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INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

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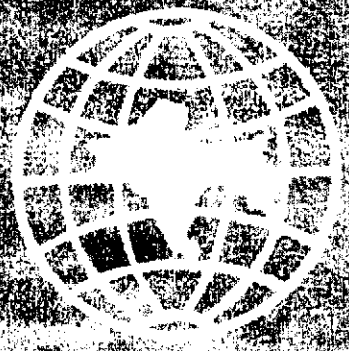
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The
**INDIAN
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World



**THE SOUTH INDIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION
MADRAS**

A Special General Body Meeting will be held on Saturday 2nd June, at the Jubilee Hall, Mylapore Club, at 6 P.M. to consider and approve the Draft Memoranda, etc., of the SOUTH INDIAN BRIDGE ASSOCIATION, MADRAS, regarding the Registration of the Association, under Act XXI of 1860.

Members are requested to be present.

14-5-1956.

K. GURUDUTT
Hon'y. Secretary.

For the Attention of Members Please.

- (1) Ordinary members are requested to pay up their current subscriptions for 1955-56.
- (2) If arrears *etc.* for 1954-55, are not paid by the time the next issue is sent, we shall take it for granted that we have the approval of members to send the issue by V.P.P. for their arrears as well as for the subscription for the current year.
- (3) Please check-up the printed name and address on the wrapper, and corrections, if any, may be sent to the undersigned immediately.

K. GURUDUTT
Secretary.

**THE
INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD**

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH INDIAN
BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Vol. VII April 1956 No. 1

CONTENTS

	PAGE
THE MADRAS—ANDHRA, DUPLICATE CONTRACT BRIDGE MATCH, 1956 ..	3
PREFERENCE BIDS, by N. Muthukrishna Iyer.....	15
SMOTHER PLAY, by Teaks.....	22
SYSTEMS AND YARDSTICKS, by Professor.....	26
ELY GULBERTSON.....	28
PRO ET CONTRA, by E. Solomon.....	30
THE NEWS SECTION, by T. S. Chandrasekaran.....	34

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few officials. A referee and a Recorder were attached to each table. It had all the air and atmosphere of an international match.

On the first day 64 deals were played. For Madras P. S. Reddy and K.C. Ramaratnam sat North and South in the Open Room and played the first 64 Boards without any change. In the closed Room the Match Started with G. Devarajan as East and P. S. Sadasivam as West. After playing some deals T.S. Chandra- sekharan took over as East. For Andhra the set up was P. Tilak and A. Ramamurthi as East and West in the Open Room and N. Venkata Rao and P. Thirumal Rao as North and South for the first 32 deals. In the second session N. Venkata- Rao and P. Thirumal Rao played as East and West and Tilak played with Dr. Sambasiva Rao sat North and South in the closed Room. At the end of the first session of 32 deals the Madras team had a comfortable lead of 22 I.M.P. Hopes ran high and in some circles this lead was considered to confirm the superiority of recognised bidding systems.

Deals 1 to 32.

The first deal turned out to be a bad one, and retrospectively speaking, an inauspicious beginning for Madras. While the Andhra players Thirumal Rao and Venkatarao using their

peculiar bidding system bid a rather enterprising little slam in clubs and with favourable distribution made it, Reddy and Ramaratnam of Madras played the deal in a safe 3 No Trumps and made five. Five points were lost on this deal. To indicate and explain the bidding system employed by this Pair we give below this deal.

DEAL 1.

Dealer : North Vul : Nei :

BIDDING—OPPONENTS SILENT.

NORTH		SOUTH	
1	♠	1	♠
2	♠	2	♠
3	♠	3	N.T.
5	♠	6	♠
♠ J 9 8		♠ —	
♥ A K 10 8 6		♥ A Q 6 5 2	
♠ 7 4		♠ A Q 10 5 2	
♥ 7 6 4 3		♥ J 10 5 2	
♦ Q 7 4 3		♦ 5 2	
♣ K 7 3		♣ 9 8	
♠ K 6 3		♠ —	
♥ A K Q 9 8		♥ —	
♦ J 9		♦ —	
♣ J 10 4		♣ —	

Note:—1 ♠ denotes an artificial bid with a hand containing 3½ H. T. or more but not exceeding 5 H. T. This is not the strongest of the artificial bids. An opening bid of 1 ♠ claims this. The response of 1 ♠ to the opening bid of 1 ♠ reveals a hand containing 1½ H.T. or more and no singleton

or void. This is also an artificial bid. The rebid of 2 Diamonds shows the genuine suit of the opening hand and the second response of 2 ♥ shows his suit. The play does not require to be narrated. The Declarer made 6 clubs with the cards favourably placed.

Part games (or Part Score Contracts) in my opinion call for real dexterity—a very fine assessment of the hands and clever suit management and play in view of the distributed strength among the opponents also. It is very difficult to reach par in part score contracts. Deal No. 3 is a fine illustration.

Dealer : South Vul : E-W.

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

Par bid is 3 Spades by North South though it is difficult to bid. In neither table was the hand played in this contract. North did not bid clubs in either table. In the closed Room the Contract was 2 Hearts by East and in the open Room 3 D by west. In the closed room.

Devarajan sitting East, owing to a slip by the defenders, made 4 ♥ while in the open room the contract of 3 ♦ was set by one trick. The swings in part score contracts are quite heavy and quite often decide the result of a match.

The next deal also brings home the point that part score hands are really the most difficult to bid and play. On this hand 3 ♠ by North South is the par bid. For even 2 Spades is by good defence set by 2 tricks. However setting the contract of 2 Spades by one trick does not get any match points. It will be of interest to note that in both the tables the contract was played in 2 Spades and was set one. It could be set by two tricks by good defence.

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

This was the bidding in the closed Room.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	—	1 NT	Dbl.
—	2 ♥	2 ♠	—
—	—	—	—

Deal 6 was also a swing deal.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
—	1 ♥	1 NT	2 ♥
3 ♣	3 ♥	3 ♠	4 ♥
4 NT	—	5 ♦	—
5 ♥	—	5 ♠	Dble

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

In this deal while P. S. Reddy and Ramaratnam were content to play in 4 Spades the Andhra pair in the closed Room inspite of interference tried for slam and overreached themselves. This was a costly deal for them for, they not only lost a game but the opportunity to collect 500 points from their vulnerable opponents who made a bid of 4 Hearts.

Deal No. 8 appears to me to expose one of the handicaps of the artificial Bidding system employed by the visitors.

♠ A K 8 3
♥ J 6
♦ J 7 4
♣ A J 8 3

the artificial bid of 1 ♣ could not be made. Thus the advantage of a prepared bid was lost. The bidding went as follows.

Dealer : West		Vul : E.W.	
NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
—	—	—	Pass
—	1 ♠	—	2 ♦
—	—	—	—

In the closed Room the bidding was natural.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
—	—	—	Pass
—	1 ♣	—	1 ♦
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	—

Strange to say East must have got cold feet and passed the jump bid of 2 NT by partner.

3 NT if bid could have been made without any difficulty. Actually East made 4 NT on this hand. This would have secured 4 points for the Madras team.

Deal 8 :

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

Deal 9 presents the usual problem of responding to a preemptive bid by partner in a minor suit. Should one bid 3 NT or pass. In the open room against partner's 3 ♣ opening, P. S. Reddy made the bid of 3 NT and made it without difficulty; whereas in the closed room 3 ♣ bid by South was passed by N. Thirumal Rao.

Dealer : North Vul : E-W.

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

Deal 10 proved to be disastrous to Madras. The defense overcall of a 2 clubs opening bid by 3 clubs by North (Reddy) was passed by K. G. Ramaratnam on account (we are informed) of a misunderstanding of the bidding system of visitors. The contract was 2 down. A game in either major is there. Curiously the Andhra bidding system which enabled them to bid a little slam in the first deal did not help them to reach a vulnerable game on this hand even though a powerful 1

Diamond opening was made. The bidding at the closed room is given below.

Dealer : East Vul : Both Sides

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
—	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 ♦	—	1 ♥	—
1 NT	—	2 ♣	—
2 ♦	—	—	—

We wonder why the Spade suit was not bid at all. We do not know what the 2 ♣ response means—possibly a confirmation of the negative values of the hand.

Here is the deal.

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

On the above hand in the open room Madras by this misunderstanding lost 200 points and in the closed room the Andhra pair made 110 points. Madras lost 5 valuable points on this deal.

The INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Thirteen is supposed to be an unlucky number. Unlucky for some! Deal 13 happened to be lucky for Madras. The deal is given below.

Dealer : North Vul : Both Sides

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

Bidding in the closed room was as follows:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♠	Double	Pass.	2 ♣
Pass.	Pass.		

The bidding was of a different strain in the open room.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♠	Double	—	—
2 H	—	2 NT	Double
Pass.	Pass.	Pass.	

South made the contract of 2 NT, and was able to secure 6 I.M.P. on this deal.

Deal 15 :

Dealer : South Vul : N/S.

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

In the closed room the Madras pair sitting E.W. failed to reach a contract of 3 NT: East, it must be said erred in bidding. The rebid of Hearts is neither correct nor helpful.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
—	—	—	1 ♣
—	1 ♥	—	2 ♦
—	2 ♥	—	—

In the Open Room the bidding went as below.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
—	—	Pass.	1 ♦ (?)
—	2 ♣	(?)	3 ♣
—	3 ♥	—	3 NT

1 ♦ denotes a powerful bid, 5 HT or more. Here obviously it is being stretched too much!

The bid of 2 clubs by East causes some surprise. The response of 2 of a Suit to an opening of 1 Diamond shows a *genuine* suit with 2 honour tricks in the hand. Is the club suit with East genuine?

APRIL 1956

Any way 3 NT was bid and made. The loss to Madras on the deal was heavy.

However to compensate that, deal 18 fetched the Madras side quite a handful of I.M.P. Accidents do happen even in Inter-State matches! South (Venkata Rao) gave an incorrect answer to his partner's 4 N.T. conventional call and much to his chagrin found that a little slam had slipped through their hands. The Madras team bidding precisely bid 6 Spades and made it and 7 I.M.P. were obtained thereby.

Deal 21 raises in one's mind the doubts about the inherent superiority of the system of bidding employed by the visitors. It is difficult for the bidder to suspect the weakness in any particular suit. To one accustomed to the Culbertson school such artificial bids appear not a little confusing. Study the bidding on this deal.

Dealer : North Vul : N-S

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
—	—	1 ♠	—
1 NT	—	2 ♦ (?)	—
2 ♥	—	2 ♠	—
2 NT	—	3 NT	—

The weakness of the Diamond suit and the bad shape of North's hand were never made known or felt.

As a result like the usual club player they seem to have bid 3

N.T.! In the other table there was no attempt to play the hand in No trumps as the apparent distributional misfit was a warning to the players and the hand was played in 3 Hearts and made.

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

The Bidding on Deal 22 again gives room for us to wonder whether on such hands it will be difficult for the artificial bidding system to reach sound contracts.

The bidding :

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
—	—	—	1 ♠
—	1 ♦	—	1 ♠
—	1 NT	—	2 ♦

In the closed room the bidding by the Madras pair was straight and simple.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
—	—	—	1 ♠
—	1 NT	—	2 NT
—	3 NT	—	—

It should be recorded that while 3 Diamonds was made by W in the open room, 3 NT which was bid well by East (Chandrasekharan) was not made. The initial lead was a club and North played back a club on taking the trick with Ace of spades. East took a finesse of the Queen of Diamonds immediately after removing the Spade Ace. Had the spade suit which was established after the removal of the Ace of Spades been played out it would have helped declarer in no small way. Much could be learned by the opponents' discards and it would give some idea as to how to play the diamond suit.

Deal 22:

Dealer: East

Vul: Both.

♠ A 5 4
♥ 8 6 3
♦ Q 5
♣ J 6 5 4 2

♠ K Q J 7 3
♥ K 2
♦ A K J 3
♣ K 9

♠ 9 6 2
♥ Q 10 7 5
♦ 10 9 8 4
♣ A 3

♠ 10 8
♥ A J 9 4
♦ 7 6 2
♣ Q 10 8 7

Deal 28 presents an interesting squeeze possibility. On both the tables little slam was bid. In the open Room the contract was 6♥ by West; in the closed room, 6♦ also by West. While only 6♥ can be made, if the contract is played in diamonds a grand slam can

be made!

Dealer: West

Vul: N-S

♠ 7 5 4 3
♥ Q 9
♦ 5
♣ K 10 9 6 5 4

♠ 6
♥ K 7 6 3 2
♦ A K 10 9 4
♣ Q J

♠ A K Q 10
♥ A 10 5
♦ Q 6 3
♣ A 7 3

♠ J 9 8 2
♥ J 8 4
♦ J 8 7 2
♣ 8 2

The last four-card position comes to.

♥ Q 9
♣ 10 9

♥ K 7 6
♦ X

♠ J
♥ J 8 4

♠ 10
♥ A 10 5

On the play of the last trump South is squeezed in both hearts and spade.

Deal 32 may probably continue still to give some regrets to Chandrasekaran. A slam in Spades was bid by him sitting East. South led Club 6 and dummy tabled out.

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

Holding ♠ A Q 8 5 2
Declarer could see only 2 possible losers. The location of the 2 black Kings was the thing; if the trump King was on the right side there was absolutely no

difficulty. The lead was club 6! Here was a contract presented on a plate or was it? What was the plan of south. Was he under-leading the King of Clubs? Would he do so in a slam contract? Actually South had. One could well visualise the huddle of East not knowing what to play. South must also have had some uneasy moments as the dummy went down. East—believing that south would not underlead played the ten of clubs. South heaved a sigh of relief. The contract was lost and was ultimately one down. If only East had put the queen! Even to this day this thought must trouble our friend. Of course as a Double Dummy problem the contract can be made even if the Queen of clubs is not played.

♠ J 6
♥ J 10 7 4 2
♦ J 7 6 2
♣ J 7

♠ 10 9 4 3
♥ K Q 5
♦ A K 4
♣ Q 10 3

♠ A Q 8 5 2
♥ A 8
♦ Q 10
♣ A 9 8 5

♠ K 7
♥ 9 6 3
♦ 9 8 5 3
♣ K 6 4 2

Second session: Deals Nos. 33 to 64:

In the second session the Madras Team lost much of their initial gain. The comfortable margin of 22 points that they

had secured in the first session was reduced to 4 points. There were a number of vital swings on either side in this session of 32 deals but the Madras Team gave away more.

The Second session started off badly for the Madras side. In the first three deals 6 valuable points were lost. Deal No. 26 however proved to be very lucky for Madras and it fetched them 6 pts. Dealing oneself ♠ K 3 2 ♥ Q 10 8 4 3 2 ♦ A ♣ K 8 5 would one open the hand? In the closed Room P. S. Sadasivam sitting west did not open the hand and the deal was cashed. Whereas in the open room Mr. Thirumala Row opened one heart and the opponents had little difficulty in reaching a game in spades. Has this any lesson for the Duplicate Bridge player?

The full hand is given below:

DEALER WEST.

Vul: Both.

♠ A J 9 8 6
♥ 9 6
♦ K Q 3 2
♣ 10 6

♠ K 3 2
♥ Q 10 8 4 3 2
♦ A
♣ K 8 5

♠ 7
♥ A J 7 5
♦ J 10 7 6
♣ J 7 4 3

♠ Q 10 5 4
♥ K
♦ 9 8 5 4
♣ A Q 9 2

We now come to Deal No. 40.

DEALER WEST: Vul: Nei

♠ 10 7 5 2
♥ J 5 4 3
♦ J 4
♣ A 8 5

♠ 6
♥ 10 9 8
♦ A 9 7 5 3 2
♣ Q 9 3

♠ Q J 4 3
♥ K 7 6
♦ K 6
♣ 10 6 4 2

♠ A K 9 8
♥ A Q 2
♦ Q 10 8
♣ K J 7

The Madras Team in a straightforward manner reached a contract of 3 no trumps. The Andhra pair however played the contract in two spades. Their bidding went, opponents being silent,

NORTH	SOUTH
Tilek	Dr. Sambasiva Rao.
—	1 ♦
1 NT	2 ♣.

The Madras Team made the contract of 3 no trumps on a spade lead (fourth best) from East. A club lead would have made it extremely difficult for the declarer as there are entry problems to his hand. I shall leave this to the reader to work out.

Deal No. 42 proved disastrous to the Madras team and

cost five match points. In the open room the Contract was played in a timid two spades and four was made. In the closed Room the bidding was aggressive and a contract of 4 spades was reached by East which was doubled by North. Possibly, the double of the contract by North must have caused some flutter and East playing North for a singleton King played the Ace of spades for a drop and found to his great disappointment that North was void. No doubt it is a very difficult choice for East but East could have placed mere honor strength for the double and not the holding of spade king with North for his double. Further, as the spade bid had come from East, North would have thought twice before doubling the contract with a singleton spade king and not knowing the location of the Ace of spade.

DEALER EAST: Vul: Both.

♠ —
♥ J 9 6
♦ K 10 8 7 6
♣ A K Q 5 2

♠ A J 3
♥ A K
♦ J 5 4 3 2
♣ J 10 7

♠ Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 4
♥ Q 7
♦ Q
♣ 9 6

♠ K 2
♥ 10 8 5 4 3 2
♦ A 9
♣ 8 4 3

APRIL 1956

Deal No. 43 is a very interesting hand with immense possibilities. In the closed room the bidding went as follows:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
x	x	—	—
1 ♣	—	—	Dbe
1 ♥	2 ♣	2 ♥	2 ♠
—	—	3 ♥	—
—	3 ♠	—	—

In the open room the bidding stopped with two spades by West and there was no further interference by South. 4 hearts can be made on the distribution by North-South. This deal again illustrates the point about evaluation of hands in the face of competitive bidding. If North or South had at least pushed East West to 3 spades in the open Room 3 points that were lost on this deal could have been neutralised.

Deal 43: DEALER SOUTH: Vul: Nil.

♠ Q 10 3 2
♥ A Q 5 2
♦ A
♣ Q 10 9 3

♠ A J 9 6 5
♥ K 6
♦ J 9 2
♣ K J 2

♠ K 8 7
♥ J 7
♦ K 8
♣ A 8 7 6 5 4

♠ 4
♥ 10 9 8 4 3
♦ Q 10 7 6 5 4 3
♣ —

Deal No. 46: Credit should be given for the Madras pair Reddy

and Ramaratnam for playing in a safe part contract of 3 spades. In the closed room after 2 suits were shown by his partner south who opened on a very slender hand (with no aces) made bold to bid 3 no-trump. The hand is given along with the bidding.

DEALER EAST: Vul: Nil.

♠ 10 6 5 4 2
♥ —
♦ A K 8 5 4 2
♣ 6 2

♠ A 8 7
♥ J 10 9 4
♦ 6
♣ Q 9 8 4 3

♠ Q 9 3
♥ A 8 2
♦ J 10 9
♣ A J 10 7

♠ K J
♥ K Q 7 6 5 3
♦ Q 7 3
♣ K 5

In Closed Room:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
x	—	1 ♥	—
1 ♠	—	2 ♥	—
3 ♦	—	3 NT	—
—	—	x	—

Bidding in the open Room:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
x	—	1 ♥	—
1 ♠	—	2 ♥	—
3 ♦	—	3 ♠	—
—	—	x	—

Deal No. 57: was a bad deal for the Madras team. In the closed room, the Contract was 4 spades by North (Dr. C. Sambasiva Rao) and it was made on a Diamond lead. Of course, the contract could be set on an initial heart lead; but

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

once the natural lead of diamond King was made it is too late to set the contract.

In the open room the bidding must have confused South who hardly opened his mouth in the auction and the East-West bidding flickered off in a weak 2 Diamond bid by East in which 3 was made. The total loss in points on this deal turned out to be six.

DEALER NORTH: Vul: E-W

♠ A J 7 5 3
 ♥ 9 6 5
 ♦ Q 7 4
 ♣ 1 0 9
 ♠ 6 4
 ♥ K Q 8 2
 ♦ J 1 0 8 5
 ♣ 7 6 4
 ♠ 1 0 8
 ♥ 7 4 3
 ♦ A K 9 6 2
 ♣ A Q J
 ♠ K Q 9 2
 ♥ A J 1 0
 ♦ 3
 ♣ K 9 8 5 2

Deal No. 59 instead of fetching 6 points, for Madras gave away 6 points.

Dealer South: Vul. Nei.

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

The bidding cooled off in 4 spades in the closed room, in which 5 spades was made, whereas a little slam in spades was bid in the open room by Ramaratnam. The contract was set one down. The play was as follows:

N	E	S	W
H 4	H 10	H 9	H K
H 6	H 3	S 3	H A
S 8	S 6	S Q	S 5
S A	S 7	S 2	H 2
C K	C 5	C 2	C 3
C 4	C 8	C A	C 7
S 10	S J	C 9	C 6

After playing two rounds of trumps had the declarer chosen the diamond suit for establishment leaving the club suit as a second line of play the contract could have been made. If the trumps fall in 2 rounds there was no need for further play at all.

At the end of the day, the Madras team found that the valuable lead that they had secured in the first session had dwindled to a mere 4 point lead.

(to be contd.).

PREFERENCE BIDS

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

Rule 3 & 4

The reasons lying behind rules 3 and 4 have been seen while discussing rules 1 and 2 and their exceptions. These two illustrations are from Culbertson.

(1)

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

(2)

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

He is of the view that the first sequence is no stronger than the second and that North's bid of 2 Spades in sequence No. 1 is not a bid at all. He says, "It means that North would have liked to pass but he knows spades to be a better trump suit than hearts. He is not going to leave South to suffer in a bad heart trump suit when he can just as easily return the contract to a satisfactory Spade suit. But if he had preferred hearts he would have passed." Therefore, when the responder's hand is strong enough to raise either of the suits bid by partner, rules 5 and 6 come into play. As has

been observed earlier some people hold that a bid is always stronger than a pass. Suppose the bidding has been,

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♦	Pass.	1 ♥	Pass
1 ♠	Pass.	?	

and South holds: ♠ J 8 7: ♥ Q J 1 0 6 2: ♦ 8 7 5 4: ♣ K. What shall be bid? Some experts recommend a pass by South, that is, nurse-maiding partner to the extent of not giving him further chance to bid and get worse. South should assume that North was prepared for a pass by South when the former bid Spades. To return to 2 Diamonds is not equivalent to a pass. It is pertinently asked, "is not the same bid of 2 Diamonds made by South in the following sequence holding two different hands?"

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♦	1. ♠	Pass.	Pass.
1 ♥	Pass	?	

Hand 1:

♠ 8 7 4; ♥ 9 2; ♦ 9 6 5 4; ♣ 8 6 5 2.

Hand 2:

♠ 8 7 4; ♥ 9 2; ♦ Q J 9 4; ♣ K 8 4 3.

South's bid is 2 Diamonds holding any of the above 2 hands but to be logical and consistent he will have to jump to 3 diamond to make a distinction between the two hands—which means chaos. While observing the rules governing "Preference Bids", self-protection must guide judgment.

But those who play the Churchill or Roth-Stone systems and those who do not respond at 2 level, as a matter of style or partnership understanding, without substantial support, when they do revert back to the first bid suit guarantee a moderate to good hand. The opener can rebid his suit without apparent risk, to probe for further information to reach a higher contract. Again when partner has responded at 2 level ordinarily opener can expect better support than he could expect from a mere one-over-one take-out; an example from Culbertson is: North holds: ♠ K 8 3: ♥ 9 2: ♦ A J 8 4: ♣ 1 0 6 3.

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

"By simply showing preference for spades, North warns that he has a minimum hand. But since North previously made a two-over-one response, South knows his minimum is about two honour tricks." South can make tries for a game and may not read a spades by North as a mere choice of evils or a sign-off.

Therefore, when responder has a hand strong enough to raise one of the suits bids by his partner, a mere preference will not be read as a raise. When the responder raises either of the suits bid by the partner he shall do it as indicated in Rules 5 and 6.

Rule 5 & 6.—Culbertson says, "Raise one trick if you prefer the second bid suit; *Jump* one trick if you prefer the first bid suit" and he illustrates,

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

is the same as

1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	

He says: "The first case only seems to be a jump raise. Like the second example, it represents an actual raise of only one trick, since a two spade bid would be no bid at all." "A preference is not a raise" is the guiding principle under rules 5 and 6: it only means that (a) opener should not assume any strength with the responder who does not take any responsibility for putting his partner back to the first bid suit and, (b) the responder shows his strength and substantial support to either of the suits only by the ways indicated in either of these rules.

The principle hardly scratches the surface of the problem: even experts are not uniform in the practice of these rules

there are few set or guiding principles to gauge the strength of the hand when there is a jump raise under rule 5 or a simple raise under rule 6. The bidding has been:

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

South may hold,

1
 ♠ K Q 8 6 5
 ♥ Q 9
 ♦ Q 8 6 5
 ♣ 1 0 6

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

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

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

With hand No. 1 South makes the recommended bid of 2 hearts because the better chance lies in making 2 hearts, the preference here being a mere choice of evils. With hand No. 2 South could as well have raised the hearts in the first round but having bid spades (which is not an incorrect bid), in the second round, he can bid only 2 hearts.

With hand No. 3 he will be making the same bids, but yet the hand is worth a raise to 3 hearts if North has rebid hearts instead of diamonds. The recommended bid for hand No. 4 is a jump raise in hearts. Do hands 3 and 4 materially differ to justify two differing bids? The question is, holding hand No. 3 should south risk a jump bid in hearts to avoid loss of a game? With this border line hand there is no answer to this question. One bid is as good as another and the exactly right bid is a thing which frequently does not exist. The "preference bid" is unfortunately wide in range, the same response indicating a mere choice of evils, or a hand good enough to go game. Is opener to explore further and go overboard if the first type of hand is laid on the table by partner?

Culbertson says: "The question: To jump or not to jump, depends on what the player bid previously and whether he has any added values. He has "added values" if he can remove, say, 1/2 honour-trick from his hand and still have enough to justify his previous bids" He illustrates thus:

(a)

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

North holds: ♠ K 8 3: ♥ 9 2:
 ♦ A Q J 8 4: ♣ 1 0 6 3.

(b)

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♠	Pass	1 N.T.	Pass
2 ♠	Pass		

North would bid three spades holding:

♠ J 8 3 : ♥ 9 3 2 : ♦ A. Q. 7 : ♣ Q 8 5 4 : "Since the one no trump response might have been made on only one honour-trick, North has added values (for he could remove the diamond queen from his hand and still have a good one no-trump response). If in the above bidding North bid only two spades he would show a hand like this."

♠ 8 7 2 : ♥ 7 5 : ♦ 8 4 : ♣ Q 7 6 2 :

I should think Culbertson is cheating us with these.

Illustrations: The hand in illustration (a) is patently much stronger than the hand in illustration (b) but yet the former hand is under-bid and the latter hand over-bid. Do you agree that the same bids have to be made on such differing hands as,

(a) ♠ K 8 3 : ♥ 9 2 : ♦ A Q J 8 4 : ♣ 1 0 6 3 :

(b) ♠ 8 7 2 : ♥ 7 5 : ♦ K J 8 4 : ♣ Q 7 6 2 .

Much of this difference between theory and practice would be avoided if only players remember that the jump raise in the second round shows a little more than the maximum for a simple raise in the first

round but is weaker than a direct jump raise in the first round.

Rule 7—The principle under rule 7 amounts to saying to partner, "I have support for neither of your suits and in any event I do not like the second bid suit at all. I do not want a no-trump. I have a near-good-suit of my own. You choose the final contract." This is one way of showing an "inferential preference" to the first bid suit without raising the level of bidding; with adequate trump support and if the level of bidding is not increased a direct preference would be made, generally to invite a game in the major suit.

(1)

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

(2)

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

In both these cases South shows more than a moderate hand.

But there may arise situations in which the responder bids in his own suits and not show any "inferential Preference" as in

West holds : ♠ A K 6 4 3 : ♥ A J 2 : ♦ Q : ♣ A K 10 8

East holds : ♠ — ♥ K 9 8 5 3 : ♦ K 10 8 6 5 2 ♣ 9 2 .

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

East by bidding diamonds at three level—a new suit of his own and not by rebidding hearts shows a 6-5 distribution and a misfit in Spades and Clubs. He wants West to prefer hearts or diamonds if possible.

There may also arise occasions in bidding when a player prefers partner's suit to his bid in no trumps.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 N.T.	Pass	3 ♣	

South's bid is in reality a raise. (with a minimum of 3—card support in spades) and not a mere preference, since on the bidding the combined values of the hands must add up to game. North's rebid of 2 no-trumps shows more than a minimum hand. But in:—

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 N.T.	Pass	2 ♥	

North's rebid is only an effort to find the best part-score contract and a game is not in sight. North should either pass or prefer spades.

The following two sequences are of considerable interest.

(1)

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

(2)

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

in both the sequences North has reversed, but South in sequence (2) not having supported clubs is under no obligation to answer North's rebid of 2 hearts : North assumes that his bid of 2 hearts shall receive positive and not negative consideration from South.

The purpose of any bid must be apparent by the bidding situation and by the level at which it is made.

(a)

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

First a lower ranking suit is bid and then the higher ranking suit is twice bid, revealing a distribution of 6 cards in diamonds and 5 in spades. The 5—card major suit must be supported and not the minor diamond even if North holds equal number of trumps in each suit. But in case the opponents double, North prefers the minor with even 2 cards in it as a 6-2 distribution may work better than a 5-3.

(b)

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

North holds: ♠ Q J 8 6 :
♥ K Q 5 : ♦ 7 2 : ♣ Q 6 5 3.
The better bid is 2 no-trumps
and not 3 diamonds. Culbert-
son warns us not to show prefer-
ence for the second 4-card suit
without atleast 4 trumps in sup-
port and if any other bid is avail-
able.

(c)

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

(d)

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

In both these sequences opener
can expect good support and
try for game.

(e)

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

South holds: ♠ Q 9: ♥ J 9:
♦ 9 7 6: ♣ K. Q J 10 6 4.

Though it is not too hot for
play at 2 spades, South must bid
only 2 spades. Except in the
Churchill or Roth-stone systems
the opener cannot, as a rule
rely for substantial support even
if the first response be at two
level.

(f)

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

South holds: ♠ 10 8 7: ♥ 9 6:
♦ A K J 8 7 5 3: ♣ J.

The chief interest of South
is only in diamonds, and if
North's majors are long and
strong South need not fear rebid-
ding diamonds. Since the dis-
parity between support for part-
ner's suit and the responder's
own suit is very great, south
bids 4 diamonds.

(g)

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 N.T.	

South has neither 3 spades
nor 3 hearts headed by queen
or better, but only 2 spades and
2 hearts: he has five clubs and
4 diamonds or 6 clubs and
3 diamonds. If South's rebids
was 2 spades, he shows 5 in clubs
and 3 in spades. If South's
rebid were three spades, he has
five clubs and 3 or 4 spades
with a singleton. (The single-
ton is not a must: he might have
compensating high cards).

(h)

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST.
1 ♠	Pass	1 N T	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 N T	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	?	

North must prefer spades:
South shows 6 or 7 spades and
a singleton or void.

(i)

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

South holds: ♠ A Q 8
6 5: ♥ 9: ♦ K 7 6 4
3: ♣ 8; 4 diamonds is
his bid; a simple single raise
does not correctly describe the
hand and North may not dare
go game in a minor suit; a
jump raise describes the hand
best and is considered a force
by some experts.

(j)

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

South holds: ♠ Q J 9: ♥ Q 10
9 4 3 2: ♦ 2: ♣ J 9 8. South
should not press his luck but be
glad that partner has not rebid
diamonds.

To conclude: My labour shall
not be in vain, if I have been
able to draw your attention
to some of the more salient
features of this department of
bidding, arouse some interest
to follow up these discussions,
and emphasise the importance
of "preference bids" in arriving
at correct contracts.

SMOTHER PLAY

By TEAKS

"We were now developing a great affection for our friend and instructor. And when he came in this time, we were inclined to be demonstrative. He said that we should not smother him with our kindness. We quietened a bit.

But, I suspected that his simplicity was affected and his artfulness refined and that his use of the word smother should have a direct bearing on the day's talk and illustrations. I put the question to him candidly and his answer was that we might be right and that it was better to wait and see.

The deal was as follows and the final contract was 4 Spades by South.

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

West opened K of Diamonds followed by Ace and then 9. South ruffed it. South played Q of Spades and felt happy since he thought that the K was nicely trapped. He repeated Spade and East showed out. All of us saw a cloud of anxiety on his face. He had *prima facie* to yield one trick in trump and another in club and that would set the contract by one trick. The difficulty appeared insuperable. He threw the cards down and said: "Sorry partner, we are down". Our friend said that youth was thoughtless and that a bridge-player must be a bold soldier like Ben Battle. The cards were gathered and south was immersed in thinking. There was still no flash of light. He felt gloomy. The pedant said then that, by a process of legerdemain, he would make the trump trick vanish. This cue was taken by south and his process of thinking was regulated in that channel. But still no silver lining in the dark sky. The pedant directed him to play all the 3 Hearts and then his Ace and King of Clubs. The third club trick was in the hands of East. South had two trumps only. West had King and 7 of trumps only and North had Ace

of trumps and a club. East played his Diamond five south ruffed it with his 10 of trumps. West had two alternatives namely over-ruff or under-ruff. In either case there was no trick for his trump, if he over-ruffed North would over-ruff with Ace. If he under-ruffed North would discard his club. We were all stupefied. It was real magic by the pedant. We could not believe our eyes. Before he could start his thesis (vocal) we all said that he could defer his explanation till we played a similar deal and gathered the principle underlying it ourselves without extraneous help. He said "cheer you and that is the right way".

He dealt the cards again. As we had guessed before our cards were becoming animate and rational. They took correct positions for this smother play. The deal was as follows. The final contract was 5 Diamonds by South.

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

(Deal from F. Osborn)

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

West opened his 8 of Hearts. East won the trick. East continued his King of Hearts. South trumped it and led a small Diamond to dummy's King hoping that trumps would drop all right. East showed out. South was on the horns of a dilemma. No doubt smother play was in his mind. But how to arrange for it. He was not sure about its preliminaries and the way to prepare the ground for it. After deep thinking he had a mental rehearsal of what the pedant did in the previous deal. He analysed it step by step and then discovered that the other suits had to be stripped. The trump was reduced by ruffing Heart again. He played Spade King from hand, continued his Spade and won it with Ace and on the Queen discarded a Club from his hand. Then he paused and found that he was safe. Then he played the Ace and King of Clubs and then a small one. East won it with the Queen of Clubs. The position then was that South had 3 trumps West 3 trumps and North 2 trumps, and a club. South was chuckling. So were we but our laugh was vociferous. East had to play his Spade or Heart. The same old story as in the previous deal. We all said in one voice that we

had understood the principle and the two conditions precedent were, the stripping of the other suits and a hold by the declarer of a trump sequence below the defender's and the dummy having the higher trump over the defender. The pedant no doubt had the pride of the teacher that the pupils were precocious but there was still a latent feeling that the student might humble him in due course. He wound up the talk by saying that this was called smother play or trump vanishing game. It meant that one obvious trick was made to vanish and smothered by skilful play.

We felt bright. Gradually the feeling of tiredness which we experienced in the previous talk was getting smothered. We told our friend that we were prepared for more work. He felt absolutely happy and said that he was going to prepare our minds for the great intellectual work to follow in the next series. He said that card sense and perception were necessary for a good player. With correct perception he observed, we would be in a position to locate the cards and that this faculty was called "card placing". It was a necessary equipment in Bridge armoury and many impossible situations could be retrieved by correct card placing. He added that this would be cultivated by constant practice in visualising and analysing of cards. Of course

an innate card sense would be more helpful.

He dealt the cards. The deal was as follows. The final contract was 3 NT.

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

A deal from Helen Sobel's Book.
Bidding :

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

West led his 2 of clubs. South won it. The pedant said that this was the proper time to think and visualise and place the cards. The process was a little new to us. We asked him to think loud and do the "placing." He said that West did not open his partner's suit of Heart and therefore very probably he had a singleton Heart. Next his play of 2 of clubs showed a hold of 4 clubs only. Therefore very pro-

bably his hand distribution was 4, 4, 4, 1. Logically East should have 5 Hearts and no honour tricks in clubs and Diamonds since they were huddled in North and South. Obviously he had only two spades 4 Clubs and 2 Diamonds since West had been placed already with 4 Diamonds. As he was the dealer and opener he should have at least 2½ honour tricks and till then his hand disclosed only half an honour trick and therefore he should have only Ace and King of Spades. We thought over and decided that it was unquestionable and irresistible logic. South played a small Spade and East won with Ace. At next chance South

played another small Spade and East had to win it with his King. The battle was won by South. But the card-placing was done by an outsider. All of us agreed that hereafter we would do that "placing" ourselves since in social or competitive bridge there can be no thinking by proxy. All of us were hilarious. But the pedant sounded a note of caution. He said that there can be no mathematical precision in card-placing but it was only a question of probability. And probability was not "certainty". He was wise in his talk and practical. We said "cheer you" and parted.

SYSTEMS AND YARDSTICKS

By PROFESSOR.

I am frequently asked by beginners and even by fairly advanced players what system I play. Whimsically, I reply "none whatever". It would be more accurate to say "several at the same time"; for, no system can be perfect or fool-proof. Each is, like the proverbial curate's egg, "good in parts". Says Sheppard Barclay. The best system to play is your partner's system (whatever that may be) so that you may team up efficiently with any partner and cope with the tactics of any opponent. The worst misunderstandings occur when one partner is familiar with one system and the other partner, efficient with a different one. Each pulls the cart a different way with disastrous results. Slavish adherence to a single system argues a one-track-mind. One must be on nodding terms with at least the leading systems, if one has to stand a chance in tournaments, especially in the Individual Championship Event.

In the famous match *Culbertson v. Lenz*, the former, in most of the 700 odd deals, does not adhere to his own system, especially with regard to the opening requirement of 2½ so-called, honour tricks! The in-

telligent player names the requirements according to circumstances and does not go by rule of thumb. I would not go so far with Northrop who says the best thing you can do about honour trick is to forget them! He really means that much more attention than is usual should be paid to the value of distribution than is done by even fairly advanced bridgers.

Coming back to our horses, I tell my questioners that, personally, I employ a judicious mixture of three systems, the Culbertson, the Milton Work and the Courtenay. By the way, the yardstick of 2½ H. T. *a la* Culbertson, is not an accurate one as is that deposited in the vaults of the Bank of England. The 2½ may be made up of an A. K. and another K or Q J; 2 aces and a K or Q J; or Ace of one suit and 3 other kings; or an Ace, 2 other kings and another Q J; and so on. Now, equating these on the Work count, we arrive at rather ranging from 10 to 13 points. *En passant*, I use the point count merely for checking opening bids, especially at N.T. I do not advise any player to stick to it. There are some other point counts besides Mr. Milton Work's 1—

2—3—4; such as the 1—2—4—7, 1—3—5—7, and so on. In the old soap Ad. baby says "If I must be washed, wash me with Vinolia". I would say, similarly, if you must use a point count, use the 2—3—5—8, which gives somewhat better results than the 1—2—3—4, *mutatis mutandis*. But, all said and done point counts are better honoured in the breach than in the observance. A certain book I read sometime back advocates a "triple valuation" (not in the Culbertson sense) of the hand for an opening bid, i.e., there should be 2½ plus honour tricks, a point count of 12 on the Work scale, and not more than 7 losers (technical 'losers' in the Courtenay sense). I have found this sound advice, for beginners or

even fairly advanced players. The requirements for raising or bidding a different suit or jump take out one or doubles, etc., are more or less similar in all systems. For the purpose of gauging the upper limit to which the combined hands may be bid either for securing the contract or for a sacrifice, the Courtenay has been found by experience very accurate. The same system likewise comes in very useful for purposes of predicting the result of the play accurately within a small margin of error. I hope these hints will prove of use to my younger readers. Wooden, anti-diluvian rule-of-thumb bids and plays must be eschewed. Intelligent flexibility is all.

ELY CULBERTSON



ELY CULBERTSON

1891-1955

The entire Bridge World should bemoan the loss of Mr. Ely Culbertson who passed away on 26th December, 1955. He was a pioneer of Contract Bridge Science. No one has done so much for this game and no one can hope to do as much. But for him Contract Bridge would not be quite so popular as it is to-day. Countless persons must be thankful to him for being able to while away the evening hours, after strenuous hours of work in the office, in a game highly interesting and entertaining.

It was quite by accident, that Culbertson took to this game. Playing quite often he was not slow to build up a system of his own and devise new conventions, assiduously tested and tried. In an effort to publicise himself he gave a terrific boost to this game itself. The famous match with Hal Sims not only established Culbertson as a great Bridge player but put the game of Contract Bridge among the forefront of indoor games and pastimes.

APRIL 1956

29

Early in his career Mr. Culbertson was fortunate to meet Josephine whom he married. Together they formed a great combination. He was a prolific writer and has written quite a number of books on Contract Bridge. He was the Founder of the American Bridge World. Latterly his interest in Bridge waned, and he devoted his time and energy to world peace.

It will be of melancholy interest to Readers of the Indian Bridge World to learn that Mrs. Josephine Culbertson (who was separated from him a few years ago) has also died, within three months of death of Ely Culbertson. She assisted Mr. Ely Culbertson

greatly in the strenuous work of building and giving shape to the Culbertson system. She has written quite a number of books herself, on Contract Bridge, and her special feature was the 'Pro et contra' in the columns of the American Bridge World. Readers will surely miss this very instructive series of articles hereafter.

"In all the world of great men and women players Mrs. Culbertson has no peer as a player or as an analyst". Thus spoke Culbertson of Josephine: What greater tribute could be paid than this? The bridge world will be poorer by the death of these two great Personalities.



Pro et Contra

By E. SOLOMON.

Question 1.—Playing (Blackwood) with a veteran, I passed his four no-trump bid holding:

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

The bidding sequence was:

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

I was criticised by partner and kibitzers for having passed partner's four no-trump bid but I had a vague feeling that a bid of four no-trump by a player who had already bid three no-trump is not conventional or asking for aces and can therefore be passed. Please comment if West's four no-trump bid was "forcing" in this sequence and whether I should have responded showing my two aces.

There was a sequel to this in the following deal played during a recent important match where North, a brilliant player, passed his partner's four no-trump bid under similar if somewhat more extenuating circumstances:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
♠ A Q	♠ K 7 6 4	♠ K 7 6 4	♠ K 7 6 4
♥ A K 9 4 3	♥ Q 8	♥ Q 8	♥ Q 8
♦ 3	♦ A 10 8 6	♦ A 10 8 6	♦ A 10 8 6
♣ K 10 5 4 2	♣ Q 9 7	♣ Q 9 7	♣ Q 9 7
The bidding:			
1 ♥	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Please discuss in detail if the four no-trump bids in the above instances can be passed or whether they are forcing.

Answer: When is four no-trump Blackwood and when isn't it? There is a great deal of confusion, even in expert circles on this basic point. Some time ago certain eminent Bridge doctors pre-

APRIL 1956

31

scribed a simple nostrum. *Four no-trump is not Blackwood if no-trump has previously been bid by either partner.* This formula received for a time the approbation of the "scientists". But, as can readily be imagined, it precludes the use of the ace showing convention in a large number of cases. When, therefore, it was found that many slams were bid and made quite easily, or safely kept away from, by the dubs to whom "four no-trump" had in all circumstances just one meaning "how many aces, partner?", whilst the cognoscenti had to stab in the dark after one partner had unwittingly slipped in a sneaky little no-trump bid; and when in certain celebrated matches, including the World Championships, international stars, as a consequence of the restrictions imposed by this formula, found themselves in small slams where their opponents took two aces to start the play or performed other feats of an equally clownish nature, this rule came to be recognised as a luxury too expensive for even an expert to afford. The formula which we recommend, if formula you must have, is that proposed last year by A. Moyse, Jr., Editor of the *BRIDGE WORLD*. It is: *Four no-trump is Blackwood except when it's obviously not.* Please note the reverse emphasis.

Taking up the first deal of this question, it appears that West's last bid of four no-

trump can have only two meanings:—

(i) He has no interest in slam and wishes to sign off at the cheapest game contract; or

(ii) After receiving East's support in Clubs, he now has visions of a slam, where previously the bidding indicated a misfit, but would first like to be satisfied that his partner holds the necessary number of aces.

We don't think it requires much thought as to which is the correct interpretation.

In our opinion (i) is completely out because we cannot conceive, on the earlier bidding, why West should prefer a no-trump contract at the level of four to a game in the club suit. If West was not interested in a slam he could have signed off very effectively with a bid of five clubs. Since he elected to bid four no-trump and not five clubs then four no-trump was not a sign off but Blackwood.

Interpretation (ii) is therefore correct and only an East with vague and muddled ideas got from coming across somewhere that defective but widely prevalent doctrine, "four no-trump is not Blackwood if no-trump has previously been bid", could pass the four no-trump.

But whilst we consider that East was wrong to pass out his partner's four no-trump, we can-

not congratulate West on this last bid. East's four clubs take out of the game contract in no-trump was a clear indication to West that the small slam was on and we cannot imagine why he did not bid six clubs without further ado.

In the second example referred to us, we are of the opinion that South's bid of four no-trump cannot be taken as Blackwood. Before making this bid South should have recalled his earlier responses. Over partner's one heart he had said one spade—a mere one-over-one promising little. Over partner's jump to three clubs his response was three no-trump—possibly an absolutely forced bid. His partner's next bid of four clubs again demanded that he make some reply. His response of four no-trump, in the light of his earlier minimal bids, can only be construed as one more of the same weak and colourless species—a further sign off. We are therefore completely in accord with North in not recognising the four no-trump as Blackwood and passing.

South is greatly to blame for his pusillanimous bidding. Instead of bidding four no-trump—what sheer arrogance to appoint himself captain when he is in no position to exercise judgment—he should have taken strength from his earlier weak bids, which did not show his full values, and straightaway bid the small slam in clubs. No use bothering

about Aces since partner must have at least two of them.

Question 2.—Playing in a duplicate contest recently, one of our leading pairs landed in trouble in the following two deals. Kindly discuss who, if at all, was to blame for the poor result.

(a) East-West vulnerable.

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

The bidding, with North-South remaining silent throughout, went as follows:—

EAST	WEST
1 ♦	1 ♥
2 ♦	3 NT
4 ♥	4 ♠ (asking bid)
5 ♦	6 ♠

The heart suit refused to break and the declarer was set one, losing a trump and another trick to the club ace.

(b) West dealer: East-West vulnerable.

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

The bidding, North South silent throughout, was as follows:—

WEST	EAST
1 ♦	1 NT
2 NT	3 NT

West argued that East should have bid three spades over West's two no-trump, indicating a desire to play in a four spade contract and showing a three-card support. West would then have bid four spades or three no-trump if holding only four cards in spades. Please comment. Kindly also give your idea of how the bidding should have proceeded. As is obvious the three no-trump contract was doomed while four spades was easily makeable.

(a) We blame East for his four hearts bid. Since his partner had not rebid hearts, it was not proper to take out the three no-trump into four hearts holding only three cards in the suit. East's blank doubleton was not a valid reason for running from a no-trump game.

Whilst East was entirely guilty for the actual sorry result, we would like to point out that West's initial response of one heart does not meet with our approval. His bid here should have been an immediate jump take out to two no-trump, which is forcing to game. In many systems, including the Culbertsen system, such a response is used solely for a special type of hand, i.e., having "no-trump" distribution and 13-15 points. The same distribution with 16-17 points requires a response of three no-trump. The responder

promises a stopper in each of the unbid suits and that he has neither more nor less than the point count promised. Such bids clearly depict the strength and shape of the hand and make it easy for partner to decide whether a slam is possible.

(b) We cannot support West's contention that East should have taken out the two no-trump bid with a call of three spades. Firstly, East's spades are far too miserable for a free raise of a suit which has not been rebid by partner. Secondly, the shape of East's hand appears to favour a game in no-trump rather than one in spades.

In our opinion it was West who was at fault. With his two king doubletons in hearts and clubs we consider that West should not have encouraged his partner to play the hand in no-trump. His proper rebid was three spades, a jump rebid in the same suit which is not forcing. Now East can raise to four spades.

As regards the last sentence of the enquiry, sorry it is not obvious to us, from the East-West cards, either that a three no-trump contract is doomed or that four spades is easily makeable. But we are prepared to defer to our correspondent's superior knowledge of the actual distribution of outstanding cards between North and South.



By T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN.

In the death of Mr. Ely Culbertson on 26th December, 1955, Bridge world has lost a prolific writer on Contract Bridge. Mr. Culbertson's name has been a by-word among bridge-players the world over and his writings have to a large extent shaped the bidding and playing techniques of most of our contemporary bridge-players. His latest book incorporating the point-count principles has already made a big impression. The Executive Council of the South Indian Bridge Association passed a condolence resolution at its meeting held on in January, 1956 and copies of the same have been mailed to the *American Bridge World*.

MADRAS CITY LEAGUE TOURNAMENT.

The Modern Institute of Commerce Team won the Madras City League Championship (Zone A) for 1955 beating the T. Nagar Social Club in the replay. As already reported both

the teams had each lost a match in the series and the former won in the deciding match. Our congratulations to the winners. The teams were :

Modern Institute of Commerce :
Winners :

G. K. Gopalswamy
K. Gurudutt
M. Rangaswamy
K. S. Narayana
S. K. Subramaniam
S. Narasimhan

Runners-up :
T. Nagar Social Club :

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

ZONE B :

Winners :

Madras Gymkhana Club :
E. Solomon
Mrs. Solomon
M. Swaroop
T. Rajamannar

APRIL 1956

S. R. Krishnamorthy
I. N. Dadhabhoy

The City League Tournament has been largely responsible for the general improvement in the standard of the game in Madras City and it is hoped that the League Committee will run this event this year also despite the apparent lack of enthusiasm among members. Among other things the Committee should consider—

(a) the continuance of a reasonable handicap to the more experienced teams.

(b) provision of a deterrent penalty for teams not turning up for play.

The Association's Annual Championship tournaments for 1955 were played on the 24th, 25th and 26th December, 1955, at the Ashok Vihar, Madras. Two representative teams from Andhra also participated in the final rounds at Madras by special invitation. The T. Nagar Social Club Team deserve to be congratulated on their victory in the main knock-out team-of-four event retaining the Sri T. Sadasiva Iyer's Rolling Trophy for the second year in succession. As in 1954 the Tenali team and the T. Nagar Social Club came to the finals this year also and the latter won in an exciting encounter. The other events were also keenly contested and the detailed results are :

35

Zonal Rounds.

Duplicate Knock-out : Team-of-four.

I. MADRAS CITY.

Winners :

T. Nagar Social Club :

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

Runners up :

N. Ramaratnam's Team :

N. Ramaratnam
R. Sundararaman
G. N. Chari
G. V. Venkatesan
B. Venkatramani

II. TANJORE ZONE.

Winners :

Tiruvodi Club, Tiruvodi :

G. Sundaram
Dr. T. M. Pillai
P. K. Narayanan
K. Panchapakesa Iyer
Ganesha Iyer

III. TRICHY ZONE :

Winners :

City Club (A) :

M. Subbiah
V. Subramaniam
S. V. Natarajan
A. R. Nataraja Iyer
Professor Srinayanarayana Iyer

IV. CUDDALORE :

Winner :

Cosmopolitan Club :
R. Soundararajan
Dandapani

Radhakrishna Naidu
V. R. Srinivasachary
V. COIMBATORE :

Winners :

R. S. Puram Club :

N. Rangaswamy Ghettiar
Dr. P. R. Kuppuswamy
Ramaswami Naidu
Ranga Raj.

VI. DEVAKOTTAH :

Winners :

S. T. Chari
T. Sundararajan
C. Srinivasan
A. Sundararajan.

MASTER-PAIRS

MADRAS CITY :

Winners :

R. Aravamudham
L. Ramaswami

Runners-up :

Singaperumaliah
Sriramulu Naidu

TANJORE ZONE :

Winners :

Rajendran
Durairajan

TRICHY ZONE :

Winners :

Prf. Suryanarayana Iyer
Dr. Sahadevan

COIMBATORE ZONE :

Winners :

Ramaswamy Iyer
Kuppuswamy Mudaliar

DEVAKOTTAH ZONE :

Winners :

PL. A. Nachiappan
N. K. Nachiappan

CUDDALORE ZONE :

Winners :

R. V. Sundara Reddiar
Konda Reddiar

PROGRESSIVE-PAIRS

MADRAS CITY :

Winners :

North-South :

M. Swarup
T. Rajamannar

East-West :

K. R. Sundaram Iyer
T. R. Samoo

TANJORE ZONE :

North-South Winners :

Narayana Iyer
K. Panchapakesa Iyer

East-West Winners :

G. Sundaram
Dr. T. M. Pillai

TRICHY ZONE :

North-South Winners :

M. Subbiah
V. Subramaniam

East-West Winners :

E. N. Mylappan
E. R. Nataraja Iyer

COIMBATORE ZONE :

North-South Winners :

Parthasarathy
Ramaswamy

East-West Winners :

Dr. N. T. Abraham
E. J. Samuel

DEVAKOTTAH ZONE :

North-South Winners :

M. R. Sivaramakrishna Iyer
T. R. Sundararajan

East-West Winners :

C. Srinivasan
A. Sundararajan

Final Rounds.

Team-of-four Knock-outs :

Winners :

T. Nagar Social Club :

S. Palaniswamy
T. S. Chandrasekharan
K. G. Ramaratnam
P. S. Sadasivan
R. Sankaran

Runners up :

Tenali Team :

N. Venkat Rao
N. Thirumal Rao
K. S. Sastry
J. Shyam Prasad
K. Appa Rao

Master Pairs :

Section I. Winners :

Annapurniah and Raghava Rao

Runners up :

M. Subbiah and V. Subramaniam

Section II. Winners :

G. V. Venkatesan and G. N. Chari

Runners up :

Sriramuliah and Sriramulu Naidu

Progressive Pairs :

North-South Winners :

C. Devarajan and P. S. Sundaresa Iyer

Runners up :

Annapurniah and Raghava Rao

East-West Winners :

P. R. Sastry and K. Sriramamurthy

Runners up :

A. Narasinhachari and Professor Suryanarayana Iyer

Duplicate Progressive :

Winners :

P. S. Reddy's Team :

Dr. P. S. Reddy
Dr. Acha.
B. Hanumantha Rao
A. Ramamurthy
D. N. Reddy

Runners up :

Indian Mutual Club :

M. Chockalingam
S. Venkatesan
K. Ranganathan
N. Subramaniam

Individual Championship :

Winner :

Sriramuliah

Runners up :

P. S. Narayana Iyengar.

At the General Body meeting held on 25th December, 1955, the following office, bearers were elected for 1955-56.

President :

Mr. Justice P. Rajagopalan.

Vice-Presidents :

K. R. Sundaram Iyer
S. Ramalingaswamy

Hony. Secretary :

K. Guju Dutt
Hony. Asst. Secretary :

R. Sankaran

Hony. Treasurer :

Dr. K. L. Narayana Rao

Executive Council Members :

E. Solomon
T. R. Samoo
T. S. Chandrasekharan
J. Subbuswamy
N. Ramaratnam
T. Satyamurthi
G. K. Sundaram, Coimbatore
M. Subbiah, Trichinopoly

Lt.-Col. G. S. V. Ramanan,
Tanjore
N. Venkat Rao, Andhra.
M. R. S. Manickavelu, Karaikudi.
V. R. Srinivasachari, Cuddalore.

The question of staging an inter-State match with Andhra was discussed and approved at the General Body meeting and for want of time the selection of personnel for the Madras contingent was left to a Special Committee consisting of:

K. R. Sundaram Iyer
G. V. Venkatesan
K. Guru Dutt.

Madras—Andhra Match:

The idea of inter-state matches which the Association has been endeavouring to organise over the last 5 years has at last borne fruit. The first Andhra-Madras match was played on the 13th, 14th and 15th of January at Madras, at the Jubilee Hall of the Mylapore Club. Six players from Madras and Andhra took part in the contest. A total of 160 deals was played. The Andhra team won the event after an interesting fight. The teams were:

Andhra:

A Ramamurthi
Dr. P. Sambasiva Rao
P. Thirumal Rao
N. Venkat Rao
P. Tilak
Subbaramiah.

Madras:

P. S. Reddi

K. C. Ramarathnam
P. S. Sadasivam
C. Devarajan
S. Palaniswamy
T. S. Chandrasekaran

The Mylapore Club had made elaborate arrangements for this match and it was unfortunate that besides the competitors and a small band of admirers there were very few kibitzers. The main object of such representative matches, is, after all, to promote greater interest in the game and provide a fillip especially for new comers to the game and it is hoped that Madras Bridge 'fans' will in future make every effort to encourage the players by attending these contests in large numbers.

Special mention must be made of Sri N. Ramaratnam, Secretary of the Mylapore Club, for the excellent arrangements made in connection with the match. The open hall and closed room arrangements, the delicious luncheons and dinners served to the players and the vigilant attention paid to meet the requirements of the visiting players left nothing to be desired.

The B. & C. Mills' Assistants' Association and the Mylapore Club had their annual open tournaments conducted during this quarter. As is usually the case there was a lull in interest in the game after the annual championship tournaments and the

response to the B. & C. Mills' tournament was therefore not very encouraging. Only 8 teams competed in the knock-out event, of four event the T. Nagar Social Club team being a notable absentee. The Progressive Pairs and Master Pairs' events were, however, well attended. The following are the detailed results.

Team-of-four knock-out event:

Winners:

K. R. Sundaram Iyer's A-Team:

C. Devarajan
P. S. Sundaresa Iyer
T. R. Samoo Iyer
Dr. K. L. Narayana Rao
P. Suryanarayana.

Runners-up:

K. R. Sundaram Iyer's B-Team:

K. R. Sundaram Iyer
P. S. Reddy
K. C. Ramaratnam
C. R. Srinivasan
Dr. S. T. Achar.

Master Pairs:

Winners:

Mr. & Mrs. Solomon.

Runners-up:

Dr. P. Suryanarayana
T. R. Samoo Iyer.

Progressive Pairs:

North-South:

Winners:

P. S. Reddy
K. C. Ramaratnam.

Runners-up:

Eipe
Dr. P. Suryanarayana.

East-West:

Winners:

N. J. Meyers

C. Rajasekar.

Runners-up:

K. Guru Dutt
S. K. Subramaniam.

Individual Championship:

Winner:

C. R. Srinivasan.

Runner-up:

C. Rajasekar.

The Mylapore Club's annual tournament came off during March, 1956. Mr. K. R. Sundaram Iyer's team won the team-of-four event, for the U. S. Ramasundaram Memorial Trophy beating the home team convincingly. The results are:

Team-of-four duplicate Winners:

K. R. Sundaram Iyer's B-Team.

K. R. Sundaram Iyer
P. S. Reddy
K. C. Ramaratnam
Dr. S. T. Achar
C. R. Srinivasan.

Runners-up:

N. Ramaratnam's Team:

N. Ramaratnam
B. Venkataramani
G. V. Venkatesan
G. N. Chary.

Master Pairs:

Winners:

P. S. Reddy
K. C. Ramaratnam.

Runners-up:

A. R. Krishnaswami
Sriramuliah.

The results of the T. Nagar Social Club's Open Tournament held in 1955 which were not included in our last issue are

given below for the information of members.

Open Pairs-Winners :

K. R. Sundaram Iyer
C. R. Srinivasan.

Runners-up :

K. C. Ramaratnam
R. Sankaran (T.S.C.)

*Duplicate Knock-out : C. Muni-
swamy Chettiar's Cup :*

Winners :

N. Ramaratnam's team :

N. Ramaratnam
G. N. Chari

B. Venkataramani

A. Ramamurthy

R. Sundararaman

Runners-up :

The Modern Institute of Commerce :

K. S. Narayana
S. K. Subramaniam
G. K. Gopalaswami
K. Guru Dutt
M. Rangaswami

Progressive Pairs :

North-South Winners.

T. K. N. Panicker
V. R. Viramani

Runners-up :

Krishnamurthy Naidu
Sabapathy Mudaliar

East-West Winners :

T. V. Ramanath
A. V. Y. Narayanan (T. S. C.)

Runners-up :

K. R. Sundaram Iyer
T. R. Samoo Iyer

Master Pairs :

Winners :

P. S. Sadasivan
T. R. Samoo Iyer

Runners-up :

G. Annapurniah
Jagannatha Shetty

Individual Championship :

'A' Zone :

Winner :

T. S. Chandrasekaran

'B' Zone :

Winner :

M. K. Sabapathy Mudaliar

Runners-up :

E. Solomon

G. Muthuswamy Mudaliar
(T.S.C.)

We welcome the following new Members to the Association and would request them to give us all their co-operation.

New Members :

G. Varadan, Chingleput
K. O. Modi, Bombay
S. Rajaratnam, Madras
K. R. Sundararajan, Gobichetti-
palayam

S. R. Venkataramanan

J. Subramaniam

R. P. Rathnam

G. A. Muthu Reddi

Dr. K. S. Chandrasekharan

Dr. R. B. Rajamani

O. K. Nallasamy

G. P. Angappan

Vaidinatha Iyer

G. D. Venkatasubbu

E. Krishnan

G. M. Sreekantan, Ujjain

G. M. Subbarathnam, Tiru-
vannamalai

G. A. Manavalan

Venkataraman

Venugopal

Mohamed Zubier.

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No. 2

CONTENTS

PAGE

A BRIDGE PLAYER'S CAUSERIE—V, by P. S. N. Sarma.....	3
S. I. B. A. CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT, 1955—A REVIEW, by C. Devarajan.....	9
THE PASS, by N. Muthukrishna Iyer.....	15
KARAIKUDI BRIDGE TOURNAMENT, by Pointsman.....	20
THE MADRAS-ANDHRA, DUPLICATE CONTRACT BRIDGE MATCH, 1956, by N. Ramaratnam.....	23
DESCHAPELLES AND JETISONING, by Teaks.....	33
BRIDGE AND SOME THAT PLAY IT, A Bridge Fan.....	38
PRO ET CONTRA, by E. Solomon.....	40
THE NEWS SECTION, by T. S. Chandrasekaran.....	44

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Vol. VII

July 1956

No. 2

A BRIDGE PLAYER'S CAUSERIE—V

By P. S. N. SARMA.

It often happens in the casual type of game that the declarer, quite early in the play, after essaying trumps or a side suit, puts down the hand and admits defeat. "Sorry, the trumps broke bad. Can't help one down" he says, and no questions are asked. Only an expert, who has strayed into the *casbah*, either as player or as kibitzer, thinks differently—so much the worse for him, because if he tries to explain, people understand little, and care less.

It pays to think.

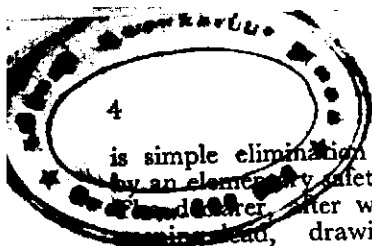
In the accompanying deal, North-South comfortably (and luckily as well, because the slam in Hearts which would be preferred in Match-point play is unmakeable) reached Six Diamonds. West led the King of Clubs.

Deal No. 1.

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

The declarer won the trick, drew trumps, played the three top Spades discarding his losing Club, and then laid down the Ace and King of Hearts—and surrendered!

There is no excuse for such inept play. The contract can be made against any distribution of the Heart suit. What is needed



The INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

is simple elimination followed by an elementary safety measure. Declarer, after winning the opening lead, drawing trumps and cashing the top Spades should ruff the remaining Club, and play the Heart Ace and a low Heart following low from dummy. If both opponents follow, there is only one Heart loser and all is well. If one opponent shows out, the other has to take the trick, and either lead back the suit for declarer to make two tricks, or lead one of the black suits for a ruff and discard.

Don't Scuttle.

Many a contract that looks doomed can be salvaged by thoughtful play. I played this by no means extraordinary hand in a club game the other day.

Deal No. 2.

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

The final contract was six Clubs by me, South, after a two Diamonds opening by my partner. West led the King of Hearts and continued with the

Ace which I ruffed. I led a trump, West showed out, and East's sympathy, though appropriately expressed, was a poor substitute for the small slam that seemed to be slipping out of my hands. You will notice that the hand has a text-book look. I proceeded to tackle it in the text-book manner. If I could reduce the number of my trumps to that of East, without at the same time permitting him to discard, I could make the contract, provided East held no fewer than three Spades and two Diamonds or two Spades and three Diamonds. East at this stage held three trumps and I five, so I needed two ruffs. I played the Ace, King and Queen of Diamonds, the last of which I ruffed. The Ace and King of Spades came next, followed by another Diamond. East discarded a Heart and I ruffed. I led a trump to dummy's King, and this was the position:

♠ Q 2
 ♥ J
 ♦ J
 ♣ J 9
 ♠ J
 ♥ Q
 ♦ Q 10
 ♣ J 9 8 6

I led Dummy's Diamond and East was fixed. If he ruffed, I could over-ruff, if he discarded, I could discard and play the Spades.

Taking the right view.

There are many deals in which the declarer's only chance of

JULY 1956

5

making his contract is to assume a particular distribution of key cards in the opponent's hands and play accordingly. Here is yet another small slam, six Hearts by South, in which prospects are none too bright for the declarer. West leads the two of Clubs, North tables: S. J 5 3, H. Q 7 6 5, D. A 3 2, C. A Q 5. Declarer holds: S. A 10 4, H. A K 10 8, D. K Q 6, C. K 6 4.

The declarer has several alternatives before him. He can straightaway throw up the sponge and concede one down, thereby enhancing his reputation for sportsmanship, but not for playing skill. He can draw trumps, play out the minor suits and fall into a long-drawn reverie, but bridge history does not record a single instance of a card improving in its trick-taking value by merely being gazed at. He can assume split honours in Spades and lead the Knave from the dummy in the hope that East will not cover—a bad play though it succeeds more often than it should, because there is a minority of players with whom not covering an honour is a principle. He can assume both the missing honours with East and lead low from dummy—not a bad play, but not a good enough play either. Lastly, he can make the only logical and correct play, which is based on the assumption that both the Spade honours must be in the same hand for the

contract to be made—immaterial which hand. He should draw trumps (they should fall in three rounds), eliminate Diamonds and Clubs, and lead a low Spade from either hand; if the next hand plays low, he should insert one of the minor honours. If the suit is returned two tricks are won in it; otherwise the declarer gets a ruff and discard. The complete deal was:

Deal No. 3:

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

There is always a way.

The foregoing deal is an instance to show how it helps declarer to take a view of the adverse card distribution which is favourable to himself. There are lots of difficult hands in which the play must be dictated by this principle. The point is further illustrated by this example from actual play.

South is declarer at four Spades after the following bidding:

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

West leads the two of Hearts, and the North South Hands are :

NORTH : ♠ 10 5 3, ♥ A J 5 4 3,
♦ 9 8 5 4, ♣ A Q

SOUTH : ♠ A K 9 7 4 2, ♥ Q 6,
♦ K 10 2, ♣ 8 6.

The opening lead itself poses a problem for the declarer. The tell-tale two is obviously a singleton. West for his overcall must hold the Ace and Queen of Diamonds and the King of Clubs. He must also have a sure trump trick for his double. Is the declarer to duck in the hope that East will win and return the suit for his partner to ruff, leaving the Ace and Knave in dummy for future discards? East should be credited with some intelligence. He can plainly see that his partner's strength is in Diamonds and he will lead the suit. It is also likely that East has a doubleton in the suit and may lead it and secure a trick for the lone trump he might have. Therefore it is not good to duck the opening lead.

On a superficial view declarer has one loser in Spades, one in Hearts and not less than two in Diamonds. Is there any view of the adverse cards by

taking which the declarer has a chance of making his contract? Yes. It is this : 1. West's Spade is a singleton. (This, paradoxically, may be a boon to declarer.) 2. West holds the King of Clubs. 3. East holds a singleton honour in trumps and 4. West holds four cards to the Ace Queen in Diamonds and East the Knave and another of the suit. The deal should be something like this :

Deal No. 4 :

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

On this assumption North takes the first trick with the Ace, plays a trump and wins, finesses Club Queen, plays the Ace, leads a low Diamond and if East plays low, inserts the ten. If West wins the trick with the Queen, he cannot lead Hearts or Clubs, and in whatever manner he plays the Diamonds, the declarer can manoeuvre to get a discard in the suit. If West does not win the first Diamond trick, the declarer should play the King of the suit next.

Stretcher Case.

There are certain hopeless game contracts into which a pair of optimistic bidders sometimes slide with fatal ease. They are what are known in local parlance as stretcher cases. The mischief is started by that pest of the bridge table, the player who opens light. His partner with a hand which is nothing to write home about makes a tentative one-over-one response which is forcing for one round. The opener is tempted to bid one No-trump and call it a day, but then he has a worthless doubleton in a suit, so he prefers a bid of two in a lower ranking suit. The responder makes one more forward bid, the opener a stalling one, and half-a-league, half-a-league, half-a-league onward, the partnership rides into the valley of death, in other words, Three No-trumps. One of the opponents who has been licking his chops during this hair-brained bidding comes out with a whacking double. The following hand is from actual play.

North-South holding these cards bid as follows :

NORTH : ♠ 6 4, ♥ Q 6 2, ♦ A Q J 3, ♣ A 9 6 3

SOUTH : ♠ K 10 9, ♥ A J 8 4, ♦ 10 2, ♣ Q 10 5 2

The bidding :

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 NT	Double

West led the two of Spades, East played the Queen and the declarer won with the King. He led the two of Diamonds, successfully finessed the Knave. He then played the 2 of Hearts and finessed the Knave of Hearts which lost to West's King. West cashed three Spades and exited with a Heart. The declarer could make only eight tricks. The complete deal was :

Deal No. 5 :

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

Can declarer make his contract? He can. Because of West's double and the lead of the two of Spades. It is a certainty that he has the missing Kings, and it is the declarer's luck that he has only four Spades. (If the two is a deceptive lead from a five-card suit, the contract has no chance of success.) The correct play at trick two is to lead back a Spade and hope that West has the eight of the suit. (If East has it he can win the last trick and lead Hearts or Clubs and defeat the contract). West will

cash his Spades, dummy can discard a Heart and a Club and the declarer a Heart. Whatever West leads now will give South his odd trick. If a low Heart is led, the trick is won in dummy and the Queen of Clubs is led and three tricks are won in the suit, which, together with three Diamonds bring up the till. A Diamond or Club lead makes matters still easier for the declarer.

The logic of throwing the defender in even at the second trick must be obvious. The declarer is sure to lose three tricks in Spades. It is better to lose them without giving up a valuable tempo. A lead from West is welcome to the declarer. He intends to play the Club suit in the conventional manner, leading the Queen from the closed hand, but it would be disastrous for him if East were to win the second trick with the Knave and lead.

Where ignorance is bliss.

It is one of the strange but pleasing ironies of the game of bridge that the palooka sometimes makes a stunning play that the pundit would not dream of. The fact that his brilliance is born of sheer ignorance does not in any way detract from its deadly effectiveness. North-South reached Six Clubs after this sequence of bids :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♠
1 NT	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	6 ♣	

Suppose you are West and hold : S. J 4, H. J 9 7 6 2, D. J 9 6 5, C. 9 8. What, would you lead ? The Knave of Spades without doubt. Once this lead is made, the declarer makes his contract, the complete deal being :

Deal No. 6 :

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

He wins the trick, draws trumps, plays the Ace and Queen of Diamonds, enters dummy with trump Knave, plays Diamond King and leads the Spade trey. East must take and whether he leads Spades or Hearts, the declarer makes his contract.

The only lead which can defeat the contract was made by the palooka defender who came out with the *four of Spades* !

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S. I. B. A. CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT 1955—A REVIEW

By G. DEVARAJAN.

One of the main reasons why Contract Bridge fascinates us and keeps our interest in it sustained forever is that every new hand that is dealt and played by us provides us with food for thought whether it is a part score deal, game or slam hand. We need not resort to any prepared deal to engage our attention. Some of us would have perused the few deals that were published in the recent issues of the *American Bridge World*, out of the deals that were played recently in the World Championship match between France and America. Such deals are of high educative value as they give us an opportunity to improve our standard both in bidding and play. We may even feel at times that we could have done certain deals better than the World Masters and this feeling is a source of encouragement to us. We may not of course reach the high standard of great players—but we can always try to improve our game and approach their level.

I hope many of us have not forgotten the championship tournaments conducted by our Association at "Ashok Vihar" some months back. I was for-

tunate to win the S. S. Vasan's Cup in the Progressive Pairs event for the North South pairs with Sundaresa Iyer, our Bridge Pandit, as my partner. Our charming Secretary has called upon me to review some of the deals that I played in this event. How can I say 'nay' to him.

I came across many interesting deals including some slam hands. Deal No. 19 given below was the first deal dealt in my table—Table No. 9.

Deal No. 19 :

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

After two hands had passed I, sitting North, opened with 1 Heart. East called two Diamonds and I bid up to 3 Hearts. East, however, got the contract at four Diamonds. I had a very good hand and I passed reluctantly as my partner was silent

throughout. It will be seen that there is a game for E. W. in five Diamonds, but only four pairs bid it. Unless some force is employed by East a game will not be reached. He must first double the opening bid of North for a take out and then give a jump bid in Diamond. If E.W. reach a game, five Hearts by North will be a good sacrifice for he will lose only 300 even if doubled. Only two N.S. pairs made this sacrifice—one was doubled and the other was not. We got the third best mark for N. S. pairs as E.W. I was very ambitious to reach a small slam in Diamonds and got doubled by N.S. No. 11.

Our opponents Srinivasa Iyer and Sundaram of Coimbatore had their revenge against us in Deal No. 20 for losing a game in the previous deal. They bid and made six Diamonds.

Deal No. 20 :

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

The making of the slam is of course easy but only four pairs bid it.

In Deal No. 21 we shared the top with N.S. No. 11. Both of us bid and made four Hearts.

Deal No. 21 :

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

If Clubs Ace is led and continued four Hearts cannot be made by North. On a spade lead also the contract will share the same fate. If South secures the contract he may meet with less difficulty in making it. Can you make four Spades with the E.W. hands. East West No. 4 has actually bid and made it.

We contracted to make six Spade in Deal No. 1. Our opponents obligingly doubled it and gave us a top. My partner had no difficulty in making the contract.

Deal No. 1 :

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

After I had opened the bidding with one Heart and supported my partner in spade the slam was reached without any difficulty. Who can blame poor West for doubling this contract. Seven Diamonds by East West would have been a good sacrifice.

Deal No. 2 is an interesting part score deal. East West could make three Hearts and N.S. 3 Spades. Even a game in Spade can be made by N.S. if Diamond Queen is led first when that suit is tackled by North.

Deal No. 2 :

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

Two pairs, N.S. No. 4 and N.S. No. 8, have made game in Spades the former being doubled by his opponents.

East West No. 11 was lucky in bidding and making six Hearts in the following Deal No. 3 :—

Deal No. 3 :

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

Many other East West pairs made six Hearts without bidding it. It is very difficult to bid a slam on this hand and it is also impossible to make it. Only a lead of Diamond by North will enable the declarer to make his slam.

We were lucky to secure another top in the following deal No. 4 for, our opponents, who are one of our best pairs, failed to bid a game owing to some misunderstanding.

Deal No. 4 :

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

Six of the East West pairs reached game in the following deal (deal No. 5) only to get doubled for high penalties by their opponents. Four of them played in four Hearts and two of them in five Clubs.

Deal No. 5 :

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

Either East or West must have realised that there was a misfit and should have stopped either at two Hearts or three Clubs. There must have been keen competition between them, each raising his long suit, for no

East West pair has taken a positive score.

A few East West pairs imagined a slam in Deal No. 6 and one of them even went to the extent of redoubling their slam bid when it was doubled by their opponents to give the latter a four-figure score and a clean top.

Deal No. 6 :

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

Curiously enough N. S. No. 10 has ventured with a bid of four Spades in this deal to go five down doubled giving an unbeatable top to E.W. No. 6. It is impossible to conceive how this contract could have been reached.

There was a grand slam in Spades in Deal No. 7 for the East West pairs. The grand slam should not be bid as it depended upon the favourable position of the trump King. Six pairs have reached a small slam and made seven. Five others stopped with game and took all the tricks. Only our opponents E. W. No. 3

presented us with a top by making only five Spades.

Deal No. 7 :

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

Deal No. 10 has produced some fantastic bidding by all the N.S. pairs excepting ourselves. We were the only pair to get a plus score and with it a clean top. The other N.S. pairs have presented their opponents with scores ranging between 110 and 2000. N.S. 11 had bid 3 N.T. to go seven down doubled giving E.W. 6 the top score.

Deal No. 10 :

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

East West No. 5 has made 3 N.T. on this deal. North must have helped them by leading Clubs King. If Heart has been led 3 N.T. could not have been made.

Luck was continuing to favour us for we got another top from K. R. Sundaram Iyer and T. R. Samoo in Deal No. 14. They reached an unmakeable contract of four Spades instead of stopping at 3 N.T. I did not double four Spade for I was afraid to drive them to five Clubs and lose a good top.

Deal No. 14 :

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

Many East West pairs have made 3 N.T. on this deal. On correct defence even this contract cannot be made. When North opens the lead with Heart 8

(for South would have bid one Heart over one Club by East South must take it with Hearts Act and shift to Diamond.

At last we met with disaster in Deal No. 17 which we played against E.W. No. 10 who were the winners in the East West position. I could not imagine what had happened to my partner. Something must have gone wrong with him for he literally drove me to a little slam in Club. I went down two undoubled and gave the E. W. winners an absolute top. Only a game in No Trump is possible in this deal.

Deal No. 17 :

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

Before luck could finally desert us and any more disaster could overtake us the tournament came to a close to our immense relief for we were quite certain by that time of our first place.

THE PASS

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

Culbertson says that the opening pass though not a bid in the ordinarily understood sense yet conveys enough negative information to partner. It shows a hand with usually 1/2 to two honour tricks, or with no biddable suit with even three honour tricks, or not having a long powerful trump suit for opening a pre-emptive bid. "To pass an opening suit bid of one is the lowest warning in bridge" showing a hand so weak that the opener should expect (a) at most one honour trick—usually less, (b) less than adequate support for the bid suit, (c) if adequate support for the bid suit, poor distribution and poverty of high cards, (d) no higher ranking suit as good as A x x x x or K J 10 x x, or (e) bare ace without stopper in another suit and no distributional support for partner's bid suit.

The most neglected bid in Contract Bridge is the Pass. The natural human instinct not to give up without a struggle makes it hard to pass. Some players think that the word Pass is for cowards to be used only when any search fails to turn up more than two winners in their hands. The eagerness to throw one or two punches may

result in the head being knocked off. "The most eloquent and the most philosophical of all bids" and "that will save more points than any other bid that is at once subtle and most brilliant" is the Pass.

One need not be conservative but must pass at right time and place: you pass because the possible gain of bidding does not look anywhere nearly commensurate with the possible loss. For example.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	Pass

South holds:—♠ 9; ♥ Q 10 8; ♦ A Q J 7 2; ♣ J 10 8 6. He shall not call two Diamonds: a reopening bid may be playing into West's hand: the top ranking suit is mysteriously missing. *Where are the Spades?* Does West want to reverse in Spades and steal a game?

The Pass is either a trap-pass, a waiting-pass, a forcing-pass, a content-pass or, a penalty-pass.

The Trap-Pass.

When your principal strength lies in the suit bid by your right-hand-opponent, when your hand is weak in majors or in the other major, it is better not to double

but Pass. (A take-out double may compel partner to bid in a minor which may not fit in with the doubler's hand). If the opponents get into a contract which you know they can never make do not drive them into a bid they can make, but simply Pass. The use of trap-pass must not be overdone. To pass a hand holding.

A 10 4 2 ; 9 4 ; K J 8 6 ; A Q 8 ; after the opening bid of a Heart by the right-hand opponent in the hope of the opponents over-bidding and giving you an opportunity to double is height of optimism. Trapping is not wise when neither side is vulnerable, but wise when both sides are vulnerable; it is ideal when trapper is not vulnerable but opener is; it is unwise when trapper is vulnerable and opener is not. The trap-pass should not result more in a missed game than a big penalty. A good player, especially on a part score, traps only with considerable merchandise in the suit already named by the opponent, he does not trap-pass with a hand that is strong in the other suits. Examples:—

(1) East calls one Spade and South holds: A Q J 10 ; 8 6 5 ; 7 8 4 ; Q J 7. South shall pass.

(2) East calls one Spade and South holds: A J 8 7 6 ; K J 8 ; K 7 4 ; A 9. South shall pass. To make a game in adversely bid suit is not likely. By doubling

first and then bidding spades, thus telling partner a genuine spade suit, South succeeds only in assuming all responsibility plus all the risk for the meagre profit of a part score. When the opponent starts off in trouble it is best to nurse him stay in it.

(3) N. E. S. W.
1 ♦ 1 ♥ ?

South holds 9 4 ; K 10 8 6 4 2 ; J 4 ; J 9 2. If South doubles it may not stand and East may change suit. South has a tempting hand to double but he must pass. Further in order to make a penalty double South should have defensive high cards tricks also. If North makes a take-out double South should be glad to leave it alone.

(4) W. N. E. S.
1 ♥ P 1 ♠ ?

Both sides vulnerable: Rubber Bridge. South holds K Q 9 6 ; K 10 8 ; A K Q 9 7 ; 5. South shall pass. The defender is not to exchange potentially excellent defensive position for a doubtful offensive position. South has so much strength that the enemy will not be making anything. South should have to remember that one Spade by East is forcing and East-West may get into trouble. South has a hand strong enough to enter later into the auction but certainly not for game since applying the Rule of Eight, North cannot have any honour

hand at all. South should wait and trap for a sizeable penalty.

(5) From the *American Bridge World*.
East-West Vulnerable.

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 ♦ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ ?

South bids K Q 10 8 5 ; 2 ; Q J 10 7 ; Q J 9. South passes. "Do not fall for this tissue-paper trap and do not double. Play the role of the meek mouse and pass. The vulnerable opponents are heading for gallows. One Spade is a force on West and if South acts now he is premature. Never mind about warning North in Hearts—the wonder is *where* he got his *first* bid; he will not rebid Hearts at all".

(6) Another from the *American Bridge World*.

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1 ♦ Double. ?

Both sides Vulnerable. Rubber Bridge.

South holds K J 7 5 ; Q 10 8 3 ; 6 4 2 ; Q 4. The obvious bid for South is the Pass; he should lay back and give opponents as much rope as possible.

The Waiting-Pass.

The distinction between the trap-pass and the waiting-pass is marked only to this extent, that in cases of trap-pass the trapper has merchandise also in the suit bid by the opponents

while in cases of waiting-pass the player need not necessarily have any strength in the suit bid by the opponent. The "waiting-pass" is intimately connected with the subject of "overcalling".

The "overcall" is the bid made by a player on the opposite side after his opponent has opened the bidding and the over-caller is the defender. The proper use of the overcall may spell the difference between a losing and a winning contract. The overcall is a competitive bid and is made in the face of strength declared by the opponent. The overcall shall not be made because the hand is good for an opening bid: *honour tricks* determine the opening bids but *winners* shall guide the overcalls. The opening bid is a tentative call but the overcall is a definite commitment and therefore the solidity of the trumps must be considered foremost. The overcall should not give the opponents what baseball fans call a "fielder's choice". It is in the field of overcalls that many run riot and when calamity descends they call it a horrible break.

Both sides Vulnerable.

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♣ 2 ♠

South holds: A K 8 4 3 ; A 9 5 3 ; 9 6 ; 7 2. Can

South expect North to hold any tricks at all after West has made a vulnerable opening and East has responded with a two-over-one take-out? The Rule of Two and Three is violated. "No formula has been found to replace the Culbertson Rule of 2 and 3 as a measurement of overcalls; nor will one be found because this rule is as logical as it is simple". The better cause would be to lie low and lull the opponents into a false sense of security. In the face of an opponent opening the bidding the overcaller must be very cautious, for the opponent on his left can easily tell which side has the most strength and he will drop like a ton of bricks on any doubtful bid with a double. "Pattern your overcall after Lou Louis Watson."

Some hands with good honour-tricks but without good distribution can lead one to go astray in bidding. A wait-and-see hand is one that contains good honour cards and no good distribution. Bridge is not a game of mere Aces and Kings. In the illustration given below an incautious East player would make an overcall and would go down on a double—or on a take-out double by him West would bid two Clubs and go down on a penalty double. East must make a waiting pass to let the opponents go too high and then double for penalties.

♠ 8 5 2
♥ A K Q 4
♦ 10 6 4
♣ A Q 6

♠ 9 4
♥ J 6 3
♦ 8 7 5 2
♣ J 10 8 5

♠ A K 10 6
♥ 9 8 7
♦ A K 3
♣ 9 7 4

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ 10 5 2
♦ Q J 9
♣ K 3 2

Deal actually played in a major tournament. Vulnerable both sides. Dealer North. Culbertson played in the East position.

Bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♥	Pass	1 N.T.	Pass
Pass	Pass		

"North and South made their contract and two overtricks for a duplicate score of 150 (100 for three no-trumps plus a partial-bid bonus of 50). At another table where Jacoby and Burnstine sat East-West, the East hand, afraid that his side was being bilked, made a take-out double. When South's no-trump came around to him West then bid 2 Clubs, was cracked and went down 500 points. At still another table a one Spade overcall by East was doubled and the slaughter yielded 800 points for opponents". It is difficult for East to pass with a hand like this: but Pass is the most difficult bid

and Culbertson whom fabulous P. Hal Sims rightly called "a flawless technician, brilliant, colourful, imaginative, courageous" did call Pass at the right time and place.

Here is another deal played by top masters and it illustrates a case when East with a misfit in Spades resists the temptation to open his mouth and waits to see what South calls.

♠ J 10 8 6 2
♥ Q 8 6
♦ 6 5
♣ K 8 6

♠ A Q 5 4 3
♥ K J 5 3
♦ Q 4
♣ A 3

♠ Nil
♥ A 10 2
♦ 10 8 7 3 2
♣ J 10 9 7 5

♠ K 9 7
♥ 9 7 4
♦ A K J 9
♣ Q 4 2

Vulnerable: neither. Dealer West.

West hand played by Helen Sobel.

Bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South has not enough winners for an overcall of two Diamonds. "Since her partner on this hand

was a top-master she realised that the fact he did not keep the bidding open for her was intended as a warning. Accordingly she passed opponent's overcall with a fine rebiddable hand to see if partner had anything to say at this point. He had—and emphatically". Any other bid by South lands him in trouble.

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
1 ♠ ?

North-South Vulnerable and South holds:—

(a) 9 8 5; 10 2; A K 6 4 3; A 10 4.

South will lose if he sticks out his neck simply because someone dealt him Ace, King, Ace; though his hand is worth an opening bid it is not worth a vulnerable overcall at two-level.

(b) Q 8 6 4; A K 9 6 2; 10 6; 7 5: Pass is the word. A Heart overcall is pointless and suicidal.

(c) K Q 9; K 10 7; A 6 4; Q 8 6 2; Pass. Do not disturb a good defensive position over Spade.

(d) K Q 8 6 4; A K; A 6; 10 6 5 2. Pass. No Double. No good for any immediate action.

(To be continued.)

KARAIKUDI BRIDGE TOURNAMENT

By "POINTS MAN".

We received the announcement of the proposed tournament at Karaikudi in April and were not very much enthusiastic about taking a team there as the matches were fixed for the 3rd week of May. The temperature in Madras itself touched something like 108° and we could well imagine the condition in a place like Karaikudi. Probably, the organisers there suspected the reactions of the outside teams and naturally they put in more steam in their endeavours to get as many teams as possible to make it a grand success. They did succeed in this and it was indeed a stupendous success, as something like 25 teams entered for the duplicate knock-out! This I should consider a record especially in these days when rummy has invaded all the clubs and swept bridge completely off the card tables.

Madras wanted to send three teams, T. Nagar, Mylapore and P. S. Reddy's. Somehow only one and a half team could go. Reddy took us all in his newly reconditioned Hudson, myself, Ramaratnam, Viramani, P. S. Reddy and Samoo Iyer—Chari was wise enough to think that the good old train is more dependable. Someone told us to clear

out of Madras before 3 P.M. as 3 to 4-30 P.M. on Friday is supposed to be inauspicious time. Although we started collecting members and kit one after another from 1-30 P.M., we could start from T'Nagar Club only at 3-15 P.M. As ill-luck would have it, something went wrong with the car and we had to entrain at Villupuram leaving the car there in a work-shop. Somehow, we reached Karaikudi at 6-30 A.M. on Saturday, the 19th May. The organisers of the tournament had made excellent arrangements for our stay, food and transport.

Although there were record number of entries as I said before, the organisers managed the crowd admirably and the three days' function went off precisely according to schedule. A big school and two or three private buildings for the visiting teams' stay, a school for tournament, another for a special canteen was no small achievement. To crown all, they had collected about 100 ceiling fans for installation in these places. These were only a few of the amenities which they provided for the visitors.

Somehow the fame of Reddy had reached there before he

actually arrived, so much so, a crowd of at least 30 people went from room to room where he was playing in progressive events and the knock-outs. Of course oh, boy! he gave them their money's worth by some of the rarest fireworks. Although we lost to the winners—the Coimbatore team—by 10 points, any one of the 3 games which myself and my partner threw away or any one of the 3 psychic bids which missed the bus by P. S. Reddy and Ramaratnam would have saved the match for us. I am giving below one of the games which we threw away on my table. We (myself and my partner) were playing Panikker's point system and the cards were as below:

Dealer South: E. W. Vulnerable.

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

According to our system, sitting north, I opened one Heart (as the hand contained 18 points, the requisite points needed for a Heart opening being 17 or 18 irrespective of the fact that we

hold Hearts or not) and my partner said one no-trump. He needed only 8 points to respond for a game force of 1 N.T. and he had 11 points. I called two Clubs, showing my longest suit and my partner 2 Spades, his longest suit.

The bidding was as below:

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

Since I did not show any support for both the major suits bid by my partner and as he went on his own steam, for even re-doubling, I was sure he held a strong Heart suit and with my Q 6 to supplement I thought we were on velvet. But my partner did not care to see Sundaram of the Coimbatore team, my opponent on E taking a mental calculation after my initial opening of one Heart itself. Sundaram must have for a moment forgotten that my opening bid need not have any Hearts at all. Anyway, he let the cat out but it did not have any effect on my partner. How true the words of Blackwood in BRIDGE HUMANICS: 'Understand your partner and study the opponents'.

But the worst part of it was, due to the peculiarity of our system, I had to feed the baby and play the hand. When the dummy was laid, I know that my partner must have been wool-gathering and I simply told him that at least the privilege of redoubling should have been left to me. The play went as below :

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
♦ A	♦ x	♦ x	♦ 8
♠ x	♠ A	x	J
x	♣ x	x	♣ A

Here I put on my thinking cap. Is it possible for E to have all the missing 6 Hearts or is it divided 5-1? If there is a singleton in W hand, it may give lot of trouble and on this basis I played ♥ Q and the play proceeded as follows :

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
♥ K	♥ A	♥ 8	♥ Q
♦ x	♦ x	♦ x	♦ K

Since my hand as well as Dummy was freak and since Hearts were located in the East's hand I thought I should play one more round of Diamonds and then continue with Clubs. Consequently ♦ Q was led and East ruffed with four of

Hearts. I discarded a small Spade from dummy. The ruffing of the Diamond Queen upset me and now E played Hearts J and then a small Spade. I had no way of getting back into my hands and I went 2 down. Now comes our Captain Reddy and hearing about the comedy or errors in this deal he told me that I could have kept the contract !!

His line of play is as follows. After the ♦ A by E and the Spade small, play the A K and small of Spade from dummy ruffing the small Spade by 6 of Hearts in the closed hand. Play ♥ Q from the hand and when E covers with King, play the A from Dummy. Come back by ♣ A, play 2 more rounds of Clubs, play ♦ K and then play ♦ Q. What does East do? He is now left with only J 10 4 3 of Hearts. If he ruffs small, ruff over with 5 and lead back 9. East will get only two tricks for J and 10. But there was one snag and that was that East held K J 10 7 4 of Hearts and South A 9 5 3 2 and not what I have stated above. Now, however hard you try, you will have to concede 3 tricks in trumps to East and that together with ♦ A put you one down.

THE MADRAS-ANDHRA DUPLICATE CONTRACT BRIDGE MATCH, 1956

By N. RAMARATNAM.

The second day of the match began with keen expectations on either side. The Madras Team was determined to retrieve the points which it had lost in the second session. The Andhra contingent hoped to forge ahead with the gains it had made.

For the Madras Team, P. S. Reddi and K. C. Ramaratnam sat North South in the open hall and T. S. Chandrasekaran and S. Palaniswami sat East West in the closed room. After 16 deals Sadasivam replaced S. Palaniswami. In the open hall, Dr. Sambasiva Rao and Sastri, who played for the first time sat, East West and in the closed room A. Ramamoorthi and P. Tilak represented the Andhra Team.

At the end of the first 16 deals, the score was fairly even; but at the end of the morning session of 32 boards it was a very different story. Twenty three valuable matchpoints had been lost! There was gloom in the Madras camp.

In the deals of the third and subsequent sessions that are covered by this article one feels that the bidding by the players did not maintain a high standard throughout. Lapses in bidding occurred every now and then and in some deals, judged

by inter-state standards, the bidding should be said to be sub-par.

Of some interest from the bidding angle is deal No. 68. Imagine your partner opens one Heart which is doubled by your opponent to the right and as you unfold your cards you see before you J 9 3 in Spades, K 9 8 5 3 2 in Hearts, Singleton 8 in Diamonds and 9 8 6 in Clubs. What would you bid? Two Three or Four Hearts? The jump to Four Hearts by T. S. Chandrasekaran in the closed room proved effective and made all the difference. It gave a problem to the opponents who bid 5 Diamonds, were doubled, and went two down vulnerable.

Bidding was responsible for the missing of the game by East West in the open room in the next Board.

Dealer : North. Vul : N. S.

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

The bidding in both the rooms is given below :

Open Room :

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

Closed Room :

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♠	3 ♥	Pass	3 N T
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Forceful bidding by East in the closed room carried the auction to game whereas in the open room East's take-out double followed by a Two Hearts bid did not provoke any response from his partner.

Board No. 76 presents a problem one normally meets with in duplicate matches, the problem of sacrifice. Should a vulnerable side bid over or double an obvious sacrifice by non-vulnerable opponents. Very often we see players going into a huddle over this. The hand calling for comment is given below.

Dealer : West. Vul : N. S.

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

In the open room Ramaratnam sitting south, doubled the bid of Four Spades and the auction closed with that. In the closed room over the same double of four Spades by his partner Tilak, Ramamoorthi chose to bid over the double five Hearts, and this was made. This decision earned for his team five points.

There was quite a flare-up on deal No. 78. In the open room North South went up to Six Hearts! It is difficult to imagine how North could have gone to six Hearts which is obviously a bad proposition when his partner had doubled the bid of Five spades by their opponents, for penalties. In the other table the bid of Four spades itself by East West was doubled and was one down. The double of Five Spades, if it had been left, would have yielded some points for the Madras Team.

Dealer : East. Vul : Neither.

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

The bidding on Board 81 practically filled up the bidding sheet and the final contract of Six Hearts by Sadasivam and Chandrasekharan was much to the satisfaction of the opponents.

Dealer : North. Vul : Neither.

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

In the other table the contract was Three No-trumps by West and five was made. Here also the contract would have been the same had East passed the bid of 3 No-trumps by his partner.

This first deal of the second sixteen set off the landslide for the Madras side! And several points were lost within the next few deals.

On Board 85 the pusillanimity of South lost a game in the open Hall. In the closed Room South jumped to Four Hearts on North's response to his take-out

double. It is to be noted however that in the open Room North did not bid to the take-out double by the partner in the first round. South made a repeated take-out double but when his partner came out with a 3 Hearts bid he chose to pass. A vulnerable game was missed and five points lost by the Madras Team.

Dealer : North. Vul : Neither.

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

Four Spades by North South in the open hall on Board 91 over four hearts by their opponents, which was doubled, turned to be a very bad sacrifice. North South went down by four tricks, and lost 700 points as they were helpless against merciless play from the beginning. In the closed room the contract was 4 Hearts by west and five was made. This lost another four points for the Madras team.

Dealer: North. Vul. Neither.

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

At the end of the third session when the players got up for lunch the Madras Team was surprised to see that they had lost 23 I.M.P. After adjusting the lead of four points, they started the fourth Session with 19 I.M.P.'s against them and with 64 Boards to go.

The fourth Session.

In the Open Room K. C. Ramaratnam, paired with Sadasivam, sat North South while P. S. Reddi sat out as it was felt that this partnership had not worked out to the expectation of the Selection Committee. In the closed room Mr. Chandrasekharan and S. Palaniswami played for Madras.

The very first deal in the fourth session illustrates the extremes of variation in bidding possible even in an inter state match. In the closed Room East West who have a game in Spades

permitted their opponents to play in Two Clubs. North opened one Heart. East holding a good hand neither over-called at the first round nor doubled to provoke his partner to some response when the bidding came to him again in the second round. The fact that South made a feeble One No-trump response should have given him encouragement to bid again.

Dealer: North. Vul: Neither.

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

On Board 101 in the Open Room the contract was 2 Diamond by West, whereas in the closed room the bidding by West was bold and the contract reached was 3 N.T. by West. This deal enabled the Madras Team to recover four points.

On Board 108 the contract was 3 N T at both the Tables. In the closed Room the contract was set by one trick while it was made in the open Room. This deal is reproduced as it may be of some interest.

North led Heart King in the Closed Room. North led the King of Spades first in the Open Room and switched to King of Hearts immediately.

Dummy tabled out

♠ 4 3
 ♥ J
 ♦ A K Q J 8 4
 ♣ A Q 9 4

In the Open Room the play is not recorded—but one can only guess what would have happened. The Declarer would not have taken the trick. North in a quandary should have switched over to some other suit fearing playing into a tenace of Ace and ten of Hearts. Any other play except heart continuation gives the contract. In the closed Room west took the trick with his Ace of Hearts, and then there was no chance of the defenders committing a mistake.

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

It is rather difficult to understand how in the closed Room North on Board 114 could have

passed up a one Spade response to his take-out double from his partner. In the Open Room the contract arrived at was Four Spades and this was made without any difficulty.

Dealer: East. Vul: North South.

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

The Madras Team recovered another five points on this deal:

Note the bidding on the next deal in the closed room which is given below:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
x	x	Pass	Pass
2 ♥	3 ♥	4 ♥	5 ♦
5 ♥	D'ble	—	6 ♦
6 ♥	D'ble	—	—

Result—Minus 2.

Six Spades by East West looks a possibility provided the opponents do not lead trumps. In the bidding in the closed room at no stage did East or West mention Spades. But the sacrifice, however, paid great dividends as in the other Table

East West bid Four Spades and made Six Spades. The Andhra Team recovered the five points it had lost in the previous deal. However, had they doubled Six Diamonds the side would have reaped quite a good harvest, as it is problematical if East West would bid a new suit at the level of six!

Dealer: South. Vul: East-West.

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

Deal 113 will be of some interest.

Dealer: North. Vul: Neither.

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

On this deal 113, given above, the contract was 2 Hearts in the Open Room by East and

two was made. In the Closed Room West found himself in a contract of 3 No trumps. He, however, went one down. The contract could however have been made. The deal was as played below.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
(1) ♠ 9	Q	K	2
(2) 2	A	♦ 10	4
(3) 7	♥ 2	8	Q
(4) 10	3	4	♥ K
(5) ♥ J	A	♠ 7	♥ 9
(6) ♠ 8	♥ 6	♠ 4	♠ 3
(7) ♦ 7	♥ 5	♠ 2	♠ 3
(8) ♠ K	7	4	♠ J
(9) ♠ 5	10	♠ J	8
(10) ♦ 8	♦ 5	3	♦ K
(11) ♠ A	9	6	♠ 5
(12) ♦ Q	♠ A	♠ 10	♦ J

When the five of Spades at trick eight was played by North, West's only hope is to find North with the Ace of Clubs and from the bidding it was safe to infer so. To allow South to take the trick would be permitting another play through his hand of Diamonds. If North had only two Spades there could be no communication between the two hands and so West should have gone up with the Ace of Spades, played the Diamond to his King and led a Club. His ninth brick is assured either in Clubs or in Diamonds.

Board 122 turned out to be a heavy swing deal. On this deal in the Open Room North South

played the contract in 4 Spades and in the Closed Room East West bid and made 5 Hearts. The swing was 1270 points or 9 I. M.P. Actually the contract of 4 Spades should have been set by one trick as East West have 4 top trick in Hearts and Clubs. Madras recovered some badly needed points in this deal.

Dealer: East. Vul: East West.

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

At the end of the fourth session there was a slight improvement in the chances of the Madras Team. They had recovered nine points and the difference was ten points. The situation became tense and with only 32 Boards more to play all the players went to it with grim determination.

Every deal was watched with anxiety by the spectators. Deal by deal progress was 'relayed' by whispers among the spectators.

P. S. Reddy was teamed again with Ramaratnam and took the North South portion in the closed

Room. Venkata Rao and Thirumal Rao sat East-West facing them. In the Open Room Chandrasekharan and Sadasivam played for Madras and opposed Dr. Sambasiva Rao and Tilak.

The start was not favourable. On Board 133 in the Closed Room the contract was played in 3 N.T. by West, whereas in the Open Room East played it in 3 Diamonds and made five. The loss in points was four and adverse to the Madras side.

In the next Board the bidding was more or less reversed. In the Closed Room, North South stopped in 3 Diamonds, whereas in the Open Room North South reached a contract of 3 No-trumps. East opened one club but North South finally landed in 3 No. Trumps. This was set though it could have been made on a careful analysis of the play and discards.

Dealer: East. Vul: East West.

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

West led Club six. South, the declarer, took the trick with his Queen and played a Diamond. Taking the trick with his Ace of Diamonds West played the three of Clubs. Winning the trick with his Ace of Clubs declarer ran out all his Diamond winners.

East's five discards were Hearts 2, Hearts Queen, Hearts 8, Clubs 2 and Spade 6. It is not very difficult to read East's hand—and his discards were revealing. He had stripped his honour in (King) Spades. All that declarer had to do was to play the Ace of Spades which would bring down the King and give the required trick for the contract. He, however, played the King of Hearts at this stage which East took and cashed his three well-preserved tricks in Clubs. The position at the eighth trick was as follows. Declarer had made seven tricks.

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

It was with his usual flourish that Ramaratnam brought home the squeeze and looked triumphantly about.

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

The deal above (137) is not of much interest except to disclose how the Ace of Clubs went to sleep in a 3 No-trump contract. On both the occasions Clubs was played by declarer, East in the Open Room ducked and in the final four card position when Diamond Queen was played he found himself caught in a squeeze.

The end position is given below.

Board No. 139 contains all the elements of a bad luck story! North played the contract in 3 Spades in the Open Room and went down one. Whereas his counterpart in the Closed Room bid 2 Spades and made five! The deal is reproduced.

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

One can easily guess how North could have gone down one. This was a bad deal for Madras and where every point counted four costly points were thrown away needlessly.

Board 144 also proved to be costly deal for Madras. On this board, East West in the Closed Room bid 4 Hearts and were allowed to make it. The Club ruff was not permitted. In the Open Room North South bid 4 Spades, undoubled, and were 3 down and gave away only 150 points to their opponents.

Dealer West : Vul : E.W.

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

In the last lap, after sixteen deals had been played there was a change of tables. The Madras Team had lost eleven points and with only 16 Boards it looked an uphill task.

In the very first deal (145) the Madras Team gained an advantage by bidding 3 No-trumps while their opponents in the same position played it in 3 Hearts (made four). The Madras Team had some further gains in the next few deals.

A few boards later East West (Reddy and Ramaratnam) in the closed Room scored for their team. They bid a game in hearts and made it while their counterparts played in 2 Hearts. Ramaratnam sitting West opened one Heart on ♠ K Q 10, ♥ K J 8 6 5 4 3, ♦ Q 9 3, ♣ Q

and when his partner bid 2 Clubs he jumped to 4 Hearts! Had South with 14 points doubled or bid 2 Diamonds over East's call of 2 Clubs it is problematical whether West would have jumped to game.

A slip in defence by the opponents again earned 5 valuable points for the Madras Team in Board 156. (Ramaratnam West) who had been making bold bids, was caught on Board 157. His overcall of 2 Spades over an opening bid of 2 Hearts (not forcing two) by Tilak (South) was punished with a double by North and this was set by 2 tricks.

Dealer: North. Vul: Both Sides.

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

In the other table South made a normal opening bid of one Heart. West passed and North bid 1 Spade and the auction died at 3 Diamonds by North

South. This gave away 5 valuable points to the Andhra Team.

The last deal deserves to be recorded. In the Open Hall the contract was 6 Clubs by South! Whereas in the Closed Room the bidding flickered away in 2 Clubs.

Dealer: West. Vul: E.W.

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

The final result is well known; but when the scores were being calculated there was great excitement in both the camps. The Madras players, however, felt that they had not acquitted themselves well. The result, however, was not so very discouraging as the difference was only 8 I.M.P. over 160 Boards.

After the match was over, the Trophy and the cups to the participants were presented by K. R. Sundaram Iyer, Vice President of the S.I.B. Association.

DESCHAPELLES AND JETTISONING

By TEAKS

"Hullo, good evening to everybody," so saying the pedant ushered himself in for he needed no more introduction. We had prepared the Bridge room for his arrival, the desire to hear him had taken deep root and it filled everyone of us. He had a look of frustration though.

I felt that he was in the same mood as on the last occasion. We did not ask him 'why'. But we were prepared for a talk on a similar principle or an extension of what was said last time.

Very solemnly and unusually sternly he dealt the cards and sat quiet. They were as follows. The final contract was 6 H by south doubled by East.

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

This deal is from the *American Bridge World*.

Bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 ♠	—	2 ♠	Double
—	3 ♥	—	4 ♥
—	5 ♥	—	6 ♥
Dbl.	—	—	—

West led nine of Diamonds. East won it with the Ace. East led six of Hearts. South won it with nine and played K and J of Diamonds; on the K he discarded the jack of Clubs, on the jack of Diamonds his hand went near dummy's Spade suit. The pedant's face was fire and brimstone. This was his 6th lesson and not to children. His indignation was justifiable and righteous. The hand then withdrew from spade and Club K was touched. Sunshine was in the pedant's face. A welcome change indeed. The pedant naturally desired to impress on us the significance of this discard. He put us a question if south's Clubs could be otherwise utilised. We thought over and felt that only that path would lead to promoting south's Clubs and by giving south entry in Hearts, the Clubs could be utilised and the contract well established. He was listening and nodding his head in agreement. What

a change had come on the whole situation. We narrated the steps and the principle and our teacher was listening and approving. One day surely we would out-Herod the Herod and though children become the 'father of the man'. South next played a Club which was won in the dummy. He next played Q of Hearts and was taken with the K by south. Another Club by south and it was ruffed with 8 in the dummy. A small Spade from north was ruffed by south's small trump. A third club from south was ruffed by dummy's high trump. The last trump was played and won by south with J. Then all Clubs were good and the contract stood unshaken. Diamond Ace trick was the sole one for the defenders. Before our friend could wax eloquent, we all said that we have now understood "entry making" and "promotion". The king and jack and 9 of Hearts with south were made the necessary entries and Clubs with South were promoted by the discard of K and J. Very well, no gainsaying the fact that Bridge-play is good mental tonic. A pack of cheap cards and concentrated Bridge play are more economical than present-day costly patent drugs to tone one up.

The next deal was dealt rather silently by the pedant. We suspected that he was a little green eyed at our quick work in the last deal. We stirred ourselves

up still better. The deal was as follows. The final contract was six Spades by South.

```

      ♠ x
      ♥ K J
      ♦ A x
      ♣ A x x x x x x
  ♠ x x x x x x ♠ Nil
  ♥ Q x x ♥ x x x x
  ♦ Nil ♦ K J 10 9 x x x x
  ♣ K Q J 10 ♣ Nil
      ♠ A K Q J 10 9
      ♥ A 10 x x
      ♦ Q x
      ♣ x
  
```

This deal is from *American Bridge World*.

Bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	5 ♦	5 ♠	—
6 ♣	—	6 ♠	Dbl.

West opened K of Clubs. North won it with Ace. East discarded a Diamond. A small trump from dummy was led. East showed out. South won it with his trump sequence. South kept the cards down and was in the path of sorrow. He lost his brightness. He muttered to himself "What? East not having Clubs and Spades". His mind was at dead stop. Now was the pedant's chance. We showed rather hastily at the last deal that we were nearing him in his grasp of the intricacies of play. Now we were at sea. With great self-satisfaction he threw his head up and said that we all had to learn many more things.

before becoming classical players. We felt depressed. But he was a true teacher and finding our mood gave a bit of encouragement and said that no doubt they were in sorrow but that path alone would lead us all to the land where sorrow was unknown. We cleared up a bit. Then he asked south to "count" cards and "place" them. It was easily said but it took south 10 minutes to do it. He placed six trumps 4 Clubs and 3 Hearts with West. East obviously had no Spades and Clubs and by a process of elimination he had 9 Diamonds and 4 Hearts. The play had to be regulated on that basis. Our friend was happy that we had caught the point. South then played all his trumps. No doubt he had enough Clubs in the dummy to discard. When he played the last trump he touched a Club and the wry face of the pedant took the finger away. But the other alternative did not strike him. The pedant then said: "What was East's call, was it not 5 Diamond?" "Yes" said South. But he did not catch its full meaning. The pedant was rather worried about South's want of acuteness. He asked the other 3 of us if we had the solution ready. We were in the same boat as south. Then our friend gave the tip by saying that the contract can be made only if south had a re-entry after playing Hearts. Well. We deflected our thinking in that

direction and decided that all Hearts must be good tricks and if the Ace and 10 of Hearts were to be used south must have an entry and it can be only in Diamonds. A little more time and we discerned that the Ace of Diamonds was a block to the Diamond entry with the declarer. South now was all smiles and then said that he would ditch his Diamond Ace. Our friend signified approval and said that this discard was also called "jet-tisoning". South then played a small Heart and won it with J in the North. Then played the K. A small Diamond was played next and East won it with the K. If not south was prepared to take it with his queen. It was beautiful play. But what a danger in clinging to big things and top-cards. That is man's trait. He should get over it. All these were our friend's sayings. We quietly heard him. It was then that we realised that small things were very often as useful as, if not more than things big and heavy.

The shrewd pedant saw from our faces that in the last deal south was made to look small and that East and west looked wise-acres. He decided probably to punish those two among us. He dealt the cards and the deal was as follows. The final contract was 3 N.Ts. by south after an overcall of 3 Diamonds by East.

♠ A 10 x x
 ♥ A x
 ♦ Q 10 x
 ♣ A Q x x

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

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

This deal is from "Reese On play"

West led a small Diamond. North played his 10, East played his jack and south won it with his K and next played his jack of Clubs. West covered it with his king and dummy won it with his Ace. South then counted the tricks. He felt that only with 4 tricks in Hearts he could make his contract. He naturally located the K of Hearts with East on the bidding. He therefore played his Ace of H. East started thinking. It took over 15 minutes. We thought it disgustingly long and that there was no reason either for it. But the pedant was eagerly scanning East. Suddenly East threw the K on that. The pedant could not contain himself. He stood up and clapped his hands. The rest of us were reticent. South repeated dummy's small Heart and played his Q on it. Then he played the third Heart. West won it with the knave returned his second Diamond and the

rest of the story could well be imagined. The contract was set. East grew very talkative. He explained that if he had not unblocked by playing his K of Heart, west would never have had an entry to play his second Diamond. We agreed that it was well done. All of us were very happy and we assured our friend that he should not in the least suspect us and that among us none desired to steal a march over the other and that we shared our joys and sorrows together.

We thought the day's lesson was over. But our friend hurriedly dealt the cards. We were surprised but didn't mind it. The deal was as follows. The final contract was 3 N.Ts. by south.

♠ 8 5 4
 ♥ A 7
 ♦ A Q J 6 4 3
 ♣ A 9

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

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

This deal is from Culbertson.

West led the Q of Spades. East played the K and south held up. Spade was continued. Ducking again in the south. But west was shrewd and won it with his 9 and repeated

Spades. South was forced to win with Ace. South took a Diamond finesse and East won it. Here East was inordinately long in thinking and yet played a small Heart. Our friend's anger knew no bounds. Sarcastically he said that after all man was a poor creature. East did not follow and his face was blank. Suddenly the father yearned in his breast. He felt affectionate and this put East at ease. He then asked all of us: "Have you not heard of the great name Deschappelles in Bridge play?" Our silence betrayed our ignorance. He then said that this great man had invented a coup which was named after him and that this could be used in this deal. This was Greek to us. He added that

the name was high sounding, the principle was simple. It only meant the sacrifice of an unsupported honour in the hand to enable if possible his partner to get an entry thereby and play a long suit of his or in an advantageous manner. This was an eye-opener to East. He bestowed good thought on it and then drew back his deuce of Heart and played the king saying aloud that the only possible entry with west was Q of Hearts. The stage was set for defeating the contract. South had to yield a trick for Diamond 10 to East. Then a small Heart by him would give a necessary entry to west to play his Spade. Our friend said "well done" and slipped away.

BRIDGE AND SOME THAT PLAY IT

A BRIDGE FAN.

I love Bridge and so must the others—otherwise they will not be there every evening. The variety of situations, the permutations and combinations, together with the background and psychology of the players, make it an enthralling game.

Bridge is not what it used to be. It has become more complex. It is no more that peaceful, silent, blissful Bridge that it was. It has become more vociferous, critical and recriminatory.

But why blame Bridge? It is what it is made to be by the people that play it.

There is that retired Government servant who is there nearly every day. He never demands a "deal me in". He enjoys sitting out as much. But when he plays, if someone dares to make an adverse remark, he just looks as much as to say: "When I ope my lips, let no dogs bark".

The next fellow who is always there never likes being "cut out". He would rather play and pay. Perhaps he does not understand the finer points of the game but he more often takes than gives.

Z comes but once in a way. He seldom opens his

mouth except to bid. He is so quiet that even the worst at our table takes a snipe at him with impunity.

X is regarded by many as an expert at Bridge. Indeed he thinks so too! He thinks of the most extraordinary situations. He imagines mountains of the most innocent of mole-hills. He fancies all the adverse trumps in one hand. In "post-mortems", however, no one is fit to hold a candle to him.

Here comes the busy man just when the table is about to break up. He demands an extension—a game or two. For sheer love of Bridge there is none to beat him and so we oblige. He bids a slam—he ponders (oh, how long), he plans and at last he plays. The others get jittery. It's getting late! "Haw, Haw", he exclaims as he makes it: "How do you like the throw-in?"

Sometimes the evening is marred by a single incident. There were only four of us playing for nominal stakes. Y played a few games and lost every one of them. He walked out, leaving the three gaping, saying that he was not going to contribute to their pockets any more!

Another day there was a player waiting to be dealt in. But Y refused to be cut out as he had lost all the rubbers and wanted to make good the loss ! Such instances leave a bad taste in the tongue.

There is one who usually comes to watch. He refuses to play because he cannot stand the post-game-lecture of some. I know of two such. They are both sound players—well-read in all

the literature of the game. They are both past-masters of the art of bidding and play. Yet when one rails at his partner at every opportunity, the other says: "Well played partner", and even when the nervous partner says: "Sorry partner, I should have played it better", he smiles, and says: "It is quite all right, my friend ; that is one way of playing." With men of the latter type round the table, Bridge will be much more pleasant.



Pro et contra

Edited By E. SOLOMON

Question 1 : Playing duplicate bridge, a North South pair surprisingly stopped at a four-Club contract when a slam was cold. The hands and the bidding were :

North dealer : Neither side vulnerable.

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

The bidding :—

1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♦	3 ♣
3 N T	4 ♣
Pass	

North agreed that he should have bid five Clubs, but please comment on how the small slam in Clubs should have been reached.

Answer : We agree that North might have ventured a raise to give Clubs. With successive bids of one Spade, three Clubs and four Clubs, partner has announced

possession of not less than five cards in each black suit. North's three top cards will therefore cover any losers that South might have in the red suits. His Club holding is sufficient support for a suit that has been rebid. He may therefore bid five Clubs without excessive trepidation.

But it is South, rather than North, who we would wish to crime. South's non-committal bidding effectively veiled the beauties of his hand as jealously as those in the Sultan's Seraglio. With three and a half honour tricks, all that he did whenever it came his turn to speak was to keep the calling alive. His partner was at liberty to pass at any time after the first round. That he eventually did so at a part-score contract is therefore not only what South should have expected but what he richly deserved to happen. If we were called upon to sentence South it would be nothing less than to be shot at dawn !

It is always partner who is the ass. But there is a limit

JULY 1956

41

to the load that even an ass will bear. South's bidding quite unnecessarily placed too much of a load on his partner and it was not surprising therefore that partner refused to carry it any further.

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

NORTH	SOUTH
1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♦	4 ♣
5 ♣	6 ♣

As regards the last bid of six Clubs, we are aware that for a duplicate match a good case could be made out for a pass to five Clubs.

Question 2 : Please discuss in your columns how the North South hands should have been bid in the following cases :—

(a) South dealer: North South vulnerable.

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

The bidding :—

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

(b) East Dealer : East West vulnerable.

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

The bidding :—

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

The East and West in both cases contended that the bids they made were precisely the best bids they could make and the games were therefore just un-biddable. Please comment.

Answer : If the East and West concerned are both satisfied with their mutual bidding of their two hands, we wonder why this reference has been made to us. That bidding is an exact science is not an article in our bridge philosophy. We therefore do not feel called upon to make an apology for every instance, where, due to perhaps,

- (i) eccentric distribution ;
- (ii) opponents' interference

or

- (iii) vulnerability considerations

the best possible contract, or what is known as 'par', is not capable of being arrived at even though sound bidding methods are employed.

Having said so much we are prepared to turn our attention to the particular hands submitted to us, it being clearly understood that it is not our purpose to contrive the bidding to find actual results.

Hand (a) : We believe that it was the very unusual bidding of

their opponents that deprived East West of their *lucky* game contract. South opened the bidding and North South had been themselves more than half of the high card points, i.e., 21. Furthermore they held between them nine clubs to the Ace, King, Queen and Knave and eight Spades to the King, Knave and ten, both of which suits were bid by the partnership. It is therefore most remarkable that each partner was content to bid once only and not to raise thereafter his partner's suit.

There are some games which require a little pressure from opponents to be bid. This is one of them, but the pressure, for reasons that are beyond our knowing, was not forthcoming. If North or South put in one more bid, East and West, in contesting the auction, would have disclosed to one another their very good fit in the red suits and the game could have been reached.

It would also have helped if West, who does not have a proper overcall, kept silent on the first round of bidding.

Hand (b): Here again the opponents made life difficult for East West and an additional factor was unfavourable vulnerability. The game might however have been reached if West was a bit more enterprising. West need not have passed after South's intervening two Clubs

bid, since his holding in that suit immediately appreciates in value. If he comes in at this juncture the bidding might have gone as follows:—

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

We admit that West's last bid of four Spades is on the optimistic side, but we are always reluctant to hang one short of game in the face of partner's encouragement.

Question 3: Kibitzing a recent duplicate team-of-four contest at our Club, I was gratified to see an East West pair bid the grand slam on this deal—

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

The bidding was:—

WEST	EAST
1 ♠	3 ♥
4 N T	5 ♦
5 N T	7 ♠

During the inevitable post-mortem, an interesting point was made by one of the onlookers that West's five 5 NT trump bid did not ask for kings but *announced* the holding of all the four aces in the combined hands. Is this correct? Does not the

five N T trump bid ask for kings in partner's hand? If, for argument's sake, East responds six Spades, showing possession of three kings, is West still justified in bidding seven spades, as for all that he knows the missing king might well be the trump king?

Answer: In the Blackwood convention a bid of five N T trump has two significances. Firstly it enquires about the number of kings held by partner. Secondly it proclaims that the partnership holds all the aces and there is a chance for the grand slam. This second significance is most important but frequently is lost sight of.

When a player bids the Blackwood four NT trump he is the captain and his partner is bound to give the conventional response. If the four NT trumper then bids five NT trump he temporarily surrenders his cap-

taincy and his bid tells partner precisely this:—

"Partner, we have all four aces, small slam is certain and *there is a chance for the grand slam*. If it is clear to your on the information now in your possession, that we can take thirteen tricks, please bid the grand slam. *Otherwise* let me know how many kings you have after which I will decide whether to bid the grand slam or to rest content with a small slam".

Reverting to the actual deal of the question, we are in entire accord with the way in which East and West have bid the grand slam.

As regards the last sentence of the enquiry, we fail to appreciate its pertinence. We can say this, however, that holding West's hand we could certainly drop the bidding at six Spades; partner showing by his response to five NT trump that one king is missing.



THE NEWS SECTION

Edited by T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN

We regret to report the death of Mr. S. P. Raju Mudaliar on Sunday, 8th July, 1956, at his residence at Tondiarpet after a brief illness. Mr. Raju Mudaliar was one of the founders of the South Indian Bridge Association and was largely responsible for organising a small band of Bridge enthusiasts in the City who formed themselves into an active body which later became the nucleus of the Association and merged with the Deccan Bridge League in 1939. An ardent lover of the game, Mr. Mudaliar was one of the few who played Bridge at the M.U.C. despite the lure of Rummy.

An extraordinary general body meeting of the Association was held at the Mylapore Club, Madras, on Saturday, 2nd June, 1956, to consider the draft Memorandum of the Association. The General Body resolved to have the Association registered under Act XXI of 1860, section 2.

After the meeting the members present participated in a Master

Pairs' Event. Fourteen Pairs in all took part and the following are the names of the winners and runners-up.

Winners :

E. Solomon.
T. S. Chandrasekharan.

Runners-up :

K. Gurudutt.
G. K. Gopalaswamy.

The Madras City League Tournament which was scheduled to commence on 8th June, 1956, was postponed as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Raju Mudaliar who passed away that morning. The first round matches were played on 15th July, 1956, and an interesting contest is in prospect. Twelve teams have entered for the League Tournament this season and it is hoped that the handicap of 6 I.M.P. for Group 'A' Teams will keep up the interest in the matches to the end. The following are the teams.

JULY 1956

45

Group : 'A'.

P. S. Reddy's Team.
K. R. Sundaram Iyer's Team.
N. Ramaratnam's Team.
Modern Institute of Commerce (M.I.C.).
T'Nagar Social Club (T.S.C.)

Group : 'B'.

Chennapuri Andhra Mahajana Sabha (C.A.M.S.).
Suguna Vilas Sabha (S.V.S.).
Madras Gymkhana.
Burmah Shell Team.
Indian Mutual Life Association.

M. N. Reddy's Team.
Mars' Team.

There has been a heartening revival of interest in the game of late and the two mofussil tournaments held during the summer holidays at Srirangam and Karaikudi were both well attended. The Srirangam Club who organised an open tournament during April had an encouraging response from members. Two teams of four from Madras, two from Trichy and representative teams from other districts all took part in this tournament. While the Madras Team led by K. R. Sundaram Iyer won the main event convincingly, it was heartening to see the team of veterans from Gobichettipalayam stage a welcome return to form. They overpowered a strong assorted team

from Madras and gave a good fight to the winners in the finals. Although this was the first open tournament conducted by the Srirangam Club, arrangements for the lodging and boarding of the visitors left nothing to be desired. The genial hospitality of the organisers especially Thatham and Parthasarathy impressed every visitor and it was fitting that their efforts in organising the tournament met with such striking response. Detailed results are—

1. *Team of-four Knock-out event.*

Winners : Madras.

K. R. Sundaram Iyer.
T. R. Samoo Iyer.
K. Gurudutt.
G. K. Gopalaswamy
P. S. Sadasivam.

Runners-up : Gopichettipalayam.

K. R. Sundararajan.
V. K. Nanjunda Iyer.
G. V. Srikanta Iyer.
K. Subramaniam.
T. K. Srinivasa Iyengar.

2. *Master Pairs :*

1. S. R. V. Thatham & V. N. S. Rajan.
2. M. Subbiah & V. Subramaniam.
3. M. A. Noble & A. Yesudian.

3. *Pairs Progressive :*

North-South :

1. E. N. Mylappan & M. K. Sahadevan.

2. R. M. Muthiah Chettiar & R. M. Alagappa Chettiar.

East-West :

1. M. Subbiah & V. Subramaniam.
2. G. K. Gopalaswami & P. S. Sadasivam.

4. *Duplicate Progressive :*

Winners :

- Y. Duraiswami Iyer.
S. Surayanarayana Iyer.
T. K. Srinivasa Iyengar.
V. N. S. Rajan.

Runners-up :

- N. Ramaratnam.
T. S. Chandrasekharan.
R. Sankaran.
G. N. Chari.

The Town Club, Karaikudi, had their second open tournament during the last week of May. Here again the response from members was very encouraging. In fact this tournament saw almost a record number of entries for the various events, as more than a 100 players took part and it was gratifying to see such a large number of good players in action. M. R. S. Manickavelu Chettiar, one of the Secretaries of the Club, who personally attended to the invitations and the conduct of the tournament, deserves special praise for the excellent arrangements made and we hope other member-clubs will emulate the fine example set by the Town Club, Karaikudi, when conduct-

ing their club tournaments. The following are the winners and runners-up in the various events.

1. *Team-of-four Knock-out ;* 18 teams took part.

Winners :

- (Coimbatore Cosmopolitan Club)
G. K. Sundaram
V. Srinivasa Iyer
B. S. Krishnamoorthi
Dr. Kuppuswami

Runners-up :

- (Nehru Club, Kothamangalam)
RM. Muthiah Chettiar
RM. Olagappa Chettiar
RM. Kuttaiyan Chettiar
N. Arunachalam Chettiar
L. Arunachalam Chettiar

2. *Pairs Progressive : North-South :*

Winners: (Town Club, Karaikudi)

- S. K. M. Ramayya
M. Rangaswami

Runners-up : (City Club, Trichy.)

- Dr. Sahadevan and Nataraja Iyer (Ambi)

East-West :

Winners (Madras) :

- Points and Veeramani.

Runners-up :

- (Nehru Club, Kothamangalam.)

- RM. Muthiah Chettiar and Olagappa Chettiar

3. *Progressive Duplicate :*

Winners : (Madras)

- P. S. Reddy
K. C. Ramarathnam
Points
Veeramani

Runners-up :

(City Club, Trichy)

- E. N. Mylappan
A. K. Sherfuddin
Y. Doraiswamy Iyer
Gani

4. *Master Pairs :*

Section 1. Winners :

- (Madras)
P. S. Reddy and K. C. Ramarathnam

Runners-up :

- (Mayavaram)
M. S. Ponnuswami Iyer.
Natesa Iyer.

Section II. Winners :

- (Town Club, Karaikudi)
S. Ganesan
M. Vasudevan

Section II. Runners-up :

- (United Club, Devakottai)
C. Srinivasan
A. Soundararajan

5. *Individual Championship :*

Winner :

- (Madras)
G. N. Chari

Runner-up :

- (Mayavaram)
M. S. Ponnuswami Iyer.

The Madras United Club's open tournament concluded recently. The Progressive Duplicate team-of-four event appears to have been abandoned this year, presumably, due to the apparent lack of response

in the City. The Chennapuri Andhra Maha Sabha deserve to be congratulated on their fine performance in winning the main Knock-out event for the N. R. Balakrishna Mudaliar's Trophy after beating some of the strong local sides.

M. U. C. ANNUAL
CONTRACT BRIDGE
TOURNEY.

Results :

Team-of-four Knock-out:

Winners: (Chennapuri Andhra Maha Sabha):

- C. Annapurniah
C. P. Raghava Rao
S. Jagannatham Chetty
N. Sriramulaiah

Runners-up :

(K. R. Sundaram Iyer's Team):

- C. Devarajan
P. S. Sundaresa Iyer
T. R. Samu
Dr. Suryanarayana
Dr. K. L. Narayana Rao

Progressive Pairs : North-South :

Winners :

- Dr. Suryanarayana
K. C. Ramarathnam.

Runners-up :

- J. Subbuswami
Sivaramakrishnan

Winners : East-West :

- K. Gurudutt
S. K. Subramaniam



Runners-up :
G. Gopalswami
S. Narayana

Master Pairs :

Winners :

G. N. Chari
N. Ramaratnam

Runner-up :

A. R. Krishnaswami
M. Venkataraman

Individual Championship :

Winner :

T. K. N. Panniker

Runners-up :

A. V. Mathew

The Kerala Club, Coimbatore, conducted an open tournament during April for Pairs event only. Following are the results:

1. Master Pairs :

Winners : (Cosmopolitan Club)

G. K. Sundaram and V. Srinivasa Iyer

Runners-up : (R. S. Puram Club)

N. Balasubramaniam and Ramakrishna Mudaliar

2. Pairs Progressive : North-South
Winners : (Kerala Club)

P. S. Mannadiar and O. V. Thoppil

The INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Runners-up : (Indian Officers' Assn.)

K. Ramaswamy and M. P. Cherian

East-West Position :

Winners : (Indian Officers' Assn.)

Panduranga Rao and Subba Rao

Runners-up : (R. S. Puram Club)

M. K. Lakshmiah and Rangaraj.

* * * *

We welcome the following new members.

New Members :

Lt.-Col. G. H. S. David
(Nandyal)

R. Natarajan (Trichy)
S. R. Sampath Thatham (now a life-member)

R. Balu (Madras)
Y. Ramaswamayya (Madras)

Henry Appadurai (Madras)
P. K. S. Mani (Madras)

M. R. S. Shanmugavelu
(Madras)

K. S. B. Easwaran (Madras)

* * * *

Complimentary* copies of the "News and Views from the Soviet Union" have been received by the Association and are available at the office for perusal by members.

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH INDIAN
BRIDGE ASSOCIATION



Vol. VII

September—December 1956

No. 3

CONTENTS

	PAGE
DUCKING, by Ewart Kempson.....	3
THE PASS, by N. Muthukrishna Iyer.....	6
POINTS MAN COULD STILL HAVE MADE IT, by E. Solomon.....	12
BRIDGE IS A GAME OF REGRETS, by N. Ramaratnam.....	14
PRO ET CONTRA, by E. Solomon.....	20
THE STAGGERED SQUEEZE by E. Solomon.....	23
THE NEWS SECTION, by T. S. Chandrasekaran.....	24
BRIDGE AND SOME THAT PLAY IT, A Bridge Fan.....	29
HOW TO KILL THE GAME OF BRIDGE AND THE ASSOCIATION by Bridge Fiend.....	30
TIMING AND LEADS by Teaks.....	32
"IF", by Wm. Talley Elliot.....	36

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DUCKING

By EWART KEMPSON.

Ducking is one of the best known minor *coups* in Bridge, and the examples given below will almost certainly be familiar to all good players. Writers, however, are inclined to forget that most Bridge players are below average. It may chance, therefore, that one or two of the more humble will benefit from these notes.

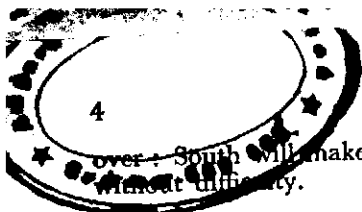
Both sides vulnerable ; dealer North.

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

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	1 ♠	2 N.T.	Pass
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

The auction is pretty well routine : North has a no-trump opening if playing the 12 to 14 points variety, but rightly opens with one club when using the 16 to 18 no-trump. East's one spade is perfectly sound and South's two no-trumps is impeccable. North bids three no-trumps in the knowledge that the combined count is 25 or 26 points and that South almost certainly has double guard in spades.

The lead is the seven of spades and South ducks when East plays the queen. In point of fact South's play of the five of spades is not a duck, but a hold-up play ; these *coups* are similar and each consists of the refusal to play a winning or near-winning card. After South's hold-up of the ace the hand is



over. South will make 10 tricks without difficulty.

Of course there *should* have been a ducking play and East should have made it. He must play the nine of spades on the first trick, forcing South to part with one of his two guards.

If South now happens to attack the clubs, he will drive out East's only entry and still make his contract. But South cannot know which of the minor suit aces East holds and there is no doubt that most good players in South's position would lead a diamond at trick 2; further more they would lead the 10.

The lead of the 10 of diamonds is an endeavour to trap West into playing a low card should he happen to hold the ace; it endeavours to pretend that the 10 will be finessed and that East holds, and will make, the queen. Once the 10 of diamonds has snicked its way through the slips, the wily declarer switches to clubs and makes nine tricks.

Of course West must be on his guard and play the ace of diamonds at once; then he leads the second spade and East-West defeat the contract by a good joint defence.

Here is another deal which looks very much the same.

Game all: dealer North.

The INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

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

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	1 ♠	3 N.T.	All Pass

With 15 points opposite an opening bid South rightly jumps straight to three no-trumps despite his somewhat skimpy guard in spades.

West leads the seven of spades, and, having learned his lesson from the previous hand, East ducks by playing the nine. This forces South's king and the declarer quickly makes four clubs and four hearts, reducing everyone to four cards.

South, his contract already in the bag, now leads a spade and East with A Q and K J has the mortification of having to lead a diamond after making two spades.

Of course in this case East should have banged on the ace of spades at trick one and then played the queen. It is true that this would merely have given him three tricks instead of two,

SEPTEMBER—DECEMBER 1956

5

but at least he would have retained his pride.

Even with the misplay at trick one East could have wriggled clear by saving ♠ A 2 and ♦ K J. On being thrown in with the ace of spades he could have exited with the two, but of course that would depend on the co-operation of West who would have to keep his four and three

of spades in order to win (most unexpectedly) the third round.

When a small card instead of a commanding card is played with the object of preventing the opponents from running off a long suit, that play is a hold-up. When, however, a small card instead of a commanding card is played with the object of retaining an entry, that is known as ducking.

THE PASS

By N. MUTHUKRISHNA IYER, B.A., B.L., *Tanjore.*

Content Pass

When both sides are briskly bidding and your final bid is doubled by the opponent it is safer to pass than to redouble: a redouble is no good if the opponents cannot be canned satisfactorily if they choose to go on in their suit; and you must be content to pass. The content pass is also shown when the partner of the doubler (for penalties) passes a strong hand. When doubling would help the opponent to make his contract (cases of close doubles) it is better to pass.

Examples from AMERICAN BRIDGE WORLD.

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

The bidding:

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

If West was inactive, he would have collected a good score. A shift to diamonds after the play of the Ace of spades might make South lead trumps, but West's double puts South on the alert and he senses that the trumps are bunched behind him. West is end-played.

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

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	1 ♥	2 ♦	Pass
2 N.T.	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♣	Pass
Pass	Double	Pass	Pass
6 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

If East had passed, he would have cashed a heart and a spade trick. If East does not open hearts, there are 13 cold tricks. Even if North does not change his bid but leaves in the

double of 6 spades, the double by East calls for a lead of the club suit and not hearts and the contract is made by South. "Familiar and costly double in the line of double genus is the double that kindly guides to the nearest escape hatch."

It is never good to respond with a misfit hand; it is equally bad to probe around to find a fit—luxuries that you shall forego. Bridge is a game of fits and misfits. "No fit? Better quit. If you don't you will get set a bit". When the responder's hand looks a misfit he shall drop the opening bid of partner and any bid shall be made only at the point of a gun.

Examples:

(1) North opens one spade and South holds:—

♠ Nil: ♥ 10 6 5; ♦ K Q 7 6 5 2: ♣ 10 6 3 2. If South bids two diamonds the damage is atomic; two diamonds may be a misfit and cannot be read as a rescue; but if opponents double, South may rescue with a call of two diamonds. PASS.

(2) North calls one heart and South holds:—

♠ A 7 4 3: ♥ Nil: ♦ Q 9 8 5 2: ♣ J 7 4 2. PASS.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	1 N.T.	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
?			

South holds:—♠ A J 10 8 2: ♥ 9 7 5: ♦ Q 10 7 6 3: ♣ Nil.

North-South hands bid badly and it is now very difficult for South to make any bid. If South has not passed after North's Club opening, he must have left North to his one no-trump.

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

The hands misfit: precision is needed to make even two hearts and any higher contract takes a sleigh-ride.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	Pass	1 N.T.	Double
2 ♣	Pass	Pass	?

South holds:—♠ Q J 10: ♥ A K 9 6: ♦ 10: ♣ A K Q 6.

South has a good hand but cannot expect North to have as much as a queen. He has a tough decision to make—to punch or retire? He has a good chance to beat two spades. He has also a chance to go broke if he bids higher. If South doubles, partner is unlikely to stand for it

and if he bids 3 diamonds South must be in for a good sized loss. The content pass is the best decision.

(6) Here was a problem for the experts.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♣	2 ♣	Pass	?

South holds:—♠ 7: ♥ 4:
♦ 8 6 5: ♣ J 10 9 7 6 4 3 2.

Fishbein calls a pass: Dick Fry is prepared to risk his partner's ire and pass: Doctor Gree does not mind being called a coward: Olive Peterson would pass and run for cover: J. Becker's first choice is pass and the second choice is to jump into a lake.

The Penalty Pass.

Excepting in the rare instance of a double of a one-no-trump response which has been passed by the opener, a double of no-trumps at any level is always for penalties and should almost always be passed. But a take-out double of a suit bid can be passed only if the penalty is sure and the chance of a game for the doubler's side very remote. "Nothing but extraordinary trump length justifies this pass" and the player who converts the take-out double into a penalty shall be prepared for a lead in the opponent's trump suit. Culbertson says: "In counting up expected defensive winners against opponent's suit bid, the doubler's partner adds his trump

tricks and honour-tricks in side suits to three expected honour-tricks with his partner's hand; no more. Unless the total is at least seven tricks, do not pass." A player can leave in the take-out double only when he is very strong in the suit bid by the opponent and also in general defensive strength and he is sure that the opponents will be defeated at their doubled contract. When the partner of the doubler leaves in the take-out double and does not make any other bid except pass, a penalty pass is made.

The Forcing Pass.

It may look incongruous to call a pass forcing on partner it is true but it is one of the rare bidding situations where a pass is forcing on the partner. When both sides do brisk bidding, when you know the balance of power is on your side, when you know the opponents are making a sacrifice bid, and if you are not sure to double the opponents or go in your own suit, you pass leaving the option to your partner to go up or double on the obvious bidding by the partnership. The partner shall not pass but make a positive bid, the pass by you having an absolute force. To make a forcing pass, a player must have established authority, implying strength and ability to stand a double of the opponents or go one trick higher at his own declaration.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST	EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
2 ♠	3 ♦	3 ♠	4 ♦	1 ♥	2 ♥	4 ♥	4 ♠
4 N T	Pass	5 ♣	6 ♦	5 ♥	5 ♠	Pass	Pass
6 ♣	Pass	Pass	7 ♦	6 H	?		
Pass	Pass	?					

South holds:—♠ K 10 8 5:
♥ K Q 10 5: ♦ J 7: ♣ Q 10 4.

North's pass is obviously forcing. North passing 7 diamonds guarantees a void. The reason and logic being that North knowing South to be aceless could certainly not make a forcing pass and permit South to bid seven if North had a losing diamond. North holding all the controls could not yet know that South could supply enough high-card winners to help produce 13 tricks.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥	5 ♠
6 ♥	Double	Pass	6 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	?

(North-South Vulnerable.)

East should either double or bid: opening 4 hearts denies slam possibility and 6 hearts is therefore a sacrifice, particularly when it is doubled by North. West passes 6 spades because he fears that by sacrificing at 7 hearts he may be giving up a plus score if East can set 6 spades. East must bid 7 hearts unless he can double and set 6 spades. It is scarcely possible that if the opponents could make 6 spades, 7 hearts could be defeated for more points.

South should here make a forcing pass. South's cue bid on the first round and his bid of 5 spades indicate that he can scarcely be afraid to bid 6 spades. (But considering that North has already declined to bid 6 spades South may double 6 hearts—a case of keeping partner out of temptation and nurse-maiding).

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♥
5 ♠	Pass	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	?	

South holds:—♠ K J 10 7;
♥ 6; ♦ K Q 8 7 5 3; ♣ 9 4.

South should recognise a forcing pass when he hears one. South's hand is not very impressive, defensively speaking. He does not know if the opponents can be defeated of their slam. Therefore he should take-out "insurance" but not double and relax.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 ♠	Pass	2 N.T.	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	4 ♦
?			

(North-South Vulnerable)

South should pass. It is forcing. South has already expressed his holding adequately, he should step aside and give

North a chance to speak his mind. There are no slam prospects after North has called 2 no-trumps. Is there greater profit by doubling 4 diamonds? Let North say it. After a forcing opening two bid in suit, North-South is bound to call game, if by doubling North-South would not be getting more points. North knows his duty to double or bid higher whichever is better.

Culbertson gives an instance of a rare case of a forcing pass in a part-score situation: the fact that there is a part score turns a pass into a forcing bid. "In the following situation East and West have a part-score of 40 and North-South have a part-score of 60.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 N.T.	2 ♣	Pass

Obviously East would not have opened the bidding fourth hand if he intended to let his opponents play at a two-club contract and get a game if they made it. West's no-trump take-out may have been a trap-bid and East passes to allow West to make a penalty double of two clubs if he wishes to do so. West must double or bid".

When to make a forcing pass and not depend more upon the logic of the bidding sequence and situation than on any set rules:

the cases where forcing passes are made are so few and far between that it is difficult to frame or set any definite rule. The following deal that was played in the Gold Cup Match was reported in the BRITISH BRIDGE WORLD.

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

Bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♣	4 ♦
4 ♠	5 ♦	Pass	Pass
Double	Pass	5 ♠	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

The comment is that West should have bid 6 spades and not made a forcing pass; East made the double because "They cannot do that to my partner's two-bid" but they could and did.

General

It must be noted that it is better to open even light hands—hands where there are

no rebiddable suits—than to pass originally and then make meaningless bids after the opponents have told their cards. The following deal played in the 1953 World Championship and the bidding at two tables are given below.

North Dealer: (North-South vulnerable.)

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

Bidding:

Table I.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Double
Pass	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Table II

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦
1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass	Pass
1 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

It was bad luck in the diamond department that kept South in Table No. I from making 11 tricks. But North-South in Table No. II can never reach game the moment North passed his hand. With East bidding in spades, and club finesse available into the non-danger hand the chances of a 3 no-trumps are never improved. North-South have every suit stopped and have two five-card suits to work with. The theory that "passes" can be fully compensated for by partner's action is, to say the least, wrong. Heavy passes do not work out in total point match games: in match point play too many games may be missed.

In bidding over a take-out double, the pass with strength in the expectation of coming in later "is getting to be almost unheard of with good players. They either redouble or find a bid." Also to "say that a player who passes over a double is showing a better hand than one who makes a bid is downright silly."

"Every player is naturally reluctant to hear himself utter the doleful word *Pass*. But we could all be happier if we set that pass to music once in a while".

POINTSMAN COULD STILL HAVE MADE IT

By E. SOLOMON.

In an interesting account of bridge at Karaikudi, "Pointsman" told us, in the last issue of the BRIDGE WORLD, the story of how his team lost their match on the following deal.

Dealer: South

Vul. (East-West).

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

Pointsman was sitting North and the reaching of a game contract in no-trump by his side seems to be as easy as cracking an egg shell with a sledge hammer. But playing a system of which he is the eponym, North found himself the declarer in a contract of four hearts, doubled and redoubled, following a bidding sequence that is intelligible only to other pointsmen.

East played the ace of diamonds and followed this with a

small spade. The contract was defeated by two tricks.

After the match, Pointsman's Captain, P.S. Reddy, showed him how the contract could have been made. Win the second and third tricks with the ace and king of spades and ruff a third spade with the six of hearts in the closed hand. Lead the queen of hearts, covered by East's king and won by the ace in dummy. Next cash three high clubs and the king of diamonds. Play the queen of diamonds to the tenth trick. East with J 10 4 3 of hearts can be end-played so as to make only two tricks in this suit, North thereby keeping his contract.

Pointsman then ingeniously informed us that unfortunately East did not start off with the K J 10 4 3 but the K J 10 7 4 of hearts and therefore "however hard you try, you will have to concede three tricks in trumps to East and that together with the diamond ace will put you one down."

It occurs to me that even with the seven of hearts with East, Pointsman could have made this horrible contract, provided that East's play to the first two tricks remains as before. Let us see. Here is the corrected deal.

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

On the play of the queen of diamonds East is forced to ruff. If he ruffs with the four or the seven, dummy overruffs with the five or the nine and plays the spade on which North discards a club. East wins this trick but is forced to concede two more tricks to the queen and ace of hearts.

If East ruffs the queen of diamonds with the knave or ten, he is allowed to win this trick, dummy discarding the spade. Again East is end-too long played and wins only one more heart.

If East ruffs with the king—too easy!

Sorry, Pointsman. You could still have made it.

'BRIDGE IS A GAME OF REGRETS'

By N. RAMARATNAM

"Bridge is a remarkable game" writes A. Moyse (Jr.) in the *AMERICAN BRIDGE WORLD* and proceeds to justify his statement with some very interesting anecdotes. None can dispute the statement Bridge is a remarkable game, in many ways. Ian McLeod considers Bridge to be an easy game and has taken the trouble of proving this with 400 pages of solid printing. After a careful study of the book, there will be few who will not be reconciled to the author's way of thinking. Mr. Donald S. Howard, has described this game of cards as: 'It is a nice, clean little game' (A. B. W., 1954). Many others, less celebrated perhaps, have called this game by many other names. To me "Bridge is a game of regrets." I am sure few will be startled by this rather unusual statement. Bridge is a game of regrets—not perhaps so much to the newly initiated but to the advanced players, players of championship class.

Regret is an expression of sorrow—a feeling of disappointment—largely a state of the mind. The kind of regret I have in 'mind' is the feeling of disappointment, of sadness, on account of a failure to play the game properly or on missing rare opportunities to pull the tricks.

Before I draw some yawns from the readers, I shall relate a few deals that took place in which 'yours faithfully' played the hero's part.

This deal was in an important match and naturally I was all keyed up. I was sitting South and I dealt myself the following hand.

♠ A 5: ♥ A K 10 8 5 4 3:
♦ Q 7: ♣ 10 4 An optimistic partner literally dragged me to six Hearts, while I would have been content to play it on a safe level of four Hearts! The Club Queen was led and my partner tabled out.

♠ J 9 5: ♥ Q 9 4: ♦ A 8 3:
♣ A K 8 4.

There were eleven top tricks and it was the elusive 12th trick that caused all the headache. Would it be very elusive or just fall into the lap without ado? I took the first trick with the King of Clubs and then I went into a small huddle. Huddles mean concentration and indicate great power of thinking. Experts go into huddles. Do so if you want to create an impression that you are an expert (if you are not really one, I mean). After some time I resumed the play, pulled out the trumps in two rounds, ending purposely in the dummy. I went into a second

huddle. How was the 12th trick to be made, was my problem. If the King of Diamonds was on the right—the moment I pulled a Diamond from the Dummy the opponent to my right would jump to snatch his trick and that would be the end of all my worries. But I had my own misgivings. The chap on the left had a complacent air—he had actually opened out his pawnshop during my huddle. My thoughts ran over squeeze, menaces, squeeze cards, end-plays but could not focus on any line of play. Meanwhile my partner was getting restless and drew my attention once or twice that I was in Bridge-land.

It is in these times of distress that one's mind is never under control! I started wondering what my counter-part would be doing—would he also be playing in this silly contract—what if he was, and by some stroke of luck managed to make it—the swing would be terrible and possibly the match would be lost on this one deal. The huddle was interrupted by my partner, who had evidently lost all patience with me, and drew my attention to the business on hand. It was with difficulty that I could collect my thoughts again. The various lines of play still crowded in. At one time I was seized with the blind idea of playing out all the trumps and leave it to fate. Hope, however, sneaked in, the

fond hope that East would have the King of Diamonds and oblige. A small Diamond was played from the Dummy but the King did not materialise. The Queen was played still hoping that the opponent was obviously bluffing and would look a sucker if the King never got a trick. However, much to my dismay the King appeared from the left and ran away with Her Majesty the Queen of Diamonds! After winning the trick he (LHO) played back a small Diamond. My heart sank, and the feeling that the contract was lost set in. At this stage I must offer a word of caution to declarers in distress. Never look at your partner's face when you have a feeling that things have gone awry. The contortions on your partner's face will completely demoralise you. If you seek inspiration rather look at your opponents' faces! My partner was simply seething with fury. He could not stand to see me fumbling about, throwing away a *beautiful* contract. All hopes were lost! Still with the hope of a squeeze in Clubs I played out all the trumps retaining the King and another of Clubs in Dummy—but even that failed. No one seemed to be squeezed! Of course after everything was over I had the decency to put in weak, 'Sorry partner'. I had the shrewdness not to ask if it could be made. That would be completely exposing oneself!

However my partner volunteered with the correct line of play—Partners are always obliging at such times. Often they have the advantage of a peek at any one of the defender's hands! I had only to play out the trumps retaining Clubs carefully and could have made the contract with the greatest of ease as West was caught in a 'triple' squeeze. After the play of the fifth trump even a nitwit could gather from the squirmings and contortions of West that he was in trouble. The final seven-card position would be.

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

This was the mess!

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

This happened recently while playing in the Mylapore Club. My partner opened 1 Club and my RHO bid one Diamond. I had five of them, all little bits—and was void in Clubs. Resisting the temptation to double I bid one Heart. My partner jumped to 3 Clubs and I rebid my Hearts. My partner who was evidently waiting for this response went straight to business and started exploring for Aces. However, he stopped at 5 Hearts (was it due to lack of confidence in his partner, I have sometimes wondered—and as I was about to breathe a sigh of relief my opponent to the left who appeared to take no interest in the proceedings suddenly spat out a 'Double'. He led Diamond nine and Dummy spread out: ♠ K J 7; ♥ A 8 5; ♦ K; ♣ A K 10 8 x x.

I held ♠ A 8 6; ♥ K Q 10 6 4; ♦ 7 6 5 4 3; ♣ —void.

The King was taken by the Ace, and the Queen was played to which his partner petered, and it was ruffed in Dummy. The Ace of clubs was played and a Diamond was discarded from the hand. The King of Clubs was played and another Diamond loser thrown away—the knave of Clubs dropped from the doublers hand. A third Club was played and ruffed with the ten of hearts—(unnecessarily high by me as I was already jumpy)—and then I played a trump. So far everything appears to be

normal, does it not? Well I had already slipped and nothing that I could do could give me back the contract. The doubler had five Hearts (Jack nine to five). Taking the trick with the Ace of hearts I played a Club on which I threw a losing Diamond. It was ruffed by west who exited with a Spade. Had he the Spade Queen? The Jack was played and only brought forth disappointment. It was covered by the Queen by the opponent to the right. To end the tale—the contract was one down—and the usual 'sorry partner' in tones of real regret was uttered. Within a few minutes of post-mortem the wrong step was discovered and I cursed myself for missing the excellent opportunity to play a game which could have found a place even in the A. B. WORLD. Of course it requires imagination, perception, and visualisation of the Doubler's hand. I should have visualised the final four-card position and planned my game! The card to discard the second time was not a Diamond but a Spade. The play proceeds as before. The third club is ruffed, the Ace and then the King of Spades are played. The third Spade is ruffed, a Diamond is ruffed (over-ruffed) in the Dummy, a master Club is played on which the last Diamond is thrown away, and the doubler who is left with nothing but trumps has to lead and play to

the K Q 10 in the declarer's hands.

What a fine play it would have been! It will always be a matter of regret to my last 'bridge' days that I just could not do it. If I had played thus of course it would not have found a place in this magazine as modesty would have stood in the way!

* * * * *

Yet another deal—which happened quite recently adds to my great sense of regret. It was in a Pairs Progressive match and sitting second hand I picked up the following hand.

♠ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2:	♥ 7 6:
♦ A 5: 2 ♣ —	

The dealer opened 1 Heart and I was tempted to bid one Spade but kept quiet. His partner bid 2 clubs and my partner made a jump bid of 4 Diamonds. Ignoring it the declarer bid 4 No-trumps I thought of making a fine bid of 5 clubs to show void but gave it up as I might have to lead Five Spades suggested itself with a final 6 Diamond reserve *cum* sacrifice bid but I gave it up too and I butted in with a bid of 5 Diamonds. The LHO, final however, bid

six Clubs—my partner passed and as I was worrying myself whether to bid 6 Diamonds or not, the dealer bid 6 Hearts. I now felt that this was good for us and banishing all thoughts of sacrificing passed and that was the final contract. I wanted to get into my partner's hand for him to lead a Club to ruff and that would be the end of Solomon Grundy or whoever he was. Suddenly a mad idea of a void in Spades with my partner danced before me. After much huddling I played the two of Spades to find to my dismay that my partner was not void in Spades and that the declarer had the Ace and he neatly with a professional air pulled out my two little fangs and proceeded to claim all the tricks. I banged my head in cold fury at my colossal stupidity. All that I had to do was to underlead the Ace of Diamonds, the 2 of Diamonds was dealt to me providentially, and leave it to my partner to play a Club for ruff. Even if my partner failed to do it, it would not have mattered. I would have had no regrets. It would have been a unique play as not one other player played it. If I had played my Ace of Diamonds at least I would have got one trick!

♠ J
♥ J x
♦ x x
♣ K Q J x x x x

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

♠ A
♥ A K Q 10 x x x x
♦ x
♣ A 8 x

* * * *

And just one more deal. Sitting second hand with just 14 points, I opened one Spade. I held ♠ A J 9 x, ♥ 10 9 8 7, ♦ A K 3 2, ♣ 7. My LHO passed; my partner jumped to 3 Spades and I cautiously bid 4 Spades hoping that my partner would leave me there. But that was not to be. After exchanging information about Aces I found myself perched on a 6 Spades contract, with a double by my LHO and a smacking redouble by my partner. The Heart King was led and with great trepidation I looked at my partner's hand which contained K 10 8 x in Spades, Ace singleton in Hearts and Q 7 5 in Diamonds and Ace to five bits in Clubs.

I took the trick with Heart Ace and with the thought of cross-ruffing I entered the hand with the King of Diamonds, played a Heart and ruffed it. Here I played the Queen of Diamonds, another Diamond to my hand to clear the suit before cross ruffing. My RHO ruffed it and with some relief I threw the losing Diamond. He played a trump to prevent a cross ruff. Here I played masterly. I put down the Jack deliberately to induce my LHO to cover. Cover an honour with an honour is a time honoured rule! The Jack was covered by the Queen! The trick was won in Dummy. I played the Ace and small of Club which I ruffed in my hand. Placing 3 trumps with doubler I played the Diamond Ace which to my relief was not ruffed. I then proceeded to cross-ruff and I made the contract much to my relief. Early cross-ruffing would have lost the contract!

♠ K 10 8 5
♥ A
♦ Q x x
♣ A x x x x

♠ Q x x
♥ K Q J x
♦ J 10 x x
♣ Q J

♠ 6 2
♥ 6 5 4 x
♦ x x
♣ K 10 9 x x

♠ A J 9 6
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ A K 3 2
♣ 7

Well played I should say! Dear reader, you should be wondering why I have related this deal which does not fit in with the title. "This game at least should give you no regrets but, on the other hand, joy and satisfaction."

Yet, there is some cause for regrets. For as I gathered the last trick to make the contract my partner remarked that I had played badly and would have been down, but-but for the defence. Would you not consider that rather unkind. Is not Bridge a game of regrets?



Edited By E. SOLOMON.

Question 1.—In a recent duplicate contest two seasoned East-West pair both landed in a three no-trump contract. The bidding and the East-West hands are given below:

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

North-Dealer: North-South vulnerable.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass	3 N.T.
Pass	Pass	Pass	

The three no-trump contract was set two tricks, while four hearts or four spades were easily makeable.

Please comment:

- (a) How the East-West hands should have been bid;
- (b) Whether West's three no-trump bid is correct;
- (c) Whether East should have bid four hearts or four spades over West's three no-trump bid in the above sequence.

Answer.—(a) It is our opinion that the East-West hands should have been bid as follows:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass	3 N.T.
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

(b) West could have not found a better bid than three no-trump. With the king, queen, knave to four in opponent's opening suit, the king to three of the suit bid by partner and sure stopper aces in the other two suits, his bid is perfect not only quantitatively but qualitatively as well.

(c) It was up to East to "correct" to four hearts, since his hand was quite unsuitable for a no-trump contract. That he did not do so is a matter that passeth our understanding.

Some years ago was a sweet lady in this city who would murder the English language as blithely as she would slaughter hands at bridge. After partner opened the bidding or over-called she was very fond of

jumping straight to game in one magnificent bid. She called this bid a "shut-up" bid. Due to her eccentric manipulation of English—not her mother-tongue—we were never certain whether by "shut-up" she really meant "shut-out", but the point was only of academic interest. What she certainly intended, when for instance on partner's one spade, she responded with five clubs, was that her call should be the closing bid and heaven help the partner that had the temerity to disturb it.

Did the East of the above hand take his partner for a "shut-up" bidder?

Question 2.—North-South stopped surprisingly at a three-diamond contract on this holding.

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

The bidding was:

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

A bid of a new suit at the level of three is admittedly forcing for one round but on the bidding and after South's initial pass of the one heart

bid and take out of two hearts, South argued that he was under no obligation to keep the bidding alive. Please criticise in your columns the respective North-South view points and who, if at all, was more to blame.

Answer:

It was South who erred and he did so repeatedly. His first and biggest mistake was to pass partner's opening one heart. His proper response is undoubtedly one spade. Had he made this bid, the future course of the North-South bidding would almost certainly have run smoothly to game or to a stiff penalty on opponents.

Having passed on the first round, South could still have retrieved the situation when given a chance to do so by an obliging opponent. He could have responded to North's double with one no-trump—showing some positive values, including a possible trick in spades—instead of an abject sign off at two hearts.

A third time was he given a chance when partner bid three diamonds. This bid, taken in the context of the preceding sequence, simply must indicate a very powerful hand with North. But South (is he by chance related to a renowned Russian statesman) again most emphatically cast his veto—*neicht bidovitch!*

Question 3.

Playing the new Culbertson point-count system, East opened

the bidding with one no-trump, holding :

♠ A x x
♥ A K x x
♦ A J x
♣ Q 9 x

The one no-trump bid was passed all round but three no-trumps was a lay down as West held:

♠ K Q J
♥ x x
♦ 10 x x x
♣ J 10 x x

Please comment as to whether the opening one no-trump bid was an under bid or whether West had justification to raise the bidding to two no-trumps on his some what limited holding.

Answer: It is a curious thing that whereas in most English bidding systems the game in no-trump is contracted for with only 25 points, the experts on the other side of the Atlantic lay down that a minimum of 26 points is necessary to make a try for the same game. Who is right? There seems to be no clear cut answer to this question.

Take the above hand. If East was playing a 16 to 18 point no-trump, he was quite right

to open the bidding with one no-trump and West, playing American style, was in order to pass since his 7 points could never bring the total for his side to the required 26. A West indoctrinated with English methods would, however, have responded two no-trumps which his partner, holding a maximum hand, would have raised to three.

Restricting our attention to just this one hand, again let us put the question; is the English or the American view correct? Again we are unable to come up with a definitive answer.

Notwithstanding our reader's assurance that three no-trumps was a lay down, we are quite unable to see that this contract is iron-clad. A major suit opening lead almost surely dooms the contract, which in any event must depend upon a favourable break in the diamond suit.

That bridge is not an exact science must be conceded by even its most fanatical devotees. With the 25 or 26 point no-trump game we are on the razor's edge.

THE STAGGERED SQUEEZE

By E. SOLOMON

I recently came across an interesting squeeze that has certain novel features. It is some thing like an interrupted double squeeze but, as far as I know, does not fall under any of the standard classified positions. Whereas in the interrupted double squeeze first one opponent is squeezed and then the second opponent is squeezed on the very next trick, in this particular case the second squeeze comes into operation more than one trick later. Furthermore the nature of the menaces against East and West are unusual.

no-trumps. It is true that seven diamonds is a make but seven clubs, which looks equally good on the North-South hands, goes down two tricks on a spade lead and one trick otherwise.

West's opening lead was the king of spades. When this was allowed to win West continued with the queen of spades which was taken by the ace. The diamond ace won the third trick and the diamond king the fourth. When West showed out, East's knave of diamonds was finessed and declarer's two remaining diamonds were cashed. Before the last diamond was played the position was as follows:

♠ 7 4
♥ A K 5
♦ K 8 2
♣ A K 8 7 2

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

♠ A 6 5
♥ J 4
♦ A Q 10 7 6
♣ Q 5 3

♠ —
♥ A K 5
♦ —
♣ A K 8 7

♠ 9 ♠ J
♥ Q 9 ♥ 10 7 6 3 2
♦ — ♦ —
♣ J 10 9 6 ♣ 4

♠ 6
♥ J 4
♦ 6
♣ Q 5 3

Sitting South I found myself declarer at a contract of six

(Continued on Page 28).



Edited by T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN.

The South Indian Bridge Association's annual championship tournaments are in full swing. The preliminary qualifying rounds in the various events are being played at the different centres and the winners and the runners-up in the several zones will meet in the final rounds at Madras during the Christmas week. The Association has specially extended invitations to other sister associations, like the Andhra Bridge Association, and the Bengal, Delhi, and Bombay Bridge Associations to participate in the final rounds, and it is hoped that at least the familiar Bengal and Andhra players will be seen in action, this year. A special feature of this year's event will be the Par Contest, sponsored by the Tournament Committee. Specially set deals to test the bidding-playing calibre of the competitors have been prepared by some of the world's most renowned Bridge-writers. Ewart Kempson and Terence Reese

of England and M. J. Sullivan of Australia have sent us par-pointed deals (sixteen each), and one or two of the sets will be played during the final rounds depending on the time available. A week of intense Bridge activity is in prospect and all Bridge-lovers are particularly requested to participate in the events and make the Association's efforts worth-while.

The following events will be played during the final rounds:

Pairs Progressive
Master Pairs
Team-of-four knock-out
Individual Championship
Par Contest

The final round matches will all be played in the Corporation Stadium, behind the Ripon Buildings, Madras, on 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th December next, and representative teams from Madras City, Coimbatore, Gobichettipalayam, Tanjore, Trichy,

SEPTEMBER—DECEMBER 1956

25

Karaikudi and Cuddalore will be taking part.

A beautiful Rolling Trophy has been donated by Sri M. R. S. Manickavelu Chettiar, Karaikudi, for the Par Contest. May we exhort our readers to put forth their best effort in this event.

* * *

The Madras City League Tournament concluded with the series of matches played on 23-9-56. The Tyagarayanagar Social Club who became this year's champions deserve to be congratulated on their splendid achievement in maintaining an unbeaten record in this series despite the absence of two of their star players. The Modern Institute of Commerce team came second and the following are the results.

Winners: (T' Nagar Social Club.)

Sadhuram Dave.
V. Kuppaswamy.
P. S. Sadasivam.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.
R. Sankaran.
P. S. Natrajan.

Runners-up: (Modern Institute of Commerce).

K. Guru Dutt.
K. S. Narayana.
G. K. Gopalaswami.
M. Rangaswamy.
S. K. Subramanian.
Olappan.

	Matches Played.	Won.	Lost.
T. Nagar Social Club	11	11	1
Modern Institute of Commerce	11	9	2
K. R. Sundaram Iyer's Team	11	8	3
Burmah Shell Club	11	7	4
Madras Gymkana	11	5	6
P. S. Reddy's Team	11	5	6
N. Ramaratnam's Team	11	4	7
Chennapuri Andhra			
Maha Sabha	11	4	7
Indian Mutual Life Association	11	4	7
M. N. Reddy's Team	11	3	8
Mars Team	11	3	8

* * *

The special prize donated by the Secretary for the winners among the 'B' group teams was won by the Burmah Shell Club. This team of youngsters who took to the game only last year put in a commendable performance and richly deserved the distinction if only for their great enthusiasm and love of the game. The members of the winning team were:

G. N. Viswanathan, V. C. Radhakrishnan, P. K. Janakiraman, C.R. Ananta Narayanan G. Natarajan, and R. Rajagopalan.

* * *

We are glad to inform members that detailed sets of charts for the guidance of tournament directors have just been published by the Association. T. S. Duraiswamy Iyer, our Ace Tournament Director has compiled the various charts together with a note of instructions to the would-

be tournament directors. The Association have a few extra sets which are available for sale to members and member-clubs. We commend this to our members and trust that members and member-clubs will avail of this opportunity and order for the sets without delay. The sets are moderately priced at Rs. 75 and copies can be had from T. S. DURAISWAMY IYER, Care of S. I. B. A., 13, Pinjala Subramaniam Road, T. Nagar, Madras.

* * *

The Cosmopolitan Club, Tanjore, had their annual Bridge Tournament during the last week of October. Thanks to the energetic efforts of their Secretary S. Ramalingaswamy, almost a record number of entrants took part in the various events. Several strong teams from the mofussil and an unusually strong assorted contingent from Madras including two ladies participated in the tournament and helped to make the events highly interesting. P. S. Reddy's team from Madras who won the knock-out team-of-four event winning in Jothi Pandian Memorial Trophy were in good form and had little difficulty in winning the finals against the Srirangam team. Players from Madras won the Master Pairs and the Progressive Pairs and (East-West) also. An altogether pleasant week-end was spent by the teams. The authorities of the Cosmopolitan Club deserve special praise for their unstinted efforts to accommodate

and entertain the visitors. Special mention must be made of Col. C. S. V. Ramanan and Ramalingaswamy who spared no pains to attend to the needs of the teams and arrange the various events according to schedule within the three days at their disposal. Sri Karthikeyan, Collector of Tanjore, presided at a special function, held on the evening of 28th October, 1956 and Mrs. Karthikeyan distributed the prizes.

The following are the detailed results :

Knock-out Team-of-four event for Jothi Pandian Trophy.

Winners : (P. S. Reddy's team Madras).

P. S. Reddi.
K. C. Ramaratnam.
G. N. Chari.
K. Guru Dutt.

Runners-up : (The Srirangam Club).

S. R. V. Thatham.
Rangarajan (8.40)
Ratnam Pillai.
Parthasarathi.

Master-Pairs :

Winners : (Madras)

P. S. Sadasivam.
R. Sankaran.

Runners-up : (Madras)

Mrs. & Mr. E. Solomon.

Pairs-Progressive :

(North-South : Winners)

K. Sundararajan.
Meyyappan.

Runners-up :

G. N. Mylappan.
N. V. M. Gani.

East-West : (Winners) Madras.

Mrs. & Mr. Swarup.

Runners-up :

C. V. Venkatesan and N. Ramaratnam (Madras).

The T. Nagar Club Tournaments :

The T. Nagar Social Club's annual tournaments during October, 1956, attracted as usual a large number of entries. All the events were largely attended and it was heartening to see a marked revival of interest in the game especially in the one-day events.

The Gymkhana Club, Madras, who won the knock-out event played steadily to overcome some of the strong local teams and we hope that their present good form will be sustained. The detailed results in the various events are given below.

Team-of-four knock-out :

Sri Munuswamy Chetty's Trophy.

Winners : (Gymkhana Club Madras).

Mrs. & Mr. E. Solomon.
K. Swarup.
L. N. Dadhabai.
T. Rajamannar.

Runners-up : (N. Ramaratnam's Team)

N. Ramaratnam.
C. V. Venkatesan.

G. N. Chari.
B. Venkataramani.
R. Sundararaman.

Progressive Duplicate :

Winners : (T. Nagar Social Club.)

S. R. Naidu.
G. Ramachandran.
E. V. Tiruvengadam.
S. Muthukrishna Iyer.

Runners-up (Madras Gymkhana Club)

Mrs. & Mr. E. Solomon.
Mrs. & Mr. Swarup.

Pairs Progressive :

(North-South Winners)

E. Solomon.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Runners-up :

Appaswamy Iyer (T.N.S.C.)
T. Sundararajan.

(East-West Winners)

P. S. Sadasivan.
T. R. Samoo Iyer.

Runners-up :

C. Jagannatha Setty.
C. N. Annapurniah.

Master Pairs :

(Winners)

C. V. Venkatesan & N. Ramaratnam.

Runners-up :

G. N. Mylappan & Dr. Suriyanarayana.

*Open-Pairs.**(Winners)*

P. S. Sadasivan & V. Kuppuswamy (T.N.S.C.)

Runners-up :

R. Sankaran & P. Kothandaraman.

Individual Championship: This event was played in two sections owing to the large number of competitors.

*Group I.**Winner :*

• V. R. Varma.

Runner-up :

S. K. Subramanian

*Group II.**Winner.*

Dr. K. L. Narayana Rao.

Runner-up :

G. N. Mylappan.

—: o :—

(Continued from Page 23).

On the play of the six of diamonds West was squeezed. He could not throw a club as this would establish dummy's eight. He could not throw a heart because this would allow South's knave to make. So he discarded the nine of spades; dummy following with a small club and East with a small heart.

The ace, king and queen of clubs were then cashed and East found himself squeezed in hearts and spades.

The basic position which is incapable of further reduction is:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ A K 5	♥ J
♦ —	♦ 10 7 x x x
♣ A K x	♣ —
♠ 9	♠ J
♥ Q 9	♥ 10 7 x x x
♦ —	♦ —
♣ J 10 x	♣ —
♠ 6	♠ J
♥ J 4	♥ 10 7 x x x
♦ 6	♦ —
♣ Q x	♣ —

It is a combination of a triple squeeze on West followed by a simple squeeze on East. A suitable name for it seems to be the Staggered Squeeze.

BRIDGE AND SOME THAT PLAY IT

By 'A BRIDGE FAN.'

Bridge is enthralling and a study of those that play it is none the less so. Sometimes it pays to be a 'kibitzer,' to watch the players as they bid, overbid, double and redouble. The changing facial expressions, the frowns, the indulgent smiles and above all, the meaty-mouthed post-mortems present excellent lessons in psychology.

A very good-natured fellow and a bridge-enthusiast that he was, Mr. R, bid and made a four-heart contract; but his partner was not satisfied. "Do you know", he said, "you could have made five on that hand and possibly, six on that lead?" "No, no, no" said our friend, who though vanquished would argue still. "I played for safety and..." "Yes, and even so," returned his partner "Anybody can see..." "No," reaffirmed Mr. R. "because..." "Has anyone ever convinced Mr. R? "Come, come, don't try the impossible. Let's get on with the next deal", said Mr. K.

Mr. K. could brook no delay. He was quick, and expected everyone to be as sharp. Many a time and oft he would make a mistake because he would not pause and marshal his thoughts or even his cards! He was quick on the trigger and doubled with a snarl! He even quarreled with his opponents at times for

not bidding or for playing properly when his doubles miscarried!

"One Spade" said Mr. Psyche sitting South with but a deuce in that suit. North and East had passed. West doubled, North passed, East bid two diamonds; 'Two hearts', said Mr. Psyche. West bid two no-trumps, North and East passed. South three clubs. West three no-trumps. South doubled! North led a spade and the contract was made with an over-trick! Mr. Psyche found himself hoist with his own petard!

Let us analyse.

First we have Mr. R, to whom criticism is anathema. What is the psychological basis for this reaction? The psychoanalyst's diagnosis is Egoism—the self-assertive and self-preserving tendency in excess.

Secondly, K's case is neurosis—a functional nervous disorder without demonstrable physical lesion.

Thirdly Mr. Psyche. Egoism or Self-Elation. According to him, in common parlance—he is an intellectual giant and the rest grovelling in the dust at his feet.

At the Bridge table we can kill two birds with one stone—play and learn.

HOW TO KILL THE GAME OF BRIDGE AND THE ASSOCIATION.

By "BRIDGE FIEND"

1. Swear by Rummy, Poker and Three-cards and keep away from Bridge.

2. Post-mortem every deal *ad nauseum* and thereby knock out the partner as well as the opponents.

3. If a team-of-four match is lost, always blame the counter-parts.

4. If it is won—take all credit for yourself, give none even to your partner.

5. Make it appear that the team always depends on you.

6. Threaten every now and then to play for some other team.

7. Do not co-operate with the Tournament Director and make it a point to loiter about in between each progression.

8. At Bidding, always have a private system of your own.

9. Change your voice to suit a yarborough. On other occasions, play, 'sound' bridge.

10. While playing, never fail to insist on penalties from opponents. If you commit mistakes, take it for granted that the opponents will wink at them, and explain they were due to a slip of the hand or mind.

11. Get sore if you are not appointed on a committee, but if you are, never attend a committee meeting.

12. If you are asked by the Chairman to give your opinion regarding some important matters, tell him you have nothing to say. After the meeting tell everyone how the thing ought to be done.

13. When other members roll up their sleeves, and willingly and unselfishly use their ability to help matters along, howl that the organisation is run by a 'clique.'

14. Hold back dues as long as possible. Never induce anyone to join the association. Let the Secretary do it.

15. When a dinner is given, tell every one money is being wasted on "blow outs", which make a big noise and accomplish nothing. When no lunches are given, say the association is dead, and needs a can tied to it. Don't ask for a lunch ticket until all are sold out. Then swear you have been cheated out of yours.

16. If asked to sit at the Chairman's table, modestly refuse. If you are not asked,

threaten to resign from the association.

17. Don't tell the association how it can help the game; but if it does not help, resign. If you receive service without joining, don't think of joining.

18. If the association does not correct abuses in other club tournaments howl that nothing is done. If it calls attention to abuses in your own, resign from the association.

19. Keep your eyes open for something wrong, and when you find it, raise bedlam.

20. At every opportunity threaten to resign and take your friends too with you.

21. At a committee meeting vote to do something, and then go home and do the opposite. Agree with everything said at the meeting and disagree with it outside.

22. When asked for information, do not give it. Curse the association for the incompleteness of its information. Get all that the association offers you, but don't give it anything.

23. When everything fails, heap curses on the Secretary!

'Fiend' indeed! A dangerous chap to be sure! Readers of I.B.W.—Keep clear of him. Let all associations beware.—Name and address of the Bridge-Fiend can be had on application from the Editor! [Ed.].

'TIMING AND LEADS'

By 'TEAKS'

We were at the doorway. The pedant was a little ahead of us and the clock chimed five past midday. What correct keeping of time and by all of us. Strange coincidence indeed.

There was no waste of time and the cards were dealt. The deal was as follows. The final contract was 4 Spades by South.

♠ A 4 2 ♥ A 9 8 ♦ Q J 10 8 5 4 3 ♣ Nil			
♠ J 6 3	♠ 10 9		
♥ K Q 6 3	♥ J 10 7 5 4 2		
♦ A 2	♦ K 7		
♣ Q 7 5 3	♣ K J 8		
♠ K Q x x x ♥ Nil ♦ 9 x ♣ A 10 9 x x x			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠
2 ♥	3 ♦	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	4 ♠		

West opened K of Hearts. South brilliantly played a small one in North and ruffed it in his hand. Then he thought deep

as to the principle involved in the deal. For, in the presence of the pedant the cards were always abnormal in distribution. It looked like the trees in the forest welcoming the smiling year. The net result was real headache to us. South concluded that the Diamond suit should be established. He played a Diamond. West won it and played another Heart. North won it and then played a Diamond. It was won by East who played the third Heart. It was ruffed by south. Then two rounds of trumps were played by South and a third was won in the dummy. The contract was well on hand. Our friend was happy. He said that South rightly pitched upon Diamonds instead of Clubs. The preservation of all the entries was all-important. He added that the time-factor was very important in Bridge play. It meant no more than that the establishment and winning of tricks was subject to the time-limit and determined by the controls on either side including ruffers.

He thought that we had not caught the central point in timing. He directed the cards to get dealt for a good timing illustration. They obeyed. The deal was as follows. The

final contract was 3 No-trumps by South.

contract was 5 Diamonds by South.

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

(This deal is from Culbertson.)

West opened 5 of H. East won with K and played 9. South covered with the J. West ducked. South was now to think about time valuation and played. He applied the rule of 5 steps and the rule of x + 1 and decided that the Clubs suit should be established and that two entries were required in the dummy for that. He played his K of clubs and overtook it with Ace in the dummy. There was another entry in Diamond. Now we all had reached a stage when as ploughmen we were able to plod our way though wearily. That was our lot for some time more.

But we were moving fast. This day we, the defenders, had practically no trying time. This was too much for our friend to endure. He dealt the cards. They were as follows. The final

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♠	Pass	1 N.T.	2 ♣
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 N.T.	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
5 ♦			

This deal is from Sheinwold.

Very frankly our pedant said that the following deals this day dealt with "leads" and that it was good gymnastics for the defenders. He therefore asked West to lead. West opened his 10 of H. Our friend gave his nod of dissent. West said that he was right. The rejoinder came forcefully. Our friend asked West if the bidding did not show a short suit in the dummy and adequate trump support. West said, yes. And, therefore, said the pedant, West had no option but play the trump. He did not wait for our agreement and dealt the cards next. The deal was as

follows and the final contract was 6 Spades by East.

♠ K x x
♥ 10 x x x
♦ Nil
♣ Q J 10 x x x

♠ x x ♠ A Q J 10 x x x
♥ A K 4 x ♥ J x x
♦ A K 4 x x ♦ x x
♣ K x ♣ x

♠ x
♥ x x
♦ J 10 x x x x
♣ A x x x

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2 ♦	Pass	2 5	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	6 ♣	Pass

The pedant looked at South and asked him to lead. He literally linked. To be on the safe side he thought it best to play his small trump. Never was the pedant in more devastating mood. He frowned and the whole hall grew darker at it. He was unable to speak. South drew back the card and argued within himself that very probably North might ruff Diamond since West had bid and re-bid Diamond and himself had good length in it. So he played his smallest D. North ruffed it and then played a Club reading South's

play of a small Diamond as a preference signal. South won it with Ace and played another Diamond. North ruffed again. The contract was set by two tricks. Our friend smiled like Belinda and all the world and so the Bridge room, was gay.

He dealt again. The cards were as follows.

♠ x x x
♥ K J 9 8 5
♦ K Q
♣ A 10 x

♠ K x x ♠ x x x
♥ x x ♥ A Q 10 7
♦ x x x x ♦ A x x x
♣ x x x x ♣ K x

♠ A Q J 9
♥ x x
♦ J 10 x
♣ Q J x x

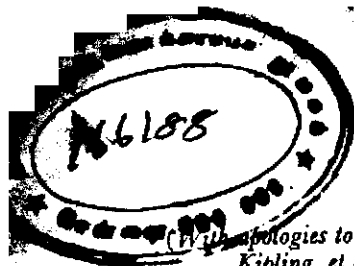
NORTH	EAT	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♥	Pass	2 N.T.	Pass
3 N.T.	Pass	Double	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West had to lead. Tamely he played his fourth best in Diamonds. The pedant raised himself up and looked stronger than a lion. In a thundering voice he spoke of waiting, warning, inferential short leads, lead of fourth best card, lead of sequence, forcing and attacking leads, un-

natural leads in doubled slam bids and then rounded up with the statement that, if a no-trump contract was doubled by your partner when neither of you had bid a suit, the suit bid by the dummy must be opened unless it was re-bid by him or was supported by his partner. If 2 suits were bid, the second should be played. West was trembling. He led a Heart and the pedant did not wait for the remaining steps of play and wa'ked sullen. We were all sorry. We felt that though our friend was a fund of information, still

it was better for us to familiarise ourselves with the finer points of play by reading the Red Book and Reese. We spent an extra hour and South read the chapters on conventional leads and defenders' game and we found that the pedant had good cause to be upset by our ignorance.

What to do? We should make amends next time. Luckily there appeared to be only a few more points untouched by the pedant and so all of us agreed to be critically conversant with them before the next sitting. We bid Good night to each other.



" IF "

By WM. TALLEY ELLIOT.*

(With apologies to Rudyard
Kipling, et al.)

If you can play your hand
when all about you

Are losing theirs and blaming
it on you ;

If you can trust your partner
when he doubts you,

But make allowance for his
doubting too :

If you can wait and not be
tired by waiting ;

Or being set too much, don't
blame your hand,

Or being baited don't give
way to baiting,

And yet don't look too good,
nor talk too bland ;

If you can play—and not make
play your master ;

If you can win—and not make
gain your aim,

If you can meet with Triumph
and Disaster

And treat those two impostors
just the same :

If you can bear to hear the
bids you've spoken

Twisted by Fate to make a trap
for fools,

Or watch opponents win with
each rule broken,

And deal and play and still
abide the rules ;

If you can make one heap of
all your winnings

And risk it on a Grand Slam
bid and lost,

And smile, and start again at
your beginnings

And never breathe a word
about your loss :

If you can Force your partner
and he passes,

Or deny, and see him still bid
high,

And see the score the other
side amasses,

And do not criticize or even
sigh ;

If you can play with fools and
still continue

To calmly watch your partner
wreck his play,

If adverse bids and Overcalls
don't irk you,

If it's always something plea-
sant that you say :

If you can fill the unforgiving
minute

With sixty seconds worth of
fair play done,

Yours is the deck and every-
thing that's in it,

And—which is more—you'll
be a freak, my son !

*With acknowledgments to *The Bridge World*, New York, A. Moysc, Jr.,
Publisher.

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