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THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

VOL-VIII

- NO-1-2

MARCH

June 1957

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N57.8.1-2.
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The
**INDIAN
BRIDGE**
World



VOLUME VIII
NUMBER 1

MARCH
--1957--



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THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Vol. VIII

March 1957

No. I

THE OVERCALL

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

PART I.

Nature : While dealing with the subject of Pass, I touched in passing the "overcall" and herein I examine in detail the subject in its various aspects. The "overcall" is a branch of the defender's bidding, it being a bid in a suit or No-trumps made by a player on the opposite side after his opponent has opened the auction. The overcaller is called the defender.

The proper use of the overcall may spell the difference between a winning and losing contract. It is in the nature of a competitive bid made in the face of strength declared by the opponent. It shall not be made because the hand is good for an opening bid: the honour tricks determine the opening bids but the winners shall guide the overcalls. The opening bid is a tentative call but the overcall is a definite commitment and, it is a serious error to appraise any hand on the same basis for an overcall as for an opening bid.

Before an overcall is made we shall bear in mind the possible amount of loss multiplied by the probable frequency of such loss and the possible gain multiplied by the probable frequency of such gain, the probable frequency being governed by the "humanics of bidding". The overcall should not give the opponents what baseball fans call a "fielder's choice." No overcall shall be made on a shaky suit because the hand contains high cards: it is the playing strength and not the mere honour strength that is needed. When the suit is thin and the honours are sketchy there is no good in overcalling: the overcaller must have a close-knit hand and a suit that will stand the buffeting of an opponent's double. It may be safe to "open" the bidding with a weak suit because it is protected by the cover of high cards and you expect your partner to give some assistance. But in the face of an opening bid the overcaller must

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be very careful of the opponent who 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. The solidity of the trump suit must be considered before making an overcall. The meat of an overcall is not in honour-tricks or point counts but in *tricks*. After an opening bid in spade, an overcall of two diamonds is proper with ♠ 9 6 4: ♥ 10 7: ♦ A Q J 10 7 2: ♣ K 9 but improper with 9 6 4: A 7: A Q 4 3 2: Q 9 2. We are advised to pattern our overcalls after Louis Watson.

To repeat what I have said elsewhere, "it is in the field of overcalls that many run riot and when calamity descends they call it a horrible break". For example:—

Dealer: West. Vul: Both sides.

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 of one diamond and East has responded with a two-over-one-take-out? "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 the rule is as logical as it is simple." The rule of 2 and 3 is violated by South: his hand worth an opening bid is not worth an overcall because there are not

enough winners. For another example:—

Both sides Vulnerable.

West. North. East. South
1 ♦ ?

Suppose North holds: A K 8 6 2 in clubs and an outside ace. The hand is worth a sound opening bid promising to develop about 5 tricks in play but it is bad to make an overcall since North will be contracting for tricks with the knowledge that one opponent has already declared a better than average hand in defensive strength. The better course is to pass.

Simple non-jump or jump overcalls depend upon the purpose, vulnerability, the level of bidding and the position. When opponent opens the bidding and his partner fails to respond, some liberties may be taken in overcalling for a part-score. When it is obvious that the enemy is going to game in any event it is a great mistake to overcall, since a possible in-between is very eloquent and it may help the enemy to reach the best contract or warn him away from a bad one. The following deal was played in different tables in one international match: at many tables where the East-Wests were left to their wits' end, North-Souths never interfered, the East-Wests ended in no-trumps and went down. But in two tables where North-Souths interfered,

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they geared East-Wests into the correct contract.

West Dealer:

♠ A Q 8 6
♥ K 9 6 3
♦ 8 7 4
♣ 10 6

♠ J 7
♥ 10 5
♦ A K Q
♣ A K J 9 5 3

♠ 4 2
♥ A Q 7
♦ 10 5 3 2
♣ Q 7 4 2

♠ K 10 9 5 3
♥ J 8 4 2
♦ J 9 6
♣ 8

Bidding in different tables:—

WEST	EAST
Olive Peterson	Dr. Ross
1 ♣	1 ♦
3 ♣	3 N T
Pass	
Levintritt	Kahn
1 ♣	1 ♦
3 ♣	3 N T
Moyse, Jr.	Rhodes
1 ♣	1 ♦
3 ♣	3 ♥
3 ♣	3 N T
Pass	

In all the above sequences of bidding where North-South did not interfere, a spade was led and the contract was one set. But in the sequences.

(A71)

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

Where North-South interfered the correct contract was reached.

Purpose.—The purposes of an overcall are (1) buying the contract that can be made and not being shut out of the game or a part score, (2) ground-work for a possible sacrifice, (3) to indicate a winning lead to the partner, (Blackwood asks not to overcall in a suit in which you cannot stand a lead from your partner), (4) to talk opponents out of something, (5) to push the opponents beyond their depths and to a high contract which they cannot make, and (6) nuisance value and to create general confusion. Talking opponents out of something is by *suit-swinging*, where the defenders can sharply and adroitly decrease the availability of the opening side major-suit's bidding levels by the defender's destructive bidding by making overcalls in 4-card suits or with hands of insufficient strength. This is a case of high larceny in bridge and is a highly unorthodox manner of bidding designed to thwart the opponents of their just and optimum bids. For example:—

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Deal 1

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

Bidding :—

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

When West overcalled with 2 clubs North could not mention spades at 2 level and the 2 spades optimum was missed by North-South and were down two.

Deal 2

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

Bidding :—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	4 ♣
4 ♥	5 ♣	5 ♦	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Because of the 4 clubs bid by East, South dared not risk a 4 spade over it but preferred to call 4 Hearts and North-South were cheated of a cold slam in Spades. (The illustrations are adopted from the *American Bridge World*).

As to creating general confusion Easley Blackwood says that the chance is a 2 to 1 in your favour and your partner may also get confused. "Psychic bids do (or are supposed to do) the same thing. But good bridge players strive for charity, not confusion. If you are better (and who is not) your best practice is to make sound plays and bids. Your partner to whom you will have to answer, will profit more from such soundness than will the opponents."

Take-out Double or Overcall

The overcall and the take-out double are part of the defender's bidding. Where the defender wants to hear about his partner's suit he makes a take-out-double. The tendency of modern players is to make shaded take-out doubles in preference to risky calls because they feel there is less danger in a shaded take-out double than in an overcall in a shaded suit. This can be true only to a very limited extent since in many cases the choice between a take-out double and an overcall is well marked. For example :—

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Illustrations from the *American Bridge World*.

(a) West calls a heart : North and East pass : South holds, A 9 8 5 : nil : K Q 9 7 : J 9 8 6 2. South has only shaded values for a reopening double as there is not enough strength to take care of the heart void. Samuel Stayman says : "North may so easily pass a double for penalties that will not be forthcoming, that I settle for the bid of one spade though a weak four-carder."

(b) West calls a heart and South holds :—

K Q 8 6 5 : nil : A 9 6 4 : Q 7 6 2. North may well have to pass because of heart strength if South makes a take-out double. The double is tabooed since South's heart void is such a big flaw for defence that he needs more than two honour tricks as compensation. Yet distribution demands a competitive effort. The overcall in spades is the only correct bid.

(c) East has called a club and South holds A K 6 4 3 : nil : A K 10 4 : K 9 4 2. South dare not double, since he cannot stand a heart response and a response of 2 diamonds will only lead to future complications. A club cue-bid is not in order and is very dangerous with a heart void. The best effort is only in overcalling in spades.

(d) West opens a club and North holds :—K 8 3 : 10 7 2

A K 10 4 2 : A 6. North not being strong in majors should not double but should call a diamond and if partner overtakes voluntarily in either major he may shoot to game.

(e) West opens a heart and North holds :—A Q 9 7 5 2 : 9 6 : A 7 : Q 7 2. A take-out double with a spade bid to follow does not describe the hand as an immediate overcall of 2 spades.

Requirements :—The requirements of an overcall depend upon its being a weak or strong one, upon the level of bidding, upon vulnerability and also upon position. The weak overcalls are otherwise known as minimum defensive ones. "Any defensive overcall should show, in addition to the winners required under the Rule of 2 and 3, about 1½ honour tricks. In most cases the overcall also shows a five-card or longer biddable suit." Minimum overcalls are made, (a) at one level, if non-vulnerable with 4 winners a long suit e.g., Q 10 xx (or K Q xx) and 1½ honour tricks, and if vulnerable with 5 winners, a suit as good as Q J 9 xxx (or A Q J x) and 1½ honour-tricks in either case if the unknown trick value is shaded there must be sufficient compensation by way of more winners ; (b) at 2 level, if non-vulnerable with 5 winners, a fair 5-card or longer suit (never a 4-carder) and a minimum of 1½ honour-tricks (i.e., more playing strength is needed), and if vulnerable with 6 winners,

with a strong rebiddable five-card or longer suit and 2 or more honour-tricks, (c) and at 3 level (when not jump-bids) more winners, guaranteeing no particular honour-trick holding "but merely the ability to win 6 tricks if not vulnerable, 7 tricks if vulnerable."

Overcalls at two level shall not be made unless the overcaller will not lose more than two tricks in the trump suit. In overcalling you are all out there for yourself and therefore the trump suit should be anything like K Q J 10 9 and shall be such as you can stand a lead in it from your partner. If East opens a spade, South vulnerable shall not stick his neck out if he holds:

9 8 5 : 10 2 : A K 6 4 3 : A 10 4.

Pre-emptive overcalls (any jump of more than one trick) is a weak bid the purpose of which is to prevent if possible the opponents from exchanging information. The requirements of a preventive over-call is governed solely by the level of bidding subject to the Rule of 2 and 3: the winners govern but there is no honour-trick requirement. Any overcall at the range of three is not necessarily a pre-emptive one: For example.

South	West	North	East
1 ♡	Pass	2 ♡	3 ♦

The 3 diamond overcall by East is the minimum defensive overcall over the last opposing

bid and is a regular overcall. But in

South	West	North	East
-------	------	-------	------

1 ♡	3 ♣	Single jump overcall.
	3 ♠	Pre-emptive overcall.

The 3-club bid is a strength showing overcall and the 3 spade bid is a weak pre-emptive overcall showing six winners when not vulnerable and seven winners when vulnerable with no honour tricks. Culbertson says, "it is futile to pre-empt after an opening bid by an opponent. He has already laid the line of communication to his partner; the information transmitted, while possibly incomplete, is usually sufficient for carrying-on purpose." Yet he also recognises "opportunities for pre-emptive coups when certain conditions prevail. With such bidding as

South	West	North	East
1 ♡	Pass	2 ♡	

East may hold a hand like,

♠ A K J 10 8 5 3 : ♡ nil : ♦ Q 8 4 : ♣ Q 7 5.

A pre-emptive spade bid at this point may be highly provocative to the opening bidder, who is apt to regard it as an effort to keep him quiet. He may have planned either a three-heart or a two-no-trump rebid over North's heart raise; a three spade bid may spur him to four hearts. East's heart void indicates that such a bid may be eagerly welcomed by West, who may be

loaded with hearts. I have heard this "coup vulgarly but succinctly described as dumping the opponents into partner's lap."

"Reopening the bidding" is the situation when the opening bid has been passed by the opener's partner. The requirements for reopening the bidding by an overcall by the fourth hand defender are a little shaded for the reasons "that it is unlikely that the opponents have passed out a game at a one-bid" and that there may be "a strong possibility that the other defender has passed a hand of better than average strength and yet too weak for an overcall or take-out double". The fourth hand may overcall with 1½ honour tricks though the hand is a trick short of the safety margin required by the Rule of 2 and 3. "Holding a strong suit and about 2½ honour-tricks, he should make a jump-overcall of

two". But in reopening the bidding, there is the risk of giving the opponents another chance to bid and make a higher score. For example.

South	West	North	East
1 ♡	Pass	Pass	?

East holds 6 : Q 9 7 : A Q J 8 6 : J 5 4 2 : East should not overcall. Where are the spades? Does south want to reverse in spades and steal a game?

South	West	North	East.
1 ♠	Pass	Pass	?

East holds : Q 10 6 : 10 : K Q J 8 7 6 : Q 9 2. East shall pass and never give a chance to the enemy to bid in hearts: nor give partner the chance to bid in hearts which East cannot stand. The hidden suit shall not be made alive.

(To be continued).

ON THE ART OF DUCKING

By B. VENKATARAMANI.

As I read the article by Ewart Kempson on 'Ducking' in the December issue of the "*Bridge World*" I thought to myself that opportunities like those that were mentioned by the author did not occur quite as often as he imagined. The same evening playing a friendly match I picked up the following hand :

♠ Q 7 6
♥ J 4
♦ A Q 4
♣ K Q 10 9 5

Sitting North, I opened the auction with one Club and the bidding went on like this :

East-West being vulnerable.

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

The double was of course quite unnecessary on second thoughts. My partner led the 6 of Hearts and the dummy tabled :

♠ A K 10 5 4
♥ 10 9 7 5
♦ —
♣ A 8 7 6

The Ten of Hearts was put from the Dummy and I covered it

with the knave of Hearts and the Ace of Heart from the Declarer won the trick. East (the declarer) played a Diamond, ruffed it in the dummy, and played the Ace of Spades and then the king of Spades on which he discarded a Club from his hand. He then played the Ace of Clubs followed it with a small Spade from the dummy which he ruffed in his hand with the eight of Hearts. The declarer after ruffing played another Diamond, ruffed it in the dummy and came back to his hand by ruffing a Spade again with the Queen of Hearts. A Diamond was ruffed in the dummy with the nine of Hearts and the King of Hearts was his tenth trick, cross-ruffing giving him the contract. The full deal was like this.

♥ Q 7 6
♥ J 4
♦ A Q 4
♠ K Q 10 9 5

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

I immediately blamed my partner for his supine lead and told him that had he led a Club my bid suit, the opponents would have been in the soup. My partner, a very sound player himself, unusually appeared to agree and even admitted that he had been wool-gathering and was under the impression that East had called a Club.

I was interested to know later what had happened at the other table, where the auction proceeded more or less on the same lines, our team-mates reaching the same contract of 4 Hearts. But the player sitting South, who was apparently not 'wool-gathering' led promptly a Club which was won by the Ace of Clubs in the dummy, followed by two rounds of Spades. On the second round of Spades East discarded a Club from the hand. A Spade was ruffed in the hand and a diamond was ruffed in the dummy and then followed a small pause. He very rightly led a small Club from the dummy (good play, but too late). North put the Queen, but South cleverly ruffed his partner's winner and returned the J of Spades brilliantly, which permitted North to discard the Diamond Queen from his hand, thereby preventing dummy from getting a third ruff of the Diamond suit. The contract was one down.

Our team player sitting East, who was first inclined to admit

that he probably played the hand badly, after hearing about the defence at our table promptly changed his tune and said that if we were able to produce only such indifferent defence, it was no wonder we lost our matches.

Readers might have noticed by now that at the second table the contract could have been made, had East led a Club from the dummy after the Ace and King of Spades. With a little thought, they might also have found out that the lead of the trumps by my partner at our table was the only killing lead ; All I had to do was to *duck* without letting go my knave as I did.

The principle of ducking in one suit to promote an additional trick in another suit before a vulnerable side suit is attacked was aptly illustrated in the recently held par-contest event in the month of December, 1956. The following was the full deal as far as I I could recollect.

♠ A 7 2
♥ K 9
♦ A Q J 8 6 4
♣ A 8

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

The directed lead was the Queen of Clubs by East. I was playing South and laid down the dummy. My Partner rapidly surveyed the Dummy and a smile appeared on his face—a smile that was intended to convey to me that he had the knotty problem all worked out. And after a good look at his hand once again (a purely reflex action) I dare say he promptly drew a small club from the Dummy and when West played low, with a show of which only he is capable, pulled out the Ace of clubs between his fore-finger and the next and permitted each opponent to have a look at it. A minute or two of silent thinking followed after which my partner came to the conclusion that the deal was obviously a trap for the East West players as there was apparently no snag in the dummy play, as far as he could see. He voluntarily offered what was obviously intended as a friendly tip to the opponents that the deal was mainly their headache, prefacing his remark by saying that he was offering the tip although some might say it was against bridge etiquette.

The remark coming as it did from my partner, a player of no mean ability and with a record of striking successes, particularly in individual events, to his credit, naturally made a profound impression on the opponents, who were indeed in huddles on every

lead thereafter with the result, that we were the last to finish the deal at our table, with the tournament director almost shouting at us. The contract was of course one down and the surprise came only after the solution was seen. The problem was for my partner! All my partner had to do was to duck like a 'man' in the first round, and promote a trick in spades by ruffing the third round, after discarding a spade from his hand on the King of Club from the dummy. The purpose of the deal being to keep west from gaining an entry.

I came across yet another deal illustrating another aspect of ducking so as to gain proper timing, while playing recently in my club. The following was the full deal:

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

North South reached the correct contract of 4 Hearts by North. East led the King of Clubs which

was taken by the Ace in dummy, and thereafter North could do nothing and the contract was one down. If he had ducked the first round of Clubs and won the trick in the second round the contract could have been made. He could then pull out two rounds of trumps, and play out the Spade suit discarding the third Club in the dummy on the fourth spade winner.

I, therefore, feel that opportunities to bring good coups by ducking probably occur really more often than we realise, if only we keep our eyes sufficiently open.

I will conclude this article by reproducing below a particularly pretty problem I have seen

somewhere, coming under this head which some of the readers may be familiar with already, and all surely will be able to solve without much difficulty. The following is the full deal:

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

North South to make 12 tricks, with Hearts as trumps, the lead being King of Clubs by West.

Scenes from S. I. B. A. Finals, 1956.

The President addressing
the meeting.

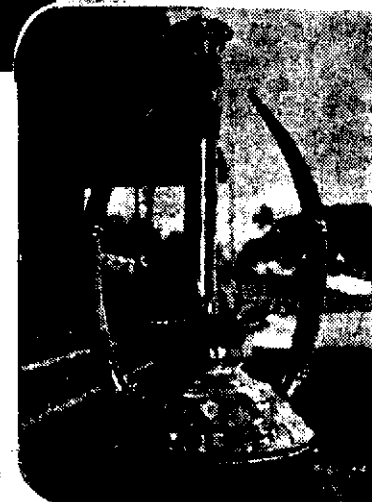


Engrossed in making
the contract.



Bridge fans all.

The magnificent trophy coveted
by all - but only 2 pairs were
lucky !



All smiles.



Another scene from
the S. I. B. A. Finals.

END-PLAY—"THROW IN"

By 'TEAKS'.

Pedant: "Good evening. Was I rude last time?"

Me: "No Sir. You had good reason to be dissatisfied with us." The Pedant said that he was upset because he was coming very nearly to the end of his practical discourses and still we were all fumbling every time. But we said that each sitting was giving us only a new idea which we took some time to know and assimilate. We also said that to avoid more strain to him we had read some books on play and subsequent sittings would not be so tough to the teacher as before. He came down no doubt. But our reference to a study of books rather surprised him. His face showed it and probably he thought that we might be inclined to discuss and differ and so on. Thoughtfully he dealt the cards. The deal was as follows. The final contract was 6 Hearts by South doubled by West.

♠ A K J
♥ 4 3
♦ J 9 7 6
♣ K 9 6 5

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

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

West opened his king of diamonds. South ruffed it and played one round of trumps. West showed out. South was considering his next move and ultimate course of action. The Pedant, nervous to be aggressive since we had read our text-books, mildly said that the only chance was to throw-in to East. He added that throw-in was a type of end-play and it forced the opponent to play to our advantage by either giving us one trick or 2 tricks, or a ruff and discard according to the circumstances. We listened and the ground covered was familiar. South entered the dummy with Spade Ace and played a Diamond and ruffed it. Another Spade gave the next entry to dummy. A third Diamond was ruffed by South. A small club from South gave the trick to Dummy's King. Dummy next played his Spade Jack on which South discarded his club. The fourth Diamond was played from dummy and it was ruffed by South who next played his club Ace and next a small club. East had to ruff it and then being thrown-in had to yield both tricks to South. It was interesting to us: but we asked if it was not possible for defenders to defeat a throw-in and end play. He smiled and was reticent.

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He dealt the cards again. They were as follows. The final contract was 3 N. T. by South.

♠ Q 9 3
♥ A J 8 5 2
♦ 9 7 3
♣ 9 8

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

♠ A 10 6
♥ 10 7
♦ K Q 10 4
♣ A K J 2

This deal is from *American Bridge World*.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♦	—	1 ♥	—
2 ♣	—	2 ♦	—
2 N T	—	3 N T	—

West led the four of clubs. South won with the King. South led the King Diamond and West ducked. South repeated Diamond queen and West won with ace and played the third Diamond which East won with Jack. He played his club and it was won by south with his Jack. He played his fourth Diamond on which East discarded a Heart. South played his Ace of clubs on which East discarded a Spade. South then led the ten of Hearts. East had now to play his spade. West played the eight on it and dummy won with the nine. Then the Spade Ace won the trick and South played his ten of Spades.

East was end-played. He had to play Hearts. We were surprised to see that East was thrown-in not once but twice. Quite interesting but there was no answer to our question whether a throw-in can be defeated.

The Pedant naturally felt that we gained the impression that he had evaded the last question. With a superior air he handed over the cards to North. He himself took his position as East. We thought we were in for trouble. North dealt the cards. He called 1 spade. South called 2 ♣, North 2 ♠, South 3 ♥, North 4 ♦, South 5 ♦, North 6 clubs and South wound up with 6 Hearts. Throughout the bidding East and West kept mum. They were watching. The deal was as follows.

♠ A Q 10 8 5
♥ A 10 2
♦ 7 5 3
♣ A 6

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

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

This deal is from *Championship Bridge*.

West led the four of Diamonds. South won it and played his five of clubs and it was won

by dummy with its Ace. Club was followed and South played his King on it and did not finesse. A third club by South was ruffed by West and overruffed by North with the ten. North's five of Diamonds was won by South with Ace. The ten of clubs was played and it was ruffed by West and overruffed with the Ace by dummy. Two of Hearts was played, East played the four on it, and South played the eight. South then played his King of hearts, West discarded his two of Spades, North discarded five of Spades and East most dramatically threw the Queen on it and sacrificed one sure trick. We were all dumb-founded. That is why our Pedant took East's position. The contract was set one. Our Pedant was a sight for gods to see. Though it might be mistaken for irreverence we all shook hands with him. The sure end-play was sidestepped by East. What a beautiful answer to our question. We asked him how he could have anticipated this distribution and sat East. He admitted that before handing over the pack to North, he had arranged the cards for

this particular deal and therefore knew the distribution beforehand. He added that this deal was played by Goren and Sobel and Killis and Young. They were hallowed names in Bridge. We were inquisitive and asked who was East among them. He answered that it was Helen Sobel the greatest woman player in the world. We were ashamed. We wondered if the weaker sex was capable of such brilliant thinking and execution. The Pedant said that we must revise our notions of women and that they were not "weaker" but "fairer". We had an immediate urge to sit at a table with such experts and play with and against them. The Pedant laughed at our impudence and said that much ground had to be cleared before reaching them and playing with them. We decided that the Pedant's outlook was gloomy but we answered him that in a short time we would reach great heights of play. He blessed us in the true spiritual way by spreading his palms and motioning his hands up and down and said "cheer you".



THE NEWS SECTION

Edited by T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN.

The final rounds of the South Indian Bridge Association's Annual Championship tournaments were played at the Corporation Stadium, Madras, from the 22nd to 25th December 1956. Besides the qualified teams from the various zonal centres two teams from Andhra representing the Andhra Bridge Association took part in the final rounds by special invitation. Of special interest to the *Kibitzer* was the Par Contest for which sixteen selected deals were set by M. J. Sullivan, Australia. The deals were, as usual, interesting, instructive and the organisers' special efforts in staging this event were praiseworthy.

The City Club, Tiruchirappalli, who became the new champions deserve to be congratulated on their welcome return to form after a lapse of four years. Their victories over some of the fancied teams, the Tenali team (Andhra) and the T. Nagar Social Club team (Madras City), holders for the

last two years, was the result of their steady, unruffled display. The T' Nagar Social Club who were the runners-up were unlucky to lose in the finals by the narrow margin of four International match points. The Sir T. Sadasiva Iyer's Rolling Trophy has, thus, gone to the moffussilites once again and the City players will, it is hoped, shake off their lethargy and try to win it back in 1957.

A magnificent silver trophy was donated by Sri M. R. S. Manickavelu Chettiār for the winners in the Par Contest. We hope that the Tournament Committee will have this event as one of the regular items in the final rounds in future. Among the other events the Individual Championship which was won by G. N. Chari and Sri Rama Murti jointly—this event had to be played in two sections—attracted a good number of entries.

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At the General Body Meeting held on the evening of 25th December, 1956, the following Office Bearers were elected for the current year :

President :

Justice P. Rajagopalan.

Vice-Presidents :

K. R. Sundaram Iyer and
M. R. S. Manickavelu Chettiar.

Hon. Secretary :

A. R. Krishnaswami.

Hon. Asst. Secretary :

T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Hony. Treasurer :

S. Mahalingam.

Members of the Executive Council :

Madras :

J. Subbuswami.

K. Guru Dutt.

E. Solomon.

N. Ramaratnam.

R. Sankaran.

T. R. Samoo.

M. Subbiah (*Tiruchirapalli*).

Appadurai (*Tanjore*).

S. T. Chari (*Devakottai*).

V. R. Srinivasachari (*Cuddalore*).

B. S. Krishnamurthy
(*Coimbatore*).

K. R. Soundararajan (*Gobi*).

The Executive Council have since elected the following special committees :

Editorial Committee :

T. S. Chandrasekaran (Con-
vener and Business Editor).

N. Ramaratnam (General
Editor).

E. Solomon.

P. S. Sundaresa Iyer.

P. S. Reddy.

S. Rajam Iyer (*Tirupur*).

K. C. Ramaratnam.

M. S. Krishnaswami, *Madurai*.

Tournament Committee :

T. S. Doraiswami Iyer (Con-
vener).

T. S. Chandrasekaran.

J. Subbuswami.

C. V. Venkatesan.

T. R. Samoo.

Membership Committee :

K. Guru Dutt, *Madras*.

V. R. Srinivasachari, *Cud-
dalore*.

M. S. Krishnaswami, *Madurai*.

K. R. Sundararajan, *Gobi*.

M. N. S. T. Chidambaram,
Devakottai.

C. S. V. Ramanan, *Tanjore*.

Rangarajan, *Tiruchirapalli*.

Tributes were paid at the meeting to the yeomen services rendered by the outgoing Secretary Mr. Guru Dutt, who had to lay down his office due to exigencies of work. Mr. A. R. Krishnaswami who succeeds him comes with a tradition of hard work and service to the game behind him and the Association, will, we hope grow from strength to strength in the coming years.

Detailed results of the various events appear on page 20.

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ANDHRA—MADRAS MATCH.

The Second Annual Madras-Andhra match was played at Vijayawada on the 13th, 14th and 15th January, 1957. As in 1956 a total of 160 boards were played and the Andhra team won once again although by a small margin of 13 international match points.

The teams were :

Andhra :

A. Sriramamurthi (Non-
playing Captain).

P. Tilak.

K. Subbaramiah.

N. Venkat Rao.

P. Tirumal Rao.

C. Sambasiva Rao.

A. Ramamurthy.

Madras :

P. S. Reddi (Captain).

K. C. Ramaratnam.

P. S. Sadasivam.

G. K. Gopalaswamy.

K. Guru Dutt.

T. R. Samoo Iyer.

A good deal of criticism has been made of the manner in which the Madras players were chosen. It is generally felt that the claims of a number of promising players, especially in the mofussil, have been overlooked but there is little justification for such criticism, for, the selectors were really faced with a difficult problem and have perhaps done their best in the limited time at their disposal. The Tiruchi pair V. Subramaniam and M. Subbiah

who were invited declined at the last moment and this added to the difficulties of the selectors. The Association will, for their part, do well to think of more youngsters for such representative matches in future, as the older men have disappointed once again.

We congratulate the Andhra team who won the event for the second year in succession. Their consistency and cool-headedness have once again helped them to snatch away the prize after trailing behind their opponents by a big margin.

* * *

There has been little Bridge activity among the local clubs this year and the lure of Rummy appears to have weaned away most of the bridge fans. The B. & C. Mills Assistants' Association have given up their usual annual tournaments for want of encouraging response. For the same reason the Pairs Progressive events which used to enjoy good patronage has been abandoned by the Mylapore Club who are having only the main knockout team-of-four event this year for the U. S. Ramasundaram Rolling Trophy. We fervently hope that the M. U. C. and the T'Nagar Social Club's annual tournaments will as usual draw a good field.

The Madras City League Tournament will be the only

other interesting event and we trust these matches will unearth a lot of new talent.

As if to make up for all this apparent lack of enthusiasm the Gobichettipalayam Cosmopolitan Club invited a team of Madras players from the Mylapore Club for a friendly challenge match of 128 boards. Inspired by their veteran K. R. Sundararajan they got up a local team to challenge the Madras players and a team of six players under N. Ramaratnam visited Gobi on 16th and 17th March for this match. The Madras Team who won by a handsome margin were presented with gold medals, kindly donated by J. Subramaniam, himself, an ardent lover of the game, and a member of the Gobi team. The players were :

Mylapore Club, Madras :
N. Ramaratnam.
C. V. Venkatesan.
G. N. Chari.
B. Venkataramani.
R. Sankaran.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.
Gobi Cosmopolitan Club :
K. R. Sundararaja Iyer,
(Captain).
G. V. Srikantan.
K. Somasundaram.
S. Jayaraman.
K. Ambi Sastri.
N. Chandramouli.
J. Subramaniam.

At a pleasant function got up in this connection, Mr. Muthuvel,

the District Munsiff, presented the gold medals to the members of the winning team from Madras.

* * *

Results of the Final and Zonal Round Matches for the 1956 Annual Championship Tournament.

FINAL ROUNDS

Duplicate Knockout ; Winners :
The City Club, Tiruchi.

M. Subbiah.
V. Subramaniam.
Dr. M. K. Sahadevan.
R. Nataraja Iyer.
S. V. Natarajan.
Runners-up: T.N.S.C. Madras.

P. S. Sadasivam.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.
S. T. Achar.
K. C. Ramaratnam.
R. Sankaran.

Pairs Progressive :
North-South : Winners :
D. N. Reddy and Saran.

East-West : Winners :
Raju and Venkataratnam.

North-South : Runners-up :
E. S. Natarajan and C. R. Anathanarayanan.

East-West :
E. N. Mylappan and Gani.

Master Pairs : Zone I :
E. S. Natarajan and C. R. Ananthanarayananam.

Zone II :
G. N. Chari and Guru Dutt.

Runners-up : Zone I :
G. K. Sundaram and Srinivasa Iyer.

Zone II :
M. K. Sahadevan and Ambi Iyer.

Individual Championship :

Winners : Zone I :

G. N. Chari

Zone II :

Sriramamurthi.

Runners-up :

G. K. Gopalaswami. *Zone I :*
Gani. *Zone II :*

Duplicate Progressive : Winners :

A. R. Krishnaswami.
M. R. Duraiswami Iyer.
T. Srinivasan.

T. V. Venkatram.

Runners-up :

E. N. Mylappan.
Gani.
Y. Doraswami Iyer.
S. Suriyanarayana Iyer.

Par Contest.

Winners :

East-West :

R. Sankaran and S. K. Subramaniam.

North-South :

P. S. Reddy and K. C. Ramaratnam.

Runners-up :

East-West.

M.R.S. Manikavelu Chetti and S. T. Chari.

North-South :

V. Subramanyam and M. Subbiah.

Prof. Suriyanarayana and Dr. Sahadevan.

City League.

Winners : T. N. S. C.
T. S. Chandrasekaran.

R. Sankaran.

P. S. Sadasivam.

Sadhuram Dave.

V. Kuppuswami.

P. S. Natarajan.

Runners-up : M. I. C.

K. S. Narayana.

K. Guru Dutt.

S. K. Subramaniam.

G. K. Gopalaswami.

M. Rangaswami.

Olagappan.

Special Prize for Non-Winners :

Burma-Shell Club :

R. Rajagopalan.

E. S. Natarajan.

P. K. Janakiram.

C. R. Ananthanarayanan.

G. N. Viswanathan.

U. C. Radhakrishnan.

Zonal Rounds :

Duplicate Knock-out : Cuddalore.

Cosmopolitan Club :

S. Radhakrishna Naidu.

A. Konda Reddiar.

V. Sundaram.

V. R. Srinivasachari.

K. Srinivasan.

Master Pairs : Winners.

B. Sadasiva Rao and Manickavasagam Pillai.

Tiruchirapalli ; Duplicate Knock-out :

E. N. Mylappan.

N. V. M. Gani.

A. K. Sherfudin.

S. Suryanarayana Iyer.

Y. Duraiswami Iyer.

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

Y. Duraiswami Iyer.

Suryanarayana Iyer.

East-West : Winners :

S. Parthasarathy and Rathnam Pillai.

Master Pairs : Winners :

M. Subbiah.

V. Subramanyam.

*Tanjore :**Duplicate Knock-out.*

Mrs. Pandyan.

S. Rajaramier.

K. V. Ramanathan.

P. N. Ranganathan.

*Pairs Progressive :**North-South :*

Rajendran and Dorairaj.

East-West :

G. Sundaram and Panchapakesan.

Master Pairs :

Rajendran and Dorairaj.

*Madras :**Duplicate Knock-out :**Winners (M.I.C.).*

K. S. Narayana.

G. K. Gopalasami.

K. Guru Dutt.

S. K. Subramaniam.

M. Rangasami

Runners-up T.N.S.C.).

T. S. Chandrasekaran.

S. T. Achar.

K. C. Ramaratnam.

R. Sankaran.

P. S. Sadasivan.

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

R. Sankaran and Sadhuram Dave.

East-West : Winners :

P. S. Reddy and K. C. Ramaratnam.

Master Pairs.

Mrs. and Mr. Solomon.

*Coimbatore.—**Duplicate Knock-out :*

Kuppusami.

Seshasayee.

S. T. Chari.

Ramamurthy.

Parthasarathi.

Master Pairs : Winners :

Lakshmiah and Rangaraj.

*Gobichettipalayam.—**Duplicate Knock-out :*

K. R. Sundararajan.

G. K. Nanjundier.

A. R. Somasundaram.

K. S. Chandrasekaran.

G. V. Srikanthier.

Master Pairs : Winners :

M. S. Venkatasubramania Iyer and G. D. Venkatasubbu.

*Karaikudi.—**Duplicate Knock-out :*

T. Sundararajan.

C. Srinivasan.

S. T. Chari.

A. Sundararajan.

Pairs Progressive : North-South :

M. N. S. T. Chidambaram.

C. Annamalai.

East-West :

P. L. A. Nachippa and S.A.M. Meyyappa.

Master Pairs : Winners :

N. K. N. Nachiappa.

Sambandam.

BRIDGE AND SOME THAT PLAY IT

By A BRIDGE FAN.

"Psychology at Bridge can be defined as the process of taking into consideration the *personal* element involved, viz., the tendencies, idiosyncrasies and reactions of specific partners and specific opponents.

"The sum total of all technical knowledge cannot make a master Contract Bridge player.

"The personal element in contract is so pervasive that few intelligent bids or plays can be made without taking it into consideration. So true is this that a good bid or play may be reduced to a formula thus :

$$\frac{\text{Bid or Play}}{\text{Situation}} + \text{partner's psychology} + \text{opponents' psychology} = \text{X.}$$

"With correct valuation applied to every element, X will of course represent perfection," so says the illustrious Culbertson.

It is therefore necessary that we study our partners and opponents ; study their character, inclinations, reactions, foibles, aggressiveness, timidity, confidence, optimism, etc. Such a study should pay rich dividends.

There is S, meticulous and impeccable—meticulous about the draw, the shuffle, the cut and the deal. In character impeccable, in speech impeccable,

in bidding and play impeccable too. In fact, the British Indian Civil Servant was his prototype—punctual, impartial and correct. Partnering S, or even playing against him, one can be sure of him—no psyche, no hocus-pocus there. Everything is above board. He means what he says and says what he means.

Next is T, highly wily, and doubly foxy, who believes and rightly so, that it is ethical and sportsmanlike to lay traps in Bridge both in bidding and play. He would occasionally psyche, push you up to an impossible contract, or double a one bid of a possible slam contract and stop you short of it. With him at the table, you should have all your wits about you as partner, and more so, as an opponent.

Then we have N, who knows all the rules and technicalities. With a partner as good as he, the opponents beware ! With a weak partner he bids and plays just the same and gets into trouble. When the disposition of the cards is known, he becomes a veritable champion!

Finally, we come to G, who believes he plays as well as any of the best. He has just bid and made an easy slam. You lean Cassius, an opponent knowing G, to be highly pampered

and gullible says to him that he has made a very clever bid, and made it very well indeed. G is quite pleased but his partner blessed in abundance with the gift of the gab, pooh-poohs the whole thing saying, that the slam was a lay-down and that even a novice could not have failed to make it! The slam-bidder besides giving him a withering look utters never a word.

It is obvious he is fretting and fuming. A few deals later, he bids another slam. His one object is to belie his partner by making the contract however difficult it may be. Unfortunately, his temper stands in his way and he is unable to plan correctly. The contract is set. This time his talkative partner curbs himself and gives G, a silent look of compassion.



Pro et contra

By E. SOLOMON

Enquiry.—I would like to have your comments on the following bidding sequences which proved very costly to my team at the S.I.B.A. Finals held recently in Madras.

(i) West dealer : Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	1 ♦
Pass	Pass	Double	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass
Pass	Double	Redouble	Pass
Pass	Pass		

(ii) East dealer : East-West vulnerable.

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

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

Reply.—(i) West's jump bid to two hearts after his partner's informative double is so odorous that we are inclined to take the charitable view that perhaps the jump was inadvertent. Two hearts is all that he should bid and even if partner raises to three the bidding should die there.

(ii) We presume that the reason why this sequence proved costly was because a game in no-trump was missed. We ourselves recommend the 16 to 18 point no-trump and would open East's hand in pedestrian fashion with a bid of one no-trump. West holding 9 points, not to speak of a six-card suit, would then make the equally pedestrian response of three no-trump, a contract that has a very fair chance of making. There would be nothing brilliant about our bidding; but we would arrive

without difficulty at a good contract and no suits would be mentioned to assist South in selecting his opening lead.

The actual "prepared" bid of one club made by East does not find favour with us. Prepared bids must be restricted rigorously to those hands only that cannot be opened with one no-trump and where no bid in a four-card suit is available admitting of a convenient rebid on partner's suit over-call. Even if by some convention, of which we are not informed, East is debarred from making a no-trump opening, we would bid one heart and reply to any suit response of partner at the lowest level in no-trump.

Enquiry.—Kibitzing a recent duplicate match I was surprised to find a seasoned North South pair stop at a three spades contract on the following hands:

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

East dealer: North South vulnerable.

The bidding sequence was:

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

Please examine if North or South was more to blame for missing the odd game.

Reply.—Because the single suit raise is such a discouraging response we consider that if, after we have made it, partner still persists with the auction we should search our hand carefully for any less obvious values that might enable us to help partner to a game contract.

In North's position after partner has heard our bare raise to two spades and come out with a further bid of three hearts—undoubtedly a try for game—our thoughts would probably have proceeded thus:

Partner is not satisfied that there is only a part score in this deal. He thinks that we may be missing a game and has sent out a feeler. Now what sort of hand can he have? Surely at least nine cards in the two major suits and if only nine then his high card values will be correspondingly greater. We should have no losers in spades and my four hearts will probably enable the suit to be brought in with the loss of one trick only. In the minor suits my partner can have no more than four cards and I am providing him with an ace here. Therefore it is likely that we have not more than four losers, one in the majors and three in the minors, while my doubleton in clubs may eliminate one of the latter. Partner *does* fancy a game

so why don't I bid it? "Four Spades".

It is far from our intention, however, to cast the entire onus for the missed game on North. We know quite a few players who on partner's raise to two spades would jump straightaway to four, holding the South hand. We find it a pleasure to partner these players.

Enquiry.—Please discuss in your columns how the following East West hands should be bid:—

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

In the actual sequence the bidding went:—

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

During the post-mortem both East and West contended that they had bid their hands in the best possible way and were not willing to take the extra risk in exploring the possibilities of a slam for fear of overcalling; East because he had little values and West because he had already made a jump bid and was sitting back for partner to speak.

Reply.—We don't like West's last bid of four hearts. Sure he has made a jump bid, but the jump is forcing only to game and four hearts lets partner

completely off the hook. After all partner did find the strength to bid a second suit at the level of four. What more does West expect him to do—raise hearts, when he cannot possibly have any sort of support for this suit?

Sorry we cannot provide a sure-fire formula for bidding the grand slam, but here is a sequence that we very much favour:—

EAST	WEST
1 ♠	3 ♥
4 ♣	5 ♣
6 ♣	6 ♥
7 ♥	

Enquiry.—What are the general requirements for a sacrifice bid? North South in the following deal were set two tricks in their six spades contract while they could have easily turned the penalty in their favour by doubling their opponents. Please criticise if the sacrifice was unwarranted; if so whether North or South was responsible for the poor result.

North dealer: Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding :

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
4 ♠	5 ♦	5 ♠	Pass
Pass	6 ♦	Pass	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Reply.—We suspect that our leg is being pulled. If anybody will instruct us on the "general requirements" for a sacrifice bid, so that we can distinguish unerringly those hands where a sacrifice would prove profitable and those where it would not, we would give him—yes we would even give him one of our most cherished bridge trophies.

Turning to the actual deal of the enquiry we can only comment that all four players seem to have been attacked by a fit of madness—or they are just poor lost babes in the wood! East's first overcall of five diamonds—Ye

Gods, he was vulnerable!—is sheer effrontery while his second bid of six diamonds reveals him clearly as a psychopath. South's bid of five spades is quite incomprehensible and we are also taken aback at his failure to double six diamonds. West made no bid throughout the auction. That he did not double five spades or even six spades whilst holding ace to four spades as well as the singleton ace of clubs, not to mention his partner's vigorous bidding while vulnerable, convinces us that he recognised his partner as the escaped guest of a mental institution and discreetly declined to provoke him to bid seven diamonds. What of North? Undoubtedly he accompanied East in the break-out from the same institution.

PAR CONTEST—1956.

The most interesting event in the annual tournament at the Stadium was the Par Contest played on 23rd December, 1956. Sixteen specially selected hands parpointed by M. J. Sullivan were duplicated and played simultaneously at all tables and some of the best players in the city and the moffusil participated in the event. The complete deals together with the author's comments are given in the following columns.

Hand 1 :

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

Dealer : North Vul: Nil.

Bidding Par.

East-West, for finishing in 3 ♠ or 4 ♠, or for doubling any bid of 4-odd or higher: 2 points.

Official Bidding.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West to play hand in 4 ♠.
North must lead H J.

Playing Par.

North-South for 4 or more tricks *but only* if South won the opening lead and led ♠ J. 4 Points.

Official Comment.

Bidding.—It is a moot point whether game should be bid on the East-West cards. Par, therefore has been made elastic.

Play.—A glance at dummy should indicate the futility of seeking defensive tricks in trumps or diamonds. If contract is to be defeated three tricks must be found in the club suit. South must overtake ♥ J and lead ♣ J.

Hand 2.

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

Dealer : East. Vul. North-South.

*Bidding Par*North-South, finishing in 6 ♣ :
2 Points.*Official Bidding.*

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

South to play hand in 6 ♣
West must lead H Q.*Playing Par.*North-South for 12 tricks.
3 Points.*Official Comment.**Bidding.*—A small slam in clubs, which can be made against practically any normal distribution, should be bid on the North-South cards.*Play.*—Opening lead should be taken in dummy and a low trump led to an honour in South. When West discards, ♦ K should be surrendered to West's Ace, two more diamonds ruffed low in South, and, on fourth round of trumps, South's ♠ A should be jettisoned to squeeze West over three suits.*Hand 3.*

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

Dealer: South. Vul: East-West:

*Bidding Par.*East-West, for finishing in 6
♥ : 2 Points.East-West, for finishing in any
game-going contract in hearts or
No-trumps : 1 Point.*Official Bidding.*

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

West to play hand in 6 ♥.
North must lead ♣ 9*Playing Par.*East-West, for 12 tricks. 4
Points.*Official Comment.**Bidding.*—Because the East-West cards are of such balanced distribution, the bidding par has been made elastic.*Play.*—To test out the distribution, West should take opening lead with Ace and return a club forthwith. When North show out, the winning procedure of subsequent dummy reversal is clearly indicated. If North does not ruff, ♠ K should be cashed and a third round led.*Hand 4.*

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

Dealer : West. Vul : All.

*Bidding Par.*East-West, for finishing in 5 ♣
or 3 N.T.*Official Bidding.*

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 N.T.	Pass	4 ♣	Pass
5 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

East to play hand in 5 ♣
South must lead ♠ 10.*Playing Par.*East-West, for 11 tricks, but
only if low spades were played
from both hands to opening
lead : 4 Points.*Official Comment.**Bidding.*—The singleton spade should deter East from any slam aspirations.*Play.*—An example of the Sullivan Coup, first noted in the 1951 World Olympic.

Provided two tricks can be won in spades, East can count eleven tricks ; but two tricks cannot be won in spades if North can ruff any spade honour-card. Recourse to the Sullivan Coup prevents that disaster.

Hand 5.

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

Dealer: North. Vul: North-South

*Bidding Par.*North-South finishing 6 ♦
2 Points.*Official Bidding.*

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

*Playing Par.*North-South, for 12 tricks.
4 Points.*Official Comment.**Bidding.*—The small slam in diamonds is a better than even chance and, therefore, should be bid.

Play.—Capturing West's D Q with the Ace, North should play C A for a spade discard and ruff a club. When C K drops, hearts and clubs should be cross-ruffed until only three cards remain in all hands. A lead of C Q to trick 11 endplays East who can ruff only to lead down to S Q or discard a spade only to find North playing two winning spades.

[*Editor's Comment.*—Most of the competitors actually started off ruffing a low club at trick 2 in the dummy. There are plenty of entries to either hand and as the club suit is easily established the contract was made without the elaborate process mentioned above. Playing Par points were awarded to those North Souths also as the tournament committee felt there was nothing fundamentally different in principle, in this line of play.]

Hand 6.

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

Dealer : East. Vul : East-West

Bidding Par.

North-South, for finishing in 3 ♥ or 4 ♥, or for doubling

East-West at 3-odd or higher : 2 Points.

Official Bidding.

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

North to play hand in 4 ♥
East must lead ♦ 3.

Playing Par.

East-West for 4 tricks : 4 Points.

Official Comment.

Bidding.—Another border-line game hand with a compensating elastic par.

Play.—When West takes D A and pushes out North's D K with a high diamond continuation East must ruff with H A and return H 4 to ensure another diamond trick for West.

Hand 7.

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

Dealer : South.

Vul : All.

Bidding Par.

East-West, for finishing 6 ♣ 2 Points.

Official Bidding.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	4 ♣
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	Pass

East to play hand in 6 ♣
South must lead H K.

Playing Par.

East-West for 12 tricks, *But only if spades were played from both hands to Trick 2* : 4 Points.

Official Comment.

Bidding.—The small slam should be bid regardless of what bidding system is being employed.

Play.—Ducking a spade to trick 2 ensures the contract against any 4-2 black suit breaks and, therefore, should be made forthwith.

Hand 8.

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

Dealer : West

Vul : Nil

Bidding Par.

North-South, for finishing in 3 N.T. 2 Points.

Official Bidding.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♦	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	5 ♦		

North to play hand in 5 ♦
East must lead ♣ Q.

Playing Par.

North-South, for 11 tricks, *but only if North held up on opening lead* : 4 Points.

Official Comment.

Bidding.—The cast-iron no-trump game if played by North gets the bidding award ; the shaky contract of 5 ♦ gets nothing.

Play.—Should ♥ A be off-side, the contract will be down unless East can be thrown-in on the third round of spades with that suit breaking 3-3 ; but, if the suit does break 3-3, a discard can be found for a losing heart, by discarding a spade on ♣ K, ruffing out the suit and eventually entering dummy with a trump to cash the long spade.

(to be continued).

WE QUOTE

(Extract from "THE BULLETIN" of the American Contract Bridge League).

Mrs. N opened the bidding with 1 Heart which was immediately doubled. Her partner, Mrs. P redoubled. Left hand opponent bid 1 spade which was passed around to Mrs. P who also passed. Four spades could not be defeated.

After looking at Mrs. P's hand and finding nothing but the king of diamonds for her redouble, the doubler wrote one word "crook" on the back of a pick-up slip. She passed it to Mrs. P who glanced at it and gave it back with the courteous request "Please autograph it".

(October 1956 issue from "THE CLUB CORNER" by George W. Benyon).

"The Bridge hand of the year"

NORTH

♠ A Q 10 x x x
♥ x x x
♦ x x
♣ A x

SOUTH

♠ J x x x
♥ A
♦ A Q x x
♣ x x x

The setting is a duplicate game. Vulnerability, unimportant; and South is dealer. A round has just ended and N-S are alone at the table discussing what tricks they could have won on the previous hand had a certain lead been made. North asked: "What would we have taken had you opened a club?"

South went into a huddle, and while he was deep in thought the new E-W pair reached the table. All four of them picked their hands out of the board, with South still cogitating. He suddenly came to a decision and started to tell his partner what tricks they could have won. He started with "Two hearts", when suddenly to his dismay and horror, West continued the auction with a pass, and his partner bid two spades!

South, at this moment, wished he had never been born. In the minds of the other three players he had made a legal bid when it was his proper turn to bid. If it turned out that E-W had the preponderance of cards, particularly in hearts, he might be accused of having advance information on the board, or other nefarious crimes.

He quickly decided to go through with it, and, after East's pass, bid three spades. North Blackwooded with four no-trump.

South gulped and dutifully responded with five hearts. Nothing daunted, North with an opening two-bid opposite him, bid five no-trump. South quickly bid six clubs showing no kings, and North, a little taken aback by this abrupt ending of his grand slam dream, bid six spades.

East opened the club king and as soon as the dummy went down a simultaneous shout of "Director" went up from East, West and North!

The director was, of course, helpless and for East-West's sake could only hope that the set would assuage their ruffled feelings. But, I suppose, by this time you've guessed the answer. West held the king of spades, East the king of diamonds and the slam was as cold as the looks that E-W gave South when they left the table.

(March 1955 issue from "SIXTY DAYS" by A. M. Sobel).

"Gerber's four-club slam convention and its modifications by players."

Partner opened with one spade. I bid two diamonds and he bid three hearts. I had quite a few kings, queens, jacks, and martinis so I bid four clubs. Unexpectedly he bid four diamonds. "Aha," said I to myself, "I have no aces, he has no aces, ergo the opponents hold all four aces and therefore this hand is not conducive to a slam. In

fact it is not conducive to anything above the three-level." That shows how fast my mind can work under pressure. I passed, and a look of awe overspread his face as he put down the dummy, said dummy containing four aces.

I held my temper nicely, not wanting to shame him in front of the opponents. After making seven-odd, we left the table and threw the verbal punch, "Johnny I don't mind you lying about one ace once in a while but how can you lie about four aces!"

"Al," he gently replied, "four diamonds can mean no aces or all four".

I then really exploded, "That's the trouble with these new-fangled two-way bids. The Woodson influence has got all of you. Two-way no-trumps, two-way two-bids, and now two-way Gerber responses. The next thing you know we'll have two-way three-bids."

"Al," he said patiently, "the two-way three-bid was started by Sims twenty years ago!"

How can you argue with a guy like that? I must have played a whale of a game to finish second with a fellow who doesn't even know his own system.

June 1955 issue from "SIXTY DAYS" by A. M. Sobel.

Two ladies sat down to play against two men. The dealer

one of the ladies, opened with two spades. One of the men picked up a private score and it was clearly marked as a weak-two-bid. He passed, and two rounds later the ladies were at a small slam in spades with practically no real bidding from the partner of the original two-spade bidder. The he-man, with a sure trick in his hand, decided the females did not know what they were doing and interpolated a voceferous double. He opened his ace and sure enough the dummy had only a king and queen in it. Three tricks later it was very obvious that the opening two-bidder had the biggest hand this side of Culberston.

"Director," he shouted, and I dutifully trotted over.

He started, "These ladies are playing weak two-bids..." and with that, the opening bidder gently interrupted with, "Who says we are? Can't you recognise your partner's handwriting? That's his private score. Ours is marked as using strong two bids!"

Good Story? Now get the sequel to it. His partner had four spades headed by the jack-nine. Naturally, no one at any other table had doubled six spades because it would be a give-away of the trump situation. Result, down one doubled for a cold top for this knuckle-head who was reading his own private score! What price top score?

(January 1955 issue, "SIXTY DAYS" by A. M. Sobel).

THE ANDHRA-MADRAS ANNUAL CONTEST.

The Second Andhra-Madras Annual Contest was played at Vijayawada on the 13th, 14th and 15th January this year. As reported elsewhere the Andhra team won the event for the second year by the small margin of 13 international match points. 160 boards were played in all and Madras who were leading all the way by a comfortable margin cracked up in the last session and lost the match somewhat unfortunately. An attempt is made in the following pages to present a few of the swing hands for the benefit of readers.

Deal No. 1: The Madras pair P. S. Reddy and Ramarathnam gave a flying start to their team on this deal bidding and making 6 clubs. The contract depended on one of the black kings being favourably placed.

N—S (Madras).

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣ (!)	1 ♠	4 N.T.	Pass
5 ♣ (!)	Pass	6 ♣ (!)	Pass

N—S (Andhra).

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	Pass

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

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

Deal No. 2: This deal also resulted in a big swing for Madras, their North-South pair bidding and making 3 N.T., vulnerable, while the Andhra North South pair allowed their opponents to play at 2 ♦ for a 3-trick set. West's opening 2 ♦ —a weak two—perhaps helped North South reaching 3 N.T. easily.

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

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

Madras N—S			
EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	Pass	2 ♦	Dbl.
Pass	2 ♥	3 ♣	Dbl.
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	3 N.T.

Andhra N—S

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	Dbl.
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Deal No. 3 : Madras continued to press home the initial advantage and collected a further 5 I.M.P. on this deal. South appears to have had far too little values to put in a bid at the 2 level and paid the penalty.

Bidding :

N—S (Madras)

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
x	x	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

N—S (Andhra)

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
x	x	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	2 ♦	2 ♠	3 ♦
3 ♠	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
4 ♠	Dbl.	Pass	Pass

N—S (Madras)			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

N—S (Andhra)			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

N—S (Madras)			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

Deal No. 4 : The Madras Team increased their lead by another 6 I.M.P. on this deal. The final 3 NT contract could have been made at Table 1 also if West tries to find his 8th and 9th tricks in spades by leading a low spade at trick two from either hand. West at Room 2 however got a more favourable lead in ♥ 5 and had to look for only one trick.

N—S (Madras)			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

Deal No. 8 :

N—S (Andhra)

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

N—S (Madras)

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

Both defenders led heart initially but where North was the declarer the contract was easily made while at Table II with South being declarer there was no chance as East West collected 3

hearts, a club and the diamond ace to set the contract.

N—S (Madras)			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

N—S (Andhra)			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

Deal No. 12 : The Andhra North South pair threw away a further 5 points on this deal surprisingly stopping at 2 N.T. while 10 tricks were on ice.

N—S (Madras)			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

N—S (Andhra)			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

N—S (Madras)			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

N—S (Andhra)			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

Deal : 14 Madras lost 5 points on this deal failing to reach the makeable game in spades.

Bidding :

N—S (Madras)

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

N—S (Andhra)

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

N—S (Madras)			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

N—S (Andhra)			
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1 ♣	Dbl.	Rdl.
1 ♥	Pass	Pass	3 ♣
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

Deal No. 18 was another swing deal in favour of Madras team. The fine fit in hearts was unaccountably suppressed by the Andhra North South pair possibly for lack of a 5-card suit in either hand. North-South at Table II easily reached the 4 ♥ contract following south's initial take-out double.

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

Room I.

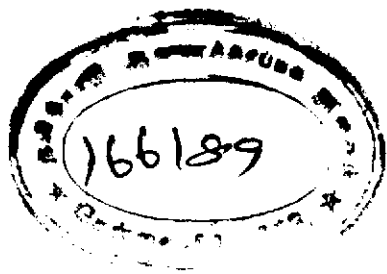
N—S (Andhra)

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

Room II.

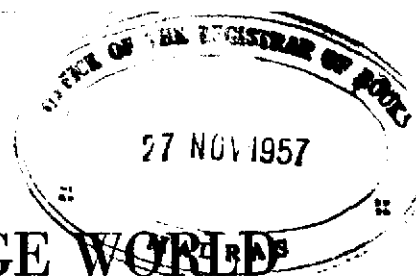
N—S (Madras)

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
x	1 ♠	Dbl.	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	Pass



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INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH INDIAN
BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Vol. VIII

June, 1957

No. 2

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The *Indian Bridge World* is published quarterly by Mr. T. S. Chandrasekaran, and printed by Mr. N. RAMARATNAM, M.A., B.L., at THE M. L. J. PRESS (PRIVATE) LTD., Mylapore, Madras. Annual Subscription—Rs. 3 for individual members, with an Entrance Fee of Re. 1. Reprinting of contents in any form without permission is not allowed. Advertising rates may be had upon application to the Business Editor, *Indian Bridge World*, Math Road, Madras 4.

THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Vol. VIII

June, 1957

No. 2

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THE OVERCALL

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

PART II.

The take-out double apart, the defender can show the strength and type of hand he holds in several ways, by making a single jump overcall in a suit, by overcalling in no-trumps and by making an immediate overcall in the suit bid by the opponents. These are known as strong or strength-showing overcalls.

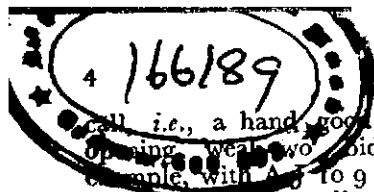
Single-jump overcall.

As has been seen earlier, the single-jump overcall is not the weak pre-emptive one, and the jump is only one trick more than is necessary for the weak defensive overcall. For example.

	S.	W.	N.	E.
(1)	1 ♡	—	2 ♠	
(2)	1 ♣	—	2 ♦	
(3)	1 ♦	—	3 ♣	
(4)	1 ♠	—	3 ♦	

"Even the Gold Book lacks space for full coverage of every conceivable bidding situation

and does not even mention the matter of respective vulnerability. Subject to the Rule of 2 and 3, a single-jump overcall indicated (i) about $3\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks, two five-card or longer suits and 6 winners if non-vulnerable and 7 winners if vulnerable or (ii) about $3\frac{1}{2}$ honour tricks, one strong suit and 8 winners irrespective of vulnerability. One view is that a single-jump overcall indicates sufficient strength for a take-out double, is made generally on a very strong major suit and is made only when the overcaller fears that his partner may leave in a take-out double or make an inconvenient response which may lead to future complications. Another view (and that is gaining more currency) is such strong hands call for only a take-out double and that the jump-overcall can be made on a hand only just stronger than the one for a simple minimum defensive over-



call, i.e., a hand good for an opening weak two bid. For example, with A J 10 9 7 5 : 9 : K J 7 4 : 9 6 : call 2 Spades over 1 heart.

The Gold Book gives the following illustrations as sound single-jump overcalls.

(i) South bids one diamond and West holds :

A K 10 5 4 : A Q J 7 5 : 6 : 3 2.

The take-out double of one diamond may evoke the inconvenient response of two clubs, over which if West bids two spades, he risks being dropped : but West risks bidding three spades over two clubs, since the force compels partner to go game with no support for either suit.

(ii) South bids one diamond and West holds.

A Q 10 9 6 5 3 : 6 : A K 5 : 3 2.

"If West doubles and East responds two clubs, West does not know whether East has a Yarborough, or something like x x x in spades and Q J x or a doubleton in diamonds, which would make game possible on a finesse. If West makes a jump overcall, bidding two spades, East will respond with the barest of support and will pass safely if he has no support."

This deal was played in my club, the Union Club, Tanjore.

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West dealt and called a spade. North passed : East raised the bid to two spades : South holds :

9 2 : A K J 8 6 : A Q J 7 5 3 : nil. A double may bring in the very inconvenient response of 3 clubs : a bid of 3 spades may urge opponents to employ obstruction. The single-jump overcall is indicated. The suits shall be shown in the order of rank so that North may not be embarrassed and South is not forced to show the major at an uncomfortable level.

The single jump-overcall to three of a minor suit practically assures a long ready-made suit, with some high cards in side suits, and eight winners in all.

For example (Gold Book).

South calls a spade : West calls 3 clubs holding.

(i) 6 2 : Q 8 : K J : A K Q J 7 4 2 or

(ii) A 2 : Q 8 : K J : K Q J 10 7 4 2.

The minimum requirements for a single-jump overcall should generally be strictly adhered to. A weak single-jump overcall in a minor suit is ineffective as a pre-emptive bid and is usually dangerous inviting a double with no out: it will defeat itself. The following deal was played at World Championship Match.

JUNE 1957

5

♠ A J 3
♥ K Q 10 2
♦ 9
♣ A Q 8 7 3

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

♠ Q 10 6 2
♥ 6
♦ K J 8 5 2
♣ J 6 5

The bidding :

S	W	N	E
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	2 ♦
Dble.	Pass	Pass	Pass

Result : Four down

Further the weak single-jump overcall in a minor is a "lilliputian obstacle". The following deal was played in 1955 World Championship.

♠ K Q 7
♥ J 8 5 4
♦ A 3 2
♣ K Q 8

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

♠ 9
♥ K Q 10 6
♦ 9 7 6
♣ A 10 6 4 2

Bidding :—

N.	E.	S.	W.
1 ♣	2 ♦		

Nobody denies the shut-out value of the major suits but "a two diamond pre-emptive is a contradiction in terms: a mouse masquerading as a tiger." South can safely mention hearts at two level.

The single-jump overcalls are not forcing even for a round.

The no-trump overcalls.

The one no-trump overcall indicates a hand strong enough for a take-out double, balanced distribution and the suit called by the opponents well stopped. This is equivalent to an opening one no-trump bid. The no-trump overcall at two level "must have enough winners to be safe under the rule of 2 and 3." An overcall of three no-trumps over an opposing opening pre-emptive three bid is not a "take-out" bid. These no-trump overcalls are not forcing even for a round. But a no-trump overcall of the opponent's opening pre-emptive 4 or 5 suit bid is as strong a bid as an immediate overcall in the opponent's suit, is a tremendous take-out double, is forcing for a round : it shows a powerful hand, a singleton or void in the bid suit and a game in 5 or 6 level.

Illustrations from the AMERICAN BRIDGE WORLD.

(1) East calls one spade and South holds: Q 9 3; A; 10 7 4; A K J 9 5.

A three club single-jump overcall invites only a raise or a bid of three no-trumps. With the Queen of spades in the South hand, North may not have enough spade strength to call in no-trumps: nor can he possibly raise clubs. The singleton heart rules out a take-out double. One no-trump by South implies great strength and urges partner.

(2) Rubber Bridge. Neither side Vulnerable.

N	E	S	W
Pass	1 ♠	?	

South holds: Q 10 8 5: A K 4: A 9: A Q 6 3.

Perhaps North is bust. "The best objective in rubber bridge is not a little profit whenever possible. A match point game is a better setting for that philosophy. The best and toughest rubber bridge players are always willing to risk a few points in quest of a lot of points—they play for swings. The potential swing in this case lies in a trap pass."

(3) Rubber Bridge. Both Sides Vulnerable: E.W. 60, Part Score.

E	S	W	N
1 ♥	?		

South holds: A 10 7 3: K J 2: Q 6 5: Q 10 6.

In rubber bridge the question that usually arises is how much shading the expert is willing to do in part-score situations or how much burden his partner can bear if there is to be a competition. If it is not for competition but sheer boosting, the unspecific double is superior to a no-trump overcall. There is no advantage in showing hearts by calling no-trumps. A double may plant shortness in hearts in opponent's minds. Pass is out of question since North may surrender.

The immediate overcall.

By far the strongest and most important of the overcalls is the "immediate overcall" in the opponent's suit. "Immediate overcall" means that the defender must overcall at the first opportunity in the suit bid by the opponent and shows an ultra-powerful hand, a minimum of 4½ honour-tricks, a possible game with any small support from partner and generally a first round control in the opponent's suit (void or ace) or at the worst a singleton. With a void in the opponent's suit the honour-trick value may even be reduced to four only. Culbertson says that the immediate overcall in the opponent's suit does not invariably show an ace or void in that suit; but Goren is of the view that it indicates the ability to win the first trick of that suit either with

ace or by trumping. This is a "cue-bid" and is forcing for a round but dropped short of a game if the responding hand is hopelessly weak: but the cue-bidder forces partner to game by making a jump bid in a new suit at his next turn. This cue-bid is a gigantic take-out double and its maximum strength is not limited. This cue-bid shall not be made with an inadequate holding when the hand contains a void in the opponent's suit for fear that (a) partner with length in that suit would leave in a take-out double (b) or for fear that partner may not know the void in that suit (usually good results are obtained when opponents do not know the void). Immediate overcall with inadequate holding will lead to disaster by tempting partner to bid an unmakeable game. A bid shall not be made without any idea of where the hand should eventually be played. According to Culbertson any of the following hands would justify a two-Club overcall of an opposing one club bid.

(1) K Q 10 6: A K Q 5 4: K J 10: A.

(2) A K 7 5: K Q J 10: K Q J 6: 3

(3) A K Q 10 5 4 2: A Q J 6: K Q: nil.

There is no royal road when it comes to holding freaks. For example.

S	W	N	E
1 ♦	?		
or			
1 ♣			

West holds: A K 10 7 5 4: A Q J 9 6 3: 7: nil.

A call of one spade is timid, nor is a call of two spades forcing. An immediate overcall is the wisest.

This cue-bid just like the opening forcing two bid had a full and unconditional game force but now the force is initially confined to a round only, since many experts desired mere flexibility. Lee Hayden advocates a very much more flexible use of this cue-bid especially when a sacrifice is needed. For example.

E. W. Vulnerable.

N	E	S	W
Pass	1 ♠	?	

Sorter holds: Nil: K J 10 8: Q J 9 5: Q 10 8 7 2.

Conventionally speaking South has not half the strength to call two spades: but here is a perfect spot for a semi-psycho cue-bid strongly indicating a sacrifice. An unorthodox cue-bid has a greater advantage than a double. "The usual logical purpose of the immediate cue-bid of opponent's suit is to launch a sound offensive—every one knows that. But this does not mean necessarily that an unusual cue-bid is sure to go wrong. A sacrifice contract can be just as productive as a makeable contract and the hard fact is that a drastically shaded cue-

bid has good chance to result in a good sacrifice". These immediate overcalls may be made more flexible (i) when playing match-point and not rubber bridge, since we can't be crushed by the result (ii) when opponents are vulnerable and we are not and (iii) when partner has passed (lacking the strength for runaway bidding it is no matter how he reads or misreads the cue-bid). Well-known players give wide latitude in making cue-bids. But Sydney Silidor deplors the flexible treatment of this cue-bid and is even against diluting the force to the initial one round only.

This immediate overcall in the opponents' suit must be distinguished from other cue-bids made later on subsequent rounds of bidding—the naming of the opponents' suit in response to a take-out double or overcall genuine bids in opponents' suit a bid in the opponents' suit after partner has opened, etc.

The distinction lies, the bidding sequence apart, mainly in the strength required for these bids. Examples :

	S.	W.	N.	E.
(i)	1 ♦	2 ♦		

A pure case of immediate overcall indicating conventional strength.

(ii)	1 ♣	Dble.	Pass	2 ♣
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A case of naming of the opponents' suit in response to a take-out double. "If

partner responds by bidding the doubled suit, he is almost making a take-out double of his own. He denies great strength in the opponents' suit (with which he would have made a no-trump response) and shows that he can support the other suits: the doubler may now take his choice".

(iii)	1 ♥	Dble.	Pass	1 ♣
		Pass	2 ♥	

Genuine bid in the opponents' suit—a rare bidding situation.

(iv)	1 ♦	1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦
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A case of cue-bid response to an overcall not an immediate overcall.

(v)	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♠	Pass
-----	-----	-----	-----	------

After partner has opened, the bid in opponents' suit promises excellent support for partner's suit. 2 ♠ is not an overcall but a response to 1 Heart.

North probably holds : A 7 : Q J 9 2 : K J 9 8 2 : A 2.

(vi)	1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass	3 ♣
	3 ♥	Pass	Pass	4 ♥

West holds: K 10: 7 4: A 7 6: A Q J 10 8 6.

The Gold Book does not cover "delayed" cue-bids or that type of cue-bids which can be based on 2 or 3 losers. The AMERICAN BRIDGE WORLD says that this cue-bid need not be of a special defined category and need not be treated with undue reverence, but must be made more flexible and must be used when it has fewer defects than other bids.

(To be continued).

RANDOM REFLECTIONS

By N. RAMARATNAM

This is a story of one of my Bridge friends. We were playing a Duplicate match and the opponents playing strong no-trumps bid up to grand slam in Spades. The bidding went, we remaining silent—almost till the end,—

(North Dealer)

1	N.T.—3	♠
4	♣—4	♦
4	N.T.—5	♥.
7		♠

When the auction came to my partner, who was sitting west, he doubled. Against such strong bidding the double came as a surprise to me. Holding J 10 9 x x in Spades it was difficult for him to resist the temptation to double! The opener passed and I did the same. There was a big huddle by the responder. My partner who had doubled on the spur was getting obviously uneasy and was wishing that the auction would be over. Fondly hoping that the huddle would only turn out to a "Pass" in a courteous tone concealing his anxiety, he queried. 'Have you passed, Madam?' The lady still sunk in thought did not reply immediately. After some time she asked 'Did you double, Mister?' and on being answered in the affirmative solemnly bid 7 no-trumps.

This was passed on to me and my partner was plaintively looking to me, hoping that I would take some action. I however passed. To make the story short, the opponents romped away with 13 tricks and my partner was crest-fallen. Seven Spades would have been set by 2 tricks!

Curiously a similar incident almost took place in another match recently after this. The incident took place in my table and so I am able to report it. I was playing with a different partner—but with one who had heard of the above story. We were sitting North-South. West dealt and bid 1 Heart. My partner passed—East bid 1 Spade. I passed. The opener jumped to 5 Hearts. My partner passed though not without some hesitation. The responder went into a huddle and then bid 6 Clubs. The opener then bid 6 Hearts without much thought. My partner was now quick to double. East again went into a huddle but came out without any bid. I passed—and the opener also passed. I could see my partner was visibly relieved. When dummy tabled out, his hand was ♠ Q J 10 x x, ♦ A K x, ♣ A J 10 x x—Void in hearts! The contract was 3 down as my partner held Q J 9 x x in the suit and I had K x

too! It was a clean top for us and after the deal was over I discreetly withdrew from the scene. My partner staggered out almost a nervous pulp muttering to himself—what a fool I would have been. He pathetically confided that when the opener bid 5 Hearts the temptation to double was very strong but he told himself he will not be another Mr—and reminded himself of the recent incident. But when the opener again bid 6 Hearts the temptation was too great and he surrendered to the impulse. I cannot say what would have been the result of the match if this co-operative double of my partner had put them in a safe contract. All of which go to disprove the statement that Bridge is a game of *Partnership*.*

One story reminds me of another. The other day we called up a friend for some Rubber Bridge. "Bridge" he yelled, "please cut me out. Have you not heard that I have taken to 304?" and he hung up. He had ample reason to be sore. Playing in the finals of an open pairs match he dealt the cards—and after one look at them bid 1 Heart—His partner bid 4 Hearts and this was doubled—He passed but his partner redoubled vehemently and when the doubler passed he also

passed, no doubt with some satisfaction. However this was short-lived. When he pulled out the cards from his pocket he found to his dismay that he had only one or two hearts but quite a number of cards in Spades. By some queer stroke of Fate—some eclipse of the mind—he must have got the notion that he had hearts instead of Spades. The contract was 6 down for a record loss of 3,400 points. Had he but taken just one look at his hand before passing. This tragedy could have been averted. The match was of course abandoned at this stage and our friend fled from the scene.

We hope to persuade him to resume his bridge activities soon and give up 304.

'To bid or not to bid game.' This question assumed great interest as a few deals revolving on this decided the closely contested match between my team and K. R. Sundaram Iyer's team at the Mylapore Ladies Club Tournament. We lost to them by two I.M. points. Arguments for and against were put forth and as usual with Bridge enthusiasts discussed with some warmth. On one deal the bidding at my table was.

1 ♥—2 ♥
3 ♥—4 ♥

* We were the winners in the event.

At the other table the bidding went

1 ♥—2 ♥
2 N.T.—3 ♥
Pass—

As you will note the decision to bid game had to be made by South at one table. The 3 Hearts bid, however, shows slightly more values than an opening hand and South counting 9 points chose to bid game. His hand was ♠ J 9 x ♥ Q 8 7 3 ♦ 10 x ♣ K J 8 5. At the other table North bid 2 N.T. and on South's response of 3 Hearts which was not encouraging North had to decide whether the original Heart raise was good enough for his hand to bid game!

Actually 4 Hearts could not be made, so the swing was 4 I.M.P. We lost the match by 2 points.

The entire deal was.

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

Should South have passed 3 Hearts? and was 3 Hearts or 4

Hearts the proper response to 2 N.T. by North? It was felt that the bidding at our Table was not improper though South himself—possibly influenced by the result, felt that he should not have bid game and even went to the extent of writing an article justifying the pass.

All of us recognise the basic difference between Rubber and Duplicate Bridge. In Duplicate Bridge every deal stands out by itself. In difficult or problematical situations as the above a certain aggressiveness in bidding usually pays off. Where opponents do not interfere in the bidding at all to play at a part score will be a false philosophy. There are several arguments for bidding game. The opposites in the other room may also bid game—in which case one does not stand to lose at all if the contract is set for there will be no difference. A game contract which is a fifty-fifty shot in bidding may not be the same in play. It is difficult to assess the combined strength of the hands precisely. The lead may be favourable. The opponents may slip up in defence—the cards may be favourably located all of which make a better than even chance justifying the bidding to game.

Merry, Mercurial and magniloquent would aptly describe

G. N. Chary of Kalyanpur fame (Kalyanapuram to you if you belong to the old fashioned type). He makes Bridge exciting and interesting by his manners and by his qualities. Chalking up a grand slam or two against himself, he would still be cheerful and banter away and hope the law of averages will operate for his share of slams also. The secret of his popularity lies, I believe, in his not taking Bridge seriously. He is always lively—and merry. It is no surprise therefore if several people find our Bridge corner at the Mylapore Club dull in the absence of Chary.

He likes to psyche and nowadays he has become a chronic psycher;—A singleton is a biddable suit! If opponents miss a game by his bluff he generously flatters himself for his cleverness. Credit for reaching any difficult slam or for stopping at a part score when game was inviting but unmakeable would be given, to the admiring groups of spectators, as due solely to Goren point count. Of course he does not strictly play Goren point count. Being highly individualistic he more often plays Chary point count with some Stayman improvements!

There is an air of self-confidence about him and he even talks of taking out a team to meet the Italians! Before leaving for a T'nagar Tournament he announced to us that that he would win

the event and get two cups, one for himself and one for his Partner! And, truth to say, he did! He never disappoints. Recently on the eve of his Tanjore trip he promised his daughter that he would bring back at least 2 cups. He took home a bagful of them! His daughter just could not believe her eyes! Confidentially speaking the cups were intended for the finalists in the Team-of-four knock-out event which could not be concluded in Tanjore.

* * *

Our Tanjore trip was very pleasant and like all tournaments had its fair share of upsets and excitement. We had some exciting moments too! After losing 14 I.M.P. in the first 16 deals we drew level in the second session and won in the play off of eight deals. There were several interesting hands. I shall mention only one or two here.

Opening the hand 1 Spade I had to defend against 3 No-Trumps by the opponents. The bidding went.

Dealer East:

1 ♠ D'ble. 2 ♦ 2 N.T.
— 3 ♦ D'ble. 3 N.T.

I held K J 8 7 5 4 in Spades, A x x in Hearts, a singleton Diamond Queen and J 10 x in Clubs. I led the Diamond queen and Dummy tabled out.

♠ A 9 3 2
♥ 10 x x
♦ A x
♣ K Q 8 x

Winning the trick in Dummy the declarer played a small Spade. My partner showed void and the declarer's Queen was won by my King. I led a club. Declarer took the trick in Dummy and played a Heart and put up the King from his hand which I won. I thought a club would be a safe lead again. The declarer took the trick with his Ace, finessed my knave of Spade and after cashing the nine of Spades and the two Clubs put me in with a Spade. I had 2 Spade and 2 Hearts then in my hand and I found we had made two tricks till then. I was inwardly cursing myself for having thrown another Spade, which would have set the contract! (of course had I retained the Spade the declarer would have played differently.) He played a throw-in placing the J x of Hearts with me—whereas it turned out to be a suicide squeeze.

With my mind in utter disorder, I played off the last Spade and that was our last trick also! I had unwittingly squeezed my partner who was holding J and 9 of Hearts and the Diamond King. Sitting over him the declarer had Q and 7 of Hearts and Diamond 10!

I still cannot forget the baleful glare of my partner Venkatesan as I played the last Spade. He said later—with some bitterness still left—that no mediaeval torture could have put him to a more painful squeeze.

The Spade trick given to me was duly a Trojan horse and I should have been wary of accepting the gift!

The full deal was:—

♠ A 9 x x
♥ 10 x x
♦ A x
♣ K Q x x

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

♠ Q 10 x x
♥ K Q x
♦ 10 x x x
♣ A x x

* * *

This was followed by another interesting deal. Playing in 3 No-trumps my partner Venkatesan had the King of Hearts lead and I (Dummy) spread out my cards as below:

♠ A x
♥ x
♦ A J 10 8 7 x
♣ Q 10 x x

The bidding had been on these lines :

1 ♠ 2 ♣ (!) 2 ♦ Pass
2 N.T. Pass 3 N.T. Pass
Pass Pass

The lead of the King of Hearts from K J x was unusual and bold. Declarer had Ace to three and held off. The Jack was continued and the R.H.O. after some hesitation covered it with the Queen and when this won continued with ten of Hearts to which the other defender also followed. Winning the trick with Ace of Hearts declarer could see seven tricks, possibly eight and for the contract to be made the location of the Diamond Queen was vital. Would it drop, or had it to be finessed, if so on which side? Assuming a normal distribution of Diamonds and placing South as the dangerous

hand, there is a fairly fool proof way of making the contract. No fear of entries need obsess one. I am sure that the intelligent readers of the BRIDGE WORLD will have no difficulty in finding this line of play within less time than is required to say Jothi Pandian Memorial Tournament.

The hand was :

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

THE ANDHRA-MADRAS ANNUAL CONTEST.

[This is the second of a series of interesting hands taken from the Andhra Madras match played at Vijayawada in January, 1957. As already reported in our last issue, Madras lost the match of 160 boards by a small margin.]

Hand No. 22: East dealer—
E. W. Vulnerable.

East-West had a cold game in diamonds but at neither table was the game contract of 5 ♦ reached. Perhaps it was difficult to reach but East at table 1 appears to have had values for an invitational raise to 3 ♦ rather than pass tamely although it is probable that West may not bid 5 ♦ on this.

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

Deal 2 (II Session)

This deal provided a big swing in favour of the Andhra team. In room II south made the inspired lead of a small heart

from his K 7 and East is to be sympathised with, for fearing a 4-1 heart break and placing North with the King of that suit. It was a brilliant lead that led declarer astray. The final bid was 6 ♦ in both tables and East at Room 1 had no difficulty on the opening lead of the Diamond Q in keeping the contract.

East can still make the contract even if North has got four hearts to King. East can ruff the second heart after playing the trump Ace, and find out whether North has four hearts. East can then enter the dummy through trumps and establish the hearts making five heart tricks, six trump tricks and the spade Ace. It was imperfect planning on declarer's part without considering all the probabilities.

The full deal was :

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

E-W. Madras. Room I.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
X	1 $\diamond$	Dbl.	R.D.
Pass	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$	2 $\heartsuit$
Pass	3 N.T.	Pass	4 N.T.
Pass	5 $\diamond$	Pass	6 $\diamond$

E-W. Andhra. Room II.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	1 $\diamond$	1 $\spadesuit$	4 N.T.
Pass	5 $\diamond$	Pass	6 $\diamond$

Deal No. 3:

Madras had an advantage in this deal as the Andhra N.S. in table II went down one at 4 hearts which was makeable. Declarer should, we feel, have taken a finesse against the club Queen with East—in fact a finesse is necessary as a safety play as the south hand has too few outside entries.

The hands were:

$\spadesuit$ A 9 8 7
 $\heartsuit$ Q 6 5 4 3
 $\diamond$ J 8
 $\clubsuit$ K 2

$\spadesuit$ 10 6 4 $\spadesuit$ Q J 5 3
 $\heartsuit$ K 10 8 $\heartsuit$ 9
 $\diamond$ A 10 9 7 4 3 $\diamond$ K Q 6 5
 $\clubsuit$ 8 $\clubsuit$ Q 10 7 6

$\spadesuit$ K 2
 $\heartsuit$ A J 7 2
 $\diamond$ 2
 $\clubsuit$ A J 9 5 4 3

Deal No. 5:

$\spadesuit$ 10 9 8 4 2
 $\heartsuit$ K Q 10 8 3
 $\diamond$ 9 6
 $\clubsuit$ J

$\spadesuit$ Q J $\spadesuit$ 7 6 3
 $\heartsuit$ A J 9 $\heartsuit$ 7 6 5
 $\diamond$ K Q 4 $\diamond$ 10 8 7
 $\clubsuit$ 9 8 6 5 2 $\clubsuit$ A Q 7 3

$\spadesuit$ A K 5
 $\heartsuit$ 4 2
 $\diamond$ A J 5 3 2
 $\clubsuit$ K 10 4

Bidding: Table I.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	1 $\clubsuit$	Pass
1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	2 $\diamond$	Pass
2 $\spadesuit$	Pass	3 $\spadesuit$	
4 $\spadesuit$			

4 $\spadesuit$ by N+4

Table II.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	1 $\diamond$	Dbl.
RD	2 $\clubsuit$	2 $\diamond$	Pass
2 $\heartsuit$	Pass	2 N.T.	Pass
3 $\diamond$	Pass	3 N.T.	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	4 $\diamond$	Pass
		4 $\diamond$ by S--1	

The bidding in Room II following West's take-out double was somewhat clouded and North was naturally reluctant to mention his Spade suit. North at Table I deserves full marks for venturing to bid the spades at the two level.

Deal 10:

This deal cost the Andhra team heavily. The East West

pair having made the fine bid of 6 Hearts were set one while at Table I the Madras pair stopped at 4 Hearts. Declarer finessed the heart Queen refusing to play for a drop.

$\spadesuit$ 10 9 5 3
 $\heartsuit$ 9 5
 $\diamond$ J 7 6
 $\clubsuit$ A J 8 4

$\spadesuit$ K $\spadesuit$ A J 8 4
 $\heartsuit$ K 7 3 2 $\heartsuit$ A J 10 6 4
 $\diamond$ Q 9 8 $\diamond$ A K 5
 $\clubsuit$ K Q 9 7 2 $\clubsuit$ 3

$\spadesuit$ Q 7 6 2
 $\heartsuit$ Q 8
 $\diamond$ 10 4 3 2
 $\clubsuit$ 10 8 5

Deal 18:

A clever opening lead gave the Madras team a big advantage in this deal. East-West were lucky in getting away with the Diamond suit although West had called spades. On a spade lead the 3 N.T. contract was cold.

$\spadesuit$ 7 3
 $\heartsuit$ A K 9 4
 $\diamond$ 3
 $\clubsuit$ J 10 8 7 5 2

$\spadesuit$ A Q 10 8 6 5 $\spadesuit$ 4
 $\heartsuit$ Q 8 $\heartsuit$ J 10 7 2
 $\diamond$ J 9 8 5 $\diamond$ K Q 10 7 4
 $\clubsuit$ K $\clubsuit$ Q 6 3

$\spadesuit$ K J 9 2
 $\heartsuit$ 6 5 3
 $\diamond$ A 6 2
 $\clubsuit$ A 9 4

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$
2 $\clubsuit$	Pass	2 N.T.	Pass
3 $\clubsuit$	Pass	3 N.T.	Pass
Pass	Pass		

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	1 $\clubsuit$	1 $\spadesuit$
3 $\clubsuit$	Pass	3 N.T.	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Deal 21:

Neither East-West pair reached the easy slam in clubs.

$\spadesuit$ Q 6 2
 $\heartsuit$ 9 6 2
 $\diamond$ Q 9 8 5
 $\clubsuit$ 7 6 3

$\spadesuit$ 10 $\spadesuit$ A K 8 3
 $\heartsuit$ K 10 8 7 $\heartsuit$ A Q 5
 $\diamond$ A K 10 3 $\diamond$ 7 6
 $\clubsuit$ A J 5 4 $\clubsuit$ Q 9 8 2

$\spadesuit$ J 7 6 5 4
 $\heartsuit$ 5 4 3
 $\diamond$ J 4 2
 $\clubsuit$ K 10

Deal 28:

The 6 $\diamond$ contract appears easy to bid and make and it is surprising that neither North-West pair bid the slam. South at Room I does appear to have explored the slam chances but North's 5 $\clubsuit$ response naturally silenced him. North,

we feel, had no reason to be modest about his holding especially after his initial pass.

♠ J 9
♥ K 8
♦ K Q 10 8 7 5 4 3
♣ A

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

♠ A 6 4
♥ A 7 5 4
♦ A
♣ J 10 8 7 6

Deal 31 :

East's unwise double cost the Andhra team five points on the deal. Despite his 15 point hand North-South made 11 tricks.

		♠ K 9 6 5 3 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ 2 ♣ Q 10 9 7	
♠ 7 2 ♥ 9 6 5 3 ♦ 10 3 ♣ J 8 6 4 2		♠ J 8 ♥ A Q 10 ♦ Q 9 7 5 4 ♣ A K 5	
		♠ A Q 10 4 ♥ K J 8 ♦ A K J 8 6 ♣ 3	
I			
NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
X	X	2 ♦	Pass
2 N.T.	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Dbl.		

II			
NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
X	X	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Dbl.	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Pass

'VIENNA COUP'

By 'Teaks'

(This deal is from Culbertson).

We assembled at 5 P.M. We waited for our preceptor. It was 5-45 and still no sign of his coming. We were naturally anxious. One of us said that he was probably fed up with Bridge play. I emphatically said 'no'. No female heart would despise gold and our teacher would never despise Bridge. Could it be indifferent health or indisposition? All but one agreed that it should be so. The dissident said that occasionally we were rather wanting in quick perception and at times slightly below the mark. That must have put out the pedant. He was finally persuaded to our view.

Ourtalk was dying down when he made his appearance. He looked bumptious and cheerful. He had his note-book and a text-book. These were unusual accompaniments. We extended a mischievous look at them. He did not even apologise for coming late. He took the cards pack and arranged the cards with reference to a page in his note-book. We were surprised that he had lost faith in the cards getting arranged as he desired. He explained and said that some mistake somewhere might spoil a grand show and it was better to be precise and careful. The deal was as follows. The final contract was 7 spades by South.

♠ 6 2
♥ A K 9 7 2
♦ A 7 4
♣ Q 8 5

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

♠ A K Q J 8 4
♥ 6
♦ K Q 6 2
♣ A 2

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
2 NT.	Pass	4 N.T.	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	5 NT.	Pass
6 ♥	Pass	7 ♠	Pass

He adopted an unusual procedure. He sat at the head of our table. He did not want us to play. He asked all the hands to be exposed as a double dummy. He directed West to play his 3 of hearts. North won with ace. He asked south to run his 6 spades at a stretch. The dummy had then 2 hearts, 2 diamonds, and 2 clubs. South was asked to play his club ace.

This we could not follow. We thought that the contract was set one trick sure. But we had no voice at all in the matter. South entered dummy with diamond ace and played K of Hearts. South discarded his club. West was unable to hold his K of clubs and yet keep the diamonds suit stopped. It was revealing play. In a joyous mood he said that it was 'Vienna Coup'. We said that it was squeeze. He shook his head and said that though squeeze was involved in it, the highlight was the play of club ace by South. That established West's K temporarily and he was temporarily elated and overjoyed. He thought that his club K trick was in his pocket. Then by the operation of a simple squeeze he was forced to discard his temporarily established K of club or an equally potent card namely diamond. This principle, he said, had the name of 'Vienna Coup', a piece of brilliance in play that struck probably a Vienna expert. We shouted in one voice 'O, Vienna Coup, sphere descended maid, friend of glory and wisdom's aid'.

The urge in us to play such a deal ourselves was great. We requested him to set a deal and then quietly watch us play. What an injunction to a preceptor! He took it in the right sense. The deal was as follows. He said that the final contract was 6 spades by South.

```

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

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

      ♠ A K Q 10 8 5 2
      ♥ A 2
      ♦ A
      ♣ J 8 3
  
```

Club 9 was directed to be led. West did so. The pedant thereafter sat still though observant. South looked a mixture of the tiger and the ape. He was very keen and decided on copying what the teacher did with the last deal. He ducked once having become an expert in 'Ducking Play'. Then he played all his trumps. Then his diamond ace. Then his heart ace and then dummy's K of hearts. He realised that he was 1 down. He was unable to find where the snag was. One of us mischievously told South that a book ignorantly read was a load of learned lumber in the head. So also was a mere repetition of the preceptor's play. It was too strong a remark. Then all of them thought over it. The other three were no better. South hit back and said that their heads also had learned lumber. We received it coolly. The preceptor had to come to our rescue. The cards were well arranged in their original position. He said that after the third or fourth

step, the ace of clubs, ace of diamonds and ace of hearts should be played. They all did so. Finally South's hand was reduced to three cards, namely, 1 trump, 1 club and 1 heart. The squeeze would now work. His main criticism was that the double Vienna Coup of playing the 2 aces should have been timed earlier. He added that this Coup always implied a squeeze. There could be no Vienna Coup without a squeeze but that a squeeze could exist without a Vienna Coup. We asked him pointedly as to how to decide on the stage of introducing the Vienna Coup. He said that it depended on visualisation, timing and the bringing into play the operative squeeze.

We were now ready for the trial and wanted the pedant to set us another deal of this coup but not expose it as double dummy. He agreed. And all of us decided to play our best and see this deal through flawlessly and without outside help. The deal set was as follows. We did the bidding also.

```

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

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

      ♠ 9 7 5 4
      ♥ Q 7 4
      ♦ A 9 7
      ♣ A K J
  
```

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

West without any direction led 3 of spades. East and West won the first 4 tricks in spades. West led 10 of hearts. South won with the Q. He then played his ace of diamonds with a twinkling eye. He had a right to be happy over it. Then he played 4 rounds of hearts. West stood squeezed in diamonds and clubs. The preceptor extended his hand to South and they had a warm hand-shake. Was it not the real pride of a teacher when the pupils had mastered a difficult though glorious principle in 2 deals? It was good and intelligent work.

We all found ourselves, a little taller and fuller. Bridge play was having no terror for us. We said so to our friend. He said that we may be right but over-confidence was a real danger. He added that the last discourse would be the toughest and that it had taxed and was still taxing experts as well, that great fires and controversies were raging round them and that it was better to take stock a little later. We moderated our tone and demeanour and said 'Good-night' to each other.

PAR CONTEST—1956.

Deals Nos. 9 to 16 in the Par Contest played during the Association's Annual Championship Tournament in December, 1956, together with the author's comments are give below.

Deal 9 :

Dealer North Vul. E. & W.

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

Official Bidding.

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

West to play in 5 ♦. North to lead ♠ J.

Bidding Par : E. W. for finishing in 5 ♦ .. 2 points

Playing Par : E. W. for 11 tricks .. 5 Points

Official Comment : Bidding—Routine.

Play : West should plan for a possible throw in, by winning opening lead, leading ♦ 10 to

♦ Q for a heart ruff, ♦ 7 to ♦ 8 for another heart ruff and ♦ 4 to ♦ 5 for a club finesse ; when ♣ Q wins and ♣ 10 appears at North, West should exit in spades and thus guard against the loss of two club tricks.

Deal 10 :

Dealer East. Vul. Both

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

Official Bidding :

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

North to play in 4 ♥. East to lead ♠ Queen.

Bidding Par : N. S. for finishing below game in ♥s or ♦s .. 2 points

Playing Par : N. S. for 10 tricks .. 4 points

Official Comment : Bidding. Percentages being definitely against

fulfilment of any game going contract, the award is for a part score.

Play : North should ruff at trick 2 and note the fall of high spade at East. Both percentages and the fall of this high card, indicate a 4-2 trump break. North should therefore enter via ♥ A for another spade ruff, cash trump K and run the Diamonds.

Instruction : West. You must play ♠ A over ♠ Q and lead ♠ 6.

Deal 11 :

Dealer South : Vul. Neither.

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

Official Bidding :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♦	2 ♣	2 ♥	Dbl.
2 ♠	Pass	5 N.T.	Pass
7 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

South to play in 7 ♣. West to lead ♥ 2.

Bidding Par : N. S. for finishing in 7 ♣ or 7 ♦ or 7 N.T. .. 2 points

Playing Par : N. S. for 13 tricks .. 5 Points

Official comment : Bidding. Experts, of course, may prefer to read the grand slam much more scientifically.

Play : With other than a four-no-trump break, the hand is a pianola. South therefore should prepare for such a contingency as all four trumps in one East Hand. A diamond should be discarded on ♥ A and a low trump led from the North ; when West shows out, the subsequent play becomes marked. A high diamond must be cashed at once, followed by Club Ace and a high Club ruff South is entered cheaply for another high ruff of a Club. Trumps are drawn (by a finesse if necessary) and dummies, remaining high Diamond discarded on last trump. South Diamond suit can then be run for the balance tricks.

Deal 12 :

Dealer West : Vul. N. S.

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

Official Bidding :

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2 ♡	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♡	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

West to play in 4 ♡. North to lead ♦ K.

Bidding Par : E. W. for finishing in 4 ♡. .. 2 points

Playing Par : E. W. for 10 tricks .. 4 points

Official comment : Bidding. Accurate bidding should reach the Heart game and avoid going beyond the four odd level.

Play : West should ruff high at Trick 3 and draw three rounds of trumps. Ace of Clubs should be cashed and the Spades tried out. When the bad break appears, South should be thrown in, with the last trump to compel him or her to lead a club to the dummy for two spade discards.

Instructions : North—You must play first ♦ K, then ♦ A followed by ♦ 10.

Deal 13 :

Dealer North : Vul. Both

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

Official Bidding :

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♠	Dbl.	Pass	3 ♡
Pass	4 ♡	Pass	Pass

West to play a 4 ♡. North to lead ♠ K

Bidding Par : E. W. for finishing in 4 ♡ or for doubling any higher bid .. 2 points

Playing Par : N. S. for 4 tricks or more .. 4 points

Official comment : Bidding. Despite North's opening bid E.W. should reach the normally makeable four-heart final bid.

Play : Holding three certain defensive tricks, North should cast around for one more. A trick from either minor suit being manifestly impossible, only hope is a second trump trick. North plays three rounds of Spades conceding a harmless ruff—discard, takes ♡ A immediately and leads a fourth round of Spade for South to ruff and at the same time promote North's ♡ 8.

Deal 14 :

Dealer East : Vul. Neither.

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

Official Bidding :

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 ♡	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 N.T.	Pass	6 N.T.	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

East to play in 6 N.T. South to lead ♠ Q.

Bidding Par : E. W. for finishing in 6 ♡ or 6 N.T.

.. 2 points

Playing Par : E. W. for 12 tricks .. 5 points

Official comment : Bidding. With such powerful control in four suits, E. W. should contract for a small slam.

Play : The Club finesse being indispensable, in any method of winning 12 tricks, it should be taken by East at trick 2, followed by two rounds of Hearts and not more than two rounds of Diamonds. At this stage West's high Club is played off followed by two more rounds of Hearts to throw in south for a trick-establishing-spade-return which at the same time sets up a situation in which North can be squeezed in the minor suits.

Deal 15 :

Dealer South : Vul. N. S.

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

Official Bidding :

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♡	Pass	2 ♡	Pass
4 ♡	Pass	Pass	Pass

South to play in 4 ♡. West to lead ♦ J.

Bidding Par : N. S. for finishing in 4 ♡ .. 2 points

Playing Par : N. S. for 10 tricks: .. 4 points

Official comment : Bidding. Good bidders should reach the game going contract in Hearts.

Play : After South ruffs at trick 3 and draws trumps in two rounds the problem of finesse in the black suits has to be faced. If either missing black honour is favourably placed, the contract is iron-clad; if neither is favourably placed and each adequately guarded, the contract is hopeless. But if East holds ♠ Q, the contract is makeable even though he holds ♣ K as well. South therefore plays

♠ Ace and ♠ K with the intention of following with ♠ J if necessary. This procedure, of course, also copes with the actual doubleton ♠ Q in West.

Instructions: East—You must play three rounds of Diamonds.

Deal: 16

Dealer West: Vul. E. W.

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

Official Bidding:

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

North to play in 4 ♠. East to lead ♥ 9.

Bidding Par: N. S. for finishing in 4 ♠ or 3 N.T.

.. 2 points

N. S. finishing in any Spade or N.T. part score. 1 point

Playing Par: E. W. for 4 or more tricks .. 4 points

Official comment: Bidding. The bidding par has been made elastic.

Play: West must not make the error of retaining ♥ A to capture ♥ Q. On the contrary, opening lead must be won and a shift made to ♣ 2 in the hope that East holds (a) ♣ A or (b) ♣ 10 and ♦ K. If this is not done, North will draw trumps and set up a high Diamond in time to discard the third round losing Club.



Pro et Contra

By E. SOLOMON

Question.—Playing Rubber Bridge with a new partner, I picked up the following hand, sitting South:—

♠ 6 5
♥ 10 2
♦ A 7 2
♣ A Q J 8 7 3

South dealer and neither side vulnerable, the bidding went:—

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

Three hearts became the final contract, but I was surprised to see my partner collect all the 13 tricks. North's hand was:—

♠ K x
♥ A Q 9 x x x
♦ x x
♣ 10 9

Please comment as to how the bidding should have gone.

Answer.—Call North chicken!

When partner opens the bidding, receives a mere one-over-

one suit take-out—which surely in this day and age of bridge we do not have to tell anybody can be very weak—and then comes again over R. H. O's intervention with a free bid at the three level, we, holding North's hand, just simply could not help feeling that old black magic we have-a-game feeling. Where is the best spot for game? There is only one we can see—hearts. So we bid four hearts—not three hearts. Should partner bid five clubs we will trust him to play the hand, but a slam try would find us ready, willing and able to co-operate further.

View it from another angle. If North's hearts had been six cards instead of seven cards long, with nine high-card points and the foregoing encouraging sequence it would have been in order to make a re-bid of three hearts. Therefore with one more card in the suit North must, repeat *must* jump to game in hearts. At the risk of labouring the point still further we state

the obvious that a seven-card suit headed by the ace, queen, nine does not exactly require positive support from partner. It is more than adequate if he has a couple of small cards and of this we may be fairly confident when he freely overcalls R. H. O.

Question.—In a recent duplicate team-of-four match, two seasoned East West pairs stopped at a three no-trump contract on this deal :

West dealer ; neither side vulnerable.

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

At one table West passed initially and the bidding went :—

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	1 ♣	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

While at the other table West opened the bidding and yet the final bid was three no-trumps, reached thus :—

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

Please discuss in your columns how the slam should have been reached.

Answer.—According to modern bidding practice West has an

opening bid, although a weak one and he should therefore open the bidding. Theory demands that his bid be one diamond—not one club.

It may then be possible to arrive at the slam through the following sequence :—

WEST	EAST
1 ♦	2 ♣
3 ♣	4 ♥
4 NT	6 ♣

Coming back to the theory behind West's opening bid of one diamond, it is simply this that suits must be called in such order that any four-four fit available may be discovered not later than the two-level. If West were to open one club and East responds one heart, West cannot bid two diamonds because if East prefers clubs he can only show it at the three-level. West will therefore be compelled either to rebid clubs or to bid one no-trump—both of which alternatives are repugnant to us. Although this is a fundamental principle of bidding theory it continues to be overlooked by players who will insist on opening West's hand with one club, because of the old nostrums :—

(a) bid the longer suit first ; and/or

(b) always bid one club, if you have more than one four-card suit including clubs.

Those panaceas, fashionable in their time, have been so thoroughly exploded that we are unwilling to waste a shot at them to-day.

East's bid on the second round is of course a Culbertson asking bid. He knows that West has at least four clubs, otherwise he would not have raised this suit. If therefore West has second round control of the heart suit, i.e., king or singleton, the slam is a virtual certainty. He can ascertain this by the asking bid of four hearts. West's response of four no-trump assures him of the king or singleton in hearts and two aces. The slam in clubs can now be bid quite confidently by East.

If asking bids are not employed by the partnership, East may take a chance and bid the slam directly. We must admit however that this is a gamble that we, in the same situation, would not like to take.

Question.—A somewhat controversial issue arose on the following hand.

Rubber bridge ; game all ; East dealer.

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

West held Q J x x x, ♥ x x, ♦ J x x, J x x.

Should he bid or pass ? Is it technically a take-out double ?

If so, how is West to distinguish between a strong East doubling for penalties and a weak no-trump opening hand crying for a take-out ?

Answer.—It is true there are several varieties of the opening one no-trump—strong, medium, weak. But is it too much to suppose that on any one occasion a particular partnership employs only one type of opening no-trump and both members are aware what that is ? Since also the range of an opening one no-trump in any recognised system of bidding is no greater than a mere two points, e.g., 14 to 16 points, 16 to 18 points, we are unable to find any sympathy for the argument "how is West to distinguish between a strong East doubling for penalties and a weak no-trump opening hand crying for a take-out". West is not called upon to perform any such feat of clairvoyance. He already knows within two points the strength of his partner's hand.

As regards the question whether the double in the given situation is technically for penalties or for a take-out, reference to "the book" will disclose that a double by the opening one no-trumper is unequivocally for penalties.

Perhaps our reply would not be complete without an admission that amongst the backwaters of rubber bridge players we have come across the odd one who

requests "keep my opening one no-trump open for one round" and there is even one gallant whose one no-trump is forcing to game—he utterly disdains the opening two bid of any species whatsoever! Obviously our re-

marks regarding the limited range of the opening one no-trump do not apply to this band of spectacular individualists and the problems that they set their partners are quite beyond the powers of rational analysis.



THE NEWS SECTION

Edited by T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN.

We regret to report the death of two of our old timers, P. G. Sankara Iyer and Dr. Venkatasubramanian. P. G. Sankara Iyer was a veteran of the old school, and a stalwart in the Auction Bridge days although latterly his game had lost much of the fire. Dr. Venkatasubramanian, known as R.M.O. to many of his bridge friends, was a quiet but ardent devotee of the game and was for a long time one of the regulars at the bridge table of the Madras United Club.

* * *

The Executive Committee of the Association are proceeding with arrangements for the formation of an Inter-State organisation for Contract Bridge to be merged into an All-India body later on. As a first step, Inter-State matches between the three State association teams, Andhra, Madras and Bengal are to be

played early in 1958, which will thenceforward become a regular annual event to be played at the different centres by turns. The need for an organised All-India Association for Contract Bridge has been long felt and it is hoped that the sponsors of the present arrangements will consolidate their efforts and build a strong central controlling authority with a view to promote and foster interest in the game, arranging Inter-State and also international contests, in course of time, on the lines of the other national sports associations like cricket, hockey, football, etc., with the help of the State Governments.

* * *

The Madras City Contract Bridge League matches are now in full swing. Twelve teams of six, [four 'A' and eight 'B'] are participating and with the

handicap of 6 International match points to the 'B' teams as was given last year the matches are keenly contested. Quite apart from the regular playing practice to the competitors the League matches provide, they continue to be the main training ground where a lot of new talent is found. The need for strong well-knit teams, is now more urgent than ever before and the authorities would do well to study the form and potential of several youngsters who have recently taken to the game, with a view to make up really representative teams for the Inter-State and other big matches. The Andhra-Madras match which we had unfortunately lost for the last two years successively, although by the smallest of margins is still lingering in our minds and a determined attempt should be made by the Madras team to demonstrate their skill in the next round of matches. The Bengal players showed great promise when they were here last and every effort should be made to raise and shape one or two strong teams of players who have the right temperament and capability to always give off their best.

The following table gives the position of the league teams as on 9th September, 1957.

	Matches played.	Won.	Lost.
K. R. Sundaram Iyer's Team	4	2	2
N. Ramaratnam's Team	4	4	—
Modern Institute of Commerce	4	4	—
P. S. Reddy's Team	4	3	1
M. C. O. P.	4	—	4
S. V. S.	4	4	—
Madras Gymkhana 'A'	4	1	3
—do— 'B'	4	1	3
Burmah Shell Club 'A'	4	1	3
—do— 'B'	4	1	3
Baliah's Team	4	3	1
Cosmopolitan Club	4	—	4
* * *			

The Mylapore Club's annual open tournament attracted only a modest number of entries. The Modern Institute of Commerce team who won the U. S. Ramasundaram's Rolling Trophy for the main knock-out event are to be congratulated on their good performance in winning the finals beating P. S. Reddy's team. The tournament provided one or two surprises, first the exit of the home team after their good show in recent matches, at the hands of the S. V. S. team, and secondly of the T'Nagar Club team who had, rather, unfortunately to give a walk-over to their opponents in the semi-final round for want of their fourth player.

Duplicate Team-of-four Knock-out.

Winners : M.I.C.

K. Guru Dutt.
E. Solomon.
R. Rangaswami.
G. K. Gopalaswami.
S. K. Subramanian.

Runners-up :

P. S. Reddy.
S. T. Achar.
Mrs. Solomon.
G. S. Reddy
K. C. Ramaratnam.

A set of 16 par-pointed hands received from abroad which was also scheduled to be played had to be given up for want of sufficient number of competitors and instead, a Progressive Pairs contest was arranged. ten pairs competing.

Progressive Pairs :

North-South :

Winners :

T. R. Samoo.
T. K. N. Panikker.

East-West :

Winners :

S. Baliah & Sriramulu Naidu.

At a pleasant Dinner got up by N. Ramaratnam the prizes were distributed by K. R. Sundaram Iyer, Vice-President of the Association to the successful participants.

* * *

The other major local tournament was organised by the Madras United Club during April-

May. The usual events, the team-of-four, progressive and master pairs and the individual championships were all well contested. The Mylapore Club team who gave a vastly improved display won the team-of-four event convincingly. The results of the various events were:

Event : Duplicate Knock-out .

Winners :

N. Ramaratnam's Team.
N. Ramaratnam.
C. V. Venkatesan.
R. Sankaran
B. Venkataramani.
G. N. Chary.

Runners-up :

C. A. M. S.
Venkata Rao
Sriramuliah
Singaperumaliah
M. N. Reddy
Jaganatha Chetty

Master Pairs :

Winners :

N. Ramaratnam and C. V. Venkatesan.

Runners-up :

R. Sankaran and M. N. Reddy.

Progressive Pairs :

Winners :

S. K. Subramaniam and K. Guru Dutt.

Runners-up :

T. M. Kasturi and C. Devarajan.

* * *

The City Club, Tiruchirapalli and the Srirangam Club orga-

nised a joint open tournament during May, 1957. The matches were all played at the Srirangam Club and almost all teams from the city and the districts took part in the tournament. As many as twenty teams played the knock-out event and a number of thrilling matches were witnessed. Ramaratnam's Team from Madras played in top form all their matches and ran out easy winners defeating some of the fancied teams including the City Club, champions in the Association's annual tournament in 1956, comfortably in the finals. The Devakottah team, K. R. Sundaram Iyer's team from Madras, the Gobi team, two teams from Tanjore, E. N. Mylappan's team from Trichy were some of the other teams that participated. The Srirangam Club members, especially S. R. V. Thatham who played the role of the hosts played their part almost to perfection and were ever at the service of the visitors. No praise is too great for the warm welcome and hospitality they extended to the players from Madras and the other visitors and the high tradition of hospitality which they have set up will be difficult to emulate.

The results of the various events :

Duplicate Knock-out

Winners :

N. Ramaratnam's Team

N. Ramaratnam.

C.V. Venkatesan.

B. Venkataramani.

G. N. Chary.

Runners-up : City Club.

Pattu.

Subbiah.

Dr. Sahadevan.

Ambi Iyer.

Master Pairs :

Winners :

C. R. Anantanarayanan.

E. S. Natarajan.

Runners-up :

A. Sundararajan and M. Vasu.

Progressive Pairs :

Winners:

North-South :

Kuttaiyyan Chettiar and C. A. C. Arunachalam.

East-West :

Dr. Sahadevan and S. Sampath.

Runners-up:

North-South:

Dr. Joseph and M. N. Srinivasan.

East-West:

M. R. S. Manickavelu Chettiar and C. Srinivasan.

Progressive Duplicate (8 Teams) :

Winners :

S. R. V. Thatham's Team

S. R. V. Thatham.

Kuttaiyyan Chettiar.

S. Parthasarathi.

S. T. Chari.

Runners-up :

K. R. Sundaram's Team :

K. R. Sundaram Iyer.

K. Guru Dutt.

T. R. Samoo Iyer.

T. S. Chandrasekharan.

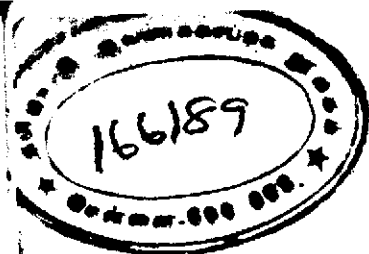
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The Mylapore Ladies' Club who are celebrating their Silver Jubilee this year have sponsored an open team-of-four contest in which all local clubs are participating. This and the T'Nagar Social Club's annual open tournaments have drawn a very large number of entries for all the events and the response is indeed heartening. General interest in the game appears to have received a new impetus and we hope that this revival of interest in the game will be lasting.

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The INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD issues are still irregular due largely to the paucity of contributions from members. With the present increased popularity of the game the Editorial Committee hope to bring out the issues more regularly in future.

The Committee are also glad to announce that a Rolling Trophy has been kindly donated by Mr. T. K. Srinivasa Iyengar, Tanjore (TEAKS) to be awarded to the author of the best article appearing in the INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD in 1958. The four issues in 1958 will be taken into account for this purpose and we request all readers to send in their articles early in January, 1958.



SOLILOQUY

By MAURIE C. BRYAN.*

To bid or not to bid : that is the question !
Whether 'tis better in the end to suffer
The sets and bottoms of out rageous distribution,
Or to pass against a mess of doubles,
And by passing end them. To win ; to place ;
No more ; and by a pass to end
Redoubles and the thousand natural shocks
A player is heir to, 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wished. To place, to win ;
To win : perchance I dream : aye, there's the rub ;
For in that dream what tops may come,
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,
Must give us pause. There's the bid
That makes calamity of one night's play.
For who could bear the halves and zeros, at times
The opponent's scorn, our partner's contumely,
The pangs of sacrifices gone wrong, the kibitzer's pity,
The point count, honor trick,
The chill of bottoms the unworthy takes,
When he himself might quietus make
With a mere pass ? Who would conventions use
To squirm and sweat a dazed life,
But that dread of being east-west
That humble seedling from whose bourn
No reputation returns, puzzles the mind
And makes us rather hide the cards we have
Than make bids our partner knows not of ?
Our systems do make fools of us all,
And thus the simple pass of irresolution
Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of doubt.
All enterprise of cue bids, take-outs
We now regard as breathless strategy
And skip the chance for action. Soft you now !
Fair partner ! Simply, in thy prayers
Be all my bridge sins remember'd.

*With acknowledgments to *The American Contract Bridge League Bulletin*.

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