

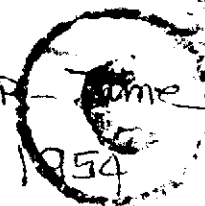
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THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

VOL-V

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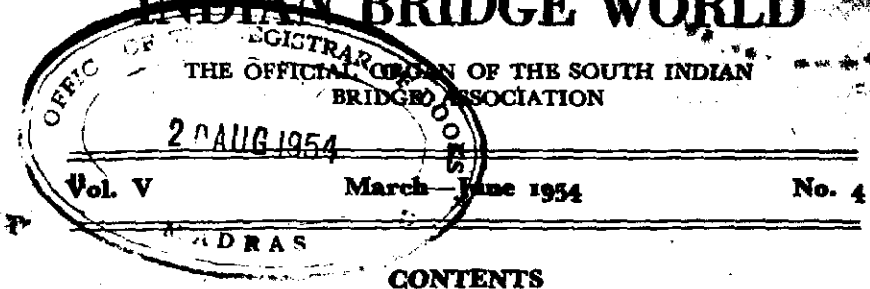
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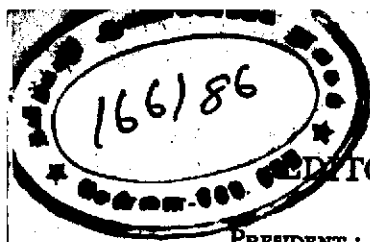
THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD



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THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

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No. 4

WHO BUNGLED AND HOW

By POINT COUNT.

The following is a hand which I played in one of the tournaments recently.

♠ K 7
♥ A 9 3
♦ J 9 4
♣ A K Q x x

♠ Q x x
♥ Q 6
♦ 10 5 3 2
♣ 9 x x x

♠ 10 x x
♥ K 8 7 5
♦ Q 7 6
♣ J x x

♠ A J 9 5 4
♥ J 10 4 2
♦ A K 8
♣ 10

The contract was Six Hearts by South (myself) and the bidding was :

South	West	North	East.
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥*	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	

*Here I thought for a while—usually I am not a thinker—and bid the three hearts believing my partner would not push me to a slam in Hearts unless he had at least four of the suit with two honour cards in his hand ; otherwise I thought he would put me back to 3 ♠ or bid 3 NT and there would be an end to the situation at game level.

West opened ♦ 2 showing that he had four diamonds in his hand. This set the ball rolling regarding counting of the opponents' hands. I could have played ♦ 9 if I had a peep at East's hand, but thinking West might have played from an honour, in this case the ♦ Q, I played ♦ J which was promptly covered by East and I took the trick with ♦ A. Somehow I felt the distribution of trumps in the East-West hands must be 4-2 and my only hope lay in finding an honour in the doubleton hand. At trick 2, I played a small heart, West ducked and I played the 9 from dummy. East

thought for a while and ducked. I played ♥ A which bagged ♥ Q from West and still my headache was not over. I have one loser in Diamonds and two in Spades, over and above the trumps. But as luck would have it, the Spades broke 3-3 to enable me to play K from Dummy, then a small Spade which I took with A, then a small ♠ from my hand, which I ruffed in dummy with ♥ 3. Now I started dummy's top clubs and when East followed two Clubs, I was on velvet—Result the whole lot of kibitzers pounced on poor East for not taking the second trick with ♥ K and defeating the contract.

2. Here is a hand which I played at the S.I.B.A. Finals in December, 1953.

WEST	EAST
♠ x	♠ A K 10 4
♥ A Q x x x	♥ x x
♦ K Q J 9 x x	♦ 10 x x
♣ 10	♣ A Q J 6

Dealer West (myself), both sides vulnerable, the bidding was:

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

North led ♦ A followed by ♦ 2. Second trick I took in my hand leaving ♦ 10 in dummy for an entry in case of need. Trumps broke 2-2 and the first

part of the battle was over. I played ♣ 10 from my hand which was covered by North with the King taken by Ace in dummy. Then I played ♣ Q J from dummy discarding my two small Hearts—both East and West joined. Then I went into a trance—I seldom go into one—and presumed North must have held ♠ Q J, ♥ K and ♦ A for a vulnerable overcall and with this obsession decided to squeeze him. Once an idea gets into my mind, I am quick at executing the play. The last Club from Dummy was ruffed by me (North did not join ♣) giving a count of five clubs in South's hand. I played the remaining 3 trumps discarding a ♦, a ♠, and a ♥ from Dummy leaving this position.

NORTH	WEST	EAST	SOUTH
♠ Q J 9	♠ x	♠ A K 10	♠ x
♥ 9	♥ A Q x	♥ x	♥ x x
♦	♦	♦	♦ x
♣	♣	♣	♣

I played ♠ x and it was covered by North with Queen and Dummy's Ace took the trick. ♠ K was next played and 9 fell from

north. This left ♠ J in north hand and I promptly played the small heart from Dummy covered by my Ace and lo! a small heart came from North. While the play was going on, our team's captain—the Wizard of Bridge—P. S. Reddy, was standing behind me, having played the hands at the other table. He told me that my opponent at the other table was not such an expert as I imagined I was and had never heard about counting of hands, squeeze, etc., and he quietly took an ordinary finesse placing the ♥ K in the South hand and he went home with 6 ♦. He cursed all pseudo-experts and said the squeeze would have worked had I only kept the last club 6 in East hand, which would have squeezed both North and South—North in Heart and Spades and South in Clubs and Hearts and I need have only ♥ A and a wee bit of a card like ♥ 2 in my hand. The position would have been:

NORTH	WEST	EAST	SOUTH
♠ Q J 9	♠ x	♠ A K 10	♠ x
♥ K x	♥ A x x	♥ x	♥ x
♦	♦ x	♦ —	♦ 6
♣	♣	♣	♣

When the last Diamond is played North is squeezed in ♥ and ♠. If he discards a Heart you discard ♠ 10 from dummy. Then the South hand is squeezed when ♠ K is played. When dummy has ♥ x and ♣ 6, South has to keep ♣ 9 and could keep only ♥ x. So the opponents could keep only one Heart each and ♥ A and a two would have been good enough for the last two tricks.

All this because I had the preconceived notion that North held ♥ K!

3. Here is another hand where I did not get any applause although I made the grand slam.

NORTH	SOUTH
♠ A 10 x	♠ x
♥ Q x x	♥ A K J 10 x x x x
♦ x x x x	♦ A K x x
♣ A 10 x	♣

I was sitting South and having dealt—(both sides vulnerable). I opened two Hearts. My partner straightaway asked 4 NT. I responded with 5 ♥ and he bid 7 ♥. I knew where the shoe pinched. How would he know?

♣ K was played by West and I ducked in Dummy (to rectify the count) and ruffed in hand. I then started the squeeze by playing trumps leaving the position as under.

NORTH	SOUTH
♠ A 10	♠ x
♥ Nil	♥ x
♦ x x	♦ A K x x
♣ A 10	♣ Nil

The last Heart was played and West had to keep two clubs and could keep three diamonds at the most and E could keep only two spades and three diamonds at the most. I then played the small ♠ which squeezed W who could keep now only two clubs and two diamonds whereas E could keep one spade and

three diamonds. When the ♠ A was played from Dummy East had to discard one Diamond. Thus I made the grand slam and was waiting for an appreciative smile from the kibitzers. What did I get? A howl from that great theorist, the "Panini of Bridge"—Mr. Sundaresa Iyer, who said, it worked well because West had to guard Clubs and East had to guard Spades, but what would have happened if W held ♠ K Q, ♣ Q J and E Q x x x of Diamonds.

All the glamour went into thin air!

STANDARD BRIDGE

by M. HARRISON-GRAY

Dealer: North

Love all

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

Both North players opened a weak No-Trump on this hand from match play, and in each case South bid a mere Two

Hearts which in Room 1 was passed out. A jump to Four Hearts would not be unreasonable—it can only be beaten by the lead of ♠ A followed by a Spade.

The second West player was far more aggressive. Over Two Hearts he came in with Two Spades, passed round to South who went on to Three Hearts. West bravely bid Three Spades but was left in this contract, eleven tricks being cold.

The same team thus scored in both rooms, but East's lack of interest at the second table is typical of the mentality that refuses to envisage a game for the defending side once the opponents have opened the bidding.

CUE BIDS MUST BE PRECISE

By N. MUTHUKRISHNAN.

Bidding of the opponent's suit appears to be not a too well explored field—meaning different things and different holdings in the suit bid by the opponent. Being a purely conventional bid there must be absolutely no uncertainty about it. It is only logical that a player should not use a call with one purpose in a certain case and the opposite purpose in another case. I think this type of bid might be altered to good advantage and it is in that belief I invite your attention to this article.

Please note the bidding sequence in the following illustration.

Illustration 1:

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

Neither side vulnerable. East dealer.

Bidding

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 ♥	D'ble	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass

This is a case covered by the principle stated by Culbertson in page 348 of his latest Gold Book. "A bid in the opponent's suit may show a genuine suit if the player (or his partner) has previously made a take-out or penalty double of the opponent's suit."

But please note the following hand and the bidding.

Illustration 2:

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

Both sides vulnerable. West dealer :

Bidding

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♥	D'ble	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♦	Pass	Pass

The bidding here by North in the second round is not different from the bidding in illustration (1) and therefore South here naturally raised Hearts thinking that North would have a genuine Heart suit. But North wanted to indicate only compensating strength in responder's suit. See Culbertson, page 348, wherein he says, "Let us assume.....that first hand opens with one Spade, second hand should double, holding:

♠ K J 10 9 7 6, ♥ A J 6 5, ♦ A 6, ♣ 5.

If his partner replies in heart all is well; otherwise he can bid two Spades. This will be a *forcing bid*, but will at the same time show probable possession of strength in the opponent's suit. Partner, holding support for spade, may and should raise; if the doubler does not actually have a Spade suit he will have *compensating strength in responder's suit*". It is axiomatic that beginning with

the second round bids shall be made as definite as possible and not as vague as possible. When in the third round North bids four Diamonds South is left uncertain and with the poor hand he has, he may not bid game in Diamonds.* Can we blame South for not reaching game? The same bid is made on two different holdings.

The third instance is the following hand :—

Illustration 3 :

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

West dealer Neither side vulnerable.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♣	Double	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	?		

If North is to read South's two Clubs as a "genuine bid" in Clubs, (on the principle stated by Culbertson at page 348 extracted in paragraph 2 above), he

will be justified in calling no-trumps (which will be tragic). But this bid will be justified under what Culbertson says in page 251 of his book: "If the partner responds by bidding the doubled suit, he is almost making a take-out double of his own. He denies great strength in the opponent's suit (with which he would have made a no-trump response) and shows that he can support the other suits; the doubler may now take his choice". Will not the following hand be bid similarly?

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 ♥	D'ble	1 ♠	2 ♥

Illustration 4 :

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

There is little definiteness and consistency in the bidding situations shown above. Bidding in suits called by the opponents is a convention used to show an ultra-powerful hand, or to show a genuine holding in the

adversary's bid suit or to force the partner to bid in a suit other than that called by the opponent. The case of the immediate overcall in opponent's suit presents little difficulty. The real difficulty arises where the same bid is employed to indicate

(i) actual playing strength in the suit bid by the opponent (Illustration Nos. 1 and 4)

(ii) if not actual playing strength in the adversely bid suit compensating strength in the responder's suit (Illustration No. 2) and

(iii) the responder's cue-bid take-out double of his own (Illustration No. 3).

The "cue bid response" conflicts with "genuine bid in the opponent's suit" and the "genuine bid in the opponent's suit" conflicts with "compensating strength in responder's suit" as shown in the bidding sequences in the hands illustrated above.

The difficulty will be felt keener when the "passed hand" makes a take-out or penalty double of the opponent's suit and later he or his partner bids in the opponent's suit. Culbertson says at page 348 of his book: "A bid in a suit the opponents have already bid is *usually* a conventional *forcing* bid rather than a genuine suit

* We wonder what the cue-bid has to do with the game being missed—Ed.

bid". If it is a "genuine suit bid" it cannot be and should not be forcing on the partner; if it is a "conventional" bid it is naturally forcing; if the "genuine suit bid" is also forcing it will be a too heavy burden on the partner and the level of the contract will be too high for fulfilment. If any bid in the opponent's suit is "forcing" upon a partner who has already 'passed' the contract may be too high for the combined hands. There may also arise situations where the 'passed hand' bids in the suit called by the opponent following a take-out double of that suit by his partner; does this show mere good passed hand, or a cue-bid take-out response, or a genuine suit bid? Is it forcing? Culbertson is silent about these situations.

Some players advocate a jump overcall in the opponent's suit to show that the player is interested in making the contract in that particular suit. But players who use the "asking bid" technique of Culbertson will immediately take this bid as an asking cue-bid. Those who make asking bids cannot jump overcall in opponent's suit. Though the use of the asking bids is optional it is yet a part of the Culbertson system.

No bidding should leave any doubt as to the proper contract. No two different interpretations should be put by the partner or by the opponent

on any bidding sequence. To make matters more definite may I suggest that the convention of bidding in the opponent's suit be in these terms.

(a) The bid in the opponent's suit may show a genuine suit if the player or his partner has passed at a previous opportunity provided his partner has also passed (as it is in Culbertson, no change).

(b) A bid in the opponent's suit by the player who has previously made a take-out or penalty double of the opponent's suit shows good strength in his suit and is as good as an immediate overcall in the opponent's suit except that the honour trick requirements are as for a take-out double.

(c) if the partner, irrespective of an intervening bid, responds by bidding the doubled suit he is almost making a "take-out double" of his own. He denies any strength in the opponent's suit and shows that he can support the other suits; the doubler may now take his choice. (In no case can the bid in the adversary's suit by the partner of the doubler be taken to show playing strength in the opponent's suit).

(d) excepting in the situations in (a) above no passed hand shall call in the opponent's suit to show a genuine hand in that suit.

PAR-POINT HANDS SET FOR THE S.I.B.A.

By M. J. SULLIVAN, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA.

HAND 1

♠ A 6 5 4
♥ 9 4
♦ 9
♣ 10 8 7 5 4 2

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

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

DEALER NORTH :

Vul : Nil

BIDDING PAR

N-S, for finishing in 6 ♠ or 7 ♠ or for doubling E-W at 7-odd. 2 Points.

E-W for not permitting N-S to play any Spade contract for less than 7-odd. 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	2 ♦	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	4 ♠	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

PLAYING PAR

N-S, for 12 tricks, *but only if* after not more than two top trumps in South, low cards from both hands were played by declarer to first round of diamonds : 4 Points.

Bidding : On freak deals such as this, spirited competitive bidding is inevitable. E-W should not forget the standard maxim "If in doubt about defeating opponents' soundly-bid high call, bid one more in own long suit". Therefore if N-S stop at 6 ♠, E-S should sacrifice in 7 ♥.

PLAY : A SAFETY DUCK.

To trick 2, a top trump from the South hand is routine procedure. When West shows out, insurance against a 5-0 diamond break should be taken out. This can be done by conceding a diamond trick at once, ruffing West's return, trumping a low diamond with ♠ A, returning to hand with a trump finesse to draw trumps and run the established diamond suit.

HAND 2

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

DEALER : EAST VUL : N-S

BIDDING PAR

E-W, for finishing in 3 NT,
4 ♥ or 5 ♦. 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

East to play hand in 6 ♦.

South must lead ♦ 10.

PLAYING PAR

E-W, for 12 tricks. *But only if*
after trumps had been drawn,
spades eliminated and three heart
tricks won, South had been
thrown-in on fourth round of
hearts : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

Bidding : No points for 6 ♦,
even though hand must be played
at that contract. Probabilities
are against fulfilment of any
slam venture.

PLAY : ELIMINATION THROW-IN.

Needing either two finesses or
one finesse and an even break
in hearts, East should explore
possibilities for an end play.
Trumps should be drawn. ♠ A
and ♥ K cashed, ♥ J finessed, a
spade ruffed, dummy re-entered
with ♥ A for another spade ruff,
and the fourth heart led for a
club discard in dummy. Thrown
in, South must lead into declarer's
club tenace or furnish a ruff
and discard.

HAND 3

♠ 10
 ♥ A Q J 6 3
 ♦ Q 8 7 4
 ♣ K 9 2

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

♠ 9
 ♥ 10 9 8 7 5
 ♦ K 10 9 6 5
 ♣ 7 5

DEALER : SOUTH VUL : E-W

BIDDING PAR

E-W, for finishing in 4 ♠, 5 ♠
or 6 ♠, or for doubling N-S at
5-odd or higher. 1 Point.

N-S, for not permitting E-W to
play any black suit contract
below the 5-odd level, or for
sacrificing with 6 ♦ or 6 ♥. 1
Point.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	1 ♣	1 ♥	1 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
5 ♥	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

East to play hand in 5 ♠

South must lead ♥ 10.

PLAYING PAR

N-S, for 3 tricks *But only if*
North took ♥ A and returned
♦ Q. 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

Bidding : Six spades, which de-
pends only on a successful club
finesse, is a legitimate final
bid. But, because the deal defi-
nitely belongs to the highly com-
petitive category, the bidding
award has been made elastic.

PLAY : THE DESCHAPELLES COUP.

When ♥ A holds the first
trick, two more N-S tricks are
necessary to defeat the contract.
One of these obviously will have
to come from the trump or
diamond suits. To set up the
the potential diamond trick, North
shifts to that suit. To avoid
being thrown-in on an endplay,
however, North must utilise the
Deschappelles Coup and lead
♦ Q.

HAND 4

♠ K Q
 ♥ Q 10 4
 ♦ K Q 10 7 5 3
 ♣ A Q

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

♠ 8
 ♥ 9 8 7 6 5 2
 ♦ None
 ♣ 10 9 7 6 4 3

DEALER : WEST VUL : All

BIDDING PAR

E-W, for finishing in 4 ♠, or
for doubling N-S at 4-odd or
higher. (or for doubling diamonds
at any level) 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	D'ble	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West to play hand in 4 ♠

NORTH must lead ♦ K
and Dummy must play ♦ 2

PLAYING PAR

N-S, for 4 tricks. *But only if*
South ruffed North's ♦ K and
returned a club. 5 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING: No matter what course the bidding takes, E-W should be in full command of the situation. That is why the bidding award has been confined to East-West.

PLAY: GRABBING A VITAL ENTRY

South should perceive that only defensive hope lies in a trump trick, plus Ace-King or Ace-Queen of clubs at North. South can frustrate West's directed avoidance play of a hold-up on ♦ K by using the otherwise worthless eight of trumps as a ruffing entry for the all important club return.

HAND 5

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

DEALER: NORTH Vul N-S
BIDDING PAR

E-W, for finishing in 7 ♥ or 7 ♣. 3 Points.

E-W, for finishing in 6 ♥ or 6 ♣ or in 6 NT by West. 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

Pass	1 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 NT (1)
Pass	7 ♥	Pass	Pass

MEMO: Bid marked (1) is Blackwood.

West to play hand in 7 ♥

NORTH must lead ♦ 4

PLAYING PAR

E-W, for 13 tricks. 5 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING: The official bidding sequence is not submitted as recommended bidding. To bid this Grand Slam with accuracy, asking bids embodying trump clarification appear to be the most reliable equipment. Because of these facts, an elastic bidding award has been made.

PLAY: UNBLOCKING FOR SAFETY

At least 15 tricks can be counted trumps, ruffs and side-suit winners. Only danger, therefore, is adverse distribution. If South has all four outstanding trumps together with a club void, the contract cannot be made. But, should that particular holding lie at North, careful play can bring in 13 tricks. Taking ♦ A, West tries out trumps, using the key play of the hand to do so, a

lead of the unblocking 7-spot. Taking this with an honour-card, Declarer immediately discards his two top clubs on dummy's diamonds, and then leads a low club for a high ruff. Re-entering dummy as cheaply as possible in trumps, another low club is ruffed high, whereupon trumps are drawn in dummy and the club suit run. To carry out these plays, four entries to dummy are indispensable. One of these, obviously, must be the lowly six of trumps.

HAND 6

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

DEALER: EAST Vul: E-W
BIDDING PAR

N-S, for finishing 6 ♣. 3 Points.

N-S, for finishing in 5 ♣, or in 4 ♠, 5 ♠ or 6 ♠ or in 3, 4, 5 or 6 NT. 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 NT
Pass	4 NT (1)	Pass	5 ♦ (2)
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	Pass

Bids marked (1) & (2) are Blackwood slam conventional bids.

SOUTH to play hand in 6 ♣
WEST must lead ♥ Q.

PLAYING PAR

N-S, for 12 tricks. 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING: Good partnership understanding should uncover the solid 6-2 club suit and avoid the dubious 4-4 spade holding for the slam essay. Any spade slam must fail whereas the club slam can be played home. Despite this, the bidding award has been made very elastic.

PLAY: AN UNRECTIFIED SQUEEZE.

With eleven toptricks, South, after drawing trumps, might feel tempted to rectify the count for a potential squeeze by conceding an early spade trick. Closer analysis reveals the futility of such an attempt for, if given the lead, East-West can lead another heart and wreck the matrix. South therefore, after playing two top spades to ascertain whether the suit will break, plays off all remaining winners. The last of these squeezes West out of a heart or spades to set up a heart—or permit establish-

ment of a spade—for South's vital twelfth trick.

HAND 7

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

DEALER : SOUTH Vul : All

BIDDING PAR

N-S, for finishing in 4 ♠.
2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

NORTH to play hand in 4 ♠

EAST must lead ♦ K.

PLAYING PAR

N-S, for 10 tricks. *But only if* ♦ A was taken on opening lead and hearts led at every opportunity thereafter. 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT.

BIDDING : Reaching the spade game should present little difficulty to any pair of sound bidders.

PLAY : TRUMP CONSERVATION FOR VITAL RUFF

To eke out ten tricks, North must win two tricks in hearts. If West holds the Ace, or if the suit breaks evenly, this will be simplicity itself. But the possibility of East holding Ace to 4 hearts must be considered, for, in such an eventuality, North's tenth trick can come only from a fourth-round ruff in dummy. Therefore, correct technique is to lead hearts and eschew leading trumps. However, if (as they should) opponents attack trumps, the ♠ Q should be retained in dummy.

HAND 8

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

♠ K 5
♥ 10 8 5 3
♦ 10 7 5 4
♣ 10 7 2

DEALER : WEST Vul. Nil

BIDDING PAR

N-S, for finishing in 6 ♣ or 6 NT. 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	6 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

NORTH to play hand in 6 NT.

EAST must lead ♠ Q.

PLAYING PAR

N-S, for 12 tricks, *But only if* after winning opening lead with ♠ A, all North's top cards were cashed and fourth club led : 5 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING : As the fall of any one of the three Jacks makes 12 tricks laydown, a slam should definitely be attempted with the N-S cards.

PLAY : A JETTISON SQUEEZE.

To retain dummy's sole entry, the opening lead must be taken with ♠ A. Then, in an endeavour to establish a ten by dropping a Jack, all North's top cards should be cashed. Forced to retain the red Jacks, East must discard a spade honour to the tenth trick—an act which gives North a perfect picture of the remaining hidden cards. To trick 11, the losing club is led, compelling East to disgorge the remaining spade honour. On this trick, dummy's ♠ K is jettisoned to permit the by now obvious finesse of West's compulsory spade return.

HAND 9

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

Dealer : North Vul : E-W

BIDDING PAR

E-W, for finishing in 1 N T, 2 N T or 3 N T, or in hearts or clubs below game : (or for doubling 2 ♠ or 3 ♠) : 1 Point.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	1 ♦	1 ♠	2 ♥
Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

EAST to play hand in 3 N T.

SOUTH must lead ♠ 7.

PLAYING PAR

E-W, for 10 tricks, *But only if* North was compelled to win two tricks in hearts : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING : Despite the E-W high card strength 3 N T is a very optimistic contract. That is why full recognition has been accorded to part score final bids.

PLAY : ISOLATING THE DANGER HAND.

With South holding an established suit, East can run but seven tricks. Two more must be found if the contract is to be fulfilled. This obviously will have to come from the heart suit without letting South obtain the lead. East therefore must assume that North holds ♥ A and no more spades. To trick 2, a heart is led, if South plays the seven, dummy ducks and North must win, if South produces 10 or Q, dummy covers cheaply and awaits another opportunity to duck on South's assumed seven spot. Good card-reading brings in an overtrick where careless play would entail a two trick set.

HAND 10

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

Dealer : East Vul : All

BIDDING PAR

E-W, for finishing in 4 ♥ : 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

WEST to play hand in 4 ♥.

NORTH must lead ♦ J.

PLAYING PAR

E-W, for 10 tricks, *But only if* ♥ A was not played on North's ♥ 6 : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING : East-West should encounter little difficulty in reaching game in hearts and should curb any temptation to go beyond the game level.

PLAY : A RARE SAFETY PLAY.

West can afford to lose two trump tricks but not three. Safety procedure, therefore, is indicated. If trumps divide 2-2 or 3-1, there will be no problem. Neither will all four trumps in South prove troublesome. But the possibility of all the trumps being held by North must not be ignored. Declarer's first trump lead therefore must be the nine, eight or seven towards dummy's ace, ducking if North drops the six. These tactics hold North to two trump tricks and ensure the success of the contract.

HAND 11

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

Dealer : South Vul : Nil

BIDDING PAR

N-S, for finishing below game in diamonds, or for finishing in N T, either in game or below game : 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

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

NORTH to play hand in 3 NT.

EAST must lead ♠ 3.

PLAYING PAR

E-W, for 5 or more tricks, *But only if* ♠ Q was permitted to hold first trick : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING : The decision as to whether or not game should be called is sufficiently close to merit a broad bidding award.

PLAY : AN ENTRY-CONSERVING DUCK

The opening lead makes it clear that Declarer holds two spade stoppers. Holding but a single side entry, West should compel North to use one of those stoppers forthwith by declining to cover dummy's singleton ♠ Q. This far-sighted manoeuvre defeats the contract as East, when in with ♦ K can establish the spade suit before West's ♦ A is removed. If the king be played to the first trick, Declarer has merely to hold up once to ensure ten tricks.

HAND 12

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

Dealer : West Vul : N-S

BIDDING PAR

N-S, for finishing in game, or below game, in either spades or NT : 1 Point.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

SOUTH to play hand in 4 ♠
WEST must lead ♥ J.

PLAYING PAR

N-S, for 10 tricks : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING : Another borderline game hand warranting an elastic bidding par.

PLAY : REPEATED THROW-INS

Percentages being definitely against all minor suit secondary honour-cards being dropped by straight leads, Declarer should assume favourable distribution for repeated throw-ins. Opening lead must be won and two rounds of trumps taken to bail out East who is then thrown-in with a heart for a minor suit return. Three tricks are taken in the suit led, whereupon West is thrown-in with the last heart for three tricks in the other minor suit.

HAND 13

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

Dealer : North Vul : All

BIDDING PAR

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

OFFICIAL BIDDING

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

SOUTH to play hand in 3 NT.
WEST must lead ♥ 9.

PLAYING PAR

E-W, for five tricks, *But only if* East won opening lead and returned ♠ J : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING : Even though game cannot be made, it very definitely should be bid. Only a very exact distribution of the major suits between East and West can defeat Three No Trumps.

PLAY : A DEFENSIVE PICK-UP

Seeing insufficient defensive nourishment in the heart suit, and with menace of the long club suit on the table, East should realise that defensive tricks will need to be taken in a hurry if the contract is to be defeated. Spades offer the only hope. East, therefore, wins ♥ A and shifts to spade but, lacking a subsequent quick entry, should lead the Jack in the hope that West holds four spades headed by Ace-Queen.

HAND 14

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

Dealer : East Vul : Nil

BIDDING PAR

E-W, for finishing in 3 NT :
2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 ♦	Pass	1 NT	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

WEST to play hand in 3 NT.
NORTH must lead ♠ 4.

PLAYING PAR

E-W, for nine tricks, *But only if* ♦ 8 was finessed at trick 2 if South played low : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING : A strong six-card minor invariably is a sound basis for a 3 No Trump contract—provided, of course, no other suit is wide open.

PLAY : AN AVOIDANCE FINESSE

When ♠ Q holds the first trick, West must now resist any temptation to seek an overtrick

by running off the diamonds on assumption of 3-2 break. On the contrary, in the interests of safety, a diamond must be led from dummy to trick 2, when South plays low, the eight-spot must be finessed. This avoidance manoeuvre shuts out South and, at the same time, develops two long-card tricks in diamond while protecting ♠ K.

HAND 15

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

Dealer : South Vul : N-S

BIDDING PAR

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

OFFICIAL BIDDING

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

NORTH to play hand in 4 ♠.

EAST must lead ♥ 2 and West must take ♥ A and play ♠ A and ♥ 5.

PLAYING PAR

N-S, for 10 tricks : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING : Many Norths might prefer to open with 2 NT or a forcing suit call. But whatever the opening, game should be reached.

PLAY : A SAFETY PLAY

Able to afford the loss of one trick in club but not two, North should make the safety play of King to first round. When West drops the nine, a low club towards dummy should follow, finessing eight-spot if East plays low. This is real safety for, if West also follows, the suit has broken 3-2 ; if East fails on second round, Ace from dummy and club returned, holds West to one trick with the Queen. And, if East started with Q 10 x x, the eight will win or the Ace will capture an honour.

HAND 16

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

Dealer : West

Vul : E-W

BIDDING PAR

E-W, for finishing in 6 ♥ : 2 Points.

OFFICIAL BIDDING

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 NT(1)	Pass
5 ♥(2)	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

EAST to play hand in 6 ♥.

SOUTH must lead ♠ J.

Bids marked (1) & (2) are the Blackwood Slam convention.

PLAYING PAR

E-W, for 12 tricks, *But only if* first round of trumps was conceded to opponents : 4 Points.

OFFICIAL COMMENT

BIDDING : With such excellent fits in hearts and clubs, East-West should encounter little difficulty in reaching the slam.

PLAY : TRUMP MANAGEMENT
TIMING

In with ♠ A, declarer (East) can count 13 tricks without a finesse if trumps split 3-2, but should take precautions against a 4-1 break. By leading a trump and ducking North's singleton nine-spot, East then has sufficient entries and trumps to win 12 tricks without risking the diamond finesse, viz., ♠ A, two spade ruffs, ♦ A, five clubs and three trumps.



TEST YOUR SKILL—PROBLEMS

Edited by P. S. N. SARMA

1. South Dealer, East-West vulnerable, the bidding has gone :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣
D'ble	Pass	2 ♦	Pass

What should South call holding : ♠ A 10 2 ; ♥ K Q 10 3 ; ♦ A 5 ; ♣ A J 8 4 ?

2. What is the correct opening bid on this hand :

♠ A J 10 9 8 5 4 3 ; ♥ Nil ; ♦ K Q 10 3 ; ♣ A ?

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

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	1 ♦	Pass	Pass
D'ble	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	?	

What should North bid holding : ♠ 9 7 6 4 ; ♥ A 2 ; ♦ 9 8 5 4 ; ♣ Q 6 5 ?

4. The contract is Six Diamonds by East. South leads the Knave of Hearts. The East-West hands are as below. How should declarer play ?

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

5. North dealer, East-West vulnerable, match point scoring, the bidding was :

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♦	1 ♥	2 ♦	2 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥

South wins with Diamond King and Diamond Knave and leads a third Diamond ruffed by declarer. The East-West hands are given below. How should declarer play ?

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

6. This was the auction :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	4 NT	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	6 ♥	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	7 ♥	

These were the North-South hands :—

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

West led the Queen of Diamonds. East's card to this trick was the King of Diamonds. Declarer took the trick with the Ace, ruffed a Diamond with ♥ K, East discarding a Spade, and led a low Heart to his ace. Both

opponents followed. He ruffed another Diamond high and led a trump to his Knave. This time East did not follow. Declarer made the contract by good play helped by East's distribution. Can you reconstruct East's hand and reproduce declarer's play?

7. All the four hands are given in this problem. The contract is Six No Trump by South. West leads the King of Clubs. South to win twelve tricks.

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

TEST YOUR SKILL—SOLUTIONS

Edited by P. S. N. SARMA

PROBLEM 1 : South dealer, East-West vulnerable, the bidding has gone :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	2 ♣
D'ble	Pass	2 ♦	Pass

What should South call holding :

♠ A 10 2 ; ♥ K Q 10 3 ;
♦ A 5 ; ♣ A J 8 4 ?

SOLUTION : Three Spades.

COMMENT : Many would call their partner names, but we prefer a call of Three Spades. The other possible bids are Two No-Trump and Two Spades. Two No-Trump is a most unhelpful bid which would merely try partner's patience. North's suit take-outs are not forward bids, he shows only a very weak hand with an unbalanced distribution ; in other words, he means that his hand is worthless except at a suit contract.

Is South then to bid Two Spades? An ultra-purist might think so, but faint hearts never win fair scores in bridge. After the Heart opening and the double of Two Clubs, a switch-back to Spades would be interpreted only

as a choice between two evils, and would give no inkling of the excellent support for the suit. Three Spades is not forcing. It merely says, "I thought I had them on the run in Two Clubs, partner, but as you have a poor hand, I am interested in our side making game. I don't place any high card strength with you, but if your hand has a good shape, you can go game. If not stop at three, and I hope you get better cards in the next deal".

The North hand in this deal was :

♠ J 9 8 6 5 4 ; ♥ 7 2 ; ♦ Q 8 7 4 3 ; ♣ None.

PROBLEM 2 : What is the correct opening bid on this hand :

♠ A J 10 9 8 5 4 3 ; ♥ Nil ;
♦ K Q 10 3 ; ♣ A ?

SOLUTION : Two Spades.

COMMENT : We are not sure you will agree. But we would point out that the rule of 5½ honour tricks, the rule of thirteen, and even the point count should be liberally departed from when dealing with a volcanic hand like the above. It is also well to remember that Two Spades bid is only an invitation to game

and not a call to arms. This hand can certainly win eight tricks in Spades by itself and that is exactly what the two opening bid means.

What else would you bid on this hand? One Spade! A palooka would not make this bid, though a pundit without imagination (or with too much of it) might. Three Spades is an insult to the hand. If you are pre-empt minded, four Spades is better, but no sound player ever makes a pre-emptive bid on a hand containing as much as $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks or even less.

The danger of partner going too far with a good hand though real should not be exaggerated. If he bears in mind the dictum that trump support counts as much as honour card strength, if he studies opener's rebids intently and does not steal the role of captaincy without trump support, the danger can be avoided.

If it is pointed out that partner will surely bid a slam which would be off on this powerful holding: ♠ Q; ♥ A K Q J 2; ♦ 9 8 7; ♣ K Q J 10, it may be argued that the slam might also be made—though it would never be bid—on this miserable collection: ♠ 7 6 2; ♥ 8 5 4 3; ♦ J 2; ♣ 5 4 3 2.

PROBLEM 3: South dealer, both sides vulnerable, match point scoring, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH		WEST	NORTH		EAST
1 ♣	1 ♦		Pass	Pass	
D'ble	Pass		2 ♣	Pass	
2 ♠	Pass		3 ♠	Pass	
4 ♣	Pass		?		

What should North bid holding: ♠ 9 7 6 4; ♥ A 2; ♦ 9 8 5 4; ♣ Q 6 5.

SOLUTION: Five Clubs.

COMMENT: The alternatives are (i) Pass (ii) Four Spades. To pass on this hand after South's forward bids is cowardly. With anything except a bust hand he wants you to bid game and he leaves the choice of suits to you, because with your holding in the red suits you would be in a better position to judge. It is clear he has only four Spades and five or six Clubs. If you were short in Diamonds, four Spades would be a better contract, because your hand can deal with repeated leads of the suit. But as the cards are distributed, you must visualise that declarer's four-card Spade would be forced beyond endurance, and with a bad trump break, the contract might be off by more than one trick. The double of one Diamond indicated not only a strong hand but good support for the majors and so, you need not be bothered about losers in the other suits. The complete deal was:

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

PROBLEM 4: The contract is Six Diamonds by East. South leads the Knave of Hearts. The East-West hands are given below. How should declarer play?

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

SOLUTION: Take with the King and play Diamond Ace.

COMMENT: Safety play. All four trumps with North defeats the contract, but if all four are with South, they can be picked up by laying down Ace and finessing the nine.

PROBLEM 5: North dealer, East-West vulnerable, match point scoring, the bidding was:

NORTH		EAST		SOUTH		WEST	
1 ♦	1 ♥	2 ♦	2 ♥	2 ♦	2 ♥	2 ♥	4 ♥
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	4 ♥	4 ♥

South wins with Diamond King and Diamond Knave and leads a third Diamond ruffed by declarer. The East-West hands are given below. How should declarer play?

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

SOLUTION: Win Spade King and Ace. Ruff a Spade, enter with Ace of Hearts, lead the last Spade. If North ruffs, he may have to lead way from his King of Clubs, or lead Diamonds for a ruff and discard. If North does not ruff, East does and throws North in with a trump lead.

COMMENT: The problem is a simple one calling for location of cards and timing of the play.

On the bidding and South's Diamond holding, North is marked with the Heart King, so the finesse is bound to lose. If it is twice guarded the contract cannot be made, for North can exit with a trump when he wins the King. If it is a singleton the contract can be made by the above line of play provided North has at least two Spades. If North has two Spades and two Hearts, the contract cannot be made. The complete deal was:

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

PROBLEM 6: This was the auction:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	4 NT	5 ♠
Pass	Pass	6 ♥	6 ♠
Pass	Pass	7 ♥	

These were the North-South hands:

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

West led the Queen of Diamonds. East's card to the trick was the King of Diamonds. Declarer took the trick with the Ace, ruffed a Diamond with ♥ K, East discarding a Spade, and led a low Heart to his Ace. Both opponents followed. He ruffed another Diamond high and led a trump to his Knave. This time East did not follow.

Declarer made the contract by good play, helped by East's distribution. Can you reconstruct East's hand and reproduce declarer's play?

SOLUTION: East held eight Spades, singleton Heart, singleton Diamond and Q J x of Clubs.

At trick six declarer ruffed his last Diamond with dummy's last trump, played off the Ace of Spades (Vienna coup), entered his hand with the Ace of Clubs and made his contract by squeezing East in the black suits.

COMMENT: West did not lead a Spade in spite of East calling six in the suit all on his own. So he has none and East held eight Spades. East's singletons in the red suits were revealed when the suits were led. Therefore he held three cards in clubs; *what were they?* If they were all low cards, South could never make his slam, for there is no squeeze against West. If they were headed by an honour, he would lose nothing by discarding one club as partner would keep the other honour card twice guarded. Therefore he must have held Q J x in clubs. The play is dictated by this view of East's Clubs. Playing off the Ace of Spades after drawing West's trump is necessary, in order to set up the Spade menace in the South hand.

PROBLEM 7: All four hands are given in this problem. The contract is Six No trump by

South. West leads the King of Clubs. South to win twelve tricks.

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

♠ J
♥ A Q J 4
♦ Q J 3
♣ J 9 8 7 4

SOLUTION: Play the Ace, King, Queen and Knave of Hearts after taking the Club trick. Discard the Two of Spades on the Knave of Hearts. Lead the Knave of Spades. If it is covered win with Ace, if not let it ride. Now win with the Queen of Diamonds discarding dummy's Six. Lead the Knave of Diamonds and overtake it with the Ace. Cash the King of Diamonds and throw East in with his Diamond winner. He will do the rest.

COMMENT: This is mere fanciful double dummy play. Note however that East cannot be thrown-in in Hearts if he retains the deuce and throws away the higher cards.

STANDARD BRIDGE

By HARRISON-GRAY

Dealer: East
North-South game.

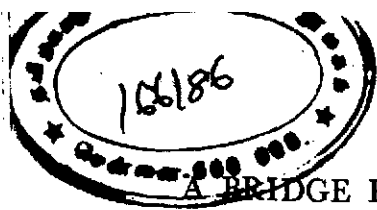
♠ A K Q 6 2	
♥ 2	
♦ 7 5	
♣ A K 10 4 3	
♠ 8 3	♠ 9 7 5
♥ A 6 4	♥ K Q J 10 5
♦ A Q 4 3	♦ 10 8 6 2
♣ 9 8 6 2	♣ 5
♠ J 10 4	
♥ 9 8 7 3	
♦ K J 9	
♣ Q J 7	

Britain missed a vulnerable game on this much-discussed hand against Belgium in the 1950 European Championships. In

Room 1 the Belgian North opened with Two Spades after three passes and scored 620 in his final contract of Four Spades.

At the other table West caused trouble by opening one Diamond. The British North jumped to Two Spades. East bid Three Hearts, South and West passed, and North's Three Spades became the final contract, Britain losing 450 points on the deal.

The decisions are extremely close. South's balanced hand was not improved by the Diamond call on his left, while North did not feel justified in carrying the bidding to the Four level by naming his second suit. On the whole, the South hand is just worth a rise in Spades.



7L
m4 31-2, N49
N54-5-4

A BRIDGE PLAYER'S CAUSERIE—III

By P. S. N. SARMA

THE MAESTRO AND THE MUG.
Here is a deal from a duplicate encounter :

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

The final bid was the same in both rooms, Six Hearts by South, but the play provided a contrast in styles. West led the Three of Diamonds, and in Room I, the expert gazed hard and long at the dummy, gazed harder and longer at his hand, chewed a bit of pencil, appeared fascinated for a while by an insipid landscape print on the wall opposite, frowned, took off his glasses, put them back again, chewed some more pencil, then leaned forward with a grunt and played the lone ace. The problem, as you would have noticed, was to avoid the loss of a trick in trumps and a trick in Clubs. To the second trick he led the King of

trumps, and watched eagerly if both opponents followed. And when they did his face glowed with :

" . . . that content surpassing wealth

The sage in meditation found,
And walked with inward glory crowned."

He got to his hand with the Ace of trumps, discarded dummy's deuce of Clubs on the King of Diamonds, played Ace, King and Queen of Spades, throwing a Club from his hand on the last Spade, and sat back with the air of a man who has done a thoroughly competent job. West was fixed ; he could choose the fatal moment,—either now by ruffing, or on the next lead which would be a trump.

In Room II the palooka got the same opening lead, but he had his own theories about bridge, one of which was that you took a finesse whenever you got the chance, and another was that the Queen was sure to be under the Knave. Without giving the deal a second thought, the palooka played the Ace of trumps, finessed the Knave, laid down the

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King, led a low Club from dummy following his theory of the Queen under the Knave, collected all thirteen tricks and called for the next deal. He was heard to make some disparaging remark about his partner's lack of nerve in not bidding Seven Hearts.

Of course, your sympathies—and mine—are with the *maestro*. The tail batsman whacks the ball for a resounding four, and the vulgar clap their hands in glee, but the cognoscenti shake their heads in high disdain, and the cognoscenti are right ; for the next ball, the one with spells and incantations in it, eludes his blundering hulk and dislodges the bail sending him back to the pavilion. Serve the same *voodoo* stuff to your class batsman, and watch the difference. He puts his nose to it, holds a brief conversation with it, smothers the spin and takes the sting out of it and sends it time after time, to whatever part of the field he likes till the poor frustrated bowler wishes he had taken to some other sport. The snick is not in his book. The hair-brained finesse so beloved of the tyro is not in the book of the expert bridge player. He apparently comes off second best in a deal like the above—which is palooka's paradise—but give him a real hard nut to crack and it is then that blood will tell. Here is an instance of a spectacular play made by an expert to bring off a difficult contract.

VIENNA COUP PLUS DOUBLE SQUEEZE.

The contract was Six Spades by South and the opening lead was the nine of Clubs by West.

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

To duck the club is fairly routine play—have not the pundits recommended this as sound technique? In the phraseology of squeeze it is called the rectification of the count, though what the count means or why it should be rectified are weighty matters somewhat outside your comprehension. It is, *de rigueur* to duck and up to that point you and I can tackle the deal. You and I also vaguely feel that correct management would lead to some sort of a squeeze though how it is to be brought about and what shape it will take are by no means clear to us. We try to reduce the hands to the three-card or four-card skeletal ending diagrammatically represented in learned treatises. But at this point, a London fog descends on the brain and you

give up further analysis as fraught with danger to the grey matter. It is remarkable how the whole thing clears up at the end of the deal and the play turns out to have been so simple that you cannot excuse yourself for having missed it. Of course there are some who will still be wondering and asking questions after the whole thing has been explained to them. They are the children of nature—and the bridge writer's Waterloo.

To return to the expert. He ducked the opening lead, took the trump return in his hand and drew trumps. The Ace of Clubs was played next (Vienna coup) followed by the red Aces and three more trumps leading to this ending:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ K 8	♥ —
♦ Q	♦ —
♣ —	♣ —
♠ —	♠ —
♥ Q 9	♥ J 10
♦ K	♦ —
♣ —	♣ K
♠ 2	
♥ 2	
♦ —	
♣ J.	

The lead of the last Spade inexorably squeezed both West and East. Each had to keep his minor royalty and neither could protect the Heart suit. West ungarded his Heart Queen, the Diamond Queen was now discarded, having served its

purpose, and the pistol was pointed at East who bravely stuck to his King of Clubs. He was not saving himself; he was only choosing his poison! The King of Hearts crashed the Queen and Knave and declarer made his slam.

The hand is an illustration of superb dummy play—ducking, Vienna coup, double squeeze.

THE FIRE-ESCAPE.

The expert is not necessarily a man who never gets into a spot, but one who, having got into a spot, can find a way out. Both these points are illustrated in the following hand which South played in Six Hearts. There was no reason why North South should have bid a slam. East's overcall of one Spade was a warning if warning were needed; no reason why they should not have preferred the slam in Clubs which, though an unsound bid, is makeable on two finesses. Homer nods, and South was in Six Hearts and in a spot, as I said. West led the nine of Spades, and the North South hands were:

NORTH

♠ A
♥ K J 4
♦ Q 8 4 3
♣ A J 9 4 2

SOUTH

♠ 10 8 3
♥ A 6 5 3
♦ A K 7
♣ 10 6 5

Prospects are none too bright. Granting the trumps break even and the finesse succeeds, declarer has to take that finesse, he has to finesse Clubs twice, stand a force in Spades, and return to his hand for drawing trumps, for all of which he has not got the necessary entries. The situation certainly looks desperate. And any desperate measure is in order.

Give the hands another look and see if you can find the only play for making the slam.

The declarer did. And it was very simple. At trick two he led a small Club from dummy. That was all! His explanation was lucid.

"I got into the sort of contract that leads ultimately to anxiety neurosis or peptic ulcer. It was a 'goner' on the very face of it. There are not enough entries in the closed hand for the finesse in trumps, the two finesses in Clubs, and for the return for drawing trumps, after dummy has been forced to ruff a Spade. There is an one and only way to save a vital tempo and that is by short-circuiting the Club play. For this to succeed East must hold K x or Q x in Clubs. The other honour must be with West, twice guarded.

This is an even chance, and a better percentage than playing for a singleton honour, or King Queen bare, with East".

As it happened, the Club was taken by East with the King and

he returned a Spade for dummy to ruff. Declarer entered his hand with Diamond Ace, finessed Heart Knave, played Heart King, returned to his hand with Diamond King, played Heart Ace, took the Club finesse and made his contract.

The complete deal was:

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

"ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR
WATSON."

Expert was matched against expert in this deal played by South in Four Spades. Declarer tried to take East by surprise, but the latter knew all the tricks.

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding :

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

The opening Heart lead went to declarer's Ace, and the next lead was a low Diamond to the King taken by East who returned a Heart. It was won with the King, and at this point, declarer, a shrewd player who had already realised that he was in an unmakeable contract, decided that his only chance lay in finding East with a doubleton honour in Clubs—not only with a doubleton honour but also in a state of somnolence—and the best time to take him unawares was quite early in the proceedings. At trick four he played the Ace of Clubs.

But East was as smart as they make them and had been thinking on his feet. He chucked the Queen under the Ace. When the contract was defeated and he was complimented, he explained in truly expert fashion :

“When I got in with the Ace of Diamonds I had a hope that my

partner might ruff a Heart. That hope was falsified.

“It is obvious declarer has at least five Spades to the Ace ; that he has no Heart losers ; that he has the Queen of Diamonds—my partner's card to the Diamond trick was the five. If he has the King of Clubs the contract is cold ; if he has the Knave in addition he makes an overtrick and he is welcome to it.

“It also looks as if he does not hold J 10 x in Clubs, for if he did his play would be different. He would knock out Diamond Ace, eliminate Diamonds, play the Ace of Spades, ruff the last Heart with his highest remaining trump and throw me in with the trump King. Split honours in Clubs gives him the contract.

“The important thing is to credit the declarer with high ability. Then the defence becomes easier. The only chance to set the contract was to find declarer with three Clubs and partner with K 10 x of the suit. I would have played the Queen whatever card was led from dummy. It was elementary.”



Edited by T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Mr. M. R. Krishnan, after a brief illness, on 23rd March, 1954. Mr. Krishnan was elected Honorary Treasurer of the Association at the last General Body Meeting held on 27th December, 1953 and had just taken up his new duties with great zest. He was a member of the Modern Institute of Commerce team which won the Madras City League Championship last year and was very popular in bridge circles.

At the special meeting of the Executive Council of the Association held soon after, the Council passed a resolution expressing their deep sense of sorrow at the untimely demise of Mr. Krishnan. The Council also co-opted Dr. K. L. Narayana Rao as Hon. Treasurer of the Association for the current year.

The annual Championship tournaments of the S. I. B. A. were held at the Express Estates,

Mount Road, Madras, from 24th December, 1953 to 27th December, 1953. This year's final rounds were noteworthy for many reasons. For the first time in the history of the Association three teams from West Bengal participated in all the events. A number of other mofussil teams, notable among them being the Tenali, Musiri, and Tanjore contingents took part in the final rounds and it was a pity that the Gobi and Madura teams who were qualified to play in the final rounds could not make the trip. The City Club, Trichy, last year's winners lost to a team of freshers from Musiri and were disqualified. The Tenali team, who won the main knock-out event deserve to be congratulated upon their fine performance in winning the Sir T. Sadasiva Iyer's Trophy in the face of formidable opposition.

True to tradition the Madras City teams played very much below form and lost somewhat

tamely to the visitors. We trust that Madras City teams will not take their defeats lying down but put up a better fight next year.

Another notable feature of this year's final rounds was the Par Contest played on 25th December, 1953. Sixteen interesting hands specially par-pointed by Mr. M. J. Sullivan, Australia, were played on this occasion and the players were given an excellent opportunity to test their bidding and playing prowess. The deals together with Mr. Sullivan's comments on the vital points of play in each deal appear elsewhere in this issue. Mr. K. S. Narayana of the Modern Institute of Commerce, Madras, entertained the members to a grand dinner on this occasion, which crowned the final as an outstanding social success.

The South Indian Bridge Association are grateful to Mr. Ramnath Goenka for having placed the spacious hall of the Express Estates at their disposal for the final rounds and hope that this will continue to be the venue of the Annual Championship contests for many years to come.

Arrangements in connection with the boarding and lodging of the visitors and the conduct of the various events were in the hands of Messrs. A. Ramasamy Iyer "Comet", T. S. Duraiswamy Iyer and R. Sankaran, and the efficient manner

in which every event was gone through according to schedule was due in no small measure to their great organising skill and tireless work. The complete results of the zonal and final rounds appear elsewhere.

It has recently been felt that the system of scoring followed in the local tournaments was imperfect in many respects and the International Match Points system adopted in the European Championship Tournaments was considered an improvement largely because it minimised the chances of any swing deal affecting the result of a match irretrievably. The main changes in this system were described in the last issue of the *Indian Bridge World* and it was left to the Madras United Club to adopt this system for the first time in their recent annual tournament.

Local interest in Contract Bridge seems to be at a low ebb as only 12 teams competed for the knock-out team of four event in the M.U.C. Tournament. The other events also did not prove a big draw but we venture to hope that with the beginning of the League Matches next month the season will be in full swing and more new teams will take part in these matches.

M.U.C. ANNUAL TOURNAMENT.

Mr. P. S. Reddy's team who have won by far the largest number of trophies in local tour-

naments during 1953, lost to Mr. K. R. Sundaram Aiyar's team, by a narrow margin. The following are the detailed results :

Duplicate Knock-out : Team of four.

Winners :

K. R. Sundaram Iyer
C. R. Srinivasan
P. S. Sundaresa Iyer
K. L. Narayana Rau
T. S. Chandrasekaran

Runners-up :

P. S. Reddy
S. T. Achar
T. K. N. Panikkar
C. Devarajan
A. S. Giri

Progressive Pairs (Mitchell) :

North-South : Winners :

G. N. Chari
Sundaraman

Runners-up :

S. Ethirajulu Chetty
Sreeramulu Chetty

East-West Winners :

C. V. Venkatesan
B. Venkataramani

Runners-up :

M. Rangachari
M. N. Reddy

Master Pairs (Howell)

Winners :

K. L. Narayana Rau
P. S. Sundaresa Iyer

Runners-up :

G. N. Chari
C. V. Venkatesan

Individual Championship :

Winner :

S. K. Subramanian

Runner-up :

S. A. Henry.

Progressive Duplicate (Team of four)

Winners :

Srinivasa Mudaliar's Team :

M. K. Srinivasa Mudaliar
T. M. Kasturi
G. Hanumantha Rao
M. S. Ramalingam Chetty
A. K. Thirumalai

Runners-up :

Sundaram Iyer's Team :

K. R. Sundaram Iyer
C. R. Srinivasan
P. S. Sundaresa Iyer
T. S. Chandrasekaran

THE B. & C. MILLS ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL TOURNAMENT.

This event held earlier in the year proved a bigger draw despite the club premises being somewhat out of the way for most of the local players. Following are the detailed results :—

Duplicate Knock-out Team of Four:

Winners :

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

Runners-up :
Pandari Club :

K. Guru Dutt
M. R. Krishnan
Beaver
Fernandes
Sathuram Davay
Pairs Progressive (Mitchell) :

Winners : North-South :

K. L. Narayana Rau
P. S. Sundaresa Iyer

Runners-up :

N. Ramaratnam
C. Devarajan

Winners : East-West

R. Sankaran
P. S. N. Sarma

Runners-up :

G. N. Chari
B. Venkataramani
Master Paris (Howell) :

Winners :

K. Guru Dutt
T. S. Chandrasekaran

Runners-up :

G. K. Gopalaswamy
M. Rangasamy

Progressive Duplicate :

Winners :

Guru Dutt's Team :

K. Guru Dutt
M. R. Krishnan
T. R. Samoo
A. Ramamoorthy

Runners-up :

Mylapore Club :

N. Ramaratnam
C. Devarajan

G. N. Chari
C. V. Venkatesan
B. Venkataramani

MYLAPORE CLUB ANNUAL TOURNAMENT.

The Mylapore Club's Annual Tournament also proved more popular, as many as fourteen teams participating in the main knock-out event. The Home team led by N. Ramaratnam, did well in winning the U. S. Ramasundaram Rolling Trophy beating P. S. Reddy's team in the finals. Following are the detailed results.

Duplicate knock-out, Team of four :
(U. S. Ramasundaram Trophy)

Winners: N. Ramaratnam's Team :

N. Ramaratnam
C. V. Venkatesan
G. N. Chari
B. Venkataramani.

Runners-up : Reddy's team :

P. S. Reddy
S. T. Achar
A. S. Giri
T. K. N. Panikkar
C. Devarajan.

Pairs Progressive : North-South
Winners :

B. Venkataramani
C. V. Venkatesan.

Runner-up :

S. Ethirajulu Chetty
Sriramulu Chetty

East-West Winners :

Henry Appadorai and Raju
Mudaliar.

Runners-up :

P. S. N. Sarma
P. S. Sadasivan.

Master Pairs :

Winners :

V. Kuppuswami
P. S. Natarajan

Runners-up :

K. Guru Dutt
R. Sankaran.

The preliminary arrangements in connection with the Madras City League Tournament are already under way and it is hoped that at least 12 teams will take part in this tournament this year. Despite the apparent lack of interest among local clubs, we have no doubt that the league matches still offer the best opportunity for the average player to improve his skill in the game and we hope that all teams will play the matches in the proper spirit to the end without abandoning the series after one or two initial reverses.

In pleasant contrast with the state of affairs in the City, interest in Bridge in the mofussil, especially in Chettinad, Tanjore and Trichy districts, is on the increase and it would be no surprise if the centre of gravity shifts in coming years from the City to the mofussil.

We have received a specimen copy of the book "Modern Gladiator System" by Eastgate and McKillop. A review of the book is published in this issue.

RESULTS OF THE S.I.B.A. ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT, 1953.

FINAL ROUNDS.

Duplicate Knock-out (team of four)
for Sir T. Sadasiva Iyer's Trophy :
Winners : Tenali Team :

N. Venkat Rao
P. Tirumal Rao
K. Subbaramiah
P. L. Narayana
Somiah

Runners-up : Calcutta :

A. Bose
B. Mitra
N. Sen (Senior)
N. Sen (Junior)

Progressive Pairs (Mitchell) :

Winners : North-South :

Cosmopolitan Club, Coimbatore :

G. K. Sundaram
V. Srinivasa Iyer

Runners-up : Tenali :

A. Ramamoorthy
P. Tilak

East-west : Winners :

(Muziri) :

A. Sundararajan
N. P. Krishnaswami

Runners-up :
Modern Institute of Commerce :
 K. S. Narayanan
 S. Narasimham

Master Pairs (Howell,
Section I Winners :
Madras :

P. S. Sundaresa Iyer
 Sriramulu Naidu

Section II Winners :
Calcutta :

Nandi
 Neogy

Runners-up : Calcutta :

S. M. Bagchi and
 Partner

Runners-up : Vijayawada :
 G. V. Rangaswamy Rao
 Appa Rao

Progressive Duplicate :
Winners : Andhra Gymkhana,
Vijayawada :

P. Tilak
 P. R. Sastri
 K. Srinivasamurthy
 N. S. Shanker

Runners-up : Modern Institute
of Commerce :

K. S. Narayana
 S. Narasimhan
 K. Guru Dutt
 M. R. Krishnan

Individual Champion :
Section I : Winner :
 Rangarajan (Srirangam)

Section II Winner :
 P. Elliah (M.C.O.P.)
Par Contest :
North-South Winners :
Modern Institute of Commerce :
 R. Sankaran
 S. K. Subramanian

Runners-up : T.N.S.C., Madras.

K. C. Ramaratnam
 T. Ramachandra Rao

East-West Winners :
Vijayawada :
 Ramamurthy
 Sastry

Runners-up : Vijayawada.
 N. S. Shanker
 P. Tilak

ZONAL ROUNDS.

Madras City Zone : Team of four :
Winners :

P. S. Reddy's Team :
 P. S. Reddy
 S. T. Achar
 A. S. Giri
 T. K. N. Panikkar
 B. Hanumantha Kao
Runners-up : T. N. S. C.

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

Progressive Pairs :
North-South Winners :
 T. Ramachandra Rao
 K. C. Ramaratnam

Runners-up :
 P. S. Reddi
 A. S. Giri

East-West Winners :
 K. Easwaran
 T. R. Samoo

Runners-up : M.I.C.
 R. Sankaran
 S. K. Subramanian

Master Pairs :
Winners :
 T. K. N. Panikkar
 C. C. Desai

Runners-up :
 R. Sankaran
 S. K. Subramanian

COIMBATORE ZONE :
Team of Four : Winners :
 C. S. Narayanaswami Iyer
 Seshasayee
 G. K. Sundaram
 Srinivasa Iyengar
 B. S. Krishnamurthi

Runners-up :
 G. Venkatasubbia
 Ambi Sastri
 G. Subbaramiah
 Srikantan
 C. K. Subramania Gounder

Progressive Pairs :
North-South Winners :
 R. S. Puram :
 N. S. Rangaswami Chetty
 Ramaswami

Runners-up :
Cosmopolitan Club, C.B.E.
 G. K. Sundaram
 V. Srinivasa Iyer

East-West Winners :
Kerala Club :
 Dr. Gopalakrishniah
 E. J. Samuel

Runners-up :
 M. Lakshmiah
 G. V. Subbiah

Master Pairs :
Winners :
 S. Viswanatha Iyer
 G. S. Venkatasubbiah

Runners-up :
 M. G. Pujana
 Ratilal Shah

DEVAKOTTAH ZONE :
Team of Four : Winners :
 M. R. S. Manickavelu Chettiar
 M. N. S. Chidambara Chettiar
 K. N. Narayana Chettiar
 C. K. Arunachellam Chettiar
 C. Annamalai

Runners-up :
Nehru Club, Kothamangalam :
 R. Muthiah Chettiar
 R. M. Olagappan Chettiar
 R. M.
 L. Arunachalam
 S. Kasi

Progressive Pairs :
North-South Winners :
 S.M.A.R.M. Veerappa Chettiar
 M. A. Natchiappan

East-West Winners :
 S. Kasi
 L. Arunachellam

North-South Runners-up :

C. Srinivasan
A. Sundararajan
M. N. S. T. Chidambaram
L. Ramaswami

*Master Pairs :**Winners :*

M.R.S. Venkatakrishna Iyer
R. Sowmya Narayana Iyengar

Runners-up :

R. M. Olagappan
R. Muthiah

*TANJORE ZONE:**Team of Four: Winners :*

K. S. Venkataraman
M. S. Krishnaswami
M. Appadurai
S. Ramalingaswami

Runners-up :

G. S. Ponnuswami Iyer
Natesa Iyer
Ramachandra Iyer
Ramachandra Iyer

*Pairs Progressive :**North-South Winners :*

M. S. Krishnaswamy
M. Appadurai

Runners-up :

Ganesa Iyer
Ramachandra Iyer

East-West Winners :

S. Ponnuswami Iyer
Natesa Iyer

Runners-up :

S. Rajaramier
N. S. Ramalingam

*Master Pairs :**Winners :*

M. S. Krishnaswami
R. Subbaratnam Iyer

Runners-up :

K. Narayanaswami
Ramalingam

*TRICHY ZONE: Team of four :**Winners :*

S. R. V. Thatham
R. S. Rangarajan
S. Ratnam Pillai
S. Parthasarathi

Runners-up :

M. P. Krishnaswami
A. Sundaram
A. Balasubramaniam
Ramaswami Naidu
M. E. Sankaralingam

*Progressive Pairs :**North-South**Winners :*

M. P. Krishnaswamy
D. A. Sundaram

Runners-up :

R. Ratnam
C. T. Lakshmanan

East-West: Winners :

S. Ratnam Pillai
S. Parthasarathy

Runners-up :

M. Subbiah
V. Subramanian

*Master Pairs :**Winners :*

M. Subbiah
V. Subramanian

Runners-up :

A. K. Sharifuddin
S. P. L. Lakshmanan

*VIJAYAWADA ZONE :**Team of Four :**Winners :*

M. Venkat Rao
P. Tirumala Rao
S. S. Shastri
P. L. N. Rao
S. S. Prasad

Runners-up :

A. Ramamoorthi
P. Tilak
P. R. Sastri

K. S. R. Moorthy
Y. Subbaramiah

*Progressive Pairs :**North-South Winners :*

P. Tilak
A. Ramamoorthy

East-West Winners :

S. S. Shastri
P. L. N. Rao

*Master Pairs :**Winners :*

P. R. Sastri
K. S. R. Murthy

THE GLADIATOR SYSTEM OF BIDDING

A Review

(Modern Gladiator System of Bidding: By C. L. Eastgate and L. M. McKillop. Published by Whitcombe and Tombs, Ltd., Auckland, New Zealand. Price 5sh. 6d.)

Point Count as a more accurate guide to hand valuation and bidding than Honour Tricks is receiving increasing recognition all over the world. Most international players follow one or other of the various point systems. Culbertson himself has presented a new point count system based on the Beasley count. Acol, Four Aces, Goren's, and Dr. Stern's Vienna System are some of the systems which enjoy a great vogue. A welcome addition to this list is the attractive system here presented under the title of "Modern Gladiator."

This system, as the authors acknowledge, has borrowed freely from other systems, and, in addition, contains much original material. The emphasis is above all on resilience. To quote the authors, "A player must not be a slave to a system and bound by its iron-clad conventions. Flexibility is a vital bidding weapon, and the system should act more as a guide and obedient servant."

As a basis for valuation, the 7-5-3-1 point count is used as in the Vienna system.

The opening one club, the key bid of the system, is forcing for one round. It denies a 5-card or longer holding in any of the other suits. As for the club itself, it may show only one club in the hand or six or more. The bid may be made on hands containing as few as 18 points ($2\frac{1}{2}$ Honour Tricks) or as many as 42 points ($5\frac{1}{2}$ Honour Tricks). The response to the one club may be one diamond, a Herbert response, a waiting bid which is forcing. A response of one heart or one spade is non-forcing, as also are two in clubs or any other suit. One notrump by responder is a game force, as also are two notrump or three in a suit. Responses at four level are non-forcing.

Opening bids of one in a suit other than clubs are not materially different from such bids in other systems, with the exception that the suit named is a five-carder or longer. The minimum requirement is 18 points though it may be shaded depending on the shape of the

hand. Responses follow the pattern of other systems.

Rebids by opener after an one club opening are so designed as to show the strength of the hand, whether it was a minimum, a maximum or in-between hand. Rebids after other suit openings are similar to rebids in other systems, one great advantage being that there is no necessity to rebid a five-card suit, the five-card length being guaranteed by the opening bid itself.

Notrump bidding is one of the highlights of the system. An opening bid of one notrump is made on hands containing 28 to 33 points with the usual notrump pattern. Responses to one notrump represent a high degree of refinement. Two notrump and three notrump are as in other systems, but suit responses of two spades and two hearts are forcing to game. A two diamond response is an artificial bid serving the same purpose as the two club response of the Stayman-Rapee convention. While indicating game possibilities, it asks opener to name a four-card major suit, if he has one, so that game may be bid in the major suit in preference to notrump. A two club response is another artificial bid showing an unbalanced hand without much strength in high cards. Opener is expected to bid two diamonds over this, and then responder bids his long suit. If it is

diamonds he may pass, if it is spades or hearts he may bid two of the suit, or three if it is a good suit, the jump response being non-forcing.

Opening bids of two notrump and three notrump are as in other systems.

Two opening bids are treated in an original manner in this system. A two club opening bid is the only game-forcing two bid. It approximates to the two diamond bids in other systems, though it does not guarantee strength in clubs. Responses to two clubs cover a wide range, from the Herbert two diamonds to the jump to three notrump.

Opening bids of two diamonds, two hearts and two spades stand in a different category. They have nothing in common with the forcing two of the Culbertson system or the weak two of certain other systems. They guarantee a good trump suit and seven to eight playing tricks. A little bit from partner would do to produce game, though the two opening is not forcing to game.

The requirements for a take-out double depend, according to the authors, on position, vulnerability and the size of the bid doubled. The take-out double as a rule should be as strong as an opening bid, and often considerably stronger. As regards the procedure over double

by opponents, the authors rightly criticise the view that any bid other than a redouble shows weakness and that a pass is stronger than a bid. The S.O.S. redouble, discarded by many players and systems, finds favour with Gladiator. "The redouble is used when a double has been left in for penalties and opener finds himself about to play in a contract in a suit which opponents hold strongly. If he feels reasonably complacent he passes; if, however, he thinks partner can find a better spot, he redoubles."

In the matter of slams, apart from direct jumps based on quantity and the Gerber Four Clubs, the Gladiator system makes use of the Culbertson asking bid and the Culbertson Five Notrump Grand Slam force, with modifications. In addition to its conventional use, the Culbertson asking bid is used in the Gladiator system to cover one other situation. The sequence, one heart by partner, one spade by opponent, two spades by you, accepted in all systems as a game-forcing bid showing very good heart support, is used not to *show* spade control, but to *ask* about the spade holding. The asking bid is thus made at a low level. The other slam convention is the

Culbertson Five Notrump Grand Slam Force, a probe for trump honours, slightly modified. When not made as part of a Blackwood sequence, five notrump is a check for the top honours in trumps. Responses are in the Blackwood manner; six clubs indicates no trump honours, six diamonds one, six hearts two and so on.

The book deals succinctly with other problems of bidding—overcalls, competitive bidding, responses by a player who has passed originally, psychics, partnership understanding etc. A chapter is devoted to illustrative hands showing the system in action, and another to bidding quiz.

We heartily recommend this well-got-up and lucidly written book to our readers. Experts who love innovation and invention will naturally welcome it. But it is the average player who looks upon the approach-forcing system based on Honour Tricks as the *ne plus ultra* in bridge bidding who will, in our opinion, profit even more by a perusal of this book. He will diagnose some of the inadequacies of his system and find remedies for some at least of his problems. The book may or may not convert; but it certainly stimulates.

STANDARD BRIDGE

by M. HARRISON-GRAY

I. This Tactical Bouncing can save Trouble

In many bidding situations, an immediate overcall in a suit is apt to work out better than a take-out double.

East, for example, opens One Spade with the score North-South game, East-West nil. South doubles, and West has something like this.

♠ Q 10 8 7 ♥ 3 ♦ J 9 7 3 2
♣ J 10 5.

This normally calls for a single raise in Spades. When South doubles however West has every reason to fear an adverse game if the opponents are allowed to get together, so he will deliberately overbid his values with a jump to Three Spades.

East will allow for this tactical "bouncing," which is universally accepted as legitimate in such situations. But North may be placed in an unenviable position with a hand such as this:

♠ A 6 5 ♥ 10 5 3 2 ♦ K 10
♣ Q 5 3 2.

It is asking too much of him to mention his Heart "suit" at the Four level although his partner's double suggested interest in the unbid major. Had South on the other hand, happened to make a vulnerable overcall of Two Hearts instead of doubling, North would bid Four Hearts over West's Three Spades in comparative comfort. By naming his

suit at the first opportunity, a defender has at least indicated a possible line of attack or defence.

Although a double on the right type of hand is always the safest and most constructive way of entering the bidding, on other hands the possibility of being bounced must be considered when weighing up the merits of a double or an overcall. Nothing is more wasteful or futile than to double on a hand whose main values are concentrated in one or two suits, yet this practice is followed assiduously by players who think it essential to signal a hand with better than three honour tricks. If East opens One Spade, South will double on the following.

♠ J 3 ♥ 8 ♦ A K 7 6 3 ♣ A
Q 10 5 4

The results may be fatal if West jumps to Three or Four Spades. North may justifiably come in with a Heart call; if doubled, South may make matters worse with a rescue bid in one of his minors. With a hand like this, South should merely bid Two Diamonds over One Spade with the intention of showing Clubs if possible, on a later round. On two-suited hands a double is sheer waste of time and bidding space.

II. Thousands of Points could be saved

A big winner at Contract does not necessarily win many more rubbers than he loses. It is the size of the rubbers that counts in the long run.

The chief contributory factor to the losing of enormous rubbers is indiscriminate sacrifice bidding without regard for the odds. Points by the thousand would be saved and won if more players were aware of the mathematical fact that the side which wins the first game has a three-to-one expectancy of winning the rubber.

This cuts both ways. First, a non-vulnerable pair who save the rubber at a cost of 500 start the next hand at the same strategical disadvantage. The vagaries of a pack of cards are unpredictable, and the score above the line may mount to astronomical proportions if the same tactics are pursued. It is nearly always wise, at this particular score, to let the rubber go; while "Never sacrifice with a bad partner" is one of the truest maxims in Bridge.

The subject of scientific overbidding, however, cannot be lightly dismissed. The second factor is a psychological one. Against a certain type of vulnerable opponent, the most flagrant flag-flying by the non-vulnerable

side is frequently unpenalised. If the side who are a game up can make Four Spades, they will often allow themselves to be pushed over the brink, preferring a speculative Five Spades to a cast-iron penalty. They are haunted by the fear that they may not get a second chance to clinch the rubber.

A first-class rubber Bridge player never disdains a sure penalty of 500 points at this score if the opponents sacrifice in Five Clubs, even when reasonably certain that he can go out in a contract of Five Spades, which has an equity value of 650. Of the two "sure things," the Five Spade venture is the more likely to turn sour in case of miscalculation. The penalty may turn out to be smaller than hoped for, but the vulnerable side have at least improved their score and still have a three-to-one change of winning the rubber bonus.

It stands to reason that overbidding calls for judgment and partnership co-operation. If the opponents are quick on the trigger when it comes to penalty doubles, it is better to go quietly, but if they are known to have the "clinch the rubber" complex, a policy of keeping them under constant pressure may well show a long-term profit.