) obviously must
find favourable distribution.
Twelve tricks can be counted (six
trumps, two hearts including a
successful finesse, one heart ruff,
two top clubs and ♦ A) : Correct
procedure is : ♠ K, ♥ Q, ♥ A,
♣ A, heart ruff and discarding
♦ 2.

Up to this stage, the Goddess of
Distribution has been truly kind
and should be asked for nothing
more. Any temptation to seek
an overtrick by a finesse in dia-
monds must be resisted, parti-
cularly after the danger signal
of ♠ J from North.

If ♦ Q is finessed, South can
take the King to lead a club for
North to ruff with ♠ J, thereby
establishing South's seven-spot as
the setting trick.

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

Dealer : West. Vul : All

BIDDING PAR

E-W, for finishing in 4 ♠s :
3 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West to play hand in 4 ♠s.

North must lead ♥ J, and
South must play ♥ K, ♥ A and
♥ 10.

INSTRUCTIONS

Nil.

PLAYING PAR

E-W, for taking 10 tricks,
But only if ♣ A was played on first
round of that suit for a subsequent
ruff and discard : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

BIDDING : Despite the 3½ plus
Honour Tricks, the sterile
4-3-3-3 distribution of the
East hand should deter that
player from any slam probe

after West's rebid has shown a hand of minimum strength.

PLAY : COUNTING THE
OPPONENTS' HANDS.

Shutting out North by a high ruff of the third round of hearts, West draws two rounds of trumps and three of diamonds. South now can be counted for exactly two cards in clubs. Regardless of whether or not those two cards include the King, the play of ♠ A, followed by a lead of a low club towards the Queen, ensures success for West provided the Queen is played if North does not produce the King. If North has the King, the Queen will win; if South has the King, the trick will be lost but, on South's enforced heart return, West can ruff in one hand while discarding a losing club in the other.

HAND 5

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

Dealer : North. Vul : N-S

BIDDING PAR.

N-S, for finishing below game in either spades or N.T.s : 2 points
N-S, for finishing in 3 N.T.s : 1 Point.

OFFICIAL BIDDING.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♠	2 ♣	Pass	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

NORTH to play hand in 4 ♠
EAST must lead ♥ K

INSTRUCTIONS.

West : If possible, lead third round of trumps.

East : Lead ♠ 4 to Trick 2 ; avoid leading ♥ s ; do not underlead ♣ A.

North : Hold up on ♥ K.

PLAYING PAR.

N-S, for 10 tricks, *But only if* diamonds were manipulated to produce a heart ruff in dummy : 5 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

Bidding : The Official Contract of 4 ♠ s, being altogether too high, naturally carries no points for bidding : 3 N.T.s, however, although rather venturesome, has been accorded minor recognition.

PLAY : CONJURING UP
A VITAL TRICK.

North, with eight tricks on top, **needs two more.** The diamond suit, if it breaks evenly, can

supply but one of these. By a process of elimination in analysis, North should eventually perceive that one distribution only (actual E-W layout in trumps and diamonds) will permit development of 10 tricks.

Declarer should win Trick 2 with a trump honour, then play high and low in diamonds, regain the lead, enter dummy with a trump (if not already there), finesse ♦ 9, discard a heart from dummy on the remaining high diamond, cash ♥ A and ruff a heart. The rest is routine.

HAND 6

♠ A J 4	
♥ K 6 3	
♦ A 8 5 4	
♣ Q 7 6	
♠ K 10 9 6 3 2	♠ Q 8 7 5
♥ Q J 8 2	♥ 9 4
♦ None	♦ J 10 9 7
♣ K 10 3	♣ 9 5
♠ None	
♥ A 10 7 5	
♦ K Q 6 2	
♣ A J 8 4 2	

Dealer : East. Vul : E-W.

BIDDING PAR.

N-S, for finishing in 4 ♥ s, 5 ♣ s or 5 ♦ s : 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING.

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♠	2 N.T.s.
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 N.T.s.
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

SOUTH to play hand in 4 ♥ s
WEST must lead ♠ 10

INSTRUCTIONS.

WEST : Lead spades whenever in ; do not ruff diamonds.

EAST : No Instructions.

SOUTH : No Instructions.

PLAYING PAR.

N-S, for taking 10 tricks, *But only if* dummy's ♠ A was not taken until third round of that suit : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

Bidding : To dogmatise about correct bidding of this deal would be folly. However, all three bids to which points have been awarded, appear to be justifiable normal contracts.

PLAY : STOPPER TIMING AND
CONSERVATION.

With such a flimsy trump fortress, South must exercise great care in timing the use of the spade stoppers, both the ruffers and the Ace. By using the ruffers first, thereby retaining the Ace until last, control can be maintained throughout the play of the hand.

After ruffing the opening lead, South must establish the club suit at once, ruff the spade return, take the top trumps, and then push clubs at West.

HAND 7

♠ A	♠ 8 4 3	♠ J 10 7 2
♥ 10 2	♥ Q 4	♥ A K 9 3
♦ A K 10 8 2	♦ 9 7 6 5 4	♦ Q J 3
♣ Q J 10 6 3	♣ 8 5 2	♣ A 4
	♠ K Q 9 6 5	
	♥ J 8 7 6 5	
	♦ None	
	♣ K 9 7	

Dealer: South. Vul: All.

BIDDING PAR

E-W, for finishing in 6 ♦s: 2 points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

South	West	North	East
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 N.T.
			(Blackwood)
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West to play hand in 6 ♦s.

North must lead ♠ 8.

INSTRUCTIONS

SOUTH: When in with ♣ K, lead a top ♠ unless ♥ A and ♥ K have been played, in which case lead a heart instead.

NORTH: Do not ruff clubs; discard hearts first, then a spade.

WEST: No Instructions.

PLAYING PAR

E-W, for taking 12 tricks: 4 points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING: Reaching the diamond slam should present little difficulty to any pair of sound bidders.

PLAY: COPING WITH A BAD TRUMP BREAK.

The bad trump break, plus practical certainty of being forced into a shorter trump length than North if and when the lead is surrendered in clubs, furnishes the clue to successful procedure, viz., ♠ A, ♦ 2 to ♦ Q or ♦ J, one top heart, Ace and low in clubs, ruff spade return, discard dummy's three remaining heart on clubs, then lead a heart to envelop North's trumps. Cashing exactly one top heart early, is a key play; if that is not done, North can jettison hearts on club thereby making a defensive trump trick a certainty.

HAND 8

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

Dealer: West. Vul: Nil

BIDDING PAR

N-S, for finishing in 5 ♣s, or for doubling E-W at 3-odd or higher: 3 points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Dbl.	Pass	3 ♦
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	Pass

SOUTH to play hand in 5 ♣s
WEST must lead ♠ K and ♠ A

INSTRUCTIONS

Nil.

PLAYING PAR

N-S, for taking 11 tricks, *But only if* ♥ Q was finessed before cross-ruffing the hands: 4 points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING: Many expert bidders would abstain from an immediate takeout double on North's cards relying on South to protect if East passes. However, whether North doubles or waits, the North-South club game should be reached.

PLAY: TRICK-COUNTING FOR A CROSS-RUFF.

A count reveals that, for a cross-ruff, 10 tricks only are available if the heart finesse is not taken. That finesse, therefore, becomes obligatory; when it succeeds, the rest is routine.

HAND 9

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

Dealer: North. Vul: E-W

BIDDING PAR.

N-S, for bidding 4 ♠s, or for doubling any higher E-W contract: 2 points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING.

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

NORTH to play hand in 4 ♠s.
EAST must lead ♥ K

INSTRUCTIONS.

Nil.

PLAYING PAR.

E-W, for taking 4 tricks, *But only if* West led a low diamond whenever in: 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

BIDDING: In expert circles, the bidding of this deal would vary in accordance with the idiosyncrasies of the players concerned. Some experts would open on the North cards while others would

pass : some Souths would prefer 2♣s to the double raise in spades.

PLAY : ESTABLISHING A DEFENSIVE ENTRY.

In with ♥ A on opening lead, and seeing two more defensive tricks in the minor suits, West should realise that defeat of the contract hinges upon East's ability to obtain entry to cash ♥ Q. On the bidding, it is practically impossible for East to hold a trump trick or club void : only chance, therefore, is that East is holding ♦ 10. On that assumption, West must switch to ♦ 3 or ♦ 2 immediately.

HAND 10

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

Dealer : East. Vul : All

BIDDING PAR.

E-W, for finishing in 3 N.Ts. or in 4♥s, 5♥s or 6♥s : 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING.

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	2♠	Pass
2 N.T.	Pass	3♥	Pass
5♥ !!	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

WEST to play hand in 6♥s
NORTH must lead ♣ Q

INSTRUCTIONS.

Nil.

PLAYING PAR.

E-W, for taking 12 tricks, *but only if* ♥ A was played to first round of trumps, with second round of trumps conceded to South if that player put up a heart honour when second round of trumps was led from dummy : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

BIDDING : Whether or not a heart slam should be bid on these E-W cards being debatable, the bidding award has been made elastic.

PLAY : SAFETY PLAY, PLUS TRUMP CONTROL MAINTENANCE.

Declarer's first trump play should be the standard safety play of the Ace. When this drops North's singleton King, careful timing becomes imperative. Dummy must be entered *via* ♠ K to lead the second round of trumps and, if South produces an honour card, Declarer must duck to ensure subsequent trump control. After discarding a diamond on the third high spade, ♦ Q is ruffed in dummy and a trump returned to trap South's remaining trump honour.

HAND 11

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

Dealer : South. Vul : Nil.

BIDDING PAR.

N-S, for finishing in 3 N.Ts. : 2 Points.

N-S, for finishing below game in ♣s or N.Ts. : 1 Point.

OFFICIAL BIDDING.

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

SOUTH to play hand in 3 N.Ts.

WEST must lead ♦ 3.

INSTRUCTIONS

West : Continue diamonds.

East : Continue diamonds.

South : Play ♦ J on opening lead ; lead ♠ 2 from dummy at first opportunity.

PLAYING PAR.

E-W, for defeating contract, *But only if* East won first spade trick with ♠ J : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

BIDDING : 3 N.Ts. being a borderline contract, a minor point has been awarded to part-score final bids in clubs or No Trumps.

PLAY : CONSERVING PARTNER'S ENTRY.

When as directed, Declarer attempts establishment of a long spade by leading ♠ 2 from dummy East, for the dual purpose of establishing West's long diamonds and, at the same time, protecting West's potential spade stoppers must go up with ♠ J.

HAND 12

♠ 9 8 6 4 3	♠ 10 6 3 2
♥ 10 6 4 3	♥ 10 7 5 2
♦ 9 6 2	♦ 9 5 2
♣ 8 5	♣ 8 5
♠ A J 8	♠ K Q 7 4
♥ None	♥ A K Q J
♦ A Q J 8 4	♦ K 7
♣ Q J 7 4 2	♣ A K 10

Dealer : West. Vul : N-S

BIDDING PAR.

N-S, for finishing in hearts not higher than 3-odd : 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING.

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	2 N.Ts.
Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass.

NORTH to play hand in 3♥s
EAST must lead ♦ 9

INSTRUCTIONS.

West : Lead three rounds of top diamonds at once ; take first spade and lead ♣ Q

EAST : No Instructions.

NORTH : Ruff third ♦.

PLAYING PAR.

N-S, for taking 9 tricks : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

BIDDING : North's "yar-borough" should keep N-S out of any No-Trumps contract—as well as out of any game venture in hearts.

PLAY : SMOTHERING AN "IMPREGNABLE TRUMP."

Ruffing-in with a trump honour at Trick 3, as directed, and laying down a top trump, North discovers that East's ten cannot be dropped by straight leads. It can be enveloped in a spectacular end-play, however. ♠ A is knocked out, directed club return won, high spade cashed, low spade ruffed, and high club taken for this end-play:

HAND 13

♠ None	♠ 10
♥ 9 8 6	♥ 10 7 5
♦ None	♦ None
♣ 9	♣ None
♠ None	♠ 7
♥ None	♥ A K
♦ 8 4	♦ None
♣ J 7	♣ 10

West is thrown-in with losing club and the ♣ or ♦ return is ruffed with ♥ 8 or ♥ 9 thus completely smothering East's ten-spot.

Alternatively ♠ 7 can be ruffed, two more trumps taken, and opponent's two winners crashed together in the last trick.

Had it not been for the directed plays, the hand also could have been made by discarding ♣ 10 on the third round of diamonds.

HAND 14

♠ K 8 4	♠ A J 10
♥ None	♥ A K 8
♦ Q J 9 7 5 2	♦ A 8 6 4 3
♣ 10 8 4 2	♣ A K
♠ 9 6 3	
♥ Q J 9 7 6 4 3	
♦ None	
♣ 9 5 3	

Dealer : North.

Vul : All.

BIDDING PAR.

E-W, for finishing in 3 N.Ts, 4 N.Ts or 5 N.Ts : 2 Points.

E-W, for finishing in 6 N.Ts, 1 Point.

OFFICIAL BIDDING.

North	East	South	West
Pass	2 N.Ts	Pass	5 N.Ts
Pass	6 N.Ts	Pass	Pass
Pass			

EAST to play hand in 6 N.Ts. HAND 15
SOUTH must lead ♥ Q

INSTRUCTIONS.

Nil.

PLAYING PAR.

E-W, for taking 12 tricks, *But only if a top heart was discarded on a club, thus ensuring re-entry to dummy via ♥ 10* : 5 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

BIDDING : Viewed alone, the E-W cards present less than an even chance to win 12 tricks : in consequence, minor point only for the No-Trumps Slam.

PLAY : MANUFACTURING AN ENTRY.

There is but one way in which six No-Trumps can be made by East, viz., win opening lead, play off ♣ A and ♣ K and then enter dummy via ♦ K.

When South shows out in diamonds, it is apparent that four spade tricks will be needed. After cashing two more clubs Declarer can count North for exactly three spades. To make an entry for the fourth spade, Declarer discards the remaining top heart on the fourth club. Three rounds of spades, enveloping North's King, sets up the "thirteener"—and a lead of ♥ 8 establishes the vital entry to same.

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

Dealer : East.

Vul : Nil.

BIDDING PAR.

E-W, for finishing in 4 ♠s or 3 N.Ts : 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING.

East	South	West	North
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 N.Ts.	Pass	Pass	Pass

EAST to play hand in 3 N.Ts.

SOUTH must lead ♣ 4

INSTRUCTIONS.

EAST: Take ♣ A on third round and lead ♠ 4.

NORTH : Continue clubs.

SOUTH : Continue clubs.

PLAYING PAR.

N-S, for defeating contract, *But only if South played ♠ 10 on first round of that suit* : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

BIDDING : Bidding this hand to game is an East-West "sitting shot"!

PLAY : SECOND-HAND HIGH TO KILL A DUCK.

The directions ensure that, to Trick 4, the ♠ 4 emerges from the closed hand. South must be "on his toes" to prevent the duck into North's hand which makes the contract laydown. Utilisation of the combined entry-killing duck-frustrating second-hand high play of ♠ 10 annihilates East; if dummy ducks, North underplays and South wins the setting tricks in clubs without further ado; if dummy wins, the long spades are completely marooned.

HAND 16

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

Dealer : South. Vul : N-S.

BIDDING PAR.

N-S, for finishing in 3 N.Ts. or 4 ♠s : 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING.

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

SOUTH to play hand in 4 ♠s
West must lead ♥ 9

INSTRUCTIONS.

EAST : When in, avoid leading ♥s or ♦s.

WEST : Continue hearts whenever in.

SOUTH : Play ♥ J on opening lead.

PLAYING PAR.

N-S, for taking 10 tricks, *But only if* two diamond winners were established for a club discard, and a long club establishing later for a heart discard: 4 Points

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

BIDDING : As neither contract can be defeated, 3 N.Ts and 4 ♠s have been bracketed for the bidding points.

PLAY : SHUTTING OUT THE DANGER HAND.

The heart situation having been elucidated by the opening lead, South should realise that, if West holds ♦ A, contract is doomed. Analysis reveals but one prospect of success, viz., a 3-3 break in clubs, plus ♦ A at East and ♦ J and ♦ 10 at West.

When in, therefore, South leads a low diamond and finesses the nine-spot, thereby ensuring two diamond winners. Later, a club is discarded on the second diamond winner, followed by a high ruff of the third round of clubs to establish the "thirteener" of that suit for a heart discard—entry to secure this vital discard

being the deferred third round of trumps, won in dummy.

HAND 17

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

Dealer : West. Vul : E-W

BIDDING PAR.

E-W, for finishing in 3 N.Ts. or 4 ♠s : 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING.

West	North	East	South
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

WEST to play hand in 4 ♠s

NORTH must lead ♦ K

INSTRUCTIONS.

NORTH : Continue ♦ 3; if in on third round, lead a club.

SOUTH : Take ♦ A at Trick 2 and return the suit.

WEST : When in with ♠ A, take a ♠ finesse, then lead ♥ 4.

PLAYING PAR.

N-S, for defeating contract, *But only if* North played ♥ Q on first round of that suit : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

BIDDING : Viewing E-W hands alone, 3 N.Ts looks inferior to 4 ♠s. But, thanks to the 4-3 diamond split, 3 N.Ts can be made whereas clever defences defeats 4 ♠s. In consequence, either declaration gains the bidding points.

PLAY : ENTRY-KILLING IN DEFENCE.

When, to Trick 6, West makes the directed ♥ 4 lead, North must be alert. The second-hand high entry-killing play of ♥ Q kills the ♥ J potential entry and protects South's ♠ K from capture by finesse.

This spectacular manoeuvre ensures the setting trick for South's trump King.

CULBERTSON IN A NUTSHELL

By TEAKS.

THE DISTRIBUTIONAL COUNT.

Though the 'Rule of Eight' is really a "godsend" to millions of average and advanced players, it sometimes happens that even with six honour-tricks, a game is not made; and often with about $4\frac{1}{2}$ honour-tricks a game in a suit or at No-trump is easily made. This is the result of suit and hand distribution. The distribution of 13 cards of a suit in 4 hands is called suit distribution while the distribution of all the 4 suits in a hand of 13 cards, is called hand-distribution. Both these are based on length values and are called "distributional values." In any long suit, the number of established low cards is governed by the distribution of the remaining cards of the same suit in partners, and opponents' hands. The mechanics of suit distribution is that ranking cards require low-card protection to avoid being dropped simultaneously thus avoiding knocking or kissing each other. As an illustration, West holds K Q in Spades and East holds J 10 in spades. When the opponents play the Spade suit these 4 honour cards are so crowded on each other that they can get only one trick. But if East and West have one additional low-card each, the position gets radically changed.

Distributional values can be analysed by a proper count. One of the features of the distributional count is that, except in cases where it is easy to count the losers, the length values of the suit are counted separately and the honour values of the suit are added. Thus, if a player bids holding A Q x x x in a suit, he should count 2 winners for the five-card length, and add to it, the honour-trick value of $1\frac{1}{2}$, thus making a total of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ winners. But this mode of counting is subject to change after bids by partner or opponents. Generally, in trump suits more than 3 card length can be valued as one trick for every card more. But in side suits more than 3 card length may be counted as $\frac{1}{2}$ trick for the extra card for 4 card length; as one trick less for 5 or 6 card length; and same as suit length count for any length of seven or more. The bidding valuation of ruffers also enters into distributional count as follows; a doubleton counts as half a trick if the hand holds 3 of the partner's suit, and as one trick if it holds 4 or more of partner's suit. A singleton counts as 1 trick if the hand holds 3 of the partner's suit and as 2 tricks if the hand holds 4 or more. A void counts as 2 tricks if it holds 3 of the partner's suit and as 3 tricks if it holds 4 or more.

If the hand contains 2 short suits only one of them is counted and that the shorter of the two.

Thus it follows that besides honour-trick valuation, the total number of winners in a hand should be ascertained. The bidding based on this valuation is termed 'quantity bidding'. There is also a special method of valuation of certain types of hands. This supplements the distributional count by stressing the elimination of losers from the hand rather than the positive count of winners. This is called 'Plastic Valuation'. According to this, the player counts his losers and then directs the bidding so as to get specific answers helpful to eliminate these losers. It does not very much matter whether a player counts his losers or winners first, but he should attempt to reduce his bidding problem to the smallest possible denominator.

This mathematical and strategic calculation based on the quantitative (winners), qualitative (honour-tricks) and distributional (length) values of the hand makes the bidding perfect and expert. But this valuation is not a rigid one. It requires reconsideration as the bidding proceeds. A player at his bid values his hand in a way. After his partner's bid he revalues it. At his bid, he counts honour-tricks, trump length and side lengths but not ruffing values. As the supporting hand he counts ruffing

values but does not count side lengths. Further, he revalues his hand after his opponents enter the bidding.

Secondly, the danger of duplication should be avoided. This duplication is of 3 kinds e.g., of bids, values and hand-patterns. Duplication of bids is counting the same values twice. This, very often, is the cause of heaviest penalties. As an illustration South holds $\spadesuit$ A K Q 6 $\heartsuit$ 4 3, $\diamondsuit$ 7 5 2, $\clubsuit$ K J 8 4, and bids 1 club. His partner responds with 1 Spade. South then bids 3 Spades. This is duplication. South overlooked the fact that his strength in Spades had been counted when making the opening bid. Duplication of values is counting the winners in the same suit twice. It is the overlapping of tricks which each player can legitimately count but which, because they occur in the same suit duplicate each other's value and leave gaps in other suits. As an illustration

Supposing West holds

$\spadesuit$ K J 10 8 6	$\heartsuit$ A K Q
$\diamondsuit$ Q 7	$\clubsuit$ 6 3 2

and East holds

$\spadesuit$ A Q 9 7 4	$\heartsuit$ 6
$\diamondsuit$ K J 5	$\clubsuit$ J 9 5 4

and the final bid is 4 Spades. A club opening or a Diamond opening with a Club shift will defeat the contract because West's strongest suit, Heart duplicates

East's singleton. If West instead of holding K and Q in Hearts, held them in Clubs the contract is kept. Duplication of hand patterns means duplication of losers through inability to provide ruffers and long-card winners counted in the bidding. This is the most unfortunate of duplications. To illustrate

West holds

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

and East holds

♠ 9 8 7 6 5 4 ♥ nil.
♦ A K Q J 8 ♣ 8 3

The combined total of the hands is 17 winners. But with a lead of Clubs the partnership cannot win more than 11 tricks and 6 of the expected 17 tricks vanish because of duplication.

BIDDING PRINCIPLES.

With a correct appreciation of the above standards of bidding valuation, a player will be in a position to use the partnership language of inferences. This means that he will be enabled to convey the above three kinds of information to his partner. The entire structure of partnership language and strategy springs from the principle of 'Economy of bids.' This principle avoids wasting useful rounds of bidding and enables giving and obtaining of information at the lowest

possible level. It leads to one of the most important practical applications in the strategy of bidding, namely, "the approach method." The substance of this method is: when opening the bidding or when responding to partner, prefer any proper suit bid of one to any other bid reserving the No-trump bid or higher suit bids for special bidding situations. This method invariably pays rich dividends.

Another requirement for bidding valuation is the safety factor enacted by the rule of 2 and 3. It means "have at least within 2 tricks of your contract if vulnerable and within 3 tricks of your contract if non-vulnerable".

Thus a correct understanding of honour-trick valuation, supplemented by the distributional count and aided by the principle of economy and the Rule of Two and Three will enable a player to make a scientific and strategic bid. He will then be well-prepared to enter the higher reaches of this "King of indoor games" and imbibe its finer points.

It is best that, before bidding begins, the bidder is made aware of the "forcing principle" and the "zones of bidding." Just as economy in bidding is a necessity, there should not at the same time lurk any fear in a player's mind that partner may

drop the bidding before a possible game or slam is reached. It is mainly to banish this fear that this scientific forcing principle has been evolved. This principle and the consequent 'forcing bids' were originated and developed by Mr. Culbertson as a natural and logical corollary to his "approach principle". It has now become part and parcel of bidding strategy and has been adopted in toto or with slight modifications by originators of other systems of bidding. The forcing principle has 3 objects, namely, (a) To choose or offer the partner a choice for game, (b) to choose or offer the choice for a small or grand slam, and (c) to determine if partner has added values over his minimum previously shown without risking a dangerous game contract. Accordingly, these are styled 'game force', 'slam force' and 'one-round force' respectively. When a forcing bid is made, the partner is under an obligation to bid again unconditionally and the 'pass' ceases to exist. What these forcing bids are, will be detailed at the appropriate stages.

All bids belong to one of the 4 zones of bidding, namely, "the game, slam, minimum and intermediate". Either player can, according to established rules of bidding, signal to his partner that his strength is in any one of such zones.

OPENING BID OF 1 NO-TRUMP.

A No-Trump bid, though closely connected with a bid of one in a suit, is different from it in requirement, response and strategy. Its main advantages are that a game contract can be reached in it with one trick less, that there is no fear of a bad break of trumps and that fillers and intermediates are better promoted. There are corresponding disadvantages as well. The bid is very often vague and nebulous placing the bidder at the mercy of undisclosed suits and finesses. In a strong no-trump call, the opponents get warned against overcalling.

REQUIREMENTS.

(a) $3\frac{1}{2}$ to maximum 4 honour tricks in at least 3 suits with 4, 3, 3, 3 distribution. It is necessary that the above honour-tricks are spread over all the 4 suits and that they are well guarded. Because we are aware of instances where the unguarded suit yields more than 4 tricks and defeats the contract at game or lower level.

(b) If a hand contains 6 or more fillers (10 spot and higher) + honour-tricks are enough.

(c) Even if the 4 card suit is a major No-Trump is preferable unless the hand has all the 4 honours in that suit.

(d) Sometimes a hand with 4, 4, 3, 2 distribution may be opened 1 No-trump. In that case the doubleton must be strong as K x, A 10, A J or A Q, etc.

(e) Occasionally one can bid 1 No-trump with 5, 3, 3, 2 distribution or even with 6 3, 2, 2 distribution. But in such cases the length must be in a minor suit and with not more than one loser in it.

(f) Even with 5, 4, 2, 2 distribution this bid can be made but both the long suits must be minors with top cards.

RESPONSE.

(a) With about $1\frac{1}{2}$ honour-tricks and a five-card suit ... Bid that suit.

(b) With less than 2 honour-tricks and no five carder ... Pass.

(c) With only 1 honour-trick and no six carder ... Pass.

(d) With 2 honour-tricks in one suit only ... Pass.

(e) With 2 honour-tricks in 2 suits ... Bid 2 No-trump.

(f) With $1\frac{1}{2}$ honour-tricks in 3 suits and 6 or more fillers ... Bid 2 No-trump.

(g) With a strong six card headed by Ace or King ... Bid 2 No-trump.

(h) With 2 five-card suits and no honour-tricks ... Bid the higher ranking suit.

If the opener raises his No-trump, show your next suit to indicate a sign off.

(i) With 6 card major suit and less than 2 honour-tricks ... Jump to game in that suit.

(j) With 7 carder and $\frac{1}{2}$ honour-trick and 8 carder with no honour-trick ... Jump to game.

A jump to 5 in a minor suit must usually contain an Eight card suit and 7 winners in the hand. A jump to 4 in a minor suit should almost never be made. A response of 4 in a major suit ought not to be ordinarily taken out.

(k) With one additional honour-trick ... Jump in a suit if biddable or in No-Trump.

This is a game force response. The opener should then rebid as follows:

(1) If the jump response is in a minor suit, the opener should show a biddable 4 card major suit; failing which, he should bid the next higher ranking 4 card suit.

(2) If the jump response is in a major suit, the opener should show another 4 card major if higher ranking. Or he should raise to 4 level with any four trumps or with three trumps headed by A K x or A Q x or K Q x.

(3) Otherwise the opener should bid 3 No-trump. It should be pointed out that a response of 3 No-trump though it is strength-showing should not usually be taken out. For, if the responder felt slammish he would have kept the bidding fluid without straightaway taking it to game level.

With regard to suit take-out the earlier view of Culbertson, that such a take-out is a weak one, has been practically altered by him in his latest *Gold Book*. It is the result of experience and I personally would prefer the latter view. I do find some players still believing in the older one but it is all a matter of opinion and experience.

The point count method is said to work well and with precision with regard to the opening 1 No-trump bid. Mr. Culbertson also says that, if at all this method is to be adopted, it can produce some good results in No-trump call. But it is better to stick to one system instead of introducing new methods into it and creating a jumble.

It is now proper to know at this stage what are forcing responses to a No-trump call and the nature of these forces.

(1) A suit take-out is forcing for one round. At next chance the responder is not obliged to

bid. But if there is an intermediate overcall by the opponents the suit take-out is not forcing. It is a weak suit take-out indicating a freakish distribution. And with a long suit with top cards the responder may raise the No-trump.

(2) A jump suit take-out is forcing to game irrespective of an intermediate overcall.

(3) A suit take-out after an intervening double by opponent is not forcing for one round even. A redouble by responder shows a holding of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 honour-tricks or even 1 + honour-trick if distributed over 3 suits.

(4) A rebid by opener in a new suit after partner's suit take-out is not forcing.

As stated above a jump to 3 N. Ts. should not usually be taken out. The double of 1 No-trump is a business double. And if the opener redoubles, it is not a take-out redouble. But it assures the partner that he holds 7 tricks even without partner's support. But some writers like Florence Osborne think that double of an opening 1 No-trump or one in a suit, if redoubled, is an S.O.S. This is answered by Josephine Culbertson in the *Bridge World*, April, 1953, where she states that it is not an S.O.S. It is best to construe such redoubles as genuine (and not as take-outs), and indicating that the

redoubler can make a game or good part-score.

There are some other conventions regarding this opening 1 No-trump call which the reader may know with advantage. Mr. Stayman a leading Bridge authority introduced what which is now styled "Stayman Convention." It means that if the response to this call is 2 Clubs, the responder desires to ascertain if the opening 1 No-trump caller has at least a 4-card biddable major suit. If he has it, he bids that suit. If not, the opener calls 2 Diamonds to show that his opening 1. N. T. has only minimum strength. If his opening were with maximum strength he calls 2 No-trump.

There is yet another convention called "Gerber Convention." According to it, a sudden burst by Responder to 4 clubs after an opening 1 No-trump or 2 No-trump is a request for aces by the asker. The opener's answer to it should be as follows—similar to answers in Blackwood, namely:

- (a) with no aces — 4 Diamonds.
- (b) with 1 ace — 4 Hearts
- (c) with 2 aces — 4 Spades.
- (d) with 3 aces — 4 No-trumps
- (e) with 4 aces — 5 Clubs.

This asking bid in clubs can be repeated at 5 level to ask for

Kings except in the case of the first answer of 5 clubs.

The Vienna Convention assigns a particular meaning to an opening 1 No-trump call. Such a call indicates a holding of 4 to 5 honour-tricks and is an one-round forcing bid. It does not imply a No-trump shape of the hand. The hand-pattern, may even be 6, 5, 2, 0. The response to it is as follows:

(a) with less than 2 honour-tricks—2 clubs.

(b) With any five-card suit—bid that suit. This take-out is forcing for one round.

(c) A jump suit take-out shows a weak hand and not a strong forcing one as in Culbertson System.

Mrs. Helen Sobel in her 'Winning Bridge' describes all artificial and forcing 1 No-trump calls as "lunatic". According to her the most important qualification for a 1 No-trump call is the over-all strength of the hand with a distribution protecting all suits. It may now be assumed that the majority of recognised authorities are in approximate agreement with the Culbertson Convention of this opening 1 No-trump call.*

OPENING BID OF 2 NO-TRUMPS.

This opening bid gives a clear picture of a hand strong in

honour-tricks but with no good distributional value for a probable slam:

REQUIREMENTS.

(a) 5 to 6 honour-tricks with 8 or more honour-cards.

(b) All suits should be guarded.

This bid is not forcing. Sometimes it is permissible to bid 2 No-trumps with $4\frac{1}{2}$ honour-tricks only and a six-card minor suit headed by 3 top-honours. But this is done when partner has already passed and the opener is the 3rd hand. The pattern of the hand is generally 4, 3, 3, 3. But with regard to other patterns, the principles mentioned with regard to opening 1 No-trump call would apply.

RESPONSE.

(a) with only more than $\frac{1}{2}$ honour-trick—Bid 3 No-trump.

(b) with $\frac{1}{2}$ honour-trick and a five-card suit—Bid 1 No-trump.

(c) with a 4-card major suit headed by Q and a five-card biddable minor suit headed by Q and with a total of 1 honour-trick—Bid the minor suit.

(d) with a six-card major suit and no honour-trick—Bid that suit and if opener rebids with 3 No-trump rebid that suit.

(e) with six-card minor suit and less than $\frac{1}{2}$ honour-trick—Pass.

(f) with less than well distributed $\frac{1}{2}$ honour-trick—Pass.

(g) with about $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour-tricks and No-trump distribution—Bid 4 No-trumps. This is not a conventional 4 No-trump bid.

(h) A jump from partner's opening 2 No-trump call to 4 of a major or minor suit is a mild slam-try indicating a holding of a six-card or longer major suit headed by A or K and with $1\frac{1}{2}$ honour-tricks in the hand; or a seven-card minor suit and with $1\frac{1}{2}$ honour-tricks.

(i) With about 2 honour-tricks and a balanced distribution.—Bid the longest suit and if the opener bids 3 No-trumps bid 4 No-trumps which is not conventional. This is also a slam-try.

With about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 honour-tricks with the responder, there should normally be an attempt at slam. If partner's take-out is in a minor suit, the opener is expected to show a biddable major suit. If the take-out is 3 hearts, the opener should bid 3 spades even if he has 3 of them headed by A K or A Q or K Q.

Any suit take-out is forcing to game.

OPENING 3 NO-TRUMPS AND ABOVE Requirements.

(a) with $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 honour-tricks and eight sure winners—Bid 3 No-trumps.

(b) with 8 or more honour-tricks and 10 sure winners—Bid 4 No-trumps.

* Readers are reminded that opinions expressed in articles appearing in the I.B.W. do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Committee—Ed.

(c) with 8 or more honour-tricks and 11 or 12 sure winners—Bid 5 or 6 No-trumps.

These bids by their very nature are not forcing bids. But they are in the nature of opening-bid slam-tries, particularly opening 4 No-trumps and above.

Response.

(a) Any take-out of an opening 3 No-trumps is a slam force.

(b) With a hand containing ♠ K J 5 ♥ K 9 7 4 3 ♦ 6 5 ♣ 8 4 2.—Bid 4 Hearts after a 3 No-trumps opening call.

(c) With a hand containing ♠ 6 3 ♥ 7 4 5 3 ♦ A J 9 7 6 3 ♣ 5—Bid 4 Diamonds on a 3 No-trumps opening bid.

(d) With any Ace or King or Q raise the 4 No-trumps opening bid.

Generally even in opening 3 No-trumps the holding of 1½ to 2 honour-tricks by responder assures a slam. The responder should resist the temptation to pass in the case of these opening bids of 3 No-trumps and above.

With regard to 3 No-trumps opening call, the Acol method's requirements are different. According to it, a run of 6 or 7 winners in a minor suit supported by stoppers in 2 suits at least, is good enough to make this opening call. In some cases this method has been very useful in reaching a game and also as a block bid against the opponents. It is particularly useful when it is difficult or impossible to make a game in a minor suit and the only chance of reaching a game is in No-trump.

BRIDGE PLUS BADAMKSHEER

PAIRS PROGRESSIVE AT BURMAH SHELL CLUB.

By X.

The bridge-meet at the Burma Shell Club on the second of October was exemplary in many respects. It was a happy idea of the sponsors of the tournament to have restricted it to a single event, Progressive Pairs. Competitors were spared the sense of surfeit, and directors the frayed nerves, which are sometimes inescapable when the bill covers the entire gamut of possibilities—progressive pairs, master pairs, open pairs, duplicate knock-out, duplicate progressive, individual championship and what not. The venue of the tournament was excellent—the commodious first floor of the Burmah Shell building. To those whose interest in bridge is mainly gastronomical—and they are by no means few—the refreshments left nothing to be desired; the *badamksheer*, in particular, apart from its excellent quality, was judiciously timed, coming in at an unexpected moment when life must have appeared gloomy to many a maladroit who had messed up his hands as a reminder that all was still well with the world. Characteristic of the *finesse* which marked every detail of this tournament was the prominent display of the trophies in the centre of the hall—a guarantee of promptness which

should serve as an object-lesson to certain clubs which are blind to elementary moral obligations in the matter of prizes.

The organisers having taken such pains to make the tourney a success, it was only in the fitness of things that the cheery imp who dispenses bridge hands should have thrown in his bit also. The deals were highly interesting, and though no original or brilliant plays have come to my knowledge, readers will find the deals themselves worth the perusal:

The following record is by no means complete. I present therein my impressions of the tournament. If the first person singular is somewhat prominent, readers will please realise that it is rather inevitable in a review of the event by a competitor.

I shall start with my worst deal. Tragedy invariably comes without warning. I little suspected when dapper, dashing, debonaire, Mr. G. N. Chari, came to our table, reeling off compliments on our partnership that brought the blush to our cheeks, that he would be walking off ere long with a tidy score and a great deal of our self-esteem. Against all com-

mon-sense, and very much against my usual practice, I opened the North hand, got into a mess, was doubled in Three Hearts and gave away 800 of the best—a near bottom.

DEALER SOUTH :

North-South vulnerable :

♠ J 8 6 5 3
♥ Q 9 8 7 3 2
♦ A
♣ 5

♠ K Q 7 4 2
♥ J 5
♦ Q 7
♣ Q J 6 2

♠ A 10
♥ A K 6 4
♦ J 9 5 3
♣ A 10 3

♠ 9
♥ 10
♦ K 10 8 6 4 2
♣ K 9 8 7 2

The best North-South score was for Messrs. K. C. Ramaratnam and Ramamoorthy, the ultimate winners, who let West play in Four Spades to collect 200 points. How the west player managed to go four down is not known. I said there were no original plays—there *were*, obviously.

Here is another deal in which we stretched our cards till you could hear them creaking, and got a bashing we thoroughly deserved.

DEALER SOUTH :

Neither side vulnerable :

♠ Q J
♥ K 9 4 3 2
♦ Q 8 7 6
♣ 9 5

♠ A 10 8 5 4 2
♥ A Q 8
♦ —
♣ A Q 6 2

♠ 9
♥ J 7 6
♦ K J 9 5 4
♣ 9 7 4 3

♠ K 7 6 3
♥ 10 5
♦ A 10 4 3
♣ K J 10

The bidding at our table was :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 D	D'ble	1 H	Pass
Pass	1 S	2 D	Pass
Pass	3 C	Pass	Pass
3 D	Pass	Pass	D'ble

We were four down and our minus score was unchallenged.

In another deal a risky overcall of Two Clubs by me over West's One Spade opening was doubled and we were lucky when West took out in Two Hearts. The ultimate contract was Three No-trumps by East who was lucky to get a Heart opening. Three No-trumps cannot be made on any other opening lead. The complete deal was :

DEALER WEST :

Neither side vulnerable.

♠ 9 6 3
♥ 4
♦ K 7 3 2
♣ A 10 9 6 3

♠ J 8 7 5 4 2
♥ K Q 7 6
♦ A 8
♣ Q

♠ K
♥ A 10 3
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ K J 8 7 4

♠ A Q 10
♥ J 9 8 5 2
♦ 6 5 4
♣ 5 2

One of the most interesting deals was the following. Four pairs, including us, bid the small slam in Hearts. Two, including the winners, got an opening lead of Diamonds and a top score. The other two, including us, got a Club lead and a bottom. The lucky ones probably never bid the Diamond suit, though it is difficult to see how the auction could have proceeded without North mentioning it. The deal poses a problem in bidding. The new asking bid, introduced by Culbertson in his *Contract Bridge Complete*, 1953 Ed., which is claimed to elicit information about trump holdings, may provide the answer.

DEALER NORTH :

North-South vulnerable.

♠ J 9
♥ A 9 8 6
♦ A K J 10
♣ K Q 10

♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ K J
♦ Q 2
♣ A J 5 3 2

♠ Q 4
♥ 10 5
♦ 9 8 7 6 5 4
♣ 8 6 4

♠ A K 8 5 4
♥ Q 7 4 3 2
♦ 3
♣ 9 7

I shall pass on to a few deals which brought us good scores. An unorthodox opening of Three Spades by my partner on the South hand led to a curious result. West who was rather perplexed passed, and I had no hesitation in raising to Four Spades. East who felt that his side was being baulked of something overcalled Five Hearts which I doubled when it came round to me. The contract was set three tricks for a top score for us. The deal was:

DEALER SOUTH :

Neither side vulnerable.

♠ 7 3
♥ A K 8 6
♦ J 10 5
♣ A 10 7 5

♠ A J 8 5 4
♥ Q J
♦ K 3
♣ Q 9 8 6

♠ None
♥ 9 7 5 4 3 2
♦ A Q 8 7 2
♣ J 4

♠ K Q 10 9 6 2
♥ 10
♦ 9 6 4
♣ K 3 2

It is not necessarily the spectacular bids that pay in progressive bridge. We got a near top on this prosaic deal by bidding and making just One Spade. East-West should not have let us play at this modest contract. West should have made a take-out double on the second round in order to secure the part score.

DEALER NORTH :

Neither side vulnerable.

♠ 10 9 7 3 2
♥ Q 10 8
♦ 10 9 6
♣ A Q

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

The bidding at our table was :

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 S	Pass	Pass	Pass

We were the only pair to reach the best contract for North-South on the accompanying hand but the top score went to a pair who were doubled in Two Hearts and allowed to make the contract.

DEALER EAST :

North South vulnerable.

♠ 9 6 2
♥ 5 4
♦ K 5
♣ Q J 8 7 4 2

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

♠ A 8
♥ A K 10 9 6
♦ A 10 2
♣ 10 9 6

We bid as follows :

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	D'ble	Pass	2 ♣
2 ♦	2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♣
Pass	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
Pass	4 ♣		

I was rather surprised to know that the small slam in Diamonds was missed on the following deal by every pair except our partnership. We also bid the right slam, Six Diamonds (Six Spades is off on a Club lead). On our bidding I had no difficulty in reaching the slam. My partner's jump to Four Spades indicated the Spade Ace and another Ace, most likely the Diamond Ace, because Clubs had been doubled to my left.

DEALER NORTH :

Both sides vulnerable.

♠ K Q 6
♥ A
♦ K Q 10 9 2
♣ K 10 8 5

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

♠ A J 10 7 5 2
♥ J 4
♦ A 9 5
♣ J 7

The bidding at our table was :

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	D'ble	4 ♠	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
6 ♦			

The foregoing is a random selection of hands which hardly gives an idea of the thoroughly enjoyable afternoon the bridge enthusiasts of the City were privileged to spend as the guests of the Burmah Shell Club. The organisers of the event deserve the highest praise for the resounding success of the contest which has set new standards in local bridge. It is hoped that the event will be a regular feature hereafter. Also the *badamkheer* will not be forgotten.



TEST YOUR SKILL—PROBLEMS

Edited by P. S. N. SARMA

1. South dealer, vulnerability immaterial, the bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	?	

What do you, North, call, holding: ♠ J 10 3, ♥ A K 6 5 4, ♦ Q 8 2, ♣ J 8?

2. South dealer, vulnerability immaterial, the bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass

What do you, South, rebid, holding: ♠ K Q 9, ♥ J 5 4, ♦ A K J 2, ♣ A K 5?

3. South dealer, both sides vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

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

What do you, North, bid, holding: ♠ Q 2, ♥ K J 9 7 6 4, ♦ 9 8, ♣ J 8 5?

4. East dealer, match points, North-South vulnerable, the bidding is:

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	2 ♣
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT		

West leads Diamond 6, on which East plays the Queen. The North and South hands are given below. How should South play?

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

5. South dealer, vulnerability immaterial, the bidding is:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	D'ble	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♣

You, South, lead the King of Diamonds to which your partner plays the 10. How do you proceed with the defence? The West and South hands are given below:

SEPTEMBER—DECEMBER 1953

45

WEST	SOUTH	West	North	East	South
♠ 8 7 3 2	♠ K 10 2	Pass	Pass	1 ♠	D'ble
♥ A K J	♥ Q 2	R'd'ble	Pass	Pass	3 ♦
♦ J 8 2	♦ A K Q 6 5 4	3 ♠	Pass	Pass	4 ♥
♣ A Q 2	♣ J 3	Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♦
		Pass	Pass	D'ble	

6. South is in a contract of 6 N T. West leads the Knave of Hearts, taken by South, who ducks a Diamond to East's Queen. The Heart return is taken by the declarer who leads a second Diamond only to find West out of the suit! What is declarer's further play for making the slam? The North-South hands are given below:

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

7. West dealer, both sides vulnerable, the bidding is:

What should West lead holding: ♠ K Q 10 4, ♥ K 2, ♦ 10 8 2, ♣ J 9 7 5?

8. You, North, are in a contract of Six Spades, doubled by West, after your partner opened the bidding with one Club. East leads the 2 of Diamonds. How do you play? The North-South hands are given below:

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

IN DEFENCE OF KIBITZERS

By KIBITZER

The tendency among bridge players is to regard kibitzers in the same light as Huns, Tartars, and other depredatory hordes.

History has proved time and again that the virile invader, far from being obnoxious, has infused new blood and new ideas into self-satisfied, stagnant and dormant nations and re-vitalised them to activity and advancement.

In the same manner, in spite of the universal cry against him, the kibitzer renders a great service to the game of bridge. As critic he keeps a player ever vigilant and draws the best in him. As a connoisseur, he rewards a good play with a generous compliment, he is not niggardly in his condemnation of a bad one either. As a camp-follower he entertains the table with a rich repertoire of hands and plays and players themselves with personal anecdotes which impart the human touch to the game of bridge.

The kibitzer conducts a shadow play of his own, side by side with the declarer or defender to whom he has attached himself. And how often he triumphs over his principal! Here is a deal from the semi-final of a team-of-four tournament in which the kibitzer thought of a better play than the declarer, the veteran club-champ. The contract was Six Clubs by South. West led Heart 2 and

the knave held the trick. Declarer immediately played trumps. He tamely finessed the Diamond Queen and went down one. The North-South hands were:

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

Can you think of a better play as the kibitzer was able to do?

The following hand which occurred in the final of the same tournament proved too difficult to a veteran player. He failed to make ten tricks. A kibitzer showed the way. Can you?

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

The contract is Four Spades by East doubled by North. North was the dealer. South led the Knave of Diamonds on which North played the Ace. North led a small Club. East put up the King which won. A Spade was led to dummy's King; on the second round, South showed out.

The North-South hands (don't look at them until you have solved or given up the problem) were:

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

TEST YOUR SKILL—SOLUTIONS

Edited by P. S. N. SARMA

Problem 1. South dealer, vulnerability immaterial, the bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	?	

What do you, North call, holding: ♠ J 10 3, ♥ A K 6 5 4, ♦ Q 8 2, ♣ J 8?

Solution: Five Clubs.

The other alternatives are: Pass, Four Spades, Six Clubs. There is something to be said for passing, but in addition to your two honour tricks, your Knaves in the black suits are promoted, after your partners' bids, and Five Clubs can come to no great harm, at worst. Four Spades is a very bad bid; your partner has obviously a four card Spade suit, the Clubs are six or seven, so that he is short in Diamonds and cannot stand forces in the suit at a Spade contract. Six Clubs is too optimistic; your partner's rebid was only Two Clubs and the jump in the suit coming later merely indicates the distribution and is non-forcing.

The complete deal from which the hand is taken was:

♠ J 10 3
♥ A K 6 5 4
♦ Q 8 2
♣ J 8

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

♠ A Q 7 2
♥ 7 2
♦ None
♣ A 10 9 7 6 5 2

Problem 2. South dealer, vulnerability immaterial, the bidding has gone:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
?			

What do you, South rebid, holding: ♠ K Q 9, ♥ J 5 4, ♦ A K J 2, ♣ A K 5?

Solution: Three Clubs.

We are not generally in favour of artificial bids, but in this case a forcing bid is called for, and we prefer Three Clubs to Two No-trump or Three Spades. Two No-trump, besides not being absolutely forcing, suggests a Heart stopper which is not quite there, and there is no compelling reason why you should be declarer at No-trump rather than your partner. While the honour strength almost warrants Three No-trump, it may mean exchange-

ing a cold game in Spades for a one-trick set in No-trump on a Heart lead. Three Clubs, being forcing, makes it convenient for the partnership to bid further without getting into deep waters. If your partner bids Three No-trump he assures the Heart stopper you are looking for, and you can leave the bid in. Three Spades can be confidently raised to four, and over Three Diamonds you can bid Three Spades. Your partner should not be obtuse enough to pass Three Clubs or raise it to four.

Problem 3. South dealer, both sides vulnerable, the bidding has gone :

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

What do you, North bid, holding : ♠ Q 2, ♥ K J 9 7 6 4, ♦ 9 8, ♣ J 8 5?

Solution : Three Hearts.

You have a hand on which you could have almost made a free bid at the one level. Partner, by his bid of Two Diamonds, has not only shown a hand just short of the requirements for a Two opening, but also guaranteed good support for any suit you might bid. Game is a certainty, but you should be more ambitious. You have an excellent six-card major suit, and you must indicate slam possibilities by a jump take-out which will not be misunderstood, for you did not

make any bid over One Diamond.

The South hand was : ♠ K J 9 4, ♥ A 10 8 2, ♦ A, ♣ A K Q 4.

Problem 4. East dealer, match points, North-South vulnerable, the bidding is :

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	2 ♣
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT		

West leads Diamond 6 on which East plays the Queen. The North and South hands are given below. How should South play?

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

Solution : Take the trick with the Ace, enter dummy with a Spade honour, lead the Knave of Clubs and let it ride if it is not covered. The Ace and King of Hearts must be with West for his opening bid, and the contract is cold provided the Club suit is played properly. All four Clubs with West spells no danger, but you must provide for all four with East.

The East-West hands were :

WEST	EAST
♠ J 10 7 6	♠ 9 8
♥ A K 5 3	♥ 9 8 7
♦ K 9 8 6 5	♦ Q 7 4 3
♣ None	♣ Q 8 4 3

Problem 5. South dealer, vulnerability immaterial, the bidding is :

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	D'ble	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠

You, South, lead the King of Diamonds to which your partner plays the 10. How do you proceed with the defence? The West and South hands are given below :

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

Solution : Cash Diamond Ace, and to the third trick, lead a low Diamond.

Your partner's 10 of Diamonds indicates either a singleton or doubleton in the suit. If it is a singleton, the contract is set, and the deal won't be appearing as a problem. If it is a doubleton, your side make two Diamonds and a Spade, and the setting trick must be found elsewhere. It is not in Hearts. It is not in Clubs, because East's Jump in Spades places him with the King of Clubs in addition to at least five Spades headed A Q. Your partner has at best a singleton trump. If it is an honour the contract goes down without any exertion on your part. Now suppose your partner's singleton trump is the nine! Your ten can be promoted if your partner ruffs a Diamond with the nine,

forcing declarer to ruff with an honour. Your partner is not likely to ruff if you lead the Queen. Therefore you must lead low forcing him to ruff. The complete deal was :

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

Problem 6. South is in a contract of 6NT. West leads the Knave of Hearts, taken by South, who ducks a Diamond to East's Queen. The Heart return is taken by the declarer who leads a second Diamond, only to find West out of the suit! What is declarer's further play for making the slam? The North South hands are given below :

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

Solution : The only chance is to find East with four Spades to the Queen in addition to his four Diamonds. Declarer should take the trick with the Ace, play Diamond King, Club Ace, queen and King in that order. The lead

of the Ace of Hearts at the ninth trick squeezes East who has to let go a Spade. The Ace of Spades followed by the finesse of the Knave lands twelve tricks. The complete deal was :

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

Problem 7. West dealer, both sides vulnerable, the bidding is :

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	D'ble
R'd'ble	Pass	Pass	3 ♦
3 ♠	Pass	Pass	4 ♥
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	D'ble.	

What do you, West, lead, holding : ♥ K Q 10 4, ♦ K 2, ♠ 10 8 2, ♣ J 9 7 5

Solution : A Club, not a Spade.

This is an instance of the Lightner Double calling for an abnormal lead as the only chance of beating the contract. If East thinks that the contract cannot be made on the expected opening lead, he would not double, as the double is not likely to improve considerably on the good score

he is going to get. When a slam is doubled on a bidding sequence like the present one, it is not for the sake of the penalty but to prevent the partner from making the normal lead as such a lead is likely to help the declarer rather than the defence. An unusual lead is called for, and, in this case, West can easily understand that it is Clubs. The complete deal was :

♠ 8 5 2	♠ K Q 10 4	♠ A J 9 7 6 3
♥ J 5	♥ K 2	♥ 9 7 6 3
♦ J 6 4 3	♦ 10 8 2	♦ None
♣ 6 4 3 2	♣ J 9 7 5	♣ K Q 8
♠ None	♠ A Q 10 8 4	
♥ A Q K Q 9 7 5	♥ A 10	

Problem 8. You, North, are in a contract of Six Spades, doubled by West, after your partner opened the bidding with one Club. East leads the Two of Diamonds. How do you play? The North and South hands are given below :

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

Solution : Take the trick in the closed hand. Do not start off with trumps, but lead a Heart.

A trump reducing play is called for, so you must ruff a Heart and a Club without allowing West to discard Diamonds, and enter dummy with Spade honour at trick 10 to administer the *coup de grace* on West.

This is a hand that calls for reflection. West has doubled obviously on the strength of the Ace of Hearts and trump length. He must hold at least four trumps, probably all five. You must try to get a count of the defender's hands on the opening lead, though you don't have much to go on. The lead of the deuce of Diamond places East with four cards in the suit; he has a singleton or no spade; he has, therefore eight cards in Hearts and Clubs. You get further information when West's Queen of Clubs drops on the Ace. West has eight cards in the major suits, of which Hearts must account for four or three. In either case, a heart ruff is absolutely safe as the first ruff in the trump reducing plan. The Diamond entry should be used for ruffing a Club, after cashing the other Diamond honour without affording West a chance to discard Diamonds.

Play should proceed thus. The Diamond lead is taken in the hand, the King of Clubs is cashed, and a Heart led. West will take with the Ace and his best return is a trump. The Club Ace is led for a Heart discard, Heart Queen is cashed, a Heart ruffed, Diamond Queen, Diamond Ace, are cashed. A Club is led from dummy which West has to ruff and you over-ruff. A trump to the Ace now deals, as we said, the *coup de grace* on West.

Let us see what happens if declarer plays a trump at trick two. West leads a second trump when he is in with the Ace of Hearts and the trump reducing play is foiled.

The complete deal was :

♠ K 10 8 6 4 2	♠ None
♥ 8 7 5	♥ 6 4 3 2
♦ K Q 3	♦ 10 7 6 2
♣ K	♣ 9 8 7 6 4
♠ J 9 7 5 3	♠ A Q
♥ A J 10	♥ K Q 9
♦ J 9 8	♦ A 4 3
♣ Q 2	♣ A J 10 5 3

A REVIEW OF THE M. U. C. PAR CONTEST

By SATURN

The Madras United Club deserve special praise for their pioneer effort in getting a set of 16 interesting and instructive deals from Mr. M. J. Sullivan, Australia, for a Par Contest as one of the chief items in their annual Bridge Tournament this year. This event which was played at the Corporation Stadium attracted a big crowd and the competitors thoroughly enjoyed the evening. For the benefit of our readers who did not participate in the event we are reproducing the hands together with Mr. Sullivan's comments on the bidding and playing Par and the vital points of play involved in each.* The following comments on some of the deals may be of interest.

DEAL No. 1: This deal involved a simple safety play but surprisingly only 2 North-South pairs followed the official line of play.

DEAL No. 3: A very interesting deal requiring correct timing and a safety play by the declarer. Although the official contract of 6 spades on this hand has been termed 'ridiculously optimistic' by the author, 5 pairs actually reached this contract. Only three pairs made the contract following the correct line of play.

DEAL No. 4: This deal presented a test for the declarer's ability to count an opponent's hand but unfortunately this principle appears to have been lost sight of by the participants, not one of them making the winning play.

DEAL No. 6: Rather a difficult deal requiring the declarer to hold up the Ace of Spades in the dummy for retaining control of the suit against an opponent who held four trumps. None of the N.S. Pairs made the correct play on this deal.

DEAL No. 10: Another difficult deal requiring accurate timing in playing by the declarer coupled with a safety play in trumps followed by a duck of the trump suit to enable picking up opponents' trumps later. No wonder none of the E.W. pairs rose to the occasion on this deal.

DEAL No. 9: The vital play in this deal was for West to play a small diamond whenever in, in the hope that East would have the 10 of diamonds and thus be able to cash in Queen of Hearts. I was surprised to see on going through the score records that one North player actually invited trouble and led a small heart from the dummy at trick 6 setting up

the odd trick for the defence. Another declarer bluntly ducked the lead of the small diamond by West hoping that dummy's 9 would win the trick!

DEAL No. 12: Most of the South players, including the winner could not see eye to eye with the official comment on bidding for this deal. "North's yarborough should keep North safe out of any No-Trumps contract—as well as out of any game venture in Hearts." Also, in the play of the hand there appears to be

little need for all the grandiose "smothering an impregnable Trump." North had the nine tricks needed for the asking, viz., four trump tricks in the South hand, Ace, king of clubs, king or queen of spades, and two ruffs in the declarer's hand. In fact excepting for Dr. Achar and the eventual N.S. runners-up none of the N.S. players made this spectacular smother play, though they made the contract by simply ruffing two spade losers in the hand.

* Please refer to pages 17-29 of this issue.

PSYCHICS

By SYKE

You have doubtless come across a player calling One Spade with a singleton or worthless doublet on in that suit. It is the psychic bid. Why does he make it? Because he thinks opponents will not lead that suit at the ultimate No-Trump contract in which he has planned to play the hand. Woe unto him and his team if his partner happens to hold four cards in the suit headed Queen or Knave, or five without an honour!

Another will open the bidding on a yarborough. It is a variation of the psychic bid. He has already seen a slam on the opponents' cards and wants to prevent it. What a presumption!

A third will go on bidding all suits in which he has no strength, other than partner's suit for which he has good support, in order to invite a double, so that he may redouble and reap a rich harvest. God save his partners!

The tragedy of all these psychics—or is it the comedy?—is that they succeed.

Have you ever come across psychic play?

Here is an example.

The irrepressible young man who was East opened the bidding

—a semi-psychic bid. He reached a contract of Three No-Trumps, after an overcall of Hearts to his left. South led his fourth best Heart and North played the Knave. Declarer took with the Ace! He led a Diamond, successfully finessed the Knave, entered his hand with the King of Clubs and led another Diamond. South took with the Ace and led another Heart, dead certain to find the Queen with his partner. Hurra! for the young man, his ruse had succeeded! A Spade shift would have defeated the contract.

♠ A J 8 4 3

♥ J 8

♦ 10 9 7

♣ 9 5 4

♠ Q 5

♥ 7 4

♦ K J 5 2

♣ A Q J 10 3

♠ 10 9 7.

♥ A Q 10 2

♦ 8 6 4

♣ K 8 2

♠ K 6 2

♥ K 9 6 5 3

♦ A Q 3

♣ 7 6

Hats off to the young man, what? That is not the way you would exactly feel if you were at the table and sitting South!



Edited by T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN

The Association's annual championship tournament is now in full swing. Preliminary qualifying rounds at the various zonal centres are nearing completion and the finalists in the various zones will fight the successful teams from Madras city and the West Bengal teams for the Sir T. Sadasiva Iyer's Challenge Trophy.

The final rounds of the tournament will be played at "The Express Estates," Mount Road, Madras, from the 24th to 27th December, 1953. Besides the usual events, this year's tournament will include a special PAR CONTEST, run on the lines of the Australian World Olympic, 1950. A set of sixteen interesting and instructive deals, par pointed by Mr. M. J. Sullivan, Brisbane, Australia, have been specially secured for this event and with all the local and moffusil teams participating a week of intense Bridge is in prospect. The tournament committee hope to make

this item an annual event in future if the response this year is encouraging.

THE MADRAS CITY LEAGUE TOURNAMENT:

The following is the final position of this year's League Tournament which concluded in September.

1953 League.

Results.	No. of matches won.
1 M. I. C.	11
2 T. N. S. C. 'B'	9
3 Mudaliar's team	7
4 P. S. Reddy's team	6
5 C. A. M. S.	5
6 K. R. Sundaram Iyer's team	5
7 S. V. S.	5
8 Aravamudhan's team	4
9 T. N. S. C. 'A'	5
10 N. Ramaratnam's team	3
11 Rangachari's team	3
12 M. C. O. P.	1

The Modern Institute of Commerce team who have become the new league champions deserve to be congratulated on their fine performance this year. This victory is the more praiseworthy in that, like the T. Nagar Social Club and Mr. P. S. Reddy's team in previous seasons, they remained unbeaten to the end.

Local interest in the tournament appears however to be waning. This tournament provides an ideal opportunity to all teams, especially newcomers, to test their skill with the top-ranking teams and the Committee hope that more teams will take part in this in future and play all the matches to the end.

The following players represented the winners and runners up.

Modern Institute of Commerce.
Winners :

K. S. Narayana
S. Narasimhan
R. Sankaran
S. K. Subramanian
M. R. Krishnan
K. Guru Dutt
P. S. N. Sarma
M. Sunderraj.

T. Nagar Social Club 'B' Runners-up.

K. C. Ramaratnam
T. Ramachandra Rao.
C. Devarajan.
G. K. Gopalaswamy.
S. Palaniswamy
P. S. Sadasivan
S. S. S. Aiyar
T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Two other local tournaments were also completed during this quarter.

The T. Nagar Social Club's annual tournament which came off during September/October was not so well contested as last year. With two or three matches having had to be cancelled by teams not turning up within the scheduled time the main knock-out event resulted in another encounter between Mr. P. S. Reddy's team and the home team in the finals. The former won the match in convincing style by the almost flattering margin of 6000 points in the aggregate in a match of 32 boards. The teams were :

P. S. Reddy's Team :

P. S. Reddy
A. S. Giri
Dr. S. T. Achar
B. Hanumantha Rao
T. K. N. Panikkar.

T. Nagar Social Club :

C. Devarajan
G. K. Gopalaswamy
K. C. Ramaratnam
T. S. Chandrasekharan.
S. S. S. Aiyar.

The other results were :

Progressive Pairs :

Winners : North-South M. C.
O. P.

P. Elliah
Namberumaliah.

East-West Mylapore Club.

N. Ramaratnam
G. N. Chari.

Runners-up : North-South.

K. Guru Dutt
M. R. Krishnan.

East-West : (C. A. M. S.)

Sreeramiah
Jagannatha Shetty.

Progressive Duplicate

Winners : Modern Institute of Commerce.

K. S. Narayana
M. R. Krishnan
S. Narasimhan
K. Guru Dutt.

Runners-up :

P. S. Reddy
A. S. Giri
Dr. S. T. Achar
A. Ramamoorthy.

Open Pairs.

Winners :

P. S. Sadasivan
V. Kuppuswamy.

Runners-up :

G. K. Gopalaswamy
T. R. Samoo.

The Madras Commercial Official's Party renewed their annual tournament after a lapse of 3 years. Even here the response from local teams was not very encouraging, only about half the usual number of teams participating in the various events. The Duplicate Knock-out final was played between P. S. Reddy's team and the T. Nagar Social Club and resulted in an easy win for the former. Detailed results were :

Knock-out Duplicate Team of four :

Winners : P. S. Reddy's Team.

P. S. Reddy
A. S. Giri
T. K. N. Panikkar
Dr. S. T. Achar
B. Hanumantha Rao.

Runners-up : T. Nagar Social Club

C. Devarajan
G. K. Gopalaswamy.
K. C. Ramaratnam
P. S. Sadasivan
T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Progressive Duplicate :

Winners : P. S. Reddy's Team

P. S. Reddy
A. S. Giri
T. K. N. Panikkar
A. Ramamoorthy.

Runners-up : Modern Institute of Commerce.

R. Sankaran.
M. Sunderraj
K. S. Narayana
S. Narasimhan.

Pairs Progressive :

North-South Winners : Modern Institute of Commerce.

K. S. Narayana
S. Narasimhan.

Runners-up :

Henry Appadurai
Damoo.

East-West : Winners :

T. R. Samoo
P. S. Sadasivan.

Runners-up : S.V.S.

A. R. Krishnaswamy
C. S. Padmanabhan

The Burma Shell Club had an enjoyable Bridge meet on 2-10-53.

The Pairs Progressive contest attracted a large number of entries despite the fact that the Prime Minister was addressing a mass meeting that evening. The arrangements, especially the catering left nothing to be desired and we hope that they will make this a regular event in future with more of the club members participating.

The winning pairs were :

North-South : Winners :

A. Ramamoorthi
K. C. Ramaratnam

Runners-up :

P. S. N. Sarma
M. Sunderraj.

East-West Winners :

C. V. Venkatesan
Venkataramani.

Runners-up :

T. K. N. Panikkar
M. Rangaswamy.

The South Indian Vysia Association organised two progressive events on the 21st and 22nd November which were both well attended. The result were :

Progressive Duplicate winners :

P. Ramanujiah
V. Subba Rao
(Dr.) Suri
Sivaramakrishnan

Runners-up :

R. Sankaran.
S. K. Subramaniam
K. C. Ramaratnam
T. R. Ramachandra Rao

*Pairs Progressive :**Winners : North-South :*

G. K. Gopalaswamy
M. Rangaswamy.

East-West :

T. R. Samoo
C. R. Srinivasan.

Runners-up : North-South :

M. Namberumaliah
P. Elliah.

East-West :

R. Sankaran
P. S. N. Sarma.

The Annual Contract Bridge Tournament of the Cosmopolitan Club, Tanjore, was held from 21st to 23rd August, 1953. The Modern Institute of Commerce who took two teams to Tanjore came out victorious in the main knock-out event, both their teams coming to the finals. Detailed results were :

*Knock-out Team of four**Winners : Modern Institute of Commerce, Madras.*

K. S. Narayana
S. Narasimhan
K. Guru Dutt
M. R. Krishnan.

Runners-up : Modern Institute of Commerce.

R. Sankaran
S. K. Subramanian

M. Sunderraj
P. S. N. Sarma.

*Pairs Progressive :**Winners :*

North South : Nehru Club, Kothamangalam.

C. A. Arunachalam Chettiar
R. M. Kuttaian Chettiar

East-West : Devakottah.

A. Sundararajan
C. Srinivasan

Runners-up :

North-South : Cosmopolitan Club, Tanjore.

S. Ramalingasami
(Srimathi) A. Jothi Pandian

East-West : Cosmopolitan Club, Tanjore.

S. R. Iyer
N. S. Ramalingam

Master Pairs :

Winners : Cosmopolitan Club, Tanjore.

(Dr.) M. S. Krishnasami
M. Appathurai

Runners-up : Cosmopolitan Club, Tanjore.

R. Subbaratnam
(Dr.) M. Krishnan

K. S. Venkataraman, I.C.S., District and Sessions Judge, West Tanjore, presided on the occasion of the distribution of prizes and made a short, interesting and instructive speech on the ethics of the game and on the spirit in which it should be played. Srimati A. Jothi Pandian distributed the prizes and the pleasant

function came to a close with a vote of thanks proposed by Col. C. S. V. Ramanan, I.M.S.

The Thevar Memorial Tournament, run by the City club, Tiruchirapalli, came off during the Puja Holidays and was well represented. Although P. S. Reddy's team, last year's winners did not take part, the usual teams from the suburbs and districts participated in the tournament. The following are the detailed results.

*Knock-out: Team of Four**Winners : City Club.*

(Dr.) M. Sahadevan
R. Nataraja Iyer
A. K. Sharfuddin
K. Jamal Mohamed

Runners-up : City Club.

S. V. Natarajan
Y. Doraisami Iyer
E. N. Mylappan
M. Subbiah
V. Subramanian

*Master Pairs.**Winners : Kothamangalam.*

R. M. Kuttaian Chettiar
N. A. R. Arunachalam Chettiar

Runners-up : Kothamangalam.

R. M. Olagappan
K. N. Narayanan Chettiar

*Pairs Progressive:**North-South Winners:*

Y. Doraisami Iyer
E. N. Mylappan

East-West Winners:

S. Ratnam Pillai
S. Parthasarathi

Individual Championship:

Winner: S. R. Sampath Thatham

Runner-up:

S. Sa. vodaya

The Editorial Committee are somewhat disappointed that only three issues of the INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD have been brought out this year. With more response from the mofussilites, and greater co-operation the Committee hope

to bring out future issues regularly.

The PRO ET CONTRA section which could not be included in this issue for want of time will appear in greater detail in our next issue.

The Committee would like readers to remember that the views expressed in the various articles published in the Magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Committee and comments—the spicier the better—from readers on controversial points raised therein are most welcome.

A NOTE ON THE SCORE

It is felt in many quarters that our system of scoring should either be brought in line with international practice, or incorporated as part of our own Laws to be promulgated hereafter. It lacks authority in its present form.

It is also necessary that a uniform system of scoring should be followed in all the zones of the S. I. B. A.

For the information of readers we give below the Official Duplicate Contract Bridge Scoring Table. Rubber bridge scoring is the same, except that trick points scored in one hand count towards making game in a subsequent hand; premium points are not scored for making a part score or game, but only for winning a rubber—700 for a two-game rubber and 500 for a three-game rubber; honours are counted.

DUPLICATE CONTRACT BRIDGE
SCORING TABLE.

Trick Points for Contractor.

<i>Odd tricks bid and won:</i>			
Clubs or Diamonds,	each	20	40
	Hearts, or Spades,		
	each	30	60
No-trump	{ first	40	80
	{ each subsequent	30	60

Re-doubling doubles the doubled points for Odd Tricks. Vulnerability does not affect points for Odd tricks. 100 Trick points constitute a game.

Premium points for contractor.

	Not Vulnerable.	Vulnerable.
Overtricks		
Undoubled, each	Trick value	Trick value
Doubled, each	100	200
Making Doubled or	50	50

Redoubled Contract.

Re-doubling doubles the doubled points for Overtricks, but does not affect the points for making Doubled Contracts.

Premium points for Defenders.

	Not Vulnerable.	Vulnerable.
Undertricks.		
Undoubled, each	50	100
Doubled	{ first	100 200

Doubled { each subsequent 200 300

Redoubling doubles the doubled points for undertricks.

Premium points for Holders of Honours.

Honours in one Hand.	{ 4 Trump Honours.	100
	{ 5 Trump Honours or	
	{ 4 Aces at No-trump.	150

Premium Points for
Contractors

	Not Vulner- vulnerable.	able.
Slams Bid } Little	500	750
and won } Grand	1000	1500
Making any Part- score	50	50
Making Game	300	500

Doubling and redoubling do not affect Honours, Slam, Part Score or Game points.

Vulnerability does not affect points for Honours or Part Score.

Points for Honours do not count in match-point scoring.

WHERE OUR PRESENT SCORING
DIFFERS FROM THE OFFICIAL
PRACTICE.

1. Determining winners in Team
of Four, knock-out :

The international practice is to determine the winners either on the basis of match points, or on the basis of the aggregate score, not by a combination of the two as under the S.I.B.A.

2. Making Doubled or Redoubled contract : 50 points are assigned for making any contract, doubled or redoubled. Our practice is not to score this premium.

3. Honour Points : These are not counted in match point events. But in match points events under the S.I.B.A., honours are counted.

4. Part Score : International practice is to count Trick value for odd Tricks bid and won, plus Trick value for overtricks, plus a premium of 50 for making the Part Score. Our practice is to double the Trick value for odd Tricks bid and won and add Trick value for overtricks, omitting the premium of 50 for making the Part Score.

For example there is no difference in the score according to international rules between Two Spades bid and made with an Overtrick and Three Spades bid and made. Both score 140 points.

According to our method of scoring Two Spades bid and made with an overtrick scores 150, whereas Three Spades bid and made scores 180.

EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE.

We give below the Scoring Scale officially approved by the European Bridge League.

Matches are considered to be drawn if in matches of 64 Boards or more the difference does not exceed 8 International Match Points, and in matches of less than 64 Boards, one-eighth of the number of Boards played, with a minimum of 2 Match Points.

In multiple Team matches a result is obtained by allocating 2 Victory Points for a win and 1 Victory Point to each Team for a draw.

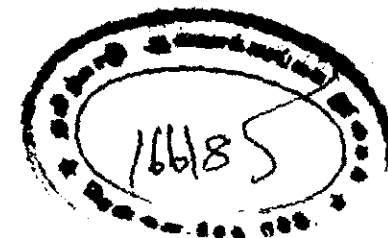
SCALE OF INTERNATIONAL MATCH-
POINTS.

European Bridge League.

Difference on Board I. M. P.

0 —	10	0
20 —	60	1
70 —	130	2
140 —	210	3
220 —	340	4

350 —	490	5
500 —	740	6
750 —	990	7
1,000 —	1,240	8
1,250 —	1,490	9
1,500 —	1,990	10
2,000 —	2,490	11
2,500 —	2,990	12
3,000 —	3,490	13
3,500 —	3,990	14
4,000 and over		15



3L
m431m2, N49
N53.5.2-3