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EDWARD MAYER
ENGLISH
INTERNATIONAL PLAYER
writes
IN THIS ISSUE

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AVE ATQUE VALE

THIS, the first double number of the *Contract Bridge Journal*, has both triumph and tragedy to record.

It is an occasion of supreme satisfaction to congratulate the British team which, for the first time, has borne the laurel from all Europe ; and it adds one final fillip that its Captain should be that same M. Harrison-Gray whose enthusiasm created, whose address set the standard for, this magazine.

Foremost to have rejoiced in the national success would have been Gray's successor in the Editorial chair, Dr. Paul Stern. But barely had he been appointed and many of his dreams seemed to have come true than illness, long and indomitably held at bay, dashed the cup from his lips.

This is no place to mourn him : our tribute, from full hearts, appears on another page. The credo of journalism is that of Royalty—The Editor is dead, long live the publication.

The *Contract Bridge Journal* will survive the death of Paul Stern as it survived the resignation of Harrison-Gray : with deep and bitter regret ; but also, with that courage which has marked—and, please Heaven, shall ever mark—the free Press of a free country.

Guy Ramsey

LOOKING BACK

RECOLLECTIONS of a
Pioneer Bridge Player
GEORGE NELSON
(Leeds)

YOUR Editor's request for an article on the early days of Contract revived so many pleasant recollections that despite the risk of being classed as one of those who delight in ancient history, I venture to respond.

The birth of Contract Bridge in Britain was a very laboured event. When I first tried to introduce the new game into our leading Yorkshire Clubs, they turned it down with ridicule. The sporting clubs said "We don't bet on talking horses," while the others commented, "It is too much like hard work." However, in the winter of 1932 I approached the Editor of the *Yorkshire Evening Post* and told him that this game was becoming all the rage in America, and that all other European Countries were playing it. "They can't all be wrong," I argued. He agreed to my proposal and asked me to write a weekly article on Contract, suggesting an immediate start. I was hardly ready for that, so I took a fortnight's grace in which to obtain what little literature there was concerning the game, and with this I literally went to bed for a week.



My first weekly article, although I blush when re-reading it, was a great success. My theme song was, and still is, the duplicate part of the game. By organising duplicate contests, charging a very modest entry fee and giving prizes so that the whole of the entry fees could go to some useful charity, I soon got a number of disciples of the

type who considered playing cards more of a game than a gamble. The number increased until I was able to form a Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association. We were not the first association of this kind for that other Northern Bridge Journalist, Ewart Kempson, started a North-Eastern Association just before us. We had some of the first inter-county matches with his team. "Wor Ewart" (as they call him in Newcastle) did much to forward Contract Bridge, and though I never liked his bidding system, I greatly admire the way he wears the "cap and bells" among writers on the game. His pungent wit spares not even his best friends which proves there is no malice in his humour.

Then came the battle of systems. Dear old Walter Buller, whose

very name signified "bid British," with his ardent disciple Ewart Kempson, Richard Lederer with his Two-Club system, Harry Ingram with his One-Club, and others too numerous to mention; but Culbertson had them all whacked and proved it in no small measure when he played against them.

My first introduction to big Bridge was when the *Yorkshire Post* and the *Yorkshire Evening Post* sent me to London to report on what was hailed in most papers as a "history-making card event." This was in June, 1933 when the International Bridge League held its first European Contest in London in which the representative teams of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Norway and England played 30 Matches during the last week in May at Grosvenor House. The bidding and play were very tedious; as an example, my daughter, Mrs. Nancy Bedford, told me that when she was acting as marker, a player took 6 minutes to make his bid, which was typical of the bidding in general.

The battle ended with Austria collecting 24 points, Holland 17, Norway 15, Denmark 15, England 14, Belgium 8. At that time the Austrian team played natural bidding, the Dutch and the Norwegian teams played Culbertson. One England pair actually played Ingram's One-Club whilst the other used Lederer's Two-Clubs.

It was a sad story for England. Ely Culbertson was nearly right when he came along to see the tournament and someone asked him what he thought about the English bidding and play—and

his short reply was: "lousy." This mightily offended the late Manning Foster who had nominated the Team and arranged the event. When Culbertson came to the Contest a second time there was what a London newspaper described as a "Dramatic Scene at Bridge Tournament." Manning Foster sent him a message telling him not to come again, whereupon Ely Culbertson walked out. Manning Foster then called a meeting of Press representatives and suggested that we should taboo Culbertson in all our papers. I edged by saying that such a decision ought surely to be left to our respective Editors. Consulting mine, I told them that leaving Culbertson out of Contract Bridge was like playing Hamlet without the Prince.

A great fillip was given to the game when Culbertson brought an American team over to play England at Selfridges in 1933, a match described by Culbertson as the "Bridge battle of the Century." It turned out to be all that and then some which led me to describe Ely as the "Barnum of Bridge."

The match was a six-day event and was attended daily by the most distinguished visitors from society, stage and sport. The late Lord Moyrihan, who honoured us by becoming the President of the Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association, came several times. I introduced him to Ely and the two became great friends.

The general public followed the match through the introduction of an electric screen which was controlled by a switchboard

(Continued on page 6)

The PRAGUE LIMIT SYSTEM

by
FRANTIŠEK JOLEŠ
(Captain of representative
Czechoslovakian Team)

FREAK hands are the nightmare of the tournament player. When I hold such a hand I don't mind whether my partner has a strong or weak hand, but I am extremely interested in *what he holds*. One Queen, a singleton or even a worthless doubleton may be of far greater importance than an Ace, King, Queen in his hand.

If I hold:

♠3 ♥— ♦AK9643 ♣AK8752

and my partner holds:

♠KQJ9 ♥AKJ75 ♦J2 ♣J6

we are not sure of a game in any suit, but a holding such as:

♠A52 ♥9643 ♦75 ♣9643

would yield a Grand Slam in Clubs at least nine times out of ten.

None of the existing bidding systems can deal precisely with such hands and none assists its followers in deciding whether the slam should be bid or not.

Our *Prague Limit System* uses *Opening Bids of Two in a Suit* only for hands of *exceptional distribution*. Strong hands with at least 10 cards in two suits are Opening Two-Bids in a suit, asking for strictly *conventional responses* which have to be given automatically in a *definite sequence*.

This sequence has been established after the careful investigation of thousands of such hands whereby it was determined which values in partner's hand were likely to be of importance to the opening bidder. Information

that will probably be of *no interest* e.g. weak length in a side suit, is very rarely given.

As the sequence of bids is very precise, it has of necessity to be somewhat elaborate and I cannot give here the complete classification, but I will give my English friends a short survey of our conventions so as to arouse the interest of tournament players, though I must mention that the details given here are insufficient for actual practice.

After a Two-Bid, partner announces his values in the following sequence:

1. Aces
2. Kings or singletons in side suits
3. Trump support
4. His own long suit.

1. *One Ace* is announced by calling 2 NT. If the opener now continues by repeating his suit or by calling a second suit, the responder then names his Kings or singletons in side suits by calling them. If such values are missing from his hand, he raises the first trump suit or the second if he has trump support. Otherwise, he passes if game has already been reached or, if not, calls No-Trumps to keep the bidding open, indicating that he has no further values to show.

By using certain bids the opener can ask his partner to name the suit of the announced Ace. These calls are 3 ♣, 3 NT or 4 NT, his choice depending on the economy of bidding.

Example :

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

THE BIDDING

NORTH	SOUTH
2 ♥	2 NT (One Ace)
3 ♣ (Which Ace?)	3 ♦ (♦ A)
3 ♥	3 ♠ (Showing ♠ K)
4 ♠ (Second suit- 4-card)	6 ♥ (Trump support)
7 ♥	

As first and second round controls have to be automatically announced, the naming of a side suit by the opener after agreeing the trump suit asks for third round control only (Q x x or x x).

2. *Two Aces* are shown by calling 3 NT.

3. *Raising Opener's Suit* indicates no Ace, adequate trump support and *one second round control*. An immediate No-Trump bid by the opener asks for this King value.

Example :

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

THE BIDDING :

NORTH	SOUTH
2 ♦	3 ♦ (No Ace, trump support and 1 King)
3 ♥ (Asking for third round control)	3 ♠ (Third round control in Hearts and Spades)
3 NT (Which King ?)	4 ♠ (King of Spades)
6 ♦	

4. *Jumping in Opener's Suit to Four* announces trump support and two King values.

5. *Jumping to the Five-Level* in opener's suit announces trump support and King values in all three side suits.

Example :

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

THE BIDDING :

NORTH	SOUTH
2 ♦	5 ♦ (No Ace, trump support and 3 King values)
6 ♦	

6. *Simple Change of Suit* announces two Kings in side-suits, without trump support. The responder must name his lowest King suit except where it happens to be the next higher ranking suit (bidding the next higher ranking suit would be the negative Herbert response).

Example :

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

THE BIDDING :

NORTH	SOUTH
2 ♠	3 ♥ (Kings of Hearts and Clubs)
7 ♠	

7. *Calling the next higher ranking suit at the lowest possible level* (Herbert response) denies any of the values specified in 1 to 6 above.

8. *Abandoning the Convention.*
If the responder himself holds an interesting hand with a strong suit and shortage in the opener's suit, he can indicate at once that he prefers to abandon the convention and bid his hand normally. In that case he makes a jump bid in his suit *i.e.*, 2♦, 3♠ or if it is a suit without a loser even if his partner is void in it he makes a double jump *i.e.*, 2♦, 4♠.

Two-suiters in which we are not interested in King values in side suits are called *ideal* two-suiters *e.g.*

♠AQJ96 ♥A ♦AK9763 ♣5
or the hand given in the introduction to this article. Such two-suiters call for a somewhat different bidding sequence by the opener in order to avoid unnecessarily wasting rounds of bidding in naming Kings in the side suits.

To conclude, I would like to give a hand which occurred at the Harrogate Congress in 1946 when I played with my usual partner, Paul Kuhn:

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

NORTH		SOUTH	
2	♠	3	NT (2 Aces)
4	♠	5	♣ (2nd round control in Clubs)
6	♣ (Asking for 3rd round control in Clubs)	6	♦ (Holding 3rd round control in Clubs and Diamonds)
7	♠		

(The author will be pleased to answer any questions relating to the System forwarded to me through the Editor of this Journal).

LOOKING BACK—(Continued from page 3)

containing nearly three hundred switches. On this screen were flashed the hands held by the players, with the bids made, and finally by means of a dimming device each card was shown as it was played whilst an expert gave a running commentary. A thousand spectators followed the bidding and play at very session, whilst outside in Oxford Street a big crowd watched the score board and cheered every England success. The Match was broadcast daily to America by Culbertson, whilst on the spot there were Press representatives from no fewer than twenty-seven countries. I was then reporting for my two Yorkshire papers and gave four deals with the play each day. In

these I had to criticise Culbertson more than once. He pulled me up on one occasion, but after discussion admitted I was right, adding characteristically, "Believe me, Nelson, there are no good players at this game—only some are better than others."

Some of the English newspapers described Culbertson's methods as American *ballyhoo*, but if to be successful is *ballyhoo*, then we could do with a bit more of it in British Contract.

* * * * *

BRIDGE Magazines are now published regularly in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Italy, Norway and Sweden.

SIMPLE TACTICS

Part Two:

by Dr. Sidney Lee

in Planning No-Trump and Suit Contracts

IN THE first part of this article we dealt with simple tactics applicable to contracts in No-Trumps. The conclusions we arrived at were:

1. *To count your sure winners first* and if the number was insufficient for your contract, to examine each suit in turn to see which one was most likely to provide the additional winners.

2. To look for the additional winners in the suit *where there was least danger* if you had to give up the lead to your opponents.

3. *To make your plan* as soon as dummy went down and before you played to the first trick.

The last of these injunctions is the most important one and applies with equal force to the planning of suit contracts. The fact that there is a trump suit, however, completely alters your tactics because a new factor has to be taken into account. The procedure in the case of suit contracts can be summarised as follows:

1. *Count your losers* in the combined hands as soon as dummy is exposed, and see if there are more losers than you can afford. Remember that for a game contract in a major suit, three losers only are permissible, and two only if the game contract is in a minor suit.

2. If you have more apparent losers than you can afford, *look for ways and means of eliminating these excessive losers.*

There are several ways in which this can be done, namely:

1. By discarding losers on winning cards already established.

2. By establishing winning cards in a suit to enable you to discard losers.

3. By taking advantage of the trump suit to ruff losers.

4. By finessing, when it is not possible to eliminate losers by discarding or ruffing.

Whether any or all of these methods can be applied in a particular case depends, of course, on the nature of the combined holding and also on another most important factor, *time, i.e.,* whether you can get rid of your apparent losers *before* they become actual losers.

Let us take a few typical examples:

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

You are declarer and the contract is 4 ♠. The ♥ K is led and as soon as dummy's hand goes down you immediately start to count your losers—♠ A, ♣ A and two Heart tricks. You have one loser too many which you must try to eliminate. A quick glance will show you that you have three Diamonds in dummy and only two in your own hand, giving you a chance to discard a losing Heart

on dummy's third winning Diamond. The only question is whether you have time to do this before your opponents get an opportunity to play Hearts again.

You therefore take the ♥ K with your Ace and *immediately* play three rounds of Diamonds, discarding a Heart from your own hand on the third round. If either opponent has only two Diamonds and ruffs the third round you are unlucky, but in that case there is no possible play for ten tricks.

The point you must notice is that if you start to draw trumps first, your opponents will win with the ♠ A and cash two heart tricks to defeat the contract.

In this example you have ready-made winners available for discards; in the next you have to establish winners before you can get the necessary discards.

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

You are declarer and again your contract is 4 ♠. The ♥ K is led and as soon as dummy's hand goes down you count your losses in each suit—apparently three in Hearts if they do not break three-three and one or two in Clubs, depending on the position of the ♣ A. You realise that you can discard some of your losers in Hearts if you can establish dummy's long Diamonds and you plan your play accordingly.

You win the first trick with the ♥ A and play two rounds of trumps—the Ace and the Queen from your own hand, retaining

the ♠ K in dummy. If both opponents follow to both rounds, you play the ♦ A and the ♦ K and ruff a third round of Diamonds in your own hand. If the Diamonds break evenly, the remaining two Diamonds in dummy will be available for discards. You enter dummy with the ♠ K, at the same time drawing off opponent's last trump, and discard two small hearts from your own hand on dummy's last Diamonds. You have thus reduced your possible losers in Hearts to one. You can now try out the Clubs by leading a small one from dummy. Whether you win a trick in Clubs or not will not matter, as the contract is assured with the maximum loss of one Heart and two Clubs.

Again you will observe that drawing three rounds of trumps at the start will spoil your plan as you will have no entry to dummy to make use of the two established diamonds should each of your opponents hold three cards in that suit.

The rule to draw trumps first has, like so many other rules in Bridge, its exceptions. In the above examples we have seen that the drawing of trumps must be postponed in the first case to prevent opponents getting the lead prematurely and in the second, to retain an entry to dummy at the critical moment.

* * *

THE FAMOUS Deauville Tournament is being held during the fourth week in July. Colonel G. G. T. Walshe's team, who won the Teams of Four Competition last year, are going to defend their title to the trophy.

THE DEVIL'S COUP

by DR. ADOLFO GIANNUZZI
(Milan)

THE DEVIL'S COUP is a particular form of throw-in play which, though of rare occurrence, is worthy of study because of its brilliant and sensational character. The French call it the *Coup d' Etouffement* whilst the Americans simply describe it as the *Throw-in Coup*.

The "Devil's Coup" can only be applied to suit contracts and its object is to capture the opponent's King of Trumps in a situation where such capture appear at first sight to be impossible. Take, for example, the distribution of the trump suit as follows:

A x x	A x x
K x x x	x or K x x x Nil
Q J 10 x x	Q J 10 x x x

With South as declarer, the capture of West's King can only be effected if circumstances permit of throw-in play whereby East is forced to take the lead and lead a suit of which dummy is void and West must either overtrump the declarer or discard a small trump.

The typical final situation is the following:

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

Spades are trumps. At the eleventh trick South plays a Heart (the transfer card) compelling East to take the lead and lead a Diamond, in which dummy is void. South trumps with ♠ J and West is obliged to underplay with a small trump and subsequently lose his King or to overtrump immediately with his King and lose it to dummy's Ace.

The conditions essential to the success of the coup are:

1. *The transfer of the lead to East must be in a suit to which West can follow.*
2. *Dummy must be void of the suit East is compelled to play after taking the lead.*
3. *In the final situation South must hold the same number of trumps as West. South's superfluous trumps must have previously been eliminated by ruffing opponents' or dummy's cards.*
4. *In the final situation all South's trumps must be higher than those accompanying West's King.*
5. *Both the hands of South and West must be deprived of all side suits, except for one card of the transfer suit with which to throw the lead.*

The distribution of the cards in West's hand must therefore be particularly favourable to the declarer so that none of the side suits are trumped or over-trumped during the process of elimination. During the preliminary play the declarer must avoid giving West

the lead, enabling him to play trumps and force out dummy's Ace. Therefore if this Ace is bare, West must not be allowed to take the lead at all; if the Ace is a doubleton, the lead may be given to West once only.

The throw of the lead to East usually takes place at the eleventh trick, but can be effected at the tenth trick with South and West each holding three trumps and dummy the Ace and another small trump: *e.g.*

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

It is obvious, however, that this situation comprising four cards can be reduced to a three card holding of the basic form described above, by playing a round of trumps before throwing the lead to East with the ♥ Q.

As an illustration of the "Devil's Coup" we append a game played by the English player Carthew in a contract of 6 ♠:

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

West led ♦ 9 which South took with ♦ K. The contract is possible with the loss of one Diamond only if opponent's ♠ K can be captured

by a successful finesse. South therefore led ♠ Q and after a successful finesse played ♠ J. East failed to follow showing West with the King still guarded.

The only hope now of fulfilling the contract lies in employing the "Devil's Coup" which necessitates eliminating Hearts and Clubs from both South and West's hands and throwing the lead to East on the third round of Diamonds at the eleventh trick. For a successful issue, West must have three cards in each side suit (*i.e.* a distribution of 4-3-3-3) so that he is not able to trump or overtrump during the process of elimination. Furthermore, East must hold the highest card in the transfer suit after ♦ A and ♦ K have been played and be compelled to lead one of the suits of which dummy is void.

In accordance with this analysis South continued as follows. After taking the second finesse in Trumps he played the ♥ A and ♥ K and trumped dummy's third Heart in his own hand, thus reducing his own trumps to the same number as held by West. He then played three rounds of Clubs, thereby eliminating a second suit. The ♦ A followed and at the eleventh trick the last Diamond was played. East was forced to take the trick and return a Heart or a Club. South trumped and West had either to overtrump or play a small trump. In either case his ♠ K was captured and the contract made.

The "Devil's Coup," as we have shown, is dependent on a combination of favourable circumstances which may or may not exist, but where there is no other way of fulfilling a contract it is always worth while making an attempt to bring it off.

BRIDGE IN SWEDEN

by
Dr. EINAR WERNER
(Stockholm)

THE most noteworthy feature of Bridge in Sweden is the remarkable interest shown in tournament play. During the period of the War, important developments took place in all Scandinavian countries, but most conspicuously in Sweden where the Bridge League has grown into a flourishing organisation comprising some 250 clubs with a membership of over 12,000.

In spite of our relatively small population, numbering only about one-seventh that of the British Isles, I think we can claim more tournament players than any other country in Europe. That is because we specialise in tournament play. Our players take up Bridge in the same way as you do cricket. Match play is our main objective. Our clubs are primarily interested in the encouragement of team events rather than individual play for high stakes.

Our maximum stake when we play for money is the "festival stake" which is the modest amount of half a krona a hundred. At this rate you might win a pound or two of English currency if your luck is in.

The enthusiasm for match play is demonstrated by the fact that no fewer than 3,270 players took part in this year's Swedish Championship for Open Pairs, contributing more than £1,500 to the funds of the Swedish Bridge League. Apart from this, tournaments are held every weekend in one town or another.

Since the war ended, we have been instrumental in reviving the Scandinavian Championship matches. Though we lost to Norway at Oslo in 1946, we gained an overwhelming victory last year in Copenhagen when we won eleven of the twelve championship matches.

The European Championship held at the Hague in 1939 was won by a Swedish team. I am ready to admit that luck was with us on that occasion and though we do not expect to repeat that success, we have gone into strict training for this year's events at Copenhagen and hope to carry away some of the prizes.

As regards our style of play, you might consider us old-fashioned, but most of us play Culbertson or the Vienna System with some slight modifications. Perhaps our one characteristic is our partiality for Asking Bids. We have carried these rather far—possibly too far, you may think. Many of our leading players indulge in what we call, "Low Asking Bids." For instance, when the bidding goes: SOUTH 1 ♥, NORTH 3 ♠, the latter bid is an Asking Bid. On the other hand we have no use for "Cue Bids." We have never been able to appreciate the advantage of such bids.

Here is an interesting hand taken from a Swedish Tournament for Teams of Four, in which the one team bid and made a Grand Slam on both lines.

CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

West was the dealer and North-South were vulnerable.

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

Bidding at table one :

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	No bid	4 ♦ *	No bid
5 ♥	No bid	5 NT †	6 ♠
7 ♥	No bid	No bid	7 ♠
No bid	No bid	Dble	No bid
No bid	Redble		

* *Asking Bid*

† *Grand Slam Force*

West opened rather carelessly with the King of Hearts. South ruffed and continued with the Queen of Clubs. West covered,

North played the Ace and East showed out. After that it was a simple matter. South ran all his trumps and West was squeezed.

Bidding at table two :

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♣	No bid	1 ♦	4 ♠
5 ♣	Dble	5 ♦	5 ♠
No bid	No bid	6 ♦	No bid
No bid	6 ♠	No bid	No bid
7 ♦	Dble	No bid	No bid
No bid			

South chose to open with the Queen of Clubs, North having doubled 5 Clubs. West played the King and North the Ace. East ruffed and played two rounds of trumps. He was then able to force out North's Jack of Clubs and discarded his losers on the established club suit.

The swing in favour of the team that succeeded in making both Grand Slams was 4,120 points, a record in Swedish Tournament Bridge.

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All at Sea

by ——— S. J. Simon

The famous quartette from
"Why You Lose at Bridge"
continue their game during
their trip to America.

THE DEAL

Dealer, South. North-South
vulnerable.

(Mrs. Guggenheim)

♠ A J 9 5
♥ A K Q 10 5 4
♦ 2
♣ Q 10

(Mr. Smug)

♠ 6
♥ J
♦ 9 8 7 6 5
♣ 8 7 6 5 4 3

(Unlucky Expert)

♠ Q 10 8 7 4 2
♥ 8 3 2
♦ A
♣ A K 9

(Futile Willie)

♠ K 3
♥ 9 7 6
♦ K Q J 10 4 3
♣ J 2

THE BIDDING

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
No bid	No bid	1 ♥	Nobid(a)
2 ♦	No bid	2 ♠(b)	Nobid(c)
3 ♦(d)	No bid	3 ♥(e)	No bid
4 ♦(f)	Dble(g)	4 ♥(h)	Dble(i)
Rdble(j)	No bid	No bid	No bid

(a) A trap pass by the Unlucky Expert to see what happens.

(b) A reverse.

(c) A Spade bid, of course, gives the Unlucky Expert no option but to go on passing.

(d) The best bid at this stage for South is clearly Four Diamonds. However, Futile Willie was still too shaken by a previous disaster to bid anything so adventurous.

(e) Mrs. Guggenheim no longer likes the hand as much as she did.

(f) Unpardonable, on paper. South's bidding so far shows a

string of none too solid diamonds and a generally bad hand. But actually Futile Willie was beginning to hatch a cunning scheme in his mind. He hoped that Mrs. Guggenheim would still bid Four Hearts if only for the hundred honours she no doubt had and that someone would double on the bidding. If she didn't, she might give him Five Diamonds and his superior play would no doubt produce the extra trick.

(g) Bewildering? Not at all. Mr. Smug had merely *muddled his Jack of Hearts with the Diamonds* and thought he held J 9 8 7 6 5 of Diamonds. Even at that, of course, the double is pretty revolting but quite good enough for Mr. Smug to double Futile Willie.

(h) The double settles Mrs. Guggenheim's doubts about bidding again.

(i) Inevitably.

(j) Triumph!

THE PLAY

The Unlucky Expert led the King of Clubs. He studied the dummy and frowned. What on earth had his partner doubled four diamonds on? Six to the Nine!

Prospects of getting four tricks looked very poor. Declarer was marked with six Hearts, four or five Spades, presumably no Diamonds, and two or three Clubs. He laid down the Ace of Clubs and found his nine of Clubs was now high. He now had the picture of declarer's hand—or

thought he had. 5 Spades, 6 Hearts, 2 Clubs.

What now! He could give his partner a Spade ruff but that wouldn't help for he would be ruffing a loser.

So the Unlucky Expert fell back on the last resort of every good defender when he knows that everything else must fail. He offered the declarer a ruff and discard in the slender hope that something might develop. He led the nine of Clubs.

His eyes widened as Mrs. Guggenheim gleefully trumped in dummy and discarded the two of Diamonds.

Five Diamonds to the nine! What a double.

Meanwhile Mrs. Guggenheim had developed visions of an over-trick in a doubled contract. All she had to do was to ruff two Spades in Dummy. No thought of danger was in her mind as she led off the King of Spades and reached for the three. She had only had six Spades between the two hands and nobody had bid Spades.

On the three of Spades Mr. Smug achieved the, for him, remarkable coup of refusing to trump and discarding a Club. The reason that he achieved it was that he still had his Jack of Hearts muddled among his Diamonds.

"Well, well," said Mrs. Guggenheim skittishly. "Haven't you got any trumps?"

She put on the Ace of Spades and purred. All the trumps were in one hand—but she was still going to make her contract because they hadn't made their Ace of Diamonds. How she'd tease them about it afterwards.

"Blast!" said Mr. Smug suddenly.

He picked a card violently out of the centre and jabbed it crossly elsewhere.

It was obvious, even to Mrs. Guggenheim, that he had found a trump. Still she saw no cause for alarm. He couldn't have found two trumps, so that even if he over-ruffed dummy once, he wouldn't have a trump to lead and she would still make contract.

So she played a Spade and ruffed it with the nine. Mr. Smug overruffed it with the Jack. The position now was:

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

"And now?" asked Mrs. Guggenheim, still skittish. She held the four of Hearts in her hand all ready to ruff a Diamond.

But Mr. Smug led a Club.

Mrs. Guggenheim replaced the four of Hearts and trumped with the Ace.

"I can afford it," she told the giggling Futile Willie.

The Unlucky Expert discarded the Ace of Diamonds!

She couldn't.

THE POST-MORTEM

"If only I'd noticed my trump earlier," mourned Mr. Smug.

HERESY

by Prof. Alan MacKinnon

IN THE matter of leads, I have always been a heretic, and my heresies grow more acute with the years. This is particularly true where leads against Three No Trump contracts are concerned.

Of course, with average and rather - below - average partners' orthodoxy is probably the safest policy. Experiments should be reserved for those occasions when one has an imaginative partner, or one so inept that he pays no particular attention to cards with fewer than nine or ten pips.

Against game No Trump contracts, *where one holds most of the defensive strength*, it is continually more important to make the declarer *miscount* the hand than to give one's partner an accurate, but superfluous, count of a particular suit. It is frequently very easy for the declarer to plan the play of a No Trump contract on the lead of a deuce or trey if he is confident that his left hand opponent is a "fourth best addict."

However, the "Eleven Rule," with its applications and mis-applications, is not my present theme. The popular and pernicious lead which I wish to attack is the lead of the "top of nothing" against a Three No Trump contract, *when one holds practically no defensive strength at all*, and when all the defensive strength is presumably concentrated in one's partner's hand.

Not that I wish to decry a short suit lead in such circumstances. I want to suggest that a lead of the "bottom of nothing" is constantly more effective. Why?

Because (a) to the declarer it is ambiguous, and may be definitely misleading,

and (b) a co-operative partner will not be misled at all. The bidding, the view of dummy, and the texture of his own hand will give him all the information he requires. He is, one hopes, capable of higher feats than simple subtraction.

Remember that the issue of many "near the knuckle" Three No Trump contracts depends on an early decision on a hold-up or a two-way finesse. The lead of the top of nothing is often a confession of near bankruptcy, and advertisement to the declarer that the missing high cards are massed on his right. If you have a bad hand, do not squander your Nines and Tens. To part with one at the outset may enable the declarer to take a deep finesse against your partner and bring a crazy vessel to port. And there are other ways in which the declarer may profit from information supplied by "my friend the enemy."

Listen to Charles Goren:

"South is playing a contract of 3 No Trump. West leads the 9 of Hearts. What card should declarer play from dummy? This is an obviously short-suit lead and East is marked with the Ace and the Jack. If declarer plays low from dummy, East will duck and the King will be forced. If West gains the lead with the Ace of Diamonds, he will be able to continue through the Queen of Hearts. Declarer has a certain way to prevent any

such attack, and that is by the simple expedient of playing the Queen from dummy. This will force East to win with the Ace and he will be unable to continue the suit with the 10 in dummy. This gives declarer plenty of time to drive out the Ace of Diamonds. The complete holding is as follows:

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

(*Better Bridge for Better Players*, p. 258)."

Goren's analysis is not quite complete. As the cards lie, South can make his contract even if he trips and plays low from dummy to the first trick. When East ducks, he has only to duck also, and communication between the East and West hands will be interrupted. But South would naturally fear a Heart continuation and the setting up of a five card suit before the vital Ace of Diamonds is out of the way. There is every likelihood that East holds that card. Goren is perfectly right that, on the lead of the Nine of Hearts, the play of the Queen is "sticking out."

But stop a moment. Let us suppose that West, instead of leading the Nine of Hearts, leads the *Three*.

What declarer . . . other than an inspired Mrs. Guggenheim . . . will now put up the Queen from dummy?

This "innocent" lead looks like a humdrum fourth best. It might be a cunning fifth best. In such circumstances, the play of the Queen would be plumb crazy. If East held the Diamond Ace the Heart suit would be "gone with the wind."

No. On the lead of the Three of Hearts, some declarers will play the Deuce, and others the Ten. They will *not* play the Queen. Try it on your friends.

And when East covers the Ten of Hearts with the Knave, or, like the good partner he is, plays the Eight on the Two, will the declarer duck? I think not. He has the comfortable feeling that the Heart strength is on his left.

Interchange the Ace and Seven of Diamonds, and suppose that the declarer *does* duck the first Heart lead. A Heart continuation breaks the contract.

In that case he's down anyhow. He has missed the vital play. He's bamboozled.

Accolade to bridge (indirectly) came in the Birthday Honours when Arthur Noel Mobbs, Chairman of the Portland and B.B.L., received the K.C.V.O.

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GOSSIP OF THE MONTH

by Guy Ramsey

SO THE Marathons are over and the teams for Copenhagen—lucky people—have, as you read this column, returned from consuming smørrebrød, boiled eggs at 11 a.m., salmon, snapps (very potent and apt to make them see a green Ace now and again) and bubbling Danish lager to keep up their strength for the sessions of rough-and-tumble Bridge where Diamonds are Roote, Hearts are Jorte and the Knave is a Boobe! Not too many Knaves, let us hope, either in the tournament—or in the British play!

This year, for the first time, the British teams are the product of really exhaustive selection and gruelling practice; the partnerships are seasoned; and there is a solidarity among the teams which is heartening.

Both the Men's and the Ladies' final constitution underwent permutations. First Iain Macleod, of the "Grays," was to go; but he is a Tory (as well as a Contract) White Hope, and the Party spoiled the Danish party for him. So "Connie" Konstam achieved the (frankly confessed) ambition of his life.

One word of commiseration for Graham Mathieson who, alone of those who played through the Trials, was not selected. Better luck next year, Graham.

The performance of Leslie Dodds, that bald-headed, grinning magician of the table, ensured his inclusion (a charming 'Gray' gesture to make him vice-captain) and it was, on balance, good judgment to send Eddie Rayne as his partner.

Leslie's glittering play needs a steady, orthodox, reliable foil rather than a similar type of game opposite.

All in all, the Men—in the presumed formation Gray-Simon, Reese - Shapiro, Dodds - Rayne - Konstam—are a formidable combination.

For a man to write about the Ladies requires a disdain of chivalry and a courage which are alike foreign to my pacific and woman-loving temper.

On results, the "Dimmie" Fleming team—with Mrs. Hardie (still better known as Kathleen Salmon) replacing "Rixi" Markus, whose naturalisation did not come through in time—rightly gained the privilege. But no-one could be satisfied with the Ladies' Trials.

Over the headaches and heart-aches of that unhappy series of matches—happiest of hunting-grounds for a scandal-writer—This mere gossip-writer prefers to draw a veil.

There were, among both the Men and the Ladies, doubtless, many heart-burnings at *not* going to Copenhagen (as a pronounced Danophile, my own are acute!), but the Male Septet, the Female Sextet (what a pity the men did not field eight so as to make a perfect sonnet!) carried with them the good wishes of all as well as the envy of a few.

The team to represent us played in the formation: Mrs. Fleming-Mrs. Simon-Miss Pearson permuting; Lady Rhodes - Mrs. Litante; and Mrs. Hardie "roving."

Pity a man writing in advance ! It is a thankless, heartbreaking and almost hopeless job.

But let this be said : if our two teams come back crowned with laurel, it will be a matter for delight, for congratulation—but not for complacency. If, which the gods forbend, they return in sack-cloth and ashes, it will be a matter for regret, commiseration—but not for despair.

If we have won, the thing to do is to ensure our continuing victory ; if we have lost, well—not only better luck, but better preparation for next year.

A.D. 1948 has now broken new, and valuable, ground in British team selection. It remains to exploit to the full the seams of gold which it may have opened up.

To judge by the past, the ideal method is to gather a squad of players who train as a single unit—that was how the Austrian world-beaters won in 1937.

Such a squad, all playing the same type of game, affords many advantages over the rooted idea of well-established partnerships. For example, if (say) Reese and Shapiro are fielded *as a pair*, and one or other of them chances to go out of health or form, (as, alas ! happens to everyone at some time or another), the team is deprived of the *effective* service of the partner who still possesses his “touch.”

The old system-war between pairs—with its result that Pair I is delighted that Pair II has produced a “filthy session” because they played Acol or Vienna (while the gloating pair played Vienna or Acol, or the hands happened to “fix” one system)—this is legislated out of the game.

Such a squad requires three things : constant practice together ; a non-playing captain who commands the unswerving loyalty of all members ; and a sufficiency of regularly organised matches against every and any type of expert opposition—a field where you and I, with little hope of being selected for International Honours, can still “do our bit” for the country (while, at the same time, doing our own game a great deal of good *and* having a pleasant evening into the bargain).

With all due deference, but with no diffidence, I commend the idea to the B.B.L.

As for the captain : he should be (a) a tournament player of vast experience ; (b) a personality who can command the requisite loyalty ; (c) a player in constant touch with the daily form of his squad. “The job of filling in the blank I'd rather leave to you.”

Does all this preparation sound over-much like hard work ? Probably. But, so specialised is all sport (even indoor sport !) today that, without it, we handicap ourselves very nearly out of the race, as it will be run in the Second Post War International—by which time, let us hope, Europe will be less broke and, therefore, can attract the Americans.

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COPENHAGEN

DIARY

from Terence Reese

Wednesday, June 16

SINCE play began we have been tortured by two uncertainties: uncertainty about the first Test Match (now piercingly resolved) and uncertainty about the difference between Kings and Knaves in Denmark. Both have a capital K on the top left hand corner of the card and the designs are to unpractised eyes indistinguishable.

This difficulty with unfamiliar cards has accounted for some erratic play in the early stages. Our first match was against Ireland. We won easily, by 75 match points, but on both sides it happened more than once that Jacks attempted to capture Queens. The most interesting hand of a match which contained several swings was the following:

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

Dodds and Rayne found their way to Six Hearts. A Club was led and early in the play a Diamond was played from dummy. East played low and South won with the King. After that it was an easy matter to eliminate the black

suits and throw East in with the Ace of Diamonds to concede a ruff and discard.

In our room we rather ineptly doubled the Irish in 5 Hearts, but at least we held them to Five, for when the Diamond was led from dummy I went up with the Ace.

Our second match, against Denmark, proved a very close fight. In the first half Boris Shapiro and I held poor cards and the Danes did not make the best of theirs. However, Gray and Simon also had one or two bad boards so that we were five points down at half time. This is a hand which was bid to the wrong contract in both rooms:

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

The Danish pair went down in Five Clubs. Gray and Simon bid as follows:

WEST	EAST
Simon	Gray
1 ♠	2 ♣
3 ♥	3 NT
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 NT	6 ♣

Six Clubs was two down. It seems to me that Simon overbid. It was disappointing to him, of course, to find Gray with only a four card suit. Nevertheless, when he had forced he had done his bit and probably should have passed 3 NT.

COPENHAGEN DIARY

(continued)

In the second half the play was good all round and we were relieved to run out narrow winners.

By this time it was fairly clear which were the best teams. Sweden, Norway, Holland, France and ourselves were all doing well. We found on Tuesday evening, however, that Iceland also could play an excellent game.

In the first half of the match trouble with the cards cost us dear. We let them make a 3 NT contract because Boris thought that a Jack on the table was a Queen and in the other room Dodds missed a 3 NT game because he overlooked an Ace in his own hand. We were 8 points down at half time.

In the second half Gray and Konstam came in for Dodds and Rayne. We just managed to pull up to win by 2 points which counts as a draw. There were two slams in the second half, one of which was missed by the Iceland players.

This was the hand :

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

The Iceland pair, using an array of asking bids, stopped in Five Clubs. Boris and I reached Six Clubs as follows :—

WEST	EAST
Reese	Shapiro
1 ♣	3 ♣
3 ♦	3 ♥
4 NT	6 ♣
No	

After three matches, then, we have scored 5 points out of 6.

Sweden and Norway have 6 points, France and Holland 4 points. So far we have not met the strongest teams. We play them in a row—Sweden at 10 tomorrow morning ! It is impossible to say who is going to win. It looks as though we have a fair chance but there are some difficult matches to come.

Meanwhile the ladies' team has not made a good start. Both Denmark and Norway have beaten them and from all accounts the Continental ladies are very good indeed. This was a hand in the match against Denmark :

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

The Danish ladies reached 7 ♣ by the simple route, 1 NT—7 ♣. In the other room Mrs. Fleming opened 1 ♦ and there was a butt-in of 1 ♥. Kathleen Hardie made an immediate overcall of 2 ♥. West bid 4 ♥ and North doubled. South took out into 5 ♣ and North bid 6 ♣. East, not vulnerable, bid 6 ♥ which South passed. North bid 6 NT and after much thought Mrs. Hardie said No Bid.

Kathleen had an excellent match, but I think she was to blame on this hand. 3 Clubs would have been preferable to 2 ♥ on the first round and afterwards she might well have bid 6 ♣ over 4 ♥ doubled and should certainly have bid 7 ♣ when her partner raised to Six.

This afternoon the ladies are playing France and the men Finland. The team is : Gray and Konstam, Dodds and Rayne. I am dictating this message during my time off.

COPENHAGEN DIARY

(continued)

Tonight we play Holland ; the team is likely to be Gray and Simon, Shapiro and myself.

Thursday, June 17

Wednesday proved a fairly easy day. We beat Finland by 50 points in the afternoon. In the evening we expected a difficult match against Holland. However, playing well in both rooms, we built up a lead of 34 at half-time. Dodds and Rayne and myself then stopped in preparation for the key match against Sweden next morning, and Gray came in with Konstam and Shapiro played with Simon. They added another 17 points. Meanwhile, Sweden had continued to win and were 1 point up on us.

We played Sweden this morning at 9.45 a.m. ! The team was Dodds and Rayne, Shapiro and myself. In the first half of the match this team played what was generally regarded as the best bridge of the week. On the following deal, experience of an old par hand saved the match point :

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

Where Sweden were N-S, the opening bid was 1 ♥ by South, and Rayne overcalled with 1 ♠. North passed and East bid 2 ♦. South bid 2 ♥, and West went to

4 ♠. This was one down for the loss of four top tricks.

In the other room South opened 1 ♥ and the Swedish West bid 2 ♠. North passed, East bid 2 No-Trumps, South No bid, and West 3 ♠, which was passed all round. N-S can make 4 ♥, but had no chance to bid it.

The Jack of Hearts was led and Dummy played low. With the double idea of preparing a Diamond ruff for his partner, or killing the suit if Declarer had a doubleton, South overtook the Jack of Hearts with the Queen and led back a low Diamond. North commenced a peter on this trick, so when South won with the Ace of Spades he gave his partner a ruff and defeated 3 Spades by one trick.

In the second half the Swedes played really well, and when the scores were added at the end it appeared that we had won by only 4 points, which counts as a draw. Fortunately I had the wit to observe that one hand appeared to have been mis-boarded, and so it was. It was a hand on which we were shown to have lost 10 points, so we replayed the deal with 14 points in hand. The Swedes made a desperate bid to pick up the points, but without doubling an obviously impossible contract in our room we gained 6 points to win by 20. The Swedish players are first-class. One pair, Koch and Werner, have the reputation of being the best pair on the Continent, and in the other room we were all much impressed by a young player of massive build, Jan Wohlin.

We are now one point in the lead but by no means home, for the Swedes have played the best

COPENHAGEN DIARY

(continued)

teams and we still have to meet two of the most dangerous, France and Norway. The line-up planned for to-morrow afternoon against France is Gray and Konstam, Simon and myself. This formation is regarded with much misgiving by other members of the team.

Saturday, June 19

The end of the first half against the French found us 7 points in the lead. Simon and I had had a good session, and Gray and Konstam had played well but had lost points on a slam attempt which failed. After a prolonged conference we faced the second half with Gray and Simon, Boris and myself. In our room we had one of those patches in which the cards ran awkwardly. One of the hands on which the French pegged us back was the following:

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

The hand was played by Gray in 4 Spades and by one of the Frenchmen in 4 Spades redoubled. The play was much the same in both rooms. South made King and Ace of Hearts and then switched to a low Diamond. Declarer went up with the Ace and played trumps. When he won with the Jack of Spades South led the Club 10, won by East's Queen.

The last trump was drawn and then the final round of trumps played. By this time North was hopelessly squeezed, for he wanted to keep three Clubs, King of Diamonds, and Queen of Hearts, and had only four cards left.

It seemed to us at the time that if after King of Hearts I had led a Diamond, and when I won with the Jack of Spades a Club, not releasing the Ace of Hearts, Declarer would have been unable to get his timing right for a squeeze. If you work it out, however, you will see that North's discards are still impossible with this line of defence. He has to discard two Hearts and Declarer can then crash the Hearts together while he still holds a trump. There is only one defence, very difficult to find in actual play. After King of Hearts South must play a Diamond, and when the Spades are played out North must discard two of his Hearts. When South wins with the Jack of Spades he leads the 10 of Diamonds, forcing Declarer to ruff. East can draw the last trump and play a round of Hearts to establish his small cards in the suit, but he has no trumps left and cannot enjoy them; the King of Diamonds is the setting trick.

In the end we beat the French by 4 points, which counted as a draw. So we were 2 points behind Sweden but had this advantage—that if we won our remaining matches we would be the winners, because the tie would be split on the result of our match against Sweden.

We played Norway in the evening starting with Gray and Simon, Boris and myself. Norway are

COPENHAGEN DIARY

(continued)

good, but things went our way and we lost points on only one hand in the first sixteen. We led by 25 at half-time, and Konstam came in for Simon. Play was fairly even in the second half. Norway have a very promising player in Knudsen, who is only 25 and has played for only 4 years.

Our last match was against Belgium, who had played steadily throughout the week. We had to win, for Sweden was still winning every match. We fielded our "morning" team, Dodds and Rayne, Boris and myself. In the first half I mis-played a contract of 6 Spades, and we found ourselves 8 points up at half-time. The second half in our room was fairly level; we played quite well, but the Belgians gave nothing away. When we finished play we heard grave accounts of the opening exchanges in the other room. The first 5 boards whose result was known showed us losing 14 points. At that point Gray, who had been kibitzing, could bear it no longer, so for further news we had to wait until the play was ended. There was a dramatic turnabout, for Dodds and Rayne played faultlessly after their poor start to the second half, and the Belgians fell away. To our surprise we had picked up 37 points on the second half.

Sweden were second and Norway third. Had the tie with Sweden been decided by match points, we would also have been good winners, for we were 87 points better than they. Denmark was fourth.

Meanwhile the ladies, after losing their first two matches, had won the next three and finished in

second place, the winners being Denmark. Lady Rhodes and Mrs. Litante played in four and a half of the five matches. The rest of the team was Mrs. Fleming (capt.), Mrs. Hardie, Mrs. Simon and Miss Pearson.

To pull up to second place after losing their first two matches was a first-class performance and a tribute to their morale.

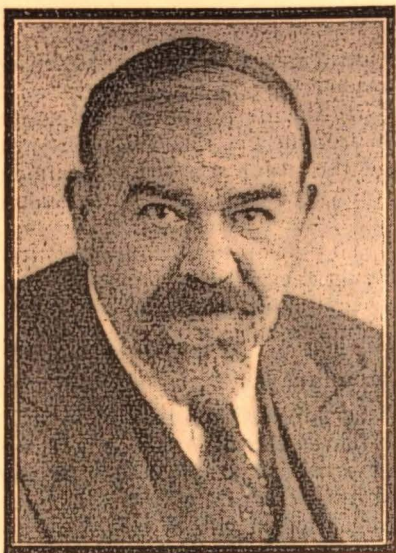
Monday, June 21

Looking back on the week's play, I have these impressions: we deserved to win, for we were the best all-round team. Every member pulled his weight.

The original idea was that Gray should play with Simon, Boris with myself, and that Dodds, Rayne and Konstam should form a triangle. Dodds and Rayne struck such good form, however, that it seemed a pity to split them, and so Gray played rather more boards with Konstam than with Simon. Boris and I each played half a match with Simon; otherwise we played together.

There was one department of the game in which it seemed to me that we constantly gained points. This was in competitive bidding situations. The Continental teams were all cautious and time after time we held the contract in both rooms.

This has been a narrative of the play, and so far I have not mentioned the wonderful organisation, both for "on" and "off" time, and the lavish hospitality of the Danes. The Championship is due to be played in Paris next year and in London in 1950. To compare with Copenhagen, Paris and London will have to maintain an extremely high standard.



In Remembrance of **DR. PAUL STERN**

sweetness so unexpected that even those he castigated seldom bore malice for long.

He was an authoritarian—one needed (and needs) to be so to control any body of card-players: surely the most intractable section of any community; but, once the flash of fury was over, he was at once on the old friendly terms. Like a gruff old bear, his ferocity was only skin-deep: he was never a bear with a sore head.

This was probably because his head was so good: for Paul Stern possessed a versatility and a brilliance that few men achieve. His cherished Doctorate was not of medicine (although he knew a good deal of medicine: an invalid for many years, he needed to) but of philosophy. And, although he has been known for decades as a card-player, his reputation was made in the lawcourts of Vienna where he practiced with considerable success.

He was the acknowledged European expert on all cases involving games of chance—a considerable requirement in a Continent where gambling is legal. He was, in fact, almost a one-man Court of Appeal when questions of ethics (or cheating) were involved.

It was virtually in his capacity as universal card expert that he was asked to train the group of brilliant players in Vienna and weld a handful of individual stars

A GREAT gap has been torn in the ranks of bridge by the death of Dr. Paul Stern, captain and trainer of some of the most remarkable teams the game has ever seen, outstanding personality of Continental—and, for the past ten years, of British bridge, and, quite recently, Editor of this *Journal*.

It is a tragedy that the moment of his passing should have coincided with the almost-achievement of his dearest ambition: to do for the game in the England of his adoption what he had so triumphantly accomplished for it in the Austria of his birth.

Paul Stern—whose “Dr.” was a so inseparable part of his name that he signed the most casual post-card with the prefix—was, both in his early life and in his exile, an unforgettable figure. He was tall, burly, irascible, with a voice so rough, a temperament so volatile that half the people who saw him called him a dictator; but with a charm so great, a

into a corporate constellation. With a brain of fantastic ingenuity, he devised the Vienna System (with its new convention every week—and sometimes twice a week!) which revolutionised Continental bridge just before the war and whose impress still is perceptible on the contract bidding of Europe.

No sooner had he achieved the distinction of captaining a world-beating team (in which he acted as non-playing captain), than his country was invaded. Stern sent to Hitler his World War I decorations with a letter setting forth—with all the Stern vigour!—his views on Nazism in general and the Anschluss (and its method of achievement) in particular; and sought asylum in what was soon to be the last free country in Europe.

He came here, speaking barely a word of English; with little money; with no advantages; with a handful of insulin tablets, on which he lived; but also with a force of character which, by the time Britain was fighting for her very existence, enabled him to keep flying the flag of the game he loved so well and for which he did so much.

Bridge, for many, was to the fighting men of World War II what bowls was to Drake: the relaxation they craved. When the bombs were falling, it was in large measure due to Paul Stern that there was still a game of duplicate in London, where one could forget for an hour the problems of life and death in the problem of a double squeeze.

When Terence Reese started the T.B.A., Paul Stern was one of the first to whom he turned. Stern became one of the most overworked

teachers in London; he, the Austrian, was the chosen representative of the American Bridge World in Britain.

But a few weeks before his death, he was elected to the London Association. As newly-appointed Editor of this *Journal*, he planned—British by naturalisation at last as, for ten years, he had been by self-election—to go to Copenhagen as a representative (though still not at the card-table) of British Bridge.

Supreme unification with the country of his choice was his second marriage—to Miss Louisa Chamberlain, whose unfailing help and sympathy all admired but only he could fully recognise.

But the ill-health against which he had battled for so long at last overwhelmed him. Against the stark figure of Death, even Paul Stern's dynamic was at last unavailing.

And so there passes from the scene—though not from the memory—the bulky, lumbering figure with its rolling gait, its grizzled beard hiding the careless collar and ill-tied tie, the exquisite calligraphy writing out hands upside-down from the thousands of card-table incidents he carried in his mind, the heavily-accented, guttural voice barking his orders, the sudden smile flashing out from the mass of tangled hair.

He—the Herr Doktor whose sobriquet, conceived and conferred in 1938 in affectionate mockery, retained in 1948 only the affection—he is gone; but his work and his personality live on whenever and wherever four are gathered together across the bright green baize.

G.R.

AROUND THE COMPETITIONS

GOLD CUP

Semi-Final Results

P. Juan beat L. Baron by 1,300.

B. Franks beat Trevor Williams by 1,680.

Arrangements are now being made for the Final to be played in Manchester, dates to be announced in due course.

HUBERT PHILLIPS BOWL

Semi-Final Results

L. Jacobs (holder) beat Lt. Col.

G. H. F. Broad by 60.

K. Konstam beat Dr. S. Lee by 4,600.

In earlier rounds L. Jacobs' team (Birmingham) had beaten strong London teams—S. J. Simon, Mrs. Simon, Mrs. Litante and Guy Ramsey in the second round and Harrison-Gray, Terence Reese, G. Mathieson and Mrs. Fleming in the third round.

LADY MILNE CUP

Semi-Final Results

Mrs. Porteous (Edinburgh) w/o Mrs. Klein scratched.

Mrs. McDonnell (London) beat Mrs. Cole (Worthing) by 3,560.

The Final will be played in London on 1st and 2nd July.

CROCKFORD'S CUP

The following Teams were engaged in the Final which took place at Crockford's Club, on 24th and 25th June:—

LONDON: E. N. Furse, L. Baron, T. Reese, J. Colvin, Dr. S. Lee, L. Ellison, J. Pavlides.

LEEDS: H. Franklin,

STOP PRESS:

Final Placings

Baron (20½-44); Lee (22-43); Reese (16-35½); Ellison (19½-35); Furse (17-34); Pavlides (12-31½); Colvin (15-30); Franklin (16-25).

AFFILIATED CLUBS CUP

The Final was played at Bristol on June 13th when the University of Bristol beat the Gloucester Club (Miss Harris, London) by 110 points.

WHITELAW CUP

Semi-Final Result

Mrs. S. C. Kastell beat Mrs.

O. B. J. Cole (Leicester) by 960.

The final was played at the Hamilton Club on June 27th. Results will be published in next issue.

PACHABO CUP

Teams qualified for Final are:

A. W. Clarke (Herts.), W. C. Uwins (Mdx.), Lt. Col. C. B. Stopforth (Kent), R. Evans (Bournemouth), M. A. Porter (Birmingham), J. H. C. Godfrey (Nottingham), Mrs. Gimson (Leicester), Dr. J. C. MacFarlane (Derby), T. Gee (Bolton), Mrs. Tomson (Somerset), Mrs. Tracey (Lincoln), Dr. S. Lee (London), A. L. De la Porte (London), R. H. Newman (London), F. Booker (London) and H. Franklin (Leeds).

The Final will be played at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham on the 10th and 11th July.

CROCKFORD'S v. HAMILTON

Inter-Club Match

The 1948 Inter-Club Match between Crockford's and the Hamilton Club was held simultaneously at both clubs on May 24th and 25th. There were 12 pairs a side and 24 boards were played at each session. After the first twelve boards Hamilton Club was leading by 2,130 points, but Crockford's led at the end of the first evening by 3,640. Crockford's maintained their lead during the second session and finally won by 4,840 points.

One of the many interesting hands was the following:

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

Neither vulnerable. Dealer East.

Most East-West pairs reached and made 4 ♠. In many cases North's opening lead was the ♥ K, South encouragingly playing the ♥ 8. The ♥ 10 was overtaken by South and the ♥ Q followed to trick 3. West ruffed with a small Spade and was over-ruffed by North. Whatever card North now led could not prevent the declarer making the remaining ten tricks. None of the North players found the correct defence, namely, refusing to over-ruff at Trick 3. By doing so the contract cannot

be made as the declarer gets too short in trumps. He must ruff two Clubs in dummy and can return to his own hand only once with a high trump. He must therefore shorten himself with a Diamond ruff and North gains the length with the Q 6, defeating the contract.

TOURNAMENT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

The Autumn Tournament of the T.B.A. will be held at the Burlington Hotel, Bournemouth from October 29th to November 1st. The Principal events are the "Two Stars," Inter-City Championship and the Burlington Cup. For further information write to the Secretary, Mrs. V. M. Trollope, Wanborough Manor, near Guildford, Surrey.

SOUTH OF IRELAND CONGRESS

The Congress was held at Killarney from June 12th to 20th. The events included Pairs Championship for the Dawn Cup, Team-of-Four Championship for the Loch Lein Trophy and Open Pairs Contests. A report on the Congress and the results will be published next month.

NORTH OF ENGLAND PAIRS COMPETITION

The Final was played at the Aysgarth Bridge Club, Leeds, on June 27th.

MIDLAND COUNTIES PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Final was played at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on June 27th.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES OPEN PAIRS

Twelve out of the original entry of 168 pairs survived to the two-session final.

The end of the first session found a Surrey pair—E. G. Broadbent and R. G. Starkey—in the lead with 168 Match Points. The next four in order were grouped closely: Lewis Ellison and Dr. "Joe" Whitby lay second with 127; then followed three London pairs: Mr. and Mrs. Della-Porta (124), K. M. "Connie" Konstam and Mrs. M. Phillips (123) and J. Moskal and M. Wollack (121).

Broadbent and Starkey retained their lead and won the championship with a score of 252—a superb achievement by two comparative new-comers to Tournament Bridge. The winners are members of a band of enthusiasts at Farnborough who have shown, time after time, that the difficulties of distance and travel exist only to be overcome. A night in London which begins with the evening Bridge event and ends only as the 5.30 (a.m.) draws out of Waterloo just comes—for them—between two working days.

Ellison and Whitby only just missed winning with 250—but what a pair for finishing a mere nose behind the winners. They have "run-up" so often—in the *Daily Telegraph*, they (with their teammates) lay second in all three sessions. On balance, they are probably the most consistent pair now playing.

The finest single session was recorded on the second day by "Nico" Goldinger and Dr. M. ("Rocky") Rockfelt, who turned

in 143 to lift them from tenth position to a good third with 243. Sharples and Sharples, the Surrey cracks (no-one knows which is which) came fourth (235); Kenneth Konstam and Greta Phillips finished fifth (233) and Moskal and Wollack sixth (230).

NORTH WESTERN C.B.A.

The Autumn Congress of the North Western Contract Bridge Association will be held at the Cliffs Hotel, Blackpool on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 5th-7th of November. Further particulars obtainable from the Hon. Secretary, W. H. Preece, 14 Brown Street, Manchester 2.

MELVILLE SMITH TROPHY

The Final of this event brought triumph to Leo Baron's team—playing of course the Captain's system—consisting of Baron himself, Nico Goldinger, "Rockie" Rockfelt, Victor Mollo and Norman Squire.

They defeated, by the decisive margin of 4,090 the brothers Tarlo, Jack Marx, S. Bendix and "Jackie" Janes.

The Baron quintet marched impressively through every round and played fine bridge to gain a coveted trophy.

THE DUVEEN SHIELD

As last year, the First Division of the League, for the top ranking teams in London and the Home Counties was not played. The Duveen Shield was awarded to the winners of Division II.

This provided a great struggle between nine teams. Scoring was on International Match and Victory Points—2 for a win and 1 for a

difference in result of less than 9 match points.

G. H. Hammond's, C. E. Davis's, A. R. Lederer's, Mrs. J. D. Finlaison's and R. J. T. Gibson's teams all showed good form at the start, and even half way through it was hard to predict the likely winners. Then Hammond, the holder of the Shield, drew ahead, and with one match to play and a score of 13 out of a possible 14 he was a firm favourite; nearest rival was Lederer, winner of Division III in 1947, with two matches to play and 10 out of 12. Then Hammond lost to Gibson and fixed his total at 13.

Lederer meanwhile, scored a win, improving to 12 out of 14, and faced his needle match against Davis. A win would give him the Shield, a lose would give it to Hammond, and a draw would demand a final deciding match.

At half time, Lederer led by 15 match points. Interest quickened when Davis's aggregate total in the second half was 700 ahead and was maintained when the first board gained him 10 match points for a vulnerable slam not called by opponents; a draw seemed probable. In the end, however, Lederer still won by 12 match points. His team deserve congratulations on the achievement of winning the Third and Second Divisions in successive years.

It is, moreover, a very happy circumstance which places Tony Lederer's name on the same shield as that of his father, whose Team won it in 1935 and 1936, the first two years after its inception.

Condolences go to Hammond's team on only just missing the double event. This is a good team which, more often than not, wins its way to a Final; but it

rivals Mr. Alpar's Middlesex team for the distinction of being the most frequent "Runner-Up."

Scores: 1—A. R. Lederer, 14. 2—G. H. Hammond, 13. 3—Mrs. J. D. Finlaison and R. J. T. Gibson, 10. 5—C. E. Davis, 9. 6—R. F. N. Swingler, 6. 7—Mrs. N. I. Parker, 4. 8—G. Mc P. Heard, 3. 9—Mrs. W. A. Bull, 2.

The twelve teams entering for Division III were divided into two Leagues of six teams each. The Blue Section was won by the Sidcup II team, captained by T. Simpson, which won every match, and the Red Section by the May and Baker team, captained by D. Raper, with a score of 9 out of 10. Both teams are to be congratulated on fine consistent performances. They will play a "Final" for the Championship of Division III.

This League owes much to the (very characteristic) enterprise of three clubs: the Sidcup Bridge Club entered three teams—we have recorded the success of one of them; the Gloucester Club two teams which finished next behind the winners in their Section; and the Imperial College Bridge Club, a very live organisation whose achievements we shall certainly have to record in the not distant future, entered two teams.

It is pleasant also to record the heights reached by J. G. Madden when on a fine Saturday afternoon he fielded two teams at once in order not to hold up the League.

Scores: Blue Section. — 1 — Sidcup II, 10. 2—Miss H. Harris, 7. 3—J. A. McDougall, 6. 4—Mrs. Len Doeschate, 3. 5—J. G. Madden and G. A. Parsons, 2.

Red Section.—1—May and Baker, 9. (Three matches still to be played to complete the League).

My FIRST Squeeze

by V. H. Walker

I HAD read more Bridge books than I could remember—but I was still rather in the position of pushing the cards round than really playing. And because, perhaps, you, dearly beloved reader, are in something of the same boat (in which *Partner* is always seasick), I venture to tell the story of My First Squeeze—a red letter day in my life and the first step to playing real stuff instead of tripe.

Somewhat alarmed, I cut one of those experts who, in the Palooka circles I affected, reduced his always exiguous opening bids still further—to a King and a Prayer. At game to They, he opened One Heart and I beheld:

♠ A Q 9 8 5 ♥ K 6 3 ♦ J 10 9 ♣ K 4
I had hopes of 4 ♥—played by partner—to put us on even terms.

East butted in with 2 ♣ and, tossing up between 2 ♠ and 3 ♥, plumped for the former. Partner raised the Spades and, feeling slightly more comfortable, I went to 4 ♠. West led a Club, won by East with the Ace and returned.

I had hoped for an easy ride, but North's hand was only:

♠ K 10 7 ♥ A 9 8 7 2 ♦ K 4 ♣ J 10 5
I thanked Heaven we weren't cracked, and decided (a) that if I tried to ruff a Diamond, I should be forced to take a view early (which I dread—views are, perhaps, the weakest part of my game) and (b), they might lead trumps and I should get in a mess with my entries.

So, remembering London Bridge, I drew trumps, which split 3-2. I then embarked on the Hearts. "High cards from the short hand," say the pundits, so I led the King; duck round 2—really, I was playing it like the far-famed book: if only East won the trick, I should be out of all my troubles.

But not only did East not win—the brute showed out! The Hearts wouldn't clear and there weren't enough Diamonds to work even if the Queen was right. West refused to co-operate by putting me in with a Club ruff, but led a Diamond: I was down to the view after all.

Even a Palooka East must have the Ace on her over-call, bad enough already, and if she had Ace-Queen, I was cooked; so I ducked. For once the view was right. The Ace came up and a Diamond came back to kill the entry.

Now, what was I to do? I pondered; I wondered; I thought—at least, I hoped my partner thought I was thinking. I wondered whether to cash the Heart Ace and trust to a wrong discard—but West was marked with the Diamond Queen: even I could read cards enough for that. And West also had the 2-card Heart guard.

Wait a minute (I had already waited five). Wasn't this—mightn't it be—could it, possibly

(Continued on page 44)

The NORTHERN OUTLOOK

by
Ewart Kempson

THIS laundry business can be very tricky at times. We were having a lovely session with the button-crushing machine when up rolled a shirt marked A.M. Naturally we at once thought of Professor Alan MacKinnon but the complete lack of cigarette ash set us thinking again. Perhaps it was Mr. Adam Meredith or Mr. Alphonse Moyses, or Dr. Archibald MacArthur or Mr. Albert Morehead. We fitted in the largest of our granite crushers, took careful aim and then noticed that it was a chemise. Just in time, Alice, just in time!

Mention of Albert Morehead, one-time member of the Culbertson team, gives us an opportunity to bow a low bow to this magnificent player-writer. His war-time books, *Modern Hoyle* and *Bridge the Expert Way*, have been followed recently by *Hoyle Up-to-Date* and *Games for Two*, both in collaboration with G. Mott-Smith and all published by the John C. Winston Company of Philadelphia.

We were sitting quietly in a corner of our laundry sharpening up the old sheet-slasher when our eye lighted on a bundle of linen wrapped up in a newspaper. The paper contained an article entitled "Bridge Competition Solutions" so we took a look. We examined each question and each solution with growing astonishment and were forced to the conclusion that the prize list announcement could not help reading as follows: "The prize money has been equally

divided between 9,000 readers who tied for first place, each with no correct solution."

Our old friend Colonel Walshe came to stay with us recently and in due course we settled down to a rubber or two. Our wife (L. Kempson), being lucky in love, duly cut Colonel Walshe, and away we went.

Our wife started badly by bidding a No Trump and we saw the look of pain and sorrow on her partner's face. This, we thought, is the beginning of a very profitable rubber, but we had reckoned without the wiles of L. Kempson who, using the honeyed accents which she practised on us twelve years ago, said "I've just been reading your new book (*Count to Win*, Ernest Benn Ltd., eight shillings and sixpence), Walshie. It's wonderful. And your principles have in no way altered since your 1933 book."

We don't know about the principles, but we do know that the look of pain and sorrow vanished from the Colonel's face and that the rubber proceeded in the greatest harmony. Of the seven hands played our wife was dummy on only six occasions, our partner playing the seventh hand.

In a subsequent rubber up came this interesting hand:

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

With the West cards our wife bid One Heart, we responded smartly with Three Clubs, West bid Three Hearts and we made it "four 'art."

How do you play the hand against an opening lead of the Three of Clubs on which South plays the Six?

If you lead a low Heart from dummy and finesse the Knave you are certain to be defeated if North has the King; on a Spade switch the third round has to be ruffed with the Queen and this establishes a second trump trick for the enemy. The Queen of Hearts at trick 2 may be led and ducked by West even if South produces the King. With the adverse trumps three and two game is now practically ice cold.

In fact West led the Six of Hearts at Trick 2 and planked on the Ace. Not an eyelid was batted when North's bare King dropped, but West rightly switched to Clubs and neatly discarded a Spade when South ruffed the third Club honour.

The safety play to lose only one trump trick is to play out the Ace, but what happens if North does not produce the King? Clearly a switch must be made back to Clubs in the hope that the adverse clubs are three and three or that the opponent who is short in clubs has to ruff with the King of hearts.

The 12th annual North v. South match was played way back in February, but we have seen no announcement in this Journal as to the result, so we are not ashamed to state that our North team won by 3,720 which is only 50 points short of the record North win, way back in 1938.

For the first time in the history of the contest, the South team included two women players; Mrs. Preedy of Warwickshire and Mrs. Phyllis Williams of London. The former played with Mr. L. Jacobs and the latter with Mr. J. Pearlstone. Mr. E. Foster (Captain) and Mr. H. Pepper were the other members of the South.

Four Yorkshire players and two Newcastle players completed the North team; Messrs. H. Franklin, R. Mercado, R. Niman, C. Vickerman, T. S. Wraith and Dr. A. MacArthur.

It was until Board 34 that the North took the lead, but it was still anybody's match at Board 80 when the North led by 1,290. The visiting team then cracked rather badly and enabled the North to draw level in the series with six wins to each side.

Played in Newcastle-on-Tyne, the match was supervised by the North Eastern Bridge Association. Mr. Norman Robson was the tournament manager.

Here is the 81st board which started the rot:

♠ A 6 4 2
♥ K J 10 8 3
♦ A 10 7
♣ A

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

♠ K Q 10 8 7 3
♥ —
♦ 5 2
♣ J 10 9 5 2

Dealer North. Love all.

In Room 1 Mr. Mercado (North) bid One Heart, Mr. Franklin responded with One Spade, West doubled and North jumped to Four Spades. This was doubled by East and passed out.

A Spade was led and continued, dummy winning. The Ten of Hearts was led and ducked by East. South discarded a Diamond and eventually lost a Club as well as the Ace of Hearts. This gave the North team 640 and Messrs. Franklin and Mercado spent an interesting half hour concocting excuses as to why neither re-doubled.

In Room 2 Mrs. Preedy (North) bid One Heart, Mr. Jacobs called One Spade, North jumped to Four Spades and South bid Five Clubs. Over North's Five Diamond bid South jumped to Six Spades and West doubled.

Mr. Niman led a nimble Diamond, dummy playing the Ace and then switching to the Knave of Hearts. This was won by West's Ace, South discarding a Diamond, and back came the Diamond King. The declarer banked everything on finding the adverse Hearts evenly divided and when this failed so did the contract.

It is easy to be wise after the event and to say smugly that the slam is cold on a simple cross-ruff, but nothing is simple in a needle match especially when the contract is a slam.

On Saturday, May 8th, a most handsome pair of silver candlesticks was presented by the North Eastern Bridge Association to the founder on the occasion of his departure from Newcastle-on-Tyne. Later in the day an inscribed silver

cigarette box containing sixteen signatures was presented to the same party. The inscription read as follows:

"To the originator of the 'Kempson' system of Contract Bridge from a few appreciative friends."

Whenever we look at these two beautiful presents we are overcome with nostalgia and we are quite willing to sell the laundry, sheet slasher and all.

Notes from Northern Ireland

by A. J. Fletcher

THERE is only one event outstanding as the Kelvin Cup completes the season's activities. The donors of the Cup and the holders, the Kelvin Club, have reached the final and await the issue of the semi-final match between the Malone Club and the Jewish Institute.

The second inter-Club Pairs was won by Mrs. Coburn and R. C. Eaton of Banbridge. Eaton's merit is well known and respected and this recent partnership shows distinct promise. Mrs. Lee and Maurice Gabbey, Internationals both, did not cause any surprise when they won the mixed Pairs. It was an excellent performance by Mrs. Bell and Miss R. Frazer to win the mid-Ulster Open Pairs against very strong opposition, the Consolation event being deservedly captured by Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson of Portadown.

For the third successive year Maurice Gabbey's four secured the coveted Mackinnon Cup and Jimmy Green is endeavouring to emulate this feat in relation to the Hyman Cup, as he has now secured the right to have his name engraved on it for the second time.

By virtue of winning the Senior League Eric Goldblatt's team earned the right to play the Southern representatives, Miss McNulty's four, in the annual match between North and South for the Walshe Cup. The event, normally played over 100 boards, was limited by mutual agreement to 84 owing to the time factor, and for the most part produced fairly orthodox and rather uninteresting Bridge. But what a climax—not eclipsed by Sidney Horler's most exciting sports thrillers! The Southern side led on merit almost throughout and when the last Board was tabled they had a credit margin of 1,800 points. This should normally have been sufficient to make victory certain, but there is little certainty about Bridge and the abnormal occurred. Both sides were vulnerable, the perfect setting when heroics are demanded, and West dealt the following hands:

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

Bidding—Room 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	2 ♦	No bid	3 ♣
No bid	4 ♣	No bid	4 ♥
No bid	5 ♣	No bid	6 ♣

Diamond Ace led, South made 12 tricks, 1,370 to Goldblatt.

Bidding—Room 2

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♠	2 ♦	No bid	2 ♥
No bid	3 ♦	No bid	3 NT
Dble	4 ♦	No bid	No bid
Dble			

Spade 7 led, North made seven tricks, 800 to Goldblatt.

The swing on the Board was thus 2,170 making the Northern winning margin 370 points.

It was decidedly hard luck on the Southerners to have victory snatched from their grasp at the final hurdle, yet their performance on this last board was not good. In Room 2 South's bid of 2 Hearts is not constructive, but the worst bid is surely North's 4 Diamonds. If he must take out the double, 4 Clubs might be tried, in which case South should raise to six. West's first psychological double is excellent, but his second double is only justified by the circumstances. It will be noted that on the opening lead of the Diamond Ace, thirteen tricks can be made with Clubs as trumps: three Hearts, one Spade, one Diamond and eight Clubs. On the more difficult lead of the Heart Queen the small slam can, and should, be made. Even if Declarer pulls one round of Trumps to test the position, the twelfth trick can be set up by conceding a Diamond. A grand fighting finish by the Northerners.

A. J. FLETCHER



The WOMEN'S ANGLE

BY
MRS. A. L. FLEMING
(KENT)



NO ONE will agree upon the best method of selecting the women's team to represent Great Britain in the European Bridge Championship. Few, however, will dispute that the present generally adopted practice of forming partnerships and teams for the home competitions is extremely haphazard, depending as it usually does on the obvious convenience of living in the same neighbourhood or belonging to the same club. I do not suppose I am the only London player who has never played even one board of duplicate with the feminine provincial stars.

Is there any way in which this state of affairs can be remedied for international events? Theoretically, yes. A pool of twenty or so of the best players in the British Isles could meet fortnightly to test out partnerships, subject themselves to training etc., as suggested in the May issue of the *Contract Bridge Journal*.

In practice, I can see little hope of this admirable sounding scheme providing the solution. Many London players would be willing, even eager, to go into training; but for the scheme to cover the talent of the British Isles, it is necessary to go far further afield. In this year's Trials, players from Edinburgh, Nottingham, Birmingham and Bournemouth demonstrated very forcibly that whatever monopoly the London men may claim in British teams, this is far from being the case

with the women. There are many other centres such as Cardiff, Leeds, Grimsby, Durham and Leicester, which could contribute players. Can anyone seriously suggest that aspirants for international honours should undertake these long and costly journeys at fortnightly or even monthly intervals? Very few of us could afford either the time or the money.

Lastly, even if there exists some superman, who would command the confidence of all these varied players, could he be persuaded to take on such a Herculean task, requiring as it does infinite tact and patience, much hard work and of necessity little recompense.

Having given my reasons for believing that a centralised training scheme for large numbers from all over the country is impracticable, let me now try to be constructive and put forward an alternative suggestion, which, though by no means perfect, might be taken as a basis for discussion.

Let the selectors announce in August that the last week in November will be devoted to international trial matches, limited to twelve (or fewer) teams of four. If more than twelve teams enter, the leading six teams would be seeded and the remaining six places would be competed for. Matches against all the other teams would be played with scoring by international match points and the result would also be decided by whatever method the European

Bridge League would be adopting it at the championship.

It is true that this would mean an extremely strenuous week, but it would have the great advantage of reproducing as nearly as possible the conditions under which the British team would be competing in the actual championship and would be a valuable test of stamina.

International Bridge calls for so many more qualities than mere skill at the card table. Much the most vital of these is the spirit of team co-operation and loyalty, without which a side may win occasional matches, but will never emerge victorious from the needle atmosphere, the disappointments and the thrills of a week of championship play.

The condition that teams, even in the preliminary stages, had to consist of six players, gave rise to some complications this year. I would suggest, therefore, that teams should comprise four players, with a reserve in case of illness, and that the captain of the winning team, in co-operation with the selectors, should complete her six by inviting the outstanding pair from the rest.

In no circumstances would. I advocate that the six be chosen as the result of pairs trials. Pairs competitions, whilst admirable and enjoyable in themselves, call for a different technique, and taking the three top pairs would almost inevitably result in temperamental disasters.

By the above method, players all over the country would have more than three months to decide on their best team of four combinations, and be trained, if

they wish it, in their own districts. Travelling expenses would be decimated and a week in London would be preferable, I should imagine, to staying one night each fortnight. The British team would be announced in December and after relaxing for Christmas would have approximately six months for preparation and training.

No longer would a superhuman trainer be required. Instead of the clash of two dozen temperaments, there would be a team, who has proved its ability, stamina and spirit by emerging victorious from as thorough a test as it would subsequently be facing abroad.

At present there are two cups competed for by women's teams of four on almost similar lines—knock out with aggregate scoring—The Lady Milne Cup for the championship of Great Britain and the Whitelaw Cup for England only. Could not the former be awarded to the winners of these trials, who would be worthy champions of Great Britain?

Our team this year was fortunate in having for several months the services of Terence Reese in the capacity of trainer. Other teams will swear by such eminent coaches as Harrison-Gray and the late Dr. Stern. As one who has benefited both in 1939 and this year, I cannot sufficiently emphasise the importance of team training under the supervision of an expert coach.

DO YOU know a good Bridge story? If you do, send it along to us for publication. Other readers may like to hear it.

Readers' Forum

The Editor Replies

Question: We had a lively argument at our table when my husband (West) had not followed to the second round of trumps played by the declarer (South). The declarer led a master trump from his hand on the third round and then my husband discovered that he still had a trump. He said so and expressed regret. The declarer claimed the penalty for an established revoke when we subsequently made two tricks and defeated the contract. I contended that the revoke was *not* established. Who was right?

(Mrs. R.C., Birmingham)

Answer: In the circumstances you describe, the revoke was not established. The rules expressly state that a revoke becomes established if one player of the *offending* side has led or played to the next trick (Law 27/2). The reason for this wording of the law is to protect the offender against an immediate lead to the next trick by the non-offending side. Let us assume a defender does not follow suit and the declarer leads so quickly to the next trick that the offender has no chance to correct his mistake. In that case the revoke does not become established if the offender draws attention to his mistake before playing to the next trick. The declarer has the right to treat the wrong card as a penalty card or to request the offender to play his highest or lowest card (Law 27/1a). Only when either player of the offending side has led or played to the next trick does the revoke become established and the declarer can then claim the

penalty described in Law 27/4. It makes no difference whether the previous trick has been turned or not.

Question: Playing the Standard Two Clubs System I was dealt this hand:

♠ 8 ♥ KQJ653 ♦ KQJ103 ♣ 4

What should have been my correct first response after my partner opened One Spade, both opponents having passed? I actually bid Three Hearts and eventually played the hand in Five Hearts. I went one down because my partner held one Ace only. (W.G.T., London).

Answer: Your forcing take-out of Three Hearts was wrong; your correct response should have been Two Hearts. Normally a forcing take-out should only be made when you hold two Aces provided, of course, you have the other strength required for such a bid. A jump response, forcing to game, on a hand holding no Ace is unthinkable and cannot possibly do any good.

Question: We were both vulnerable when the bidding went: South, One No-Trump; North, Three No-Trumps, neither my partner nor myself making a bid. I was West and held:

♠ KQ3 ♥ J842 ♦ 76 ♣ A753

What should I have led? On my lead of the Two of Hearts the declarer made his contract because we did not make a Heart trick although my partner held the Queen of Hearts. My partner reproached me for having made what he considered the worst lead I could have made. (B.L., Leeds 6)

Answer : Your partner's remark was only partially correct—there is an equally bad lead and that is a small Club. Both these leads normally give away at least one trick unless your partner holds two top honours which is most unlikely.

The normal lead from your hand should be the Seven of Diamonds but even this may prove fatal if either of your opponents holds a long concealed Diamond suit. If you are enterprising you should lead the King of Spades—your partner may easily hold five Spades to the Jack and an entry. Remember your opponents did not bid Spades which they probably would have done if either of them held a good biddable Spade suit.

Question : Being vulnerable my partner opened Two Hearts and I held :

♠ 9 8 5 3 ♥ J 8 6 5 3 2 ♦ 6 ♣ Q 4

We were playing Two-Clubs as described by Butler and Stern. There was no intervening bid. What should I have responded?

(R.S., Torquay)

Answer : Four Hearts. This bid denies strength, shows at least five trumps and some distributional values. Three Hearts would indicate a strong hand. A bid of Two No-Trumps with the intention of bidding Four Hearts later would be senseless. After partner's opening bid of Two, in a Suit there is no negative Two No-Trump bid in the "Two-Clubs" System—except in Acol.

SETTLE THAT ARGUMENT

Write to the Readers' Forum for expert advice.

Book Review

COUNT TO WIN AT BRIDGE

By Col. G. G. J. Walshe
(Ernest Benn Ltd., London.
Price 8/6)

The sub-title, "A simple summary of valuation and bidding with illustrative hands from actual play," is a very modest description of a comprehensive study of bidding and play. For those who use the Courtenay Count the book is invaluable as it clarifies and extends the information given in previous publications on the subject.

The chapters on "Responses to Minimum Opening Bids" and "Opening Bids of More than One" are especially clear and should help to remove the doubts and difficulties which often make bidding awkward and uncertain.

The inclusion of an extensive chapter, "Questions and Answers on Bidding" is a very attractive feature. The repetition of some of the questions and answers (*vide* : Nos. 26-30 and 46-50) is obviously an oversight.

The examples given in the chapter "Actual Bidding and Play Discussed" are well-chosen and illustrate a number of interesting points that the reader will find most illuminating and instructive. Followers of the Standard Two-Clubs System may find some of the bidding sequences used in this section rather puzzling, but the book as a whole is of inestimable value, being based on the wide practical experience of the author whose reputation as a tournament and rubber Bridge player requires no comment.

CRIME—BUT NO PUNISHMENT

by
Edward
Mayer

IT WAS with some diffidence that I accepted an invitation from Dr. Stern to write a few words on the first Gray-Kempson Challenge Match. For many months I had not failed to observe that articles in the *Contract Bridge Journal* were frequently lacking in objective criticism. If they were not written to enhance the prestige of their author, they lent themselves to promote his favourite system of bidding. On the other hand, articles in the Press on current Bridge matches invariably presented hands which were responsible for big swings, without giving the public (who ever hunger after the sensational) a picture of the real situation confronting the players—the state of the score, the success or failure of an underbid the previous hand, or even the effect on a player of his second whisky and soda.

The atmosphere throughout the match was strained and was responsible for a low standard of bidding and play. Some evidence of this was available in that the players in both teams who had been considered the weak links, were not noticeably inferior in attack and defence and were certainly more vocal when a disaster occurred.

I think that the fairest way to assess the strength of a partnership is in times of strain, and as I was allowed to take a small part in a tense stage of this match, it is perhaps only fair for me to select three of the hands when I was at the table. They are not examples



of brilliance, and I give them because they are typical of the play. Everyone in turn made a mistake, and the score, save for 30 points, remained unchanged. It is strange to recall that I heard a spectator saying at the end of the match, "The play has been much better and more lively in this last Session."

Hand 86

Game to East-West.

Players (Room 1) Players (Room 2)

Simon	North	Dodds
Konstam	East	Reese
Gray	South	Rayne
Mayer	West	Shapiro

♠ 10 9 3 2
♥ 10 8 5
♦ 4 2
♣ A 9 6 3

♠ J 5
♥ J 9 7 2
♦ 10 6 5 3
♣ 10 7 4

♠ A K 6
♥ A Q 4
♦ A K Q J 9
♣ 5 2

♠ Q 8 7 4
♥ K 6 3
♦ 8 7
♣ K Q J 8

Bidding—Room 1

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
—	2 $\diamond$	—	2 NT
—	3 NT	—	—
—			

$\spadesuit$ 10 led and 4 No-Trumps made.

Bidding—Room 2

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
—	3 NT	—	—
—			

$\clubsuit$ K led and 3 No-Trumps made.

There are only 8 tricks on top ; yet a game is made in each room. How is it done? Not by the declarer's brilliance, I can assure you. Winning the $\spadesuit$ 10 on the table and running off 4 Diamonds I despondently led a Heart and the $\heartsuit$ Q lost to Gray's King which he had bared. The $\clubsuit$ K was followed by the $\clubsuit$ 8 on which I played the $\clubsuit$ 10. Simon won with the Ace, decided that Gray could not possibly have led from K Q J 8 and responded to his partner's early peter in Spades.

Reese appeared to have an even more difficult problem with the $\clubsuit$ K led, but Dodds and Rayne cashed only 3 rounds of Clubs and squeezed themselves instead of the declarer.

This is not perhaps a fair picture of our first line of defence at Copenhagen ; so we will proceed to Board 92. The bidding was the same in both rooms :

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
—	—	1 $\heartsuit$	—
2 NT	—	4 $\heartsuit$	—
—	—		

I make no excuse for my bid of 4 Hearts ; it was deplorable. The childish grasp at the honours, the

fear that my partner might not have a Spade guard, our deficit of 2,000 points, were all working on me. I was so pleased when I made the Contract—until I found that Shapiro had made it also.

Hand 92

Game to North-South

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

Both Simon and Dodds opened with the $\diamondsuit$ K which held and followed with a trump. There is one slender hope for the declarer. He must switch to a Spade and finesse the $\spadesuit$ 9 if South fails to play high. Rayne fell for this, and Reese successfully discarded his losing $\diamondsuit$ on the $\spadesuit$ J ; but Gray was smarter, went up with the $\spadesuit$ A, and returned $\diamondsuit$ 6. The position seemed hopeless ; but in discarding on my Hearts, Gray obligingly petered in Spades. Simon took this peter to mean that Gray held the $\spadesuit$ Q, and therefore discarded his winning $\spadesuit$ K in order to retain the guarded $\clubsuit$ Q.

An annual subscription (30/-) forwarded to the Publishers will ensure regular monthly delivery of the *Contract Bridge Journal*.

Crime—But No Punishment

(Continued from page 40)

Finally, some slam bidding by the experts. The strain was, of course, by now intense.

Hand 93

Game All.

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

Bidding—Room 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	1 NT	—	3 ♥
—	4 ♥	—	5 ♣
—	5 ♥	—	6 ♥
—	—	—	—

Bidding—Room 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	1 ♣	—	1 ♥
—	2 NT	—	5 ♥
—	6 ♥	—	—
—	—	—	—

South cashed his two Aces.

"What a pity they didn't play Blackwood," I can hear someone saying.

I selected these hands because they led to no change in the score, and therefore they passed unnoticed except by the few who were watching. Perhaps I have not given a fair picture of the play; it was very near to the end of the match; but I may be pardoned for suggesting that we are not sending abroad a world-beating team.

Problem Corner

by "TENEX"

No. 20

"EACH WAY"

Hearts are Trumps: West leads

♠ K, South to make 11 tricks.

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

Lead: ♠ K

This problem is based on a hand played in America some years ago (v. Endplays) and used as a problem in the American and English press. The only alterations I have made are in the card values, with the object of producing a strict line of solution. This is given on page 47.

MAY PRIZE-WINNER

The monthly prize of Two Guineas for the best set of solutions to the May Competition is awarded to Dr. S. K. SOLON (Bristol) who scored 90 points.

Specialty commended: J. E. Gordon (Cheshire) 89; J. R. Davidson (Stirling) and G. A. Dickenson (Datchet) 86; Dr. R. McMahon (Essex) 85; E. H. Lewis-Dale (St. John's Wood) 84; A. E. Hopkins (N. Harrow) 81 and J. W. Maynard (Coventry) 80.

Commended: E. J. Watson-Williams (Bristol) 79; Lt.-Col. G. H. F. Broad (Rugby) and C. L. Hunt (Whetstone) 78; Dr. J. Boag (Cheltenham) 76; G. Deehan (Londonderry), E. H. Potter (Hounslow) and E. G. Lawford (Kingsclere) 75.

Leading scores in six-monthly competition: E. J. Watson-Williams 397; C. Vickerman 392; C. E. Phillips 386; E. F. Bayden 383; J. E. Gordon 375; Dr. K. Solon 374; L. G. Wood 372.

This Duplicate Business

by Mrs. O. B. E. COLE (Leicester)

IT IS fifteen years since I was introduced to Duplicate Bridge. It was fascinating but on occasions heart-rending, and, to those of us who took crashes too seriously, friendship-breaking! But since then greater knowledge of the game has brought tolerance and we accept reverses with a smile and a—"Bad luck partner!" We play not so much to win "pots" but to get the best out of the game and to enjoy it no matter what the result may be.

Congresses have brought Duplicate players together from far and near. They have brought unknowns into the limelight, but, more than that, they have brought us new friends. Looking back over the fifteen years, I realize what a happy time I have had and I value so much the new friends I found, whose friendship I like to think I have retained.

In July 1939 I took a large party of Bridge players on the "Arandora Star" to Copenhagen. We played Duplicate on board every night and a match of four a side was arranged at Copenhagen and, had the war not intervened, I think we might have got as far as Montreal! These were only friendly matches, of course, as none of us ever expected to reach an International standard. We started too late in life for that, but today it is encouraging to see young people becoming keenly interested and competing at Congresses.

At Margate there were four University Teams. Dare I suggest that some of the Master Players choose a team of young people and coach them rigorously to International standards? Perhaps Mr. Harrison-Gray, Captain Ewart Kempson and Mr. Terence Reese would adopt a young team and later let them challenge each other. Perhaps, too, the Universities would have a weekend for young people only, and invite the experts to lecture and coach. There is, I believe, one Public School where—in the higher forms—Bridge is played once a week.

The International System of match pointing has proved very popular and I wish it had been in use the first year the Gold Cup was played. Up to Board 31 my team was well ahead. On Board 32 both teams bid a Grand Slam in spades. The Slam points were 2,500 then. The opposition made their contract. I went one down and lost the match by 10 points. Here is the hand:

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

East had doubled. West led a small Diamond. East played the Ace and South ruffed. In the other room South in despair said, "A hopeless contract partner. You ought not to have bid seven." She also ruffed the Ace of Diamonds and flung down the Ace of Spades, announcing she should be one down. The King fell to the Ace. In the other room South, taking East for the guarded Spade King, led a Club to the Ace and West ruffed! It was a hard luck story for a long time.

SLAMWARD HO!

by A. G. Figgins

TO ONE who, like myself, regards Bridge as an intellectual pursuit of which the chief interest lies in the bidding, and not merely as a game of skill in playing the cards, the

attitude of the vast majority of players to slam bidding is distressing. In this aspect of the game, Bridge attains a pitch of perfection in which practically unlimited scope is afforded for artistry in extracting full value from the cards.

Yet this fact is so little appreciated that it is becoming quite rare to find a player who does not use some "kindergarten" convention for showing Aces and Kings. In fact, I am sometimes asked "How I can bid slams without a slam convention?" and, perhaps, my partner will reply jocularly on my behalf, "Oh, we believe in 'hit or miss.'"

This is all rather pathetic, and shows that a demonstration of the science of bidding slams is long overdue.

The first thing every player should do in this connection is to cultivate a "slam mentality." This is simplicity itself. Immediately on receipt of a slam invitation which he is prepared to accept, he should, metaphorically speaking, sit up in his chair and pull himself together.

The reason for this? It is absolutely necessary, at this point, for him to readjust his mentality

The CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL has invited an avowed and convinced "heretic" to preach his own gospel. Mr. Figgins, a player of long standing, plays Two Clubs, a variable No-Trump which can be weak even when vulnerable, and uses cue-bids. He is, perhaps, best-known as Psychist Extraordinary.

in order to deal with a set of problems which are essentially different from those arising in the ordinary course of the game.

Now let us assume that the bidding has gone: North, 1 Club;

East, No Bid; South, 2 Diamonds; West, No Bid. This is North's great moment. South has told him that a game is certain and a slam possible, provided the right contract can be found, and he must forthwith decide whether or not his hand justifies further exploration of slam possibilities and must inform South of his decision in unmistakable terms.

That is to say, if his hand is not suitable for a slam try, he must (irrespective of its shape) respond with Two No Trumps.

But—if the sign-off calls for Three No Trumps (the forcing take-out having been at the three level) and the hand cannot possibly be played at No-Trumps, the sign-off must be a re-bid of the original suit.*

This bid of North's is the most important of the sequence. His decision is not irrevocable—South, for instance, may have such a power-house that he decides to proceed to a slam in the face of a sign-off by North. Or, on the other hand, if the slam invitation has been accepted, the partners may later in the bidding find

(Continued on next page)

*How if you have opened on a weak 4-4-4-1?—Ed.

SLAMWARD HO!

(Continued from page 43)

themselves unable to agree on a contract and may drop the bidding before reaching slam level.

Nevertheless, if North makes any bid other than Two No Trumps after South's force, neither partner should subsequently drop the bidding short of slam level unless and until there has been complete failure to agree a denomination in which to play the hand.

Let us suppose that North has accepted South's invitation with a bid of Two Hearts. Both are now fairly embarked on a career of adventure, and it is for them to

savour it to the full. There is not the slightest need for any hurry to get things over, and they can, generally speaking, forget that there is such a thing as a jump bid.

They have now two aims only,

(1) to agree the denomination in which the hand should be played, and

(2) to discover by exploring all the possibilities of the combined hands whether the final contract should be a small or a grand slam.

Provided, of course, that they keep a wary eye open for any snags which may arise in the course of the bidding.

(To be continued)

My FIRST Squeeze

(Continued from page 30)

be one of those Squeezes I had read about, and even dreamed about bringing off? I couldn't be more than one down anyway—and I was that already. I looked at my superior partner, who was looking at me—down his long, superior nose. That settled it.

I led the Club and ruffed it. I hovered for a moment and laid down my last trump.

West wriggled, squirmed, hesitated—and succumbed.

"An unexpected pleasure," said my partner.

"A pleasure at least," I replied.

The 120 points I scored for that hand marked the turning point between Palookadom and Bridge for me. For it is not so difficult to count a hand as you think.

EDWARD ARNOLD & Co.

Reese on Play

An Introduction to Good
Bridge. By TERENCE
REESE. 7/6 net.

"Mr. Reese is one of the most brilliant of our card analysts, a leading broadcaster on the game, and one of the most successful of our international players Confined strictly to the play of the cards, the book shows the average player how he may become a good player, and the good player how he may become a better player . . . Most of us have a great deal still to learn about bridge, and there are few players in this country better qualified to help us than Mr. Reese."—*The Times*.

• Write for descriptive leaflet to

41 Maddox St., London, W1

This month's Competition

Set by Pedro Juan

The CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL offers a prize of TWO GUINEAS for the best set of solutions to the following problems. In the event of one 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 20th, 1948. Solutions, names of prizewinners, and leading scores in the special six-monthly competition, appear in the August issue.

PROBLEM No. 1 (12 points)

Score North-South 40. Dealer West.
South holds:

♠ 5 4 ♥ A K Q J 8 6 4 2 ♦ 9 ♣ 10 7

The bidding has gone:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
No bid	1 ♠	No bid	?

What should South bid?

PROBLEM No. 2 (12 points)

At the score Love All, South deals and holds:

♠ A J 7 ♥ K 2 ♦ K 4 3 ♣ A K 7 6 4

The bidding goes:

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

What should South now bid?

PROBLEM No. 3 (12 points)

East-West vulnerable. Dealer, South.
East holds:

♠ A K Q 7 6 ♥ 10 3 2 ♦ A K 4 ♣ Q 8

The bidding goes:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
4 ♥	No bid	No bid	?

What should East bid?

*Last of present Six-Monthly Series.
Winner of the Six-Monthly Competition announced in August Issue.*

PROBLEM No. 4 (12 points)

Neither vulnerable. Dealer, North.
South holds:

♠ J 10 7 ♥ Q 10 4 2 ♦ K 10 3 ♣ 9 8 7

The bidding goes:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
2 ♣	No bid	2 ♦	No bid
3 ♣	No bid	?	

What should South now bid?

PROBLEM No. 5 (12 points)

Score Game All. Dealer, South.
North holds:

♠ — ♥ Q 9 8 7 6 4 ♦ 10 8 7 5 4 2 ♣ 8

The bidding goes:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♠	Dble	2 ♥	Dble
3 ♣	Dble	?	

What should North now bid?

PROBLEM No. 6 (12 points)

North-South vulnerable. South deals and holds:

♠ K J 3 2 ♥ K J ♦ K 9 8 ♣ A 6 4 3

The bidding goes:

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

What should South now bid?

PROBLEM No. 7 (12 points)

Score Love All. Dealer, South.
North holds:

♠ 10 9 7 ♥ Q J ♦ A 8 5 ♣ K Q 9 4 3

The bidding goes:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	No bid	2 ♣	No bid
2 ♥	No bid	?	

What should North now bid?

PROBLEM No. 8 (16 points)

South has dealt and the bidding has gone:

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

Dummy's hand is:

♠ A J 8 5 3 ♥ 7 3 ♦ K J 8 4 ♣ 9 7

West holds:

♠ Q 2 ♥ A 10 9 8 5 ♦ 6 3 2 ♣ K 8 4

and leads ♥ 10. East plays ♥ Q and declarer wins with ♥ K. Declarer plays ♠ 4, ♠ A from dummy, East playing ♠ 6. At trick 4, ♠ 3 is played from dummy, East plays ♠ 7, declarer ♠ 9 and West wins with ♠ Q.

What should West now lead and why?

Answers to May Competition

by Guy Ramsey

PROBLEM No. 1 (12 points)

Four Clubs—12 points. Five Diamonds—4 points. Three No-Trumps—2 points. Three Hearts—2 points. Three Spades—1 point.

On North's opening and Diamond raise, slam should be suspected and investigated at the lowest possible level. This can best be achieved by cue-bidding opponents' suit. Three No-Trumps is a poor alternative. Hearts may well be led and the single stopper knocked out; in that case the contract may be difficult if North cannot guard the Hearts. A cue-bid in Hearts at this point will ruin the bidding sequence—the lowest control should be shown first—and may lead North to believe that his partner holds four Hearts, and relying on a 4-4 trump suit induce him to bid for an impossible slam in the red major. A direct Five Diamonds at least gets to game and shows a good deal to spare, but it cramps the bidding unduly. A raise in Spades, a suit that North has not rebid, is doubtful. It suggests on this sequence at least Q x x or better and you should not encourage a Spade contract unless North shows more Spade interest independently. Four Diamonds is shocking: it denies the strength (which you have to spare) for a game bid. Four No-Trumps, whether Blackwood, Culbertson, Norman or a natural bid, cannot induce North to make any bid helpful to your hand.

PROBLEM No. 2 (12 points)

Three Diamonds—12 points. Four Diamonds—4 points. Two Hearts—2 points. This hand, which represents partner's holding in Problem No. 1, is an example of natural co-operation which is the hall-mark of good partnership. You have a good (but not overwhelmingly good) raise of a suit that partner has bid voluntarily and constructively. Why not give it? Partner would certainly have bid Hearts, if he had them, rather than Diamonds, and may still bid them if he has say, K x x x. There is no need to stretch your hand to Four Diamonds; partner may now possibly bid Three No-Trumps which can easily prove the best spot from your point of view.

PROBLEM No. 3 (12 points)

No Bid—12 points. Two No-Trumps—1 point. Three Spades—1 point. Having made a hardly justifiable overcall on this nine point hand (even non-vulnerable against vulnerable opponents) your aim should be to stop bidding as rapidly as possible. Partner's Two Clubs may be a genuine Club suit (in these days when some Accl players bid One Club on a doubleton opponents must be alert to expose phoney bids) and the Spade bid is surely genuine. If the Club cue-bid is based on Heart support it is time North announced it. If North held a vast two-suiter in the black suits he could afford to bid Two Spades over One Heart, forcing to game. If he had the certainty of game in his own hand, he could now bid Three Spades. There is something to be said, but not much, for keeping North's strong bidding alive with Two No-Trumps promising a vague stop in Diamonds and this is slightly preferable to a "free" Spade raise on a worthless tripleton. The hand taken from the Kempson—Harrison-Gray match is admittedly difficult as North held: Four Spades to the Ace-Ten, no Hearts, five Diamonds to the Ace-King and four Clubs to the Ace.

PROBLEM No. 4 (12 points)

Two Diamonds—12 points. No Bid—8 points. Two Hearts—2 points. Two No-Trumps—1 point. This hand reduces itself to a choice between Two Diamonds, Two Hearts and No Bid. The void in Clubs suggesting a great many in partner's hand is a mixed blessing; dummy may well turn up with say J 9 x which could cut partner's holding to pieces. The Heart rebid is a waste of time; partner knows you have Hearts without your telling him so again. Two Diamonds will stimulate partner if he holds anything to make a No-Trump contract desirable; so you need not yourself embark on No-Trumps gratuitously on a 5-5-3-0 shape. Although partner has doubled Two Clubs, knowing the double is not free, your hand, for all its tricks, is so unsuited to play a low Club contract that you should forego the chance of 800 lest you find that Two Clubs is a make and the 800 you hoped for is transformed into 600 to opponents.

PROBLEM No. 5 (12 points)

Five Diamonds—12 points. Six Hearts—8 points. Five No-Trumps—6 points. A Five Diamond bid at this point informs partner that a possibly vital control is held (actually North held six Hearts to the A Q 10, six Clubs to the Ace-King and a singleton Diamond).

While it leaves North momentarily doubtful where the hand is to be played, there is no bid North can make that can possibly embarrass you; you can revert to Hearts over either minor or bid Six Hearts over Six Clubs. The Five Diamond bid cannot be passed. A six Heart bid at least tells partner that the Spade jump was based on a Heart fit, but strongly implies holding the Ace of Diamonds. Five No-Trumps implies, rather than precisely stating, the values held and is apt to suggest that you hold the King of Diamonds rather than the Ace. A Spade slam, with partner bidding two other suits so strongly, one of which you can support so handsomely, is so futile that even the most die-hard of "I want to play the hand with 100 honours" addicts should realise that there is a better chance of Seven Hearts than Six Spades. Seven Hearts is a good contract, but in this case it was wrecked as both Hearts and Clubs broke 4-1.

SOLUTION OF BRIDGE PROBLEM 20

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

PROBLEM No. 6 (10 points)

Knave of Diamonds—10 points. Queen of Clubs—5 points. King of Spades—2 points. With South having a rebid and East holding enough to make a voluntary overcall, it is obvious that North's redouble is based on ruffing values. Therefore a trump lead is obligatory. If this lead is not selected, the Queen of Clubs is preferable to the King of Spades, which, with the Ace in declarer's hand and the Knave in dummy, might just turn the scale. The Heart, although a singleton, is a bad lead to a semi-forced (i.e., an invited call). Partner will be sure to come to any Heart tricks he can make later in the play. In any case you do not want to ruff Hearts. You have a natural trump trick and need all your four trumps for drawing two for one and cutting down adverse cross-ruffs which are urgently threatened by the bidding.

Other returns by East or West give North and South varying degrees of latitude in the order of play.

PROBLEM No. 7 (10 points)

Three Spades—10 points. Three Hearts—4 points. After North's rebid of Three Diamonds, South must see that the two hands represent one of the frequent misfits where dropping the bidding as soon as possible is indicated. Re-bidding Hearts after responder knows that partner holds at least nine or ten cards in Spades and Diamonds is obviously unsound. Bidding Three No-Trumps would be bad enough, but a bid of Four Clubs now would be even worse. Merely showing preference by correcting partner's Three Diamonds to Three Spades is the best way to avoid trouble. If partner mistakes preference for support he will be responsible for the disaster that must follow.

PROBLEM No. 8 (20 points)

(a) Three No-Trumps—5 points. Three Diamonds—2 points.

The opener, who for his One No-Trump bid should hold the Ace of Diamonds, will have no difficulty in collecting nine tricks. It would be unwise to bid Three Diamonds which would be regarded as a mild slam try. As there is no point in getting into Five Diamonds instead of Three No-Trumps, the latter contract should undoubtedly be bid at once.

(b) Three Hearts—5 points. Three No-Trumps—2 points. In bidding Three Hearts responder gives the opener an opportunity of choosing between a final contract of Four Hearts or Three No-Trumps. In either case he should pass on the next round as a slam try on his hand with its restricted holding is out of the question.

(c) Three Diamonds—5 points. Three No-Trumps—3 points. The bid of Three Diamonds can do no harm here as it gives partner a chance to explore slam possibilities if he holds a maximum No-Trump or to bid Three Hearts should he hold something like Hearts: K Q 10 5. Three No-Trumps must undoubtedly be made, but it should not be bid at once in case there is a possibility of reaching Six Diamonds or Six Hearts, neither of which contracts seems unlikely on responder's hand.

(d) Two No-Trumps—5 points. Two Spades—1 point. This hand is too good for a sign-off with Two Spades and certainly not good enough for a forcing bid of Three Spades. Two No-Trumps is the right choice, showing six or seven points and leaving opener to raise to game or to stop according to his holding. With the Ace of Spades presumed to be in opener's hand it should not prove too difficult to collect nine tricks in No-Trumps even if one of the other three suits is only stopped once.

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