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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION



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(above)

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BACK NUMBERS.—September to December and April, are available at the Publishers—price 1/6 each post free.

THE CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

Edited by
M. HARRISON-GRAY

VOLUME 1

NUMBER 8

JUNE, 1947

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The CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL is the official organ of the English Bridge Union.

Publishers—**Phone—Gloucester 2281/2**
PRIESTLEY STUDIOS, LTD., COMMERCIAL ROAD, GLOUCESTER.

MSS. to Editorial Department—8, WATERLOO PLACE, LONDON, S.W.1.

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Editorial

THE British team that travelled last month to the fringe of the Arctic Circle met with many agreeable surprises and one resounding shock. The first match of the tour was lost by an enormous margin, but at least this fact emerged: Iceland can call on an apparently unlimited supply of first-class players, and their national team may well be capable of carrying off the Championship at the next European Congress.

Our hosts went to extraordinary lengths in their determination to establish a foothold on the bridge map of Europe. Here are a few notes.

The expenses of the tour, amounting to more than £1,500, were defrayed by a circle of enthusiasts, and recovered in part from the enormous gate at each of the matches.

Spectators paid up to £1 per session for the privilege of watching the play!

The entire premises of a newly-opened *cafe* were taken over for a week.

Although the British team took over with them the first set of duplicate boards and other paraphernalia that the Icelandic players had seen, the organisation was perfect from start to finish.

Such is enthusiasm. . . .

Words are inadequate to describe the hospitality, the many acts of kindness, the charm of the Icelandic men and women; or our admiration for a nation which, cut off from the post-war outside world and with such limited natural resources, yet contrives to create an impression of all-round efficiency which is reflected in the quality of its bridge.

In one respect only the Icelandic tour was not a success. The British team was selected with such ingenuity that never at any one time could two pairs of players conversant with each other's play be sent into the fray. We have nothing to add to or detract from S. J. Simon's remarks in *The Observer*, but it is an obvious point that might well be borne in mind by the Selectors on future occasions.

The Stormy Petrel of bridge journalism is at it again in this issue. On another page Guy Ramsey delivers a slashing attack on the Tortoises of bridge.

In our opinion he might well have gone a step further, for it is our conviction that the slowness of their methods militates against the success of some of our star performers. A "trancer" not only appears an indecisive moron, and thereby lends confidence to inferior opponents; but the very fact that something is obviously worrying him is apt to give better class opposition the clue as to their best line of play, particularly in defence.

Be it as it may, a general speed-up would be all to the good of the game, especially in Pairs contests and Congress events. A little bird whispers that the segregation of the experts in the Invitation Teams-of-Four at Harrogate was an experiment based on the intention of giving the lesser lights a better chance of enjoying themselves in the Open events.

It will be interesting to see what steps, if any, the new E.B.U. Committee of Laws and Ethics may take in an attempt to solve this very difficult problem.

M. HARRISON-GRAY.

Ordeal by Time

by Guy Ramsey

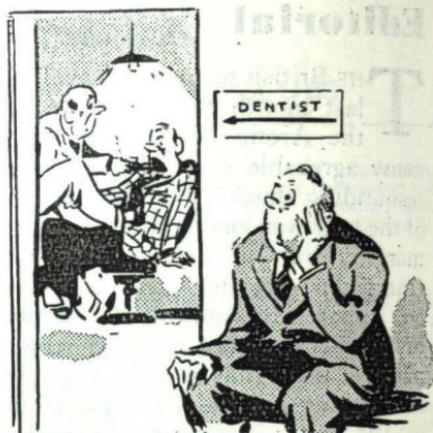
TEN years ago, a famous American player spent $7\frac{1}{4}$ minutes by my watch considering what to lead. He emerged from his consideration—during which he had tied his legs into knots, scanned the ceiling, regarded the floor, shifted first the red suits in his hand and then the black, and finally (to steal Ewart Kempson's phrase) "placed his head in his hands and appeared to be in prayer"—to lead the King from K Q J x x: a lead a palooka would have made without thought, I should have made in ten seconds and most experts would have made in fifteen. In fact, the only possible lead on the hand.

Ten weeks ago, a player heard his partner reverse in Spades, of which he had five to the ten plus a fair hand. Every player in the room found Four Spades—the only possible bid. But

One leading British performer took some three minutes to discover that "4 ♠" was the answer.

S. J. Simon, kibitzing, asked: "Why the trance?" The player replied that he was considering "various alternatives."

And so players who go in for their first duplicate full of hope and enthusiasm; players who attend their first Congress with pleasurable excitement, come away with their spirits depressed with boredom and a resolution never to play in such an event again.



To trance informatorily is either bad play or bad ethics. To trance for the sake of trancing, 99 times out of 100, is sheer stupidity—the hundredth time it is bad sportsmanship: delay to get on opponents' nerves and induce them to make an error of impatience.

With bad ethics and bad sportsmanship, I have dealt in a previous article. My lament today is the futile, boring, unpopular trance that holds up the whole room, makes a match a dreary Ordeal by Time, and induces me to take a book to the table into which I shamelessly dip whenever my patience is at long last exhausted.

The Tragedies of the Trance are two. About the first, nothing can be done: they are due to the fact that one hand or two in a duplicate are difficult and take some time to bid and play. People engaged in the other easy hands *have* to sit and wait for one table before getting on with the next set of boards.

But the second is due to the players—and who are the players that notoriously trance the most? Palookas, striving to recollect just what they ought to lead from A K Q? No. Average players

deliberating on the choice between cross-ruff and setting up a side suit? No. Good players estimating the advantages of reversing the dummy? No.

They are Master Players; not only self-styled, but generally recognised as such.

Ask 100 experts to name the first four players in Britain and you will hear A's name among them. Ask 1,000 tournament players who is the World's Worst Trancer, and you will hear a chorus. A is so brilliant an exponent that he has set a fashion; not for his card-play, which is superb, but for his mannerisms (notably the Trance) which are lamentable. It is as though Beau Brummell's rudeness, rather than his exquisite taste in clothes, should be followed by the mob.

I name A because he has founded the School of Trancing. He has infected the whole of his team and B now out-trances A. C puts such a premium on slow play that, when we played together, he always ascribed my errors to my speed. He was quite wrong: I can make just the same *gaffe* if I think for 10 minutes as if I play in 10 seconds.

It was freely rumoured and repeated—I do not say with justice—that a world-famous team intentionally embarked on a War of Nerves. And bridge is not a game where speed is of the essence. BUT—a very big “but”

Bridge is NOT chess. You have only a limited amount of choice—not the permutations and combinations of 16 pieces any of which can have almost infinite replies, to which your replies and his re-replies and your re-re-replies must be exhausted before you finger a pawn.

This devastating *andante* with never a *scherzo*: this tedious weighing between doubling, over-bidding and passing; this deadly interval to consider if partner will take the Two for a McKenney suit-preference signal or for discouragement; this damnable deadly dullness of play that reduces bridge to the gloom of a three mile race rather than the grace and excitement of a 100-yard sprint . . . surely, surely, it is about time it came to an end?

I call upon A, B, C and the others to fulfil their true function: to set the fashion (which will be rabidly followed, I assure them, by all their slavish imitators, conscious or unconscious) for bright, brisk, attractive play.

Don Bradman, on his last visit to Britain before the war, spoke of playing “attractive cricket” and getting away from the dreary stone-walling of the Timeless Tests that sent spectators certainly, and players possibly, to sleep.

It is for the Master Players to lead the way, or, in other words, *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?*

Cut the boredom from bridge: regard the Trance as a rare, but necessary evil: not as an end in itself; still less as a gallery-play to impress the idiots.

Then and only then will duplicate in all its forms gain the popularity which it deserves and which—irony of ironies!—the very people who detract from its potential, complain it has not.

Only then will the entries for our national competitions reach the proportions that the organisers hope for and work hard to secure.

A Collection of Freaks

by M. Harrison-Gray

DR. PAUL STERN'S article "Experiments with Freak Hands" in our September number seems to have provoked a prolific growth of monstrous hands. Here is a selection of the most interesting deals sent in by our readers.

Hand 1 comes from a rubber played at Hereford.

NORTH			
♠	3		
♥	63		
♦	AK1043		
♣	AJ974		
WEST		EAST	
♠	AJ10754	♠	KQ9862
♥	—	♥	9
♦	82	♦	QJ975
♣	Q10863	♣	K
SOUTH			
♠	—		
♥	AKQJ1087542		
♦	6		
♣	52		

Dealer, South.

North-South, vulnerable.

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
No (!)	No	1 ♦	1 ♠
4 ♥	4 ♠	5 ♣	No
5 ♥	No	No	5 ♠
6 ♥	Dble		

Our correspondent, Mr. H. B. Moulton, decided to try out Dr. Stern's theory of passing as dealer. The subsequent bidding developed very much to his liking. The opponents, lured into the belief that South was merely shooting in the dark, could scarcely wake up to the fact that the grand slam

was a lay-down. The double was music to Mr. Moulton's ears, convinced as he was that East-West must have a profitable non-vulnerable sacrifice. Had the grand slam been bid with confidence, there was nothing to stop them bidding Seven Spades for the loss of 500 points, as against the 2,010 points (360 trick score, 200 overtrick, 750 slam bonus, 700 rubber) which North-South actually scored on the deal.

Hand 2 was submitted by Colonel A. Williams-Freeman, and occurred in a rubber game at the Lymington Club, Hampshire.

NORTH			
♠	AKQ10862		
♥	—		
♦	A1083		
♣	64		
WEST		EAST	
♠	—	♠	—
♥	KQJ8754	♥	A109632
♦	—	♦	64
♣	Q98752	♣	AKJ103
SOUTH			
♠	J97543		
♥	—		
♦	KQJ9752		
♣	—		

Dealer, North.

East-West vulnerable.

Bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
4 ♠	5 ♥	6 ♠	7 ♥
7 ♠	Dble	Redble	

A deal in which both sides have a spread for 13 tricks is indeed a rarity, and the limit was reached with a commendable economy of bids! The bidding is an excellent example of "blasting"—bid what you've got, and to hell with science. Actually it did not quite go as recorded above. Colonel Williams-Freeman, who sat South

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during these hectic exchanges, states that over his bid of Six Spades West made the underbid of Six Hearts. His error having been pointed out, it was corrected with Seven Hearts, but in the general confusion East's illegal double was overlooked and condoned (expensively) by the Colonel's redouble. We offer our sincere sympathy to East-West.

Hand 3 deserves a foreword. Listeners to "Bridge on the Air" may remember the efficient display given in two of my broadcasts by some Army officers who had been for many years prisoners of war in the Far East. The driving force behind the amazing bridge organisation in one of the most festering camps in Siam was Derrick Hirsch, a young South African who is an automatic candidate for any International team. The climax to a season which included every variety of duplicate contest was a grand "International Match" between teams representing the Dutch and British P.O.W's, and here is a deal from that match which even the Japanese watch dogs found interesting.

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

Dealer, North. Game All.

Bidding—Room 1

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
5 ♣	5 ♠	7 ♦	7 ♥

Bidding—Room 2

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	Dbl (!)	2 ♦	4 ♥
4 ♠	7 ♠	7 NT (!)	

Hirsch's "British" team were East-West in Room 1 and North-South in Room 2. The strange happenings in Room 2 are best explained in Derrick's own words:

"At the other table the fun began. Jack Bowman was sitting South, and his partner was an American—playing for the British. They were playing what they considered to be the Stern Austrian system. Their idea of this ever-changing convention was that an opening Club bid meant no five-card suit, strength in the major suits and one quick trick in at least one major. Over East's mysterious double, South dutifully bid the system 'Two Diamonds.' West called an impatient Four Hearts. North now had to think. He wished to play the hand in Clubs, and he wished to make an asking bid in Diamonds. Since Diamonds had been bid by his partner, he couldn't make an initial asking bid in that suit, so decided to put in a waiting bid. He therefore called Four Spades. The Dutchman sitting East, after long consideration, decided that North's call was phoney, and bid Seven Spades. South now stopped to consider. He recalled the arrangement whereby the opening One Club bidder would repeat Clubs at the first opportunity if it was a genuine Club call, and decided that in this case it must

(Continued on page 12).

Personality Page

No. 8

Lady Rhodes

IF you saw her across the dinner table, it would be an insult to call her a veteran ; but if you see Lady Rhodes on your left at the card-table, it would be an insult not to.

For Doris Mary Rhodes, second wife of Sir John Rhodes, Bt., is a deceptively dangerous opponent ; a misleadingly modest partner. She is so pleasant to look at, so charming to talk to, so prone to crime herself for your errors, so remote from the trances intended to impress and the speed designed to dazzle, that she is apt to be under-rated, especially by the "modern" school.

There is no player whose game reveals to such an extent that indefinable something called "style," which perhaps is another word for smooth, easy play combined with graciousness.

But for all Lady Rhodes' unlined face, she has been playing bridge since she was eight ; and playing duplicate since it came to Britain in the early 1930's.

The list of her achievements would read like a column of "Who's Who" or look like the battle honours on the flag of a Guards Regiment. To-day, she would rather play duplicate and lose than rubber bridge and win.

She was an original member of Crockford's although she is to be seen now usually at the Hamilton ; her blue eyes, behind shell-rimmed glasses, intent upon her cards, her smile flashing out when her opponent or her partner achieves a *coup*.

In partnership with Felix Lion, Lady Rhodes won the English Section of the First Culbertson Olympic Pairs ; in 1932 she played for Britain in Crockford's No. 2 team against Holland and Germany at Grosvenor House ; and went to Denmark with Frank England's team in the same year.

Her greatest public triumph came when Beasley played Culbertson at Selfridges in 1933—the first Schwab Cup match. She was brought in when the home side was badly in arrears, and her friends—but no spectators—can still tell you how nervous she was. She was playing with "Pops," the British Captain, and found herself regarding ♠ A 10 9 8 7 ; ♥ — ; ♦ J 10 9 7 6 ; ♣ J 8 2. She responded with One Spade to Col. Beasley's fourth-in-hand opening One Heart ; "Pops" then emerged with Four Clubs !

"Asks" were still in the womb of the future ; Lady Rhodes found the fine natural reply of Five Clubs. Beasley shot to Six Spades and redoubled when Ely doubled.

Still panic-stricken, Lady Rhodes preserved—not British phlegm : she is too graceful for the word to apply, but—outward calm. The applause shook the distant Room 2 as she made the contract. As a matter of interest, Beasley held : ♠ K Q 6 5 4 ; ♥ A K 9 5 3 2 ; ♦ 2 ; ♣ A.

Doris is still wondering what Four Clubs means !

Bridge in India

by J. E. Borrell

In India we take our Bridge very seriously.

At the Theta Beta Club in Calcutta, where the major tournaments are held, teams from distant places, some over 1,000 miles away, compete for the Gold Cup in a knock-out tournament which lasts the whole of the month of December.

Elaborate precautions are taken in the interests of ethical conduct. Each table is located in a separate sound-proof room. The only light in the room is suspended from the roof to within 15 inches of the table so that no player can see his partner and his view of his opponent is sombre and eerie as the reflected light from the green baize of the table top throws upward shadows on his dusky face. The silent spectators sit among the shadows not permitted to change rooms or follow interesting boards.



Every room has its own scorer who records all essential facts when the hand is completed and he obtains the initial from both sides before the post mortem begins.



In this serious setting, as might be expected, the standard of bidding and play, although intolerably slow, is nevertheless high.

The favourite systems employed are Culbertson, the Four Aces, and a One Club—Two Club system which is a combination of the Vienna One Club and Butler-Stern Two Club.

Asking Bids have been popular for a decade and Paul Stern might note these innovations:

Whenever partner has made a negative reply to an opening Two Club bid any subsequent Asking Bid asks for second round control only, the positive reply being in No-Trumps.

Here is a hand where this convention proved very successful.

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

West—the dealer—opened with Two Clubs and received a Two Diamond response. He then showed his suit by bidding Three Diamonds and East acknowledged trump agreement with the bid of Four Diamonds. West now bid Four Hearts to which East showed his second round control by bidding Four No-Trumps, and the small slam was thereupon bid and made without difficulty.

I wonder how many other systems would have found that slam.

Here is another interesting innovation which has a parallel in the Acol system. After an opening Two bid, other than Two Clubs, a jump to Four by responder indicates adequate support but no Aces; that is, he has no reply to any Asking Bid. If, in spite of this reply, an Asking Bid is made, responder is expected to show second round control only. Take this example which was dealt in the Pairs Contest last year.

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

East and West vulnerable.

West dealt and bid Two Diamonds. East jumped to Four Diamonds whereupon West bid Four Spades. East's reply of Four No-Trumps showed the King or a singleton, and so West bid the small slam in Diamonds knowing the Ace was with the opposition. He was doubled by an opponent who held two Aces and the redouble gave this pair a top.

I heard that several pairs reached the slam on this hand and were doubled but no other pair redoubled, presumably because of the absence of information about the Spades.

Many readers will no doubt have watched the Indian cricketers last season and have been delighted in the way they played. They tried to win but they also tried to play cricket as it should be played and succeeded.

So their bridge. They are very keen but they are quick to

acknowledge the skill of their opponents. Their strict observance of the etiquette of the game makes them more than usually careful not to incur penalties for irregularities.

Mis-boarding is unheard of and bids and leads out of turn are scrupulously avoided.

From my own personal experience of tournament play in England and reading Kempson I gather that you in the West are not so particular in these matters.

New Books

Reviewed by M. Harrison-Gray

WINNING TRICKS

By John Brown (Duckworth, 8/6)

Space is short in the *Journal*. If we had to dismiss this book in one word, that word would be "masterly."

There have been books galore on the play of the cards; books by such legendary authors as Watson and Goren; and the question inevitably arises, can a book by a comparatively unknown British player compete with such classics? The answer is, unquestionably, yes. Somehow, for all the author's remorseless analysis (no plot or counterplot by declarer or defender escapes his notice), the "patter" is a little more human; when we study his remarkable collection of example hands we are faced, not with the exotic model with which in our dreams we win the Gold Cup final singlehanded on the last board, but the everyday points in attack and defence that we miss so often through inattention to detail or inadequate technique.

WINNING TRICKS is described as "a book for the average player." That may be so; but there is at least one "Master Player" who realises that he would be a far better man if he read this book from cover to cover, and repeated the process at regular intervals.

It is hoped to publish extracts from this book in the next issue of the *Journal*.

Co-operation by the Defence

by George Baxter

Reprinted from the *British Bridge World*, February, 1937.

CONTRACTS of Three No-Trump, unless they are a "lay-down," commonly resolve themselves into a struggle between the opposing sides to determine which can establish its long suit first. The defending side always has the advantage of the lead, the declaring side the advantage of possessing the balance of high cards, and the opportunity, through the exposure of the dummy, of combining its 26 cards to the best advantage. All the devices, such as unblocking and entry creating plays, which help in the establishment of long suits, are thus easier for the declarer to execute than for the defenders, who to a certain extent have to work in the dark; however the use of a little imagination will often overcome this handicap, as will be seen from the hand which follows:—

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

North opened the bidding with One Club, East overcalled with One Diamond, and South said One Heart. North then bid One Spade, South One No-Trump, North Two No-Trumps, and South raised to game. West duly opened a Diamond and as dummy played low, East correctly finessed the 9; note that it would be wrong for East to win with the Ace, as that would give the declarer two tricks in the suit. As it would not avail him to hold off this trick, South won with the King, and played a small Heart to the Ace; he saw that his only hope lay in establishing the Hearts without letting West into the lead to play another Diamond through the dummy. As the cards lie this plan would be successful nine times out of ten; the second trick would be won by the Queen, and East would have to win the third round with the King. In this instance, however, East obstructed this manoeuvre by playing his King under the Ace. He reasoned that the only hope of defeating the contract lay in finding West with the Jack of Hearts, so that it was essential to make that card an entry for him. As a result of East's play of the Heart King under the Ace, South could not establish the suit without losing a trick to West, and the Diamond lead then enabled the defence to set the contract one trick, making four Diamonds and one Heart. But observe that South could have made certain of the game by putting up the Diamond Queen on the first trick; this play is often missed even by good players.

A rather amusing hand, illustrating good defensive work, occurred in a team-of-four match

for the Tollemache Cup a few days ago:—

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

NORTH

♠	K
♥	10
♦	4
♣	—

WEST

♠	A
♥	K 8
♦	—
♣	—

EAST

♠	—
♥	J 9 4
♦	—
♣	—

SOUTH

♠	9
♥	A Q
♦	—
♣	—

It will be seen that when North plays his last Diamond, the dummy is squeezed; whichever card is thrown, we make the remainder of the tricks. The contract was thus defeated 500 points, although the high cards are almost equally divided between the two sides.

(Continued from page 7)

be an Austrian Club. He thought that his odd distribution must be what Culbertson so delightfully describes as 'the tail end of a cyclonic disturbance in distribution.' He therefore reckoned that in any case West had no Spades, for North must have three or four to the Ten; in which case North must hold either the Ace of Hearts or the King, Queen. He decided that East's Seven Spades was probably on, and that since East could not get in, he could only go one or two down in Seven No-Trumps, which he accordingly bid."

We can well believe that the result of this deal became famous throughout Siam. Incidentally, this extraordinary symmetry of cards emanated from an ordinary pack which was perfectly shuffled.

Neither side was vulnerable, and East dealt. After two passes West opened with a shaded bid of One Spade; North said No Bid, East One No-Trump, and after this had been passed by South and West, North, on his exiguous holding, interposed a Double; East passed, and holding the South cards I decided to pass also, thinking that the opponents would have their work cut out to make One No-Trump. West also passed the double, and so the hand was played in One No-Trump doubled. I opened my fourth best Club, the Queen fell to the King, dummy was entered with the Ace of Clubs, and a small Spade led, which my partner passed, declarer winning with the Queen. The King and another Club were then played, and I was now in the lead after 4 tricks had been won by the declarer. I played a low Spade, dummy played low, and North won with the Jack, and returned a Diamond. We ran off 4 tricks in this suit, and the position then was:

This Side Bedlam

No. 4

by M. Harrison-Gray

THERE is no more offensive person in bridge than the egoist and self-styled expert who makes a habit of saying "I never bid so-and-so on this hand" — "I always reverse on that hand."

If it were put in another way: if a player of real repute were to say "No good player on this earth ever bids in such-and-such a way," the average player in the listening audience is more likely to be profitably impressed.

Writing in the *American Bridge World*, Charles H. Goren says: "I have no special admiration for originality or novelty where bridge methods are concerned. Bridge systems, like shoes, give better



service after they have been broken in. The test is the survival of these methods and their continued use by the more successful players after the passing of years."

This brief digression is inspired by the weird *dicta* laid down on the subject of reverse bidding. Take these hands:



- A. ♠ 10 3; ♥ A K 7 2;
♦ A K 8 4; ♣ K 6 3
- B. ♠ A K Q 7 4; ♥ A Q J 4;
♦ Q J 2; ♣ J
- C. ♠ 9; ♥ A K 9 7 2;
♦ K Q 10 3 2; ♣ Q 4

According to the High Priests of Reversing, hand A should be opened with One Diamond, so that on the second round "the exceptional strength of the hand" (*sic*) can be shown by a reverse bid of Two Hearts. The fact that a sensible partner is more likely to picture the hand as something like ♠ 10 3; ♥ A K J 2; ♦ A Q J 8 4; ♣ K 6 is of minor importance.

Hand B should be opened with One Heart! On the next round you reverse with Two Spades, and on the third round (assuming that partner is such a slave to the cult that he is willing to keep the bidding open indefinitely) you bid Three Spades. This has the effect, we are told, of showing our exact distribution. Again the fact that all the world over this sequence shows a holding of Six Hearts and Five Spades escapes the notice of this particular pundit.

There is no need to violate all the laws of commonsense bidding in order to tell your partner that you hold a good hand. Open with One Spade (Two-Clubbites, if they wish, can bid Two Spades),

and simply use your vocal chords. If partner responds with Two Diamonds, Two Clubs or One No-Trump, force to game by bidding Three Hearts. It's as simple as that.

The instructions laid down for hand C are even more fascinating. You must open with One Diamond, for if you bid One Heart and subsequently bid Diamonds "you deny reversing values" and, horror of horrors, partner may pass! Try to construct any hand on which partner will pass after the sequence 1 ♠—1 ♣—2 ♦, a hand on which he cannot even scratch up a preference bid of Two Hearts, and I think that you will be duly grateful that you have ended in the modest contract of Two Diamonds.

This last example is perhaps the most interesting. It shows that the practitioners of this strange religion have not only to distort the bidding of a good hand for the sake of reversing, but that they even have to bid a perfectly ordinary hand upside down in order not to deny what they consider to be reversing values. *En passant*, we would mention that those writers in the Press who preach their own personal idiosyncrasies, as opposed to the opinions of the army of *successful* players, render a singular disservice to their readers and to the game in general.

Bedlam is the operative word!

From the Religion of Reverse flow a host of minor evils. The worst is a certain type of prepared bid which is an integral part of the "system."

Readers may recall Hand No. 7 in "Crime and Punishment" (December), in which North in

both rooms opened with One Spade, holding:

♠ A J 9 5; ♥ A 10 8 4 3;
♦ A 6 5; ♣ 5

The Welshmen finished in Four Spades, and went four down, vulnerable, when Six Hearts was a lay-down. The English pair's performance was almost equally inept. The reasoning against an honest bid of One Heart is, of course, that the hand is not strong enough for a subsequent reverse of Two Spades.

There are certainly hands on which it is advisable to start with the four-card suit, such as:

♠ A K Q 7; ♥ 10 8 6 4 2;
♦ 7; ♣ K J 2

One Spade gives you a sound rebid of Two Hearts and has the advantage of telling your partner what to lead if your side should have to defend.

The next step brings us to this type of hand:

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

If partner has already passed the hand presents no difficulty: you open with One Spade, and pass any response short of a force. If, however, you are first or second in hand One Spade is asking for trouble, as you must bid again over a suit response. We do not say that it is compulsory to open the bidding with this hand; but Culbertson in his wisdom laid down many years ago that *on this type of hand only* an opening bid of a three-card minor headed by one of the three top honours was the best way out. We might mention that the weak non-vulnerable No-Trump in the Acoll system gets you out of all your troubles on this hand.

The expedient recommended by Culbertson as a last resort is a far cry from the "Prepared Club." We have had many a tilt in the *Journal* against this futile subterfuge, and we merely cross-refer our readers to Hand No. 14 in this month's "Crime and Punishment," which might perhaps be described as the Prepared Club to end all Prepared Clubs.

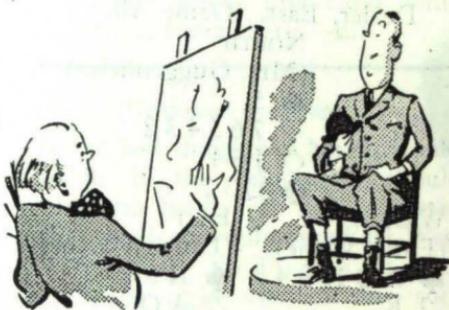
We suspect that slavish devotion to this fashion is inspired more by some dimly remembered *coup*, when a defender was afraid to lead his Club suit against the Prepared Clubber's final No-Trumps contract, than by any genuine belief in its virtues.

Again, we suspect that the players who open One Club on ♠ K J 10 7 ; ♥ A Q 10 8 ; ♦ A 10 2 ; ♣ 3 2 are to some extent affected by the old woman's dread of being doubled in a suit contract when she holds only four trumps in her hand. It's so much easier to coax partner into naming his major suit so that *he* can play the hand if the final contract is sticky! The question of opening bids in a four-card major is a subject in itself, and although such bids are barred in the Vienna and Kempson systems—systems which otherwise have commendable features, but which are compelled to fall back on artificial and semi-artificial compromises—we can only refer, we hope without malice, to Goren's final paragraph at the beginning of this article.

The paramount necessity, recognised by the bulk of successful players, is that of showing the distribution of the hands. Only when this has satisfactorily been revealed can the partnership decide whether their high card strength,

combined with distributional fit, will permit them to contract for game or slam. Most of the bidding sequences in the Baron system, for instance, incredibly complicated and dangerous though they may appear to the layman's eye, are based on the praiseworthy theory that at all costs a picture must be painted of the partner's suit lengths.

(To be continued)



REPERCUSSION

To The Editor.

SIR,
I was much interested in "Endplay's" article in the May issue on the Masters' Individual Tournament, in which he attempts to summarise the characteristics of 12 seeded players. To my mind there are but two main features of comparison on which a player's merits can be judged once he has attained the giddy height of a Master. These are Flair and Defence.

The first is catered for in "Endplay's" article but of the second no word. Nothing will convince me that "A" plays better than "B" or that "C" bids better than "D"—in the long run there can be so little in it as to make it impossible to judge—but find me a player who consistently produces an awkward lead, who least often presents the declarer with an unmakeable 3 NT contract, who knows when to double and when to pass (and regards this as part of the defence) and you've got the man who really can qualify as Bridge Player No. 1.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH KONSTAM (Cairo)

Another Rubber at the Club

No. 7

by S. J. Simon

(The famous quartette from "Why You Lose at Bridge" continue their game)

Dealer, East. Game All.

NORTH
(Mrs. Guggenheim)

♠ 5
♥ 7 6 5 4 3 2
♦ J 5 4
♣ Q 3 2

WEST EAST
(Futile Willie) (Unlucky Expert)

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

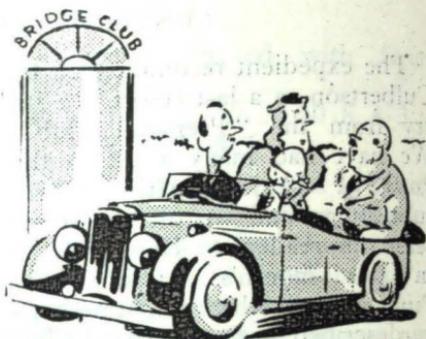
SOUTH
(Mr. Smug)

♠ J 7 6 2
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ K 3 2
♣ J 5

The bidding

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 ♣	No bid	1 ♠	No bid
2 NT (a)	No bid	3 ♦ (b)	No bid
4 NT (c)	No bid	5 NT (d)	No bid
6 ♦ (e)	No bid	6 ♠ (f)	No bid
7 ♦ (g)	No bid	7 NT (h)	

Futile Willie and the Unlucky Expert surpass themselves. The sad thing about the affair is that up to a point the bidding was excellent, and the point where it went off the rails so delicate that I doubt if many of the analysts reading this will spot it for themselves before I explain it. It was not Futile Willie's bid of Three Diamonds. I, personally, approve that one.



However, let's take it slowly.

(a) The best available rebid. There are too many tenaces in the hand to recommend a reverse bid of Two Diamonds.

(b) Why get clever? But what is West to bid if he doesn't get clever? Four Spades? Much too weak—partner is certain to pass and a slam is more than probable. Five Spades? Not very desirable, clearly. A quantitative bid of Four No-Trumps? An improvement—but the hand might play better in Spades and that bid is not likely to get it there.

Three Diamonds makes an admirable waiting bid and should be safe enough—there is always the shift back to Spades if partner shows enthusiasm for Diamonds. And stopping a Diamond lead might well be the difference between making and going down in Six Spades. As it is.

(c) An unusual bid to follow the limited rebid of Two No-Trumps. But in this case justified by the immense improvement of the hand with the supposed Diamond fit. The bid of Four No-Trumps is the best way of indicating this new super-fit to partner.

(d) Thoughtless and disastrous! Partner has shown enthusiasm for Diamonds. He has shown wild enthusiasm. The Diamonds do not exist. Therefore, at all costs,

partner must be weaned away from Diamonds and given no chance to go back to them. The bid over Four No-Trumps should be a firm Six Spades, giving partner the impression that there is an Ace missing and stopping all further nonsense about Diamonds.

But, of course, Futile Willie wasn't thinking of all this. He made the automatic book response.

(e) The Unlucky Expert regretfully bids Six Diamonds only. After all partner might not have the Knave of Diamonds.

(f) Futile Willie makes a rapid transfer.

(g) The unethical rapidity might have warned the Unlucky Expert that something had gone wrong. But the Unlucky Expert is not built on such lines. He settled down to work out the scientific meaning of the bid. And presently he got there.

West must hold something like ♠ A J 10 x x x; ♥ x x x; ♦ K J x x; ♣ A, and was asking him to bid Seven Diamonds if he held Ace and Queen of Diamonds. That must be the answer. After all, his own bid of Four No-Trumps had prevented West from making that bid himself. Yes, that was it. A very good bid by Futile Willie, he approved mentally, as he bid the grand slam.

(h) The Unlucky Expert changes his opinion of Futile Willie's previous bid.

THE PLAY

Mr. Smug led the Knave of Hearts. The Unlucky Expert won, studied the dummy, and decided to play for miracles. He played off the Ace of Clubs, hoping to drop an honour. This failing, he took the Diamond

finesse. After that the Spades failed to break and the result was five down.

POST-MORTEM

"And I didn't double," said Mr. Smug sadly.

P.S.—Very sad, but *I* was the Unlucky Expert this time.—

S.J.S.

P.P.S.—We too seem to have come across this hand some time, somewhere.—Ed.

(Continued from page 19)

is the last thing that North would relish if the opponents should play the hand. It will be noted that this lead would give East-West 9 tricks in No-Trumps, if they take the right view of the suit, without having to play on the Clubs.

Obviously the English East-West in Room 1 should have made attempt to buy the contract, although it might be argued in some circles that East's hand is not of the type on which to double informatorily or to bid 1 NT, and that West must think twice before reopening the bidding after his partner has passed over 1 ♠.

South's mysterious bid of 1 NT in Room 2 is explained by the fact that the system used by the English pair compels South to bid over East's double if his hand contains *less than 5 points*. The Irish East-West players had no intention of letting them escape from this self-dug pit, but it is difficult to see why North was allowed to make 6 tricks in his contract of 2 ♦. On this bidding many expert Easts would lead off with a small trump, which gives North a ghastly ride.

Crime and Punishment

14

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

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

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

Dealer, North
 North-South vulnerable.

Bidding—Room 1

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	No bid	1 ♦	4 ♠
4 NT	No bid	5 NT	No bid
7 ♦			

♥ K led. South made 13 tricks.
 2,140 points to North-South.

Bidding—Room 2

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	No bid	1 ♦	4 ♠
Dble			

♥ A led. West made 10 tricks.
 540 points to East-West.

COMMENT

Let us dwell briefly on the first set of bidding before giving our pop-eyed readers the solution to



the Great Room Two Mystery. Over West's barricade bid of 4 ♠ North makes his only possible call—4 NT. This pair were using the Culbertson version, and its superiority over the Blackwood on this type of hand is clearly marked. South's 5 NT response shows the fourth Ace and the Kings of both suits bid by the partnership, so that the grand slam automatically follows. The Blackwood would merely locate ♦ A, unless North feels inclined to carry the bidding



to perilous heights in his enquiries for Kings—which may or may not turn out to be the right ones.

We do not wish to pour salt on an open wound, so we refrain from giving a clue as to the identity of the actors in this drama. The explanation of the monstrous happenings in Room 2 is relatively simple. North-South

were addicts of the Prepared Club, with a rare and wonderful embellishment: a response of 1 \diamond is merely a request to partner to bid a four-card major suit—in other words, South does not know that in this case North has a genuine Club suit, and North is equally ignorant of South's Diamond holding. To start showing one's real suit at the Five level is embarrassing, to put it mildly, and North little dreamt that in doubling 4 \spadesuit he would fail to obtain a good score for his side.

The defence was equally unfortunate. South played \heartsuit 7 on the opening Heart lead, and this was interpreted as a strength-showing signal. A Diamond switch was ruffed by West, and North, in the lead with \spadesuit A, decided that a Club switch might lose a trick if West held the King. In any event, dummy appeared singularly innocuous; so a second Diamond was led, and it was all over—bar the inquest.

A loss of 2,680 points on one hand is a heavy price to pay for the dubious benefit of bidding by cypher. We have often thought of giving titles to these hands, and we should like to think that in years to come this grotesque *expose* will be referred to as "the Death Knell of the Prepared Club."

A busman's holiday in the revitalising air of Iceland will no doubt fortify us against the task of replying to all those readers who will write in to say that they use the Prepared Club and its appendages, but that such a thing could never happen to them.

15	NORTH
	\spadesuit J 6 5 4 2
	\heartsuit Q
	\diamond K Q J 2
	\clubsuit K J 7
WEST	EAST
\spadesuit K 8	\spadesuit A 9 7 3
\heartsuit J 10 9	\heartsuit A K 8 2
\diamond 9 7 6	\diamond A 8 4
\clubsuit A Q 9 8 6	\clubsuit 10 4
	SOUTH
	\spadesuit Q 10
	\heartsuit 7 6 5 4 3
	\diamond 10 5 3
	\clubsuit 5 3 2

Dealer, North.

North-South vulnerable.

Bidding—Room 1

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 \spadesuit	All pass		
	\heartsuit K led.	North made 6 tricks.	
100 points to East-West.			

Bidding—Room 2

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 \spadesuit	Dble	1 NT	Dble
2 \diamond	Dble		
	\heartsuit K led.	North made 6 tricks.	
500 points to East-West.			

COMMENT

This hand occurred in the Camrose Trophy match between England and Northern Ireland, and resulted in a gain to the latter of 400 points.

We will defend to our dying day the principle of opening light when the occasion arises, but North's bid of 1 \spadesuit in both rooms has little to commend it. North-South are vulnerable, and East-West are not; there is no rebid if South responds with 2 \heartsuit ; and the lead of a Spade by partner

(Continued on page 17)

CROSSWORD

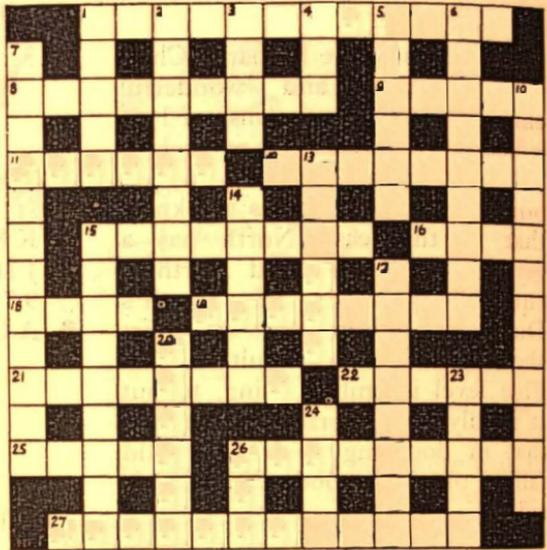
Number

Eight

by

Carmel Skidelsky

DEvised FOR THE
BRIDGE PLAYER



CLUES

ACROSS

1. e.g., Touching wood. (12)
8. Their official information is disastrous. (4, 2, 3)
9. (and 6 down). Popular method of finessing. (5, 4, 5)
11. Height of consent. (3, 3)
12. Pureloth. (8)
15. At bridge the answer can only mean seven. (5, 3)
16. See 18.
18. & 16. Tom tom. (4, 4)
19. Let off. (8)
21. Rescues. (8)
22. & 25. x x. (6, 5)
25. See 22.
26. Correctly raised? (9)
27. The only players who can ever call eight. (1?)

DOWN

1. Insignificant holdings. (5)
2. Original copy of a treaty. (8)
3. Dissolute scrape. (4)
4. Beat. (3)
5. Royal headgear. (6)
6. See 9 Across
7. Is Natural Bidding? (12)
10. London Pride. (4, 2, 6)
13. Perfumes. (6)
14. Exclusive. (6)
15. Notorious. (9)
17. x x (8)
20. Disarrange. (6)
23. Bubbles. (5)
24. Covered. (4)
26. Fly trap. (3)



Result of our
May
Crossword

The Laws of Contract Bridge

3

by Frederick Williams

It would not surprise me to find Law 28 (3) quietly dropped. The penalty of 50 points for irregularly looking at a quitted trick was sensible—in theory. In practice, if one insists upon it, one is made to feel outside the pale. Incidentally, the general impression seems to be that if permission is asked and given, there is no penalty; but, of course, the only exceptions are those specifically prescribed in the Law.

I surmise that one other little matter will be clarified. This concerns explaining their "rights" to the opponents. Of course, if an opponent asks a question, one naturally gives him a courteous and correct answer; but there is no obligation to go out of one's way to put the opponents wise. If they lack knowledge of their rights, that is their fault. It is on all fours with the specific ruling that "it is not wrong to keep silent in regard to a revoke by one's own side"

The point is well illustrated by the following incident:

East opened with 1 ♠. West responded with 3 ♣. East 4 ♠. South led a ♥. Dummy's hand went down, showing seven Clubs headed by K, Q, J, 10, and also ♦ A. East took the first trick with ♥ A, and drew trumps. He then led ♣ 9, taking over in dummy and continuing with the suit, declarer discarding losing ♥ and ♦. As and when the respective players failed to follow suit, the

partner enquired, "Having no Clubs?" Then South said to declarer, "How is it that you only have three cards left, while the others have four?" This started the fun. The missing ♣ A was found in the other pack! East asked South, "What is the position?" South replied, "The ♣ A belongs to your hand and you are liable for revoking." East retorted, "How can you say I revoked when I never had the Ace in my hand? With the Ace I should have had a lay-down Grand Slam." "Maybe," said East; "but it is your responsibility to see that you hold thirteen cards. The Law is perfectly clear on the matter."

An appeal was made to two members of the Card Room Committee who were watching, and—just as one might expect—they referred to Law 24 (2): which concerns the restoration of a missing card without penalty; but is only applicable to the Auction Period. South said, "You are looking at the wrong Law. If you refer to the right one, you will see there is no doubt about the penalty for revoking." Instead of pursuing the enquiry, the Committee men suggested that it would be a fair settlement to treat the hand as a "wash out." East had visions of a very heavy penalty, being vulnerable and having revoked quite a number of times. He was glad to be let off scot free, as he thought. South, of course, had no objection.

North-South won the rubber and stakes were duly settled. Then South murmured, "You fellows ought to study the Laws a little." He explained, "I suggested that you should look at the right Law. Had you done this, you would have seen that the penalty for

revokes *with a missing card* is limited to two tricks. Therefore, as you made all thirteen tricks, less two for the revokes, you had your four Spades in the bag with an over-trick. You would have had game and rubber!"

"Why the (blue pencil) didn't you say so at the time?" asked East. "Why should I?" replied South. "I gave correct information; but it's not up to me to explain your rights to you."

This, it may be noted, was duly confirmed by the Portland Club Committee as perfectly proper.

The incident also serves to illustrate the utility of more copious cross-referencing in the Laws.

Finally, I hope to find that the Portland Club will nail its flag to the mast on the question of artificial conventions. It is not generally known that in the Portland Club itself all artificial conventions are forbidden. In its Laws, however, the Portland Club sanctions the use of such conventions. This is understood to be a case of holding a candle to the devil: or perhaps it should be said, of not wishing to clash with the players in the U.S.A., who insist upon such conventions as an integral part of the game.

ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

LIST OF SECRETARIES

- ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION (also BRITISH BRIDGE LEAGUE)—H. D. King, Esq., 21 Hale Grove Gardens, N.W.7.
- ESSEX CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION—F. M. Fletcher, Esq., 22 Fontayne Avenue, Chigwell, Essex.
- DERBYSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION—W. Burnstone, Esq., c/o Town Clerk's Office, Market Place, Derby.
- DEVON CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION—Mrs. Hardman, Livermeads Cliff Hotel, Torquay.
- GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION—S. E. Franklin, Esq., Belmont Avenue, Hucclecote, Glos.
- HERTFORDSHIRE CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION—P. R. Hall, Esq., 128 Piggotts Hill Lane, Harpenden. (Phone 3735).
- KENT CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION—Mrs. Harvey, 24 Molyneux Park, Tunbridge Wells.
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- NORTH WESTERN CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION—W. H. Preece, Esq., 14 Brown Street, Manchester.
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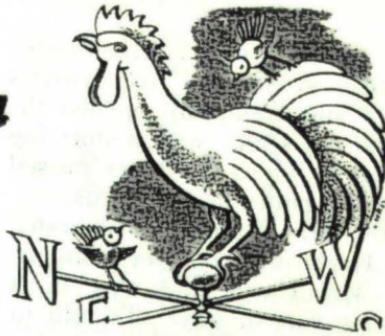
Far The Northern Outlook

by Ewart Kempson

TOGETHER with M. Harrison-Gray (captain), J. O. Hastie, J. Marx and S. J. Simon, we travelled to Iceland as a member of the British team. Of the seven matches played, the British team won six and lost one.

We lost to Messrs. A. Jonsson, B. Johannsson, E. Porfinsson, G. Palsson, H. Thordarson and L. Karlsson by 7,720. We defeated Messrs. L. Fjelsted, P. Magnusson, T. Jonsson, H. Eiriksson, S. Ingvarsson and E. Goumundsson by 3,500; Messrs. H. Dungal, P. Halldorsson, H. Thorarinsson, L. Bjarmason and I. 'Asmundsson by 5,000; Messrs. B. Stefansson, S. Stefansson, G. Gudmundsson and G. Gudmundsson by 900; Messrs. G. Petursson, S. Petursson, S. Petursson, E. 'Aqustsson and O. Gudmundsson by 700; Professor Steinn Steinn, Messrs. S. Stefansson, T. Johannsson and G. Palsson by 2,500; Messrs. E. Benonysson, J. Johannsson, Zophonias Petursson and G. Moller by 5,000.

Discussing our prospects before the journey we paid particular attention to what Mr. Marx had to say. Having been stationed in Iceland during the war, Mr. Marx was able to give us first hand information on the ability of our opponents and hosts. From what we gathered, it appeared that



Mr. Marx toured Iceland with a hurricane lamp searching for a game of bridge. Dragging his feet wearily from shack to shack (a St. Bernard at his heels), Mr. Marx eventually gave up the struggle and continued with the war effort.

The other members of the team naturally concluded that little or no bridge was played in Iceland and that we should not be seriously troubled. Only later did it transpire that Mr. Marx had never tried to get a game of bridge at all. Only later did we learn that Mr. Marx had been busily engaged during his stay in Iceland. Apparently he was learning the language and still remembers certain important phrases such as "Oh! come on, baby." His teacher was a young Icelandic widow.

Mr. Arni Math Jonsson's team would hold their own in any company. Each member played steadily and accurately against us and, while the margin of 7,700 points was an exaggeration of their superiority, there is no doubt that the better team won deservedly.

We were not unduly worried when we were 2,500 down after 40 boards because each member of the British team knew he had been playing well below form. The entire team (except Mr. Hastie) decided that our best chance was

to continue without Mr. Hastie, so that grand pair of Acolytes (Marx and Kempson) opened the second day's play with a storming session in which the latter missed only two games in six boards.

Mr. Gray promptly requested Mr. Hastie to take over from us, and Mr. Hastie did this in a sneering sort of way. To add to our annoyance, Mr. Hastie had a fair share in reducing the deficit to a mere 500.

The session ended at Board 72 with Iceland 1,500 in front and, during the interval, we made a magnificent speech to the other members of the team. It was obvious to us that the inexperienced Iceland team would crack, and we said so. The final session started and Gray, Simon, Marx and Hastie took their places with our words of encouragement ringing in their ears: "Go to it, boys; stick to the famous Kempson motto of More Tricks and bear in mind that these inexperienced players will crack."

Eight hands later Iceland led by 4,400 and Mr. Simon asked with some impatience when he could expect the cracking to start.

Mr. Gray called his team together and said something like this: "We only have 20 boards to go (do you follow me?) so our prospects of winning are not too bright. If we start shooting (do you follow me?) we may lose by some silly margin, so let's keep steady and (do you follow me?) we may get it all back."

It was lucky that the policy of "no shooting" was decided on because Messrs. Gray and Simon bid only one grand slam during the next eight boards. As it happened, this was defeated, but

only by the comparatively narrow margin of five tricks. (Please turn to page 16.—*Ed.*)

In the closing stages the Icelanders at last cracked, one of them inexcusably pitching away 30 points. The final margin was 7,720.

Mr. Arni Math Jonsson now informed us that "tomorrow you meet the champion team, but you need not worry; they only beat us by a narrow margin." We spent a weary night not worrying!

We sampled much of the world-famous Icelandic hospitality and spent eight very happy days in Reykjavik, but we are bound to confess that the nights were fairly hideous.

We are all in favour of having twin beds clamped together, but not when the other twin is occupied by Mr. Hastie, as it most certainly was.

Being very tired we went to sleep on the first night as soon as our head touched the pillow. Almost at once we had a nightmare. We dreamed that we were looking into the roaring furnace of Mount Hekla. The noise was deafening and we put out a hand in a sort of defensive way.

It was at this moment we awoke to discover that Mount Hekla was, in fact, Mr. Hastie who, awakening simultaneously and seeing our outstretched hand, bit it and said "none of that," turned over and started snoring again.

On the last night of our stay, a party began at midnight and continued until we had to leave to catch the plane.

Thank you, Iceland.

Problem Corner

by "TENEX"

No. 8

" ? "

No trumps

NORTH

♠ A 3
♥ K 10 4
♦ A 8 6
♣ 9 7 5 3 2

WEST

♠ 10 8 6 4 2
♥ J 9 7
♦ Q J 3 2
♣ K

EAST

♠ Q 5
♥ Q 5 3 2
♦ 9 7 5
♣ J 8 6 4

SOUTH

♠ K J 9 7
♥ A 8 6
♦ K 10 4
♣ A Q 10

Lead: Queen of Diamonds.

Attempts to christen this problem have so far produced "By Degrees" and "A-Q-10," neither of which seem sufficiently specific. Solve the problem, and send your analysis, comments, and proposed title to "Tenex, c/o The Contract Bridge Journal, etc." General correspondence on the subject, and examples will also be welcomed.

If you did not see last month's problem get a friend to arrange the cards from the solution given below. Hearts were trumps and the lead was the King of Diamonds. How many tricks can North-South make?

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

	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
7.	♣ 5	♣ 9	♠ 3	♥ 7
8.	♦ 3	♣ 10	♠ 5	♥ 5
9.	♠ 7	♠ 2	♠ 6	♠ A
10.	♦ 5	♠ 4	♠ K	♠ Q
11.	♣ 6	♠ J	♠ 8	♦ 8
12.	♣ J	♣ 4	♠ 9	♣ Q
13.	♦ J	♦ 10	♠ 10	♣ 7

If North wins trick 1 West's ♦ J is set up. It does not matter much whether East plays ♥ Q at trick 3 or trick 5. The object is to keep West out. If East holds up ♥ Q any longer he gives the easy alternative of being thrown in to lead Spades back to South's major tenace. If the middle Clubs are not cleared from North, East can refuse ♠ Q, but if they are this allows West to be put in to lead back into South's other major tenace. If East wins the Spade his return forces a discard from his partner.

The last four tricks constitute an end-play that I do not remember finding elsewhere—the throw-in versus the squeeze of the same opponent. Trick 11 you would probably call an unavoidable suicide squeeze, but I prefer "gift-bridge key"! East bridges the gap from North to South, giving access to the key or squeeze-card.

It is curious how ♦ J dominates the play from the first trick to the last.

Bergholt describes this hand as "the fine problem by Mr. (W. H.) Whitfield which formed the final hand in the *Daily Mirror* Bridge Tournament (December, 1903). This proved a fatal stumbling-block to numerous competitors, who failed to see the necessity, in the main line of play, for getting rid of the ten, nine, and eight of Clubs."

South's ♠ A, which must be kept until after East's trump entry, then becomes free, and can be taken before, between or after the last two trumps. This constitutes a slight lapse from strict play, but it is very difficult to see how it could be avoided. In fact there is little doubt that Whitfield would have done so if at all possible, as his faculty for knitting a hand together was of a very high order. Later examples of his work will provide ample evidence of this.

Meanwhile let us try to approach the problem from an analytical standpoint. At the first glance North-South have three Spades, four Hearts, a Diamond and two Clubs; but East-West have a Heart, a Diamond and a Club, together with a second Diamond if West is allowed the lead. West can be shut out by refusing the first trick, and then "contra-finessing" the trumps through East—high on low, low on high—but this leaves North without entry for taking the Spade finesse. If South runs out his winners and then offers a Spade to East the end-play develops as seen already.

It is worth looking at the composer's use of the four suits, as this is a sure clue to the merit of a composition. The Diamonds house the dominant Knave; trumps provide the shut-out play; and the black suit tenaces surround the table—Clubs requiring to be unblocked, and Spades avoided altogether!

By the way, the solution to last month's miniature is lead $\diamond J$ and drop $\diamond 9$. East must win and return, so as to avoid the cross-ruff, and South is in to lead the last trump for the compound fork.

At some time or other most readers will probably have come across "the father of double-dummy bridge problems":

NORTH: ♠ 7 6, ♥ J 4, ♣ A 3;

EAST: ♥ 10 5 3, ♦ Q 7, ♣ 6;

SOUTH: ♥ A K 6, ♦ 10 9,
♣ 10;

WEST: ♥ Q 9, ♦ J 6, ♣ J 8

Spades are trumps, and South is in the lead.

Here is what Ernest Bergholt has to say:

"This problem was first published in the *Field* of January 31st, 1885, being prefaced by a letter to the Editor, signed 'W.H.W.' The author opined that it was probably the hardest problem that could be constructed out of six cards in each hand.*

"There is a legend that Richard A. Proctor, the astronomer and writer on Whist, solved it in twelve minutes . . . Mr. C. D. P. Hamilton, an expert chess and card analyst, confesses that, if the legend be true, Proctor beat *his* record by about three weeks.

"This unique combination of cards has been reproduced in numberless periodicals all over the world, in most cases without acknowledgment of its authorship."

And in another place Bergholt remarks that this problem "was once ruined by a New York Editor, who imagined he could vary the presentment of it by turning it upside down and making North the original leader. In that case the six tricks could be won by the lead of *either* the Knave of Hearts *or* a trump; the defect thus introduced being fatal to the merit of the supposed 'new' problem."

* "Have readers any counter suggestions?"

Around the Competitions

ENGLAND v. C.B.A.I.

The E.B.U. sent to Dublin a powerful team (Tarlo, Reese, Meredith, Shapiro, Cotter, Tottenham) with the laudable intention of avenging last year's tragedy-comedy at Southport. The result was the all too familiar one of the English players, individually capable of out-playing their opponents, incurring one adverse swing after another on the big hands, and a series of artistic minor gains was barely adequate to keep them within striking distance of their steady opponents.

The plight of the E.B.U. team was so parlous that, as in the match against Northern Ireland, their non-playing Captain resorted to a panic change of personnel for the last few boards. As was the case at Belfast, one of the best Irish pairs obligingly cracked at this critical juncture, and the match was handed to England on a platter.

For this a major share of the credit must be given to Reese and Shapiro, for they combined in a perfectly timed psychic performance on board 92 that had a devastating effect on the Irish morale.

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

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

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

SOUTH
 ♠ J 10 9 7 5 4
 ♥ K J
 ♦ 7 5 4
 ♣ 6 2

Dealer, East.

North-South vulnerable.

Bidding—Room 1

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
No bid	No bid	No bid	2 NT
No bid	3 ♠	No bid	4 ♠

♥ 9 led. South made 12 tricks.
 680 points to North-South.

Bidding—Room 2

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 ♥ (!)	No bid	1 ♠ (!)	Dble
2 ♥	No bid	No bid	2 NT
No bid	No bid (!)		

♣ 10 led. North made 9 tricks.

150 points to North-South.

The Irish South in Room 2 has no doubt kicked himself ever since for his failure to realise that the number of Spades in the pack is limited to 13, but the home team must be counted unlucky to run into the type of bidding which only two first-class players, conscious of the dire need of the moment, are capable of producing.

From this point the English forged right ahead and ran out winners by 1,950. The Irish deserve praise for their usual plucky performance, the English at least for rising to the occasion in a dramatic finish.

Now that the E.B.U. can call on players of the calibre of Reese, Meredith and Shapiro, it is too much to hope that one day we may see in action an English team that will play bridge of International standard throughout the match, instead of giving us heart failure for the first 90 boards? The remedy must surely be obvious, even to the Selectors.

M. H.G.

THE CAMROSE TROPHY

SCOTLAND v. C.B.A.I.

Scotland won this match by 1,610 points, and thus shares with England the distinction of being the only unbeaten country. The season appears likely to be our best since the League was instituted.

At the end of the first day's play Scotland deservedly held a lead of 3,000, which could not be attributed to luck as the Irish bidding and play was frequently inferior. On the second day the Irishmen were still unconvincing, yet contrived to halve the margin, due to a deterioration in standard by all the Scottish pairs. The winning margin would have been nullified for a non-vulnerable grand slam which required a finesse against the King of trumps and an error in defence. This was the hand:

CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

NORTH

♠ A Q 7 6 5
♥ K 10 3 2
♦ A
♣ K 4 3

WEST

♠ K 9 4 3
♥ Q J 8 5
♦ 7 6 4
♣ J 9

EAST

♠ 2
♥ 7 6 4
♦ 8 5 2
♣ Q 8 7 6 5 2

SOUTH

♠ J 10 8
♥ A 9
♦ K Q J 10 9 3
♣ A 10

Dealer, South. Love All.

The Irish North-South bid 6 ♠ and made 13 tricks. In the other room ♣ 6 was led against 7 ♠. Dummy won, and ♠ J was followed with ♠ 10, which West covered with ♠ K. Declarer played ♦ A and crossed to dummy with ♥ A; three rounds of Diamonds followed, the third of which was trumped by West and over-trumped by North. Had West discarded on this trick, North would be in the position of having to trump in order to reduce her Spades to the number held by West, and must then enter dummy for the trump coup against West's ♠ 9 4. If she attempts to ruff a Club, West will over-trump, but if she selects a Heart the grand coup will succeed.

The number of slams missed was high, but this was somewhat compensated for by the fact that neither team bid an unmakeable slam throughout the match.

ALBERT BENJAMIN

THE GOLD CUP

The four teams to contest the semi-final at the Cheltenham Congress are captained by L. Baron (holders, London), M. Harrison-Gray (London), George Nelson (Leeds) and D. McAllister (Bridgend). For the first time for many years the draw was a reasonably balanced one, and the two provincial teams have got through on sheer merit.

Baron journeyed North to tackle a well-known Gold Cup obstacle in the shape of Manson's Edinburgh team. The Scots played their best, and had a comfortable half-time lead; there

were further shocks in store for the Londoners, including a 6 ♣ contract bid by them with K 6 2 of trumps in *declarer's* hand and Q 7 5 4 3 in dummy. Two tricks had to be conceded, whereas 6 ♥ was a lay-down. Fortunately the Scots went one better and reached 7 ♥, missing ♣ A, so that the swing on the hand was nil, and Baron eventually won by 3,560 (all matches in the quarter-finals consisted of 64 boards).

Ramsey, surprise team of this year's contest, had to face Nelson's formidable Leeds team, who had eliminated Brown's consistent Grimsby quartette in the previous round. Yorkshire had a slight edge in a fine match, in which Ramsey himself was outstanding.

Alpar, captaining a London team with a fine record, could make no impression on McAllister's dangerous Bridgend team. An enormous swing on a slam hand saw them over 3,000 down at half-time, and all they could do was to reduce the arrears to 1,520 by playing their best.

Sensation of the season was the spectacular from shown by the Harrison-Gray team in defeating Frith's Nottingham team, winners of many events in open competitions, by the margin of 10,200. This was not the only record in a match played at the rate of 14 boards an hour!

Should the draw bring Baron and Harrison-Gray together in the final with both teams at their best, the most memorable Gold Cup final of many years should be witnessed.

CROCKFORD'S CUP

The arrangements for the most important final in the E.B.U. calendar are not yet fixed, but it is safe to say that the cream of our tournament players will line up for this 8-team tourney, which will be held on the premises of the club that donated the trophy. At the same time Mayer and Oldschool must be counted unlucky, as the luck of the draw caused their elimination in the semi-final, whilst E. P. C. Cotter was defeated sensationally by Carpenter's Durham-Edinburgh team, the only provincial combination to reach the final.

THE LADY MILNE CUP

As usual, there have been surprises galore in this ladies' event. As in the Whitelaw Cup last year, the powerful Hamilton Club team captained by Mrs. Fleming was beaten by Mrs. Williams in an early round; the winners then lost by 180 points to Mrs. Griffith (Croydon). Miss Kleuser (Nottingham) and Mrs. Cristord (Warwickshire), winner and runner-up in the Whitelaw, also disappeared in the early stages. Mrs. Griffith now plays Mrs. Selby, who has shown consistent form, in the semi-final. The winner will meet in the final Mrs. Morgan (Cardiff), who reached this stage by virtue of a fine 1,710 win against Mrs. Harrison (Grimsby).

THE HUBERT PHILLIPS BOWL

Fancied teams have gone out like ninepins in this event for mixed teams of four. Jacobs (Birmingham) beat Frith (Nottingham), and will thus be the provincial representative in the final. This unexpected result was due to one of the cruelest revokes ever claimed in a duplicate match. Their London opponents will be the winners of the clash between Fraser Allan and Stern.

THE RICHARD LEDERER MEMORIAL CUP

The T.B.A. Inter-County Championship produced an epic struggle. Baron, nominated by the London Association in addition to Pearlstone (holders), made a disastrous start, and the end of the first session saw Yorkshire, playing with their usual fierce tenacity, in a clear lead with 23½ points. Pearlstone was second with 18, Baron, Lancashire and Kent next best with 15½ apiece.

Baron's players did really well in the second session, and the contest ended in sheer drama: when they came to play their last set of boards, Yorkshire were still 1½ points ahead. When they came to the last board they were dead level; these were the East-West hands:

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

Baron reached 3 ♠ at the first table, and found that 10 tricks could not be missed, as North held ♠ K 5. Their fate appeared sealed when their opponents at the other table bid to 4 ♠ in their stride.

Meredith, sitting South, had to lead from ♠ 10 9; ♥ Q 8 2; ♦ J 9 6 2; ♣ K 8 5 2. His partner had opened the bidding with 1 ♥, but the lead of that suit, bearing in mind the shaded bids prevalent in the Baron system, struck him as unattractive. His inspired selection was ♠ 9! Any declarer could be pardoned for placing North with ♠ K 10 5; ♠ 9 was covered by dummy's ♠ J and North's ♠ K, and a second finesse was taken against ♠ 10. Thus the Baron team scrambled home, by the margin of one point, with Yorkshire second and Pearlstone third.

THE LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES MASTERS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

100 boards, spread over four sessions, might be expected to space out the leading placemen at the finish, yet right up to the last few hands any one of five players out of the field of 25 had an almost equal chance of winning this coveted trophy.

Pearlstone and Leist were in the lead after the first session of 20 boards. The second and longer session of 30 boards saw the first sorting out process, and the leading positions at this half-time stage were as follows: Leist (285), Pearlstone (279), Tarlo (274), Macleod (265), Harrison-Gray and Baron (261). Leist had maintained his position by excellent steady play, Pearlstone by taking full advantage of every lucky break. Tarlo and Gray had pulled up from nowhere.

Tarlo took the lead during the third session (30 boards) with a score of 437; hot on his heels were Pearlstone and Gordon, equal second with 432 (the latter having shot up from 9th place), Gray (427) and Macleod (423). The last two were strongly fancied to overhaul the leaders during the final session. The issue clearly rested between these five players, the field being a long way behind.

The last session produced an anti-climax. All the leaders were unmercifully fixed; not one could return a score as good as average. Meanwhile Pavlides and Meredith were making a final effort to improve their positions, each scoring a phenomenal pointage which was still inadequate to bring them within striking distance.

With 10 boards to go Pearlstone was in the lead, but in the end Joel Tarlo just got his nose in front—his first success in a Masters Individual, and one more trophy to add to his ever-growing collection; a fitting reward for tenacity and courage, and a most popular victory.

Joe Pearlstone's second place was another popular achievement, and it is surely time that this fine and consistent player was considered for International honours. Another player who was not among the exempted 13 did really well to finish third: Paul Gordon must now be recognised as the best of the "unknowns" in this country.

With universal accord the prize for the unluckiest player in the contest was awarded to a previous winner, Dr. Joe Whitby, of whom some gruesome tales were related. (*We know—we had to play with him!*—Ed.)

The final placings were as follows: J. Tarlo (533); J. Pearlstone (532); P. Gordon (525); M. Harrison-Gray (519); Iain Macleod (511); L. Baron (508); R. Preston (504); H. Leist (503); J. Pavlides (497); E. P. C. Cotter (490).

A selection of hands from this contest, which should be of general interest as an illustration of the methods of our leading players, will appear in the next issue.

THE HARROGATE CONGRESS

The Majestic Hotel again proved an ideal venue for the joint B.B.L. and E.B.U. Congress, attended by players from all parts of the British Isles. For the first time since the war the main event consisted of an Invitation Teams-of-Four, restricted to teams nominated by their Associations.

This contest pursued a curious course. Tarlo's team (Tarlo, Rockfelt, Reese, Shapiro) always appeared to have plenty in hand, and they entered the third and final session with a commanding lead—but, as in the earlier stages, they dropped the maximum against Baron, who in turn had lost many points to the weaker teams. In the end Tarlo just got home by half a match point, the other three London nominations (Baron, Elliott and Dodds) finishing together in a bunch.

The North of England Pairs Championship resulted in a tie between G. Mathieson and E. Rayne (London) and J. W. Rose and J. N. Colley (Hull), which was split in favour of the London pair. The Individual Contest was played in three sections, and was won by the well-known Yorkshire player, S. Salinsky. Local players also made good in the Open Fours, which went to the Leeds team captained by R. F. Corwen. The Ladies' Fours was won by Mrs. Crisford (Warwickshire) with a colossal score and the Consolation Fours by Mrs. Wibberley's Derby team.

The following were successful in Open Pairs contests: H. I. Harman and M. A. Porter (Birmingham), S. Merkin and Dr. M. Rockfelt (London), Mr. and Mrs. L. Josephs (Harrogate), Mr. and Mrs. R. Warrsam (St. Albans), A. Elliott and Dr. M. Rockfelt (London), Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Carpenter (Durham), Mrs D. Hudson and Mrs. G. Tracey (Scunthorpe), Mrs. E. G. Steele (Caernarvon) and Miss R. Fox (Liverpool), Mrs. Jackson (Leeds) and Mrs. Woodcock-Roux (Dewsbury), Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Kastell (Harrow).

"ALIBI"

An account of the Southport Congress is regretfully held over to the next issue through lack of space.

This month's Competition

Set by J. H. C. Marx

The CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL offers a prize of TWO GUINEAS for the best set of solutions to the following problems. In the event of two or more sets of solutions being of equal merit, the monthly prize will be divided.

Answers to CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL (Editorial Department) 8, Waterloo Place, London, S.W.1., not later than July 3rd, 1947. Solutions and prizewinners' names in August issue.

A special prize of Ten Guineas is offered for the best aggregate score in the six monthly competitions from November, 1946, to June, 1947, inclusive.

During this period no competitor may win the monthly prize of Two Guineas more than once.

PROBLEM No. 1 (12 points)

North deals at the score Love All. His hand is:

♠ 4 2; ♥ —; ♦ K Q J 10 8;
♣ A K Q 10 6 4

The following bidding takes place, with East and West silent:

NORTH: 1 ♣ 2 ♦ ?
SOUTH: 1 ♥ 3 ♦

What should North bid now?

PROBLEM No. 2 (10 points)

North deals at the score Game All. He bids One Spade on:

♠ A Q 10 9 6 5 2; ♥ 3 2; ♦ A;
♣ 9 7 6

East and West do not bid. South responds Two Hearts. What should North bid now?

PROBLEM No. 3 (24 points)

North deals at the score Game All and bids One Spade. East passes. What should South bid on each of the following hands?

(a) ♠ J 10 6 (b) ♠ J 10 6
♥ K Q 8 6 5 ♥ K Q 8 6 5 4
♦ 6 3 ♦ 3
♣ J 5 4 ♣ J 5 4

(c) ♠ J 10 6 2
♥ K Q 8 6 5
♦ 6 3
♣ J 5

PROBLEM No. 4 (12 points)

North deals at the score Game All. South's hand is:

♠ A 10 9 7 6 5 3; ♥ J 5; ♦ 4 3;
♣ J 9

The following bidding takes place, with East and West silent:

NORTH: 1 ♣ 3 ♣ 3 NT
SOUTH: 1 ♣ 3 ♣ ?

What should South bid now?

PROBLEM No. 5 (12 points)

North deals at the score North-South Game. South's hand is:

♠ K 4; ♥ 10 4; ♦ A K J 9 7;
♣ Q 10 5 4

The following bidding takes place:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♦	No bid
3 ♣	No bid	?	

What should South bid now?

PROBLEM No. 6 (10 points)

West deals at the score Love All. His hand is:

♠ A J 8 3 ♥ K Q 10 6;
♦ K 10 6 4 2; ♣ —

What should he bid?

PROBLEM No. 7 (20 points)

The hands of West and East are:

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

East is playing the hand in Three No-Trumps, North and South having taken no part in the bidding. South leads the Four of Diamonds and North plays the King. How should East plan the play?

It is regretted that owing to the late distribution of the May issue only a short (and hot) week-end was available for solvers. Due allowance was made in the case of solutions received after the closing date.

NOTE.—Each entry must be accompanied by Competition Entry Form on page 2.

Answers to May Competition

PROBLEM No. 1 (32 points)

ANSWERS

(a) A. To double for a take-out and subsequently to bid the opponents' suit is the conventional means of indicating a desire to play in that suit and a powerful hand generally.

(b) A. As West passed on the first round, his hand cannot be as powerful as in (a).

(c) A. If this bid were intended conventionally, it is difficult to reconcile West's first round pass with his later apparent slam ambitions. It is logical to assume, therefore, that his hand is of little value beyond a fine Heart suit.

(d) B. This is a conventional force to game. If West felt that he could successfully play the hand himself in Hearts, he would have passed the double for a penalty at One Heart Doubled.

(e) A. This is the only method available to West for showing up a possible psychic by North. Alternatively, North's Heart suit may be very shaded and will be harmless sandwiched between East and West.

(f) B. If West himself had a substantial holding in Hearts, he would obviously pass his partner's penalty double of the suit.

(g) A. Following his own penalty double, this bid by West confirms that he holds the Heart suit in overwhelming strength.

(h) A. If West wished to force his partner to bid, he could have done so by bidding Three Spades, which would have been quite unambiguous.

PROBLEM No. 2 (12 points)

ANSWER

Six Diamonds.—North should be confident that Seven Diamonds is a practical certainty but if he discloses this knowledge to the opponents, they will sacrifice with Seven Spades. If he eventually bids the grand slam over their sacrifice of Six Spades, they may take the view that he has a gambling bid, which may not be made, and allow him to play the hand. Even if they do not bid Six Spades, a small slam vulnerable will be more profitable than the penalty to be extracted from non-vulnerable opponents at Seven Spades Doubled.

PROBLEM No. 3 (10 points)

ANSWER

Six No-Trumps.—As South is debarred from bidding, North has to make an immediate decision. He obviously has the values for a small slam, but it would be unwise to plump for one of the three suits, when South's holding in any one of them is an uncertain quantity.

PROBLEM No. 4 (10 points)

ANSWER

Four Hearts—10 points. Four Spades—5 points. West has just about enough to try for game, but there can be no harm in offering another suit for his partner's consideration, in view of the poor quality of his Spades. As his first response was at the minimum level, a bid of Four Hearts cannot be misconstrued by East as a slam invitation.

PROBLEM No. 5 (24 points)

ANSWERS

(a) Four Clubs.—It is very possible that this hand will not develop enough tricks for

game at No-Trumps, but may well produce eleven tricks at Clubs under the protection of North's short red suits. Should South make a slam try, North will of course sign off. There is also a hope that South will bid Four Spades, which North will happily pass.

(b) No Bid—6 points. Four Spades—2 points. North is very much more unhappy here than in (a). Three No-Trumps is no more probable, but he lacks any safe alternative. On the whole it is better for him to pass and hope for the best, though Four Spades may turn out to be a success if South holds, say, 10 x in the suit.

(c) No Bid—6 points. Four Spades—4 points. The dilemma here is even more acute, since the singleton Heart makes Three No-Trumps a rather less attractive contract than in (b), the suit being possibly unestablishable. There is therefore a rather stronger case for taking out into Four Spades.

(d) Four Spades—6 points. Four Clubs—3 points. In view of the fit in the Club suit, a slam is just possible, if South's values for a double raise comprise certain specific cards, such as the Ace of Spades, the Ace of Diamonds and the Ace, King of Clubs. On the other hand, the numberless combinations that he may hold can possibly fit so badly with North's hand than a contract of Five odd may well fail. The bid of Four Clubs therefore entails a risk and is accordingly less desirable than a simple bid to game.

PROBLEM No. 6 (12 points)

ANSWER

A small Spade, preferably the Two. This is an anti-squeeze measure, which in practice will be missed by all save very experienced and astute defenders. In the first place, the lead cannot do any harm, as East's own Spade holding will prevent declarer from running the suit. It is most improbable that South holds more than four cards in Spades and Diamonds, and if he should hold, as is quite likely, a singleton Spade and Ace King and a small Diamond, the time will come, on the play of the last trump, when West will be unable to guard both suits. If declarer's communications with dummy are cut, however, West will be able to throw his Spades with safety and no true squeeze can operate. The lead of the Two of Spades by East will help his partner, as such a card will suggest a holding of four and will enable West to count the hand.

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