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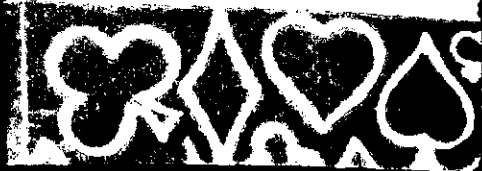
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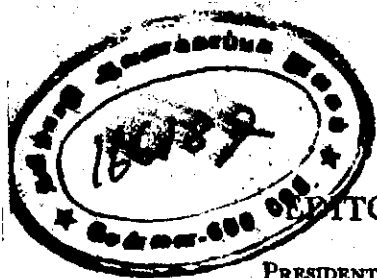
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A NEW SYSTEM OF OPENING BIDS

By A. RAMAMURTY AND P. TILAK.

Many systems of bidding are in vogue. It is an established fact that the majority of bridge players follow the Culbertson System. It has been our experience that in certain types of hands orthodox bidding based on this system produces rather unsatisfactory results.

We have therefore made bold to introduce some variations in the Culbertson System of bidding with a view to convey as clear an understanding as possible between partners as to the distributional pattern and high card strength of the hands. We have made a careful study of the subject: we invite suggestions and criticisms from readers which might help us to make further modifications in the system here-in offered.

The Honour Trick Values and the Playing Trick Values are estimated in the same way as in the Culbertson System. The bidding when opened at the one level in a minor suit i.e., 1 ♣

or 1 ♦ is purely artificial and so is the response. Each one bid has a special meaning and conveys a specific information. The purpose of these artificial bids is for the partnership to exchange information as quickly and as clearly as possible regarding the distributional pattern and strength of the opener's and responder's hands.

OPENING BIDS OF 1 CLUB & 1 DIAMOND

The opening bid of 1 Club has a wide range of from 3½ to 7 Honour Tricks. It is artificial and is forcing for one round. The hand pattern should be balanced. We define a balanced hand as one which does not contain a singleton or a void. It follows that a balanced hand means one which contains no suit shorter than a doubleton. A bid of one ♦ is made with hands containing a minimum of 3½ Honour Tricks and an unbalanced hand pattern.

Examples of the One Club opening:

A K x x, K J x,	} (4 Honour Tricks).
A 10 x x, Q x	
K Q x x x,	} 3½+ „
A J x, A 10 x,	
K x	
K Q x x x,	} 3+ „
A J x x,	
A x, J x	

Examples of the One Diamond opening:

AK x x, K Q J x, A 10 x x, x.
K Q x x x, A K J x x, A 10 x.
K Q J x x x x, A J x x, A x.

Responses:—When the responding hand does not contain a minimum of 1½ HT, then the responder indicates the weakness by a sign off which takes the form of naming the immediate next suit at the one level, i.e., one Diamond on the one Club opening and one Heart on the one Diamond. When the negative response is given by the responder his hand pattern may be anything, balanced or unbalanced but in the other cases i.e., when there is a positive response with a minimum of 1½ HT and more not only the Honour Trick content but also the distributional pattern of the hand is portrayed in the response. When the negative sign off is given the responder is under no obligation, and he may retire from the bidding at any stage.

When the hand contains 1½ HT or more there is every probability of a game in the combined hands and hence the necessity is great for the responder to describe his hand in the most precise manner possible for reaching the proper final contract.

The positive responses to 1♣ (1♦ is negative).

With 1½ HT or more: a bid of one Heart shows the lack of a five card or longer suit in the hand. 1♠ shows a balanced type of hand (by inference at least a five card suit for, with no card longer than five, a one Heart bid would have been made.)

1 NT shows—an unbalanced hand example:

Q 9 x x, Q J 7 x, A J x, 10 x x (1½+). Respond 1♥.

A J, A J x x x, 10 x x, A J x (2½+). Respond 1♠.

10 x x x x x, A Q x, J x x x, (1½). Respond 1 No-trump.

The positive responses to 1♦: (1♥ is negative.)

One ♠ shows a balanced hand with no five card or longer suit.

One NT shows an unbalanced hand with a minimum 5 Carder. Two ♣ shows 5 Carder and a balanced hand.

Example.

Q 10 x, A x x x, K x x, J x x—
1♠.

Q 10 x x x, A J 9 x, K x x, x—
1 No-Trump.

A J x x x, 10 x x, K x x, Q x—
2♣.

It is seen from the examples that even the responder's first round bids are all purely artificial.

Rebids: The opener's second round bids are regular suit showing bids. So are the responder's. After the early exchange of information regarding the strength of the hand in Honour Tricks and the distributional pattern, the bidding proceeds smoothly till a game is reached. The principle of economy of bidding is strictly observed. Slam possibilities are explored either by the use of asking bids or the Blackwood convention or both after the exchange of the necessary preliminary information.

When opponents open the bidding and when you are second hand holding a minimum of 3½ Honour Tricks, the Double is used to indicate strength, and the Culbertson responses are followed by your partner. In the alternative a NT over the opening bid by the opponent is also used for indicating the strength of the hand with a minimum of 3 Honour Tricks. Generally the 1 NT overcall is given with an unbalanced hand and at least a single check in the opponent's suit. This call is forcing on the partner and in case the partner has no positive

values he has to sign off by making an artificial two Club call. All other responses are strength showing; a jump response by the responder is game forcing.

When the opponents interfere with intervening bids on the minor suits opening, a double by the responder is for penalties. If the responder enters the bidding after the intervening bid it shows a strong hand with game possibilities. If the responder thinks there are slam possibilities, he has to indicate the same by overcalling the opponent's suit by a single raise e.g., 1

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♥	Double (for penalties)
1♣	1♥	any call is game forcing.

On the minor suits opening a jump suit bid by responder e.g., 1♣—2♦, 2♥, 2♠, 3♣, shows a ready made suit like A K Q x x, K Q J x x x. This has a special significance as the opener with 1♣ or 1♦ can know whether the responder's hand contains a ready made suit or not.

The strength showing two calls

An opening bid of two in any suit is not forcing on the partner. This call shows that the opener has a freakish hand pattern with a ready made suit, the one in which the two call is given as well as second suit which is

at least a 4 Carder e.g., A K Q x x x K J x x x₄x.

In the next round the second suit is shown if the first does not agree with partner. The responder has to take the responsibility of arriving at the final bid.

When a minor suit opening is made and there is a positive response, the opener can show the strength of his trump suit by giving a subsequent jump, and not immediately. e.g., 1 ♣—1 ♥ and if the Club opener has a hand like the following A J 10 x x x x, A x, K Q, K x, he need not we Two bid Spades since it is a special bid showing a solid suit whereas, the Spade suit in the example is only a strong rebiddable suit, which has to be shown by giving a jump bid in the next round. So the bidding will be 1 ♣—1 ♥ (showing no 5 Carder), the opener's bid is one spade and if now the partner calls, say two ♦, the opener should call 3 spades.

Interference bids: When the opponents interfere on a minor suit opening a double by the responder is for penalties. The doubler must be very careful in doubling since he has to guard himself against the possibility of getting 300 or 500 points when not vulnerable or vulnerable, instead of getting a game and making a better profit. If the opponent on the left doubles

a minor suit opening his partner has to ignore it and give his usual artificial call, i.e., 1 ♦ shows weakness, pass still weaker and 1 ♥ or 1 ♠ or 1 N T shows positive values, and distributional pattern of the hand as previously mentioned.

In case an opponent immediately next to the opener interferes with an overcall of 1 ♥, 1 ♠ or 1 N T at one level, a pass by the partner is the best indication of weakness; and any free bid by him shows positive values and game possibility. When the responder's hand contains strength in all the other suits except the one called by the opponent and when there is a definite possibility of a game with chances of a slam he should overcall the opponent's suit by giving a single raise in the opponent's suit. E.g., 1 ♣—1 ♥—2 ♥, shows a hand like the following: K Q x x, —, K J x x, A 9 x x x. 1 ♣—1 ♥—1 N T shows a strong hand with a definite check in the opponent's suit. If the responder's hand has good control in the opponent's suit and also slam possibilities a bid of 2 N T signifies special values. 1 ♣—1 ♠—two of any suit shows a regular suit with a minimum of 1½ Honour Tricks. 1 ♣—1 ♠—3 ♦, shows a solid suit in diamonds. On interference bids the responder has the option of doubling or naming a suit of his own if he has one or call 3 NT having a check in the

opponents' suit with good general strength.

WEST	EAST
A J x x x	x
K 10 x	Q x x
K Q x	A 10 x x
A x	K Q x x x
1 ♣	1 N T
(minimum 3½ H T & a balanced hand)	Shows a minimum of 1½ HT. a 5 Carder & also unbalanced hand).
2 ♠ (Regular Suit) 3 N T	3 ♠

The opening of 1 ♣ is with the bare minimum and the 3 N T after calling 2 spades clearly shows that West has neither a second suit of at least four cards nor a rebiddable suit. It is now up to East to decide whether to leave it at 3 N T. Changing the cards to Q x x in spades and a singleton ♦ the final bid would have been 4 ♠.

A J x x x x x	x
K Q x	Q 10 x
K Q x	A 10 x x
None.	K Q x x x

Comparing with the previous example the responder's hand is unchanged and the opener's hand is slightly changed making it an unbalanced one. Now the bidding will be

1 ♦ (unbalanced hand)	1 N T (unbalanced hand with a 5 Carder)
2 ♠ (not 3 ♠) regular suit.	3 ♠ (regular suit).
3 NT	

3 N T denies support for the responder's suit of Clubs. The responder in the present example has to pass since he has no spade support.

When an opponent opens with a pre-emptive bid of 3 or 4 in a suit, if the player next to him with a strong hand doubles it is for penalties. In case he wants his partner to name a suit in which he is interested, he should call the immediate next suit of the opponent's suit i.e., 3 ♦ on 3 ♣, 3 ♥ on 3 ♦ etc. This bid should be given when the hand contains general strength in the rest of the suits except the one that has been called by this opponent. E.g., on a 3 ♥ bid with ♠ Q J x x, ♦ x, ♣ A Q x x, A Q x x. But with hand like ♠ x x, ♥—♦ A Q 10 x x x, ♣ A Q J x x, the bid is 4 ♦ and in case this does not agree with the partner, the Club suit may be shown.

It looks easy for the opponents to interfere after a minor suit opening as 1 ♥, 1 ♠, or 1 N T can be called at a low level, but the risk they take is very great. Even with a minimum supporting hand the responder of minor suits opener can double with happy results.

INTERNATIONAL BIDDING CONTEST, 1954 HANDS.

North and South hands for the 30 deals are given below. To facilitate a reasonable appraisal of their individual bidding standards readers are requested to sit with their partners and bid each deal across the table and then compare the final bids arrived at with those given on page 16....

NORTH SOUTH

Deal 1.

A Q J 8 4 K 3
8 5 3 2 A 10 9
A K 9 2 Q 8 7 5 4
— 8 7 4

Deal 2.

7 5 A J 9 6
J 10 8 5 K
A 9 K Q 8 7 2
A Q 9 8 5 K 6 4

Deal 3.

A Q 10 4 3 K 9 8 6
K Q 3 J 9 2
Q 8 K 6 2
A 3 2 8 7 5

Deal 4.

A J 5 K 10 8 7
A Q J 9 4 2 K 8 7 5
6 A 9 8 5
Q 5 3 6

Deal 5.

A 10 8 5 Q J 9 4
Q J A 7 4
Q 2 A K 7 6 5 3
A Q 9 5 4

Deal 6.

10 K J 3
A Q 4 3 7 6 2
K Q 7 J 10 8 6 3
A Q 10 9 6 K 3

Deal 7.

A K 10 7 4 3
K 9 4 A
9 8 A Q 3 2
J 10 9 8 7 4 A Q 6 3

Deal 8.

Q 5 J
K Q 10 J 3
A 10 4 3 K Q J 8 7 6 2
A 9 8 7 J 6 2

Deal 9.

5 J 10 8 4 3
A Q 4 2 J 9 5
K 6 5 2 A 3
A 10 8 5 K J 7

Deal 10.

K Q 8 4 3 2 10
3 A Q 9 5 4
A Q 3 2 K J 5
K 9 A J 7 4

Deal 11.

A Q 6 10 8 2
Q J 8 6 4 A K 10 7 3
A K 10 9
J 9 7 A 5 4

Deal 12.

K 8 4 7 6 2
A 5 4 2 K
A K 10 4 Q 8 3 2
Q 8 A 10 9 3 2

Deal 13.

K J 9 8 5 7 3
A 8 Q J 7 5 3 2
7 4 A 9
10 5 4 2 A 7 6

Deal 14.

A Q J K 9 5
10 4 5 3
A 7 3 K Q J 10 8 6
K Q 8 7 5 A J

Deal 15.

10 9 8 7 4 2 A J
7 K Q 9 8
A K 3 10 8 7
A Q 9 K 10 8 2

Deal 16.

J 4 A K Q 8
K 10 6 3 Q 9
Q 8 2 K J 9 7 6 4
J 10 8 5 Q

Deal 17.

K 7 A Q 3
Q J 7 5 2 9 4
J 6 3 2 A K Q 8 5 4
A K 6 4

Deal 18.

A K Q 10 9 8 4
Q J 4 A 3 2
K Q 9 6 5 J 10 8
K 6 2 7 4

Deal 19.

A Q 10 7 5 2
A K 5 6 2
A K 3 8 5
A K 9 6 5 2 Q 8 4 3

Deal 20.

A J 10 K Q 6 2
K Q 6 A 7 5 2
Q 9 3 J
A J 9 5 K Q 8 4

Deal 21.

A 5 Q J 7 4
A Q 7 6 4 3 9
9 5 K 10 8 3
J 9 5 Q 10 7 2

Deal 22.

J 9 7 6 3 10
— A J 10 6 3 2
K 8 5 2 A 9
K Q 8 4 A 10 9 6

Deal 23.

8 4 A K 10 3
K J 9 3 7 2
Q 10 7 2 J 9 6 3
8 5 2 A Q 6

Deal 24.

8 7 5 A K Q 6
J 8 3 10 5 4 2
K Q J 6 4 2 A 5
2 A J 4

Deal 25.

A K 5 2 J 8 6
4 Q J 9 7 2
10 9 6 5 2 A Q 8 3
K J 9 A

Deal 26.

A K Q 7 9 8 6 4 3 2
K 9 A Q 8 5
7 4 3 2 J
A K 5 6 3

Deal 27.

J 7 6 4 2	A 8 5
A J 5	K Q 10
A 10 7	K Q J 4
K 3	A Q 10

Deal 28.

Q 5	A K 8 7 4 2
J 8 4	6 5 2
K Q J 5 3	8 7 6
A Q 6	K

Deal 29.

A J 10	8 5 4 2
A J 10	K Q 7
K J 4	A Q
A K Q 8	J 10 5 3

Deal 30.

6 3	K Q J
A K 7 2	J 5 3
9 7	Q J 10 8 4 3
K J 7 5 3	2

A BRIDGE PLAYER'S CAUSERIE—IV

By P. S. N. SARMA

Now that Contract Bridge, the queen of card games, has been expelled from the City's best clubs by her vulgar sister, Rummy, an old campaigner like me has been forced to seek her in her obscure haunts in the *casbah*.

I landed in one of these joints recently. The game that passes for bridge here is not of a high order, but it is highly diverting, and educative. If you want to know how bridge should not be played, you can choose no better place than this club of ours. The name of Culbertson evokes nothing but sneering contempt from the stalwart palookas who are the pillars of our bridge table. "I don't play Culbertson; I play common-sense," is the proud assertion of these worthies. The implication that Culbertson and common-sense are incompatible is, however, not deliberate.

The Rule of Two and Three and the Lightner double are dismissed out of hand as so much academic nonsense. But you are not to think that palookas do not follow any theories or conventions. Palookas are as doctrine-ridden a lot as Communists. They have a cult of their own with its superstitions jealously held and impossible to dislodge. And these superstitions are inter-

national in character. For instance you will find a palooka in Paris talking of "shut-out bids" in the same manner as a palooka in Pallavaram. Strong and weak no trumps, leading the highest card of the suit bid by partner, the famous lead through strength and towards weakness, the rebid of a five-card suit irrespective of the strength of a hand and that of partner's response—these are some of their better known doctrines.

To return to our club. We have an intense dislike here for tournament bridge, problems, part scores etc. We consider them "sissy". Our bridge is a kind of verbal boxing, a free-for-all with everyone taking part in the auction in every deal, so that nobody knows who is holding what. (I have calculated that on the average, if all the bids in one deal are right, there should be about sixteen honour tricks in the pack!) We open the bidding like men, overcall like men, double like men—and redouble like cavemen. If there is a game or slam going within miles of us we are sure to catch it as you would catch influenza. The post-mortem with us is not a feast of reason, but a flow of spleen. And it is the person with the most raucous voice who carries off the honours.

INTRODUCING THE VIP.

This person is usually the VIP (it does not mean Very Inept Player). A star of our administrative firmament his job, when not butchering bridge hands is to dispense criminal justice. Some of it is criminal, I am told. He is notorious for his harsh sentences, a Judge Jeffries in fact. He brings to the game of bridge the same severity and ferocity which characterise him on the bench. He looks upon his fellow players, partner included, as criminals brought to the bar.

But the cards are not aware of all this—the dear little innocents! That is why they get in his hair and his pet theories are always blowing a fuse.

The other day I saw some deals which inspired a great deal of his palooka patter, but by a strange irony, the engineer was hoist with his own petard.

The victim of the first deal was his partner, sitting North who doubled Six Spades by West, but led the Knave of Clubs instead of the Ace of Diamonds.

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

The declarer took the trick with the Ace, finessed the Spade Knave, played the Ace, returned to his hand with the Heart King, played Spade King, Heart Ace, Heart Queen (discarding a Diamond), Club King and Club Queen (discarding the other Diamond).

He made his contract—and was hell let loose!

* *

Those asteriks stand for the VIP's expletives which our printer has scored out. What he has passed is only this: "If you can't lead an Ace against a slam contract, why don't you go and play—badminton?"

By a strange coincidence the very next deal was also played in Six Spades by West doubled by North. Not wanting any hocus-pocus this time North led the Ace of Hearts—and declarer made his contract!

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

The VIP's reaction this time can be described only by a caricaturist. He nearly had a stroke. The first few words he uttered were incomprehensible. When his speech became coherent we heard him say: "If you don't know what to do with your Aces when defending against a slam contract, why don't you go and play—badminton?"

The titter that went round the table luckily escaped the notice of the VIP.

CARELESS TALK COSTS CONTRACTS.

"Pass as much information as you can to your partner, in the course of the bidding," is a favourite dictum of the VIP. His partner followed this advice in this deal and this is what happened.

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

♠ 10 9 6
 ♥ 7 2
 ♦ Q 6 5 3
 ♣ 8 7 6 5

♠ 5
 ♥ A J 10
 ♦ K 9 7 2
 ♣ A K J 9 4

♠ A K J 4 3
 ♥ Q 9 8 5 4
 ♦ A J
 ♣ 2

The bidding:

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

West led the Five of Clubs, East took with the Knave and played the King. The declarer ruffed, played three rounds of trumps, led a Heart from dummy, East ducked and the Queen won.

The second Heart trick went to East's Knave. Now East recalled the bidding. He reasoned that there was no reason for the declarer to mention the Heart suit unless it was of the same length as the Spade suit. That meant he had two Diamonds. If they were the Ace and Queen the contract was on, but if they were the Ace and any other card, it could be beaten by leading a Diamond. He led a Diamond and that was that.

"If you had not gone about naming all suits under the sun after we had agreed on Spades, a third Club would have been led and you would have got home," said the VIP.

"I was trying to pass as much information as possible," said his partner.

"Information, my foot" said the VIP.

"Foot" was not the word he used, but our printer's bowdlerised version of it.

The same partnership encountered the accompanying deal later in the evening.

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

The VIP sitting North opened the bidding with one Club, South bid three Clubs, North three No-trump, South four Clubs, North five Clubs and South six Clubs.

Six Clubs went west and the VIP roared: "Why didn't you bid your Hearts? Why did you go in for the lousy slam in Clubs instead of the slam in Hearts which is there for the taking?"

"I didn't want to go about naming all suits under the sun with such thumping support for Clubs."

"Do you know that a four-four is always better than a five-four?"

"Besides", said the VIP's partner, ignoring the remark because he did not understand it. "You would be playing the slam in Clubs, not I. You know my play is not up to much, what?"

That soothed the VIP's vanity and averted a breach of the peace

BRILLIANT PLAY—WHILE OF UNSOUND MIND.

But it was altogether a bad day for the VIP. His discomfiture was complete in this deal in which he doubled Six Hearts by South and the contract was made by brilliant play. He had every justification for doubling the slam. West overcalled in Spades and he held such good trumps.

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

West led the ten of Diamonds. The declarer took the trick with the King. He finessed the Queen of Clubs. He led the ten of Hearts, East covered with the Knave, and he won with the Queen. The declarer next finessed the Queen of Spades. He cashed the Ace of Clubs, led a diamond to the Queen, ruffed a Club, led Diamond Ace and another Diamond which he ruffed in his hand. The Spade Ace was then played and this was the position:

♠ 2
 ♥ 9 7
 ♦ —
 ♣ —
 Immaterial
 ♠ —
 ♥ K 8 6
 ♦ —
 ♣ —
 ♠ 8
 ♥ A 4
 ♦ —
 ♣ —

The deuce of Spades was now led. The VIP had to ruff. But beyond calling juicier

names than usual he could do little to prevent the slam.

I complimented the declarer on having brought off a masterpiece. He seemed somewhat bewildered. "To be quite frank," he said "I had no clear idea of what I was doing. I am feeling rather drowsy and I was only thinking of getting home early. You know my wife frowns on my keeping late hours."

That shows you what palookas are!

Happy thought: A palooka would play better if he thought less!

INTERNATIONAL BIDDING CONTEST, 1954 AWARDS.

1. 6 Diamonds .. 100	15. 4 Spades .. 100
7 Diamonds .. 20	16. 3 N. T. .. 100
2. 3 N. T. .. 100	Part Score contract
5 Clubs .. 60	in Diamonds or No
3. Part Score contract	trumps .. 40
in Spades .. 100	17. 3 N. T., 4 or 5 N. T. .. 100
4. 6 Hearts .. 100	5 Diamonds .. 50
4 or 5 Hearts .. 60	18. 4 Spades .. 100
5. 6 Spades .. 100	Part score contract in
4 or 5 Spades .. 70	Spades .. 40
5 Diamonds .. 20	1, 2 or 3 Dia-
6. 1 or 2 Diamonds .. 100	monds .. 40
1 or 2 Clubs .. 80	19. 7 Clubs .. 100
1 or 2 Hearts or 1	6 Clubs .. 40
N. T. .. 70	20. 6 Clubs .. 100
7. 6 Clubs .. 100	5 Clubs .. 60
3 or 4 N. T. .. 60	21. 2 Diamonds Dble'd. .. 100
5 Clubs .. 50	2 Diamonds Pass .. 30
8. 1, 2 or 3 Diamonds .. 100	22. Part score contract
4 Diamonds .. 40	in Clubs .. 100
9. Part Score contract	23. 1 or 2 Diamonds .. 100
in Hearts .. 100	1 N. T. .. 80
Part Score contract	24. 3 N.T. .. 100
in Clubs .. 70	25. 5 Diamonds .. 100
10. 4 Spades .. 100	4 Spades .. 70
3 N. T. .. 70	3 N. T. .. 70
5 Diamonds .. 60	26. 6 Spades .. 100
6 Diamonds .. 20	4 or 5 Spades .. 20
11. 3 N. T. .. 100	27. 3, 4 or 5 N. T. .. 100
4 Hearts .. 70	28. Part score contract
12. 1 or 2 Diamonds .. 100	in Spades .. 100
3 Diamonds .. 60	29. 6 Clubs by North .. 100
1 N. T. .. 50	6 Clubs South or
13. 1 or 2 Hearts .. 100	6 N. T. .. 80
1 or 2 Spades .. 70	3, 4 or 5 N. T. .. 70
14. 5 Diamonds .. 100	30. 1 or 2 Diamonds .. 100
5 Hearts .. 60	3 Diamonds .. 40

"DOUBLE TROUBLE".

By N. MUTHUKRISHNA IYER.

"Double, double toil and trouble"
(MACBETH).

The "double" is a very effective weapon in the armoury of any bridge player. The "double" when made by a player for the purpose of showing that the opponents cannot complete their contract literally means a "penalty double" and, when it is made as a mere announcement of a strong hand and is intended as a signal to the partner to take it out with a response, it is styled a "take out double" and is purely conventional. Players are well aware of the broad differences between the two varieties and know that the nature of the double does not depend on what the doubler intends it to be but on what the doubler's partner reads it as arising out of a given sequence. Let me start with an appetiser.

Ills. (1)

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	2 ♦	Pass	Pass

Double.

South holds :—♠ 9, ♥ A 10 9 6 4 2, ♦ K Q J 6 2; ♣ A. This is a pure take out double, though South would like to collect a heavy penalty. This is no doubt a hard situation in which the bid that South wants to make would convey quite the opposite implications to his partner. South

must make a decision not on what he would like the outcome to be but on what it will almost be if the double is made.

The scope of this article is to point out those sequences of bidding where the double really gives trouble and where a player, finding it a bit difficult to distinguish between the "penalty" and "take-out" varieties, is left to his judgment and ingenuity.

The tendency among the experts to-day is to treat some of the traditionally penalty doubles as mere take-outs; and cases are not infrequent where a double may be classified as penalty in a narrow technical sense but yet imagination and self-protection demand that the doubler's partner should take it out. For example,

Ills. (2)

East-West vulnerable.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	?	

The pass over 1 ♠ did not automatically bar South from competing; after East showed that he is not strong enough to rebid over 2 ♥ South competes. It is South's first opportunity to double two ♥ and he reopens the auction begging North to bid in minor suits.

Ills. (3)

Both sides vulnerable.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST.
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
Pass	D'ble	Pass	?

Technically this is a penalty double, but East should not pass unless his hand can defeat 2 ♠. West competes after knowing that North-South have disclosed their relative weakness and he reopens the bidding.

Ills. (4)

Neither side vulnerable.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
Pass	Double.	Pass	?

West holding ♠ K 10 6 5; ♥ Q J 7; ♦ 10 8; ♣ A J 9 6 makes a weak competitive bid which East takes out in a suit. These weak-competitive reopening bids are made under the "balance of power" or "protection" theory *i.e.*, when and where the opponents have signed off or let their bidding die at one or two level and their combined strength is shown to be a minimum. This style of bidding brings large dividends and can be used to great advantage in match point-duplicate games.

Ills. (5)

North-South vulnerable.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	Double	2 ♣	Double
East holds ♠ Q 8 5 4; ♥ A K 9; ♦ J 7 4 3; ♣ 5 3.			

North has disclosed a hand weak in honours but strong distributionally and the single free raise following the double shows about 4 or 5 trumps and about 4 winners (see page 226 of the Gold Book 1950 edition). South should normally have 4 or 5 Clubs; therefore East hardly makes a penalty double with so many clubs outside him and on the wrong side of the opening bidder. The intended meaning is obvious; the double by East is of the same type as a 3 Club call except that it is not so strong. This double must follow the *responsive principle*; it is true no doubt that "it is a bit thick to claim the benefits of a convention without playing that convention". (Dr. Reid's Responsive Double is making much headway now-a-days).

Ills. (6)

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	1 ♦	D'ble	Pass
Pass	1 ♥	1 NT	Pass
?			

South holds ♠ 10 4; ♥ Q 10 9; ♦ K Q 8; ♣ A K 9 4 3. While South holds K Q 8 in Diamonds, North doubles 1 ♦ and also calls one no-trump after an intervening bid of one Heart. South should know that there is something fishy about the ♦ overcall and bid 2 ♦ himself.

But on no account should a double in any given sequence of bidding be termed "penalty"

at one time and a "take-out" at any other time, or called "penalty" by one player but "take-out" by the other player. There should be definiteness and consistency of bidding given the same hands, at all times, and by all players—for very obvious reasons; and no player should be forced to guess. How do we classify the double—as penalty or take-out—in the following sequence?

Ills. (7)

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST.
1 ♣	Pass	1 NT	Pass
Pass	Double		—

This is illustration No. 2. (Table of penalty Doubles situations) at page 273 of Gold Book 1950 edition. It is said therein, "West has passed previously. Hence he was trapping and doubles for penalties. East should take out only with a weak hand and a long suit". On the next page another illustration is:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 NT	Double.	—	—

and it is said, "Although this is by definition a penalty double, partner has the option of taking it out". Reading these together with, "the double of a one no-trump bid is a penalty double and is intended to be taken out only if partner has a long (at least a five card) suit in a hand too weak in honour tricks to support the double"—Page 243—there is no difference

at all between the above two situations at page 273 and 274 of the Gold Book, and the double following the no-trump in both the situations is purely penalty.

It is interesting to note that the same sequence (illustration 7 above).

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	Pass	1 NT	Pass
Pass	Double		—

is classified as a reopening take-out double in the Gold Book. In Chapter XXI (Take-out Doubles) under the Sub-heading "reopening the bidding" at page 244, it reads, "A double of a no trump response which has been passed by the opener should be made with about 2½ honour tricks with a few Jacks and tens". The theory of "balance of power" or "protection" can well be applied to this sequence and the double can be termed a "take-out". This is the better view.

The flexibility of treating a penalty double as a take-out largely depends upon vulnerability, the factor of position, the range and limit of bids, the balance of power, etc. It is true that the precise use and interpretation of doubles are a bit ticklish; yet technicalities apart it is always better to read the doubler's intention as arising out of any given sequence and give a logical treatment to the "double" regardless of classification.



TEST YOUR SKILL—PROBLEMS

Edited by P. S. N. SARMA

Problem 1. West dealer, East-West vulnerable, match point scoring, the bidding has gone:

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

What do you, South, bid, holding: ♠ K Q 9, ♠ 10 5, ♦ J 5 3, ♣ A Q 10 8 2?

Problem 2. North dealer, neither side vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♥	?

What do you, South, bid, holding: ♠ 8, ♥ Q 10 8 2, ♦ A K 7, ♣ K 9 8 5 4?

Problem 3. North dealer, neither side vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♥	?

What do you, South, bid, holding:

♠ Q 10 8 2, ♥ 8, ♦ A K 7, ♣ K 9 8 5 4?

Problem 4. South dealer, both sides vulnerable, match point scoring, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
?			

What do you, South bid, holding: ♠ 5, ♥ A 8 7, ♦ K 8 4 3, ♣ A K J 6 5?

Problem 5. East is playing a contract of Four Spades. The defence cash two Club tricks and lead the third top Club which declarer ruffs. The trumps break 3-1. The East-West hands are given below. Plan declarer's play.

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

Problem 6. East is the declarer at a contract of Four Spades, after South opened the bidding with One Heart. South leads the King of Diamonds,

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North playing the eight. The East-West hands are given below. Plan declarer's play.

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

Problem 7. West became the declarer at Three Spades after the following somewhat free-for-all-bidding:

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

North leads ♦ 8, dummy plays low and you, South, win with the Knave. Your hand and the dummy are given below. How do you defend from here?

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

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

Problem 8. South is playing a contract of Four Hearts, after East opens the bidding with One Club. West leads ♣ 7, dummy's 8 is covered by East with the 10, South winning with the Ace. Declarer plays the King of trumps. East wins with the Ace and plays the deuce of diamonds. What is declarer's play for ten tricks? The North-South hands are given below.

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

Problem 9. Both declarer's hand and dummy are given in this problem. The contract is Four Hearts by East. South leads the Queen of Spades. Plan declarer's play.

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



Edited by T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN

The Association's annual Championship Tournaments have just been completed. Trichy, Devakottah, Madura, Tanjore & Coimbatore were the Zonal centres where the preliminary rounds were played and the winners of the various Zones as well as those from Madras City took part in the final rounds at the Corporation Stadium during the Christmas week. Two teams from Andhra were specially invited to take part in the final rounds and the Tenali team, last year's winners, besides a team from Vijayawada competed on behalf of the Andhra Bridge Association. The T. Nagar Social Club's team who won the knock out event and annexed the Sir T. Sadasiva Iyer's trophy deserve to be congratulated on their return to form. This is the first time since 1950 that a Madras City team won this event.

The final rounds were largely attended this year although one missed the teams from West Bengal who played so well last

year. Besides the usual events a set of sixteen deals par pointed by Mr. K. C. Ramaratnam of the T. Nagar S. C. was also played on the last night. Full details of the results are given elsewhere.....

The Annual General Body meeting of the Association was held at 24, Narayana Mudali Street at 6 P.M. on 26th December, 1954 — the Corporation Stadium was not available owing to the visit of the Chinese Cultural Delegation—with Mr. P. Rajagopalan, the President in the Chair. Before the proceedings began, the meeting passed a resolution mourning the death of Mr. M. R. Krishnan, who was the Hony. Treasurer of the Association, early in the year. After adoption of the annual report and distribution of prizes, the following office bearers for the year 1954-55 were elected :

Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Rajagopalan (*President*).

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K. R. Sundara Iyer (*Vice-President*).

S. Ramalingaswamy (*Vice-President*).

K. Guru Dutt (*Hony. Secretary*).

Dr. K. L. Narayana Rau (*Hony. Treasurer*).

R. Sankaran (*Asst. Secretary*).

Other members of the Ex. Council.

Ayyathurai.

G. K. Sundaram
Sampath Thatham.

Lt. Col. C. S. V. Ramanan.

N. Venkat Rao.

M.R.S. Manickavelu Chettiar.

E. Solomon.

M. Rangachari.

Dr. V. N. C. Rau.

C. V. Venkatesan.

C. Annapurniah.

S. Palaniswamy.

A copy of the Annual Report and Statement of accounts appears elsewhere.....

The Australian Bridge Council sponsored an International Bidding contest for pairs in which most of the European nations took part. The South Indian Bridge Association who were also invited to take part and send five pairs to represent India felt unable to shoulder the responsibility of selecting the 5 best pairs who would be representative of the highest talent in the country. The Executive Council of the Association, rather than let slip this opportunity, selected

5 pairs to represent the S. I. B. A. and participate in this event. The selection had to be done largely in an arbitrary manner and solely on the basis of the knowledge which the council possessed of the bidding skill of the players chosen. The task was not an easy one and the selectors naturally came in for a lot of criticism. The Council hope that members will realise the difficulties which lay in the way of selecting the 5 really best pairs and not indulge in unfair criticism of the choice made by the selectors.

The pairs chosen to represent the Association in this event were :

	Marks scored for 3000
1. P. S. Reddi & T. R. Samoo ..	1,130
2. A. M. R. Davidar & A. D. J. Victor ..	960
3. N. Ramaratnam & C. Devarajan ..	1,320
4. E. N. Mylappan & N. V. M. Gani ..	1,140
5. A. Ramamurti & P. Tilak. ..	1,280

Unfortunately the performance of the pairs selected was rather poor. India came 18th in rank; Italy (2,280) and Israel (2,200) were the winners and runners-up.

The Indian players who took part in the subsidiary event, playing the same hands, fared much better and we congratulate M/s. S. Ethirajulu Chetty and A. Sreeramulu of the Southern India Vysya Association on their splendid performance. This pair scored 2020 while M/s. T. K. N. Panikkar and Veeramani came next with 1,880 points.

Full details of the 30 deals and the bidding awards for each hand appear elsewhere.

Detailed results are :

Italy : E. Chiardia & P. Farquet	2,280
Israel	2,200
France	2,080
G. Britain	1,970
Australia	1,610
Br. W.	2,160
Holland	1,890
Jamaica	1,820
Western U.S.A.	1,690
Egypt	1,650
Bermuda	1,660
Hongkong	1,810
Newzealand	1,350
Mexico	1,630
Scotland	1,550
Belgium	1,510
South Africa	1,480
India	1,320

The following pairs took part in the subsidiary event and scored as under :

A. R. Krishnaswamy & C. S. Padmanabhan	1,410
--	-------

G. N. Chari & Venkataramani	1,060
Dr. V. N. C. Rau & P. S. Sundaresa Iyer	1,400
Mr. & Mrs. Solomon	1,530
Panikkar & Veeramani	1,880
T. M. Kasturi & M. K. Srinivasa Mudaliar	1,420
R. Sankaran & S. K. Subramanian	1,550
M. Rangachari & Radhakrishnan	1,480
Gokuldoss & Sriramulu Naidu	830
Sriramulah & Raghava Rao	1,160
Guru Dutt & Narasimhan	1,400
S. Ethirajulu Chetty & A. Sriramulu	2,020
L. N. Dadhabai & Beaver	840
G. K. Gopalaswamy & A. S. Giri	1,400

The Madras City League Tournament concluded in September, 1954 and although a number of matches were not played, keen interest prevailed in the event to the end. The Modern Institute of Commerce team, last year's holders, did not strike form this season. We congratulate Mr. K. R. Sundaram Iyer's Team the league winners this year on their steady form but it must be said that they lost to Mr. P. S. Reddi's team in their encounter while the latter, although unbeaten in the series, lost their place by failing to turn up for the final match. The following are the individual

players who made up the teams.
K. R. Sundaram Iyer's Team :

Winners :

K. R. Sundaram Iyer.
P. S. Sundaresa Iyer.
T. R. Samoo.
C. R. Srinivasan.
Dr. K. L. Narayana Rau.
K. C. Ramaratnam.
Dr. K. Suryanarayana.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.

P. S. Reddi's Team : Runners-up.

P. S. Reddi.
T. K. N. Panikkar.
C. Devarajan.
A. S. Giri.
A. Ramamurti.
H. Appadurai.
V. R. Veeramani.
Dr. S. T. Achar.

We hope that interest in the League matches will not dwindle in the years to come as this is the only event providing regular playing opportunities for all. More new blood and a revival of enthusiasm in the game is required and we are confident that this will be forthcoming in the future and that all the matches will be played keenly.

Two open tournaments were organised in the month of January during the quarter which were both well attended. The Cosmopolitan Club, Tanjore, conducted their tournament during the Puja Holidays. The Modern Institute of Commerce team from Madras are to be congratulated on their good show in winning the main knock-out event, for the

Jothi Pandyan Memorial Trophy. Following are the results :

Team of four event : Winners :

(Modern Institute of Commerce, Madras).

K. Guru Dutt.
R. Sankaran.
T. R. Samoo
T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Runners-up : The Cosmopolitan Club, Tanjore.

S. Ramalingaswamy.
K. S. Venkataraman.
M. S. Krishnaswami.
Appathurai.

The City Club, Trichy, staged their Annual Tournament for the Thevar Memorial Trophy during the last week of October, 1954. Although no team from Madras took part in the events, teams from Tanjore, Trichy, Mayavaram Karaikudi etc. participated in the matches which were keenly fought. The Srirangam team won the knock-out Duplicate event and the following are the results :

Knock-out Team of Four.

Winners :

S. R. V. Thatham.
S. Rangarajan.
S. Parthasarathy.
S. Rathnam Pillai.
T. S. Jayarama Iyer.

Runners-up :

S. R. Sampath Thatham.
Sarvodaya.
P. N. Subramania Iyer.

N. Srinivasa Iyengar.
S. Rangaswamy.

Master Pairs :

Winners :

S. Rathnam Pillai.
S. Parthasarathy.

Runners-up :

M. Subbiah.
S. V. Natarajan.

Progressive Pairs :

North South : Winners :

Appathurai.
Ranganatha Iyer.

East West : Winners :

E. N. Mylappan.
A. K. Sherfuddin.

It is gratifying to note that Bridge is growing more and more popular in the Districts. Besides Madras City, regular League matches are being played at the various centres, viz., at Trichy, for the Jothi Pandian Memorial League Trophy, and at Karaikudi. We hope that this enthusiasm will not be short-lived and these league tournaments will help in promoting more inter district contests and finding new talent.

Results of the S. I. B. A. Annual Championship Tournament, 1954.

Final Rounds.

Team of four Knock-out :

(for Sir T. Sadasiva Iyer's Trophy).

Winners : (T' Nagar Social Club, Madras.)

K. C. Ramaratnam.
S. Palaniswamy.

P. S. Sadasivan.
R. Sankaran.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Runner-up : (L. R. M. Club, Tenali).

P. L. Sastri.
P. R. Sastri.
N. Tirumal Rao.
P. L. Narayana.

Duplicate Progressive :

(M. R. Doraiswamy's Challenge Trophy.)

Winners : (Karaikudi Town Club.)

M. R. S. Manickavelu.
M. N. S. T. Chidambaram.
R. M. Kuttaiyan Chettiar.
S. Kasi.

Runners up : (T' Nagar Social Club, Madras.)

K. C. Ramaratnam.
S. Palaniswamy.
P. S. Sadasivan.
R. Sankaran.

Pairs Progressive :

North South Winners :

Mrs. & Mr. Solomon.

Runners-up :

V. Subramaniam.
Suryanarayanan.

East West Winners :

B. Hanumantha Rao.
A. S. Giri.

Runners-up :

M. R. S. Manickavelu Chettiar.
A. R. Sankaranarayanan.

Master Pairs :

Winners :

V. Subramaniam.
M. Subbiah.

Runners-up :

Y. Duraiswamy Iyer.
N. V. M. Gani.

Individual Championship :

Winner :

K. Guru Dutt.
Runner-up :
Suryanarayanan.

Par Event :

North South Winners :

T. K. N. Panikkar.
P. S. Natarajan.

Runners-up : P. S. Reddi.

B. Hamanuntha Rao.

East West Winners :

A. Ramamurti.
P. Tilak.

Runners-up :

E. N. Mylappan.
Sherfuddin.
ZONAL ROUNDS.

Madras City Zone.

Team of four Knock-out :

Winners : (Mylapore Club).

G. N. Chari.
N. Ramaratnam.
B. Venkataramani.
C. V. Venkatesan.
S. K. Sundararaman.

Runners-up : (T' Nagar S. C.).

K. C. Ramaratnam.
S. Palaniswamy.
P. S. Sadasivan.
R. Sankaran.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Pairs Progressive :

North South Winners :

M. Singaperumaliah.
N. Sreeramulu Naidu.

Runners-up :

G. Hanumantha Rao.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.

East West Winners :

G. K. Gopalaswami.
M. Rangaswamy.

Runners-up :

K. R. Sundaram Iyer.
T. R. Sanoo.

Master Pairs :

Winners :

K. S. Narayana.
G. K. Gopalaswami.

Runners-up :

E. Solomon.
Chandrasekaran.

Madurai Zone.

Team of four Winners :

Winners : Union Club 'A' :

V. Sundararajan.
S. V. Ramalingam.
M. S. Krishnaswami.
M. S. Parthasarathy.

Runners-up : Cosmopolitan Club 'A' :

Ayyadurai Mudaliar.
Palani.
Pasupathi.
Tirumalraj.

Progressive Pairs :

North South Winners :

S. Rajam.
P. Ramaswami.

Runners-up :

M. S. Krishnaswami.
M. S. Parthasarathi.

East West : Winners :

Ayyadurai Mudaliar.
Palani.

Runners-up :

R. Soundararajan.
S. N. Sastri.

Master Pairs :**Winners :**

R. Soundararajan.
S. N. Sastri.

Runners-up :

P. S. Ramaswami.
S. Rajam.

Devakottah Zone :**Team of four knock-out :****Town Club, Karaikudi.****Winners :**

M. R. S. Manickavelu Chettiar.
A. R. Sankaranarayanan.
M. N. S. T. Chidambaram.
K. Narayana Chettiar.
C. Annamalai.

Runners-up : Nehru Club, Kothamangalam.

R. M. Kuttaian Chettiar.
C. A. C. Arunachala Chettiar.
R. M. Olagappa Chettiar.
S. Kasi.
L. Arunachalam Chettiar.

Progressive Pairs :**North South Winners :**

R. M. Kuttaian Chettiar.
C. A. C. Arunachalam.

East West Winners :

S. K. M. Meyyappan.
A. N. A. L. Alagappan.

Master Pairs Winners :

A. Natesan.
K. S. Krishnan.

Tanjore Zone :**Team of four knock-out :****Winners :**

T. K. Srinivas Iyengar.
Muthukrishna Iyer.
Appadurai.
Ranganatha Iyer.

Runners-up :

Sudarsana Sabha.

Progressive Pairs.**North South Winners :****Cosmopolitan Club, Pattukottai.**

Ambrose
K. V. Ramanathan.

East West Winners :

Dr. M. S. Krishnaswami.
Subburatnam.

North South :

Runners up : (Mayavaram).
Ramalingam.
Vasu.

East West :**Runners up : Cosmopolitan Club, Pattukottai.**

P. M. Shanmugam.
Veeraswami Chettiar.

Trichinopoly Zone :**Team of four :****Winners : City Club, Trichy.**

S. V. Natarajan.
V. Subramaniam.
Ambi Iyer.
M. Subbiah.
K. Suryanarayana.

Runners up :

E. N. Mylappa.
A. K. Sharfuddin.
N. V. M. Gani.
Y. Duraiswami Iyer.

TEST YOUR SKILL—SOLUTIONS

Edited by P. S. N. SARMA

Problem 1. West dealer, East-West vulnerable, match point scoring, the bidding has gone :

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

What do you, South, bid, holding : ♠ K Q 9, ♥ 10 5, ♦ J 5 3, ♣ A Q 10 8 2 ?

Solution : Pass.

Comment : Your hand barely qualifies for an opening bid. You opened because the scoring is by match points, and, because being the fourth hand you are under no obligation to rebid. Your partner's jump response should be taken with some reserve as he did not have sufficient high card strength to open the bidding. A jump bid by a responder who passed originally is not absolutely forcing.

Problem 2.—North dealer, neither side vulnerable, the bidding has gone :

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♥	?

What do you, South, bid, holding : ♠ 8, ♥ Q 10 8 2, ♦ A K 7, ♣ K 9 8 5 4 ?

Solution : Pass.

Comment : An overcall of Two Clubs should not even be thought

of. Not only is the Club suit too tenuous for an overcall, but the four card Heart suit is a dangerous liability. In overcalling discretion is the better part of valour.

Problem 3. North dealer, neither side vulnerable, the bidding has gone :

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♥	?

What do you, South, bid, holding : ♠ Q 10 8 2, ♥ 8, ♦ A K 7, ♣ K 9 8 5 4 ?

Solution : Double.

Comment : Don't wait for three and a half honour tricks to be dealt to you before you make a take-out double. While many a three and a half honour trick hand will make a poor dummy because of bad distribution, a hand like this though not strong in high cards has good support for any suit that partner may bid. When the shape of a hand is good, the requirements for a take-out double may be shaded. The doubler's partner must bear this in mind and exercise caution in passing for penalties or doubling any contract that opponents may reach.

Problem 4. South dealer, both sides vulnerable, match point scoring, the bidding has gone :

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
?

What do you, South, bid, holding: ♠ 5, ♥ A 8 7, ♦ K 8 4 3, ♣ A K J 6 5?

Solution: Two Hearts.

Comment: An immediate raise of partner's suit generally requires four card support, but with those who bid only suits which are conventionally held to be biddable, there is no danger in raising with three to a high honour when the hand is unbalanced as in the present case. The hand is too strong for a mere rebid of Clubs, but not strong enough for a reverse bid of Two Diamonds. As the scoring is by match points, it is better to flash the support for the major suit without wasting valuable rounds of bidding.

Problem 5.—East is playing a contract of Four Spades. The defence cash two Club tricks and lead the third top Club which declarer ruffs. The trumps break 3-1. The East-West hands are given below. Plan declarer's play.

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

Solution: Eliminate trumps. Eliminate Hearts. Lead a low Diamond from either hand, and play low from the other.

Comment: The only danger to the contract lies in the Diamond suit breaking badly. If the missing Diamonds are divided 5-0, the contract is off; if they are divided 3-2 there is no problem. If, as is more likely, they break 4-1, the contract can be made by the above play provided the singleton is not the six. Percentage is against the singleton being the six.

Problem 6. East is the declarer at a contract of Four Spades, after South opened the bidding with One Heart. South leads the King of Diamonds, North playing the eight. The East-West hands are given below. Plan declarer's play.

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

Solution: Duck the opening lead. Establish a Club in dummy for a Heart discard, taking the view that North has three clubs to the Queen or Knave. Enter with a trump, lead a low club; if North plays low insert the nine, if North plays an honour—he cannot have the Ace—cover with the King. Use dummy's trump entries for ruffing the third Club.

Comment: South obviously has the Heart King. North must be kept out of the lead. A Club must be set up in dummy for discarding declarer's losing Heart. This is possible only if South has

three Clubs including the Ace and at least one other honour.

The complete deal was:

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

Problem 7. West became declarer at Three Spades after the following somewhat free-for-all bidding:

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

North leads ♦ 8, dummy plays low and you, South, win with the Knave. Your hand and the dummy are given below. How do you defend from here?

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

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

Solution: Play the Ace of Diamonds and lead Heart Ten.

Comment: The opposition have the Spades and Clubs, so you must win your tricks in a hurry. You know that West has the 10 and 9 of Diamonds. So you can cash your Ace. Cashing the Diamond Ace serves another important purpose—namely, to indicate to your partner that your Heart is a singleton. If you had two Hearts, you would retain the Diamond Honours to play the Hearts a second time. When you deliberately set up dummy's King of Diamonds and play the Heart, partner can read you for a singleton. The complete deal was:

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

Problem 8. South is playing a contract of Four Hearts, after East opens the bidding with One Club. West leads ♣ 7, dummy's 8 is covered by East with the 10, South winning with the Ace. Declarer plays the King of trumps. East wins with the Ace and plays the deuce of Diamonds. What is declarer's play for ten tricks? The North-South hands are given below.

The INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

NORTH

♠ K 10 6
♥ 7 4
♦ Q 8 5 4
♣ K 9 8 6

SOUTH

♠ 8 6
♥ K Q J 10 8
♦ A K 9 3
♣ A 3

Solution: Take with the Ace, draw trumps, play Diamond King if the Diamonds do not break (they will not, East's deuce must be a singleton), throw East in with the 6 of Clubs. He will have to return Spades or Clubs to give you two more tricks.

Comment: A simple throw-in. Incidentally the deal shows that even a six is a respectable card. East's hand was: ♠ A Q 9, ♥ A 6 5 2, ♦ 2, ♣ Q J 10 4 2.

Problem 9. Both declarer's hand and dummy are given in this problem. The contract is Four Hearts by East. South leads the Queen of Spades. Plan declarer's play.

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

Solution: Take the trick in the closed hand. Lead the 2 of

Clubs. *Do not start playing trumps.* The contract is in danger if South has all the four missing trumps. An end-play in trumps is the only chance of saving the game if the trumps break that way. The lead of a Club loses nothing but gains a valuable tempo for the declarer. It is immaterial whether North or South takes the trick. The two entries in dummy, ♥ K and ♠ K, are used for ruffing Clubs. And South is thrown in with a Spade. Whatever he leads now is advantageous to the declarer on the assumption that the Diamond Honours split.

Comment: This is a hand which illustrates the importance of tempo in bridge. The thoughtless play of a trump at Trick Two ruins the hand. The complete deal was:

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



Pro et Contra

Edited by E. SOLOMON.

Question.—In a recent duplicate contest the following East-West hands gave rise to much comment:

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

East-West were vulnerable and East was the dealer.

At the table where East-West were staunch Culbertsonians, the bidding died at 1 Spade all passing. In the other room the East-West pair, who were playing an artificial point count system, landed in a 4 Heart contract which was easily made.

Please comment:

(a) Whether West's pass of the opening 1 Spade bid by his partner was in order.

(b) Whether West should not put in a 2 Heart bid followed by a sign-off 3 Heart bid should partner bid 2 No Trump.

Answer.—In spite of the actual result we must agree with West's pass of the opening 1 Spade bid by his partner. With a mere 4 points and an aching void in partner's bid suit, any other action by him is tantamount to flirting with sudden death. Should North re-open the bidding, as is likely, West may then venture to bid Hearts after which the game contract can easily be reached. It is to be noted that East-West are vulnerable but even if they were not we would still incline towards West's pass.

We cannot help expressing a sneaking suspicion that if anyone was to blame for the unfortunate result it was not West but—North! North-South had between them 5 Honour tricks or 23 points, which was considerably more than East-West were blessed with. North must have had a fair share of his side's wealth. Therefore, after West's pass, the necessity for some action by him "to protect" his partner's pass appears to be

strongly indicated. North, however, elected to pass.

We, bridge players, are more or less accustomed to being let down by our partners, but when it is an opponent who lets us down it really hurts. West is therefore all the more deserving of our sympathy.

The reason why the point-countsmen did better than the Culbertsonians on this particular hand should not be ascribed to any special merit of their system, but rather to what is normally considered to be a drawback. As East's first bid was purely artificial, West could and had to show his Heart suit. The good fit in Hearts then resulted in game being reached, despite the fact that East's six-card major faced a void in partner's hand. The normal drawback of an opening artificial suit, i.e., having to wait to show a true suit till a higher and possibly deterrent level, therefore, turned out, in this particular case, to be an advantage.

Since we endorse West's pass, we feel that the second part of this question requires no separate comment.

Question.—Kindly discuss in your columns how the accompanying North-South hands should have been bid:

NORTH

♠ —
♥ A K 9 6 3 2
♦ Q 10 9 4
♣ K J 4 2

SOUTH

♠ J 3 2
♥ 7
♦ A J 7 6 5 3
♣ A 8 5

At both tables East-West interfered in the bidding by bidding Spades and at both tables the final bid was only 5 Diamonds while 13 tricks were cold with the singleton Diamond King dropping on the Ace.

Answer.—Assuming that East and West each bid Spades once only in the course of the auction, the recommended bidding is:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♦	2 ♠
3 ♠ ¹	—	5 ♦ ²	—
6 ♦ ³	—	—	—

1. With such a good fit in Diamonds, North can best utilise this round of bidding to—

(a) force to game;

(b) proclaim his void in Spades; and

(c) admit support for partner's suit by implication. All this he does in just one breath by overcalling opponents' suit. No matter how regretfully he does so, North must forego the pleasure

of rebidding his undeniably rebiddable Heart suit, as this call would withhold from partner news sure to be of far more interest to him and also place him under too great a strain.

2. This is the least that South can say after the foregoing sequence. It is definitely not a "shut-out".

3. Easy!

A little bird has just whispered in our ear that in the actual sequence West overcalled South's bid of a 2 Diamonds

with 4 Spades. This is supposed to crowd the bidding and make life difficult for North-South. Actually the contrary is the case. Now North should have no difficulty in abandoning his beautiful Heart suit. West's big jump forces him to do so and he might as well use Blackwood since if partner has two Aces a small slam should be makeable. The bidding in this case would go as follows:—

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♦	4 ♠
4 N.T.	—	5 ♥	—

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1953-54.

The Executive Council have pleasure in presenting this Report for the year ended 30th September, 1954.

At the General Body Meeting of the Association held on 27th December, 1953, the following were elected to the Council for the year 1953-54.

Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Rajagopalan (*President*).

Sri K.R. Sundaram Iyer
(*Vice President*).

„ S. Rajam Iyer
(*Vice President*).

„ M.R. Krishnan
(*Hony. Treasurer*).

„ T.S. Chandrasekaran
(*Hony. Secretary*).

„ R. Sankaran
(*Hony. Asst. Secretary*).

„ K.S. Narayana.

„ G. Hanumantha Rao.

„ H. Appadorai.

„ R. Aravamudhan.

„ M. Rangachari.

Dr. K.L. Narayana Rao.

Sri N. Venkat Rao.

„ M.R.S. Manickavelu Chettiar.

„ E.N. Mylappan.

„ V. Srinivasa Iyer.

„ S.M. Bagchi.

„ Lt.Col. C.S.V. Ramanan.

Dr. K. L. Narayana Rao was co-opted as Hon'y. Treasurer on the death of Mr. M.R. Krishnan.

Membership: The membership of the Association currently stands at 324 made up as under:

Club Life Members	..	1
Individual Life Members	..	76
Club Members	..	47
Individual Members	..	200
Total	..	324

Although quite a few members are also members of the Andhra Bridge Association, the Council hope that these members will continue to be members of the South Indian Bridge Association as hitherto and play in the Zonal and final rounds of the Annual Championship's Tournaments as hitherto.

Finances: The finances of the Association are generally satisfactory despite the fact that substantial arrears of subscription are still due to be collected. The Council hope that the incoming Executive Council members will devote their attention to this question in a more energetic manner.

Indian Bridge World: The Indian Bridge World, the official organ of the Association, has just completed its sixth year. Unfortunately the Editorial Com-

JANUARY, 1955

mittee have been able to bring out only two issues of the Magazine during the present year. The third is under print and members will be receiving copies thereof during January, 1955. The executive Council hope that the members' co-operation in popularising the Magazine and bringing out regular issues thereof will be forthcoming in a far greater measure during 1955. Periodical contributions by way of articles of general interest and local tournament reviews are always welcome and the Council appeal to all members to make a special effort in this direction.

The Council are thankful to Sri G. Vaidyanathan for having audited the accounts of the Association at short notice for a nominal consideration.

The Council wish to thank the Australian Bridge Council and Mr. M.J. Sullivan, in particular,

for having extended an invitation to the Association to take part in the International Bridge Contest sponsored by them. Five pairs were selected by the Council to represent the South Indian Bridge Association. In the absence of any intimate knowledge of individual players the Council did their best in the selection.

The Council are grateful to the T'Nagar Social Club for continuing to provide accommodation and facilities for receipt of mails addressed to the Association. The Council also wish to thank the authorities of the Madras Corporation Stadium for permitting the final rounds of the matches to be played in their spacious Pavilion Hall.

The audited Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet as at 30th September, 1954, are attached.

THE SOUTH INDIAN BRIDGE
Income and Expenditure Account for

Expenditure.	Details.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Printing of Magazine ..	..	336 10 9
Stationery and Printing ..	..	29 0 0
Postage ..	..	55 1 9
Audit Fees ..	..	25 0 0
Bank Charges ..	..	4 6 0
Other Expenses :		
Tournament ..	2250 12 3	
League Tournament ..	378 9 0	
Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred :		2629 5 3
General Fund ..	748 3 3	
League Tournament ..	278 9 0	
		469 10 3
Total ..		3549 2 0

Balance Sheet as at

Capital and Liabilities.

	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
General Fund :		
As per Last Balance Sheet ..	2091 12 2	
Add :		
Transfer from League Tournament Committee ..	287 8 6	
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended 30th September 1954 ..	748 3 3	
		3127 7 11
Donation :		
Dr. T. V. S. Shastry's Memorial Cup ..		85 0 0
Total ..		3212 7 11

MADRAS,
3rd November, 1954.

ASSOCIATION, MADRAS.
the year ended 30th September, 1954.

Income.	Details.	Total.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Subscriptions ..	..	297 0 0
Entrance Fees ..	..	40 8 0
Capitation Fees ..	..	30 0 0
Other Receipts :		
Tournament ..	3081 10 0	
League Tournament ..	100 0 0	
		3181 10 0
Total ..		3549 2 0

30th September 1954.

Property and Assets.

	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
Stocks :		
Silver Cups ..	..	55 0 3
Book Debts :		
Due from Zone Committee ..	57 0 0	
Renovation amount and cost of cups recoverable ..	136 0 0	
Magazine advertisement debts ..	280 0 0	
Trichy Zone Committee ..	142 0 0	
Entrance fees Due ..	209 0 0	
		844 0 0
League Tournament Committee :		
As per last Balance Sheet Cr. ..	391 2 0	
Add :		
Transfer to General Fund ..	287 8 6	
Excess of expenditure over income for the year ended 30th Sept. 54 ..	278 9 0	
		566 1 6
		174 15
Cash :		
With Bankers in current account ..	2002 4 2	
On Hand. ..	136 4 0	
		2138 8 2
Total ..		3212 7 11

Examined and found correct.

(Sd.) G. VAIDYANATHAN
Chartered Accountant, Auditor.

"CONTRACT BRIDGE (IN A NUTSHELL)",
By TEAKS (T. K. SRINIVASA IYENGAR, B.A., B.L., Advocate, Tanjore)

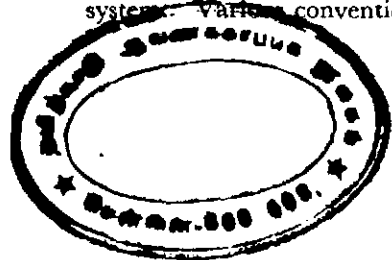
A Review

This book written by one of our contributors is mainly devoted to bidding, though it also contains a few chapters illustrating the more popular types of play. The author states in his Preface that the "booklet" as he calls it "lays no claim to originality or discovery of any new system or convention or method". He adds that it is a faithful summary of the famous Culbertson system. The main theme of the book is the Culbertson approach-forcing system of bidding based on Honour Trick valuation. This is presented "in a nut-shell." It should prove useful to players who are not conversant with Culbertson's original treatises on the subject. In addition to paraphrasing Culbertson, the author has also taken pains to summarise some of the other popular systems of bidding like the Acol system (this system has not been given a separate chapter, it is touched upon as and when occasion demands), the Roth-Stone system, the Culbertson point count system, the Vienna system and the modern Gladiator system. Various conventions in

vogue at the present day are also explained in this book as for instance the Stayman convention, the Vanderbilt short club, the "weak two", the Acol two bids and cue bids. The author is equally thorough in his treatment of conventions used in slam bidding. The much-abused though universally popular Blackwood convention is presented here in its authentic form. Culbertson's Four-Five No-trump and Asking Bids—the old as well as the 1953 version—naturally are given prominence. The Norman convention and the Gerber convention and the grand slam force are also included.

The chapters on declarer's play and defence are brief. They contain a few deals from international tournaments and from well-known books illustrating a number of expert plays. A glossary of bridge terms and the International Match Point System of Scoring are included as appendices.

The book is a useful compendium of bidding methods.



THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH INDIAN
BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Vol. VI

April 1955

No. 2

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THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

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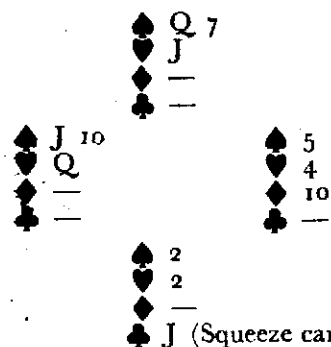
No. 2

THE SQUEEZE

By A. M. R. DAVIDAR

The multifarious forms of Squeeze in Bridge cannot be set down in one article. I shall, in the following pages, deal with the more common forms. If in so doing I can secure your interest in this delightful department of the end-game and make you Squeeze-minded or Squeeze-conscious, I shall be quite satisfied. You are then bound to go ahead and complete your education yourself through studying, among others, "The Squeeze at Bridge" by H.G. Freehill, "The Squeeze Play" by Robert Rendel and "Squeezes, Coups and End-plays" by E. Hall Downes. Since it is left only to masters generally to combine together in defence to work a Squeeze, a delicious feature of this department of play is that you exclusively work it out yourself as declarer, without having to depend on the undependable person sitting in front of you, quaintly termed your partner, seeing that he mostly plays the part of a third opponent.

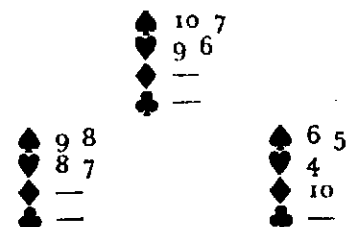
To define the term "Squeeze" in Bridge is not easy. Literally, it means crush. That is really what you do when you force an opponent to discard an undiscardable or essential card or, in technical language, a busy card i.e., a winner or a prospective winner or a guard to, principally, the latter. The Squeeze, therefore, operates when an opponent, or both opponents, holds, or hold, only 3 or 4 or more cards, which are all busy and he, or they, is, or are, forced to discard one of such cards, thus promoting a card or cards in your own hand or in that of dummy. The card or cards so promoted, which hold out a menace or threat to the busy cards in the opponent's hands, are called the menace cards, while the busy cards, which are under their menace, are called the menaced cards. Taking an elementary example,



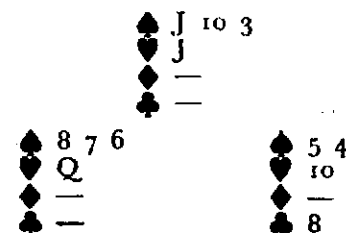
suppose that, playing as South, you lead out the club Jack at the 11th trick. West's cards are all busy, the heart Queen being a winner, the spade Jack being a prospective winner and the Spade 10 a guard to the latter. But they are all menaced by North's cards, the heart Jack constituting a one-card menace to heart Queen and the spade Q 7 constituting a two-card menace to Spade J 10. Even in the face of these menaces, West has to necessarily discard a card and, whatever card he discards, North can throw away the now useless card, and the other cards in his hand will be good. That is because at the time the Squeeze card in club Jack was led, the menace cards in North's hand hold an inexorable sway over the menaced cards in West's hand.

Of the variant forms of Squeeze, the 1st main category is the *simple Squeeze*, where only one opponent is squeezed in 2 suits. Of the simple Squeezes, again, the most easily recognised one is

the *simple positional Squeeze*. This Squeeze exists where the menaced cards lie to the left of the hand holding the Squeeze card and the menace cards, or most of them, are in the hand opposite the Squeeze-card. Leaving alone the more complicated variations, the simple positional Squeeze itself may be of a one-card menace and a two-card menace, as in the elementary example given in the last paragraph. or of 2 two-card menace;

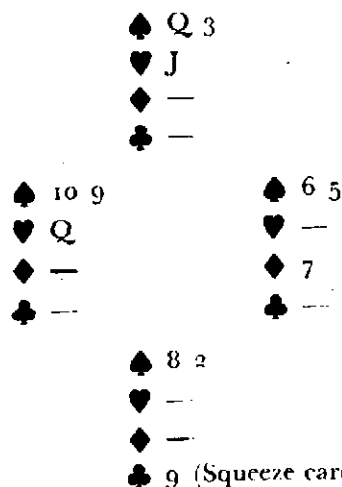


♠ 3 2
 ♥ 3
 ♦ —
 ♣ 10 (Squeeze card)
 or of a three-card menace and a one-card menace;

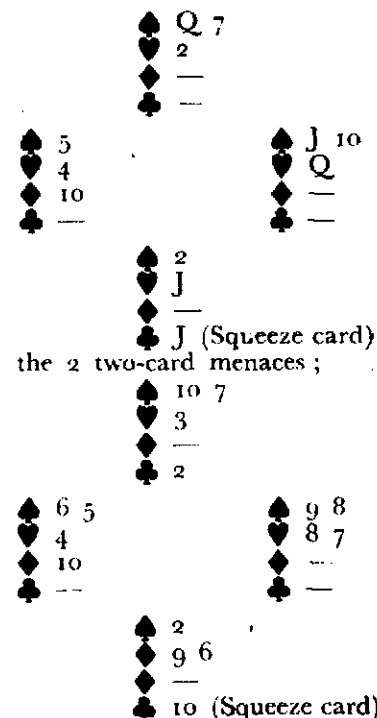


♠ 2
 ♥ 3 2
 ♦ —
 ♣ 10 (Squeeze card)

or of a split two-card menace (i.e., divided between the 2 hands) and a one-card menace.



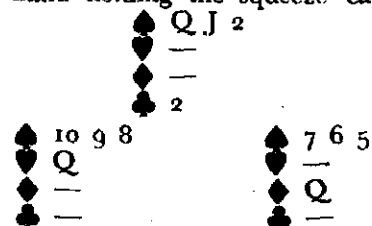
The next kind of simple Squeeze is the *simple automatic Squeeze*. This is a more effective form, since it operates against either opponent, whether he is to the left or even when he is to the right of the Squeeze card. Here, one of the menaces, the short-card menace if there is a short-card menace and a long-card menace, is in the hand of the Squeeze card itself, the other menace being in the opposite hand. So there is an idle card in the opposite hand to be conveniently discarded, while the cards in the hand of the opponent under Squeeze are all busy. Here, again, you have the two-card menace and the one-card menace:



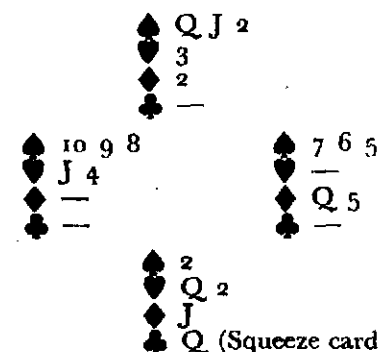
the three-card menace and a one-card menace; the split two-card or three-card menace and a one-card menace; and 2 two-card split menaces.

The third kind of simple Squeeze is the *simple trump Squeeze or ruffing Squeeze*, which is probably the most fascinating in Squeeze play. Here the menace is a guarded 2nd best card held against an opponent's guarded master card in a suit in which the other hand, holding the Squeeze card, is void. A distinctive feature of the trump Squeeze is that the squeeze card

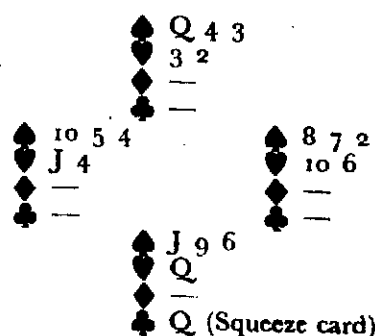
one three-card double menace against both opponents in the hand opposite the squeeze-card and 2 one card menaces in the hand holding the squeeze card



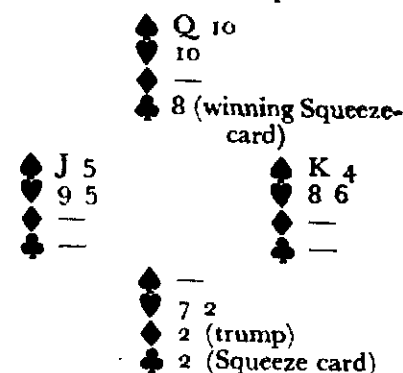
or where there is a three-card double menace against both opponents, a two-card menace against one opponent and a one-card menace against the other opponent;



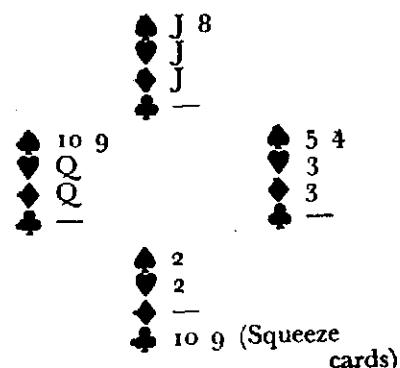
or where both opponents are squeezed in the same 2 suits requiring one split two-card menace and a three-card menace, with the cards so placed that neither opponent can afford to discard therein.



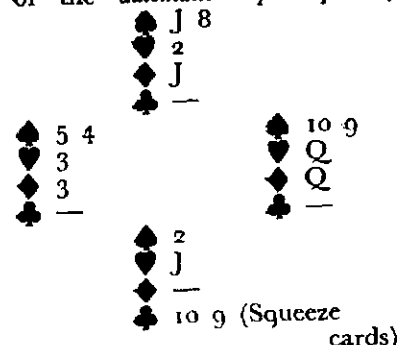
We have next the *double trump squeeze*, where both opponents are squeezed simultaneously in the same 2 suits. It is necessary that both menaces should be double menace, one being a double split menace and the other a double trump menace.



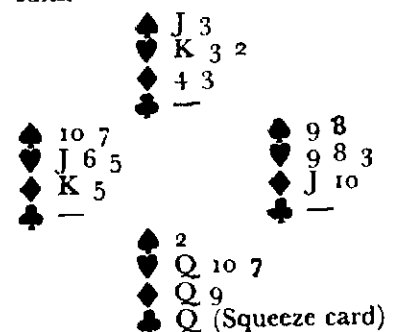
The third main category is the *triple squeeze*. There is a squeeze of only one opponent here generally but in 3 suits. One of the menaces must be at least of 2 cards, while the other menaces may be of one card length. Here, again, you have the *positional triple squeeze*;



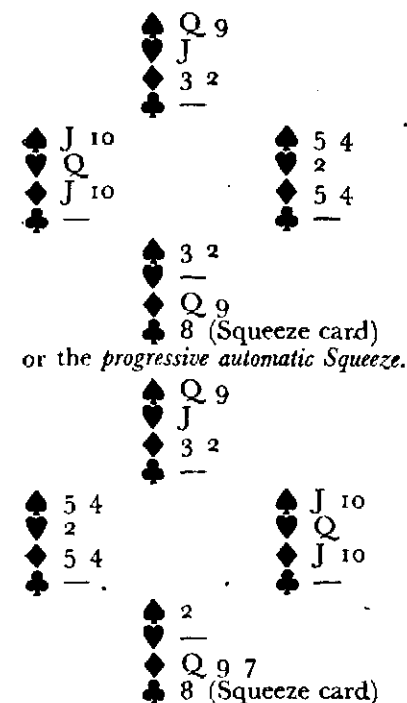
or the *automatic triple squeeze*;



or the *double-edged triple squeeze*, where both opponents are squeezed simultaneously in all the 3 suits.

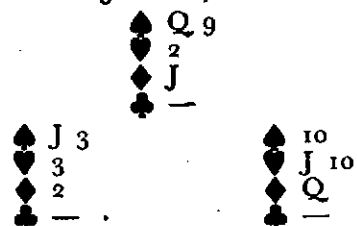


The 4th main category is the *progressive squeeze* or a squeeze of one opponent in 3 suits, followed by a squeeze of the same opponent in 2 suits, with the winner set up by the first squeeze. Here again you have the *progressive positional squeeze*, where you have 2 two-card menaces, one in either hand and a one-card menace over the hand to be squeezed.

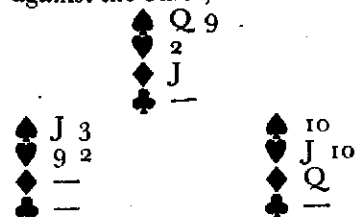


The 5th main category is the *guard squeeze*, where there is a squeeze of one of the opponents in 3 suits, in one of which he protects his partner from a finesse.

Under this category, you have the *single guard squeeze*, where one of the opponents is threatened by ordinary menaces, including one long menace, at least, in 2 suits and a guard menace in the 3rd suit;

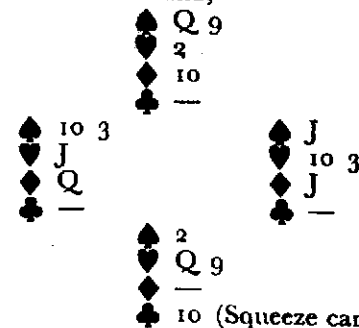


the *double guard squeeze*, where there is a guard Squeeze against one opponent and a simple squeeze against the other,



and the *triple guard squeeze*, where

both opponents are squeezed in 3 suits, on account of a one-card double menace in the hand opposite the squeeze card and 2 two-card guard menace, one in either hand,



The sixth and last main category is the *pseudo-squeeze*, which is easily the most common form of squeeze. There is no squeeze at all here, but only a big pretence of there being one. There are probably as many variations in this 'squeeze' alone as there are in all the other forms put together. All that you want here is a grim and determined look or a confident and complacent grin. You don't even require these if you can get a sucker on your left or a mug on your right or, better still, two such together.

(To be Continued).

PLAYING TECHNIQUE

By P. S. N. SARMA

The importance of timing in bridge cannot be exaggerated. The entire game in the ultimate analysis is, according to the experts, a conflict of opposing tempi. A whole range of plays, available as much to the declarer as to the defenders, like the hold-up with its refinements such as the Bath Coup, loser-on-loser, avoidance, rectification of the count, etc., are based on the time factor. Without a sound grasp of all that is implied by tempo one cannot hope to be a good bridge player.

What is the meaning of timing as applied to bridge? In simple language it means that there is a time to win a trick or lose a trick or attack a suit and there is a time not to do so. It means that first things should come first. It means that cards should be played in a certain order to get the best result from them. It means that you should think on your feet and be one jump ahead of the other fellow.

We will illustrate our meaning with a few simple deals.

Deal No. 1.

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

South is playing in Four Hearts after East opened the bidding with one Spade. West leads the 4 of Spades. How should the declarer proceed to play?

He must win the trick with the Ace and lead the six of Clubs. The trick should be won with the king and the ten of the suit should be finessed. If the finesse succeeds, the contract is made, otherwise it is set.

The important points in this deal are that (i) the declarer should not duck the opening lead; (ii) he should not start drawing trumps after winning the trick with the Ace. If he does either, East will win and lead the King of Diamonds. When

he gets in with his Ace of Clubs he will cash his Diamond Queen to set the contract.

In this deal, which is a very simple one, the declarer's aim is to ditch a losing diamond; the defender's to set up a trick in the suit. Whoever gets in with his punch first is the winner. If the declarer inanely plays a trump the initiative passes to his opponents—he has in other words lost the tempo.

The unwisdom of clearing trumps even when the trump suit is fairly solid—a play that is almost a reflex with beginners—is illustrated in the next deal.

Deal No. 2:

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

The contract is four Spades by South. West leads the seven of Diamonds. South must win the trick, enter dummy with club King and lead a Heart. He should ruff his losing Hearts before drawing trumps. If he

attempts the latter before playing Hearts, East will win and play another trump. When he gets in with the Ace of Hearts he will play trumps again and declarer will be one short of his contract.

SAVING A TEMPO.

The bidding in the accompanying deal was interesting:

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

West led the knave of Hearts. The North-South hands were:
Deal No. 3:

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

The hand looks very simple. On the bidding West must hold the Ace of Clubs and declarer has one loser each in Spades, Hearts and Clubs.

The only snag is that West may have four trumps, one of which may get promoted.

Is the declarer to win the trick or to duck?

If West's ♥ J is a singleton it is fatal to duck. East will overtake the knave and give his partner a ruff.

If West has two Hearts, it is equally fatal to take the trick and play the trumps immediately because West will win and lead another Heart. A third Heart from East will promote West's nine of trumps.

But if the declarer recalls that West opened the bidding he has a line of play that is certain of success, whether West has a singleton or doubleton Heart.

He should take the trick with the Ace, play Diamond Ace and Diamond knave on which he should throw the losing Heart. This helps declarer to avoid the danger hand and to gain a valuable tempo. West's hand was: ♠ A 9 8 7, ♥ J 3, ♦ K 4 3, ♣ A 10 9 2.

DEFENDERS' TIMING.

Tempo is a vital factor in defensive play. The following deal exemplifies a familiar situation in no-trump.

Deal No. 4:

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

South, dealer, does not open the bidding, but when North opens with one Diamond, he jumps to three no trumps.

West leads the knave of Spades, East signals with the seven, South ducks and West continues Spades. South naturally wins the trick.

The declarer plays the Ace and King of Diamonds and then leads Heart 5 from the dummy.

What should East do?

He should pounce on the trick with the King and clear the Spade suit. Then when West gets in with the Ace of Hearts, he can cash two Spade tricks to defeat the contract. If East plays low, West has no chance of bringing in his Spade suit. West can, of course, duck. But that would be declarer's ninth trick.

WATCH YOUR STEP.

If you have got into the habit of looking at your hands in a particular way, you will never be much of a bridge player. To be successful in the game you must cultivate the "big, broad, flexible outlook", to quote Ukridge. There are tricks lying hidden round you all the time if only you take the trouble to look for them.

Take this deal for instance.

Deal No. 5:

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

You blithely bid a small slam in Spades and think no small beer of yourself for having judiciously stopped at six when West leads the Queen of Diamonds and the dummy is exposed. You win with the King and lead the Ace of trumps. West shows out. You stare at your deuces in the major suits till you are blue in the face but you can't think of a way of saving these orphans.

Give the cards another look and see if you can salvage the slam. You have eleven tricks in top cards if East has at least

two Diamonds, and three cards each in the other plain suits. If you can ruff a Diamond in your hand you can romp home. But you must watch your step. If you go for the Diamond ruff straightaway, East will discard a Club, and goodbye to your slam!

Your play should be timed thus: trick 1, ♦ K; tricks 2 to 5, top Spades; tricks 6 and 7, top Hearts; tricks 8 to 10, top Clubs; trick 11, Diamond Ace. At trick 12, a diamond is led from dummy.

NORTH		EAST	
♥	5	♥	10
♦	9	♦	9
SOUTH			
♠	2		
♣	2		

There is nothing that East can do about it except to congratulate you on your good play if he is a sportsman, or lose his temper if he is not.

Time—we quote Jeeves this time—is of the essence.

REDOUBLES—AN ASPECT

By N. MUTHUKRISHNA IYER.

"There is no call in bridge less formalised, less consistent, less definite than an expert's redouble. One day he redoubles, another day waits and passes; another day double-crosses, raises or takes out". The redouble has caused much confusion even among the top-notchers, meaning different things according to the style of bidding, according to the level of bidding, according to vulnerability, according to the position of the redoubler and according to whether the redouble is of a no-trump or suit bid. The redouble is a double of double; if the double is of a no-trump, it is a penalty double and if it is of an opening suit bid of one it is a take-out.

A redouble of one no-trump by the no-trump bidder or his partner after a double by an opponent is not an S.O.S. to partner to rescue. The "S.O.S. Redouble" has been abandoned long ago by Culbertson and almost every other expert (except in the Gladiator system); the redouble is now a positive aggressive device and not a demand for rescue. As Culbertson says, the redouble means "you are another". This rule has an exception, for example,

Illustration 1:

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

North-South Vulnerable.

Bidding.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 NT	Pass	Pass	D'ble
R'dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

West leads 4 of Spades and the contract is set three for a penalty of 1,600 points. Even though experts do not regard the redouble by South as an S.O.S., they still hold that north should think of "self-protection" and "self-preservation" in bridge and should have taken out in 2 Clubs. The garbage length in club is more useful in a club contract than in no-trumps and with the "bust" hand North should not permit his partner to play in no-trumps.

The proper procedure when a take-out double has been redoubled is not free from difficulties and the exact significance of the redouble is better shown by illustrations than by any set formulae.

Illustration 2 :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	D'ble	Pass	Pass
Rd'ble			

Does south here redouble to ask his partner to name his best suit? According to Culbertson and many other experts, the answer is a definite "No". The reason is that south can rescue himself even if the double should come from East.

Illustration 3 :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	D'ble	Red'ble	1 ♠
South holds :			

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

The redouble by north means many things according to partnership style. Is south to pass or call 2 or 3 hearts? The "pass" is indicated on the convention that the "redoubler" must act since he is the captain of the bid and that he should be permitted to speak as cheaply as possible. Is south to wait for the august cry of North or to underbid absurdly to save rounds of bidding? "As many rotten contracts are bid after 14 rounds of bidding as after

5 bids". One view is that if south is to rebid he shows extra strength while a pass or double by him indicates no extra strength. Another view and the more prevalent one is that south should here and now rebid to show the distributional features, which he may not be able to do later at a comparatively higher level; and that south's correct bid is 3 hearts. Compare.

Illustration 4 :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	D'ble	Red'ble	2 ♣

South holds :

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

As a rule it is good to honour the redouble of North but it is much better that the opener shows his partner the distribution of his hand especially when he has two five-card suits.

A new problem arises in the situation given below :—

Illustration 5 :

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	Pass	1 ♥	D'ble
Rd'ble			

South holds :

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

With a bid in north's right and a redouble on his left, if south is to call a spade, north would picture a 5-card spade suit headed by an honour but would

not count for an outside ace and king, and for a doubleton. The bidding is very indefinite and north would refrain from raising the spade call. By passing over the redouble south assures partner of greater flexibility and can later take constructive action over any bid by North.

What is the procedure to be adopted by a player when his partner's take-out double has been redoubled?

Illustration 6 :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	D'ble	Red'ble	?

East is under no compulsion to call; it is not a rule or convention that a bid by East shows that he does not wish to play against one club redoubled; nor is his "Pass" to be construed as a "penalty" one. The "pass" is non-committal and it is for west to take suitable action. In a situation of this type there does not seem to be any definiteness or consistency even in the Culbertson system. To cite from the Gold Book—

Illustration 7 :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	D'ble	Red'ble	?

For years before 1941 a "Pass" by East was deemed a "penalty" pass showing strength; this meaning was apparently given to the pass in defense against psychic redoubles; but after psychic redoubles like other psychic bids,

fell into desuetude, Culbertson gave a more natural meaning to the pass. (Curiously enough the Gladiator system alone still adopt the convention of leaving in the redouble for penalties). While it is good that Culbertson has given up this useless convention of the "penalty" pass, the alternative he has suggested is not happy. The Gold Book says, "East should act almost as though north's Redouble were a bid. In other words with a weak hand East should usually pass; any bid he makes is in the nature of a free bid". He advises East to bid 2 clubs holding ♠ K 8 2 ; ♥ 8 5 4 ; ♦ 6 3 ; ♣ 8 7 5 3 2

I do not think this is good advice; Suppose East holds x x : x x x x x : K x x : x x x. On a logical extension of the Culbertson principle, viz. "With a five-card suit and about 1-2 honour trick in his hand or with a six-card suit, no matter how weak the hand, East should bid the suit". If south's opening had been one spade East should bid two hearts over the redouble. I venture to state—while I am fully conscious that the double of one major generally implies support for the other major—this bid of 2 hearts by East offends against and violates the far more important principle of anticipation and preparedness, shutting out two cheaper calls by west. As per Charles Goren, East must pass with the above hands in the

above situation. The above situation in a more accentuated form is given below (Taken from the "American Bridge World").

Illustration 8 :

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
D'ble	Red'ble	2 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West holds :

K Q J 7 : Q 9 6 : J : J 9 7 6 3

East holds :

A 9 5 4 : 8 7 4 2 : 4 : A 8 5 2

The two questions which arise are (1) can West pass? and (2) Is the bid of East correct? There is a strong temptation to treat this sequence in the same way as

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♦
D'ble	Pass	2 ♦	

Both the sequences would be the same but for the interposing redouble by north. Since West alone is obligated to get out of the redouble and East is under no compulsion to call when East elected to get into the auction his diamond should be based on length. East should have guarded against this ambiguity and he should not have lumped together the two sequences shown above : he has wrongly decided that 2 diamonds is the same over the redouble as it would be over a pass. West is not to blame.

A curious situation arises in the following sequence.

Illustration 9 :

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

North holds :

Q x x x : Q x : Q J x x :
A K x

South holds :

3 K x x : K x : A x : Q J x x x x

Should north pass after 2 clubs by south? Is 2 clubs forcing on North or not? One view is that a bid of 2 clubs by south after he has redoubled compels north to keep the auction open, since the redouble should not diminish the forcing principle. The bid is the same as though East has passed at 1 diamond and south has responded 2 clubs. The other view is that 2 clubs by south is a mere competitive effort, for if south has something more than a competition in view and if his redouble is on more than 2 honour tricks he might well have jumped on the following round, the reason being that the redouble is more a defensive device not showing ability to reach a high offensive contract. This situation is not covered in any text-book. I would suggest that it is well the

elementary device of jumping in a suit without the loss of a bidding-round be adopted.

To conclude, the trouble with the above situations is that no set formulae can be devised to cover all of them. Many close decisions are involved as in the case of bidding over a take-out

double. A player may better profit by putting the following questions to himself, viz., (1) will my bid, if I make it, reduce partnership flexibility? (2) Will my bid help or hinder my partner? (3) Can I afford to come in later? (4) Should I or my partner name the suit?



TEST YOUR SKILL—PROBLEMS

Edited by P. S. N. SARMA

Problem 1 :

South dealer, vulnerability immaterial, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

Pass Pass Pass 1 ♣

D'ble Pass ?

What should North bid holding :

♠ Q J 4 3; ♥ A 10 8 7 6; ♦ Q 10 8; ♣ 2 ?

Problem 2 :

Your partner opens the bidding with One Heart. The next hand passes what do you bid holding :

♠ 2; ♥ A 6 5; ♦ K J 8 5 2; ♣ 10 8 7 5 ?

Problem 3 :

East dealer, both sides vulnerable, the bidding has gone :

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

2 ♦ Pass 2 NT 3 ♠

4 ♣ Pass 5 ♦ 5 ♥

6 ♦ ?

What do you, South, call holding :

♠ A 9 6 2; ♥ J 5 3; ♦ 3; ♣ 9 7 6 5 4?

Problem 4 :

You, South, are in a contract of Four Hearts. West leads the king of clubs. Your hand and dummy are given below. Plan the play.

NORTH

♠ 10 8
♥ 8 7 5
♦ J 6 5 2
♣ A 8 7 2

SOUTH

♠ A
♥ A K Q J 2
♦ A 7 3
♣ Q 9 5 4

Problem 5 :

The complete deal is given in this problem. How should South play to make Four Hearts? West leads the deuce of Clubs.

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NORTH

♠ 3
♥ K 8 7
♦ 8 6
♣ A K 10 8 7 5 3

WEST

♠ K Q 9 6
♥ 9 6 5
♦ K Q 10 5 4
♣ 2

EAST

♠ J 8 5 4
♥ 4 3
♦ A 9 7 3
♣ Q J 4

SOUTH

♠ A 10 7 2
♥ A Q J 10 2
♦ J 2
♣ 9 6

Problem 6 :

The contract is six spades by South. West leads Diamond

three. East wins with the King and plays a trump. The complete deal is given below. Plan the declarer's play.

NORTH

♠ K Q J 9
♥ A Q J 2
♦ 2
♣ A K 8 2

WEST

♠ 10 6 3
♥ 9 6 5 4
♦ J 9 6 3
♣ 10 9

EAST

♠ 5 4
♥ 10 7
♦ A K 10 8 7
♣ Q J 6 3

SOUTH

♠ A 8 7 2
♥ K 8 3
♦ Q 5 4
♣ 7 5 4



Pro et contra

Edited by E. SOLOMON

Question :

Please elucidate in your columns how the following East West hands should be bid :

South dealer

E. W. Vulnerable.

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

The actual bidding was :

S	W	N	E
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♥	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The four spade contract was set two tricks but game in No Trumps appears easy.

Answer :

In our opinion the bidding should have gone as follows :—

S	W	N	E
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
2 ♥	3 ♠ ¹	Pass	3NT ²
Pass	Pass ³	Pass	

1. After having passed with a near opening bid hand, it is essential for West to convey this information to his partner quickly particularly in view of South's intervening call. It is too late for him to show his minor suits. A jump to 3 Spades is therefore the most constructive bid he can make, even though he has only three cards in the suit.

2. This is the crucial bid. Should East say Pass, 4 Spades or 3 No Trumps? Let us at once admit that East is in an unenviable position and whatever he does he has an excellent chance of going wrong. The decision is so close that perhaps the most important factor to guide East is his knowledge of his partner West's style of bidding. The first step is to decide whether to pass or to bid a game. If this was match-point duplicate we would be strongly inclined to recommend the Pass in view of the light opening-bids in vogue in that branch of the game. The

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next step is to decide whether to bid 3 No Trumps or 4 Spades. The following arguments influence us to suggest 3 No Trumps as the preferred bid :—

(a) East holds the Heart suit, bid by South, double stopped. He will probably make more tricks in this suit playing in No Trumps than in Spades.

(b) Partner's strength for his jump bid must certainly be in the minor suits, because obviously he can have very little in the majors. Consequently it is not likely, despite East's poor holding in these suits, that either of them can be run by the opponents to set the contract.

(c) A game in No Trumps requires one trick less than a game in Spades.

(d) If West's jump to 3 Spades was based largely on length in Spades and distributional values, he has still the chance to correct to 4 Spades. But if East now bids 4 Spades, a possible easy game in No Trump flies out of the window.

3. West is happy to let the bid stand since he is assured that his partner has the necessary stoppers in the Heart suit.

Question :

Kibitzing a match point duplicate contest recently, I was amused to see that both North South pairs ended up in a 3 No Trump contract on this deal, only to be 3 down vulnerable.

North dealer :

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A K
♥ J 9 5 3
♦ A J 10 8 4
♣ 10 5

SOUTH

♠ J 10 7
♥ K 10
♦ 9
♣ A J 9 8 7 6 5

At both tables the bidding was identical, viz. :—

	N	E	S	W
1	♦	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2	♦	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3	N T	Pass	Pass	Pass

Please comment if the bidding was not optimistic and who, if at all, was to blame for the poor result.

Answer :

We are not prepared to criticise the North South bidding. Each bid made by the partnership appears to be inevitable and we cannot find serious fault with North's final bid of 3 No Trumps. Furthermore, if we were in North's place and before our last call were granted by sudden insight (mental, of course, and not the visual species generally frowned upon outside coffee-house circles) complete knowledge of partner's hand, 3 No Trumps would still be the contract of our choice. The fact that in this

particular deal the contract was foredoomed to fail, because of unfavourable distribution of the remaining cards in the East West hands, is not an argument which *per se* is acceptable in this column.

We would like to point out that the final contract is one easily makeable with the outstanding clubs falling two and two. If the contract was doubled we expect that it would have been rescued in 4 clubs. The final clinching argument is that neither North South pair could afford to hold off from game because of the virtual certainty that it would be bid in the other room and, if makeable, result in a disastrous swing.

Was the bidding optimistic? Yes, it was optimistic, but not unduly so. Taking sets is not the only calamity to befall us at the bridge table. The player who habitually takes the dismal view is the player we like to have as an opponent.

Question:

Playing rubber bridge with a new partner, I picked up this hand sitting South:—

♠ A 10 5 2
♥ Q 10 5 4
♦ 10 9 8 4
♣ 6

West was dealer and North South vulnerable. West opened with 1 Club which North doubled. South bid 1 Spade which North

raised to two and all passed. North held:—

♠ K Q 9
♥ A K J 7
♦ Q
♣ J 7 5 3 2

Kindly discuss in your columns:—

(a) if South's 1 Spade response was correct,

(b) if his pass of 2 Spades was justified, and

(c) whether North should have inserted a bid of 2 Hearts over South's Spade bid despite the fine support he has for his partner's bid. 4 Hearts was a lay down.

Answer:

(a) South's 1 Spade response was the spanner in the works.

Holding two four-card major suits, prefer the lower-ranking one i. e., the cheapest bid available. This allows the opening hand (the doubler is treated as the opener) greater latitude for his next bid. On North's double South should bid 1 Heart. Then if North is in possession of a four-card Spade suit, in this instance he is not, he can call 1 Spade and the major suit fit wherever it lies and if at all available, is discovered immediately. If North does not bid 1 Spade over South's 1 Heart, South knows positively that his partner does not have four cards in that suit and he

should not himself bid Spades thereafter.

We are particularly pleased with this question because it serves to illustrate a simple but important rule which unfortunately is not as generally known and followed as it should be.

(b) South's pass of 2 Spades was also incorrect. Having been forced by North's double to make his first bid, his hand is worth one free response and when encouraged by partner, he should give it. Unfortunately owing to his earlier mistake the only bid now available to him is 3 Spades. We cannot recommend a bid of 3 Hearts as South's poor hand does not warrant the bidding of a new suit. (Incidentally a response of 1 Spade followed by a call in Hearts shows 5 cards or more in the Spade suit.) It is to be noted that the cumulative effect of South's original incorrect bid has now assumed dangerous proportions.

(c) We do not agree that North should insert a bid of 2 Hearts over South's Spade bid. Since South bid 1 Spade and not 1 Heart, North cannot reasonably expect him to have four cards in the Heart suit. Furthermore, if South has

a poor hand he will pass and a superior contract in Spades will be missed. With his fine Spade support, North quite rightly bids 2 Spades to encourage his partner to continue bidding if he can.

The full effect of that thoughtless 1 Spade by South can now be clearly seen.

Bye-bye Hearts, bye-bye game, bye-bye rubber—may be!

For the record, we give below how, in our opinion, the bidding should have gone:—

W	N	E	S
1 ♣	Double	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Do we hear some one say "Ah! But North was originally at fault for making a take-out double of West's 1 Club bid having a singleton Diamond. Have you overlooked this?" No we have not. It so happens that we fully approve the double and as our correspondent has not raised this question we are content to say no more on this subject.

DOUBLING MANIA

By K. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO

Some players are very fond of doubling, particularly, non-game and slam contracts, without considering the pros and cons, though it is essential for every player to know when not to double. Good and seasoned players, as a rule, never double a contract, more so, a little or grand slam, unless they are absolutely certain of getting their opponents at least two down and incidentally, are also prepared to defeat the opponents in any alternative contract in which they might land.

Very often we find players doubling a slam contract hoping to get their opponents down. These players fail to understand the implications. It has been found by experience that slam contracts, if they are defeated, are generally defeated by one trick, and again they are often redoubled, because the redouble would bring in substantial gains if successful, and would cause no serious loss if unsuccessful. So after all, it is safer to allow the contract to go undoubled, unless of course the contract can be easily defeated. I suppose one ought to be very careful while playing Duplicate Bridge. An informatory double is one thing and penalty double is another. It is easier to get out of the former, but rather difficult

to handle the latter. Players who are fond of doubling cannot usually resist the temptation of doubling any contract, although they are aware that there are chances of their opponents keeping the contract.

The following hand was played in a Club where one of the doubling maniacs found his real match in his opponent. The result was of course disastrous and it is said that after this reverse, he was never found to double any contract, even those that were sure to go down four. Perhaps the incident must have sobered him.

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

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North-South Vulnerable.

The Bidding :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	Pass	7 ♣	Double
Pass	Pass	7 ♦	Double
Rd'ble.			

East led a Diamond, and the show was over. North drew the trumps, cashed the King of Clubs, ruffed a small club in the Dummy and the game was over. East at once realised the blunder he had committed in doubling 7 Clubs, since South would never have disturbed his partner's call and North would go one shy since

East possessed 4 clubs to the knave. North however thanked East for giving him an opportunity to play in the right suit, which South and North would have chosen to, had the bidding proceeded on proper lines. North unduly crowded the bidding and had almost paid the penalty for being not only hasty but also impulsive.

If East on the other hand had exercised restraint and tact, he would have emerged as a great tactician. He however did something which was very unwise and deserved to be punished for his thoughtlessness.

TEST YOUR SKILL—SOLUTIONS

Edited by P. S. N. SARMA

Problem 1 :

South dealer, vulnerability immaterial, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
D'ble	Pass	?	

What should North bid holding:

♠ Q J 4 3, ♥ A 10 8 7 6, ♦ Q 10 8, ♣ 2 ?

Solution :

Two Clubs.

Comments :

Cue bids are generally more spectacular than useful, but in this instance no other bid will convey the terrific playing strength of the hand especially at a major suit contract. The doubler has passed originally, so his ambitions are obviously limited to a part score. It is for his partner now to take the offensive and signal to him that a game in the majors is quite possible. A jump bid in hearts which would be in order if the double has been made at the first opportunity to call, is not sufficient here for two reasons: firstly, that it is not forcing on the doubler after his initial pass, and secondly, that it gives no indication of the excellent spade holding. The raise of the opponent's bid conveys all information

about the hand in one breath and is the ideal bid. It will get you a game if the double is based on sound values. If the values are non-existent it may get your partner into deep waters, but then it will improve his bidding: The complete deal was :

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

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

Problem 2 :

Your partner opens the bidding with One Heart. The next hand passes. What do you bid holding :

♠ 2, ♥ A 6 5, ♦ K J 8 5 2 ♣ 10 8 7 5 ?

Solution :

Two Hearts.

Comments :

The alternatives are One No Trump and Two Diamonds. The

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distribution is against the first and high card strength against the second. Brows will be raised in knowledgeable quarters against a single raise without four trumps, but there is no point in beating about the bush and making a number of bids with an indifferent hand like this. The hand is worth one bid and it must be a good one. Two Hearts is that bid.

Problem 3 :

East dealer, both sides vulnerable, the bidding has gone :

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
2 ♦	Pass	2 N T	3 ♦
4 ♣	Pass	5 ♦	5 ♦
6 ♦	?		

What do you, South, call holding :

♠ A 9 6 2, ♥ J 5 3 ♦ 3 ♣ 9 7 6 5 4 ?

Solution :

Six Spades.

Comment :

The bid should come almost as a reflex. There is no hesitancy about the way the slam has been bid by the opponents. The opener has ignored your partner's calls and bid the slam off his own bat, so there is no chance of beating him at the slam in spite of your holding an Ace and your partner bidding two suits. Obviously the deal is one of those in which the distribution is all important. Opponents are sure to make six

Diamonds. You can't be badly off in Six Spades. Therefore bid Six Spades. The complete deal was :

NORTH		EAST	
♠	K Q J 10 8 5	♠	3
♥	K Q 10 9 8	♥	A
♦	5	♦	K Q J 10 8 2
♣	2	♣	A K Q J 3

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

Problem 4 :

You, South, are in a contract of Four Hearts. West leads the King of Clubs. Your hand and dummy are given below. Plan the play.

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

Solution :

Duck the opening lead. The next lead must come to your hand. Draw trumps. Play Diamond Ace, then a low Diamond from the hand. When in next

lead a third Diamond, covering West's card, if possible.

Comment :

The Club King is obviously a singleton. If you take the trick you have no entry back to dummy to take a Club finesse unless the ten and nine of Hearts fall in two rounds. Your aim should be to set up a diamond in dummy for a club discard. It is necessary that the trumps should break 3-2, otherwise repeated Spade leads will defeat the contract.

Problem 5 :

The complete deal is given in this problem. How should South play to make four Hearts? West leads the deuce of clubs.

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

Solution :

Win the trick with the Ace and play the King of the suit. West will ruff. If he leads Spades, win with the Ace, play Heart Ace and King to draw all

outstanding trumps, then ruff a club, setting up the suit. A spade ruff brings in the entire suit and you make your contract. If West leads Diamonds, East wins with the Ace and leads another club, ruff high in the closed hand. The rest of the play is as given before.

Comments :

There are not sufficient quick entries to declarer's hand to ruff out the losing spades. It is easier to set up dummy's club. Luckily the trumps are breaking even and West, the player with the singleton club, has three of them. By giving him a ruff, you take the wind out of West's sail.

Problem 6 :

The contract is Six Spades by South, West leads Diamond three. East wins with the king and plays a trump. The complete deal is given below. Plan the declarer's play.

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

Solution :

Win the trick in dummy, enter closed hand with H King, ruff a diamond, then play Spade King, and Heart Ace, Queen and knave, making eight tricks in all. Now overtake the Spade from dummy with the Ace—ninth trick. Lead the last Spade discarding Club Two from dummy East is squeezed in clubs and Diamonds.

Comment :

At trick 10, the position is:

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

On the last spade East is squeezed in the minor suits.



THE NEWS SECTION

Edited by T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN

Valuable work is being done by the new team of office-bearers in promoting interest in the game of Contract Bridge. Besides a few new clubs several old-timers who had left the stage are now returning to the game. We hope the efforts of the Association will bear fruit and the present revival of interest will be sustained.

A Bidding Contest on the lines of the International Bidding Contest sponsored by the Australian Bridge Council last year was organised by the Association on 16th April, 1955 and although the response was comparatively poor the deals selected were very interesting and instructive. The panel of experts, Messrs. P. S. Sundaresa Iyer, S. Palaniswamy and P. S. N. Sarma who selected the deals and the awards, as well as Mr. T. S. Duraiswami Iyer who aided the committee in scrutinising the hands and parpointing them deserve our special thanks for the efficient manner in which the

event was conducted. Full details of the 32 deals appear on page 37 of this issue.

To provide a fillip to the average player who is often unable to score over the more experienced players a special knock-out team of four event, open only to teams who have not figured in the finals of any local or mofussil tournament during the years 1953-54 and 1955 is being arranged by the Association. This event which will be played some time this year will, we trust, prove very popular.

The Association have also under consideration a scheme for running the Madras City Contract Bridge League Tournament in two divisions, this year, if possible. We appeal to all local enthusiasts and lovers of the game to compete in the event in larger numbers than in the previous years, and what is more important, play all the matches according to schedule without

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abandoning a number of matches after the initial rounds.

Three local tournaments were completed during the quarter under review. The B. & C. Mills' Assistants' Association staged their annual tournaments in January this year. Only two events were conducted this year and the response was encouraging, considering the fact that the tournament closely followed the S.I.B.A. annual tournaments. Following are the results:

Team of four knock-out :

Winners :

T'Nagar Social Club.
K. C. Ramaratnam.
S. Palaniswamy.
P. S. Sadasivam.
R. Sankaran.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Runners up :

P. S. Reddi.
Dr. S. T. Achar.
T. K. N. Panikar.
V. R. Veeramani.

Master Pairs.

Winners :

C. Devarajan.
G. Hanumantha Rao.

Runners up :

M. Rangachari.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.

The Chennai Andhra Maha Sabha had their annual tournaments revived this year. The main knock-out duplicate event was won by the T'Nagar S.C. team.

Detailed results are :

Knock-out Team of four Duplicate :

Winners :

T'Nagar S.C.
K. C. Ramaratnam.
P. S. Sadasivan.
P. S. Natarajan.
R. Sankaran.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Runners up :

P. S. Reddy's Team :

P. S. Reddi.
T. K. N. Panikar.
A. S. Giri.
Dr. S. T. Achar.
V. R. Veeramani.

Master Pairs —

Winners :

C. Devarajan.
G. Hanumantha Rao.

Runners-up :

G. K. Gopalaswami.
K. S. Narayana.

Individual —

Winner :

P. Elliah.

Runners up :

Raghava Rao (TIE)
M. K. Sabapathy.

The Southern Indian Vysia Association who are celebrating their Golden Jubilee this year arranged two special one day events in this connection. The progressive duplicate contest for teams of four and the Pairs Progressive events which were played on the 2nd and 3rd April were well attended. The open pairs event which is being

played is yet to be completed. The following are the results:

Winners (Tie):

Team of four Progressive :

P. S. Reddy's Team :

P. S. Reddy.

V. R. Veeramani.

T. K. N. Panicker.

T. R. Samoo.

& C. Devarajan's Team :

C. Devarajan.

G. Hanumantha Rao.

P. S. Sundaresa Iyer.

T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Pairs Progressive :

NORTH SOUTH

The Sunday Club :

Eype.

Collins.

Runners up :

The Chennaihari Andhra Maha Sabha.

Ragava Rao.

Gopal Chetty.

EAST WEST :

The Madras Commercial Officials Party :

P. G. Sankara Iyer.

P. K. S. Mani.

Runners up :

The M.I.C. :

K. S. Narayana.

G. K. Gopalaswami.

The Union Club, Tanjore had their annual tournament during the last week of April. The response in all the events was encouraging, teams from all over the South including two from Madras participating. Thanks are due in no small measure to Mr. T. K. Srinivasa Iyengar who spared no effort in arranging

the events besides attending to the lodging/boarding of the visiting teams. A Special garden party was got up by the club on the occasion of the Prize Distribution.

Readers will be glad to know that the Editor of the Bridge Magazine, Britain's leading Bridge Journal, has kindly agreed to exchange the journal with ours.

Following are the detailed results.

Duplicate Knock-out.

Winners :

K. R. Sundaram Iyer's Team, Madras.

K. R. Sundaram Iyer.

C. R. Srinivasan.

P. S. Sadasivam.

R. Sankaran.

Runners up :

T. K. S. Team, Tanjore :

T. K. Srinivasa Iyengar.

K. R. Sundararajan of Gobi.

N. Muthukrishnan.

R. Subbaratnam.

Appadurai.

Progressive Pairs :

NORTH SOUTH

Appadurai.

R. Subbaratnam.

EAST WEST

S. K. Subramaniam Madras.

S. T. Chari, Devakottai.

Master Pairs.

Winners :

K. R. Sundaram Iyer.

C. R. Srinivasan (Madras).

Runners up :

G. Sundaram Iyer.

Dr. T. M. Pillai (Tiruvaiyar).

BIDDING PAR HANDS

The response to this event was disappointing, two zones, Madras and Coimbatore getting sufficient entries to stage the contest. Only eleven teams participated in Madras. Considering the pains taken by the organisers to prepare the deals and make the necessary arrangements, the lack of enthusiasm shown by regular bridge players seems all the more deplorable. It was agreed on all hands that the deals were highly interesting.

The complete North South hands are reproduced below. Readers are advised to sit across the table with their favourite partners and bid the hands before looking at the award.

Deal 1 :

Dealer North. Vul : Neither.

NORTH.

♠ A 8.
♥ Q 4 3 2.
♦ A Q 8 7 6
♣ 10 9

SOUTH

♠ K 4 3
♥ K 9 8 7
♦ 10 5 2
♣ J 4 3

Deal 2 :

Dealer : East. Vul : North South.

NORTH

♠ 3 2
♥ 10 9 4 3
♦ K 6 4 2
♣ J 9 4

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 8 7 6 5 4
♥ A 6
♦ A Q 3
♣ ———

Deal 3 :

Dealer : South. Vul : East West.

NORTH

♠ K 9 4
♥ 9 8 7 6 3
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ 3

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10
♥ K 10 4
♦ Q 10 2
♣ A J 9 4

Deal 4 :

Dealer: West. Vul: Both West 1 D.

NORTH

♠ A Q 8.
♥ A Q 10 6 5 2
♦ K 10
♣ A 3

SOUTH

♠ J 4
♥ K
♦ Q 7 4 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 4 2

Deal 5:

Dealer: North. Vul: North South

NORTH

♠ A K J 2
♥ K Q J
♦ A Q 7
♣ A Q 5

SOUTH

♠ 10 4
♥ 10 6 4
♦ K J 3
♣ K J 8 6 4

Deal 6:

Dealer: East. Vul: East West.

NORTH

♠ 10 9 8 4
♥ 10 9 8
♦ J 2
♣ K 9 7 6

SOUTH

♠ A Q 3
♥ K 4 2
♦ A K Q 7 6
♣ A 10

Deal 7:

Dealer: South. Vul: Both.

NORTH

♠ 9 6 3
♥ 10 5
♦ Q 10 9 8 4
♣ Q 6 4

SOUTH

♠ K Q 10
♥ A K 4 3 2
♦ J 7 6
♣ K 10

Deal 8:

Dealer: West. Vul: Neither.

NORTH

♠ Q 10 8
♥ A J 10 8 7 3
♦ —
♣ A K 6 5

SOUTH

♠ A J 2
♥ Q 2
♦ J 9 7 6
♣ Q 9 4 3

Deal 9:

Dealer: North. Vul: East West.

NORTH

♠ K Q J 10 6 4 2
♥ A 6 4
♦ 8
♣ 9 7

SOUTH

♠ 9 3
♥ Q 10 7 3
♦ K 3 2
♣ Q J 4 2

Deal 10:

Dealer: East. Vul: Both.

NORTH

♠ A Q 7 3
♥ 10 5 4 3
♦ J 6 4
♣ Q 2

SOUTH

♠ K 6 2
♥ K Q J 2
♦ A K 3
♣ J 8 7

Deal 11:

Dealer: South. Vul: Neither.

NORTH

♠ 4 3
♥ A Q 8 7 4 2
♦ 6
♣ J 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠ A 10
♥ K 9 6 5
♦ A K 8 4 3 2
♣ Q

Deal 12:

Dealer: West. Vul: North South.

NORTH

♠ A Q 9 3
♥ 10 4
♦ A K 3
♣ A Q J 5

SOUTH

♠ J 10 4
♥ J 3
♦ Q J 9 6 5
♣ 10 7 3

Deal 13:

Dealer: North. Vul: Both.

NORTH

♠ A Q J 10
♥ 6
♦ A Q 9 8
♣ K J 7 6

SOUTH

♠ 7
♥ A K Q 10 5 4 2
♦ 5
♣ A Q 9 8

Deal 14:

Dealer: East. Vul: Neither.

NORTH

♠ K 10 9 8 7 6 4
♥ 6
♦ —
♣ 10 9 4 3 2

SOUTH

♠ J
♥ A Q J 4
♦ A K 10 9 8
♣ Q 6 5

Deal 15:

Dealer: South. Vul: North South.

NORTH

♠ Q 10 5
♥ A 5
♦ A K J 5 4 2
♣ 10 2

SOUTH

♠ J 2
♥ 10 4 3
♦ Q 10 3
♣ A K 6 5 4

Deal 16:

Dealer: West. Vul: East West.

NORTH

♠ K 6
♥ A Q 9 2
♦ 10 5
♣ A K 4 3 2

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ J 8 6 4
♦ J 4 3
♣ 9 5

Deal 17 :

Dealer : North. Vul : Neither.

NORTH
 ♠ A K 6
 ♥ A 8 2
 ♦ A Q J 7
 ♣ Q 10 2

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

Deal 18 :

Dealer : East. Vul : North South.

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

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

Deal 19 :

Dealer : South. Vul : East West.

NORTH
 ♠ K Q 5 4
 ♥ 8 6 4
 ♦ A 4 2
 ♣ A J 5

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

Deal 20 :

Dealer : West. Vul : Both.

NORTH
 ♠ Q 5
 ♥ A K Q 8 7
 ♦ A
 ♣ A 10 8 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ K 10 8 7 4 3
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 9 6 3 2
 ♣ K 7

Deal 21 :

Dealer : North. Vul : North South

NORTH
 ♠ A J 8
 ♥ J 6 2
 ♦ A Q 10 5 4
 ♣ 6 5

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

Deal 22 :

Dealer : East. Vul : East West.

NORTH
 ♠ J 7
 ♥ K Q J 6 5 4
 ♦ K 9 4
 ♣ K 6

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 10 2
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A 5 3 2
 ♣ Q 10 8 3

Deal 23 :

Dealer : South. Vul : Both.

NORTH
 ♠ K
 ♥ A 10 4 3 2
 ♦ K 4 3 2
 ♣ J 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q J 6 4
 ♥ K Q 8 7
 ♦ A 6
 ♣ A K

Deal 24 :

Dealer : West. Vul : Neither.

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

SOUTH
 ♠ 8 3
 ♥ K J 9 6 5 2
 ♦ 8 3 2
 ♣ 10 5

Deal 25 :

Dealer : North. Vul : East West.

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

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

Deal 26 :

Dealer : East. Vul : Both.

NORTH
 ♠ 9
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ K Q J 4 2
 ♣ K 10 8 4 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q J 10 4 3
 ♥ A 6 4
 ♦ 8
 ♣ J 5 3

Deal 27 :

Dealer : South. Vul : Neither.

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A K 6
 ♥ A Q 2
 ♦ K J 4 2
 ♣ K Q 9

Deal 28 :

Dealer : West. Vul : North South.

NORTH
 ♠ 2
 ♥ A K J 8 4
 ♦ A 10
 ♣ A K Q J 10

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

The INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Deal 29:

Dealer: North. Vul: Both

NORTH
 ♠ A K 9 7
 ♥ 10 9 8 6 2
 ♦ 2
 ♣ Q 10 7

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

Deal 30:

Dealer: East. Vul: Neither.

NORTH
 ♠ A Q 5
 ♥ J 6 4
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ K Q 10 8 6

SOUTH
 ♠ K J 10
 ♥ K Q 10 8 7
 ♦ A 9 7
 ♣ J 9

Deal 31:

Dealer: South. Vul: North South

NORTH
 ♠ 9 6 5
 ♥ A K 9 8 6 2
 ♦ J 8
 ♣ 10 2

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

Deal 32:

Dealer: West. Vul: East West.

NORTH
 ♠ A K 6 5 4 3 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ A K J 2
 ♣ A K

SOUTH
 ♠ Q 9 8 7
 ♥ 10 9 8 4
 ♦ 9 5
 ♣ J 6 4

PLAY—'FINER POINTS'

By TEAKS

The play had to commence. I had a feeling that I was on smoother seas. Bidding might have changed or progressed or made great strides. But play has been the same from the beginning of Bridge up to date and very probably shall continue to be the same. May be that many of us have been playing intricate deals very efficiently not knowing the names given to them. Here at least there were no different systems or methods but very probably difference in degrees of skill and planning.

But to my surprise even here the pedant made his appearance. He was very bombastic. I told him that just then I had got rid of a host of such people and that he was unwelcome. He was very sticky and refused to yield. He told me that before playing I should analyse the opponent's bidding, consider hold up and ducking, follow opponents' preference signals, consider drops or finesse, covering and not covering, avoidance, promotion or entry-killing and making, blocking and unblocking, false carding, card placing, under and overruffing, trump management, dummy reversal, trump reduction, smother play, timing, stripping, throw-in and end-play, side suit establishment, Vienna coup

Grand coup, jettisoning and different kinds of squeeze play. I had a hearty laugh over it and said that this list was enough to drive a player away from Bridge. I expressed my surprise as to how all of them can be brought into play in one deal. It looked more like an exhibition of Bridge knowledge and a heap of enigmas. The pedant had a climb down and said that they were all the 'finer points' of play and all of them did not come into operation in one deal. I felt relieved. He promised to explain and I agreed to give him my ear but not my voice.

But his talk was very lucid and interesting. He took me practically for a beginner and explained these 'finer points'. I thought that he was exaggerating their virtues as a friend. I said that he can lie but not deceive, bribe but not seduce me. He felt that I was strong in my expression and called for a pack of cards and said that he would illustrate every one of them without exception. I agreed though my partner and the defenders protested that they had a needless distraction in the middle of a game. I counselled patience and moderation and as the discussion with illustrations proceeded the others also joined in it with avidity. The pedant was

after all a good man and true. His work was very interesting and instructive. I cannot describe to you in one article all that he said and did. I shall do so in bits.

Then I desired him to look at my hand and tell me what principle was involved in it. He could not answer me straightaway but said that he would wait for the opening lead and a little more progress in play and then explain. The deal extracted from the "Sunday Standard" is given below :—

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

The final contract was 2 spades by south, west led the queen of Diamonds. East overtook it with the king. East then played Ace and 10 of Diamonds. West discarded a club. The pedant shouted that the contract was made. East led a heart. Dummy won with the ace. Ace and Queen of spades were played from the

dummy. Then Clubs were played thrice with the declarer taking the last club trick. Then he played a low heart which East had to take. The position was that whatever East led, West had to ruff and then surrender. We felt that the pedant's shout was meaningless. With a triumphant air, I told the pedant that there was no finer point in this deal and that the contract could never be set. He got into a mood and gathered the cards in anger, reset them as before and then played one after the other. Instead of discarding a Club on East's play of diamond, he ruffed East's Top-diamond and reduced his trumps. The result was that East was not thrown in and by good trump management set the contract by one trick. We felt ashamed that such a simple thing was unobserved by us.

I placed this deal before 5 veteran players in my zone and 2 adjoining zones. All of them missed this principle and the contract was made. It is not because that there is anything extraordinary about it. But we have not developed that habit of thinking in terms of these 'finer points.' In America for example there are 52 high class tournaments every year. Every one of them on an average should produce at least one or 2 good deals illustrating some principle of play. No wonder then that these experts

and participants get the habit of thinking in that direction. But we have few opportunities. Many of us play serious bridge at Tournament time only once or twice a year and the remaining time is taken by Bridge's 'vulgar sister', Rummy. But if we at least discuss and occasionally play even as set deals some intricate ones we shall most certainly get the above habit and meet the experts on level terms.

The pedant with good self-satisfaction set 2 deals to illustrate this principle of Trump management.

This deal is from the American 'Bridge world' magazine.

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

Bidding :—

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	Dble.	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♠	3 ♥	3 ♠	4 ♥
Dble.	Re-dble		

The final contract was 4 Hearts by south. Spade ten was opened by west. East took it with Ace.

He led 2 of clubs and it was taken by south with Ace. South played king of spade. He followed it with a small spade which was ruffed by north. North played a diamond. South played the Queen on it and West took it with the king. West led king of clubs and it was ruffed by south. Then south led diamond Ace and diamond 9 which was ruffed by the dummy (north). North led 8 of Hearts. East won with the Ace. East led a Spade. Here if south discards a diamond and trumps in dummy, he loses the contract. But if south ruffs in his hand with a small trump and overruffs in north with J of trumps and then plays the Queen of clubs, the contract is made. We said 'Congratulations Mr. Pedant.' He wore a comfortable smile.

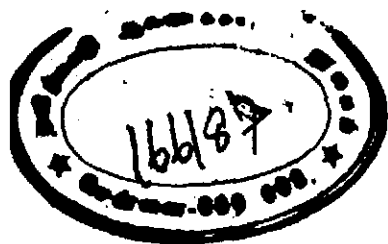
He wouldn't leave us and the cards pack. He next set the deal extracted from "Championship Bridge."

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

The final contract was 6 Spades by south. West opened 10 of hearts. In the first round play of trump West showed out. The pedant played the other cards in the usual course. The stage was reached when south played the fourth Diamond for ruff in the dummy. Now north must ruff with his queen. If he ruffs with a small one, the contract is defeated. Nextly even if north ruffs with the queen the defender in the East can still outwit the declarer by under-ruffing his 4th Diamond. The pedant said that this deal illustrated trump management by the declarer and the defender. Quite interesting no doubt. I

was steady. But 2 of my friends at the table felt a little bored. I requested the pedant to come later and illustrate the other finer points and that otherwise he had no chance of being heard at all. He saw through it and said 'good-bye' with a promise to come again and again. Our thanks to him.

Friends, I have selected among the finer points, an easy one for this article, feeling, that it is better to go from the simple to the complicated. If it is interesting, please tell me and I shall come again. If not may I say 'adieu.'



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Manali K. Srinivasa Mudaliar

We regret to report the death of Sri Manali Srinivasa Mudaliar on 4—10—1955 in a local Nursing Home after a brief illness. Sri Srinivasa Mudaliar was one of the patrons of the Bridge Association, ever since its inception in 1937. It can be said that Sri Mudaliar has contributed more to the popularising of the game of Contract Bridge in Madras State during this period than any one else. He was a fine Bridge player and was endowed with an innate sense of humour and it is not surprising that he was a very popular figure in bridge circles. Bridge fans will see no more the burly figure in a loose hanging coat little concealing the huge paunch, and with a cap more often found folded in one of the big coat pockets moving about in his familiar haunts at the M. U. C. Club. Most Bridge players will recount how in some deal or other played with him he would appear to be lost in contemplation for a while, all the time gently and fondly smoothening his moustache and would then baffle his opponents by a tricky defence or steal the contract with an adroit play. He was always genial by temperament and in

no time would establish the most cordial relationships with his opponents on a Bridge table. In Bridge circles in Madras, this genial and kind-hearted person will be missed for a long time to come.

It would be fitting that a Memorial trophy in some form is instituted in his name. Bridge players all over the city will no doubt give their valued views and lend their support to the task of instituting a memorial in the name of Manali K. Srinivasa Mudaliar.

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THE SQUEEZE

By A. M. R. DAVIDAR

(Continued from the last issue.)

There is a lot of preliminary groundwork necessary in achieving the Squeeze in Bridge. The mechanics of Squeeze play is, of course, known to most of you. There must be at least three cards left in each hand, including the Squeeze card, to bring any Squeeze into effective operation. There must also be a long card menace of at least two cards in the hand opposite the Squeeze card, with a card in the same hand as the Squeeze card to lead to it. The other menace or menaces may be in one or two suits and of one or more cards in each suit in either hand.

But the first important essential is the placing of the cards in the opponents' hands. That is known as card-placing or card-reading. Even if you cannot always place the particular cards in the hands of the opponents, you must be able to

count the cards in the different suits in their hands. That is card-counting. A bid or bids during the course of the auction or a double in the final stages will go a long way in helping you both in card-placing and in card-counting. The card led to the first trick will help you further. But even if there was no such bid or double to help you and even if the lead itself does not give you any great information, a good many deductions will be possible as the game develops. The actual fall of cards from the opponents, their discard and signal cards and their general behaviour, as particularly evident from their difficulties or otherwise in making the discards to the crucial leads, will all be of great assistance. At the worst, if anything like a Squeeze is quite essential to make the contract and if any such Squeeze

can be effected only if the cards against you lie in a particular way, you should assume that the cards are so placed and go ahead. You will be surprised how often you succeed. Anyway, you have everything to gain on such an assumption and generally nothing to lose.

Take, for instance, the following hand played in 7 Clubs by South, without any interference by the opponents during the auction :—

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

West led the Queen of spades and that was of no help. But there appeared to be no way of avoiding a spade loser and the declarer, looking around to see if any unusual play can do so, decided that his only chance lay in a Squeeze. And when West showed out in trumps on the second round, he saw a good chance of effecting a simple positional Squeeze on West, if the latter had started with 4 hearts and 4 diamonds. So he reduced the game to this end

position, after ruffing the third heart,

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

West was squeezed and scalped on the last trump and South triumphantly secured his contract.

Take, again, the following hand, which was played at 7 Diamonds by South, who had however, the great assistance of a double by West :—

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

West led the Spade King. Normally, of course, South should expect to lose a spade and a heart. But, quite obviously,

West had all the missing kings and the missing spade Queen. All that was necessary was, therefore, that he should also have 4 Hearts, so as to enable South to execute a progressive or repeat Squeeze against him. After taking the first trick with the spade Ace, South entered his own hand twice over with the Ace and then the King of Diamonds and finessed the Heart Jack and then the Heart Queen. He then ran off all the remaining diamonds in dummy, discarding two spades from his hand. When the last diamond was played, the position was reduced to,

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

While South could conveniently discard his spade or a club on the last trump, West was inexorably and mercilessly squeezed in 3 suits. The best that he could do, in the face of the cards that he could actually see, was to discard the club Jack. On the lead of the Club to the Ace, the King was dropped. On the next lead of the Club Queen,

he was again subject to a simple positional Squeeze in spade and hearts. South was so delighted with achieving a grand slam on a progressive Squeeze that, being in the good old pre-prohibition days, he stood double whiskies to everyone around, including the admiring Kibitzers.

In the following hand, played also by South in 7 spades, that aristocrat among Squeezes, the double trump Squeeze, was shouting aloud for easy achievement :

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

West led, of all cards, the Queen of Diamonds! South could immediately place the Jack of diamonds with West and the Ace of diamonds with East. What was necessary was to play low from dummy, ruff the diamond in his hand and then play off 4 trumps, discarding a heart from dummy, before taking the 4 clubs ending in dummy. The end position would be as follows, when the last club is led from dummy :—

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

If West blanks his Jack of Diamonds, South leads the King of Diamonds through East and ruffs out the Ace, thus establishing the 10.

If East blanks the Ace of Diamonds, he plays the 10 ruffs out the Ace to establish the King. If both West and East hang on to both their 2 Diamonds the third heart in South's hand would also be good. Your having to correctly determine the cards that East and West hold on to would indicate the great importance of card-placing and card-counting.

But the timing is even more important. That is the most dynamic factor in the department of SQUEEZE PLAY. The Squeeze card must be led at the precise time when the menace cards hold an inexorable sway

over the menaced cards. If the number of menace cards is 3, the squeeze card must be led when there are only 3 cards left, i.e., at the 11th trick. If the menace cards are four, it must be led at the 10th trick. At this stage, the player or players, who is or are squeezed, should hold only busy cards, i.e., winners or delayed winners or guards to the above. But there must be at least one idle card or a card which is rendered idle by the discard of the 1st opponent in the hand opposite the Squeeze card. Your proper timing therefore, forces an opponent or opponents to discard an undiscardable card, i.e., such a card as would allow the declarer to secure an advantage. Everything, therefore, depends on your ability to lead out the Squeeze card at the precise moment when the Squeeze becomes operative. If you are a step ahead or a step behind, your efforts would be vain.

To effect this precise timing, the necessary finesses, ruffs, etc., should be taken in good time. It will also be necessary to let the opponents take the tricks that they are absolutely and inevitably entitled to at the earliest opportunity. That will be necessary to "rectify the count". Take, for instance, the following deal played by South in 6 Diamonds, after an overcall of 2 hearts by East in the initial stages:—

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

West led the Queen of hearts and South realised that if the spades did not break, as it cannot be expected to break on his own abnormal distribution, he would have to lose tricks. He also realised that having 11 straight tricks with a finessee of diamonds, if necessary there was a good chance of operating a Squeeze for the 12th trick on West, if he was holding most of the black cards. The opponents were entitled to one trick anyway and he saw that the sooner he gave away this trick the better. In fact, if this was not done, the Squeeze would be spoilt, since, of the only 2 entries in dummy, the spade King would be necessary to finessee the Diamonds and the Club Ace would be necessary for the Squeeze itself and there was no other entry to lead out a heart and discard the third club. He, therefore, discarded the third club to the first trick itself. It was mere routine play for him to afterwards finesse

the Diamond Queen and run off his diamonds. On the lead of the last diamond, West was fully, completely and helplessly squeezed as between Spades and Clubs.

Another play that is often necessary to "rectify the Count" to bring off a Squeeze is the Vienna Coup. When a Squeeze situation cannot be established otherwise, you play off a master card, promoting an opponent's card to the position of a winner, but at the same time setting up a menace in the hand of the Squeeze card or in the opposite hand. If, for instance, the end position develops as follows,

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

there is no Squeeze available straightaway. When you lead the Squeeze card, the club Queen, West can conveniently discard a heart and subsequently win a Spade. You, therefore, first play to the heart Queen setting up a winner, the Heart Jack, with West. But, at the same time, a menace in heart 10 is set

up in the hand of South. When thereafter the Club is played, the Squeeze is brought into effective operation. Even if there is a certain amount of risk in setting up an immediate winner in the hands of an opponent, it will pay you often to take this risk to bring off a spectacular and satisfying Squeeze.

In the following hand, reported in H. G. Freehill's book, an Irish expert played a double Vienna Coup to bring off a Contract of 6 no-trumps:—

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

West led the three of diamonds, the King falling to the Ace. A spade finesse was taken and East showed out. It was immediately apparent that West, who held 5 spades and 4 to 5 diamonds, cannot hold many hearts or clubs. After conceding the 3rd spade trick to West, the declarer took the Jack of dia-

monds with his Queen and decided on squeezing East in hearts and Clubs. He played off the ace and King of Clubs and then entered the dummy with the heart Ace to run the spades. When the last Spade was played, the end position developed this way,

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

East was caught in the pincers of a simple automatic three-card Squeeze and, for all his squirming, could do nothing.

Another preliminary play that is sometimes found necessary to bring off a Squeeze is the "menace transfer". You occasionally find that while the menaced cards in one or more suits are in the hands of one opponent, the Key card in another suit is in the hand of the other opponent. If a Squeeze against the first opponent only is possible, you have to promote a card in his hand in this suit also, so as to effectuate the Squeeze. It is sometimes possible to do so, when the cards, for instance, lie this way:—

♠ Q 9		♠ J 10
♥ Q 2		♥ 9 4
♦ 2		♦ 4
♠ 4 3		♠ —
♥ J 3		♥ —
♦ 3		♦ —
♠ —		♠ —
♥ —		♥ —
♦ —		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —

You play the 10 of hearts and smother the Jack in the hand of West. The 9 of hearts in the hand of East, who holds the menaced cards in Spades, is now promoted. It is then under the menace of South's 8. When the clubs are now played, an automatic simple Squeeze effectively operates against him. Here is a classic instance of a "menace transfer" executed by the American master, Oswald Jacoby, in the following hand played in 7 Clubs:—

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

West, who had vigorously bid diamonds in the course of the auction, led the King of diamonds. Jacoby realised that, in view of the distribution in his own hand and in that of dummy, it was not likely that the hearts would break. He also realised that if any one should hold 4 or more hearts, it should be East. While, however, it was likely for West's vigorous bidding that he held the King of Spades, it was good odds that East held the Jack. So he played for the menace transfer in Spades. He led the Queen and killed the King, promoting the Jack in East's hand. East was afterwards completely, savagely and inexorably squeezed.

But all knowledge of the varieties of Squeeze and the mechanics of Squeeze play will avail you nothing, if you cannot seize the innumerable opportunities that come your way practically every day and every hour. To recognise those situations in which a Squeeze will operate is as important as the execution of the Squeeze itself. (Concluded.)

ARE YOU QUICK ON THE TRIGGER

By P. S. N. SARMA.

Experts are never tired of pointing out that there is nothing more lucrative in bridge than the penalty double. Charles Goren, the American champion, says: "One of the great sources of unrealised wealth in the United States is the penalty double of overcalls at the level of one or two."

No one can dispute that this is wholesome advice. A whacking double not only benefits the doubler, but, like the quality of mercy, it also blesteth him that takes; it cures many an unwary player of the silly habit of kite-flying.

There is, however, another side to this business of penalty doubles which is not sufficiently stressed. An injudicious double can often act as a boomerang. The fiend of distribution can play havoc with high card strength and mortify the trigger-happy doubler. Again, when a contract which played in the normal manner will quietly go down a trick or two is doubled, it serves no other purpose than to give away valuable information to the enemy who will pull himself together and adopt the shrewdest line of play possible.

The unwary double may also help the opposition to find a better parking place for the combined hands in another suit or in No trump.

Of vital importance is the personality of the player whose call you double. The human element which has its place in all games is nowhere so predominant as in bridge. "We must know how to play people as well as cards," to quote Blackwood. There is no risk in having a go at the habitual overbidder, but one should think several times before trying to punish a sound player.

How very often does one hear the alibi at the bridge table when a double has misfired: "I held four plus honour tricks, partner. I had to double." I remember an occasion when this stale excuse called forth the riposte: "You didn't *have* to. It is not compulsory under the laws of contract bridge."

The partner's chagrin was understandable. He held a bust hand and did not take part in the auction. The contract was Five Diamonds by South, the complete deal being:

NORTH

♦ Q 8 7 4
♥ 9 8 3
♦ J 10
♣ A J 9 4

WEST

♦ A K J 5 3
♥ A J 7
♦ 9 3
♣ K Q 3

EAST

♦ 10 9 6 2
♥ 10 6 5 4
♦ 6 5
♣ 8 6 5

SOUTH

♠ None
♥ K Q 2
♦ A K Q 8 7 4 2
♣ 10 7 2

Deal No. 2.

NORTH

♦ A 8 5 4
♥ A 3
♦ A 10 8
♣ A Q 9 2

WEST

♦ 10 6
♥ 10 9 7 6
♦ 9 7 6 5 2
♣ 10 8

EAST

♦ K 2
♥ K 8 4
♦ K Q J 4 3
♣ K J 3

SOUTH

♦ Q J 9 7 3
♥ Q J 5 2
♦ None
♣ 7 6 5 4

In this deal North made a slam try in spite of East's bidding diamonds twice and landed in the quite unsound contract of Five Spades. East doubled and led the King of Diamonds. Declarer though a good player would certainly have tried the three finesses in Spades, Hearts and Clubs, but East's tell-tale double, following his loose overcalls, marked him with all the adverse high cards and enabled the declarer to make the only play which could succeed.

The declarer won the first trick, ruffed a Diamond, played the Ace of Hearts and the trey. East had to take the trick. He made the best return of a third Diamond. It was ruffed, the Queen of Hearts was cashed, a Club being discarded in the

The contract was easily made, the declarer winning three Club tricks by the simple expedient of ducking when West played one of his honour cards on the lead of the suit. The deal serves to illustrate our first point that high cards are often powerless against freak distribution.

The following deals illustrate the second point we made, namely, that the double of a contract which appears to be by no means a walk-over often does more good to the declarer than to the defence.

closed hand. Avoiding the finesse, declarer played the Ace and another Spade. East had only Diamonds and Clubs to lead. Whatever he led now would give declarer his contract.

Here is the second deal in which the penalty double was a godsend to the declarer.

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

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

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

North-South bid game in Spades although East opened the bidding with One Diamond. West doubled and led the Ace of Diamonds and another Diamond. Declarer ruffed, and avoiding trumps, on account of West's double, entered dummy with Club Ace to lead the three of Hearts. East ducked, the King won and the deuce of the suit followed. East won and played a diamond. The declarer ruffed, he then ruffed a Heart, in dummy entered his

hand with the King of Clubs to lead his last Heart. West had to ruff, having only trumps. He ruffed high, dummy over-ruffed. A Club lead now forced West to ruff, and to concede three tricks to the Declarer's K Q 8.

Lastly here is a deal in which a thoughtless double by East actually drove the opponents into a successful and vastly better contract. North-South holding all the high cards in the pack between them got into a slam, but the wrong slam—Six Spades. East doubled with the result that South who saw all of a sudden that his Spade suit was rather moth-eaten bid Seven Clubs, which was easily made. Deal No. 4.

NORTH	
♠ Q 2	
♥ K Q 8 2	
♦ K 8 4	
♣ A K 10 2	

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

SOUTH	
♠ A J 10 5 4	
♥ A 4	
♦ A 5	
♣ Q J 8 7	

"THE REVERSE"

By N. MUTHKRISHNA IYER, B.A., B.L., Tanjore.

Ely Culbertson says: "The bid of a higher ranking suit by a player who has previously bid one of a lower rank is called a Reverse". Some experts are of the opinion that the "Reverse" has done no good for bridge, since it may be only an equivalent of a bid of three in a suit, though it is at two level, and the following example from the Gold Book is cited in this connection.

SOUTH	NORTH
1 ♦	2 ♣
2 ♠	

"South names a contract which will be unsafe if North cannot support it. Even with a weak hand, North may have to go to the three-level to get back to a safe contract. South has therefore taken the responsibility of a three-level contract." Nonetheless, the "Reverse" has some advantages. It is of vital importance to choose a trump suit the combined length and strength of which should offer a safe playable majority namely 8 cards, whether four-four or five-three. The fear of an unsound trump suit is a nightmare to any good player. Though some players dread to be in a combined seven-card trump suit, there are advanced bidding situa-

tions when game in a four-opposite-three major suit is safe.

Any ranking player knows that the choice of an opening bid is a subject that must be handled with the finest kid glove and Culbertson wants us to treat each hand as a separate problem. Choice of suits depends not only upon length, rank, and strength but also on "preparedness". The rules or conventions relating to the choice of suits need not be stated here except that we should remember here that, where there is a possibility of partner mistaking the bid as a "Reverse" and the hand is below four honour tricks strength or the equivalent of it, a bid shall be made in the higher ranking suit though shorter or less strong on the principle of "preparedness." This directly takes us to the problem of "Reverse".

The "Reverse" is a specific bid showing generally a five-card lower ranking suit and a four card high ranking suit; is a bid of a suit which is higher ranking than another suit previously mentioned by the same player; and is not a bid artificially used simply to announce a strong hand irrespective of distribution.

For example.

Holding,

(1) ♠ A K J 6 3 : ♥ A K Q 6 8 : ♦ Q 3 : ♣ 2. Call 1 spade.

(2) ♠ A 5 : ♥ A K 6 3 : A K 5 4 : ♣ J 4 2. Call 1 heart.

(3) ♠ 8 : ♥ A K 10 8 : ♦ A K 10 7 6 : ♣ K 9 4, first call a diamond and then 'reverse' to heart.

When a player "reverses" it is generally implied that the second bid suit is shorter than the one first bid namely five-four or six-five. It may be noted here that in the French Canape System of "reverse" a four-card minor gets bid ahead of a seven-card major suit.

The "Reverse" can occur at one level, two level or even higher. When it occurs at the level of two or three, it shows a strong hand having a count of about four honour tricks—greater strength than is necessary than is ordinarily assumed for an opening bid of one in a suit—since the partner is compelled to show his preference for the first mentioned suit, if need be, at a higher level. Since the "Reverse" generally predicts the probable length of the suits the responder can wisely show his preference :—

SOUTH	NORTH
1 ♦	1 NT
2 ♠	

If North has a worthless doubleton in spades but three rags in diamonds, he prefers a contract in diamonds at three level because he knows that the partnership has a minimum of eight cards in diamonds but only six spades between them. The preference consists by passing after the second bid or by pulling the partnership to the first bid suit at the cheapest level. Where the opener has reversed, his first suit will be longer than his second and therefore though the contract is a trick higher there will be sufficient winners in both hands, the extra trumps compensating for the higher level. South reverses because he has about four honour tricks, without which he cannot stand a diamond contract at three level.

In the following examples, the "reverse" at two level shows generally a five-card diamond suit and a four-card heart suit and usually about four honour tricks; if the length of the suits be six-five no added strength than for an opening bid is obligatory; if the hand has only three plus honour tricks, the opener must have sufficient strength in the responder's suit for a safe contract at a higher level.

SOUTH	NORTH
(1) 1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♥	
(2) 1 ♦	2 ♣
2 ♥	

(3) 1 ♦
2 ♥

1 NT

In the above sequences, South shall have almost as much strength as for a non-jump rebid at three level in a new suit e.g.,

SOUTH	NORTH
1 ♥	2 ♦
3 ♣	

But when the "Reverse" occurs at one level or follows a game forcing response from partner (these are not considered by some players as "Reverse" proper) it is not an indication of a strong hand; nor does it guarantee the precise count of length in the suits bid.

Examples :—

SOUTH	NORTH
(1) 1 ♦	1 ♥
1 ♠	
(2) 1 ♦	2 ♥
2 ♠	

In either of the above two sequences South may hold

(1) ♠ A K x x : ♥ x : ♦ K J x x : ♣ A J x x or (2) ♠ A K x x : ♥ x : ♦ K 10 x x x : ♣ A J x. With either holding South rebids one spade in sequence (1) and two spades in sequence (2). A similar situation may also arise when opener has to rebid over a free two-over-one take out by partner

Example :

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

The "reverse" shows no greater strength than is necessary for an opening bid of one diamond. The responder should make the allowance for the free rebid of openers and must know that opener would not be strong enough for a reverse at two level had not responder forced him and that opener has made the cheapest rebid available. Occasions frequently arise where a bid is really a competitive one though it may appear to be a "reverse". South holds ♠ K Q 6 2 : ♥ 7 : ♦ A Q 9 6 : ♣ K J 7 4 : and he opens a diamond : West calls a heart : North bids two clubs : and East passes. Now, in this sequence a two spades bid by South is not an apparent reverse, since North's overcall of two clubs over West's one heart considerably changes matter. When South opened one diamond he was prepared to bid one spade over an expected response of one heart; South is not therefore responsible for his showing the spades at two level. Again in the sequence,

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

the two spades bid by South is possibly a "reverse" but usually is a competitive one and therefore North should give some leeway before he takes some positive action. Therefore Culbertson asks us to "avoid the necessity for a reverse at a higher level

if the hand contains less than four (sometimes $3\frac{1}{2}$) honour tricks" and he further cautions that "with about four honour tricks or $3\frac{1}{2}$ with well-passed suits, the normal choice of opening bid (in accordance with the principle of length and rank) should be followed even though this may necessitate a reverse in a higher round."

A difficulty in showing preference may arise when the opener reverses and the responder has equal length in both the suits and there is no certainty of knowing the opener's length in these suits, especially when the "reverse" is made with four cards in each suit. With a weak hand it is no good showing a preference for the reason that there is no loss as long as the opponents do not double and the partner cannot bid any more and get into an unmakeable contract. It is all good in theory to say that putting partner in his first bid suit is no stronger than passing but in practice it does not always work well. The best advice is, when the responder holds higher honour in the second bid suit it is best to play at the lower contract. "Preference bidding" is one of the most delicate and hotly debated phases of the game, the whole question being and resolving in what makes a sound and intelligent preference. Of this branch of bidding, we shall speak some-time later.

Some experts are of the view (the Gold Book does not make distinction) that a "reverse" in minor suits—first in Clubs and then in Diamonds—is not strength showing as other reverses, but yet it is a strong sequence calculated to secure partner's co-operation. South bids one Club holding $\spadesuit 8 : \heartsuit A 9 2 : \diamondsuit K 10 8 7 : \clubsuit A K Q 9 7$ and North responds one heart. The mere raise in hearts by South does not show the full strength of his hand: if South bids two Diamonds he will give north more information than he would when a jump rebid in Clubs is made. The best way to investigate the final contract—whether in hearts, no trumps or clubs—is for South to bid two diamonds. The more the avenues a player opens up the better and more flexible is the partnership bidding.

It shall be borne in mind that the "Reverse" is for the "opener" and not for the "responder" or the "defender". Further the "Reverse" is not a force; it has not replaced the jump bid nor has it come close to it.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	1 NT	Pass
?			

South holds $\spadesuit A K 10 6 : \heartsuit A Q 7 4 3 : \diamondsuit A 7 : \clubsuit K Q$. A simple reverse in spades, though a strong bid, is no forcing bid. Therefore a jump reverse in

spades, i.e., three spades is the correct bid. It is idle to exaggerate the "Reverse". Again in the Culbertson system the reverse bid by the responder is not forcing although a strong invitation; but some American experts hold that the reverse by the responder is absolutely forcing. In the Culbertson system, in the following sequences, the call of two Spades by South

in sequence (1) and the call of three hearts by South in sequence (2) are not forcing bids but are highly invitational.

Sequence (1)

NORTH	SOUTH
1 $\heartsuit$	2 $\clubsuit$
2 $\diamondsuit$	2 $\heartsuit$

Sequence (2)

NORTH	SOUTH
1 $\diamondsuit$	1 $\heartsuit$
2 $\diamondsuit$	3 $\heartsuit$

EVE WIELDS THE WEAK TWO

By E. SOLOMON

Saturday 2 P.M.

Eve has a suprise for me when I return home from office.

"Adam, have you heard of the Weak Two?"

"Is that what people are calling us?"

"No, don't be silly, not us—the bid. The Weak Two bid. You open strong to show weakness."

"I suppose then you are required to pass in order to show a real rock-crusher?"

"Oh! do be serious. I want you to play this bid with me."

"But wouldn't it be simpler to pass with a weak hand?"

"Of course not. You must stop the opponents from butting in."

Myself, I prefer opponents butting in to their butting me, but I am sweetly reasonable.

"Dear, if you open the bidding at the two level and don't have the goods, opponents can be very unpleasant. They have even been known to double."

"Ah! But then they may lose a certain game and it is worth it. Or else they may come in like clay pigeons at a high level and partner can shoot them down.

We can catch them both ways. Helen Sobel says so in the book I read this morning."

Myself, I feel that Eve has chosen an unfortunate analogy because I am a rotten shot and cannot imagine shooting down clay pigeons from any level, leave alone a high one. But when Eve quotes a book it is better to withdraw from the auction. I do so. But not Eve.

"Adam, can we play the Weak Two at this evening's match?"

"But we have not tried it out yet. It may ruin us."

"Nonsense. It is really quite simple. If you have a strong rebiddable major suit and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2+ honour tricks you open with a Two bid. Any response by partner must be kept alive except a raise to Three. That is all you need to know."

I make one more appeal.

"Dear, don't you think we should first try the bid in the club before using it in a duplicate match?"

"I am sure it will be all right. Please let us try it today. Please!"

Now when Eve says "please" I am quite incapable of saying "no."

The Same day—6 P.M.

I explain to our opponents that my wife and I play the Weak Two. They had never heard of it before and are disinclined to hear about it now.

Eve tells them. "We open 2 Spades or 2 Hearts with less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks. 2 Clubs is forcing to game."

The enemy on my left asks suspiciously. "Why should you open with Two when you don't have enough for One. Partner, this seems to be a private convention and I don't think that it is allowed."

I firmly tell him that the bid is quite ethical and he is at liberty to refer to the Tournament Director if he is in any doubt about this point.

The enemy on my right is very supercilious. "Let them do as they please, partner. It is their funeral!"

Eve deals, East West are vulnerable. These are the hands:

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

This is how the bidding goes:

North	East	South	West
(Eve)		(Adam)	
2 ♠	Double	3 ♠	4 ♥
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Redouble	Pass	Pass

When the redouble comes round to Eve she hesitates and passes. Then, almost in the same breath, she says, "Oh! can I change that bid?"

"Sorry" says the enemy on my right giving his partner a broad smile. "If you are in any doubt about this point you may refer to the Tournament Director."

Eve looks at me miserably and leads the ten of diamonds. West wins with the knave after I play the three.

West now leads a heart upto dummy's ace and curses under his breath when Eve discards the seven of spades. He wins the next trick with the trump king and the dummy's third trump is then led and won by my queen. I then play the two of diamonds. In due and inevitable course Eve gets her ace of spades and plays her diamond for me to ruff. With my ace of clubs this gives us five tricks for 1000 points.

Eve says sweetly, "I'm so glad I was not allowed to take out the redouble."

East gnashes his teeth.

Eve tells him brightly. "You know you could have made 5 diamonds or 3 no trumps."

Loud silence!

The Same day—a little later.

Eve deals, North South are vulnerable. These are the hands:

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

The bidding is short—if not sweet.

North	East	South	West
(Eve)		(Adam)	
2 H	Double	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West beams as he passes. This time we are vulnerable and he thinks that he is on the receiving end of a most delectable penalty. He prefers this to the

virtually certain game in no trumps. What is more to the point he is eager to administer the punishment that we so richly deserve.

East opens with the king of diamonds and follows with the queen of the same suit. Eve wins the second trick with the heart two and leads the trump queen. West wins with the king and repeats diamonds which Eve ruffs with the seven. She plays the trump knave which West wins with the ace. He now leads the fourth round of diamonds and Eve ruffs again with the ten, while East discards the four of spades. She leads a club, which is ducked by East and dummy's ten is put up to be beaten by the queen.

Pause.

(The enemy have upto now collected four tricks—One diamond, two hearts and a club.)

West is obsessed with the idea of a forcing game. If his partner has one more trump left then it can be promoted by making declarer ruff diamonds again. On this round partner could throw a losing club and the contract would be set three tricks. Or perhaps West has lost count of the trumps. Whatever may be the reason, he leads the fifth diamond which is ruffed by Eve and she plays a club. East wins with the ace and that is the end. Dummy's

fourth club has been set up and can be reached with the spade ace.

Consternation. Eve has made her contract!

Eve says sweetly: "That was really a psychic Weak Two. If I did not open the bidding East could quite easily arrive at a contract of six spades or six no trumps which cannot be beaten and West can also make

six diamonds if the opening lead is not a club."

As usual, she has the last word. *The same day (or rather night)—*

11-55 P.M.

I can't sleep thinking of the trouble in store for us now that the Weak Two is firmly established in Eve's repertoire of bids. That outrageous psychic opening two hearts when vulnerable! Justice, where is thy sting?

ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN

By POINTSMAN

She (I mean Vijayalakshmi or Viji as we call her) said that she went through my pamphlet on point-system and had mastered it. I agreed to partner her in the progressive pairs event at one of the Clubs the next day and hereunder I give some of the deals which we played. This was the 3rd deal.

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

South opened two N T and Viji sitting west passed. North responded with 3 N T and when it came to west (my partner) she doubled. I was actually shi-

vering in my shoes, thinking of the rockbottom awaiting us. Viji played the 6 of Diamonds. North the 9, I threw the 2 and South the 7. The declarer played his A and K of Spades. Then he played the J of Clubs and Viji played the 3 and said: "Oh! partner, can I take back the card? I was thinking about the 2nd hand lowest principle and accidentally threw the 3. I knew that she bungled correctly and called for our local head of the legal division of S.I.B.A. Mr. Samu Iyer, and asked him if my partner could take back the card to which he replied that, according to rule 13 (a) of Bridge Regulations, 1949 and according to Rule 18 (ii) of the Revised Regulations of 1953, and God knows what all, a card placed on the table face upwards is a card played and should under no circumstances be taken back. This decided the case and the poor declarer who was trying to get an entry for his 9th trick through clubs 10 was disappointed. The result was he got only 8 tricks and went down one. A good score through an oversight!

Another interesting deal came up after 5 more deals.

Myself			
NORTH			
♠	Q 9 6		
♥	10 7 2		
♦	10 7		
♣	Q J 10 7 2		
WEST		EAST	
♠	A 10 8 4 3 2	♠	J 7 5
♥	Q 6	♥	J 9 5
♦	K Q 8 3 2	♦	J 6 5 4
♣	—	♣	K 8 4
Viji			
SOUTH			
♠	K		
♥	A K 8 4 3		
♦	A 9		
♣	A 9 6 5 3		
The bidding			
South	West	North	East
1 ♥	1 ♠	—	—
2 ♣	2 ♦	3 ♣	—
3 ♥	—	4 ♣	—
4 ♥	—	—	—
Lead was			
	West	North	
	♦ K	♦ 7	
	♠ A	♠ 6	
	♥ Q	♥ 10	
	♥ 6	♥ 2	
	♥ Q	♥ 7	
East	South		
♦ 6	♦ 9	After playing ♦ 9 South heaved a big sigh just to say that she had slipped!	
♦ 5	♦ K		
♦ 4	♦ A		
♥ 5	♥ A		
♥ 9	♥ 3		
		Another bigger sigh now!	

I was looking at the travelling score sheet where the hands were recorded and knew that this was the only play which would throw west in the lead who has to lead now and give an entry to north (which was absent otherwise) and the ultimate win of the hand.

We got another top in the following deal:

NORTH			
♠	A Q 10 8 5		
♥	A 10 2		
♦	7 5 3		
♣	A 6		
WEST		EAST	
♠	K 9 3 2	♠	J 7 6 4
♥	7 5 3	♥	Q 6 4
♦	J 9 8 4	♦	Q 10
♣	7 2	♣	Q 8 4 3
SOUTH			
♠	Nil		
♥	K J 9 8		
♦	A K 6 2		
♣	K J 10 9 5		
Bidding.			
North	East	South	West
1 ♠	—	2 ♣	—
2 ♠	—	3 ♥	—
4 ♥	—	5 ♦	—
6 ♣	—	6 ♥	—
—	—	—	—

The INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Play.

West	North	East	South
Trick			
1	♦ 4	♦ 3	♦ Q
2	♣ 2	♣ A	♣ 3
3	♣ 7	♣ 6	♣ 4
4	♥ 3	♥ 10	♥ 8
5	♦ 8	♦ 5	♦ 10
6	♥ 5	♥ A	♥ Q

7 ♥ 7 ♥ 2 ♥ 4 ♥ 8
8 ♠ 2 ♠ 5 ♠ Q ♠ K

After playing ♥ Q on the 8th trick my partner again said "Sorry, partner, it was a slip" but I told her that it was brilliant play by which she got the contract down by one trick as the declarer had to give two tricks to D J 9 as he could not throw E in the lead.

PLAY—ITS "FINER POINTS"

By TEARS

Me—Good afternoon, Mr. South and it was doubled by Pedant. It is some months since East. The deal was as below. we met.

Pedant—Well. I was free. But you wanted me to regulate my appearance according to the emergence of our 'INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD.'

Me—It is true. But the Journal is in the hands of an energetic Secretary who has plenty of time and inclination to bring it out quickly. Do come oftener please. This pleased Mr. Pedant and I inwardly felt that he might bore me too often. I thought it best to wait and see.

The cards were dealt. Before we could see them, he gave us a resume of what he said last time. He spoke of 'Trump Management' and said that it had many forms and one of it was a 'Grand coup'. My partner at once leaned to my side and whispered that the pedant was a bluff since coup meant only brilliant play. He was in a scoffing mood. I counselled silence and said that, if necessary, we can laugh last and best. The pedant shrewdly guessed what we were at and asked us to start the bidding. The final contract was spades by

South and it was doubled by East. The deal was as below.

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

(This deal is from Reese 'On play').

West led a Small club. East played the Q on it. South won it with Ace. Then he played a small Heart and it was won by East's K. East played a club. South took it with the King and played a Heart and on the third Heart discarded a club. A small Diamond was played from the dummy and was taken with Q by South who played next his D Ace. Then he played another D and on the pedant's instruction ruffed it with 8. East overruffed it. East played Q of Spades which was taken by South. South played his last D which was ruffed by the dummy

with 10 and East overruffed it. East was forced to lead a Heart. South trumped it in his hand and overruffed it in Dummy. A club lead from the Dummy won the contract. He called this 'Under-trumping Grand Coup'. We were eager to know about this coup. The pedant's voice became deep and clear. He was gentle and not dull and full without overflowing. He asked us to deal again and on seeing the hand looked like having a happy time of it. He said that the cards were very sensible though considered irrational. Just the deal he wanted. It was as though the cards did not desire to break the continuity of the pedant's talk. That was also a 'Grand Coup' hand. He looked wise and we felt that wisdom might very probably die with him. The hand was as follows. The final contract was 4 spades by South.

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

(This deal is from Culbertson).

West opened King of clubs. Three rounds of it were played. East took the 3rd club trick. Next he played 6 of Hearts taken in the dummy. He played Q of Spades. It was allowed to ride. As also 9 of spades. The dummy then played K of Hearts. South hesitated and the pedant with strength amounting to rage called for a ruff. It was implicitly obeyed. The dummy was then entered in Diamonds. Q of Hearts was led by dummy and again frightened by the pedant's roar the declarer ruffed it. The 2 Diamonds were then played. The 4th Heart from dummy was played. East had to ruff and South overruffed. The defenders thus got only 3 tricks (in clubs) though *prima facie* there was a loser in trump. We all said in one voice 'Well done, Mr. Pedant'. We were scoffing at the outset but remained to pray. With great self-satisfaction he was silent and this silence was more eloquent than words.

We thought that the day's work was over. But we had praised the pedant rather openly and by merit he raised himself to visible eminence and said that 'dummy reversal' was a fine type of trump management. We felt that it was dangerous to praise him and that he could not change his skin and spots. He altered his attitude from elation to gentility and said that 'Dummy reversal' was only

another technical expression, that it meant that the dummy which generally played a secondary and subsidiary part can still be made to play a primary part and deliver the goods without being passive. The explanation was interesting. He asked us to deal the cards and we did so. He saw the deal and danced with joy. We were inclined to laugh and even disperse. We felt that great wits were very nearly allied to madness. But he calmed down and with his feet on *terra firma* said that the cards were so nice and obliging that this very deal was admirably suited to illustrate 'dummy reversal'. The deal was as follows. The final contract was 7 ♥ by South.

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

(This deal is from Florence Osborn).

Bidding :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 ♦	—	2 NT	3 ♠
4 ♥	—	5 ♥	—
7 ♥	—	—	—

West led Q of spades. It was covered by K and East played the Ace. South ruffed with 4 of Hearts. Then Heart Ace was played by South. A low Heart was played and taken by Dummy's queen. A small Spade was ruffed by South with K. Small Diamond played was taken by 10 in dummy. The pedant in a stentorian voice said 'play your Hearts J and 10'. There was strict obedience. South discarded Q and J of clubs on them. Dummy next played a small Diamond. The Contract was made. The pedant harangued on the conversion of the dummy into the more active partner holding the whip-hand. We all felt that one more deal on this principle would enable us to understand it or expose the fallacy, if any, in the pedant's reasoning.

The cards were dealt and the 52 men miraculously settled down to a play of dummy reversal. Probably the cards were following our talk. The deal was as follows. The final contract was 7 spades by South.

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

(This deal is from A. B. W.)

We asked the pedant to be observant and not to instruct us. We put the principle in operation. West led the Q of clubs. The

declarer closely followed the instructions given for the previous deal. The dummy played K of spades retaining his queen. West had to yield to trump squeeze in Diamonds and Clubs.

We thought that this principle was in consonance with the times. The weaker vessels nowadays are claiming to be as strong as the other half. They are even announcing that they can demonstrate their equal strength. If they all know Contract Bridge, they can use 'dummy reversal' as an additional argument.

Good information indeed carried to us. We realised that Mr. Pedant was not like some ambassadors lying abroad for the cause of Contract Bridge but that he was a sincere soul.

IT IS THE PLAY THAT COUNTS

By SATURN

It has often been remarked that good bidding wins most matches especially in team-of-four events as in many cases vital matches are *lost* by poor bidding rather than *won* by any superior skill in the play of cards. This appears somewhat ungenerous to the finer player as numerous instances can be cited of ties having been won by sheer brilliance in play and the following is an attempt to illustrate what an asset the skilful player is to a team of mediocre bidding ability.

This was the first deal in an important club tournament. The bidding was identical at both tables.

East dealer.		E-W. Vulnerable	
EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 ♦	—	1 ♠	—
2 ♣	—	3 ♣	—
3 NT	—	—	—
South led H 4 and West (dummy) had		H 4 and West	

♠ A Q 9 7 5
♥ 9 4
♦ J 2
♣ K J 6 3

North held :

♠ K 10 2
♥ Q J 3
♦ K Q 7 4
♣ 10 7 4

North played the Jack and then the queen of hearts and followed with the trey. Declarer won with the Ace and finessed with the knave of Spades which North won and led K of Diamonds. The rest was easy for the declarer who made the contract without any difficulty and congratulated himself for cleverly holding off the first two heart leads before winning with the Ace and thus ensuring his contract.

At the other table where the North player who was just a good auction bridge player, began to pause before playing to the third trick. After making his Queen and Knave of hearts he took stock of his hand once again and realised that it was futile to play the third heart as even if the suit was established for his partner, South was unlikely to have a sure entry. The declarer was clearly marked with all the three missing Aces and 10 tricks were therefore in sight 4 in spades, 4 in clubs and the two red aces if he continued woodenly with the third heart. North abandoned the Heart suit and led the King of Diamonds. When East ducked he followed with the Queen of Diamonds and declarer was now in trouble.

If he ducked he would surely lose his contract with North holding the King of spades. As it happened, he won with the Ace of Diamonds and after cashing 4 club tricks tried the spade finesse and was one down. Nothing remarkable in the defence but North was able to reason out the possible holding in the declarer's hand and planned the defence accordingly.

East's hand was :

♠ J 8
♥ A 8 7
♦ A 9 8 2
♣ A Q 9 5

In the next deal, see below, North was declarer at a 3 No trump contract. East led the 10 of spades and dummy disclosed.

♠ 7 6 5
♥ K Q 4 2
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ Q 10

Bidding :

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	—	1 ♥	—
2 NT	—	3 NT	—

West played the Queen and Declarer winning with the Ace, crossed over to dummy with the Queen of Hearts and led a small diamond on which he played the Queen. East, now on his toes, led a small club and the declarer could make only eight tricks, in all, for East West made 3 clubs a spade and a diamond, with the

Hearts refusing to break evenly. The complete deal was—

(Declarer)

NORTH

♠ A J 9
♥ A 7 3
♦ A Q 4 2
♣ A 8 4

WEST

♠ K Q 4 3 2
♥ 9 8
♦ 10 7
♣ K 10 9 2

EAST

♥ 10 8
♠ J 10 5 2
♦ K 6 5
♣ J 6 5 3

SOUTH (dummy)

♠ 7 6 5
♥ K Q 6 4
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ Q 7

At the other table where our good player was North, declarer got the same lead but he wisely held off on the first round and then won with the knave West's spade return. He now went over to the dummy with a heart and finessed the Queen of Diamonds. He thus made sure of his 9 tricks by ducking the first lead of the suit, for he made 2 spades, 3 hearts, 3 diamonds and the Ace of clubs before losing control. Declarer was correct in assuming that the spade 10 was from the top of nothing and was therefore able to make the contract easily. It will be seen that if East held the Kings of Spades and Diamonds the contract was doomed because he can always switch

to a club when in with a diamond and East West can later cash their 3 club winners when East makes his king of spades. The correct line of play was therefore to assume that West held the King of spades and the King of Clubs and to plan the play accordingly.

It is to be noted that in all these cases the average player just does not stop to think and analyse after a particular stage and plays in a rather stereotyped manner. His play is the obvious and apparently correct line and it is often difficult for the onlooker to butt in and point out that better results could have been achieved had a different line of play been adopted. If after looking at this article the average rubber player begins to think and analyse even the most common looking hand and find that the little extra care he bestowed has yielded better results this article will not have been written in vain.

This deal, the last in the present series, was played during the semi-finals of an important mofussil tournament. The contract was 4 spades doubled at both the tables, but while the declarer at table No. 1 counted up the opponent's hand correctly and was happy at landing the contract by skilful play, his counterpart at the other table,

found himself set one by good defence.

South was dealer and both sides vulnerable. The bidding and the full deal was—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	1 ♦	—	1 ♠
2 ♥	—	—	3 ♠
3 NT	—	—	4 ♠
—	—	D'ble	—

NORTH

♠ J 10 9 2
♥ 9 8 4 2
♦ A J 7
♣ 9 4

WEST

♠ 5
♥ A 7
♦ Q 10 9 6 5 2
♣ A Q 10 3

EAST

♠ A K Q 8 7 6
♥ K 3
♦ 8 4 3
♣ 7 2

SOUTH

♠ 4 3
♥ Q J 10 6 5
♦ K
♣ K J 8 6 5

South led H Q and the East player at table 1 won with the King in his hand, played out the three top trumps, then finessed the Q of Clubs and followed it with the Ace and another club which he ruffed, North discarding a heart. He now led a heart to Dummy's Ace, ruffed yet another club, and then played a small diamond hoping to find

South with the lone K of diamonds. This turned out to be just the way the cards were dealt and declarer made his last trump as South could lead only Clubs or Hearts thus permitting declarer to make his last trump.

At the other table, however, East, the declarer after playing in the same order, viz., Heart King, Spade Ace, King, Queen, Club Q, Ace and ruff, played a

heart to dummy's Ace for a second club ruff, North discarding a heart and a diamond. East now led a Diamond but North a veteran player, dumb founded all the spectators by overtaking South's King of Diamonds with the Ace, pulled out declarer's trump and led his carefully preserved heart for his partner to claim the rest of the tricks. Well played North and what a difference a good player makes!



Pro et Contra

By E. SOLOMON

Question—In a recent City League match (duplicate team of four) I picked up the following hand sitting, North; East-West only being vulnerable :—

♠ Nil
♥ A Q 10 8 4
♦ A K 10 7
♣ Q 10 9 8

West was dealer and bid 1 Spade. I bid 2 Spades and was generally criticised for not having the requisite strength for this bid. Was my bid incorrect? If so, why and what should I have bid instead?

Answer :—Whilst, to the best of our belief, we are not generally inclined to be brutal we must say that this particular bid of North's is one of the most horrific reported to us as having been made in a major tournament. The immediate overcall in opponent's suit, partner not having spoken, is about the most sacred bid that there is in contract bridge. It is the only one that commits the partnership to reach

a game after opponents have opened the bidding. Obviously, it requires the same strength as a Culbertson opening two. Generally, it also implies first round control in the bid suit. North's hand certainly complies with the latter requirement. With equal certitude it does not comply with the former.

Sometimes quite good results may be obtained by cue bidding opponent's suit with a view to

(a) ascertain a suitable suit for a sacrifice, if circumstances warrant this course ;

(b) indicate to partner his opening lead.

Such bids are generally made with two-suiter hands, very weak in defence. But with a hand as strong on defensive tricks as the above and particularly when partner has not yet had a chance to speak, there is no excuse for this bid.

North's cue bid can only be described as the act of a megalomaniac with delusions of grand-

our. After it is made, the chances of a tragic result for his side are very, very bright.

What should North have bid instead? Surely there can be no doubt—double!

Question.—The following two hands aroused a deal of discussion in our club recently. In both cases I was South and the deals :—

- (a) ♠ Q J
♥ K Q J 10 9 8
♦ K J 9 3 2
♣ —
- (b) ♠ Nil
♥ Q 10 9 4
♦ K Q J 10
♣ K Q 10 9 7

Has South got an opening hand in each case? The North South pair missed a game where South passed hand (a). They got into serious trouble on (b) where South opened with 1 club. The corresponding North hands were :—

- (a) ♠ K 9 8 7
♥ 6
♦ A 5 4
♣ K Q 9 7 2
- (b) ♠ K 10 7 6 5 4
♥ 8
♦ 5 3 2
♣ 8 5 4

Answer :—Both South hands (a) and (b) are a "must" for opening. Whether you play an American or an English system, whether you count points or honour tricks on your fingers

or your toes, open the bidding with both hands. The opening bid with hand (a) is obviously 1 Heart. Less obviously with hand (b) the opening bid is also 1 Heart.

The question of South's opening bid with hand (b) is really the only point of interest in this enquiry. In the actual event South opened 1 Club and it is not difficult to visualise the subsequent bidding with its sorry result. Normally it is correct to open the bidding with your longest suit, but with poor hands, such as (b), another principle predominates and that is "preparedness." You must be prepared for any response that partner will make in order that your rebid will be at as low a level as possible. Because of your void in Spades, partner is most likely to bid this suit. Therefore, ignore your fifth club, treat your hand as though it contained four cards in each of the Hearts, Diamonds and Clubs suits and open the suit next before the void, *viz.*, Hearts. If partner makes the expected response of 1 Spade, you rebid 2 Clubs and holding what he does hold North has no excuse to pursue the bidding further.

Question :—Please discuss in your columns who, if any one, was to blame for the poor result by North South in the following deal.

The North South hands and the bidding sequence were :

NORTH			
♠	A Q J 10 7 2		
♥	K 10 8 2		
♦	9 7		
♣	2		
SOUTH			
♠	K 9 8 3		
♥	Q 9 5 3		
♦	Q J 10		
♣	K Q		
South dealer ; North South			
vulnerable.			
S	W	N	E
—	1 ♠	1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♠	—
4 ♠	Double	—	—

The 4 Spades contract was set one trick for a loss of 200 points.

Answer :—Sorry, we are not prepared to blame either North or South for any of their bids. North's bidding was impeccable, whilst South, if anything, was on the conservative side and might even have bid 3 Spades,

instead of 2 Spades, in the second round having passed in the first. The final contract of 4 Spades seems to be almost impossible

to avoid. It fails only because of duplication of values. South's Q J 10 of Diamonds and K Q of clubs are, completely wasted because of North's doubleton and singleton in these respective suits. If two rounds of clubs can be played before two rounds of Diamonds the contract may be made, but of course we do not except this to occur on reasonably good defence.

There does not appear to be much cause for grief over the actual result. A good game try goes down—doubled it is true—by one trick, whilst the opponents might very well have a cold part score contract of 4 clubs. If such disasters are the only ones to worry our correspondent then he is surely very lucky—and rich!

BIDDING PAR—HAND

Edited by P. S. SUNDARESA IYER

In reproducing the deals of the bidding contest, together with the suggested bidding, the point or points of theory involved as well as the match point awards, the following patterns may be followed. For example (A) where there is no interference bidding, marks are given only for the specific bids for which the award is made.

Deal 1 :

Dealer : North. Vul : Neither.

NORTH.

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

SOUTH

♠ K 4 3
♥ K 9 8 7
♦ 10 5 2
♣ J 4 3

Award :

2 ♥ .. 10
1 NT or 2 .. 4

No interference bidding.
Suggested bidding.

NORTH

1 ♦
2 ♥

SOUTH

1
—

Point : In response, make a suit bid in preference to a bid of one N.T.

Deal 2 :

Dealer : East. Vul : North South.

NORTH.

♠ 3 2
♥ 10 9 4 3
♦ K 6 4 2
♣ J 9 4

SOUTH.

♠ A K Q 8 7 6 5 4
♥ A 6
♦ A Q 3
♣ —

Award :

6 ♠ .. 10
4 ♠ .. 4

Suggested bidding.

SOUTH

2 ♠ .. 2 N.T.
4 ♦ .. 4 N.T.
5 ♥ .. 5 ♠
6 ♠ .. —

NORTH

Point : The location of the K of Diamonds and K of the Hearts cannot be ascertained except by Asking Bids or by some sort of complicated cue bidding. Full marks are given for six

Spades whether arrived at by direct means or otherwise. No marks are given to any slam attempt not ending in a slam call.

Deal 3 :

Dealer : South. Vul : East West.

NORTH

♠ K 9 4
♥ 9 8 7 6 3
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ 3

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10
♥ K 10 4
♦ Q 10 2
♣ A J 9 4

Award :

1 N.T. or 2 ♥ — 10

Suggested bidding :

SOUTH

1 N.T.

NORTH

Pass or 2 ♥

Point : South should open with 1 N.T. North not having the values for a call, should pass even though with a singleton ; or if the partnership plays a weak suit response, call 2 ♥. On an opening 1 N.T. the olden style was to regard the suit response as weak. The modern is to regard it as forcing.

Deal 4 :

Dealer : West. Vul : Both West & D.

NORTH

♠ A Q 8.
♥ A Q 10 6 5 2
♦ K 10
♣ A 3

SOUTH

♠ J 4
♥ K
♦ Q 7 4 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 4 2

Award :

4 ♥ .. 10
3 ♥ .. 4

Suggested bidding :

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1 ♠ Dbl. — 2 ♣
— 3 ♥ — 4 ♥

Point : Where there is interference by opponents, as in this deal, where W opens the bidding the pattern may be as follows.

Force in Hearts. Acceptance of the force in spite of the singleton H. K. is shown by bidding 4 H.

Deal 5 :

Dealer : North. Vul : North South

NORTH

♠ A K J 2
♥ K Q J
♦ A Q 7
♣ A Q 5

SOUTH

♠ 10 4
♥ 10 6 4
♦ K J 3
♣ K J 8 6 4

Award :

6 N.T. .. 10
6 ♣ .. 6
4 or 5 N.T. .. 4

Suggested bidding :

NORTH	SOUTH
3 N.T.	4 ♣
6 N.T.	—

Point : 4 ♣ is a slam invitation and N should accept the invitation.

Deal 6 :

Dealer : East. Vul : East West.

NORTH
♠ 10 9 8 4
♥ 10 9 8
♦ J 2
♣ K 9 7 6

SOUTH
♠ A Q 3
♥ K 4 2
♦ A K Q 7 6
♣ A 10

Award :

3 N.T. ... 10

Suggested bidding :

SOUTH	NORTH
2 N.T.	3 N.T.

Point : The only proper opening is a 2 N.T. bid and only then the 3 N.T. final contract can be reached.

Deal 7 :

Dealer : South. Vul : Both.

NORTH
♠ 9 6 3
♥ 10 5
♦ Q 10 9 8 4
♣ Q 6 4

SOUTH

♠ K Q 10
♥ A K 4 3 2
♦ J 7 6
♣ K 10

Award :

1 N.T. ... 10
2 ♦ ... 8

Suggested bidding :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	Dbl.	—	—
1 N.T.	—	Pass	—
		or 2 ♦	

Point : South must try to get out of the penalty pass by East and the most convenient indicated bid is 1 N.T. Whether N should pass the 1 N.T. bid or call two Ds. is rather a difficult point. He should probably leave it in, if undoubled ; but call 2 Ds. if doubled.

Deal 8 :

Dealer : West. Vul : Neither.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 8
♥ A J 10 8 7 3
♦ —
♣ A K 6 5

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

Award :

4 ♥ ... 10
5 ♣ ... 4

Suggested bidding :

NORTH	SOUTH
1 ♥	1 N.T.
2 ♥	2 N.T.
3 ♣	4 ♥

Point : Preference for game in the major suit.

Deal 9 :

Dealer : North. Vul : East West.

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

SOUTH
♠ 9 3
♥ Q 10 7 3
♦ K 3 2
♣ Q J 4 2

Award :

3 ♠ ... 10
2 ♠ ... 6

Suggested bidding :

NORTH	SOUTH
3 ♠	—
or 1 ♠	1 N.T.
2 ♠	—

Point : The North hand with its spade shape and not more than 7½ playing tricks is an ideal 3 ♠ opening bid. South has no adequate strength of playing tricks for 3 N.T. or for a raise.

The alternative opening of 1 S with its natural sequence is given a less favoured award.

Deal 10 :

Dealer : East. Vul : Both.

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

SOUTH
♠ K 6 2
♥ K Q J 2
♦ A K 3
♣ J 8 7

Award :

4 ♥ ... 10
3 N.T. ... 4

Suggested bidding :

SOUTH	NORTH
1 N.T.	2 N.T.
3 ♥	4 ♥

Point : Opening 1 N.T., showing hearts on the rebid is forcing.

Deal 11 :

Dealer : South. Vul : Neither.

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

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

Award :

6 ♠	10
5 ♥	8

Suggested bidding :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♦	—	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♠	—	4 ♥	—
4 N.T.	—	5 ♦	—
6 ♥	—	—	—

Point : North might have the C.A. instead of H.A. in which case, there may be no slam. But on the bidding the probability is in favour of H.A. and so of slam. No marks for mere 4 ♥. There must be a slam try.

Deal 12 :

Dealer: West. Vul : North South.

NORTH

♠ A Q 9 3
♥ 10 4
♦ A K 3
♣ A Q J 5

SOUTH

♠ J 10 4
♥ J 3
♦ Q J 9 6 5
♣ 10 7 3

Award :

4 ♠	10
5 ♦	6

Suggested bidding :

NORTH	SOUTH
1 ♣	1 ♦
2 ♠	2 N.T.
3 ♦	3 ♠
4 ♠	—

Point : Game should be bid ; 3 N.T. being inadmissible owing to obvious weakness in ♥. Game should be attempted in Spade even though only four-carded.

Deal 13 :

Dealer : North. Vul : Both.

NORTH

♠ A Q J 10
♥ 6
♦ A Q 9 8
♣ K J 7 6

SOUTH

♠ 7
♥ A K Q 10 5 4 2
♦ 5
♣ A Q 9 8

Award :

6 ♣	10
6 ♥ or 7 ♣	6

Suggested bidding :

NORTH	SOUTH
1 ♦	2 ♥
2 ♠	3 ♥
4 ♣	4 N.T.
5 ♥	6 ♣

Point :- Sequence of bids until the discovery of final fit. No certainty about the grand slam. The ♥ suit may not be a solid suit. Opener may have a singleton or even void.

Deal 14 :

Dealer : East. Vul : Neither.

NORTH

♠ K 10 9 8 7 6 4
♥ 6
♦ —
♣ 10 9 4 3 2

SOUTH

♠ J
♥ A Q J 4
♦ A K 10 9 8
♣ Q 6 5

Award :

2 ♠	10
-----	----

Suggested bidding :

S	N
1 ♦	1 ♠
2 ♥	2 ♠

Point.—Obvious misfit ; and so let go at the earliest opportunity.

Deal 15 :

Dealer: South. Vul: North South.

NORTH

♠ Q 10 5
♥ A 5
♦ A K J 5 4 2
♣ 10 2

SOUTH

♠ J 2
♥ 10 4 3
♦ Q 10 3
♣ A K 6 5 4

Award :

3 N.T.	10
3 ♦	6

Suggested bidding :

S	N
Pass	1 ♦
2 ♣	2 N.T.
3 ♦	3 N.T.

Point.—Third hand opening, bidder must not rebid 2 ♦ but should show strong normal hand by bidding 2 N.T.

Deal 16 :

Dealer : West. Vul : East West.

NORTH

♠ K 6
♥ A Q 9 2
♦ 10 5
♣ A K 4 3 2

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ J 8 6 4
♦ J 4 3
♣ 9 5

Award :

2 ♥	10
2 ♣	4

Suggested bidding :

W	N	E	S
1 ♦	Double	—	1 ♥
—	2 ♥	—	—

Point :- With a weak hand, S should choose to call 1 ♥ rather than 1 ♠, since otherwise the actual fit may be blocked. 2 ♥ by N is invitational, but South properly refuses.



Edited by T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN

We welcome the following new Members into the Association and would request them to give us all their co-operation.

New Members—

1. S. Krishnamachari, Madras.
2. K. T. G. Nambiar, Tanjore.
3. P. N. Ranganathier, Tanjore.
4. Prasada Rao, Tanjore.
5. Appadurai, Tanjore.
6. P. S. Natarajan, Madras.
7. E. S. Natarajan, Madras.
8. G. N. Viswanathan, Madras.
9. U. C. Radhakrishnan, Madras.
10. R. Ratnam, Trichinopoly.
11. G. E. Solomon, Madras.
12. M. K. Sabapathy, Madras.
13. B. Venkataramoni, Madras.
14. M. Sadasiva Rao, Madras.
15. U. M. Rao, Madras.
16. R. V. Karnad, Madras.
17. K. S. Ramachandra Rao, Madras.
18. M. N. Reddy, Madras.
19. S. V. Bijur, Madras.
20. W. R. Saranathan, Madras.
21. C. R. Varadachari, Madras.
22. S. G. Bhat, Madras.
23. M. Rangaswamy, Madras.
24. B. S. Dutt, Madras.
25. M. R. S. Thangavelu, Karaikudi.
26. P. L. Arunachalam, Kothamangalam.

Life Members—

1. K. S. Narayana, Madras.
2. P. Ramanujiah, Madras.

Mrs. Josephine Culbertson, who is now on a pleasure tour of the East is now staying in the city convalescing in a Nursing Home. The Secretary of this Association and the Editor of the section paid a courtesy call on her and requested her to give the Bridge enthusiasts in the city the

pleasure of seeing her in action. Mrs. Culbertson is however under strict orders not to move and was therefore unable to accede to our request. We hope she will respond to our invitation in the near future and also write one or two interesting articles for publication in these columns.

The Executive Council of the Association are again actively considering the acquisition of a building of its own for the Association with a small office room and guest rooms with all conveniences for the benefit of members. Readers will recollect that this idea was twice mooted in recent years but the scheme was not persevered with, as enthusiasm among the sponsors was shortlived. The present seems an opportune moment for the idea to bear fruit as the affairs of the Association are now in an encouraging state and we hope that with the energetic co-operation of all members, the Council will be able to make this dream come true before the end of next year.

The Executive Council will be bringing up this matter for discussion during the annual General Body meeting in December this year. Any suggestions from Members in this connection will be most welcome. All correspondence in this regard may please be addressed to :

SRI K. GURUDUTT,
Secretary, South Indian
Bridge Association

13, Pinjala Subramaniam
Road, T. Nagar,
Madras-17.

Members will be interested to hear that the Andhra Bridge Association have extended an invitation for a challenge match between the two Associations to be played either at Madras or Guntur, in the near future. Details of the number of deals, venue, selection of personnel, etc., are under consideration. The idea of inter-State matches is indeed very welcome and we trust the Association will accept the invitation without any hesitation and also organise similar contests periodically with Andhra, West Bengal and other State Associations if possible.

The Council also propose having an open duplicate knock-out team-of-four match, confined exclusively to teams who have not won any major tournament during the last two seasons, along with the annual championship tournament, for the benefit of those not qualified to participate in the final rounds.

The Madras City Contract Bridge League Tournament is now in full swing. Fourteen teams have entered for this event this year.

The position of the teams as on 25th Sept. 1955, is given below.

MADRAS CITY CONTRACT BRIDGE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT.

(Position of Teams as on 25-9-1955).

	Matches played.	Won.	Lost.	Points.
Modern Institute of Commerce	8	8	—	8
T. Nagar Social Club	8	7	1	7
Vepery Club	9	7	2	7
Gymkana Club	9	6	3	6
K.R. Sundaram Iyer's team	8	5	3	5
Ramaratnam's team	8	5	3	5
Mar. team	9	5	4	5
Suguna Vilasa Sabha	8	3	5	3
Chennapur Andhra				
Maha Saba	8	3	5	3
Burmah Shell Club	9	3	6	3
S. I. Vysya Assn.	8	1	7	1
Mudaliar's team	8	—	8	0
Rangachari's team	8	—	8	0

A novel feature of this year's League Tournament is the handicap given to teams who have not won or been runners-up in this event during the last five years. Special prizes have also been offered to the team leading among the non-winners and the general interest is therefore expected to be sustained till the end.

The Madras United Club's annual tournaments came off during April and were largely attended. The response to all the five events conducted was very encouraging, thanks largely to the untiring efforts of the Tournament Secretary, Sri M. S. Ramalingam. Mr. K. R. Sundaram Iyer's team who won the beautiful Rolling Trophy for the main knock-out event deserve our

warmest congratulations for winning this event for the second year in succession. This performance was all the more praiseworthy for they accounted for some of the leading teams in the city in the earlier rounds. Following are the detailed results.

Duplicate Knock-out :

I. (Sundaram Iyer's Team).

K. R. Sundaram Iyer.
C. R. Srinivasan.
C. Devarajan.
T. R. Samoo.

II. (Ramaratnam's Team).

N. Ramaratnam.
C. V. Venkatesan.
G. N. Chary.
B. Venkataramani.
R. Sundararaman.

Duplicate Progressive :

I. (Ramaratnam's Team).

N. Ramaratnam.
B. Venkataramani.
G. N. Chary.
C. V. Venkatesan.
R. Sundararaman.

II. (T. Nagar Social Club).

R. Sankaran.
P. S. Sadasivan.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.
K. C. Ramaratnam.
S. Palaniswamy.

Pairs Progressive :

NORTH-SOUTH.

- I. R. Sankaran
P. S. Sadasivan.
- II. M. K. Srinivasa Mudaliar
T. M. Kasturi.

EAST-WEST.

- I. T. K. N. Panicker.
V. R. Veeramani.
- II. N. Ramaratnam.
C. V. Venkatesan.

Master Pairs :

- I. C. Devarajan.
G. Hanumantha Rao.
- II. K. R. Sundaram Iyer
C. R. Srinivasan.

Individual Championship: (32 Players)

- I. M. Gokuldass.
- II. M. N. Reddy.

The Thegaroyanagar Social Club's annual tournaments are being revived this year. Two additional events, open to all, are being played this year and we are confident that the response from local Bridge enthusiasts to all the events, including Open Pairs, will be excellent.

BIDDING PAR CONTEST.

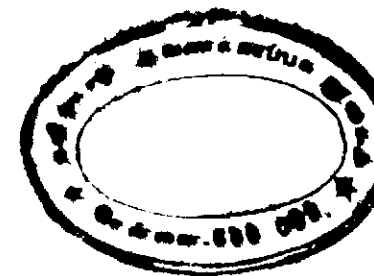
As already reported in our last issue the Bidding Par Contest sponsored by the Association was played at the Corporation Stadium on the evening of Saturday, 16th April, 1955 and also at Coimbatore. Thirty interesting deals were selected to test the bidding skill of the participants. We have given elsewhere in this issue, for the benefit of our readers the official answers in each case with the scale of Par points awarded for the various bids. The details of the individual hands and the selector's comments justifying each particular bid, will, we feel, be interesting and instructive. Our congratulations to the following who came out successful in this event.

MADRAS CITY.

G. K. Gopalaswamy.
K. S. Narayana.

Coimbatore :

B. S. Krishnamurthy.
S. Viswanatha Iyer.



THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

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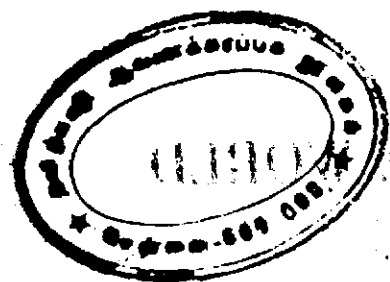
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PREFERENCE BIDS

By N. MUTHUKRISHNA IYER, B.A., B.L., Tanjore.

In many text books the subject of "Preference Bids" has not been given the full treatment it needs, but only an inadequate and incomplete theoretical exposition with a few examples. Preference bidding is one of the most delicate and hotly debated phases of the game, the whole question being and resolving in what makes a sound and intelligent 'preference' and the correct procedure largely depends on the particular situation and also the style of bidding. A common failure of partnership is the inability to recognise an alternative suit when the original suit called by either partner does not elicit any support from the other. The philosophy behind preference bidding is that egotism should find no place and that you should not feel that you and you alone must be the Horatio at the bridge table. In the following played deal Jo suppresses a very much rebiddable suit in favour of bids which better describe the strength and fit of her hand :

she did not go blind and stubborn about her own big suit but admitted the possibility that there might be a better fit in the 26 cards that go to make up the partnership holding.

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

Bidding :

	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
	Mrs.			
	Culbertson	Balfe	Ely	Jacoby
1	♣	1 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠
2	♦	Double	2 ♠	3 ♠
5	♥	Pass	6 ♥	Pass
	Pass	Pass		

The opener should be well conversant with the principles underlying the "Choice of Suits" for the opening bid: otherwise any "preference" by the responder will lead to unmakeable contracts. For example:

South holds: ♠ A K x x
♥ x: K J x x: ♣ A J x x, or a slightly weaker hand. If he opens one spade, a possible response of two hearts would probably compel him to bid the minor four-card suit at three level, or commit the egregious blunder of rebidding the spade suit, or probably bid two no-trumps despite a singleton.

Beginning with the second round, bids shall be made as definite as possible and not as vague as possible. The re-bid by the opener should enable his partner to read out not only he honour strength but also the distribution. The bidding should enable the partner visualise as much as possible each other's 13 cards perhaps only approximately, perhaps with certainty. The partnership must be able to "count out" the hands, the advantage lying in the selection of the right trump suit to play. It is of vital importance to fix a trump suit, the combined length and strength of which should offer a safe playable majority, namely 8 cards whether 4-4, 5-3, or 6-2. The fear of an unbound trump suit is a nightmare to any good player.

Some players dread to be in a combined 7-card trump suit, but there are bidding situations which locate occasions when game in a four-opposite-three major suit is safe. For example:

(a) South holds:

♠ 5 2
♥ A Q 7 2
♦ K 10 8 5 4
♣ A J 9

North holds: ♠ 9: K 10 3:
A J 9 6: Q 10 8 5 4.

Bidding:

SOUTH	NORTH
1 ♠	2 ♠
2 ♥	3 ♥
4 ♣	4 ♥

(b) North holds: A K Q 9
4: A Q 8: A 7: J 8 6.

South holds: 10 6: K J 10 9:
K Q J 8 4: K 9.

Bidding:

NORTH	SOUTH
1 ♠	2 ♠
2 ♠	3 ♠
5 ♠	6 ♠

North's jump to 5 hearts is to correct his underbid. If the bidding had been

NORTH	SOUTH
1 ♠	2 ♠
3 ♠	4 ♠
5 ♠	6 ♠

North would read the heart suit as a five-carder when south bid it at four level. (This is a fine hand showing that there is

some merit in Rothstone convention, in which the responder after making a two-over-one take out guarantees another bid. North can bid 2 spades with impunity because South shall not drop the bidding after his take-out in 2 Diamonds).

Even as the "sign off" or "rescue" bids are pressed into service to get over unsafe no-trump bids and misfit trump suits, "showing preference" is employed to get into a safe trump suit. When a player has bid two suits his partner must show which suit he prefers—unless his hand warrants a superior bid in another suit or in no-trumps—the obligation to show preference being "as strong an obligation on a Bridge player as the forced response to an opening two bid." The duty to show preference arises only where the responder does not or cannot bid in a different suit or in no-trumps. The preference consists by passing after the second bid or by putting the partnership to the first bid suit at the cheapest level. One should be conversant not only with the rules or conventions but also their limited application to differing situations. The rules formulated are:

1. Prefer the longer suit even if there are higher honour cards in the shorter.
2. With equal lengths in either suit, prefer the first bid

suit even if the second suit is stronger in face cards.

3. If the second bid suit agrees and the hand has no additional values, Pass is the bid. *Preferable is shown by Passing.*

4. If the hand is weak and the second bid suit does not agree and if the first bid suit is preferred, sign-off at the lowest level by reverting to the first bid suit: *this is equivalent to passing.*

5. A preference is not a raise and therefore if the hand is strong and the first bid suit is preferred jump one trick in the first bid suit; and

6. If the hand is strong and the second bid suit is preferred, it is simply raised.

7. If neither of the two suits is agreeable but if the hand is strong enough and the responder has a rebiddable suit, it is raised: or if the situation warrants the bid is made in no-trumps.

Rule (1):

We shall examine the rules now in more detail. The first rule is, in the words of Culbertson, with greater length, in one suit the responder should prefer that suit even though he has higher cards in the other: he prefers the suit in which he holds three rags to the suit in which he holds A Q, the strength of the holding being of little importance. There are two exceptions to this rule. One is,

where the responder's hand is so weak that he prefers to play any contract that is not doubled and he does not want to get higher; the other is, as pointed by Theodore A. Lightner, "particularly where partner has bid his first suit twice before mentioning the second, the first suit shall be preferred unless the responder holds two more trumps in the second suit."

Here is a hand much debated by the master solvers in the American Bridge World. South holds:

♠ 6 5 3 : ♥ J 7 2 : ♦ 8 6 5 4 :
 ♣ J 8 3 and the bidding is:
 NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
 1 ♦ 2 ♣ Pass Pass
 2 ♠ Pass

Should south here *pass* the bid of 2 spades or show preference to diamonds? Culbertson is of the view that even if the hand's weakness warrants *passing*, the responder *should not pass* but return to partner's first bid suit and that this is equivalent to passing. When the responder puts the opener back to his first bid suit, he does not assume the responsibility therefor and the opener should not assume that the responder has a moderate hand: this is a mere sign-off at the cheapest level, as under rule (6), South has a definite duty to show preference even if it be at a higher level, since the combined hands presumably hold nine diamonds but only

seven spades and the difference of two more trumps compensates for the higher level. North's bid of 2 spades shows more than a minimum hand, at the same time also showing that it is short of strength to double 2 clubs, or call 3 clubs or 3 spades. In view of this limited strength North will not take out of a 3 diamond bid since game is out of question. (Note that south has originally passed).

But those who do not fully share the view that returning partner to his first bid suit is not any stronger than passing, maintain that a *bid* is always stronger than a *pass*, and therefore North might be encouraged to go higher. If North is not an expert hand but a dud or an over-bidder it is better to pass with a bleak hand than risk a preference and invite trouble.

The first rule applies whether the partner has bid his suits in normal order or has reversed them. When the player has "reversed" his first suit will be normally longer than his second and therefore though the contract is a trick higher there will be sufficient winners in both the hands.

Rule (2):

The Second rule—With equal length in either of the suits, prefer the first bid suit even if the second bid suit is stronger, in face cards—formulates more a

tendency than a rule. For example:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♥	Pass	1 N T	Pass
2 ♠	Pass		

South holds: ♠ K 7 4 ;
 ♥ 9 6 4 : ♦ 10 7 5 2 : ♣ K J 9 ;
 and he shall call 3 hearts. It sounds well in theory to say that putting partner in his first bid is no stronger than passing but in practice sometimes it does not appear to work out well. Suppose the bidding has been—

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♠	Pass	1 N T	Pass
2 ♥	Pass		

and South holds the same hand as shown above if South calls here 2 Spades, North knows that South has not a good hand but cannot know if South has a hopeless hand or can give moderate support. Suppose the bidding has been:

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

and South holds: ♠ 9 : ♥ J 9 7 6 4
 ♦ 10 : ♣ J 8 6 5 3 2.

South shall pass the hand and allow the bidding to die. The same shall be the bid even if South holds two small cards in each of the suits, Spades and Diamonds. Having a bleak hand South should not put North back in spades even if he holds two rags in Spades, and a diamond: but of the two spades

if one is a top honour it is better to put back North in Spades. Therefore "when there appears to be little chance of fulfilling any contract, and a further bid may result in a serious loss, don't give a preference, *pass*".

In certain situations, opener may not be sure if preference by partner is shown either under rule (1) or rule (2) for example:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♠	Pass	1 N T	Pass
2 ♥	Pass		

South holds either of these hands:

(a) ♠ 8 7 4 : ♥ K 6 : ♣ 10 7 5 4 : ♦ K J 9 6.

(b) ♠ 8 7 4 : ♥ A 10 6 : ♣ J 10 5 2 : ♦ Q 10 9

and puts North back in Spades in either case. How is North to "count out" the hand of his partner? Is he to take it that South has equal length in spades and hearts, or that South is shorter in hearts? If North can with any reasonable certainty find out that his partner is shorter in hearts, he may try 3 spades.

A difficulty may also arise when opener reverses, holding (occasionally) 4 cards in each of the suits. When the responder holds equal length in each of the suits and if he has no means of knowing that partner reverses with only 4-card suits, it is unsafe to put the contract at one trick higher,

but better to play at the lower contract especially when holding higher honour in the second bid suit. For example :

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST.

1 ♥ Pass 1 N T Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?

South holds : ♠ K 7 4 : ♥ 9 6 4 :

♦ 10 7 5 2 : ♣ K J 9. South shall pass. Even in cases where the opener reverses holding a 5-

card and a 4-card suit, responder need not put partner back in his first bid suit if the hand does not warrant it ; and Culbertson's example is,

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1 ♦ Pass 1 N T Pass
2 ♥ Pass ?

South holds : ♥ J 6 5 : ♠ 9 8 6 5 :
♦ J 6 3 : ♣ K J 10. Pass is the word for South.

(To be continued)

INSTRUCTIVE HANDS

By PROF. T. S. KRISHNAMURTHI.

My friend, Ambrose Davidar, has written elaborately about the theory of the squeeze in a recent issue of the I.B.W. The know-how of certain other types of end-play have also been described by some of our leading contributors, like Rajam and Reddy. I propose, in the following article, to give a few hands illustrating some not-so-often recurring plays. The main thing is to recognise the need for the play fairly early by clear analysis and prepare for it.

Hand-1

♠ 9 x x
♥ K x x
♦ K x x x
♣ A J x

♠ 10 x
♥ Q 8 x
♦ J 10 x x x
♣ Q x x

♠ A K Q x x x
♥ —
♦ Q x x
♣ K 10 x x x

♠ J x
♥ A J 10 9 x x x
♦ A
♣ x x x

Contract : 4 hearts by South. West leads a spade, E cashes two tops and leads a third. Now, declarer has a certain club loser. Hence, his problem is not to lose a trump trick also, or, if he does so, to avoid the club loser. He resorts to a safety play. He does not ruff the

third spade but discards a club. This provides against Q x x in trumps with West or Q x with East or Q singleton with West. For, if he ruffs with Ace, Q x with East will make a trick. If he ruffs with J, 10, or 9, West might overruff ; or even if he ruffs with Ace, declarer has to take the risk of finessing the J towards West, and the club loser is still there.

Hand-2

♠ A Q J x
♥ A J x x x x
♦ 10 x x
♣ Q

♠ x x x
♥ x
♦ K Q x x x x
♣ x x x

♠ K 10 x x
♥ K x
♦ x
♣ A K J 10 x x

♠ x x
♥ Q 10 x x
♦ A J x x
♣ x x x

Contract : Four hearts by South doubled by East. S plays the hand, though N has 6 trumps. During the auction W has mentioned Diamonds and E clubs. West leads a club, E takes it with the king and shifts to a diamond, very likely, a singleton. On the double, E has probably also the king of hearts and spades. Declarer cannot afford to lose

a trick in each of the four suits. So he plans to throw East in with the trump king. He goes up with the diamond Ace, ruffs a club, cashes heart ace, and puts E in with the king of hearts. Now E cannot lead a spade for that gives Declarer a free finesse and his only other loser is a diamond. So, E has to lead a club. Now comes the crucial play. N does *not* ruff, but discards the 10 of diamonds! E has again to lead a club. S discards a spade and N ruffs. N cashes spade ace, and leads the Q. E must cover, or S will discard a diamond. S ruffs the king of spades, discards another diamond on the J of spades and cross-ruffs the rest and gets home. This hand, like the first, is another illustration of refraining from ruffing, in order to create an end-play.

Hand-3

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

Contract: 3 N.T. by South—
West leads H small and takes

the fourth trick in the suit and leads the 8 of spades.

Analysis: Declarer is top weight now and cannot afford to lose another trick. He is certain of 5 clubs 2 diamonds and S Ace. There is no question of finessing spades or diamonds. He must, perforce, try a squeeze on E in those suits. Conditions for a squeeze will be recognised, viz., 1 trick short of contract, menace cards in either hand (S Queen and D Jack here) and entries to either (D Ace and D King).

Declarer goes up with spade ace, cashes diamond ace, and runs four clubs. The end position is this:

♠ — —		♠ K
♥ — —		♥ —
♦ K J x		♦ Q 10
♣ — —		♣ —
♠ —	♠ K	
♥ —	♥ —	
♦ Immaterial	♦ Q 10	
♣ —	♣ —	
♠ Q —		
♥ 8		
♦ x x		

The last club puts the pressure on East who has either to unguard diamonds or jettison his master spade. A good illustration of the 'Double Vienna Coup.' Poor East does not make either of the cards kindly (?) established for him by South.

Hand-4

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

Contract: Six hearts by South. West leads spade king. It is clear that all that declarer has to worry about is not to lose more than one trick in trumps. He must not blindly assume that trumps will drop two and two or three and one. The safety play is as follows:

At the second trick, he lays down the Hearts Ace. East shows out. Now, South leads a *small* trump and beats West's card, say, the 10 with the K and leads back the nine. West may duck or not, as he pleases. If he ducks, declarer runs the club, till West ruffs with the master trump, and reaches harbour. If West takes the nine with the Q, that is his one and only trick.

By the way, it is interesting to note that seven N.T. can be made on the above hand by a squeeze. South takes the original Spade lead unblocks the club J, enters with Diamond ace, and runs the clubs, gets back

to his own hand with Diamond Queen. The three-card end position is this:

♠ x		♠ —
♥ K 9 7		♥ —
♦ —		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —
♠ Q		♠ —
♥ Q 10		♥ —
♦ —		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —
♠ 10		♠ —
♥ J		♥ —
♦ K		♦ —
♣ —		♣ —

The lead of the diamond king squeezes West in hearts and spades and South makes the grand slam.

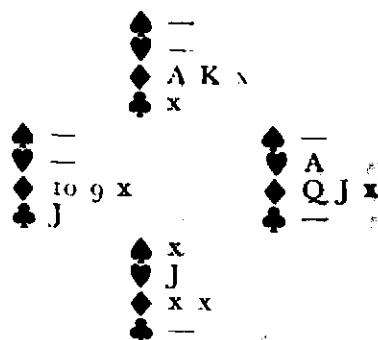
Hand-5.

Lastly, here is a tricky hand which involves a squeeze of both opponents in 3 suits.

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

Contract: Seven spades by South. Please do not ask me how the contract was arrived at or why E did not double though he held the ace of hearts! West led club Q. Declarer has 12

tricks pat. He must get the 13th in either Hearts, Diamonds or Clubs. East has certainly the heart ace, for, if West had it, having the lead, he would almost certainly have doubled the contract and led that ace. On this analysis, it is indicated that West must, in the end, guard his J of clubs, and East, his heart ace, and both must guard the diamonds. Hence this plan: Declarer takes club king, draws trump in three rounds cashes club ace, and ruffs a club, and runs the rest of the trumps but one. The four-card end position is this.



On the last trump, East and West, must both throw diamonds or their master club or master heart. In any event, South makes all.

PREFERENCE SIGNALS

By T. K. SRINIVASA IVENGAR.

The pedant promised to meet us that morning. Apologetically he entered the room at 5 P.M. He said that the railway semaphore was the cause of his delay. That signal stopped his train and when it reached the junction it was late and unable to maintain connection. My friends who were with me that morning had not yet gathered. But they arrived late and better late than never.

I thought within myself that the pedant's reference to railway signal had some meaning and that it was indicative of the day's talk. His art lay in concealing art. I was prepared for the worst. The cards were dealt and the bidding by us was completed without his intervention. He had a full view of the deal and explained that this was a day of signals. We felt surprised and could not follow. He explained that this morning the railway signal halted him for some hours and that, at the Bridge table, preference signals were sure to stop him for some appreciable time. The deal was as follows and the final contract was 4 Hearts by south.

NORTH		WEST		EAST	
♠	K Q 6	♠	A 10 5 4 3 2	♠	9
♥	K 9 6	♥	4	♥	5 3 2
♦	Q J 3	♦	K 10 5	♦	9 7 6 4 2
♣	J 9 7 4	♣	A Q 6	♣	10 8 3 2
SOUTH					
♠	J 8 7				
♥	A Q J 10 8 7				
♦	A 8				
♣	K 5			[This deal is from Reese.]	

West opened his Ace of Spades. East played the 9 on it. On seeing the dummy holding the K and Q in it, West continued with 2 of spades. The pedant immediately asked us to stop and said "remember this play of 2 of spades". This was undue interference and we resented it. East ruffed it and was taking time for his next lead. This gave the pedant his wanted chance to lecture. He said that good players would not have hesitated so much and East's delay was due to want of knowledge of signals. We took him

to be an intolerable bore. He continued to say that the play of a card had a definite meaning and conveyed information. When East played his 9 of spades on the Ace, it was an encouragement to west to continue Spades though no doubt East had a singleton Spade. If East had a doubleton and he played the higher one first and then the smaller, it would be an encouragement or come-on signal or as some players call it 'Mckenny'. So West continued his Spade but his play of two of spades and not any higher card asked East to play the smaller of the 2 remaining suits, namely Clubs. For, Spade had been played and Heart was the trump suit and the remaining suits were Diamonds and Clubs. He therefore asked East to play a small Club. South played the king on it and West took it with the Ace. Now West played 3 of Spades. The pedant interrupted the play and said authoritatively "Watch and Play". East ruffed it and then looked at the pedant who was alert and unconcerned. It looked like a prayer to the Shepherd of Israel to cause his face to shine and save East and his partner. But the pedant maintained silence. Anyway East read the signal as interpreted before and played a small club and lo! the face of the Shepherd shone and there was a glow of happiness in it. He said that East had read the signal aright. East had a feel-

ing of self-satisfaction. The contract was set: for, one more trick was sure in Diamond. If there was no signalling by West South would have made the contract of 4 Hearts, said the pedant. He said that at that juncture we might know the principle of echo and trump-echo. When a single card cannot indicate a signal, high-low play may be employed. The play of a higher card followed by a lower one was a come-on signal as stated already except in the case of "logical impossibility". The echo he said also showed distribution. When the declarer played a long suit of his with 3 cards in it play your smallest first but if you have two or four cards in it play high-low. He added that trump-echo was different.

When the opponent played his trump suits, you should play high-low with three trumps and normally with two in it. This must be followed when ruffing as defenders. We felt that the pedant was either famous or honourable. And instead of blind and noisy applause we preferred an internal and silent homage. The pedant read this homage of silence in our faces and felt cheered but not inebriated.

Still we were a little vague about what the pedant called "logical impossibility". We asked him to explain it but he said that his next deal would impress us indelibly. The deal

was as follows and the final contract was 5 Spades by south.

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

[This deal is from Levinthal.]

West opened Ace of Heart. East played the K on it. South dropped the 10. West was wondering what to play next in spite of what the pedant had said before. Was this play of K of Hearts by East a come-on signal or not? That was the question in his mind. He led a Heart next. The pedant was all-fury and asked him to take back the card played. In a huge voice he asked West if, on the logic of the bidding, he understood East to give an encouraging signal especially after south threw away the 10. The expression "logic of the bidding" opened West's eyes. He thought over and still nervously played a small diamond looking hither and thither and diffident to face

the pedant who shouted: "Well played". Then he said encouragingly that to err was human and to forgive was divine. He added that since, on the bidding South should have very probably a singleton Heart and East a good length in it, East wanted him to play the higher of the two remaining suits and that it was Diamond. Any other play would have made the contract; for, south would have played the trump suit and then discarded two diamonds in the dummy on his club length.

We thought that we had mastered preference signals. The pedant was not so sure. He dealt the cards himself again. The deal was as follows. The final contract was 3 N T by South.

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

[This deal is from Sheinwold.]

West led 5 of Diamonds. East played the K on it and South took it with the Ace. The pedant said that it did not matter what East played low clubs. East played a low club. West took it and discarded a Diamond. East took the trick with his Q. He was in a fix as to what to play next. The pedant was very impatient and was frowning thereby making it clear that all his schooling had gone overboard. East led his Q of Spades. The pedant's face was as high as the mountain high and the whole atmosphere shrank with unusual dread. We were nervous. The card was asked for. It was taken back and he directed East to play his Q of Hearts. It was a puzzle to us. He flashed

living lightning from his eyes and said that the two remaining suits were Spade and Heart and West's discard of a small card namely two of Diamonds indicated that West did not want Diamond to be continued and that he desired East to play Heart. There was no fallacy in that logic. It was a perfect syllogism. We all looked small. But after all was said and done, the pedant was a good fellow and he calmed down, had a cup of tea with us and as the night crept in slowly walked out followed by us up to the threshold. We talked to each other that the tempo was gradually increasing and that our powers of assimilation must be toned up.

MY BRIDGE PALS

By N. RAMARATNAM*

'Dapper, dashing and debonair' that was how Sharma pleasingly described G. N. Chari our vice-captain. This description does not provoke one to a quarrel! A Bridge-player from the days of Auction Bridge, his approach to the game is essentially aggressive. He is fond of No Trump and often to enable himself to play would bid it first, irrespective of the shape and strength of the hand. Psychics fascinate him and in spite of a catastrophe at a league match when an 'un-understanding' partner took him to 7 hearts on his opening bid of one heart he is still psychic! Occasionally he double psyches the same suit to throw complete dust in the opponents' eyes. But now-a-days, much to his chagrin, he finds the initial lead of the suit he has psyches. The inference is that the general standard of Bridge has improved. Mr. Chari's bids are bold. Sometimes they bring good results; otherwise, they are written off as bad luck! He is not fond of post-mortem and does not like to sit down and analyse the hands that have been played.

If one happens or appears to him to be a novice at the game he will discourse at length on Austrian Club openings, and tell him about the conventions at Portlands. He is too human a Bridge-player, and his

reactions on the table will be very noticeable. He will be quick to jump on any slip an opponent makes and exploit it to his advantage. If by any chance he does not fall into any trap, however obvious it may be, set by the defenders and brings home the contract, he will gloat over his triumph. Nor will he miss the opportunity to recite to you about the greatness of the waters of Cauvery on whose banks he was born!

Chari no doubt brings some interest and pep to the game. An evening's game of Bridge with him will be thoroughly enjoyable. The pity is you cannot wear him away from Rummy!

I should probably have started with the description of the Genius, capital G, capital everything, Number 1 to us. His parents have named him Venka'aramani. The one thing that stands out about him is his colossal estimation of his ability in this game. Naturally, his opinions of other Bridge-players are apt to be on the low side. His critics must, however, admit that his play of the cards will get the approbation of the discerning few. He is familiar with squeezes, strip and throw-in, and other advanced plays. And

* Not to be confused with K. C. Ramaratnam.

occasional successes go to his head. For a week he would be talking about his wonderful play. During such periods we, however, carefully avoid him. In the recent Pairs Progressive match conducted by the SIBA and played in our Club, he did not miss the opportunity of a squeeze play. Unfortunately I happened to be the victim. My partner led the Diamond King to a contract of four spades by Venkataramani (sitting North). The hands were:

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

The lead of the Diamond King from King Jack to four helped him in no small extent to bring about the squeeze. After winning the trick, a small Diamond was continued and this was won with the Ace of Diamonds by me. Noticing the singleton Club I played the Ace of Clubs with a view to deceive the declarer as to the location of the Club King. On the Ace, the Club Queen

was dropped by the declarer. After a great huddle, the muddle was perpetrated! A trump was lead, which enabled the declarer to bring about the squeeze. The trick was won with Ace of Spade. The King of Spades was played pulling out the remaining trumps. The Queen of Diamonds was then cashed on which a heart was discarded from the Dummy. The Dummy was entered with a trump and all the trumps were played leaving the end position, as follows.

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

On the last trump West was badly squeezed and the King of Clubs was thrown down in disgust, to guard the knave of hearts. As the King of Clubs fell the declarer hollered out in triumph at his great play. The Genius had proved himself. The Genius glared triumphantly at his Partner, who was no doubt awestruck at the wonderful play, and they shook hands rather violently.

The squeeze could, however, have been killed by playing the King of Clubs. Needless to say, I moved to the next table with a glum face. This deal had an interesting sequel. After the next progression, Samoo, who was partnered by Sundaram Iyer, came to me and expressing surprise at the result of this deal at our table, enquired as to how the contract was allowed to be made. 'Squeeze' was the monosyllabic reply made by me. When he moved on to the table of the Genius, for the next deal the squeeze idea had been planted in his mind and in the deal that he played, he played himself into a pseudo-squeeze giving another top to the Genius. This, however, made no difference to the result of the match. The Genius and his partner were nowhere in the top.

Essentially an optimist he always overbids hoping to make the extra trick by his superior play or by the slip which he is sure the opponent will commit. He does not like to be defeated and will not stay around if he felt that the match had been lost. If after the play was over at his table he rushed home, which is just opposite our Club, it would be clear to us that the match had been lost. It would also be clear to us as to where the match was lost. G. V. Venkatesan. He is the bulwark of our team. Considering the fact that he took to the game rather recently it should be said that he has made amazing progress. At first, inclined to overbid, he has now turned into a natural bidder. While he does not flout the Gold book, he will not fail to open a hand on purely distributional values. Only the other day, on a third hand, he opened on a bare 11 honour tricks but on good distribution. His hand was Queen Jack to five spades, Ace to six hearts and a singletons, (7 points only) and won the auction at 3 hearts. And he made it also!

As a dummy, sitting opposite him, you can sit comfortably with the feeling that he will bring the cows home safely. As a defender you will feel a certain strength of mind with the realisation that you are not alone in trying to match your wits with your opponents, and that your partner was working with you to defeat the contract. There are few days when he is off his form. He is, however, quick to admit a mistake when he commits one and unless provoked does not indulge in mutual recriminations. If, however, you run him on the wrong side he will be at you hammer and tongs. I rarely commit the folly of infuriating him. In preparing this article, I happened to ask him for a hand or two that he considered worth reporting. He gave me a few

hand which duffed out to bell the hands played well by his opponent. This is his motto: much modesty on his part, as I have known him to exaggerate his hands and how he give you one deal. We played together 332 Pairs Progressive match. After getting a grand bottom we reached the ambitious contract of 7-10 Trump in the next deal. My partner, the dummy and after a peek into his hand I sat back to watch him sweat it out. There were only eleven top tricks and I felt a grand slam was just a little too much. This hands were...

WEST EAST
SOUTH NORTH
The lead of a Spade was taken in the dummy. Venkatesan followed with a small heart from the dummy. South followed with a small heart and Venkatesan dropped the 9 of hearts which, much to my surprise, stood. The rest need not be narrated. The dummy was...

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entered and the Queen of Hearts was finessed in the dummy and the dummy was made with no difficulty. Complimenting him and yet doubting him for his rashness I enquired how he had the boldness to take the finesse. The reply was not surprising to me. He said that no one would have had any difficulty in playing the hand. The Queen and the ten of hearts were both sticking out a mile in south's hand.

We call him by several names and he can live up to every one of them! He is the fifth member of our team and occasionally the fourth. R. Sundararaman is his name. He will play moderately well, if he does not take the game seriously! It is when he begins to think seriously that the trouble starts. When he does so he is most likely to commit the mistake playing a trick ahead or fail to see the dropping of a vital card. He is however a good partner to play with for he is never offensive or hostile to his partner even when he (his partner) commits a glaring or costly mistake. He is highly imaginative. Whenever he commits mistakes he is never short of excuses. In a recent Progressive event, he and his partner Ramani told each other

that if their opponents made any mistake and showed a tendency to quarrel, they would each support one of the opponents and see that the quarrel was made lively. Sundararaman took the side of one of the opponents while Ramani gave some argument or other in support of the other player. Each finding support in the enemies' quarter, the two opponents started quarrelling with each other and the quarrel came to a high pitch; all the while our friend enjoyed himself thoroughly. If at any time the quarrel looked like abating he saw to it that it was kept up by edging in with some sympathetic remark in favor of his 'candidate'. Once, after a none too good performance he and his partner (not Ramani this time) moved off when the tournament director gave instructions to the players to move to the next table. As long as he does not take the game seriously you will find Sundararaman a very likeable partner to play with and a game of bridge with him is also highly entertaining.

I shall not write anything about myself. My team-mates have called me a pedestrian, plodding and in the heat of argument, my friend Sundararaman has likened me to a tortoise. I do not mind the light side of things. In a recent Progressive event, he and his partner Ramani told each other

hullo! each of them thought. I am just one of the ordinary and of players who has met with some success in the tournament. I find even the simplest question too much for my weak head. I have not been very nice to my pals in this article and I have written certain things which are bound to cause some hearts up. In fact, confidentially speaking, I have been threatened with a rejoinder to my article by one of my 'pals'.

Well, I have asked for it.

These are my team-mates. Quite an assortment. Sometimes we combine well to make a formidable team. Sometimes, we go down surprisingly, though not to us, before a set of 'palookas' at the game. We are quite unpredictable as a team. It is only of late that we have been able to snatch some cups in Team of Four matches. I well remember the exhilaration over our first success, a few years back, and the several rounds of parties we had to celebrate our success.

We are, I should say, a thoroughly individualistic lot. Yet what brings us and binds us together is, I think, the love for this great game of Bridge. I have dropped many a tear and I have heard many a story of hearts which I shall be glad to publish in the future.

IT IS THE PLAY THAT COUNTS

A great deal has been said in bridge books about safety plays and planning but while the average player finds all this quite interesting and sometimes rather simple when reading about the hands he does not seem to have acquired the habit of putting these finer points of play into practice in his daily game. Sitting at the Club's Bridge table I have often wondered at the colossal number of points thrown away daily by the better-than-average player by indifferent and often careless play. The following hands illustrate the advantage of a little care in handling the 26 cards.

Can you count up to 9?

In the two deals detailed below the declarer, a fairly accomplished player, missed the simple line of play. In fact he did not care to count his winners methodically, or if he did, his analysis was incomplete.

North dealer N-S, vulnerable.

Bidding: North East South West
1NT 2NT 3NT

West led the seven of clubs on which North played the two and East the King. Declarer and Dummy's hands were:

SATURN. (North (Dummy))
Q 10 2
A K Q 5
K Q 9 2
9 2
SOUTH (Declarer)
A K 3
10 9 4
10 7 4 3
A J 4

Declarer could count 9 tricks if the Hearts broke evenly, Ace of diamonds was with West and East West had four clubs each. The hands however were dealt differently; the declarer was fortunate in making the correct guess as to who held the Diamond Ace when he ducked the first two leads of the suit (as the cards lay). He took West's Club return at trick 3 with his Ace but then suddenly lost his head and somewhat sheepishly played off the Ace, King and Queen of Hearts only to find West—show out on the third round. Too late, he attacked the diamond suit and when East won with the Ace cashed his knave of hearts and led a spade. The declarer desperately hoped that West held the jack of diamonds. East, however, held this card as well and was able to beat the contract thanks mainly to the declarer's haste in cashing

Dummy's top hearts. It was clear when East did not follow to the third Club (see below complete deal) that the simple way to make sure of 9 tricks was to concede two tricks in the Diamond Suit to East and make nine tricks for himself, viz., 3 hearts, 3 Spades, 2 Diamonds and the Ace of Clubs. As long as West did not have the Ace of Diamonds the contract was a lay down the only precaution necessary being to finesse for the knave of Diamonds against West who held the master Clubs.

WEST EAST
J 9 6 5 8 7 4
3 2 J 8 7 6
8 A J 6 5
10 8 7 5 2 K 3

Almost a similar situation arose on this deal, South playing a 3 No Trump contract. The four hands were:

NORTH
Q 9 4
A Q 10 3 2
6 4
A 7 3
WEST EAST
K J 9 8 3 10 5
7 6 5 4 K J 4
A K 5 3 Q J 9 2
J 10 8 6 4 10
SOUTH
A 7 2
8 8
10 8 7
K Q 9 5 3

The bidding:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1NT 1NT 2NT 3NT

East led a small Diamond and the defenders cashed four diamond tricks before West led the 10 of Spades, dummy winning with the Ace. The only chance of declarer making nine tricks lay in making at least three tricks in the Heart Suit and for this West should be finessed for the King and Jack. North South had to make 3 tricks in the suit to make their contract even if the club suit broke evenly netting five clubs' tricks and on this argument it was essential to retain all the five hearts to provide against the clubs' no breaking. The declarer, however, had discarded a small heart from his hand earlier on the diamond lead, only to find later that the clubs did not break and all the five hearts should have been preserved for making the contract. The cards were exactly as he could have wished, West holding K J x. Declarer had only to blame his shortsightedness for misplaying the hand. The next deal was slightly more complicated. West was declarer at a four hearts contract. The bidding and the four hands were:

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
1NT 1NT 2NT 3NT

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

South led the Ace of diamonds. North playing the ten; he then shifted to a low Spade. Declarer thought he saw a gleam of light and winning with the Ace led a low club to the Ace, finessed the heart Jack which South took with the Queen. South led a second small Spade. East wisely played a Small Spade from dummy to ruff in his hand to play trumps. Two more rounds of hearts revealed the bad news that two trump losers were inevitable. Declarer correctly reasoned that South most likely had the singleton Ace of diamonds and refrained from leading the suit. Once the correct inference had been made the play was simple since all that the declarer had to do was to make sure of an extra club trick even if the suit were divided four and two by leading a second club to the Ace, play the Queen discarding a losing diamond, and ruff a small

club before throwing South in with the last trump. South had only two spades left now and East-West could make the King of Spades and the now set-up club for ten tricks in all. All this of course was crystal clear but East was in haste to cash his Spade and after discarding a diamond thereon led the Queen of clubs only to find North showing out. North-South made two trump tricks, a spade and a diamond to defeat the contract.

Let readers should think I am speaking only of hands misplayed, I shall now describe two deals in which the declarer visualised the opponents' cards correctly and was able to steer clear of danger.

West was declarer playing a four-spade contract. The bidding was simple.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♦	—	2 ♦	4 ♠
Dbl.	—	—	—
NORTH			
♠ K 7 5			
♥ K 7			
♦ A K 4 3			
♣ K 8 6 5			
WEST		EAST (Dummy)	
♠ AQJ 10 8 6 4 2		♠ A 6 5 4 2	
♥ 3		♥ 8 7 2	
♦ 9		♦ Q 10 9 4 2	
♣ A J 7			
SOUTH			
♠ 9 5 3			
♥ J 10 9 8			
♦ Q J 10 6 5			
♣ 3			

club before throwing South in with the last trump. South had only two spades left now and East-West could make the King of Spades and the now set-up club for ten tricks in all. All this of course was crystal clear but East was in haste to cash his Spade and after discarding a diamond thereon led the Queen of clubs only to find North showing out. North-South made two trump tricks, a spade and a diamond to defeat the contract.

Declarer tried the simple ruse of playing the queen of clubs from dummy at this stage and when South did not cover went up with the ace and after playing trumps made his last club conceding three tricks in all, one each in Spades, Diamonds and Clubs. He gave himself an extra chance of picking up the King of clubs if South had held and covered it on the lead of the queen but when South did not oblige he played for safety by winning with the ace and making sure of his contract. Readers will have seen that if he had taken the finesse, trumping as it took, North would return a club for South to ruff with his last trump and the contract would have been ruined. Good reasoning indeed.

Here is yet another deal where declarer made his mark by

good play. South was playing a six-diamond contract, the North South hands being;

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

West led the seven of diamonds. Declarer, satisfied at having reached a good contract carefully planned his play. He played the ace of diamonds on the opening lead from dummy, led a spade and finessed the queen. This however lost to East the King who now led the two of spades. South won with the ace and played a small spade which West ruffed. The ace of hearts was then led and South overtrumped with King. Dummy led a small diamond and declarer ruffed with the King. In the next round of diamonds, West

led the seven of diamonds. Declarer, satisfied at having reached a good contract carefully planned his play. He played the ace of diamonds on the opening lead from dummy, led a spade and finessed the queen. This however lost to East the King who now led the two of spades. South won with the ace and played a small spade which West ruffed. The ace of hearts was then led and South overtrumped with King. Dummy led a small diamond and declarer ruffed with the King. In the next round of diamonds, West

discarding all his hearts and East a spade and hearts ending in the following position

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

When East played the jack of clubs at the eleventh trick, declarer correctly pictured the opponent's hands and inferred that East's remaining cards were the ten of spades and the ace of hearts and that East must have the ten and another of clubs. West would have led the king of hearts initially if he held the Ace and King of the suit; since he did not West probably held four clubs to the ten. On this reasoning he confidently finessed the ten of clubs and made twelve tricks. Well played again. What success attends the efforts of a player who can think and analyse the fall of the cards at each stage!

BIDDING PAR—HANDS

Edited by P. S. SUNDARESA IYER.

Deal 17:

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

Award:

6 ♥

.. 10

Suggested bidding:

NORTH.

1 ♦
2 N T
5 ♠

SOUTH

1 ♥
4 N T
6 ♥

Point: With an opening bid strength in his own hand, opposite North's force, South should make the slam try.

Deal 18:

Dealer: East. Vul: North South

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

Award:

3 ♣

.. 10

Suggested bidding:

SOUTH.

1 ♥
2 ♥ or 2 N T

NORTH

2 ♣
3 ♣
3 ♣

South must pass
(Sign off).

Deal 19:

Dealer: South. Vul: East West

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

Award:

7 ♠
6 ♠

.. 10

.. 4

Suggested bidding:

SOUTH

1 ♠
4 ♣
5 N T

NORTH

3 ♠
4 N T
7 ♠

Point: 5 N T is a grand slam force which N with two of the three top honours in Spades (viz.) K Q accepts with a bid of seven spades.

Deal 20 :

Dealer : West. Vul : Both.

NORTH

♠ Q 5
 ♥ A K Q 8 7
 ♦ A
 ♣ A 10 8 5 4

SOUTH

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

Award :

4 ♠

.. 10

Suggested bidding.

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1 ♦ 2 ♥ 2 ♠
 — 3 ♣ — 3 ♠
 — 4 ♠ — —

Point : Jump overcall in the first instance, rather than a take-out double which would be definitely bad, since it would block information of the strong two suited hand. Preferring partner's rebid suit with his Q 5, in spades, he should bid 4 ♠ rather than insist on either of his own suits.

Deal 21 :

Dealer : North. Vul : North South

NORTH

♠ A J 8
 ♥ J 6 2
 ♦ A Q 10 5 4
 ♣ 6 5

SOUTH

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

Award :

2 ♠

.. 10

2 ♠

.. 4

Suggested bidding :

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1 ♦ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ —
 2 ♠ — — —

Point : South should make a free bid of 1 ♠ and North should support South's Spade bid rather than rebid his ♦.

Deal 22 :

Dealer : East. Vul : East West.

NORTH

♠ J 7
 ♥ K Q J 6 5 4
 ♦ K 9 4
 ♣ K 6

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 2
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A 5 3 2
 ♣ Q 10 8 3

Award :

4 ♥

.. 10

3 ♥

.. 4

Suggested bidding :

SOUTH

NORTH

1 ♦ 1 ♥
 1 ♠ 4 ♥

Point : After South had opened the bidding, North must insist on game in his own suit.

Deal 23 :

Dealer : South Vul : Both.

NORTH

♠ K
 ♥ A 10 4 3 2
 ♦ K 4 3 2
 ♣ J 5 4

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 6 4
 ♥ K Q 8 7
 ♦ A 6
 ♣ A K

Award :

7 N T

.. 10

7 ♥

.. 6

Suggested bidding :

SOUTH

NORTH

1 ♠ 2 ♥
 4 N T 5 ♦
 5 N T 6 ♥
 7 N T —

Point : With all the four Aces and Kings between them and the long spade suit the grand slam in N T is the proper finishing bid.

Deal 24 :

Dealer : West. Vul : Neither.

NORTH

♠ A 5 4
 ♥ A 8 3
 ♦ A 10 9
 ♣ K J 4 2

SOUTH

♠ 8 3
 ♥ K J 9 6 5 2
 ♦ 8 3 2
 ♣ 10 5

Award :

3 ♥

.. 10

Suggested bidding :

NORTH

SOUTH

1 N T

2 ♥

2 N T

3 ♥

Point : North must pass

Deal 25 :

Dealer : North. Vul : East West

NORTH

♠ 10 4 3
 ♥ A J 5
 ♦ J 3 2
 ♣ A K 9 8

SOUTH

♠ K 6 2
 ♥ 8 4 3
 ♦ A K 10 5
 ♣ J 3 2

Award :

2 N T

.. 10

3 N T

.. 4

Suggested bidding :

NORTH

SOUTH

1 ♣

1 ♦

1 N T

2 N T

Point : North has not got the strength to accept the game invitation.

Deal 26 :

Dealer : East Vul : Both.

NORTH

♠ 9
 ♥ 8 5
 ♦ K Q J 4 2
 ♣ K 10 8 4 2

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SOUTH

♠ A Q J 10 4 3
 ♥ A 6 4
 ♦ 8
 ♣ J 5 3

Award:

2 ♠
 3 ♠

.. 10
 .. 4

Suggested bidding:

SOUTH

1 ♠
 2 ♠

NORTH

2 ♦
 —

Point: Obvious mish. Dangerous for North to show the other suit at the three level.

Deal 27:

Dealer: South. Vul: Neither.

NORTH

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

SOUTH

♠ A K 6
 ♥ A Q 2
 ♦ K J 4 2
 ♣ K Q 9

Award:

6 N T

.. 10

4 N T or 5 N T

.. 5

Suggested bidding:

SOUTH

2 N T

NORTH

6 N T

Point: Against a 2 N T opening bid, North should straightaway bid the sure slam especially with the two tens.

Deal 28:

Dealer: West. Vul: North South

NORTH

♠ 7
 ♥ A K J 8 4
 ♦ A 10
 ♣ A K Q J 10

SOUTH

♠ 9 5
 ♥ 10 6 3
 ♦ Q 6 5 4
 ♣ 8 7 6 5

Award:

4 ♥

.. 10

5 ♣

.. 4

Suggested bidding:

NORTH

2 ♥
 3 ♣
 4 ♣

SOUTH

2 N T
 3 ♥
 —

Point: Even though South has four clubs as compared to his three in the heart suit, he should express his preference for the heart suit, since with his extremely weak hand, a final bid in clubs at the five level would be dangerous.

Deal 29:

Dealer: North. Vul: Both.

NORTH

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

SOUTH

♠ J 6 4 2
 ♥ A 7 4
 ♦ A 10 8
 ♣ A K 5

Award:

4 ♥
 4 ♥

.. 10
 .. 8

Suggested bidding:

NORTH

Pass

2 ♥
 3 ♣

SOUTH

1 N T

2 N T

4 ♦ or

4 ♥

Point: Opening one N. T, not unbalanced distribution and the bids are intended to show the specific shape of the hands.

Slight preference for the spade bid (4-4) rather than the Heart suit.

Deal 30:

NORTH

♠ A Q 5
 ♥ J 6 4
 ♦ 8 5
 ♣ K Q 10 8 6

SOUTH

♠ K J 10
 ♥ K Q 10 8 7
 ♦ A 9 7
 ♣ —

Award:

4 ♥

10

Suggested bidding:

SOUTH

1 ♥
 2 N T
 4 ♥

NORTH

2 ♣
 3 ♥
 —

Point: Two N T is an invitation to game; and N accepts it by making a bid; whatever the bid the understanding is that it be carried to game.

In accepting the invitation, N should show his three-cards-heart holding in order to give an option to South to finish with 3 N T with a four-card-heart suit, and with 4 hearts with a five-card suit.

Deal 31:

Dealer: South. Vul: North South

NORTH

♠ 9 6 5
 ♥ A K 9 8 6 2
 ♦ J 8
 ♣ 10 2

SOUTH

♠ A K Q
 ♥ Q J
 ♦ 4 3 2
 ♣ 9 8 7 5 4

Award:

2 ♥

.. 10

(only if N opens with 1 ♥)

Suggested bidding:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

— — 1 ♥ 2 ♦
 2 ♥ — — —

Point: N should make the third hand opening bid of one heart. South, after the opponent's overcall, has no technically correct bid, but his hand is too strong to pass. South should bid 2 ♥ though without three-card support—a choice of least evil.

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Deal 32:

Dealer: West Auctioneer: East West

NORTH
 ♠ A K 6 5 4 3 2
 ♥ A K J 2
 ♦ A K
 ♣ A K

SOUTH
 ♠ Q 9 8 7
 ♥ 10 9 8 4
 ♦ 9 5
 ♣ J 6 4

Award:

7 ♠
 6 ♠

10
 6

Suggested bidding

	NORTH	SOUTH
1	2 ♠	4 ♣
2	5 ♠	5 ♣
3	7 ♠	

Points: Opposite: a two-card opening bid, the jump bid of 4 ♣ has a conventional significance, indicating a weak hand; containing at least four trumps to the Q, no card higher than a Q, and no singleton in the hand. Since any second control is negated by the response, 5 ♠ is an asking bid requiring information regarding the third round control in that suit. Having a doubleton in diamonds South should give a positive response (viz.) 5 N T, and N can call seven spades.



Pro et contra

By E. SOLOMON.

Question—Playing rubber bridge with both sides vulnerable, my partner and I picked up the following hands. I was sitting West.

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

The bidding went

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 ♣	1 ♠	1 ♠	—
1 N T	—	3 ♣	—

With both the Spade and Club Kings on the "right" sides, eleven tricks were made. Please comment as to how the bidding should have gone.

Answer—Again and again it happens. Partner A opens the bidding with a sub-minimum hand. Partner B beckons him on to game—or may be to slam. Thus encouraged, Partner A now takes an unduly pessimistic a view as previously he erred on the optimistic side—and drops the bidding flat.

Holding what he did hold, East would have been better advised not to open the bidding. It is true that he has three honour tricks, but these are concentrated in just three cards, which are more useful in defence rather than in attack. Furthermore he has no biddable suit. If he had passed originally, his side would have found no difficulty in arriving at a game contract; the bidding probably going as follows:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
—	—	1 ♠	—
2 N T	—	3 ♣	—
4 ♠	—	—	—

Once East did open the bidding, we are of the opinion that he should have honoured his partner's jump to 3 Clubs and not left it to bounce like a rubber cheque. He should have kept the auction alive with a call of 3 Spades.

Question—Please advise in your column how the following North-South hands should be bid to

active at the correct contract of 6 Clubs.

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

In the actual sequence North opened the bidding with 1 Club and they arrived at a 5 Club contract thus:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	—	1 ♦	—
2 ♣	—	3 ♣	—
4 ♣	—	5 ♣	—

Was South's bidding correct?

Answer—At the outset let us state that South's bidding of his hand puzzles us. Presumably he first responded in Diamonds, his longer suit, with the intention of next bidding hearts and, if in the meantime his partner persisted in Clubs, then raising partner's suit. In general strength his hand was good enough to follow this procedure which would at the same time, give his partner a perfect picture of the distribution of his suits. But did he carry out this plan? He did not. On his partner's rebid of Clubs, he decided to give the relatively weak raise to 3 Clubs, thereby losing his last chance to mention the only biddable suit that he does possess and that, too, a major suit. South's hand contains only one biddable suit—

Hearts. He has succeeded in making three calls during the course of the auction without once bidding Hearts. Verily, South is either a rank beginner or, what is far more likely, one of those super-experts.

Was South's first response, Diamond correct? No.

Was South's second bid, 3 Clubs, correct? No.

Was South's third bid, 5 Clubs, correct? Perhaps, but the question has lost all significance in view of his earlier blunders.

One of the earliest chapters in any text book on bidding is devoted to what constitutes a biddable suit. For a five-card suit the minimum high-card requirements are Q or J 10. South's Diamonds are therefore not "biddable" and his proper first response, is 1 Heart.

If this bid is overlooked, he should still have bid Hearts on his next opportunity and subsequently raised in Clubs. His partner would thereby have been given practically a blueprint of South's hand and could then quite easily bid the small slam.

In our view the slam should have been bid as follows (if asking bids are not to be employed):

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	—	1 ♥	—
3 ♣	—	5 ♣	—
6 ♣	—	—	—

It is to be noted that North's jump to 3 Clubs is not forcing to game and so when his partner jumps to 5 Clubs showing good trump support and at least 2 honour tricks, North with a King in partner's Heart suit can take the bidding up to 6 Clubs.

Question—In a recent duplicate team-of-four match one of our Club's leading pairs failed to bid game on the following two hands. There was a good deal of argument as to who was to blame. Please discuss in detail.

Hand (1) (a) What minimum values are required for a "free" raise of partner's opening suit bid of one after an intervening call by an opponent.

(b) Whether East had adequate values for a free 2-Spade bid on the first round.

(c) Whether East again should have bid 4-Spades over partner's re-opening 2-Spade bid.

(d) Whether West, after all, had a 4-Spade bid over East's free raise to three.

Hand (2) (a) If East had a vulnerable opening hand?

(b) If (a) is agreed, whether he had a further bid over North's 3 Diamond bid.

(c) If West was to blame in any way for the poor result.

Hand (1) E/W vulnerable, East Dealer.

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

Bidding:		EAST		SOUTH		WEST		NORTH	
—	—	1 ♠	—	—	—	—	—	2 ♥	—
—	—	2 ♠	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 ♠	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Hand (2) E/W vulnerable, East Dealer.

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

Bidding:		EAST		SOUTH		WEST		NORTH	
1 ♠	—	2 ♦	—	—	—	2 ♥	—	3 ♦	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	3 ♥	—	—	—

Answer: *Hand (1) (a)* "According to Culbertson," the requirements for a free raise, the intervening opponent having overcalled, are as follows:

With four-card trump support, about 1½ honour-tricks;

With three-card-adequate (J 10 x or Q x x) support, 2 honour-tricks

(b) No.

(c) No. He could do no more than give a single raise.

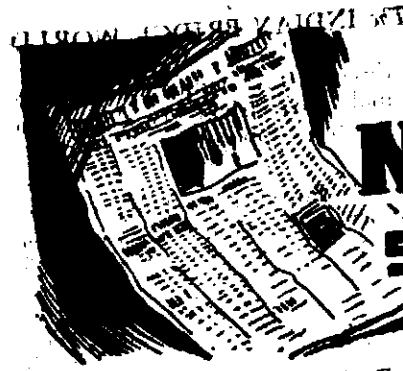
(d) This question does not appear to be one that admits of a categorical answer. After North's Heart bid, a delayed trump raise would find himself with one or two losers in the Heart suit and two or three losers in Clubs, with no way to get rid of any of them. Any high cards in Diamonds with East would probably be sheer waste. Although the possibility of game is not ruled out, it can hardly be described as rosy. Much as we would like, after seeing both hands, to advance some irrefutable argument as to why West should bid 4 Spades, we are unable to do so. On the other hand, we would not describe 3 Spades as a bad bid because, notwithstanding its moderate chances of success, the call is not an unreasonable gamble for the bonus of 500 points.

Hand (2) (a) It is generally, that a hand with a six-card major suit and 2 honour tricks, of which at least 1 an honour trick is outside the trump suit, may open the bidding. Since East's hand satisfies these requirements, he was quite right to open the bidding. Incidentally this hand also satisfies Culbertson's rule of two and

three, i.e., vulnerable or not, make five tricks (two short of the bid) opposite a blank suit. (b) Since East had a more opening hand, he was right not to put in a free bid after West's 3 Diamond call.

(c) Yes, we consider that West was to blame. He has an excellent six-card major suit which is playable without "adequate" trump support with partner. His partner has opened the bidding. When the bidding comes round to him at the three level he has no room for further "approaching." He must bid the game in Hearts.

Look at it another way. Supposing West did not hold the King and Queen of Clubs and his hand was ♠ 9 2, ♥ A K J 8 5 3, ♦ J 10, ♣ 6 4 2. Should he not bid Hearts over opponent's 2 Diamonds and later 3 Hearts over 3 Diamonds? Now give him back his King and Queen of Clubs taking away the two small cards in that suit. Should he, with this additional honour trick, still make the same bid, i.e., 3 Hearts? No. He must bid 4 Hearts which should have an excellent chance for success.



By T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN.

We welcome the following new Members:

Clubs:

1. The Cosmopolitan Club, Cuddalore.
2. The E. I. D. Recreation Club, Nellikuppam.
3. Indian Mutual Life Assn, Recreation Club, Madras.

Life Member:

1. R. Ramanand Rao, Chirala, transferred from ordinary to life membership.

Ordinary Members:

1. E. R. Doraiswamy, Madras.
2. F. B. J. Beaver, Madras.
3. T. Kothandaraman, Madras.
4. S. R. Krishnamurthy, Madras.
5. Solomon, Madras.

6. N. Venkataraman, Madras.
7. T. S. Jayarama Iyer, Trichy.
8. S. R. Naidu, Madras.

The Association's Annual Championship tournaments are now in full swing. Preliminary qualifying rounds in the knock-out team-of-four and pairs events are being played at the various zonal centres and the winners in these qualifying rounds will meet in the final rounds at Madras during the X'mas week. The final round matches will be played at the Ashok Vihar, behind Moore Market, Madras, on 23rd, 24th and 25th of December, 1955. In addition to the usual events a special duplicate team-of-four knock-out tournament is being arranged this year for the non-winners only.

Besides Madras City, teams from Trichy, Karaikudi, Cuddalore, Tanjore and Coimbatore, will all be competing for the Sir T. Sadasiva Iyer's Rolling Trophy

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for winners in the team of South and with representative teams from Andhra also challenging, prospects of interesting matches are bright.

The Cosmopolitan Club, Tanjore, staged their Annual Tournament during September. A large number of entries from the various Districts including one from Madras City took part in the tournament. The Madras team who were the holders of the Jothi Pandyan Memorial Trophy, were in poor form and lost to the Home team early. A word of praise is due to the elaborate arrangements made by the sponsors of the tournament especially Ramalingasamy and Col. C. S. V. Ramanan who spared no effort to attend to the comforts of the visiting teams. Following are the results:

DUPLICATE KNOCK-OUT.

Winners:

1. S. Parthasarathi.
2. Dr. Sahadevan.
3. S. V. Natarajan.
4. V. Subramaniam.
5. M. Subbiah.

Runners-up:

1. M. R. S. Manickavelu.
2. M. N. S. T. Chidambaram.
3. S. K. Meyyappa Chettiar.
4. S. N. Alagappa Chettiar.

MASTER PAIRS.

1. Olagappa Chettiar.
2. Arunachalam Chettiar.

Runners-up:

1. Dr. M. S. Krishnasami.
2. R. Subburatnam Iyer.

PROGRESSIVE PAIRS.

Winners E.W.:

1. Mylappan.
2. Lakshmanan Chettiar.

Runners-up:

1. S. Rajendran.
2. G. Dorairajan.

Winners N. S.:

1. K. Gurudutt.
2. S. K. Subramaniam.

Runners-up:

1. Dr. M. S. Krishnasami.
2. R. Subburatnam Iyer.

The Madras City League Tournament has just been concluded. The T. Nagar Social Club and the Modern Institute of Commerce are tying for the first place, each team having lost one match. The tie will be resolved by a match of 32 deals to be played shortly. The League Tournament which started in 1950 has helped to improve the standard of the game in Madras City to a large extent and we hope the event will attract more teams in the coming years. The following is the final position of the teams.

	Matches Played	Won	Lost	Points
Modern Institute of Commerce	12	11	1	11
T. Nagar Social Club	12	11	1	11
The Gymkhana Club	12	8	4	8
The Vepery Club	12	8	4	8
K. R. Sundaram Iyer's Team	12	8	4	8
Chennapuri Andhra Maha Sabha	12	7	5	7
Ramaraman's Team	12	6	6	6
Mars Team	12	6	6	6
Burmah Shell Club	12	5	8	4
Suguna Vilas Sabha	12	4	8	4
S. I. Vysya Association	12	4	8	4
Rangachari's Team	12	—	12	—
Mudaliar's Team	12	—	12	—

Previous Winners:

- 1950—P. S. Reddy's Team.
 1951—T. Nagar Social Club
 1952—T. Nagar Social Club
 1953—Modern Institute of Commerce.
 1954—K. R. Sundaram Iyer's Team.
 1955—

The Special Cups donated by the Association Secretary for the first team among non-winners have been won by the Gymkhana Club. Here again, there was a tie between the Vepery Club and the Gymkhana Club team and the latter won the replay. Our congratulations to the winners.

It appears likely that the Andhra Bridge Association may send one representative team

to compete in the final rounds of the tournament. The question of holding an Inter-State Match is also being considered by the Executive Council of the Association and it is hoped that the details will be finalised shortly and the match played at Madras in the wake of the S.I. B. Association's annual tournaments.

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Association will be held at the Ashok Vihar on Sunday, 25th December, 1955, at 6 P.M. Two useful suggestions:

1. To hold the final rounds of the Championship Tournament earlier in the year, perhaps during the Puja Holidays. If feasible one of the Zones can undertake responsibility for the conduct of the final rounds at their station.

2. A triangular contest, Madras City - Districts - Andhra to be staged as an annual feature, say, during Pongal Holidays or during the summer vacation. We commend these to the General Body for consideration and further development to promote more frequent contacts and an abiding interest in the game.

Dr. U. Krishna Rao, one of our Life Members and Vice-President for several years, has kindly donated 16 Bridge Books to the Association's Library. The books are available for reference by members at the Office of the Association.

BRIDGE FOR 3

by GEORGE S. COFFIN.

(Faber and Faber, Limited, 24, Russel Square, London, Gsh 6d, net.).

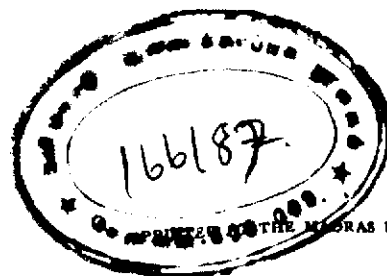
George, S. Coffin, the well-known author of *END-PLAYS*, *SURE TRICKS*, and *BRIDGE PLAY FROM A TO Z* needs no introduction to the students and players of the game. There are hardly any amongst good bridge players who have not studied, with enjoyment and considerable benefit to themselves, his original and masterly expositions of the finer points of the play of the cards. The present book is intended to cater to the needs of those—whose number is legion—who, whether at home or in club, have oftentimes felt at a loose end for lack of a fourth at rubber-bridge and to whom the forms of cut-throat bridge at present in vogue appear crude and imbecile.

The three-handed bridge is really bridge, with bidding being the same, play the same, and fundamental tactics the same

as in the four-handed game. The variations in the new game arise from this fundamental difference that *dummy is exposed before the bidding begins*. From a perusal of the book, it seems to us, that the three-handed bridge is hardly less fascinating than the ordinary game, and in the words of Guy Ramsey, who has written the introduction, offers to the keen cards-player, the eager analyst, and the double dummy expert a new variation for exploiting his talents.

The book contains the revised rules of the game as well as an orderly presentation of the modern strategy peculiar to three handed bridge, a presentation made with the author's lucid clarity and precision. We have great pleasure in commending this book to bridge-players and bridge-lovers.

P. S. SUNDARESA IYER.



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