Vol. 3 APRIL, 1949 No. 6

CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

THIS MONTH'S PROBLEM

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

South plays 6 ♠. West leads ◇ K.

How should the hand be played?

See page 31.

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DUN LAOGHAIRE OPEN BRIDGE CONGRESS

1st to 9th October, 1949

Write T. J. KELLY, 6 Crofton Mansions, Dun Laoghaire, for details.

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VINAIGRETTES

* * *

"Reely,"
Complained Ely,
"This constant praise of Goren
Is just too boren."

* * *

Before you dare to play
With Harrison-Gray,
Take a lesson in the Squeese
From Reese.

* * *

None could call Standish Booka
A palooka
Save Rixi
When plagued by her familiar pixi.

* * *

"Hell!"
Boomed Geoffrey Fell,
"You ought to read Simon,
Nimon."

* * *

"Arrest'er,"
Screamed Madeline Lester,
When Madge Trollope
Came down a wollope.

* * *

Leo Baron
Implored: "Keep your haron"
When, down 1,400, Leist
Claimed he had over-sacrifeist.

EDITORIAL

AT A recent Final, the following sequence of bidding took place. South, 1 ♢ ; West, after a long trance, No ; North, 1 ♠ ; East, No ; South, 2 ♣ ; West, after a second long trance, No ; North, 2 NT ; East, No ; South, 3 NT ; West, after a third long trance, No.

East led a Minor through Dummy's bid and 3 NT were duly rolled up.

After the hand, West turned on East like a pickpocket : " I cannot understand," he trumpeted, " how you could fail to lead a Heart on such bidding. It must have been obvious I held the suit." He brooded slightly. " *What else could I have been thinking about*, except whether to bid Hearts ? "

This true anecdote has given—rightly—all bridge-players who have heard it a hearty laugh.

But it is no laughing matter.

It is true that the offender offended—obviously, or he would not have voiced his criticism *in public*—in ignorance. But the " informatory " trance is, as all experienced players are well aware (even if some of them still transgress—without this gentleman's naive admission) unethical.

It is doubtful whether the East in question refrained from a Heart lead from purely ethical motives : one gathers the standard of play, in this particular Final, was mixed. But in such circumstances, East *ought to refuse* to lead the suit.

In another recent event, a player was guilty of a temperamental exhibition which, by the same token, must be pilloried in the interests of bridge.

This player, after a disagreement with Partner, requested in mid-session a change of partnership and the introduction of a fifth team-member, until then, for the session, acting as Reserve. At the end of the session, the player withdrew from the contest, leaving (presumably) the ex-Partner and the Reserve to carry on.

Unhappily, the ex-Partner was unfit to continue : not solely owing to the previous fracas—flu (possibly responsible for the errors that had occasioned the initial disagreement) was in full swing.

The event was one in which a multiple-team movement was in force ; and to scratch the team of which the offender was a member was, from purely practical considerations, impossible.

The Tournament Director in the general interest admitted a substitute—not a member of the team.

Temperamental exhibitions, like those immortalised by the late Suzanne Lenglen on the tennis court, are always regrettable ; but in a Singles event, there is the easy, if disappointing, redress of scratching the offender. In a team game, like bridge, they are unforgivable, for such recourse is unavailable.

No game—even golf—is more productive of exacerbation, irritation, and not only temperament but temper than bridge ; but the canon of sportsmanship is therefore the more obligatory.

Bad ethics and bad sportsmanship are the left and right Achilles heels of this game of ours ; and it is for all players—pre-eminently for those at the top—to place before these vulnerable points the sure shield of their own example.

MASTER PAIRS

FORM at bridge, always unpredictable, and especially so this season, reached its peak of improbability in the T.B.A. Masters Pairs, held, as usual, at the Berners Hotel before the usual large gallery this event attracts.

Richard Preston and Ralph Swimer, stalwarts of the Arnold Elliott Team, " caked-walked " the event.

This came as no surprise to many shrewd judges who ranked them, rightly, as one of the most consistent pairs in the country ; but it is a fact that they were brought into the entry as last-minute substitutes.

With a 70 per cent. score they were still a few points behind Kenneth Konstam and Graham Mathieson at the end of Session I ; thereafter they had the field to themselves. Forging ahead with scarcely an indifferent board to mar their progress, with bidding and play of the highest calibre, they eventually ran out winners by the record margin of 53 match points.

Konstam and Mathieson were gallant runners-up, another knock for the selectors who had unaccountably omitted Graham from their original list for the Masters Individual. Incidentally, for the latter event Swimer only came in as a reserve, finishing eighth ; Preston was left out altogether.

Playing their own version of " Streamlined Acol," Ralph Evans and Victor Mollo brought off a fine and popular performance by finishing third.

With many pairs playing in strange formations, the standard was even less impressive than usual. A typical example of combined operations by declarer and defence was provided on Board 26.

	♠ K 8 5 ♡ A 7 6 ◇ J 6 2 ♣ K J 9 6	
♠ 9 4 3 ♡ 4 ◇ A 5 ♣ A Q 8 7 5 4 3		♠ A Q J 6 2 ♡ K J 9 5 3 ◇ 9 4 ♣ 2
	♠ 10 7 ♡ Q 10 8 2 ◇ K Q 10 8 7 3 ♣ 10	

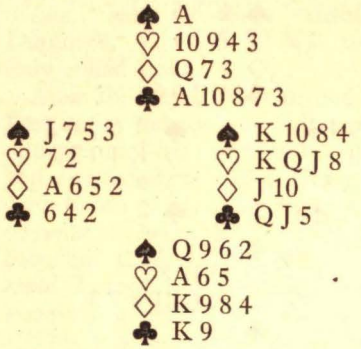
Dealer, West. North-South Game.

4 ♠ was the popular contract but was only bid and made at one table. In one case the play went as follows : South led ◇ K, dummy won and ♡ 4 was led. North hopped up with ♡ A (one rarely loses by ducking in this situation), cashed ◇ J and led a low trump. Not to be outdone, East made the classic play of winning with ♠ A, cashing ♡ K in a hurry and ruffing a Heart on the table. ♣ A was followed by ♣ 4, ruffed by East and over-ruffed by South, who now made the killing return of a Diamond.

Time stood still while East considered this Greek gift. Eventually he trumped in his own hand, led another Heart and ruffed with dummy's last trump. North obliged by over-trumping with ♠ K !

It will be seen that if North lets dummy hold this trick, East (who now has left ♠ Q J and his last Heart) can make only one more trick.

As the mistakes of the Masters are usually more popular than their occasional scintillations, we quote two bidding sequences that caught our fancy.



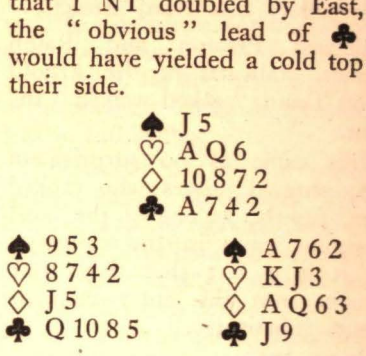
Dealer, North. East-West Game.

BIDDING

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
No bid	1 ♣	Dble	1 ◇
No bid (!)	1 NT	No bid	No bid
Dble	No bid	2 ♣ (!)	No bid
2 ♡	No bid	2 ♠	No bid
3 ♣	All pass		

South, who was conscious that he had overdone things a little with his "Lederer" double on the first round, was naturally horrified when his partner came to life in doubling 1 NT. The double could not be allowed to stand, and as North was apparently too weak to bid over West's 1 ◇ South could only assume that her hand consisted of a string of Clubs. His bid of 2 ♣ was a praiseworthy attempt to find a place of refuge.

This pair, however, were not fully conversant with each others' methods. When North now bid 2 ♡, South concluded that she had read 2 ♣ as a cue bid; she could scarcely hold four Hearts or she would have bid 1 ♡ over West's 1 ◇; therefore she was bidding on a three-timer! In the end 3 ♣ was bid and made for a poor match-point score. North came out best in the post-mortem, for she could point to the fact that 1 NT doubled by East, on the "obvious" lead of ♣ K, would have yielded a cold top for their side.



Dealer, North. East-West Game.

BIDDING

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
No bid	1 ♠	No bid	No bid
Dble	2 ◇	Dble	2 ♠
3 ◇ (!)	All pass		

When South heard the musical sound of West's preference of 2 ♠ and envisaged the holocaust if this were passed round to him, he must have patted himself on the back for his smart double of 2 ◇; but North was also a player of imagination. If South could double Diamonds when he (North) held four himself, then clearly East had bid a psychic; and psychics in the best circles must be promptly exposed. Hence his staggering bid of 3 ◇ ! South, of

course, passed in disgust, and we understand that relations were strained for the rest of the session.

At one table East was faced with a typical match point conundrum on Board 62:

West	East
♠ K 6 2	♠ A 10 9 4
♡ A 6 4 3	♡ 7 2
◇ 10 7 5	◇ A K J 9 3
♣ A 7 6	♣ 5 3

Dealer, South. Love All.

BIDDING

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	No bid	1 ♠	2 ◇
2 ♠	3 ◇	All pass	

South led ♠ Q, and East realised at once that, thanks to West's lack of enterprise, the contract was a poor one. If the Diamonds could be run without loss, nine tricks were cold in No-Trumps; if ◇ Q had to make, eight tricks in 2 NT would still yield a better score than nine tricks in Diamonds.

East therefore had to make the maximum—11 tricks if ◇ Q was right, to tie with those who failed to bid 3 NT; 10 tricks if this card was wrong, to beat those who made eight tricks in No-Trumps. To do this East had to make four tricks in Spades in either case; and the problem was—*how were the Spades?*

North had bid the suit and South had supported. It was reasonable to place the former with a shaded four-card suit and South with Q x or Q J only. But a knowledge of opponents' habits came to declarer's aid: he knew that South would not raise with two Spades only in this situation, which meant that North had bid a psychic. And South, with Q x x in the suit, would lead his lowest card, not the Queen. East therefore placed South with Q J x and played accordingly; South held the guarded ◇ Q, but East made 10 tricks for a score of 130 and a cold top.

Final placings

1. R. Preston and R. Swimer 765
2. K. W. Konstam and G. F. Mathieson 712
3. H. P. Evans and V. Mollo 693
4. N. Gardener and Dr. M. Rockfelt 692
5. Mrs. Williams and J. Pearlstone 660
6. Dr. H. Leist and A. Rose 656
7. S. S. Merkin and C. M. Harding 647
8. J. Tarlo and E. Rayne .. 645

LONDON FLITCH

CAXTON HALL proved a not inappropriate setting for the final of this very popular annual event. The 28 married couples who had qualified from heats held in London and the Home Counties included a few pairs of old hands and a refreshing preponderance of newcomers.

After playing beautiful bridge, Mr. and Mrs. Wallis of Ealing had the distinction of leading at the end of the first session with 445 match points out of a possible 728, one point only ahead of the Harrison-Grays, with the rest of the field some way astern. The evening session took its toll, as

some of the less-experienced players were feeling the strain ; but one or two pairs, notably Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Pot and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Freeman, were obviously catching up at a great pace.

In the end the Grays just nosed home, two match points ahead of the Pots ; the reward of perseverance, for they had finished second and fourth in the two previous contests, and especially meritorious in the case of Stella, who had only just recovered from a long illness.

The following hand was very well bid by the majority of competitors :

West	East
♠ A 5	♠ K Q J 10 9 6 2
♡ K 10 6 4 3	♡ A Q J 8
◇ A K J 2	◇ 4
♣ Q 4	♣ 3

West dealt at Game All and the small slam was bid, either in Spades or Hearts, at 12 of the 14 tables, but there were a couple of spectacular mishaps. One pair reached 7 NT, played by West ; North did not fancy a lead from ♣ K J 9 8 6 2, so the grand slam was made. At another table we noted the following bidding by a famous pair of internationals :

1 ♡	2 ♠
3 ◇	3 ♡
3 ♠	4 ♣ (!)
4 NT (Culbertson)	6 ♠
7 ♠ (!)	

West (the wife) read the bid of 4 ♣ as showing a void, and considered that she had sufficient in reserve to bid the grand slam. South, however, doubled on the strength of ♣ A ; and East, who is noted for flashes of tortuous genius, saw the writing on the wall but decided to go down fighting. West had bid No-Trumps first, so he duly bid 7 NT, hoping that North might find the wrong lead. South again doubled and North, contemptuous of Lightner slam doubles, stolidly led a Club.

The penalty was 1,700, and East now thinks that he might as well have redoubled in order to be really thorough.

At the conclusion of the contest, Harrison-Gray, noted abstainer, was observed travelling towards Crockford's at high speed in order to slake his thirst before the bar closed ; explained that his vocal chords were somewhat frayed ; Stella had needed a lot of " encouragement."

The leading places are given below ; apart from those already mentioned, the Burrows' of Essex and the Brooks of Kent played throughout with admirable steadiness.

1. Mr. and Mrs. M. Harrison-Gray	845
2. Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Pot..	843
3. Mr. and Mrs. R. Y. Wallis	817
4. Mr. and Mrs. H. Freeman	797
5. Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Burrows	768
6. Mr. and Mrs. P. T. S. Brook	675

WALES v. SCOTLAND

MAJOR BASIL TATLOW, that master of organisation, went flat out with his henchmen to make this event, the first Camrose match to be played in North Wales, an out-

standing success. The management of the Imperial Hotel, Llandudno, co-operated nobly. This was the best attempt that we have seen for years to stage big bridge as a spectacle.

Wales won, by 1,940 points, a match that was always interesting, although the standard of play by both sides never reached the heights. This Welsh revival, after a long series of depressing defeats, was welcome and deserved. They fielded a much revised team, who showed sufficient Welsh aggressiveness and will-to-win to build up a commanding lead that they never looked like losing.

While all had a share in the victory, perhaps Hubert Jones of Swansea should be singled out for special praise ; the records show that he made scarcely an error of any importance.

The match was won and lost on Boards 17-32, when the Welsh players were Carter and Schneiden (Cardiff) in Room 1 and Davies and Moses (Llandudno) in Room 2. The local (latter) pair were particularly effective during this period, and their bidding and play on the following hand was excellent.

	♠ A ♡ A 10 6 5 ◇ 10 9 6 ♣ A K J 8 6	
♠ 5 3 ♡ 5 4 3 ◇ K 8 7 ♣ 7 5 4 3 2		♠ Q J 10 9 8 7 2 ♡ K 9 7 ◇ A ♣ Q 10
	♠ K 6 4 ♡ Q J 2 ◇ Q J 8 4 3 2 ♣ 9	

Dealer, South. Love All.

In Room 1 Mrs. Davidson (North) opened 1 ♣ and Schneiden (East) bid 3 ♠, which Skinner (South) doubled for a penalty of 300. In Room 2 the bidding went as follows :

South	West	North	East
No bid	No bid	1 ♣	2 ♠
3 ◇	No bid	3 ♡	3 ♠
No bid	No bid	4 ◇	No bid
5 ◇			

The opening lead was ♠ 5, and ◇ 10 was led from dummy at Trick 2. Miss Macnair (East) won and returned ♠ Q which was trumped in dummy. Ross (West) now gained the lead with ◇ K and promptly led a Heart ; declarer (Moses) was faced with the unpleasant alternative of finessing or playing for a miracle in the Club suit. As ♡ K appeared marked in the East hand, he eventually decided on the latter course, which duly came off.

Scotland were definitely unlucky on Board 31 :

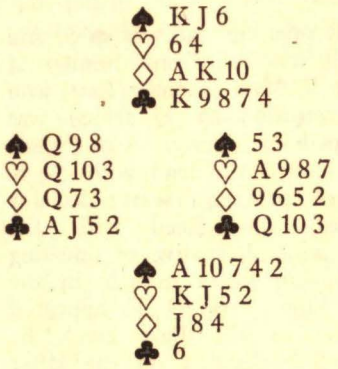
West	East
♠ A J 10	♠ Q 7 6
♡ A 9 8	♡ K
◇ A J 10 7 3 2	◇ K 6
♣ 5	♣ A K J 10 9 6 4

East dealt at Love All. The Welsh pair bid 1 ♣ - 1 ◇ - 3 ♣ - 3 NT, the last bid ranking as one of the worst yet made in an international match. Twelve tricks were made after the opening lead of ♡ J.

In Room 2 the first two bids were the same, but Jean Macnair (East), militant as ever, found a rebid of 2 NT over which Ross, reasonably enough, went 6 ◇. There are several ways of playing the hand after the opening Heart lead, Ross unfortunately picking

on the one variation that was doomed to failure. Wales thus gained 540 points on the board.

The Scots never lost heart, and on the whole their bidding was slightly superior throughout the match. Their technique rarely faltered, but far too often they were the victims of human frailty. Board 42 was a striking example :



Dealer, West. Game All.

In Room 1 Jones and Dr. Macnair, the Swansea pair, reached 3 NT, bidding 1 ♣ - 1 ♠ - 2 ♠ - 3 ♡ - 3 NT. After a clever defence by Jean Macnair and Ross, declarer was set two tricks. In Room 2 the Scottish pair bid 1 ♣ - 1 ♠ - 2 ♠ - 3 ♠ - 4 ♠, thus reaching a contract that stood a far better chance of success.

It is our unpleasant duty to record that the play went as follows : West led ♡ 3, East winning and returning ♡ 9. South won with ♡ K, gained comfort from the fall of ♡ 10 from the West hand, and ruffed a third Heart in dummy with gratifying results. It would seem, however, that South's play was a little premature—the lead of ♣ 6 at Trick 3 would have been wiser. Conscious, perhaps, of his error, declarer now suffered a series of brainstorms that, collectively, must constitute a world record.

The ♠ K was followed by ♠ J, which ran to West's ♠ Q, and ◇ 3 was returned. After long consideration South took the finesse of ◇ 10, which mercifully won ; but South neglected the expedient of overtaking with ◇ J in his own hand in order to draw the last trump. So he was still jammed in dummy. After much further thought ◇ K and ◇ A were cashed without mishap, albeit without any specific purpose ; now at long last a Club *had* to be played.

The only danger now is that East will win and lead his last Heart for West to ruff, so the card to play would appear to be ♣ K, to minimise the risk of East getting the lead. A *small* Club, however, was led ; East was smart enough to go in with his ♣ Q, but now it was his turn to suffer from a brainstorm. Instead of leading the Heart, he returned the thirteenth Diamond !

South's last four cards are ♠ A 10 7 and ♡ J, and there is only one small trump outstanding. But now came the longest trance of all, at the end of which South trumped with ♠ 7, allowing West to win the setting trick with ♠ 9 !

That mysterious factor known as " big match atmosphere " was undoubtedly to blame ; for South, guilty of this unparalleled series of misjudgments, is a player with a long and honourable international record.

* * * * *

CHELTENHAM

THIS year's Cheltenham programme concentrated over-heavily on the various County Finals, and the open events were less numerous and less attractive than usual. This fact probably accounted for the depleted entries from outside, although Gordon Johnstone's Gloucester Committee could have coped easily with two or three times the two hundred competitors who came to the starting tapes.

London sent only two teams to play for the chief event—the Cotswold Cup—the holders (Geoffrey Butler's team) failing to survive the qualifying round. The other London team of cracks, brought by J. Pavlides, after qualifying with a lap to spare, found they were unable to stay over to the Final on the Monday and sportingly withdrew to make way for others.

This meant that the Cup left London for the first time and it was fitting that it should go to Bristol — R. B. Everett's team winning with something to spare.

The Gloucester Individual went to Mrs. W. Morley-Burry after a photo-finish, three players (Miss Hervey, Mrs. McNeill and A. G. Bonner) tying for second half-a- point behind.

Equally pleasing was the finish of the Consolation Team Event, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Garfit-Clowes, with Lt. Col. J. G. Leckey and Mrs. D. Clark (Haslemere) just beating Bob Frith and Mrs. D. Hopewell, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. B. Lawes (Nottingham).

The following hand varies in interest according to the bidding, the contract and the opening moves.

	♠ 10 ♡ A K J 9 5 ◇ Q 9 7 4 ♣ 6 5 3	
♠ A J 3 2 ♡ Q 10 8 6 2 ◇ 8 3 ♣ 10 8		♠ K Q 9 7 6 4 ♡ 4 3 ◇ 5 ♣ A Q 7 2
	♠ 8 5 ♡ 7 ◇ A K J 10 6 2 ♣ K J 9 3	

With South dealing and both sides vulnerable, the bidding at one table went

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ◇	No	1 ♡	1 ♠
2 ◇	2 ♠	3 ♠	4 ♠
No	No	5 ◇	

After South had showed re-biddable Diamonds, North's second bid tacitly agrees the suit ; but South is able to pass East's game-bid in Spades and leave the final decision to his partner. As it happens 4 ♠ goes 1 off with the loss of a Club, a Diamond and two Hearts.

Against 5 ◇ a Spade is led and won by East and Declarer is confronted with the problem of losing only one Club trick, which (as the cards lie) is simple. If East at Trick 2 leads back the ♣ 2, what should Declarer do ? If he finesses the Knave and it loses to West's Queen, he is down at once, with ♣ A. He can, on the bidding, be reasonably certain that the ♣ K will hold at Trick 2 and, if he

puts it up, he can play for a favourable Heart break. With seven outstanding they will divide 4/3 62 times, and 5/2 31 times, in a 100. The percentage play is 2 to 1 on putting up the King, establishing Hearts, and getting the needed Club discards. But it does not work this time.

Of course, if East returns anything else at Trick 2 the problem does not exist. Declarer can try the Heart position first. Finding that wrong, he is driven to take the double finesse in Clubs and it comes off.

Cheltenham finished with the usual dance in the Town Hall, with the Chairman of the E.B.U. introducing the Mayor for the prize-giving.

The Open Pairs Final was won by two of the youngest competitors, J. Pugh and Max Feeny from Birmingham with D. E. Young and P. Swinnerton-Dyer of Trinity, Cambridge just behind.

Other winners were: Mr. and Mrs. Bamkin (Nottingham), Mr. and Mrs. Lawes (Birmingham), Mrs. Nicholas and Mrs. Batchelor (Sheffield), Mrs. Sling and F. J. Mills (Coventry), Messrs. Jones and Clark (Civil Service), Mrs. Lester and J. Pearlstone (London), Messrs. B. Shapiro and S. Booker (London), Messrs. N. R. C. Frith and H. L. Bamkin (Nottingham), Mr. W. Morley Burry and Dr. K. Solon (Bristol), Mr. and Miss Wilkinson (Cheltenham), Miss M. Hervey (Cheltenham) and Mr. C. C. Johnson (Bristol), Mr. H. E. Field and Miss D. E. Coen (Civil Service), Mrs. Lester and Mrs. Williams (London), Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Weech (Cheltenham), Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe (Solihull) and Mr. G. L. Butler and Mrs. Williams (London).

PACHABO

AN eight-team Final brought Dr. J. Whitby's team to victory in the Pachabo 1949: just ten years after he had last won the event. Whitby, Lewis Ellison, Count Alpar and the Sharples twins were winners, winners all the way through the Final, with the Southern Counties quartette, Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Barnett and Mr. M. Dale challenging strongly throughout.

Whitby won by a margin of 3½ Victory points: 31½ against Evans's 28.

There were only two teams in it during the first session, during which every team played 4 boards against every other. In the second session, Oldschool, with Joel Tarlo, Dr. Hans Leist, J. Nunes, " Tiny " Spiro, and J. Wronker spurted violently. This was the only threat to the leaders, and a disastrous third session put " paid " to the challenge.

Evans, too, had an unlucky opening to the third session and, try as the Bournemouth team might, it could never catch up the leeway.

A team with four Internationals in it—S. Booker (capt.), Lady Rhodes, Mrs. Markus, Mrs. Litante and K. W. Konstam—proved decisively just how unpredictable is form in bridge—in the 1949 vintage above all—by finishing eighth out of eight.

The winning quintette—like all the bridge world—must have found in the occasion of their success a

poignant memory of their old team-mate, " Jackie " Flores : that round-faced, round-bodied Spaniard with his endearing catch-phrase of " Oh, Partnership ! " whenever his *vis-a-vis* took a wrong view.

Flores had played so long and so often—and so successfully—with the Whitby-Ellison group, as well as gathering a vast bank balance of Master Points, that a Final without him brought a pang even to those in other teams.

No player was more popular—and deservedly so—than Jackie. He holds a niche in all our memories.

OPEN LETTER

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

DEAR TRANCER,

If you are only an *occasional* trancer who plays bridge at a normal speed for three quarters of the time and thinks when thinking is really necessary, as all first class players do, then take no notice of this letter—it is not for you. It is to the small (thank God) circle of *continual* trancers who make the game a source of boredom to opponents, of ridicule to spectators, and a perfect nightmare to themselves, that I am addressing it.

Bridge, my dear Trancer, is, for the most part, a simple game. Your opening bid—or lack of it—is at once apparent. If you are playing 4 ♠ with 3 top losers, there is no difficulty in losing them ; the only thing you have to guard against is a ruff. Equally on a part score hand, if you open on a 13-count and partner replies 1 NT, you know you won't miss a game by passing, so for Heaven's sake do it quickly. Keep your trancing for occasions when thinking is really needed.

You, who are ambitious to improve your game, to take part in International tournaments, model yourself on the real experts, not on the pseudo-scientists of the game. Every time you waste two or three minutes over a simple bid or play, you are being vaguely unethical ; not perhaps intentionally, but in just the same way as a Wimbledon tennis player who stops between every game to tie up an imaginary shoe lace while his opponent is waiting with jangled nerves on the other side of the net.

Let me give you three examples. Perhaps when you see your idiocies in the cold light of print, you may realise that my comments are not unfair.

One of the worst of your fraternity held the following hand recently :

♠ K x ♡ x ◇ x x x x ♣ A K Q J x x.

He studied this collection for three minutes and bid—1 ◇ !

Why ?—I'll tell you why. Because if he had made the bid that every good, bad or indifferent bridge player would always make on this very simple hand, he would

have had to make it quickly. Even *he* could have found no alibi for trancing. It is a source of satisfaction to relate that the bid in question ended in complete disaster.

Another of you held

♠ A 10 9 x x x x ♡ x x ◇ x x ♣ x x

The bidding went 1 NT—3 NT against you and you were on lead. After 2½ minutes trance you led—a Heart ! ! Can you tell me what you were trancing about ? Either you elect to play a Spade, as all normal players would, quickly ; or you elect to play another suit : *but no amount of trancing will enable you to work out which of the other three suits your partner is most likely to hold.* You'll never know any more about the hand, however long you look at it.

Had you led a Spade, the contract would have been Four down. As it was, you struggled for another few minutes to get it One down.

Is trancing worth it ?

During the recent international trials, another of you sat North and the deal was as follows :—

	♠ 9 x x ♡ K x x x ◇ A Q x x ♣ x x	
♠ K x x ♡ 10 x ◇ x x x x ♣ K Q x x		♠ A Q x ♡ Q x x ◇ K 10 x ♣ A x x x
	♠ J 10 x x ♡ A J x x ◇ J x ♣ J x x	

East was the declarer, and the contract was 2 NT, the bidding having gone 1 ♣ - 2 ♣ - 2 NT.

The defence took the first four tricks in Hearts, after which South switched to a small spade. Declarer took in his hand and played Ace of Clubs followed by King and Queen of Clubs. On the latter you had to find a discard. You went into a fairly long huddle and eventually parted rather reluctantly with a small spade. Now on the fourth Club you were really in trouble !

I longed to tell you what you ought to have known yourself : that you could have discarded *any* of your remaining cards—*not* excluding the Ace of Diamonds—and the result would have been the same *i.e.*, 2 NT bid and made.

But no, after minutes of agony you turned to Declarer and asked to see the last trick ! What inspiration you expected to glean from a partner who had been forced to follow suit with his only remaining Club, Heaven alone knows. But the whole sorry pantomime took about four minutes.

It is merely by the way that you would be a better bridge player if you tranced less often. The main point is you would be less of a bore. Fewer people would refuse to play duplicate " because it's so slow," sessions at Congresses would not last until the early hours of the morning, and everyone would enjoy themselves more, which is, after all, The main Thing.

So do please see yourself as others see you. Is your trancing really necessary ?

Yours faithfully,

KENNETH KONSTAM.

PORTHCAWL

AFTER much hard work by a Congress Committee with Mr. John Fogarty as President, Mr. Trevor Williams as Chairman, Major Basil Tatlow as Tournament Director and Mrs. Perrie Gould as Hon. Sec. Treasurer, the first Congress ever to be held by the Welsh Bridge Union came into being at Porthcawl during the week end March 3-7.

Perhaps because Tournament Bridge has been so little played in South Wales, local players were at first most dubious about entering, and one of the main problems confronting the Committee was how to assure and re-assure them that our "Tigers" had no cannibalistic tendencies.

Visible proof was produced when it was noted in the local press that not only were the "rabbits" alive and kicking after the first few days, but they had actually succeeded in winning prizes. In consequence, the last two days produced a sudden influx of new entrants, and these last minute entries are now amongst those who look forward most eagerly to the second W.B.U. Congress.

Our Advisory Council feel sure this must be to the good of the game, as surely the foundation of Bridge lies more with the vast number of average-standard players rather than with the comparatively small number of experts.

To encourage newcomers no fewer than eight prizes were awarded for the Novices Competition, and their value cannot be measured in terms of hard cash. For not only have we eight satisfied winners, but eight who were second ("If only I'd taken the finesse the other way") and a further eight thirds ("When my partner improves a little we shall win easily"), all 24 delighted with the world in general and the Competition in particular.

The experts, as was to be expected won the major events. Leeds took our Championship Pairs Cup, Mrs. Kremer and Harold Franklin being their redoubtable representatives, and Leeds took our Championship Teams of Four Trophy, the above pair in this instance being accompanied by Mr. C. E. Phillips (Northwich) and Dr. N. J. S. Dewar (Maidenhead).

Our other two Major Cups found homes in London for one year, Congress Teams of Four being won by Mr. Terence Reese (London) Mrs. Fleming (Tunbridge Wells), Mrs. P. Williams and Mr. J. Pearlstone (London); and Ladies Teams of Four by Mrs. P. Williams (London), Mrs. Fleming (Tunbridge Wells), Mrs. E. Morgan and Mrs. Williams (Worthing).

What did the "locals" do? They resolved to learn by experience. The average players went home to consider and re-consider their bidding and their play, but our better players learnt something very different: strategy and tactics. Space forbids me to enlarge on this most important

section of the game, but if I may make a small prophesy it is that next year our Team Captains will be studying very carefully such points as the positioning of their team, whether to plunge desperately for " tops " or not, the position of the opponents, and their temperament, and the score of other factors which very definitely decide the issue between evenly matched teams.

Lady Webber presented the prizes and paid tribute to the Committee and their assistants Mr. H. D. King and Mr. Doig.

The Frank Perry Shield was won by Eli Fine's South Wales team against North Wales ; H. T. Thomas (capt.) with Messrs. Sharples, Greatrix and Andrews, all of Pontypridd, won the Consolation Teams of Four ; and Mrs. Randall-Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Young-Mrs. Hyland walked away with the Ladies event.

INTERNATIONAL TRIALS

THE preliminary stages of the International Trials have been completed and the European Champions of last year (M. Harrison-Gray, L. Dodds, E. Rayne, K. Konstam, T. Reese and B. Shapiro) will be playing a 200-Board match against the Challengers during April.

If the " European " team win, they will later have to stave off a further challenge against a team that the Selectors will nominate and, should they lose, the Challengers would be " in the box " and the composition of the nominated team, though doubtless including some of the Harrison-Gray six, would give the Selectors some sort of headache.

The preliminary difficulties were solved by a triangular contest, the three teams each playing a 64-Board match against the others.

Dr. S. Lee (with S. Booker, H. Franklin, R. Mercado and A. Kremer) won both their matches, beating L. Tarlo, L. Baron, G. Mathieson and S. S. Merkin by 12 " New " International Match Points, and N. Gardener, A. Meredith, Dr. M. Rockfelt and S. Bendix by 29.

In the other match the Gardener-Rockfelt four had decisively beaten the Tarlo-Mathieson team by 50 I.M.P's.

The Challenging team was formed by adding " Nico " Gardener and " Plum " Meredith to the Lee four and dropping Kremer.

During the trials the Selectors were assisted by a number of Official Observers who were each given the task of watching the play of one or more of the pairs concerned, in order that a pair on a losing side that might have distinguished itself should not be overlooked.

The team finally selected was a unanimous choice, but the Selectors are naturally keeping their own counsel at the moment in regard to the possibility of re-introducing at a later stage any pairs that have not so far survived.

INTERNATIONAL

by Dr. H. Leist

FOR the first time in Britain's bridge history, trials for potential International honours have been watched by a little corps of official experts, expressly entrusted with the task of scrutinising the bidding and play of every hand and, even, every card, and charged with the unenviable duty of reporting to the British Bridge League their most merciless analysis.

I was one of these "official kibitzers"; and, although my Report to the B.B.L. is, of necessity, confidential, I have agreed to give the *Journal* and its readers some purely personal impressions of the triangular duel (if the Irishism be permitted) that has just been waged over 192 strenuous boards.

A certain amount of pre-amble is needed, for our instructions were specific. We were straitly informed that we were *not* to look for brilliance—either meretricious or genuine ; the canon of criticism was laid down: a correct, conservative, steady game.

If a psychic, a bid on a 3-card suit, a lead-inhibiting or a Master bid were made—and failed—the attempt was to be charged as a demerit to the maker: the test of such a bid was to be alone its success. If it succeeded, on the other hand, no special merit was to be given to its perpetrator.

Nevertheless, since bridge is a game of cards—that is, a game of chance—a certain latitude was to be given to the kibitzers to interpret their instructions ; and a *coup* that succeeded might be charged as a demerit to the pair that "bought" it.

Our instructions, further, gave us the task of regarding the players we watched as *pairs*: thus, if one partner made 10 mistakes in a session, while the other made 2, the partnership was marked with 12 demerits. For it is as pairs that any team must be fielded and, therefore, judged.

The conditions of play — at Lederers—were as onerous as those at any *bona fide* International. Almost all the experts in London at one time or another watched the play ; there was a constant *va et vient* from room to room ; the official — and unofficial — scrutineers were incessantly discussing point after point—and, be it said, not one of the 13 contestants did anything but welcome our enquiries and express his personal pleasure at our presence.

There were no alibis offered: about the conditions, the distractions, the strain. The finest sportsmanship was in evidence—players admitting the inevitable errors graciously and, invariably, giving all information for which they were asked.

In fact, so successful has been the introduction of us official kibitzers that the Challenge Match—and subsequent Challenge Matches—are also to be subjected to expert scrutiny at, as well as analysis after, play.

Three teams—more properly to be regarded as six pairs—were in action: Leo Baron and Louis Tarlo, Graham Mathieson and Stanley Merkin forming one ; Nico Gardener, and Adam ("Plum") Meredith, Dr. M. Rockfelt and S. Bendix forming the second ;

and Dr. S. Lee and S. Booker ; with a triangular partnership, H. Franklyn, R. Mercado and A. Kremer (the two first-named doing the brunt of the work) forming the third.

All 13 players are, of course, of expert class : in fact, the B.B.L. was criticised for refusing entries they did not consider of a sufficiently high standard. Even within expert class, however, there are fine gradations.

As regards the partnerships, my own views are, very frankly stated, these : Baron and Tarlo strove very hard to build up a genuine partnership and they almost achieved it. Unhappily for them, it did not quite "click." But their effort to get together, despite occasional disappointing results, was always in evidence.

Mathieson and Merkin, as, perhaps, might have been expected from a pair relying on flair rather than strict system, produced results that ranged from the sublime to the—not so sublime.

Rockfelt and Bendix, after a brilliant first match, failed in their second attempt : and this was in some measure due to the fact that Bendix was not only playing in his first big event but was also a comparative newcomer to the system they were employing—Baron, which is a very rigid instrument. This unfamiliarity stood them in bad stead.

Gardener and Meredith were, surprisingly not so effective as, at first blush, they were expected to be. Gardner was the conservative and Meredith the eccentric partner. But there seemed to be a certain listlessness in their game.

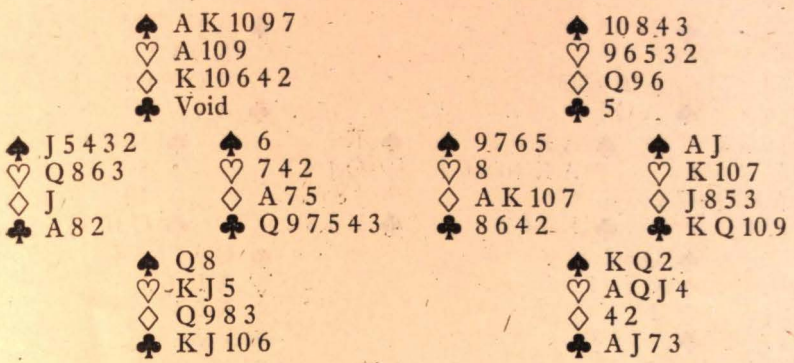
Lee and Booker (Vienna) lacked the fluidity and ease of genuine big bridge—they were, however, successful, always apparently making heavy weather of their matches ; and the laborious nature of the Stern system was apparent in their performance.

In the triangle, it would be unfair to comment upon Kremer, for he played but 32 boards against the others' 128 apiece. The Franklyn — Mercado partnership made—during these trials—fewer mistakes than any other and, therefore, were the most successful pair. They produced admirably steady stuff, but there still lingers about them a certain air of uncertainty.

On the whole, the part-score bidding and play was first class ; the game-bids were not sufficiently accurate ; and in slam bidding, the standard was, to say the least, defective.

Before proceeding to the discussion of the hands—only half-a-dozen since space is so short—I should like to put myself formally upon record that these comments of mine—which may seem, perhaps, too frank—are absolutely impersonal and as objective as any erring human can make them.

Most of the hands I have chosen are slams ; not merely because they are spectacular, but because these are the swings that win—or lose—matches. Besides, it is more instructive to read of "chucks" than *coups*.



With North-South vulnerable and the deal at South, both North's got to 6 ◇. Baron opened 1 NT on the South cards, and the sequence went 3 ♠ - 3 NT - 4 ◇ - 5 ◇ - 6 ◇. In the other room, Mercado (North) opened 1 ♠ and Franklin, who had passed, jumped to 3 NT. North showed the Diamonds and South, short of controls, bid 4 ♠, but when North rebid the ◇, South went to 6.

Merkin, at East, led a Club ; and the contract was admirably played by Mercado as a double squeeze : West having to keep ♠ J against North, and East ♣ Q against the Dummy. The Heart Queen, therefore, had to drop.

Booker found a more difficult lead : the ♡ 7. Although this gave Tarlo the Heart finesse "free" the 5-1 Spade break makes the contract impossible—save for an unnatural Spade finesse : no-one would play on split Club honours early enough to establish a Club discard, rather than rely on one ruff establishing the Spades.

Unhappily, on the second round of trumps, Lee played the ♣ 8 and, when Booker got in with the ◇ A, he led a Club.

Finis !

Meredith, as the Vulnerable East who dealt, opened (on Baron) 1 ◇ ; Lee (South) made the Vienna's informatory double of 2 ◇ and Gardener pre-empted with 4 ◇—the contract, undoubled, going a comfortable two off.

In the other room, Franklin (playing Acol) opened the more normal bid of 1 ♣ and Rockfelt doubled ; Mercado raised the Clubs but Bendix felt his 5-card suit was worth a bid. South raised to 4 ♡ and Franklin led ♣ K.

With a disastrous shortage of entries to his hand, Bendix started by winning and ruffing a Club. He needs to lead Hearts (possibly) twice, Spades (possibly) twice and can reach his hand only three times by ♣ ruffs.

Instead of starting on the side suit, he led Trumps and Franklin played the fine false-card of ♡ 10. Taking this at its face-value, Bendix played the trump Ace at once, for the drop ; hoping to have thereby two entries to lead the Spades. Had he prospected with the Spades before cashing the Heart Ace (as he could), he would have made contract ; as it was, he went two light.

	♠ 10984 ♡ 5 ◇ J10953 ♣ AQJ	
♠ J753 ♡ 2 ◇ AKQ874 ♣ 104		♠ AK ♡ AK10864 ◇ 6 ♣ K762
	♠ Q62 ♡ QJ973 ◇ 2 ♣ 9853	

When Booker held the West cards at Game All, he opened 3 ◇. I am not a Vienna expert, but I believe the bid requires a single certain outside trick. Banking on this, Lee "shot" a direct 6 NT and, on the lead of the ♡ Q (which he ducked) went four down. Bendix did not omit to double.

Meredith, in the other room, opened 1 ◇ and Gardener forced with 2 ♡. A third ◇ was followed by a third ♡, and Meredith found the fine (Baron) waiting-bid of 3 ♠, to steer the 3 NT contract into the East hand.

Kremer led the ♡ Q which was duly ducked ; and found the right switch of ♣ 9. Franklin slipped here : the best play is to duck with ♣ J ; or, if he puts up ♣ A, must now, immediately, switch to ◇ to kill the table. Instead, North played Ace, Queen and Knave of Clubs, the third being won by East ; and Gardener is far too fine a technician not to accept the chance of making his contract. Three rounds of Diamonds were followed by two of Spades—and West was stuck in with the losing Club to lead away from the ♡ tenace. The swing was 1,700—and the team on the wrong end of this swing still won the match !

	♠ AJ ♡ K942 ◇ AQ742 ♣ A4	
♠ K ♡ QJ87 ◇ J863 ♣ KJ82		♠ 10832 ♡ 5 ◇ 10 ♣ Q1097653
	♠ Q97654 ♡ A1063 ◇ K94 ♣ Void	

The passion for the 4-4 trump suit betrayed both partnerships on this hand, despite efforts by both South's to prefer Spades to Hearts. Six Spades is cold ; but 6 ♡ is sure to go down on normal play. Both Baron and Gardener opened the South hand 1 ♠ and received a force. Gardener bid 3 ♠, Baron 3 ♡. But over Tarlo's 4 ♡, Baron reverted to ♠ and over North's 5 ♣, bid 5 ♡, to be raised to 6 ♡.

In the other room, Meredith used the Baron force of 2 NT and over 3 ♠ showed his 5-card ◇ suit ; now Gardener bid his 4-card major and, over 5 ♡, found the intelligent bid of 5 ♠. But the 4-4 fetish was too strong, and North still went 6 ♡.

♠ Q74 ♡ A976 ◇ 2 ♣ KQ962	♠ AK2 ♡ K10 ◇ AQ4 ♣ AJ754

Both Bendix and Franklin (East) opened 2 NT—the best bid on the hand for, after a 1 ♣ opening, you can never catch up. Both West's—Rockfelt and Mercado—bid 3 ♣. Both Easts found 3 NT—the Baron pair having the advantage of knowing the bid connoted 4 cards in Clubs. Mercado now went direct to 6 ♣, which Franklin raised, correctly, to the big slam, Rockfelt went to 4 ♣,

to which Bendix replied 4 ♢, doubled (presumably for a lead) by South. West showed the ♡ A and East went to 6 NT: proof, if proof were needed, that what Gremlins are to aviators, match-points are to bridge-players!

The Club contract is—as all grand slams should be—frigid; but pity Bendix in 6 NT. The Spade lead was won and, when it came to tackling the Hearts, he played the King first and then let the ♡ 10 run. This play was against the odds. A ♡ finesse with the 10 will win in three cases: if both Q and J are with North; if Q J x are in either hand; and if South holds either picture to four cards. Even if South holds ♡ Q J x x he is squeezed in the red suits. Bendix went one off.

This hand is the problem of a lead:

♠ A J 6 ♡ 7 2 ♢ Q 9 2 ♣ J 9 8 7 6.

The bidding has gone: 1 ♣ (to your left) - 2 ♡ - 3 ♣ - 3 ♡ - 4 ♡ - 4 NT - 6 ♣ - 6 ♡.

In the other room, the bids including 4 NT were identical; then Blackwood operated with West showing 1 A and 1 K, with the final contract the same.

Baron, obsessed with the theory of building up a trick with an Honour, made the lead of ♢ 2. East now galloped home with 13 tricks. Bendix led ♣ 9 - and Declarer went two down. The "palooka" lead of the Spade Ace works if a Club switch follows. Dummy holds

♠ 10 ♡ 8 3 ♢ J 6 5 3 ♣ A K Q 5 4 3.

The outstanding Clubs are 1-1, and the Club lead holds Dummy to a single trick.

The bidding should have warned Baron that this was an exception to a sometimes admirable rule: the danger of the long Clubs functioning before the Ace of Spades could be effectively used to cash the ♢ Q even if established, should have been apparent. As it was, Declarer held:

♠ Q 9 5 ♡ A K Q J 10 5 ♢ A K 10 ♣ 2!

Curtains!

The final hand is a curio: the "correct" contract, which should be reached, is one that goes down!

	♠ K Q 9 8 4 ♡ K J ♢ A Q 3 ♣ A K Q	
♠ J 7 6 3 ♡ A 7 6 ♢ 9 4 ♣ J 10 7 5		♠ 10 2 ♡ Q 5 4 3 2 ♢ 10 8 2 ♣ 9 8 4
	♠ A 5 ♡ 10 9 8 ♢ K J 7 6 5 ♣ 6 3 2	

An obvious 2 ♣ opening and 3 ♢ response; the 3 ♠ re-bid gives the partnership a problem: how to steer the No Trump contract into the North hand. Over 3 ♢, Rockfelt elected to "sink" his 5-card major and bid 3 NT on his minimum 2 ♣ opening (24 points only and reasonably balanced): a bid that, certainly, paid dividends.

Baron re-bid the Diamonds, to induce Tarlo (North) to bid No Trumps; but Tarlo (he cannot be blamed) bid 5 ♢, and Baron now showed belated ♠ support. By now, 6 ♠ was inevitable—and inevitably down on the trump break.

The main trouble with a Spade contract is the fear that the Spades

may have a loser ; the fear in a Diamond slam—that the opening lead will come through Dummy's Hearts.

In 6 NT, after running the Diamonds, the Spades must be tackled with hope ; when the bad (but expected) break transpires, Declarer must take the Heart guess, with the hope that the Ace is in the hand with the short Spades. This does not come off—but 6 NT is the " book " contract for all that.

TWO ANGLES ON

ENGLAND v. NORTHERN IRELAND

ENGLAND defeated Northern Ireland by 1,500 in the Camrose Trophy match at Belfast. The teams were : ENGLAND, Kenneth Konstam (Captain), Graham Mathieson, R. Sharples, J. Sharples, M. Porter and T. Cooke; NORTHERN IRELAND, W. McCollom (Non-playing Captain), B. Vard, E. Goldblatt, M. Gabbey, T. Shanks, A. Fletcher, G. Hanna.

True to their reputation, the home team once again gave England a close fight and, for a fleeting moment, appeared likely to win. England started off in great form on a series of part-score hands and, after 16 boards, led by over 2,000.

Hand No. 19 was disastrous for England and gave away a 1,000 swing. Mathieson elected to open 1 ♣ on a doubleton ; I made what I fondly imagined to be a shut-out bid over an informatory double ; and Mr. Gabbey doubled to the tune of 700. In the other room, Messrs. Porter and Cooke suddenly imagined their geese were swans and came down 300 on a combined 21 count which they had confidently bid up to 3 NT. The hands were, with E-W vulnerable and Dealer North :

	♠ K x x x ♡ K J x x ◇ A x x ♣ J x	
♠ x x x ♡ A x x ◇ x x ♣ K 9 8 x x		♠ A Q J ♡ Q 10 9 x ◇ K Q 10 x ♣ x x
	♠ 10 9 x ♡ x x ◇ J x x x ♣ A Q 10 x	

This was the only sizeable swing on the first day and England led by 920 at the end of Board 72.

On the second day, the whole character of the match changed, the hands running very big for the balance. Fortified by a lunch of oysters and stout, Graham and I bid and made game on hands 73, 74, 75 and 76, on only one of which we failed to get a swing ; and the English lead was now 2,500. Shortly afterwards, we reached our peak lead of 3,070.

Between Boards 80 and 95 the Irish team played very steadily and, aided by a hand played by me in 3 NT where I took three wrong views to go three off, gradually reduced the lead to 1,560. Hand 95 was a cold

douche ; with N-S vulnerable and Dealer South, the cards fell :

	♠ K Q J ♡ x x x ◇ J x x x ♣ x x x	
♠ x ♡ A K 10 x ◇ A 10 x x ♣ K Q x x		♠ A x x x ♡ x ◇ Q 9 8 x ♣ A J x x
	♠ 10 9 x x x ♡ Q J x x x ◇ K ♣ 10 x	

Hanna and Gabbey who held the E-W cards, made a very well bid 6 ♣. The Sharples Brothers played in 3 NT and went one down—a swing to Northern Ireland of 1,470 ; and England, after being in moderate comfort for 94 hands, were now leading by a mere 90 points. Worse was to follow.

On Board 96 I had this headache :

♠ A 9 8 x x ♡ Q x x ◇ 10 x x ♣ A x

Graham opened 4 ♡ and, knowing the Irish pair would bid everything in sight, I made a slam try ; and, in a vain effort to make the contract, Graham was two down in 5 ♡.

To defend myself against a charge of being plumb crazy, I would point out that we don't play a 4-bid as being necessarily a weak hand, so the decision was, obviously, close. My partner's hand was :

♠ x ♡ A J 10 x x x ◇ K x ♣ K Q x x.

England were then led by 420. Hand 97 was played quietly by Graham and me in 6 ♠ :

North	South
♠ K Q x x x	♠ 10 9 x x x
♡ A J 9	♡ K x x
◇ A K 10 x	◇ Q 9
♣ A	♣ Q J x

The bidding in the other room between Fletcher (N) and Goldblatt (S) was :

North	South
1 ♠	3 ♠
4 NT	5 ♠
7 ♠	

And Maurice Porter all this time was nursing the Ace of Trumps !

Some mis-guided correspondent published an account of the hand in which he said that the mistake occurred owing to one Northern Irelander's thinking they were playing Blackwood and the other, Culbertson ! This is, of course, clap-trap. They were playing Culbertson and both knew it. Board 97 of an International is a little late to be ignorant which convention you are playing.

The result was due to a not unknown misunderstanding when playing the 4/5 NT, and the fault was entirely North's. Over 3 ♠ he should bid 4 ◇ and then 4 NT over partner's 4 ♠. South then has something to sign off into, and can bid 5 ◇ to deny the Ace of Spades. As the bidding went, with *no* lower-ranking suit to sign off into, North literally didn't know about the Trump Ace.*

The final result was a fair reflection of the play. The English

* *Playing Culbertson, with only one Trump suit mentioned, the sign-off without the Ace of Trumps is Five of the suit ; the bid with the Trump Ace is Six of the suit. We "crime" North, as does Mr. Konstam—but for a different reason.*

team were always slightly superior, especially on the small hands ; but they could never build up a sufficient lead to relax.

For the winners, Porter and Cooke played a splendid game in their first International, and are ideally suited, temperamentally, to the big occasion.

For Northern Ireland, Goldblatt proved outstanding : he played brilliantly and was always worrying his opponents. Hanna and Gabbey also deserve mention, but the whole team proved a most difficult nut to crack.

K. W. KONSTAM

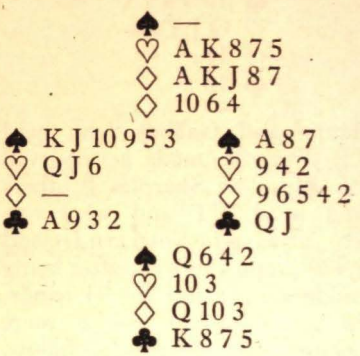
The Northern Ireland Editor subjoins :—

This match packed most of its thrills into the last twenty boards. The visitors reached their peak aggregate plus score of 3,000 points at Board 89, but by a series of spectacular swings the home side went into the lead for the first time by 430 points at Board 97. An impossible grand slam on Board 98, however, cost 1,630 points and England eventually won by 1,500.

Although there was not a great discrepancy between the merits of the opposing teams, the winners deserved their victory. In the play of the cards the home side at least held its own. Better bidding on part score hands, however, time and again provided double swings for the winners which, in the aggregate, amounted to an impressive total ; and this was the decisive factor in the result.

It was a match in which no reputations were made or enhanced. Undoubtedly a great deal of excellent bridge was witnessed, but there were far too many instances of thoughtless bidding and loose play.

The following hand provided considerable controversy and widely divergent views were expressed :



West dealt and bid 1 ♠, North said 2 ♡ and it is my contention that East should bid 2 ♠. He has a good single raise and, even over an intervention, that is all his bid conveys. West will probably jump to game. Assuming, however, that a conservative East passes and West re-opens the bidding with 2 ♠, then over North's 3 ◇, East must surely raise partner to game.

The play of the hand is interesting. The lead is immaterial. Probably the ♡ K is opened and in response to partner's " come on," the Ace is played followed by the Eight which South trumps. Obeying North's signal, South now leads a Diamond which Declarer trumps with the ♠ 3 and leads the ♠ 5 to the Ace. Now the ♣ Q is played and holds.

Here two lines of action are

available. One is to continue Clubs and hope that after Ace takes King the ten will "come down in three," as one of Dummy's trumps is needed to finesse. In actual fact this happens but the chance is less than even and I think the alternative play of a trump coup is decidedly superior.

After the first three leads, Declarer knows that North had five Hearts and if he bid Diamonds at the three level it is a reasonable assumption that he started with ten red cards. When he shows out on the first lead of Spades the remaining three cards are known to be Clubs, leaving South with four Clubs which makes the play a certainty. After the Club Queen a Diamond is led and ruffed, followed by Club Ace, Club ruff, Diamond ruff, and Club ruff, thus reaching the desired end position.

HUNCHES

by P. F. Saunders

	♠ x x ♡ J 10 x x x x x ◇ — ♣ x x x x	
♠ A Q 10 x x x ♡ A x ◇ 10 x x ♣ J 10		♠ J x x x ♡ K Q x ◇ x x x ♣ Q x x
	♠ K ♡ x ◇ A K Q J x x x ♣ A K x x	

West had dealt and opened "A Spade" at game all, and East had raised him to Two. George, sitting South, had had three good rubbers and four good drinks. He gazed at his hand and restrained a desire to giggle. An old idea, he thought, but at this particular moment a very, very beautiful one. "Three No Trumps" he announced, and added carelessly, "A hunch."

"A most improper call" protested the schoolmaster sitting East.

"My dear old usher," George began—but West had quickly passed, and the attempt to soothe was further interrupted by a groan and "Four Hearts" from North.

"Another improper call!" East was getting excited. "When will you two people learn—"

"I don't think we're helping each other much at present," put in George, blandly, "All we're doing is making it easier for you to double."

The double followed, somewhat explosively, and George, was still cheerful. Of course there was an obvious retreat into Diamonds. But how dull! "Four No Trumps with no frills on" he stated.

East cast his eyes to the heavens but contented himself with a passionate double and, after three passes, with an equally passionate lead of a small Spade.

George's laughter was checked by a quiet "What will you have?" from West.*

What would he have? This was an entirely new angle. He could still play safe and ask for a Club, with the possibility of picking up the tenth trick and the probability of being one down. But . . .

* *This was played before the New Laws were issued.*

(*continued on page* 25)

HOW THEY STAND

E.B.U. Competition Results

CROCKFORD'S CUP

3rd Round completed

F. Farrington beat J. Brown by 56 I.M.P.
E. P. C. Cotter beat J. Colvin by 4 I.M.P.
M. Wolach beat A. Elliott by 80 I.M.P.
S. M. Dawkins w.o. A. T. Hasler, scr.

4th Round (to be completed by 20th March)

T. Reese beat J. Pearlstone by 31 I.M.P.
J. Pavlides beat M. Wolach by 48 I.M.P.
Major G. Fell beat F. Farrington by 26 I.M.P.
Baroness Knoop beat W. J. Beach by 23 I.M.P.

AFFILIATED CLUBS CUP

3rd Round completed

Hamilton Club beat Lederers Club by 1,400 points.
Lyndhurst Club (L. Baron) beat Sutton Hard Courts Club by 2,150 points.
Grimsby Bridge Club beat Oxford University Bridge Club by 1,580 points.

Semi-Final

Lyndhurst Club (L. Baron) beat Wanborough Manor Club by 2,560 points.

PACHABO CUP

3rd Round (to be completed by 27th February)

T. Gee beat Major G. Fell by 210 points.
A. Oldschool beat W. J. Beach by 1,950 points.
R. Evans beat Mrs. Flemmich by 1,340 points.
Mrs. Gimson beat R. W. Zair by 480 points.

3rd Round

A. E. Field beat W. Terry by 6,680 points.
Dr. T. C. Macfarlane beat G. L. Mitcheson by 3,330 points.
Dr. J. Whitby beat F. F. Sladen by 5,100 points.

WHITELAW CUP

3rd Round (to be completed by 27th February)

Mrs. D. Flemmich beat Mrs. I. A. Cole by 110 points.
Mrs. A. L. Fleming beat Miss P. Dransfield by 870 points.
Mrs. G. M. Harrison w.o. Mrs. G. C. Carpenter, scr.
Mrs. MacDonnell beat Mrs. Dobson by 760 points.

Semi-Final

Mrs. A. L. Fleming and Mrs. Flemmich tied with 53 I.M.P. each.

The Match will be replayed.

NATIONAL PAIRS

South of England Pairs Championship

The following have qualified:

Middlesex Heat

C. Lawson and F. Lewis.
L. Wolfers and A. Ingel.
L. Ellison and J. Sharples.

Southern Counties C.B.A. Heat

R. Evans and Mrs. Evans
Mrs. Grumbler and Mr. Knight.
Mrs. B. Williams and Mrs. Stevens.
Mr. Packer and Mr. Samos.
Mrs. Barnett and Mr. Jeffs

London 5 Heats

23 pairs have qualified.

Birchington Heat

Sq.-Leader Bett and Mrs. Bett.
Mrs. Drewitt Browne and Mr. le Mase.
Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Coshett.

Hertfordshire Heat

Mrs. F. A. Jarvis and N. H. Thorne.
Dr. Richards and Mrs. Richards.
H. Hill and W. H. Weightman.

Essex Heat

H. D. Ashby and Mrs. Ashby.
Dr. E. Herga and Mrs. E. Cook.
A. Reid and C. Lloyd.
Mrs. T. Knight and Mrs. L. G. Orr Smith.
Mrs. V. White and Mrs. I. M. Douglas.

MIDLAND COUNTIES PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Warwickshire Heat

K. Spencer and H. Raghaven.
G. R. Dawes and H. Marsden.
F. Mills and Mrs. Adkins.
M. A. Porter and H. K. Cooke.

Staffordshire Heat

R. J. Carvean and F. W. Shelley.
T. O. Penn and Dr. W. Anderson.
Mrs. M. Rowley and Mrs. A. Scott.
Mrs. S. H. Glover and Mrs. J. Sumberg.
E. J. Latham and C. E. Collier.
Mrs. F. Bailey and Mrs. Beech.

NORTH OF ENGLAND PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Halifax Heat

Mrs. Hadfield and F. H. Addison.
Dr. Mackay and Mrs. Mackay.
Mrs. Woodruff and Miss S. Wright.
Miss Rothwell and Miss Rothwell.
Mrs. Siddall and Mrs. S. Horsfall.
Mr. Duffy and Mrs. Duffy.

Moortown Bridge Club Heat, Leeds. Qualified.

M. Rougall and W. Crystal.
H. Franklin and H. Brostoff.

(*continued from page 22*)

" Oh, a Spade, please," he said. " Just like that one on the table," he added too airily.

West glanced at him and led the Ace with the exasperatimg murmer " Just a hunch."

ERRATUM

The address of the West of England Bridge Club is 2, Leigh Road, Clifton, Bristol 8. Will readers please amend in the List of Clubs affiliated to the E.B.U. published in the February issue of the *Journal.*

SCIENCE FOR THE AVERAGE PLAYER

REVERSES AND RESPONSES

(2)

by Norman Squire

LAST month I dealt with the requirements for a Reverse, High or Low. Now let us see what the action of the responder is when his partner announces such strength.

The Responder should support to the limit of his hand if he can. It is the essence of good bidding that one partner should make a limited bid at the first opportunity, thus leaving the decision as to the

final contract with his partner.

The big hand here—the one which has reversed—will probably make that decision, but, to do so with authority, knowledge of the exact strength facing it must be obtained. So that strength must be shown immediately unless the hand is too strong, or is an apparent misfit.

The Responder credits the Opener with the requirements for a minimum Reverse (which is all he has shown up to now) and raises accordingly.

Thus, a hand unable to raise a suit even once may, in the light of the added strength and distribution shown by a Reverse, become good enough for a double raise or even more. Let us examine a few responses.

In each case the bidding has gone: 1 ♡ 2 ♣ 2 ♠.

1. ♠32 ♡2 ◇J32 ♣AJ10932. Bid 3 ♣, a complete sign-off showing no interest whatever in going even so far as game.

2. ♠32 ♡32 ◇Q432 ♣AJ432. Bid 2 NT. This is also a sign-off, but shows some sort of stop in the unbid suit. It does NOT show 11 points as might be thought by some. It is the maximum strength of the responding hand combined with the strength so far shown by the opener (a minimum Reverse). The combined count shown to be held is at present about 24. And with a minimum Reverse the opener should automatically pass this 2 NT bid, for as little as 6 points may be opposite him.

The temptation to bid a good hand again and again must be resisted. The responder is not deaf—he heard the Reverse. Had he the values for 3 NT he would have bid it, for holding—

3. ♠32 ♡32 ◇QJ32 ♣AQ432 he does.

4. ♠432 ♡432 ◇Q2 ♣KQJ32. Bid 3 ♡. This is again a sign-off showing complete minimum values, but the knowledge that you have three small Hearts may be vital if the opener is really good.

5. ♠Q2 ♡Q32 ◇A32 ♣Q5432. 4 ♡ is the bid here. It is a slight underbid for, though we can probably throw our Clubs out of the window, we have a Ace and two very vital Queens. But there is no slam unless partner makes another effort. If he does, it will be accepted happily.

6. ♠32 ♡432 ◇A32 ♣KQ432. There is a choice of bids here—4 ♡ or 3 NT. If we had the ◇ 10, I think 3 NT would be the bid. Without it, 4 ♡ is probably safer.

7. ♠J432 ♡2 ◇AQ2 ♣J5432. 4 ♠ is the bid, not 3 ♠. If we say 3 ♠ and partner goes 4 ♠ we have trapped ourselves. We have grossly underbid the hand, yet any further effort may reveal what is, apart from Spades, a misfit, and we may already be too high at the 5 level. Bid 4 ♠. If partner makes an effort in Clubs, sign-off; if he tries in Diamonds bid 6 ♠ gladly.

8. ♠QJ32 ♡32 ◇A2 ♣KQ432. 4 ♠ is far too little. 6 must be there. Bid it. Check on controls first if you like.

9. ♠32 ♡432 ◇A2 ♣AKQ432. 4 ♣ will do here. The hand is good enough to play in 6 of something. Partner's next bid will help us to decide. Or we might bid the fourth suit—3 ◇—

when preference to Clubs will mark partner with a singleton Diamond and immediately bring up grand slam possibilities.

10. ♠A32 ♡32 ◇KQ ♣J76543. This is really a nasty one. 3 ♠ is a possibility, but is a dangerous bid. Partner almost certainly has only four Spades and, on our immediate support, may become over-confident about trump solidity. 2 NT is an underbid, knowing (as we do) that the combined hands should have at least 27 points. We should look very foolish if partner was minimum and passed that bid. 3 NT is dangerous because of that doubleton K Q.

I regret having to be so super-scientific about this holding but the only bid which gets us out of all trouble is the waiting bid of 3 ◇. Over 3 ♡ we bid 4 ♡. Over 3 ♠ we bid 4 ♠, prepared to go to slam if another effort is forth-coming. 3 NT we pass. Over 4 ♣, 5 ♣ is bid chiefly in hope. 5 ♣ is passed comfortably and thankfully. If partner raises Diamonds he is loopy and we should not have made the bid with him, but rather bid 2 NT. If we have not played with him before we also bid 2 NT, taking our chance of looking foolish.

It is just possible that partner may have a hand containing genuine Diamond support, such as :

♠KQJ2 ♡AQ543 ◇AJ43 ♣Void.

But then he is not a good player and we should not have made that 3 ◇ bid with him. Holding that hand he has clearly fallen into the beginner's trap of reversing at the first opportunity merely for the sake of reversing. The natural sequence here is 1 ♡ - 2 ♣ - 2 ◇.* Now 2 ♠ may be bid over preference to Hearts, or 3 ♠ over 2 NT.

Naturally if we knew beforehand (holding this hand) that responder had nothing but a miserable string of Clubs and intended to bid and rebid them *ad nauseam* we should open 1 ♠, then rebid Hearts and then Diamonds. But, knowing that, we could also have got ourselves a clear and brilliant top by throwing-in at once the horrible hand.

The Mirage Reverse.

1 ♣ - No - 1 ♡ - 2 ◇.
2 ♠.

Is this 2 ♠ bid a Reverse ?

The answer is " No." It shows a hand which intended to bid 1 ♠ over 1 ♡ but has been forced one round higher by interference. But it tells partner that the hand is no minimum for, like a true Reverse, simple preference has been forced to the 3-level. Something like : ♠KJ65 ♡J5 ◇3 ♣AKJ1043.

It must clearly be understood that, although this bid qualifies under both definitions I have given for a Reverse, (forcing preference and showing distribution), it is not a genuine Reverse, and shows merely (at present) some playing strength and perhaps a Queen better than a minimum.

The values for a true Reverse may be there *but the Reverse has not been made.* Responder must base his reply upon what has been shown, not upon what he *hopes* may be opposite him. This 2 ♠ bid may also have been made

* *The 2 ◇ to Baronial Scientist Squire is an absolute 1-round force since it is a change of suit.*

without shape, but then the point count for a Reverse will surely be there.

Forcing preference to a 4-card suit at the 3-level needs a high point count. The 2 ♠ bid will then be an investigatory bid, hoping that partner can either rebid his own suit or go NT: such as

♠AK43 ♡K6 ◇432 ♣AKJ3.

A true Reverse over interference would be shown by this sequence:

1 ♡ 2 ♣ 2 ◇
2 ♠

Here the interference is the mirage, for it has not interfered in any way with the natural sequence. Clearly the opener intended to bid 2 ♠ over 2 ♣ whether the 2 ◇ bid was made or not.

Having reversed, it is vital that the opener realise what he has done, and not gaily bid again values he has already shown.

♠K43 ♡AK98 ◇AK954 ♣3.

Bid 1 ◇ and rebid with 2 ♡. Partner says 3 ◇. Give that problem to your club palooka. I will lay a shade of odds that not only does he bid again but that he performs that horrible evolution known as the Blackwood Bounce.

3 ◇ here is real weakness. The opening hand has already been bid to its limit. 3 ◇ must be passed automatically. Forced preference must never be confused with genuine support.

Not every good hand spells game. The good player knows how to resign his hopes gracefully. He also prefers to get a plus score on his good cards, be it even a part-score.

ORDER OF MERIT

The monthly prize of Two Guineas for the best set of solutions to the February Competition is awarded to E. H. POTTER, 56 St. Stephens Road, Hounslow, who scored 76 points out of a possible 100.

Runners-up: C. E. Dickel (Glasgow) 72, L. C. Payman (Salford) and A. F. Wallis (Maidstone) 68, J. H. Boatman (St. Albans) and C. Vickerman (Huddersfield) 67, F. Farrington (Turton) 66.

PROBLEM No. 1

Several competitors have written to protest against the official answer. Actually the problem is clear-cut. An opening of five in a major shows eleven sure tricks and no losers outside the trump suit. Hence North is missing two top Hearts and so cannot hold more than ten cards in the suit. That leaves three cards outside, which must all be winners. South holds the three outside Kings. Therefore North's three cards must be the three Aces.

This convention was first enunciated by Culbertson, but it is also part of Acol: a hand based on it was used, for example, in one of the Reese-Simon pair contests just before the war.

PROBLEM No. 7.

Several competitors, annotating their solutions, suggested that North could have redoubled for a take-out had he so wished. This is incorrect. A redouble is only S.O.S. if the original double has already been passed by partner.

PROBLEM No. 8.

Apologies to the few who, with varied degrees of criticism, called attention to the obtrusive two of Clubs; and congratulations to the many who submitted brilliant analyses of a difficult squeeze. Of the alternative lines suggested, the best involves ducking the first trick, then (provided a Heart is not led) running the minor suit winners. South is forced to unguard one major, then the play of the Ace and King of the other squeezes North. The only snag is that, against expert defenders, declarer cannot be certain which major South has thrown.

C.E.P.

This month's Competition

by Edmund Phillips

(*Competition Editor*)

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

Answers to EDMUND PHILLIPS, Esq., Competition Editor, *Contract Bridge Journal*, 172 Chester Road, Northwich, Cheshire, not later than April 30th, 1949. Solutions and names of prize winners in the March Competition will appear next month.

PROBLEM No. 1 (30 points)

In each of the following hands, the score is Game All, North-South 60: your partner, North, makes the opening bid stated, East passes, and the question is what response you should make on the South hand given.

(i) ♠8 ♡Q1064 ◇109853 ♣Q42
North bids One Club.

(ii) ♠K102 ♡KQ1075 ◇J1087 ♣3
North bids One Spade.

(iii) ♠K1075 ♡J98 ◇AK4 ♣QJ9
North bids One Heart.

PROBLEM No. 2 (12 points)

Love All. You, South, hold:

♠92 ♡AJ65 ◇A1087 ♣764

The bidding proceeds:

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

What do you bid?

PROBLEM No. 3 (12 points)

North-South Game. You, South, hold:

♠AJ96 ♡10 ◇Q10864 ♣K72

The bidding proceeds:

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

What do you bid?

PROBLEM No. 4 (12 points)

Game All. You, South, hold:

♠A9 ♡A103 ◇KQJ ♣KQJ103

The bidding proceeds:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♣	1 ♡	1 ♠	3 ♡
?			

What do you bid?

PROBLEM No. 5 (18 points)

Love All. You, South, hold:

♠A104 ♡J10 ◇AKJ10 ♣A753

The bidding proceeds:

SOUTH	NORTH
1 ◇	1 ♡
2 NT	?
?	

What do you say if North's rebid is:

(*a*) Three Clubs,

(*b*) Three Diamonds?

PROBLEM No. 6 (16 points)

♠ AK1072	♠ QJ53
♡ KQ85	♡ 4
◇ 943	◇ AJ
♣ 3	♣ AK10962

Contract, Six Spades by West. North leads the 5 of Diamonds.

How do you play the hand?

Answers to March Competition

PROBLEM No. 1 (36 points)

(i) Love All. You, South, hold:

♠ J 6 ♡ A 10 5 ◇ A Q 8 2 ♣ K J 7 6

You open One Diamond, and West passes. What is your rebid if North bids:

(*a*) One Spade, or

(*b*) Two Spades?

(ii) What are your rebids, in the same circumstances, if your One Diamond opening was based on:

♠ A 7 ♡ 9 6 4 ◇ A K 9 2 ♣ Q J 8 4?

ANSWER

1. (i) (*a*) Two Clubs—9 points. One No-Trump—4 points. With fifteen points and seven honour cards, this hand is rather too strong to sign off at One No-Trump, but decidedly weak for Two No-Trumps. The compromise bid of Two Clubs is therefore best. True, partner may pass, but if he does there is probably no game. If partner does show signs of interest, you bid No-Trumps on the next round.

(*b*) Three No-Trumps—9 points. Three Clubs—6 points. Even after a force, opportunity should be taken to make a quantum bid. You are interested in a slam—provided partner has slightly better than a minimum force. If you say Three Clubs, you will never be able to show your extra values without overbidding.

(ii) (*a*) One No-Trump—9 points. This is a balanced, minimum hand and you should not consider going beyond the One No-Trump level to show a tenuous four-card Club suit.

(*b*) Three Clubs—9 points. Two No-Trumps—2 points. The normal rule after a forcing take-out should be followed here—show a second biddable suit if you have one. A good partner will not take this as showing any more strength than the uninformative Two No-Trump sign-off.

PROBLEM No. 2 (12 points)

Love All. You, South, hold:

♠ A K J 3 ♡ 10 2 ◇ A K 10 5 3 ♣ Q 8

North deals and bids One Heart, and East passes. What do you bid?

ANSWER

2. Two Diamonds — 12 points. Responder should always consider carefully before forcing on a two-suiter. There is little danger of being stuck for a rebid if a simple take-out is made, since a force in the second suit will be available on the second round if necessary: on the other hand, the immediate force, especially if made at the three level, is liable to crowd the bidding. In this case, if South bids Three Diamonds and North Three No-Trumps, there is no clear continuation, and the situation is just as difficult if North bids Four Clubs; whereas, after Two Diamonds, any rebid by North can be handled comfortably.

PROBLEM No. 3 (12 points)

Game All. You, South, hold:

♠ K 10 7 5 ♡ Q 3 ◇ 4 ♣ A J 10 8 6 4

The bidding proceeds:

NORTH	SOUTH
1 ◇	2 ♣
3 ♡	?

What do you bid now?

ANSWER

3. Four Clubs—12 points. Three No-Trumps—8 points. Here the obvious bid is the right one, and we imagine few solvers will quarrel with this solution. Three No-Trumps is a reasonable alternative, because partner is unlikely to pass, and your next bid will be easy: 5 ♣ - 6 ♣, 4 ◇ - 5 ♣ or 4 ♡ - 5 ♡. The one bid that cannot be allowed is Three Spades: partner cannot have four Spades, therefore such a call must either show five cards in the suit or be a waiting bid, preparatory to supporting one of partner's suits.

PROBLEM No. 4 (12 points)

North-South Game. You, South, hold:

♠ A K 10 8 ♡ A Q 7 4 ◇ 10 2 ♣ K Q 9

The bidding proceeds:

NORTH	SOUTH
1 ♣	2 ♠
3 ♠	?

What do you bid now? You are playing the Culbertson 4-5 No-Trump convention.

ANSWER

4. Four Hearts—12 points. Four Clubs—4 points. This is a difficult hand, since you have little idea at what level or even at what denomination the hand should be played. There are many things you are interested in besides partner's Aces, and a Four No-Trump bid would quite certainly be premature. Four Hearts is preferred to Four Clubs, because:

(i) partner may have four Hearts and only three Spades (to the Queen);

(ii) the way is still open to a Club contract, if partner rebids this suit, but after Four Clubs it would be almost impossible to find the Heart fit;

(iii) the bid tells partner that the ♡ K, if held, is a key-card: he may now be enabled to bid 4 NT: then, after your 5 NT response, if he tries Six Diamonds you can confidently bid the grand slam.

PROBLEM No. 5 (12 points)

Love All. You, South, hold:

♠ K 10 6 2 ♡ A K 7 ◇ A 9 8 5 3 ♣ 9

The bidding proceeds:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
No bid	1 ◇	2 ♣	No bid
2 ♡	No bid	No bid	2 ♠
No bid	?		

What do you bid?

ANSWER

5. Four Spades—12 points. This will be a good contract if partner has as little as six small Spades and three small Clubs, and a second bid could hardly be expected from him on this holding.

PROBLEM No. 6 (16 points)

Game All. The bidding proceeds:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 ♡	2 ♣	3 ♡	4 ♠

The hands of North and you, East, are:

♠ 9 7
♡ K 8 5 3
◇ 9
♣ A K 10 6 4 2

♠ A 6
♡ J 10 7 4
◇ A J 10 5
♣ 9 5 3

West leads King of Diamonds. What is your plan of defence?

ANSWER

6. Take over with the Ace of Diamonds and lead the ♠ 6. Declarer probably has seven Spades to the K Q J, a void in Hearts and two or three Clubs. If he has three Clubs, there is nothing to be done: you can switch to Clubs and eventually give your partner a Club ruff, but this together with two Aces will be all you make. If, however, he has two Clubs, and therefore four Diamonds, the defence recommended beats the contract; declarer can ruff only one Diamond and you will make two more tricks in the suit when you get in with the ♠ A. Of course it does no good to play Ace of Spades first, for declarer will then discard his Diamonds on the Clubs, which are surely established whether he plays for the drop or for the finesse against partner's (possible) Queen.

COVER SOLUTION

With 11 tricks on top and no possibility of developing the twelfth save by squeeze play, the key to the hand is to lose immediately the trick whose loss will "rectify the count"—*i.e.*, reduce Declarer's cards to the N - 1 formula. West is, therefore, permitted to hold the Diamond.

Declarer now wins the second Diamond (or the ♠ Q if led) and reels off, in this order, 2 Spades, 3 Hearts, 1 Club (if West has continued Diamonds) or the Ace of Diamonds (if West has switched to Clubs) and then three more Spades.

West is inescapably squeezed. The hand is taken, with grateful acknowledgemnts from Goren's "Better Bridge for Better Players."

ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

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CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

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