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THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
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THE INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Vol. XI

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No. 1

Slams from the World Match, 1959

By NORMAN SQUIRE.

I have often contended that the U. S. fail in world bridge because of the inefficiency of their bidding-methods. An analysis of the 1959 world match shows this pretty clearly, yet brings out a different facet from the previous world matches. In the year 1955, for example, there was not a serious number of "system" hands, although the incorrect emphasis the U. S. players put upon "free" bids was an obvious source of loss. In 1957 one thing stood out above all others: the disregard of proper team-of-four tactics, and the handicap imposed by match-pointed pairs mentality? 1958 at Como highlighted the futility of inventing new conventions instead of examining basic structure, and one of the most expensive "ideas" was the insistence upon five cards for an opening bid in a major suit.

All these things are basic. They are a definite handicap which is deliberately shouldered

when facing a team which plays a good system. Sometimes the handicap is not noticed. In 1958 the insistence upon inflated values for two-level responses cost a lot of points: this year it was less noticeable. In fact "systemic" loss was not very great to the Americans. What did appear, however, was a quite new fact, well—perhaps not new—but of which I personally have been less conscious than perhaps I should have been—lack of discipline. I have concentrated upon systemic structure and analysed deeply to find the inevitable cost of this. Yet this lack of discipline has been there before, and we may realise it now that it has been pointed out. Certainly it must have been there at Como—perhaps not previously. But this is enough to make me say that no American team will ever again win a world match unless they recover that wanting discipline, and this regardless of the system they play. Pre-

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viously I have said that they would never win unless blessed with a stream of "judgment" hands, where system played no serious part. Now I say more. For in this match they were so blessed. System played an astonishingly small part. Let us examine the slam hands one by one, and see what lessons we may learn.

Board 2.

WEST		EAST	
Harmon		Stakgold	
♠ KQ 10 9 x		♠ A J 8 x	
♥ K x		♥ 10 x	
♦ Nil		♦ A J x x x	
♣ A 10 8 x x x		♣ K x	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥
4 ♠	No	5 ♦	No
5 ♠	All	Pass	

Obviously, regardless of result, six spades is an excellent contract if played by West. As it happened both teams failed against voids in both black suits, so nothing we do is really right. But that is irrelevant. What matters is that we should reach six spades by West, as did Italy. Here we see lack of forethought, or, if you will, of discipline, because the disciplined player uses forethought. Now I am sure that Harmon and Stakgold do not consider a one spade bid obligatory if four cards of the suit are held. They are quite advanced in their ideas. Let us ask a

general question: "Would you rather the lead against your contract came from the opponent who bid or the one who did not?" A safe answer is that almost every time we would prefer the lead to come from the strong hand. Therefore what is East doing bidding one spade? He wants to be dummy whether the hand is to be played at clubs, spades or no-trumps. Perhaps he will become declarer, willy-nilly, but at least let him make some effort to avoid the position. Such efforts, when successful, are worth about 600 points a time, and a player in a World Final should know this.

Board 4.

WEST		EAST	
Fishbein		Hazen	
♠ A x x x		♠ K 10 x	
♥ A Q		♥ K J 10 x x x	
♦ A J 10 x		♦ x	
♣ Q x x		♣ A J x	
1 NT		3 ♥	
4 ♥		6 ♥	

Not the best of contracts, and in practice one down, but the lack of discipline is surely marked. Why should West bid four hearts immediately with mere doubleton? Why should East blind into six without taking the trouble to check on aces? West could have had an opening two no-trumps bid there, and still have only one ace.

Board 16.

WEST.	EAST.
Stakgold	Harmon
♠ A J 10 9 8	♠ K Q x
♥ Q x	♥ x x x x
♦ Nil	♦ J x x
♣ A J 9 8 x x	♣ K Q x
WEST NORTH	EAST SOUTH
1 ♣	1 ♦
4 ♣	No
	2 ♣ 4 ♦
	6 ♣

This was the bidding — the official book has got it wrong. It is no crime, and I do not propose to criticise it. Next comes a straightforward six spades by both teams, and then Board 34.

Harmon	Stakgold
WEST	EAST
♠ A x	♠ K Q J x x x
♥ A x x	♥ x
♦ 10 x	♦ A Q J x
♣ A J 10 9 8 7	♣ Q x
W. 1 ♣	2 ♣
E. 1 ♣	3 ♣
	4 ♣

Here we see standard American methods at their best, brightest and most modern. Three spades from East is a natural, invitational bid, but America's top players have converted it into a forcing bid, thus making it absolutely impossible to bid any hand worth the natural, invitational jump-rebid. West could have had much less than this, but would still have been obliged to bid four Spades. East cannot make another effort lest his partner

be sub-minimum instead of super-maximum. East would have bid three spades on a worse hand also, and this prevents West from making an effort. Both partner relax upon a couch of leeway as thick as a Teutonic feather-bed, and neither one of them has the vaguest idea of the other's concealed strength. It may be considered unlucky that they are both maximum. Were one of them minimum, the bidding would have gone unpunished as it so often does. With the possibilities of two maximums and two minimums permuted, there are three chances to one that two maximums will not be present. But the "unlucky" hand does get itself dealt sometimes, as here. Standard American methods are wide open to this sort of result in other positions also, and, until they are changed, so will this type of result constitute an invisible handicap to every American team.

Board 39 is another "leeway" example.

WEST	EAST
♠ K Q	♠ A J x
♥ A K 10 8	♥ J x x x x
♦ A J 10 9 x	♦ x x
♣ Q x	♣ A 10 x
W. 1 ♦ 3 ♥	4 ♥
E. 1 ♥ 3 ♣	

Three hearts, a natural, limited bid, is played here as a forcing bid. The judgment of a player of this class has not slipped to the extent where he imagines that his partner will need a "little extra" to make ten tricks. To make four hearts a good contract East needs queen to four trumps and one other picture—any one will do—spade ace, club ace or king, diamond king or queen—it doesn't matter. Any single one will make the contract one we want to reach. Yet West bids three hearts only. How we wonder does he bid a hand which is actually worth three hearts and no more! There is literally no way. The American players do not play a simple change of suit, as two clubs etc., as forcing so cannot make a simple change of suit. With a hand worth only nine tricks they certainly cannot make a jump-change of suit which forces to ten tricks. Once again this "three" bid, this time a raise instead of an invitational jump-rebid, is expunged from our vocabulary. No hand worth a natural double raise can ever be bid properly. Every time one is dealt these players depend purely upon chance to get to the right contract. There can be no argument against this. The evidence is irrefutable.

Board 45.

WEST	EAST
Lazard	Fry
♠ A Q 10 x	♠ nil
♥ x x x x	♥ x x
♦ A x	♦ K 10 9 x x
♣ A Q x	♣ K J 10 x x
1 N T	5 ♣
6 ♣	

Again we see a lack of discipline. It may have been unlucky, but lack of discipline often does prove unlucky. East might have held right cards, but that does not mean that it is his partner's business to take charge arbitrarily.

Board 51.

WEST	EAST
♠ A Q J x	♠ K 9 x
♥ 10 x	♥ A Q J x x
♦ A x x	♦ K
♣ A J 8 x	♣ Q 9 7 x
1 N T	2 ♣
2 ♣	3 ♥
3 N T	4 N T
No	

Italy played in six clubs, but everything was wrong, so they went one down. A swing therefore to America. It is a fair enough slam which we need not reach if we don't fancy it. We note, however, that in spite of their somewhat elaborate conventional sequence, the American pair were never in any danger of discovering the four-four fit they so earnestly sought. Also,

but for that ten of hearts, they would have gone down in four no-trumps.

Board 64 brings six hearts by both teams, straightforward

Board 72.

Fishbein WEST	Hazen. EAST
♠ KQJ xxx	♠ A
♥ K 9 x	♥ QJ 8 x
♦ A x	♦ x x
♣ x x	♣ A K Q xxx
1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♠	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♣

Here Italy was somewhat fortunate, reaching six hearts and making it by nice dummy-play. No criticism of the Americans here, although an English player would certainly have shown more aggression with that opening hand.

Board 102 shows us six hearts by both teams, an edgy contract but made in both rooms, and a similar contract on Board 127. But this time the Italians got it played by the unbeatable hand. The U. S. team were open to a lead through a king. No criticism, however.

Board 129.

Stakgold WEST	Harmon. EAST
♠ A x x	♠ Q x
♥ K Q x x x	♥ A J 10 x x
♦ nil	♦ A 10 x x x
♣ 9 x x x	♣ x
1 ♥	2 ♦
2 ♥	4 ♥

Italy were duly in six, making. This bidding makes it appear that the American mechanics were inadequate to the deal. Obviously East knew quite well that he might be missing a slam. Undoubtedly he tranced over his bid. But he evidently did not know what to do about it, so settled for the hope that he would miss nothing. Unlucky?

Board 137.

Fishbein WEST	Hazen EAST
♠ A x x x	♠ K x
♥ K J 10 x x x	♥ A Q x
♦ x	♦ Q x
♣ K x	♣ A J 10 x
1 ♥	6 ♥

Here the fit was quickly found. Did I say something about lack of discipline? No further comment, and no swing either.

Board 145.

Lazard WEST	Fry EAST
♠ A J xx	♠ K Q 10 x
♥ K Q J 10	♥ x
♦ K J 10 9 x	♦ A Q x x
♣ nil	♣ A K J x
1 ♥	1 ♠
4 ♠	4 NT
6 ♠	7 ♠

True, this is towards the end of the match, and the American team is well behind. But who bids six spades in such positions when holding two aces? The trump-suit is spades, not hearts; there is no danger of being

out of six if determined to be in it. That seven bid is not merely undisciplined, but reckless. The odds against it being successful, are tremendous. If the bid was conventional the six spades was incorrect and lack of discipline is clear.

Well, those are the slam hands. Italy bid eleven and made nine, one slightly lucky, one slightly unlucky, one very unlucky. (Board 2) The U. S. bid nine and made five. Of the four failures, one was a poor contract, the other three failed when the opposition could cash immediate top winners against them.

The U.S. showed a profit only on the two hands where Italy was unlucky. The final slam-score was Italy, *Plus* 34 I.M.Ps.

A careful examination of these hands will reveal that a suggestion of indiscipline is by no means out of place. The inadequate mechanics of the American style are displayed in

more than one hand, and the fact emerges that not only is their system unsound, but that they really do not take the trouble to make the most of the mechanics they do possess. Is it any wonder that they lose? I may quote from the American player Lew Mathe who, in a letter to *BRIDGE WORLD*, suggests methods for improving results. He says that when an American team sits down they "expect the rest of the world to genuflect" presumably before superior skill. What these players need is to realise that almost every top-class European team bids better than they do, and that to succeed they should approach the match in a spirit of dedication and determination, resolved to lose no single point that their methods are capable of garnering; endeavouring to keep to the absolute minimum the self-imposed handicap of their inferior bidding methods.

COMPLEX.

A lady came to one of the tables in the Team game the other night and put down a convention card that listed Weak No Trumps, Weak Two Bids, Weak Jump Overcalls, Weak Jump Responses, Stayman with some asterisk bids, no five-card majors, forcing no-trump responses, In-

verse Minor Suit Raises, Blackwood, Gerber, Drury and Landy. Grabbing the opponents' card, she noticed that it said "Roth-Stone", with a few explanations of the conventions incidental to that system. Indignantly, she demanded, "Must you good players use all these complex systems?"—(ACBL.).

Safety Nearly Always Pays

By EWART KEMPSON.

A knowledge of percentages is often useful, but the fact that the three trumps your opponents hold will be divided two and one 78 times out of 100 is of far less value than your personal knowledge of the idiosyncrasies of your right hand opponent. For example:

NORTH
 ♠ Q 8 5 4 2
 SOUTH
 ♠ A J 10 6 3

Spades are trumps and your knowledge of percentages is of no assistance on this occasion, but you happen to know that East is a player who thinks it is part of the game to hesitate when he has nothing to hesitate about. So you cross to dummy and make a safety play. Yes, a safety play. You could lead the two and finesse the knave, but that would be a routine play, and it would produce no reaction from East. Instead, therefore, you make what is technically the same play; you lead dummy's queen and wait for East to wriggle. If he plays the five without wriggling, you know he has the king; if he wriggles, you thump on the ace because you know West has the king and it may be bare.

A more normal type of safety play is shown on the next hand, dealt by West at love all.

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

With East-West using the weak (12 to 14 points) no-trump when not vulnerable, East made that bid after two passes. South considered bidding two no-trumps, then he considered doubling; eventually he bid three diamonds and was agreeably surprised when North raised to five diamonds. South continued to six diamonds and that concluded a sequence which, while not elegant, certainly reached a reasonable contract.

West led the four of hearts and South took East's knave. How should South plan the play?

It is clear that East's bid of one no-trump marks him with all the missing honours. Presumably, therefore, he holds something like this:

♠ Q xxx ♥ K Q J x
 ♦ K x ♣ J x x

Having worked that out, South simply plays the ace of diamonds! If West shows void, the declarer knows that he could probably have made an overtrick, giving him a further 20 points, but he also knows that he has made the proper safety play and that the only other course would have been utterly foolish. In fact the diamond finesse would almost certainly have resulted in defeat. Here is the complete deal.

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

If South takes the diamond finesse, he may decide that East's psychic no-trump does not even include the queen of spades, in which case he will still land the slam. He may, however, take the other point of view and decide that East simply must have the queen of spades. He will be bitterly disappointed and will have only himself to blame.

At trick 2 the ace of diamonds should be played; then if West shows void the three of clubs to dummy's king and then the eight of hearts. After ruffing, South plays the ace and queen of clubs followed by a trump. East is in with the king of diamonds and must lead a spade—which eliminates a finesse—or concede a ruff and discard. In either case South makes 12 tricks by what is quite an elementary safety play.

In the next hand South was the dealer at game all in a pairs contest.

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

	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♠	No		2 ♦	2 ♥
2 ♠	No		4 ♠	No
5 ♠	No		No	Dble.

West led the eight of hearts, East's king losing to the declarer. In a pairs' event, where everyone is fighting for a top, a certain amount of unsafe play is not only permissible but desirable. How should South play?

Without question South should lead the ace of spades. East's double of five spades may mean that East has the spade king as well as, perhaps, two top clubs; but it is much more likely to mean that he is void of diamonds and that the double was made in the hope that West would lead the suit bid by dummy. In fact East held

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

If South is greedy enough to want more than his already splendid score of five spades doubled, he will lead a diamond to dummy's king in order to take the spade finesse on the way back. He will lose three tricks and—who knows—his life.



MCKENNEY TROPHY.

The McKenney Trophy is given each year for the best tournament record of the year among members of the A.C.B.L. The late Mr. McKenney has contributed much to the popularity of Contract Bridge in America. The McKenney Trophy was instituted in 1937 and there have been 23 McKenney winners

since the Trophy competition began. For the year 1959 the Trophy has been awarded to Mr. Oswald Jacoby, a veteran Bridge Player, who topped the list with 784 points accumulated in 27 tournaments during the year in which he participated. Charles Goren has won this coveted Trophy 8 times.

World Bridge Olympiad

Furin, a city in Italy, will see the largest concentration of bridge talent in the world for two weeks from 23rd April. The World Bridge Olympiad will begin on the 23rd April and will continue till the 5th of May. Twenty-six countries are competing. 14 of these 26 countries, have entered teams in the Ladies Event which begins at the same time. All the countries except Sweden and America have entered only one team. Sweden has two teams and the United States has four. The World Bridge Federation rulings limit one team for every 100 members. This is the first time India is participating in any international competition. Every bridge player in India will be keenly and anxiously watching its performance.

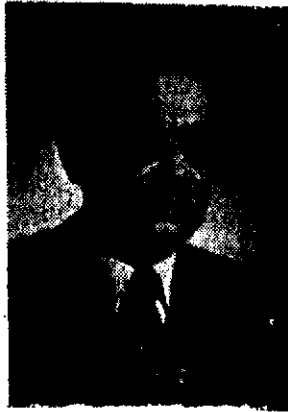
List of Countries.

Argentina (W)
 Australia (W)
 Austria (W)
 Belgium (W)
 Brazil
 Canada
 Chile
 Denmark (W)
 Finland
 France (W)
 Germany (W)

Great Britain (W)
 Holland (W)
 Iceland (W)
 India
 Indonesia
 Ireland (W)
 Italy (W)
 Lebanon
 Morocco
 Philippines
 Poland
 Spain
 Sweden
 Switzerland
 Union of South Africa (W)
 United States (W)
 Venezuela.

In the open event, the teams will be divided into 3 separate divisions, within which each will meet the other in round robin play of 40 board matches in the qualifying rounds. Teams finishing first and second in each section will then engage in a 6 team round robin final, each match consisting of 60 boards. There will also be a consolation event for teams eliminated in the qualifying rounds. The ladies teams will play a complete round robin of 40 board matches. Elaborate arrangements have been made for spectators to watch and follow the play in key matches.

Our Representatives



R. R. RUIA.
(Captain)

Top-ranking Bombay player, businessman and industrialist, Ramniwas Ruia, the Captain of the team, is a naturally talented player, with a rare gift for scoring a psychological advantage over his opponent at the Bridge table. He has led his team to victory, in many of the tournaments in Bombay and can be confidently expected to give off his best. One thing with Ruia, he plays better with a crowd of onlookers on. With polished manners, and affable, he carries his position of the Presidentship of both the BCBA and the Federation with an aplomb, that is to be seen to be believed. His contacts with the other dignitaries of the Bridge organisations abroad are bound to prove of immense value to the young Federation.

Owner of the most up-to-date and lavish restaurant "La Bella" at Bombay, debonair Jagdish Kohli is a fine player, and stands head and shoulders above the rest in Bridge. Whatever the state of the match, he rarely loses his concentration, and is generally cool as a cucumber, and will easily prove to be the mainstay of the team. *



J. KOHLI.



S. R. SETHI.

Sr ram Sethi, a quick 'natural' player, normally rattles off the tricks even on tricky hands when most others, however good, go into huddles. Prone to slight over-bidding, this weakness causes him to bid many unmakeable slams, which was one of the main reasons of Bombay's poor show in the Nationals. Constant grooming has had its effect, in that his bidding, as witnessed in recent tournaments, has matured and is more reliable these days. *

Sprightly Bhagwan, unassuming but jovial, is one of the steadiest players in Bombay. Well-versed in all departments of the game, he can easily be the backbone of the team when in distress. A versatile player, his frequent changing over to Flush, Poker and Rummy which he plays for quite high stakes, does not prevent him from changing over to the intricacies of Bridge at a moment's notice. *



B. SHIVDASANI.

A. RAMAMURTHY.

A. Ramamurthy, Inspector of Factories, Andhra Pradesh, a veteran Bridge player, has had a very successful Bridge career. He successfully led, without a single defeat, the Hyderabad Team in the First Nationals at Bombay. In 1958, he won not only the coveted Theta Beta Gold Cup but also the first Inter-Association match held at Calcutta. Unperturbed by vicissitudes at the cards-table he will be a tough player to reckon with.

P. TILAK.

P. Tilak, employed in a Tobacco Factory at Guntur, is a versatile player and is endowed with an uncanny card-sense. He always has his wits about him and partnering Sri Ramamurthy is capable of wresting a number of points. He is a fine Chess player.



G. N. K. SWAMY.

Jt. Hony. Secretary of both the B. C. B. A. and the Federation, G. N. K. Swamy hails from Gobichettipalayam, where he inherited this love for the game and for more than a dozen years has been on the forefront of all Bridge activity in Bombay. Ranked high amongst Bombay players he has amassed more Master Points than any one else during 1958 and 1959, and is well on the way to repeat the performance in 1960, too.

[Game-forcing bids continued]

Bids Forcing for a Round

By N. MUTHUKRISHNA IYER.

The opener may well have a moderate hand and opened with a suit bid of one : the responder may have a fair hand but not strong enough for making a game-forcing bid. In such an instance the one-round force will compel the opener speak the limit of his hand and facilitate to know the limit of the strength of the partnership holding. *One-round force* is an important armoury of the *approach force* and *economy of bidding* enabling the partnership to arrive at the best contract. Norman Squire says : "For the majority of hands careful approach bidding is the best. For many it is the only possible way of arriving at the best contract. . . . One facet of this principle is that if we open the bidding, we promise to rebid unless partner makes a limited bid. Thus being forced to find one rebid does not trouble the opener, because he does not open the bidding until he has chosen a convenient rebid."

The main differences between the one-round force bids and the game-forcing bids are :—

(i) The partner, after making sure that the bidding is kept open, may pass thereafter unless a new forcing bid is made.

(ii) The player who makes the one-round forcing bid does not bind himself in any way to continue bidding. Even when he is given his chance to rebid, he is at liberty to pass, unless his partner's bids is forcing."

The one-round force bids keep the bidding open temporarily.

The following is a collection of the one-round-forcing bids :—

(1) Any non-jump suit take-out of partner's opening one bid in suit or no-trump is forcing for one round : but the force is taken off the bid if the response is by a passed hand, or when it is enough for a game because of a part-score, or when an opponent intervenes to assure partner another chance to bid.

	S	W	N	E
(a) 1 ♣	No	1 ♦	No forcing	
(b) 1 NT	No	2 ♣	No	
(c) No	No	1 ♣	No	
1 ♥	No		Not forcing	
(d) 1 ♣	1 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠	„
because East has intervened				
(e) 1 ♣	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	„

The response is by East : it is a suit take-out of an overcall and so is not forcing.

(f) North South part score 90.

1 ♡ No 1 ♠ No Not forcing.

In the Acol System with the one exception of four hearts over three spades, any suit response to a three bid is forcing and from the opener's point of view, is a slam suggestion. Any response to an opening four bid by partner is a slam try with the exception of a game bid of 4 hearts or spades.

A free takeout to an opening bid of one in suit, i.e., a non-jump suit takeout after an intervening overcall, is forcing for a round unless game has been reached.

- | | S | W | N | E |
|-----|----|-----|----|--------------------|
| (a) | 1♣ | 1♦ | 1♡ | or ♠ Not forcing |
| (b) | 1♣ | 2♦ | 2♡ | No
or ♠ or 3♣ „ |
| (c) | 1♦ | 1NT | 2♣ | No „ |
| (d) | 1♦ | 3♣ | 4♡ | No Notforcing. |

But a free take out to opening one no-trump is not forcing at all.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 NT	2 ♣	2 ♦	No Not forcing.

According to Culbertson, if responder to one no-trump takes out in a suit following an intervening overcall by the opponent, it is a weak bid and a mere competitive effort which cannot be read as a proposal for game. Therefore, if responder has any hope of a game he must

jump in the suit. Some players are of opinion that it appears illogical to treat the free takeout of one no-trump as not forcing for the simple reason that this differentiation violates the general principle that a free-bid is stronger than a near-free bid.

The suit takeout over an opponent's double is not a free-bid and is not forcing at all. The non-jump suit takeout by opener's partner after the intervening double need not necessarily be weak: he may bid as though the double had not occurred, but yet it is a denial of strength in the sense that the responder has not redoubled. Opener's partner finds it expedient to bid here and now and not wait for fear that the bidding will go too high before his next turn or chance.

- | | S. | W. | N. | E. |
|-----|----|-----|----|---------------------|
| (a) | 1♦ | Dl. | 1♡ | No Not forcing |
| (b) | 1♦ | Dl. | 2♣ | No „ |
| (c) | 1♦ | Dl. | 2♡ | Not forcing
or ♣ |

When one no-trump is doubled it is generally for penalties and any non-jump suit takeout is in the measure of a rescue and is not forcing at all. Goren is also of the view that a suit take-out response by partner after an intervening one no-trump is no force at all.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♦	1 NT	2 ♠	No

"Is the 2 spade bid, a new suit by responder forcing on the opening bidder? This is an exceptional case in which it is not. The theory is this: North has a distributional hand rather than one containing high cards, because if he had high-card strength, he would have made a penalty double of one no-trump." The expert opinion is that the interpolation of no-trump into any bidding sequence changes the meaning of the subsequent calls and that a free-bid after an intervening no-trump is analogous to bidding over a take-out double. North, in the above sequence, does not indicate a strong bid. These are pure competitive bids at low levels and do not show any value of the suit.

Goren's treatment of response to opening one no-trump is different. He distinguishes between a take-out to two in a minor and a take-out to two in a major. The minor suit take-out is made with the expectation that partner will pass unless he has a maximum no-trump, while in the case of major suit take-out partner is desired to bid again unless he has a rock-bottom minimum. Culbertson believes in the absolute force for the weakness take-out of one no-trump and does not believe "that a player can always be dealt minor suits in his weak hand". North calls a no-trump and South holds:

K 5 3 : 7 4 : A 9 4 3 2 : 6 5 2 - and calls two diamonds. According to Goren north may pass but according to Culbertson north shall rebid, as the cards in his hand dictate.

The Stayman Convention was played in one form or another in about 1927-28 in the days of auction-bridge. This is the brain-child of George Rapee, a partner of Samuel M. Stayman. This is an artificial two club response to an opening no-trump and is forcing on the opener to show a biddable major suit if he has one, or if he has two major suits the higher in rank. This artificial two club bid shows nothing about the holding in that suit, being only a temporary bid indicating interest in big things. A two diamond, heart or, spade response to the opening no-trump shows not a good hand.

In the Acol system, "The old theory was simple enough: any suit response at the range of two was a sign off; a jump to three clubs was conventional asking for a four-card major. The fashion nowadays is to make the conventional response of two clubs instead of three clubs... but the experience of match plays since the two club convention became popular has not demonstrated any superiority for it such as would justify its adoption in place of the old three-club bid." This artificial bid seldom works well when playing the natural

weak no-trump. These artificial bids engrafted to natural bids need not be employed at all but are popular. Norman Squire is right when he says "Conventions are for when natural methods are insufficient. This is seldom". According to him the simple level over one no-trump is a limited bid and is not forcing.

In the Culbertson system the opener's or his partner's bid in a new suit at the next chance—so long as it is not a jump forcing take-out or in the adverse suit—is not forcing at all. Non-jump change of suit does not show one iota more in general strength than the rebid of the first suit. That every bid in a new suit calls for further bidding until "satisfaction" is reached is infuriating. The prevalent idea that a change of suit shows a strong hand is erroneous. South opens a diamond holding xx : xx : A K J x x : A Q x x and North responds 1 spade. Two clubs is the obvious rebid of South and he shows no extra strength: two club rebid is not forcing but may show preference. Norman Squire cites an example. The holding is A J 9 x x : K Q x x x : x x : x. "This is an opening bid by anyone's standard: we open one spade. Must we never bid hearts lest it be thought we are showing strength? We only opened the bidding because we had the extra suit. With the knowledge that we have shape goes the possibility that we may be weak. Nothing is

more fatuous than this amazingly widespread idea. Theory will have no truck with this foolishness. Theory tells us to look for the right spot by showing every suit, if feasible at the earliest possible moment, before we get beyond the playable level of the combined hands. To rebid one suit blindly is folly. The practice has no relation to serious card-values and can only lead to continued bad results."

But a non-jump change of suit at three level may be strengthening, though not forcing as in :—

S.	W.	N.	E.
1 ♥	No	2 ♦	No
3 ♣			

If it be argued that South may not have a rebiddable suit, and cannot bid two hearts, he should have thought of it when he opened the auction. Goren and Terence Reese would give one-round force to the three club bid in the above sequence.

Goren and some other experts treat the change of suit by the response at any level as forcing except when the opener's rebid is in minimum no-trump. "The fact that a responder hears his partner name a new suit does not force him to speak again. That obligation rests only on the shoulders of the opening bidder.... When the responder names a new suit the opener should bid again, not only on the first

round but on subsequent rounds."

	S.	W.	N.	E.
a. 1 ♣	No	1 ♦	No	
1 ♥	No	1 ♠	No	
South must bid.				
b. 1 ♣	No	1 ♠	No	
1 NT	No	2 ♥		
South need not bid.				
c. 1 ♦	No	1 ♥	No	
1 NT	No	2 ♠	No	

The "reverse" response though obviously strong is not forcing over the secondary one no-trump. Experts generally treat a "reverse" response as practically forcing. According to Goren, Osborn and some others, if the responder rebids in a higher ranking suit even if it be over the rebid of one no-trump by the opener, it is forcing for a round. "A new suit by responder does not force the opener if either of the players have originally passed or when it is made directly over an adverse double, or the previous bidding evidences that responder is not trying to go places but is seeking a safe place to land."

Lisbon players treat the mere change of suit at any level by either partner as absolute force.

In the Culbertson system responder's jump in a new suit at the second chance is not forcing at all but according to Goren and Osborn, etc., a jump rebid response in a new suit at the second

time by responder even after the rebid of a minimum no-trump by the opener is forcing for a round at least.

The opening one-bid in suit or no-trump is never a force in the Culbertson system. In the Vienna and Gladiator systems opening one club is one round force and opening one no-trump is a qualified force for one round only unless there is a positive response, i.e., except in the club suit. Unlike the Culbertson system, a response of two diamonds to opening one club is not a jump forcing takeout but is made to show a genuine diamond holding as distinguished from a Herbert negative. In these systems, a response of one no-trump is a qualified force to game, a suit response except in clubs to opening one no-trump is game forcing if such response is after an intervening overcall it is merely a competitive bid and is not forcing at all: any ordinary suit take out of opening one diamond, heart or spade is an approach force for a round, but a two-over-one in a lower ranking suit guarantees high-card strength and a promise to speak again—an instance of continuing force—as in the Roth-Stone System: and a suit take-out of opening one club except in diamonds is not forcing at all.

The opening one club in the Vanderbilt, Barton and Cho styles is akin to the same bid in the Vienna method.

It is interesting to note that a curious situation arises in this sequence. (Adapted from the AMERICAN BRIDGE WORLD).

WEST	NORTH	EAST	South
No	1 ♦	Dble.	Redble.
1 ♥	No	No	2 ♣
No	?		

North holds :—Q x x x : Q x :
Q J x x : A K x x .

South holds :—K x x : A x :
A x : Q J x x x .

Should north pass after the 2 clubs by south? Is the two-club bid forcing on north? One view is, that the two-club bid coming after a redouble compels north to keep the bid open as the redouble does not diminish the

force : the bid is the same as though east has passed at one diamond and south has bid two clubs. The other view is that the bid of two clubs by south is a mere competitive effort : If south had something higher than mere competition in mind and if his redouble was on more than two honour tricks, he might well have jumped on the following round: the redouble is more a defensive device not showing ability to reach a high contract. The situation is not covered in any textbook. It is suggested for better partnership understanding, that the elementary device of jumping in a suit without any loss of a bidding round be adopted.

(To be continued.)



Bridge is worth a little trouble and study. The better you play, the more you will enjoy the game. R. R. Richards.



Psychology in the bidding of contract Bridge hands consists chiefly in playing up to the strength and weakness of your partner and against the strength and weaknesses of your opponents. Sam Fry, (Jr.)

Bombay Letter

By G. N. K. SWAMY.

To most of our Bridge enthusiasts, accustomed to a never-ending stream of tournaments, the short lull after the 'Nationals', was something of a novelty. This spell of leisure afforded a well-earned respite for the organisers who had put in all their efforts for the success of the First National and Inter-Association Championship. If the fund of good-will, complimentary messages and thanking letters, we have received from the various Associations, as well as a few high-placed local persons—who have had occasion to watch the European Championship—are any indication, Bombay seems to have set a new high in the standard of tournament organisation. Our organisers might feel justly proud of it, but they could not afford to rest on their laurels for long. Three of our major tournaments had to be completed before the year was out, and with the new year our League matches were to start. We could not very well think of cancelling or postponing any of them. To the clubs allotted major tournaments, 'Nationals or no Nationals' didn't make any difference, as their own tournaments are all important annual events for them. Any attempt to chop or change them, would inevitably result in kindling up a hornet's nest. Which meant that the tempo—it is usually fast, had to be still speeded up.

It is gratifying to note that all these tournaments have been completed strictly according to schedule, and that in itself is a tribute to the co-operation of all concerned. Our Senior Division League to which eight teams had qualified last year has already commenced. Side by side we have started the Junior League as well, and if the present trend is to continue, we should have to resort to further sub-divisions like 'C' and 'D' next year. With nearly half the number of our list of 70 Club Members composed of office sports clubs only, it is heartening to note that almost every one of them have sent in a team to the Junior Division League, a few even wanting to enter more than one team. While the eight teams in the Senior Division play their matches on a 'Home' and 'Away' basis following the 'Black and White' procedure in Chess, the Junior League (we term it 'B' division) has been split into four legs (Zones) with eight to nine teams in each leg. Four clubs have been fixed up as 'centres' at which all the 'B' Division matches will be played, there being a final play off, between the Zonal winners to rank them in order of merit. The best two teams from 'B' division will be promoted to the Senior League (A Division) next year, and the last two in the 'A' Division relegated to the 'B' Division. This sort

of promotion and relegation we presume would sustain the enthusiasm and keen rivalry, which should be part and parcel of any competition. With this much about the 'news' in general, let me get down to 'brass-tacks', I mean the deals that really mattered in our tournaments.

Amongst the last few of the 1959 tournaments, the Matunga Gymkhana one was as usual well attended, and produced some really fighting Bridge in many keen matches. A fitting climax to the tournament was the team-of-four finals, between Gore and partners and Hemmady and partners. The outcome of the match was in doubt till the last deal was played, and the general excitement that prevailed all through the final check-up of the scores, reminded one of the National Master Pair event. In the very first 16 deals, Gore and partners playing consistently sound Bridge, gained a lead of 11 I.M.Ps. a big slice of it through this one deal:—

♠ 73		
♥ Q 73		
♦ J7654		
♣ 10 72		
♠ 9	♠ J52	
♥ 10 9654	♥ AKJ82	
♦ AK93	♦ Q	
♣ 543	♣ QJ96	
	♠ AKQ 10 864	
	♥ Nil	
	♦ 10 82	
	♣ AK8	

In the closed room where all the deals were dealt and played before being relayed into the open, South opened with one spade, and West came in with two hearts. On North's passing East leaped all the way to four hearts. Not to be outdone South bid four spades. East who was in no mood to give in bid five hearts, doubled by South and that closed the auction. The contract went one down for the loss of two clubs and a spade trick.

What happened in the open room was interesting. For no obvious reason South opened the bidding with one club, and North in an attempt to play the hand at a better part score contract bid one diamond, while East came in with one heart. Finally, however, South bought the deal at four spades, West leading out his King of diamonds. On seeing his partner's queen fall to the trick, West played back the three of diamonds, which East duly ruffed. The queen of clubs was now returned, won by declarer's King. South played off all his trumps but one, and West had to find five discards. He started discarding hearts, for a while and then ditched one club as well. The four-carded end position before the last trump was played out was:

♠ Nil		♠ K87	
♥ Q 7		♥ 862	
♦ J 7		♦ Q 10743	
♣ —		♣ Q 7	
♠ Nil	♠ Nil	♠ 10 2	♠ 53
♥ 10	♥ A	♥ A K9754	♥ Q J10
♦ Ag	♦ Nil	♦ K8	♦ J92
♣ 5	♣ J98	♣ K52	♣ A J984
		♠ AQJ964	
		♥ 3	
		♦ A65	
		♣ 10 63	

At this stage the last trump was led out. West let go the ten of hearts, dummy's seven of hearts was thrown and East who had kept a correct count of the cards, knew that the declarer didn't have any hearts, so discarded the ace of hearts. Now the king of clubs was cashed, on which the hearts queen from dummy was thrown. West who was left with the ace and nine of diamonds was end played on the lead of the diamond 10. He had to win with his ace and surrender the last trick to the jack of diamonds in dummy and with it the contract. After the change over Hemmady and partners made leeway and in fact led by one I.M.P. at the end of the 32 deals. As this fell short of the minimum margin required for a win which is 4 I.M.Ps, i.e., 1/8th of the total boards played an additional 8 deals were played to decide the issue. The deal that follows in fact the last one of the 40 deals, proved decisive:

In the closed room East-West were allowed to play at four hearts which they easily made for the loss of two tricks in spades, and one in diamonds. Strangely enough in the open room South bought the hand at four spades as a sacrifice against a certain game for East West, on this sequence:—

	S	W	N	E
1	♠	2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♥
3	♠	4 ♥	No	No
4	♠	Dble	No	No
	No	—	—	—

West led the king of hearts and when dummy came down South knew that he was minimum one down. Two clubs, one heart, and at least one diamond had to be lost. Making king of hearts, West continued the suit declarer ruffing. South felt that if he automatically started drawing trumps the hand would become too clear and so at once led up a low diamond. West put on the king and instead of shifting to a

club—in fact he was afraid to play clubs, as south might turn up with the ace—played back a third heart. That was curtains for his side. Declarer could ruff, draw trumps in two rounds, then on the long diamonds in dummy discard two of his losing clubs to make his contract. The match which was played at a fast pace was

exciting throughout, and witnessed good play by both sides, but for these two defence slips. Quite a few are still debating whether East should have bid clubs before raising hearts at all, in which case West would without hesitation have led a club. Anyway it was a fine victory for Hemmady and partners.



Helen Sobel Says :

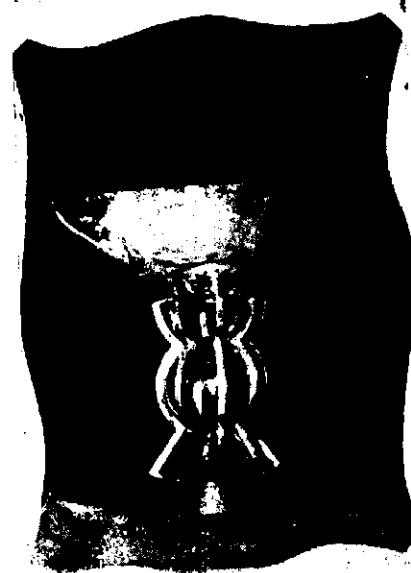
“Suffice it to say, players should try to curb all give-away mannerisms and facial expressions during the bidding and play.”

“Never analyse during the play of the hand, and try to keep your analysis between hands down to a minimum.”

“False carding, when done badly and indiscriminately, only misleads partner, and helps the declarer.”

“The so called ‘slow-pass’ arises all the time in both expert and non-expert games. Of course, the slow-pass on the first round of bidding—trying to decide whether or not to open—should be rigidly avoided.”

PICTURES FROM THE NATIONALS THE COVETED TROPHIES



DL
my 31-12-47
N60-11.1

Yeshwant Rao Holkar Trophy
(for Master Pairs)



Rula Gold Trophy
(for Team of Four)



Madras v. Bombay

In the closed Room.
Seated : A. S. Giri, S. R. Sethi, Dr. Achar and Bansall
(with his back to the camera).



A table in the Master Pairs (All from Madras).
B. Venkataramani, M. Subblah, K. Guru Dutt and
S. Parthasarathy (with his back to the camera).



In the Open Room.
Seated : B. H. Rao, Kohli (facing camera) and P. S. Reddy.



The President Sri R. R. Ruia with the S.I.B.A. Team.
Standing : N. Ramaratnam, M. Subblah, S. Parthasarathy, K. Guru Dutt,
A. S. Giri, P. S. Reddy and B. Venkataramani.
Sitting : Dr. Achar, K. R. Sundaram Iyer (Vice-President, AIBF)
R. R. Rula (President), B. H. Rao (Captain, SIBA.)

On Doubles

By 'ENNA'

A Double is a double edged weapon. Normally every bridge player associates a double with big rewards by way of penalties. Sometimes doubles, if indiscriminately used, will inflict losses on the doubler. There is the classic instance of the local hero of our club who doubled a contract of six spades holding queen, jack to five in spade and drove the opponents to cold six no trump contract. Double on the declarer on notice and also may suggest a different line of play, than the one he would normally have followed. Sometimes, unless it be an experienced partnership, partner's reactions are unexpected. So much so that R. L. Frey writing an article on Doubles gave it the heading "The costliest bid in Bridge."

Perusing through the matches played in the first nationals in Bombay a few deals in which doubles figured prominently caught the eye and they are given below.

(Madras v. Bengal)
Dealer South Vul.: E—W

♠ 82	♠ AKJ 107643
♥ K 10762	♥ —
♦ K 7 3	♦ 4
♣ 1 0 5 2	♣ Q 643

♠ —	♠ Q 95
♥ J 843	♥ A Q 95
♦ Q J 652	♦ A 1095
♣ K J 97	♣ A 8

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
3♥	X	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♥	3♠	Dble	All Pass

(B. H. Rao's System).

* South was carried away by the honours in his hand and expecting at least one trick from his partner was quick to double the bid of three spades. As the play went south opened with the ace of hearts which was ruffed. The declarer played the ace of spades and then craftily played the ten of spades. Expecting the king to drop from his partner south did not win the trick with his queen and the sure trick was lost. Eventually the declarer made two over tricks conceding only

the tricks for the two aces. If there had not been the double west would most certainly not have bid four spades with a void and the contract would have died at three spades, as it did in the other room.

(Madras v. Hyderabad).
Dealer West Vul. Both

♠ 5	♠ Q 9862
♥ Q J 76	♥ A 42
♦ K J 82	♦ 5
♣ A K 85	♣ 9743

♠ A K 1073	♠ J 4
♥ 95	♥ K 1083
♦ Q 743	♦ A Q 106
♣ Q J	♣ 1062

West dealt and passed. North opened a Diamond and south bid one Heart, West overcalled one Spade which was doubled by North.

It is difficult to understand what made north double on this hand. Was it the distributed honours in the three other suits that urged him to double or was it to prevent the opponents from finding a sacrifice bid in the course of later auction. Whatever it may be, it put south completely on the spot and the poor chap passed with implicit

faith in his partner's double. Needless to say the contract was made with two over tricks.

At other table four hearts was bid and made and this was thus a two way loss.

(Madras v. Andhra).

Dealer East. Vul.: Neither

♠ Q J 94	♠ K 10872
♥ AKQ 5	♥ 92
♦ 6	♦ K J 54
♣ J 763	♣ A 9

♠ 653	♠ A
♥ J 10	♥ 87643
♦ Q 107	♦ A 9832
♣ Q 10854	♣ K 2

East opened one spade and south made an obvious take-out double. Several expert players nowadays use the double in preference to a light overcall. Holding a singleton in diamond, with three top honours in hearts in addition to holding queen knave to four trumps north must have had visions of extracting heavy penalties from the declarer when he passed without hesitation. The contract however was only one down. It was soon found out that they had missed a contract of four hearts, which was bid at the other table. North's reaction to the take out double cannot meet with one's approval.

(Madras v. Bombay).

Dealer North	Vul. Neither
♠ A J 6 5	
♥ A K J 5	
♦ Q 9 2	
♣ Q 7	
♠ 4	♠ 9 8 3
♥ 1 0 8 6 2 3	♥ Q 9 7 4
♦ A 8 7 3	♦ —
♣ A 10 9	♣ K J 6 5 3 2
	♠ K Q 1 0 7 2
	♥ —
	♦ K J 1 0 6 5 4
	♣ 8 4

Here is a deal in which the auction did not end with the double. It was redoubled. North opened one no trump and on a stayman 2 clubs responded 2 spades. South immediately called for aces and on the partner's showing of 2 aces bid six spade without any hesitation. West doubled and south with a nonchalant air redoubled. After the redouble the whole atmosphere was surcharged with tension. With two aces in his pocket, west was the only person feeling quite serene about it. The serenity was short

lived. A small trump was led by his partner. The declarer put up a big smile so to say 'thank you very, very much' and proceeded to collect twelve tricks conceding only a trick for the ace of diamonds. In this case the doubler had all the sympathies. Excitement naturally ran high after the deal and there was loud and heated discussion about the proper lead on the double on this auction. The lead by east proved very unimaginative. A lead of a club would have set the contract by two tricks and instead of earning 1000 points 1560 points were lost. On this single deal, the Madras team lost 17 match points. At the other table after an asking bid in clubs the contract was quietly played in four spades. On a lead of club west did not play a diamond but returned a club and the contract was made

Reading all these one would probably share the feeling expressed by Helen Sobel. "Incidentally, have you ever wished that there was such a bid as 'undouble'? I have."



Test Your Bidding

By P. S. SUNDARESA IYER.

[Here are reproduced six deals from a set of Par Deals prepared by P. S. Sundaresa Iyer. Work out the bidding with your favourite partner before turning to page 43—containing the solutions. A scale of points for each problem has been given to add to the interest.—Ed.]

Deal 1.

Dealer South. Vul. East West Dealer West. Vul. Neither Side

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

Deal 2.

Dealer West. Vul. Both. Dealer North. Vul. East West

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

Deal 3.

NORTH

♠ A K 6 3
♥ 2
♦ A K 9 4 2
♣ A K Q

SOUTH

♠ 7 2
♥ K J 9 8
♦ 8 6 3
♣ 8 7 6 2

Deal 4.

NORTH

♠ A Q 5 4 3
♥ 3
♦ 2
♣ K J 10 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠ K J 8 6 2
♥ 9 2
♦ Q 10 4
♣ 7 5 3

The INDIAN BRIDGE WORLD

Deal 5.		Deal 6	
Dealer West	Vul. East West	Dealer West	Vul. Both
NORTH		NORTH	
♠ K 10 4 3 2		♠ K Q 2	
♥ 8		♥ A Q J	
♦ K Q 7 2		♦ A J 9 8	
♣ Q 10 5		♣ A J 6	
SOUTH		SOUTH	
♠ Q 6		♠ 8 6 5 4	
♥ K J 9 2		♥ —	
♦ A 10 6		♦ K Q 5 4	
♣ A 8 4 3		♣ K Q 10 9 2	

International competition: the second decade

by ALVIN LANDY

(Problems of selection of players appear universal. This article which deals with methods of selection will be of topical interest.—Ed.)

The increasing importance and scope of international bridge competition reflects the growth of contract bridge throughout the world during the past decade. It is significant that the growth in the 50's led to the first World Bridge Olympiad to initiate international competition in the 60's with 28 countries represented thus far.

However, the chief purpose of this article is to discuss the method of selecting players to represent the ACBL and/or the U.S.A. in international matches. Let's take a look at the record:

1950 : USA defeated Great Britain and Sweden-Iceland
 1951 : USA defeated Italy
 1953 : USA defeated Sweden
 1954 : USA defeated France
 1955 : G. Britain defeated USA
 1956 : France defeated USA
 1957-8-9 : Italy defeated USA.

Methods of Selection :

For the first international match, our team was a combination of players who had won both the Vanderbilt and the Spingold team championships, with Charles Goren invited to complete the team.

In the 1951 match, the team was selected as a result of a play off between Vanderbilt and Spingold winners.

From 1953 through 1956, the five-man teams that won the Masters' Knockout Team event automatically became our representatives, with the privilege of inviting a sixth, chosen by the five members of the winning team.

The 1957 international match was the first to reflect the rule which permitted six-player teams in our national championship; both in that year and in 1958, the knockout winners were again our representatives.

In following the practice of automatically selecting our event winners, the reasons, expressed or implied, were :

1. When selection is automatic, there would be a minimum of criticism.

2. Everyone has a sporting chance to win. (With the background thought, at the beginning at least, that any good U.S. team could beat Europe's champion).

3. No harm if we lose once in a while.

Our smugness increased as we easily won the first

International matches. Our big worry was that the European Bridge League would decide to quit in despair. When we lost to England in 1955, it was shrugged off as "one of those things."

When we continued to lose in '56, '57 and '58 our selection method was again revised. To decrease the possibility that an upset in a single tournament might result in the choice of less than our strongest team, we returned to the 1951 method, requiring a playoff between Vanderbilt and Spingold Team winners unless the same team won both. In spite of the fact that our 1959 international team came within a single match of winning both American events outright—which would have made the eventual playoff unnecessary—we were decisively defeated, losing for the fifth year in succession?

We represent the country.

It must be borne in mind that although, technically, our team is selected to represent the American Contract Bridge League, in the minds of both the bridge-playing and non-playing public they represent the United States. When the growing chorus of protest began to include a sizable group of non-players, League officials became convinced that it was time to take a "long look at our method of selection."

They concluded that the principal weakness of our selection method was its failure to insure a team made up of established partnerships, and that until this fault was remedied we could not hope to defeat a strong team which did not suffer from this same flaw.

For 1960 Olympiad, representation by four teams gives us two teams selected by the old won-in-competition method and two selected by a committee from groups of eligible pairs.

But for 1961, when competition returns to one-team per-country representation, our team will be chosen as three pairs from among top-ranking finishers in six major championship events (The Bulletin, Sept. 1959; Board of Director Minutes).

The criticism which the new method has drawn was not unexpected. A few direct quotes voice the principal grounds for complaint:

"The new method seems arbitrary and undemocratic."

"I do not have time or money to play in more than one or two events per year."

"The selection committee will discriminate against players who do not attend all three National tournaments."

"You will crush the spirit of the great mass of bridge players—the backbone of our organization—who have considered the

winning of the national team event as an ultimate achievement"

What's the answer?

To answer the last objection first: Can anyone doubt that we have a grave responsibility when we presume to field a team to represent the United States in international bridge competition? Is it not our duty to field the best possible team, and to follow whatever selection method we can devise which is best calculated to achieve that end?

Does any of the individual complaints here enumerated override more important considerations?

Your elected national Board of Directors represents every area of the country. Its duty is to act in what it conceives to be the best interest of the ACBL and of the game. In so acting, its members deserve compliments for braving the wrath of all those who, understandably, look at the problem from a personal viewpoint.—*Courtesy, Alvin Landy, A.C.B.L.*

* * * *

"Bridge" said the Sage, is a great comfort in your old age. It also helps you get there faster".

* * * *

The Bridge-fiend was in an exciting game when word was brought to him that his house was on fire.

He hurriedly finished the hand he was playing and then said "Sorry, fellows! Look, I'll have to break up the game. Three more rubbers and I quit".



THE NEWS SECTION

Edited by T. S. CHANDRASEKARAN.

The All India Bridge Federation's team comprising of the following will be playing in the World Olympiad tournaments at Turin next week and will, we hope give a good account of themselves. R. R. Ruia, (Captain), J. Kohli, S. R. Sethi, B. Shivdasani, A. Ramamurthi, P. Tilak and G. N. K. Swamy, Manager. We wish the team all luck.

* * * *

The South Indian Bridge Association's Annual Championship Tournaments which concluded on 27th December, 1959, ended on a somewhat dull note with the two teams of four from Karaikudi qualifying for the Knockout finals and making a 'domestic' affair of the finals. Our congratulations to the veterans, the Karaikudi 'A' who eventually won the Sri T. Sadasiva Iyer's Trophy. The Tournament itself provided no special fare for the kibitzer as apart from the fact that the Andhra teams which lent colour to this event did not

turn up this year, one of the best local teams was penalised for not turning up on time in the preliminary qualifying Zonal matches. The Par Contest, the Pairs events, the Individual Championships and the Duplicate Progressive were all keenly contested, as usual. The complete results were :

Zonal Rounds : Madras City Zone.

Team of Four : Winners.

N. Ramaratnam.
K. Guru Dutt.
K.C. Ramaratnam.
A. Ramaswamy.
B. Venkatramani.

Runners-up :

J. S. Baliah
Sriramulu Naidu
Singaperumaliah
K. Sivaramakrishnan.
Sriramuliah.

Progressive Pairs :

North-South : Winners :

T. K. N. Panikker
Sriramulu Naidu

East-West : Winners :

D'Cruz
D. R. Ketkar

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Runners-up :

S. K. Subramaniam. (N-S)
S. Mahalingam.
Chakraborty. (E-W)
Julian.

Master Pairs : Winners :

B. Venkatramani.
K. S. Charyalu.

Runners-up :

K. Suryanarayana.
T.S. Chandrasekharan.

Gohichettipalayam.

Team of Four : Winners :

K. R. Sundararajan.
J. Subramanyan.
R. Krishnan.
G. K. Narjundier.
G.D.V. Subramaniam.

Progressive Pairs :

North-South : Winners :

Rajagopalan.
Parthasarathy.

East West : Winners :

R. Krishnan.
Subramaniam.

Tanjore Zone.

Team of four : Winners :

T. K. Srinivasa Iyengar.
M. Appadurai.
S. Rajendran.
R. Durai Raj.

Master Pairs : Winners.

S. Rajendran and R. Dorairaj.

Runners-up :

Subbarathnam and M. Krishnan.

Tricky zone.

Duplicate Knock-out.

Winners :

(Thatham's Team).
E. N. Mylappan.

Gani.

S. R. V. Thatham ;
Ratnam Pillai.

Runners-up :

(Milap's team.)
Mukhtalif.
Singaram.
Latif.
Shaik Dawood.
Hakkim.

Master Pairs : Winners:

Dr. Sahadevan.
S. Parthasarathy.

Final Rounds :

Duplicate Knock-out :

Winners :

(Karaikudi 'A')

MR. S. Manickavelu.
S. Kasi.
MP. Ramaswami Chettiar.
A. Sundararajan.
T. Sundararajan.

Runners up :

(Karaikudi 'B')

NK. Nachiappan.
NK. Kumarappan.
S. P. Chockalingam.
PL. Kathiresan.
K. Narayanan Chettiar.

Par Event :

North South : Winners :

N. Ramaratnam.
K. Guru Dutt

Runners-up :

NK. Nachiappan.
Chockalingam.

East West : Winners :

E. N. Mylappan.
N. V. M. Gani.

Runners-up :

E. Krishnan.
J. Subramanyam;

*Progressive Pairs :**North South : Winners*

K. L. Narayana Rao
C. Devarajan

Runners-up ;

Sahadevan
S. Parthasarathy.

East West : Winners

S. R. V. Thatham
Ratnam Pillai.

Runners-up :

S. Mahalingam
S. K. Subramaniam.

Master Pairs : Winners :

Sec. I : R. Sankaran and D.
Jagannath

Sec. II : D. R. Ketkar and
D'Cruz.



The Annual
General Body Meeting.

Runners-up :

Sec. I : E. Krishnan and
G. D. V. Subramaniam

Sec. II : B. Venkatramani and
K. S. Charyalu.

Duplicate Progressive : Winners :

D. R. Ketkar.

D'Cruz.

A. V. Mathew.

D. Punnose.

Runners-up :

(Tanjore Union Club) :

T. K. Srinivasa Iyengar.

Appadurai.

S. Rajendran.

Durai Raj.

*Individual Championship.**Winner :*

Section I : S. Rajendran.

Section II : G. N. Viswanathan

Runners-up :

Sec. I. N. Sriramuliah.

Sec. II : S. Tarakaraman.



The Secretary reads
the Annual Report.



The Vice-President
moves a Resolution.

At the Annual General Body Meeting held on 27th December, 1959, the following office-bearers were elected for 1960-1961.

President :
Hon Justice P. Rajagopalan.

Vice-Presidents :
K. R. Sundaram Iyer.
K. Sundaram.

Hon. Secretary :
N. Ramaratnam.

Hon. Asst. Secretary :
G. N. Viswanathan.

Hon. Treasurer :
S. Mahalingam.

Executive Council :
J. Subbuswamy.

K. Guru Dutt.
A. Ramaswami.
G. N. Chary.
A. R. Krishnaswami.
D. R. Ketkar.
S. R. V. Thatham (Srirangam).
M. Subbiah (Trichy)
K. R. Sundararajan (Gobi)
B. S. Krishnamurthy (cbe)
S. Ramalingaswami (Tanjore).
S. K. Meyyappan (Karaikudi).

Honorary Auditor :

Karra Dakshinamurthy.

The new team of office-bearers have many ambitious schemes in mind for encouraging fresh talent and promoting the game in general. The monthly Bridge Meet sponsored by the Association has proved a big attraction; the two meetings organized so far having had a very encouraging response. Thirty-two pairs took part in the Bidding Par played at T'Nagar Social Club on 26th January, 1960 and an equal number in the Progressive Pairs Match held on 28th February, 1960. The results were:—

Bidding Par : Winners :

C. Devarajan
Sriramulu Naidu.

Runners-up :

Capt. T. K. Lalith
K. S. Charyalu

Trichy: Winners:

Hakkim and A. Mukthalif.

Runners-up:

Dr. M. K. Sahadevan,
S. Parthasarathy.

Karaikudi : Winners :

K. V. Krishnaswamy,
R. M. Kumarappan.

Runners-up:

S. Rajagopal.
NK. Nachiappan.

Progressive Pairs : Winners :

S.N.—K. C. Ramaratnam,
Capt. T. K. Lalith,
E. W.—C. Suryanarayana,
K. Sivaramakrishnan.

Runners-up :

N. S.—C. Devarajan.
B. Hanumantha Rao.

E. W.—B. Krishnan.
R. Sundararajan.

"A Master Points scheme" on the model of the English Bridge Union scheme is being planned and details will be announced shortly.

Two mofussil tournaments have been played so far one at R. S. Puram Club who celebrated their Golden Jubilee, and the other at Udumalpet, under the auspices of the Udumalpet Recreation Club. Both were well attended, a large number of teams from Madras city and other mofussil centres took part. Udumalpet tournament attracted an all-time record number of entries for all events and the courtesy and warmth of reception extended to the visitors reached a new high.

The results were :
(R S. Puram Club Tournament.)

Duplicate-Knock-out:

Winners :

(Burmah Shell Club, Madras.)
S. Mahalingam.
S. K. Subramaniam.
G. N. Viswanathan.
C. R. Ananthanarayanan.

Runners-up :

(Tanjore Union Club).
T. K. Srinivasa Iyengar.
M. Appadurai.
S. Rajendran.
G. Durai Raj.

Progressive Pairs : Winners :

N. S.—Rudrappa and Ramaswamy.

E.W.—S. Mahalingam and S.
K. Subramaniam.

Runners up :

N. S.—A. R. Jagannath and
V. Ranganathan.

E. W.—K. Lakshmiah and E.
K. Subba Rao.

Master Pairs : Winners.

Section I : R. Rajagopal and
P. K. Janakiraman.

Section II : P. R. Kuppu-
swami and Lakshmi Narasayya.

Runners-up :

Section I : E. S. Natarajan
and Tharakaraman.

Section II : K. Lakshmiah
and V. Ranganathan.

Progressive Duplicate : Winners :

T. K. Srinivasa Iyengar, M.
Appadurai, S. Rajendran and
Durai Raj.

Runners-up :

K. R. Sundararajan and
Partners.

Individual Championship :

Winner :

N. Rangaraj.

Runner-up :

S. Krishnaswamy.

Duplicate Knock-out :

Winners :

Udumalpet Recreation Club.
P. S. Reddy, A. S. Giri,
C. Sambasiva Rao and Tirumal
Rao.

Runners-up : (Karaikudi.)

MR. S. Manickavelu.
N. K. Nachiappan.
C. A. Arunachalam.
Kuttayan Chettiar.

Master Pairs Winners :

Section I : M. Subbiah and
Kutty Rao.

Section II : Kuttayan Chettiar
and Arunachalam Chettiar.

Section III : S. Gangan and
Rajagopala Iyengar.

Runners-up :

I. K. V. Appaswamy and
Arjun Raj.
II. Kaligul and Shakoor.
III. Dharam and Kaja
Moideen.

Progressive Pairs :

Section I : Winners :

N. S.—W. Sankaran and
Partner.

Runners-up :

M. Subbiah and Kutty Rao.

E. W.—Winners :

N. Rengaswami and Lakshmiah.

Runners-up :

Subbiah Naidu.
Rangaswamy Naidu.

Section II. N. S. Winners :

T. Sundararaj and Rama-
swami.

Runners-up :

Narayanan and S. R. Krishna-
murthy.

E. W.—Winners :

M. Krishnaswamy and Shan-
mugam.

Runners-up :

Rajagopal and Parthasarathy.

In the City, Mylapore Club's Annual fixtures for the U. S. Ramasundaram's Memorial Trophy concluded on 10th April, 1960. The results were

Duplicate Knock-out : Winners :

(P. S. Reddy's Team.)

P. S. Reddy.

A. S. Giri.

S. T. Achar.

C. R. Srinivasan.

T. K. N. Panikkar.

Runners-up :

(T. N. S. C.)

S. Palaniswamy.

R. Sankaran.

M. Narayana Rao.

P. S. Sadasivam.

T. S. Chandrasekaran.

Master Pairs : Winners :

N. Ramaratnam and K. Guru Dutt.

Runners-up :

J. S. Baliah and M. Singaperumaliah.

The Madras United Club's Annual Tournaments have just begun and the League tournaments both in the City and in the Mofussil and the Selection Tournaments for the Madras City v. Mofussil, Madras v. Andhra and the representative Tournaments will provide a rich experience for the players.

ZONAL ROUNDS—(Contd.)**COIMBATORE ZONE.****Team of Four: Winners :**

R. S. Puram Club.

M. K. Lakshmiah.

Subba Rao.

Rangarajan.

N. R. Narayanaswamy.

S. Krishnaswami Iyer.

Runners-up :

Recreation Club.

Subbiah Naidu.

A. R. Jagannathan.

Ranganathan.

G. T. K. Mani.

R. Rangaswami Naidu.

Master Pairs : Winners.

M. K. Lakshmiah and E. B. Subba Rao.

Runners-up :

K. Parthasarathy and Ramamurthy.

Progressive Pairs : Winners.*East-West.*

Monjee and Ratilal.

North-South

Jaganathan and Ranganathan.

Runners-up : North-South.

Ramamurthy and Parthasarathy.

East-West.

B. S. Krishnamurthy and N. Damodaran.

TEST YOUR BIDDING: SOLUTIONS.**Deal 1.****Suggested bidding.**

N. 2 ♠ 5 ♣ **

S. 4 ♠ * 6 ♣ ***

*Since, opposite a two bid, there need be no jump and in the interest of exploration, there should not be, a straight jump carries a special meaning (*viz.*) South does not think, there is a slam in the hand and cautions North against any attempt. South has Q x x x in trumps or five of them; he has no honour card higher than the queen; he has neither a singleton nor a void.

**Normally North should pass but in this case, with as little as the Club queen or a doubleton with south, he could see that 6 ♣ is cold. Since 5 ♠ is safe, he makes the bid of 5 ♣ which may be construed according to the partnership as either an asking bid or a cue bid requesting clarification regarding South's club holding.

***With the club queen South should straightaway bid the slam. Without the queen and with three cards in clubs South should sign off in 5 ♠.

6 ♠ 5 Points.

4 ♠ 4 Points.

Deal 2.**Suggested bidding.**

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

— 1 ♦ 1 ♠ 2 ♥

— 5 NT* — 7 ♦ **

*North could see that 7 ♥ should be cold if South had ♥

A K; so he makes the conventional grand-slam force.

**South has the requirements for the positive response. But he should exercise some care. North has obviously the top cards in diamonds and the greater length in diamonds. It is conceivable that one of the opponents might be void in diamond and could set the 7♥ contract through the Lightner Double; there is no possibility of retrieval. Since the diamond suit is equally solid, South should as a matter of caution bid 7 diamond. If it happens that if it is the heart suit in which an opponent is void, the Lightner Double can work no harm. South can revert to 7♥.

7 ♦ 5 Points.

7 ♥ 3 Points.

6 ♥ 2 Points.

Deal 3.**Suggested bidding.**

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

— 2 ♦ 2 ♥ Double*

— ** —

*South could see that there is no prospect in the combined hands except in the double and hastens to communicate the news.

**North should sense the situation and pass.

2 ♥ by E doubled by S. 5 points

2 ♠ or 3 NT by North 2 points.

(The diamond suit might produce four tricks).

Deal 4.
Suggested bidding.

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	—	1 ♠	Double
4 ♣ *			

*North has no defensive trick since after South's Spade bid, even the Ace of Spade is suspect. Unless South is somewhat strong, in which case 4 ♣ should be made, East West have a game and possibly a slam.

The bid of 4 ♣ is a *must* and a pre-emptive measure, to prevent the opponents from coming together in their best denomination. 2 ♠ might be sufficient against weak opponents who may stop at game not realising the strength of their holding at a possible slam.

4 ♣ 5 points.
2 ♣ 2 points.

Deal 5.
Suggested bidding.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
—	—	1 ♥	*
—	Dble **	—	***

*With such strength in the opponents' suit, it is tactical to pass, especially under the vulnerable condition and with only 14 points.

**North makes the re-opening double which because of the

original pass, places him with not more than 12 points and probably less.

***There being no chance of game in the combined hands South passes. Any attempted rescue by West could be doubled.

2 ♠ by North 2 points.
Dble by N. of 1 ♥ by E. 5 points.

Deal 6.
Suggested bidding.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
—	2 NT	—	3 ♣
—	3 ♦	—	6 ♦ *

*Once the Diamond fit is found, it is odds in favour of 6 Diamonds.

Since North for his 2 NT bid must have stoppers in all the suits, he could be placed with the minor suit aces. Barring for the case where North has merely QJx in Spades (too remote for practical consideration) it is almost impossible to construct a 2 NT hand (22 Points at least) with North in which the little slam is not at the worst dependant on a finesse. Six Diamonds is a legitimate quantitative bid.

6 Diamonds by North—5 points.

Unusual No-Trump.

A bid of no-trump, usually an overcall at two level, in a particular situation is deemed to be an unusual no-trump. It is not a bid of the usual variety indicating no-trump distribution and strength, with a stopper in the bid suit. The Unusual No-trump bid was devised to cope up with certain distributional hands; those hands in which ten or eleven cards are held in the Minor suits. This bid does not, therefore, express any desire to play the hand in no-trump. This bidding device which was conceived and developed by A. Roth is widely used by top-ranking bridge players in America.

While an informative double would show major suit strength and call for a major suit response, the no-trump overcall at the level of two demands a minor suit response. This bid is, therefore, made invariably whenever the strength or distribution of the cards is centred round minor suits. Instead of doubling, which will convey quite a different meaning, the player bids no-trump to elicit a minor suit response. An illustration would make the situation clear.

1 ♠—No—2 ♠—No
No 2 NT

Here in this situation the two no-trump bid must be

understood to be unusual no-trump. The opponents have agreed about the spade suit and it is obvious that the partner does not propose to play in no-trump. The partner of the no-trump bidder must therefore bid the minor suit in which he has 4 cards or more. If there is no four card suit he should bid the 3-card minor. Of two 3-card minors he should bid the stronger of the two.

Like many other bids in Bridge the unusual no-trump cannot always be distinguished as such. There is disagreement even among experts on many familiar bids like take-out doubles or the use of Blackwood on bids of four no-trumps. Sometimes take-out doubles are taken to be penalty doubles and scenes at which partners shriek at each other over such misunderstandings are not uncommon.

Here is another instance where bid the of two no-trumps made by East can be taken to be of the unusual variety.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	No	1 NT	No
2 ♥	No	Pass	2 NT

East promises, adequate support for both the minors and there is no guarantee of holding the stopper in the heart suit bid and rebid by the opponent.

The strength of the hand may vary. It may be a good hand with length in both minors or a bad hand but with very good distribution values.

The call of two no-trumps in the following situation can be identified as an unusual no-trump.

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 NT	Pass
2 ♠		2 NT	

West has passed originally and is unlikely to have a very good hand. He is also unlikely to have a stopper in spades which has been bid and rebid. He may have a fairly good hand with support in the minor suits or a bad hand meagre in honor points but good in distribution. He advertises strength in the minor suits and calls upon his partner to choose one of them.

How do we know whether the call of 2 N T on the following situation is unusual No-trump?

1 ♠—No—2 ♠—2 N T

In the absence of unusual no-trump this two no-trump could be a very natural bid showing a very powerful hand. If it is so the chances are that the partner will have a yarborough and it will be very unwise to enter into the auction. If he had a strong hand he would have made a take-out double initially—or would have stood out of the auction completely. Therefore this bid clearly indicates that it is of the unusual variety.

The opening bid of any number of no-trump is a natural bid. The unusual no-trump is used

only when the opponents have opened the bidding. An overcall of one no-trump is usually natural as in the case of 1 S-1 NT or on reopening the bid by a NT in 1 S-P-P-1 NT. The unusual overcall in NT is usually at the level of two or higher.

The unusual no-trump can also be used at one level but as it is very difficult to distinguish it, and as it would interfere with the normal bid it is not recommended. The advantage of unusual no-trump lies in the fact that it enables the players to find a minor suit fit.

It should not be confused with the no-trump overcall over a pre-emptive three bid. Over a bid of three spades a call of 3 no-trumps is a natural bid. Sometimes when two suits are bid by the opponents, one a major, the other the minor, some use this convention to ask for a bid in either of the unbid suits. This is introducing an unusual touch to an unusual bid. This bid can also be used if both the majors are bid. This may either take the shape of a double or a bid of 2 no-trump. In this case the partner is expected to call a minor suit.

A general word of caution is necessary. If a player uses the unusual no-trump he should inform the other players about the meaning and the use of the bid.

The Unusual No-Trump is a convention which should find a place in the repertoire of advanced players. ♣

You, too, can talk Bridge like the Experts

Since there is no doubt whatever that, by this time, all members of the GNYBA can *play* bridge like the experts, it remains only to teach them how to *talk* like the experts they have become. To this end we are printing herewith certain basic phrases, together with the attitudes needed to make them authoritative. All have their origin in one idea—an expert NEVER SAYS "I don't know".

If you have previous knowledge of the hand you raise an eyebrow, assume an incredulous look, and say, "What's the PROBLEM?" This reduces the questioner to the status of Moron-First Class, while you rattle off an auction that gets him to the right contract. This auction need not be intelligent if the result is correct. By now he will feel too stupid to argue.

If the hand in question really presents a problem, several methods of coping are used. The first is, again, the phrase, "What's the problem?" with more emphasis on the first word, and the eyebrow at only half-mast. While he repeats the hand he will almost always supply more information as to the location of cards, which *he* gained after play by looking at all four hands.

This repetition will also give you more time to come up with the right answer.

A second, and most discouraging method of stalling is to say sharply, "Who's my partner?" The answer, "I am", brings forth a gentle sneer at the mere thought of such a possibility and leaves room for the stock statement, "well, with my *regular* partners—". On the rare occasions when the hand is really interesting, or the questioner's ego worth salving, call over one of your regular partners and give him the hand. Since he will also be an "expert" there can be a very profound, if not illuminating discussion of such things as variable constants, and constant variables, deviations from the norm of the acalaris, and the laws of percentage of the frammiss. The propounder of the problem will leave in a deep, but grateful, fog.

If the questioner is trying to trap you with a loaded hand designed to make an "expert" look foolish, and you have reason to suspect the person of such lese-majeste, it may be wise to say, "I never trust a hand given to me on paper", and proceed with a manifestly impossible auction to prove you cannot be hoaxed.

If you don't suspect a catch and fall into the same trap as the trapper, a statement that the object of bidding is to arrive at a sound contract regardless of results, will inflate his ego at little cost to your own.

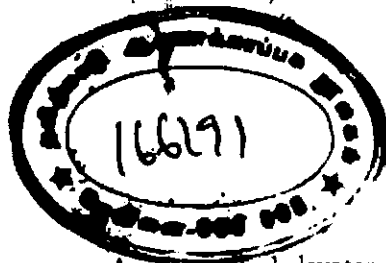
If the inquisitor is one you want out of your hair forever there is more scope for personality. Depending on whether you are more proficient at growling or sneering, you may either say, "You can't be serious," (for growlers or snarlers) as you walk away; or, if sneering is your forte, something along the lines of, "Well, if I were playing with you I would probably—" and interject a ridiculous bid predicated on the idea that your partner (the listener) is a complete

idiot. He should get the point. If he doesn't—take up snarling.

Only two responses are needed to cover most questions concerning play of a hand. The most important is "It's automatic". The fact that this involves finesseing a seven on the first round need not deter you, since you as an expert can think up reasons faster than your inquisitor can think of arguments. The other is "I'd have to be at the table". In addition to getting you off the hook, this makes you appear either a master psychologist or an eagle-eyed wonder.

This endeth the first lesson with the reminder that the badge of the expert is the eyebrow rampant over the curled lip.

(Post Mortem GNYBA.)



In the dark.

As the packed elevator descended lobbyward after the Master Pairs game, the lights suddenly went out. Moaned one of the passengers "Oh! no, not again. This is where my partner kept me all afternoon."—Courtesy, ACBL.

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T. S. Chandrasekaran
Signature of Publisher.