

The British

MEDIUM FOR ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION NEWS

Bridge

SUCCESSOR TO THE CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

World

EDITED BY TERENCE REESE

January 1957

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

The International Team Trials, by Claude Rodrigue

Jackie Jousts with Texas, by A. Moyse Jr.

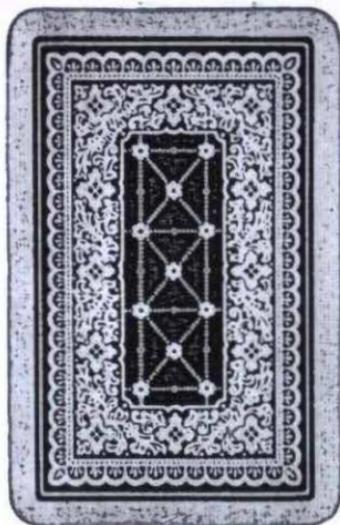
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The British Bridge World

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Edited by
TERENCE REESE

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January 1957

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Editorial Board

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GEOFFREY L. BUTLER HUBERT PHILLIPS

TERENCE REESE KENNETH KONSTAM

COMPETITION EDITOR: J. C. H. MARX

EDITOR FOR REGIONAL NEWS: HAROLD FRANKLIN

4 Roman Avenue, Leeds, 8

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Editorial

FORWARD LOOK

The most important lesson from the trials in December is that the gap between the younger players in Britain and those in countries such as France, Italy and Sweden, is beginning to narrow. If the B.B.L. selectors are prepared to take a long view they will find room for new players in the British team even if they are not, on the evidence of trials, quite the best available.

FROM TWO ANGLES

With two long articles about the trials, one technical and one, as it were, from a seat in the gallery, we are giving the event more space than editorially would have been thought advisable a year ago. The conclusion to be drawn from the answers to the November Competition, however, is that readers can "take it."

SHE BREATHES!

One of the prize-winners in that competition asked for details of how conventions like the Texas were working out in top class play, and another asked for more humorous articles. Killing two birds with one stone (our first and last editorial cliché for 1957), we present this month one of *Bridge*

World editor "Sonny" Moyse's famous Jackie articles. Jackie, by the way, is a real—and most likeable—person.

The monthly competition? Next month, we promise.

SYSTEM CLASH

Events to watch in the next few weeks: England v. Wales at St. Ermin's Hotel, January 19 and 20; the rubber bridge match at Selfridges between Konstam and Dodds, playing CAB, and Mollo and Gardener, playing Gardener, January 22-24; and the Masters Pairs at the London Club, February 9 and 10.

HEARD AT THE TRIALS

"*Peter the Professor*" Swinerton-Dyer, having entered 900, 1,100 and 2,800 in the opponents' column: "I did not come to play in these trials in my capacity as a Senior Wrangler."

LOOSE LIVING IN LEEDS

"Bridge clubs are of two types—propriety clubs and members' clubs."—*The first sentence of Harold Franklin's typescript on the Leeds Bridge Club.*

An appreciation of the late George Nelson appears on page 43.



When Meredith lays down his dummy, an apologetic smile is often called for,



but against Konstam and Dodds he looks dapper and confident.

Photos from the Times

Jackie Jousts with Texas

by A. MOYSE, Jr.

"The trouble with you," said my wife Jackie, "is that you're old-fashioned."

"So divorce me," I said. "What is this about? That is, specifically?"

I knew I wouldn't get a direct answer, and I didn't. Jackie likes to creep up on things as through a jungle. "You're just allergic to change, I guess. Any kind of change. Look at all the trouble I have, just getting you to change your suit."

"Is this a sartorial discussion?" I asked.

"No. It's a bridge discussion. The trouble with you is—"

"I know. But now that you've made your crafty approach from down-wind, I beg you, again, to be specific."

Her minimal conditions satisfied, Jackie got down to business. "Why won't you play some of the lovely new conventions with me? The Texas Convention, for instance. I was reading—"

"You know you're forbidden to read certain parts of *THE BRIDGE WORLD*," I told her sternly. "Why do you suppose I glue those pages together?

Simply because I know how convention-happy you are."

"I unglue them," she said. "Now stop being silly. I'm serious. I like the Texas Convention, and some others too. Do you remember that hand last week, where you bid hearts and they led a club through my King, and we got a rotten score? Well, if you had worked it so that I would bid the heart suit, the club lead would have come up to—"

"Darling," I said. "I see my basic error. It had never previously occurred to me that I should try to make you the declarer. For one reason or another I have just never thought about you as a great dummy-player. Now I see that—"

"Very funny," she interrupted. "Very, very funny. Well, maybe I'm not terrific, but I can still do better with the club lead coming up to my King than you—"

"All right, all right," I said. "So I'm weak in the handling of club leads. You win. So what?"

"So we'll play the Texas Convention," she said happily. "Tonight, at duplicate."

* * *

Our first opponents were a lady with extreme Victorian upholstery, and her husband, who looked 100 per cent. neutral about everything. "Good evening, we're playing the Texas Convention," I announced.

"What's that?" asked the lady suspiciously.

Jackie took over. "It's a brand new convention. From Texas."

"By remarkable coincidence," I added helpfully.

"It goes like this," said Jackie. "If I jump to Four Clubs over partner's No Trump—"

"That's Gerber," snorted the lady—but in a ladylike way, of course.

"Not when we announce the Texas," said Jackie. "Now—"

"Well, I must say it's all very confusing," said the lady.

"Madame, you ain't kidding," I said.

Jackie gave me a look. "It's not *at all* confusing if you simply understand—"

"Oh—if," I said.

"Be quiet!" my wife hissed. She gave me a scowl and the opponents an angelic smile, absolutely simultaneously. I know that it sounds impossible, but ask any well-seasoned husband. "A Four Club response to One No Trump," Jackie said firmly, "asks

the opener to name the next-ranking suit."

"Darling," I said, very reasonably. "You are slightly mistaken. Just slightly, but I wouldn't want the entire state of Texas to gang up on *The Bridge World* on the natural but unfounded notion that you have an official status. So, kindly let me straighten you out. The convention is not a response of four clubs to an opening no trump—it's four diamonds or four hearts. Then—"

"Oh, that's right," said Jackie, laughing merrily. She turned to the upholstered lady. "You see, it's not really confusing at all."

"Hmmmph," said the lady.

"If responder jumps to Four Diamonds," I continued, "opener *must* bid Four Hearts. If the response is Four Hearts, opener *must* bid Four Spades. That way, if the whole thing works out nicely, you protect the King of clubs from a lead-through."

"Well, it still sounds pretty silly to me," declared the lady. She glanced at her husband. "Doesn't it?"

"Sure does," he said agreeably.

"It's not a bit silly, and we're *using* it," Jackie said coldly. She picked up her hand, and the rest of us, two-thirds meekly, did likewise.

Voilà:

North dealer
North-South game

NORTH
 ♠ J 9 3
 ♥ A Q 9
 ♦ A 8 5
 ♣ A 8 4 2

WEST
 ♠ 7 5 4 2
 ♥ K J 10 8 7 5
 ♦ 2
 ♣ J 6

EAST
 ♠ —
 ♥ 6 3
 ♦ K Q J 10 9 6 4
 ♣ Q 10 9 7

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

The line-up was: Jackie, South; the gentleman, West; myself, North; and the lady, East. And this was the bidding:—

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1NT	4♦	4♥	No
No	No		

But it didn't go *quite* like that—there were sidelights.

The most important sidelight occurred when the Four Heart bid came up to me and I passed. At that point my wife uttered a very peculiar sound. I can't describe it exactly, but—well, did you see that movie taken in Africa, showing impali leaping all over the place and giving out with little squeaks? That was it. I had obviously married an impali.

But that wasn't all. The lady

at my left might possibly have missed the squeak but she couldn't miss the rest of the performance. Jackie lurched halfway across the table and, eyes rolling, said to me: "You *pass*? You *pass* to my bid of Four *Hearts*?"

The lady chortled. "That's just what he did, dear." She looked at her husband, and if there had been any possible room for doubt, it was erased by the gleam in his eyes. "I pass too," she announced, and you could have filled your crankcase from her voice. "Your *lead*, dear."

"Just a *minute!*" wailed Jackie. "Do you mean to say that I have to play this hand at Four *Hearts*?"

"Would you like to ask the director?" the lady suggested, giggling coyly.

Jackie drew in her breath and the lady stopped giggling. I didn't blame her. A hiss like that can scare hell out of anybody.

"My lead, my lead," mumbled West, looking 104 per cent. neutral. "Hmmm. I think—yes, under the, er, circumstances, I think I'll lead a trump" And he did—the Jack of hearts.

I will now have to adopt a new technique. This was the play:—

Jackie: "You ought to be *ashamed* of yourself—you *knew* I was using the Texas Conven-

Repeated for convenience

NORTH

♠ J 9 3

♥ A Q 9

♦ A 8 5

♣ A 8 4 2

WEST

♠ 7 5 4 2

♥ K J 10 8 7 5

♦ 2

♣ J 6

EAST

♠ —

♥ 6 3

♦ K Q J 10 9 6 4

♣ Q 10 9 7

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 10 8 6

♥ 4 2

♦ 7 3

♣ K 5 3

tion!" (She covered the heart Jack with my Queen.) "I'll never, *never*, NEVER play with you again!" (She led a club to her King and her second trump back toward dummy. West, who was nothing if not cautious, put up the trump ten to keep Jackie from finessing the nine—which she darn well would have done, if I know her, and I know her.) "It's just that horrible stubborn streak of yours!" (Took the trick with the trump Ace, cashed the diamond Ace and the club Ace, then led a spade to her hand.) "I think you actually *like* to see me go down a million tricks!" (She kept on leading high spades and West followed suit to the obligato of his own gnashing teeth.) "We could have made about fifteen tricks at *spades*, but oh no—you wouldn't enjoy that!" (West, out of

spades on the fifth round, and breathing hard, ruffed in with a low trump—maybe Jackie was too upset to overruff with the nine . . . She wasn't.) "It's simply *horrible*, the contracts I have to play, and all because—"

"Darling," I said. "I wouldn't try to win any more tricks if I were you. You've made the contract, and may I be the first to congrat—"

"You—you!" sputtered the lady, projecting herself (literally) across the table. Her husband cringed. "Did you have to lead a *trump*? You couldn't lead my *suit*—oh no—or a *spade*!"

Jackie smiled. "You know, dear," she cooed, "you practically called for a trump opening."

"I did not!" The lady grabbed the North and South cards and spread them face-up. She looked at them carefully, then unbent a trifle. "Oh, well—nothing could have stopped Five Spades, so I guess we'll get a top anyway."

Jackie bit her lip savagely, so I rushed to the rescue. "Maybe, and maybe not. D'y'a know, I have a hunch that there will be lots of North-South pairs in *Six Spades*, down one."

Of course I didn't mean it—but Jackie's smile was such a lovely reward.

Let's not leave any thunder unstolen.

It would take quite some bidding to get to Six Spades on these North-South hands, but that slam contract *could be made*, against any defence.

Suppose that West opens his singleton

diamond. Declarer goes up with the Ace on table, pulls all the trumps, and finesses in hearts. After $\heartsuit A$ and a heart ruff, he plays the last trump, and East cannot protect both minors.

The International Team Trials

by CLAUDE RODRIGUE

A large gallery watched with keen interest the first stage of the B.B.L. selection scheme for the men's team. This consisted of five matches of 32 boards played by six teams, with as reward: 2 victory points for winning a match by 5 I.M.P. or more, and 1 V.P. for a draw. In the event of a tie on V.P.'s. the winning team would be the one with the best match point quotient (i.e. plus I.M.P. divided by minus I.M.P.)

Round 1

Preston (43) 63 beat J. Tarlo (4) 29.

Meredith (13) 38 beat Reese (19) 31.

Truscott (29) 35 beat Flint (12) 25.

(Half-time scores in brackets.)

The same boards were played in all matches of the same round, and a worthy board 1 was the following:—

NORTH

\spadesuit 9
 \heartsuit A K J 10 9 6 4
 \diamondsuit 6
 \clubsuit Q 9 8 3

SOUTH

\spadesuit A K J 10 3 2
 \heartsuit Q 5
 \diamondsuit A 5 3 2
 \clubsuit K

The Norths who bid Two Hearts over One Spade were stymied over partners' rebids of Three and Four spades and found Four Hearts and No Bid respectively. At two tables only was this excellent slam contracted:

SOUTH

Reese
 $1\spadesuit$
 $6\heartsuit$

Priday

$1\spadesuit$
 4NT (Culb.)

NORTH

Schapiro
 $4\heartsuit$

Flint

$4\heartsuit$
 $6\heartsuit$

In the second half, board 24 provided a different auction and result at every table.

East dealer
North-South game

NORTH
 ♠ A K Q J 6 5
 ♥ A J 9 7
 ♦ J
 ♣ 9 4

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

SOUTH
 ♠ 10 8
 ♥ Q 6 5 3 2
 ♦ 10 9 7 3 2
 ♣ 5

WEST	EAST
Gardener	Rose
3NT	3♣
	No

North cashed six tricks and collected 150.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Swimer	R. Sharples	Preston	J. Sharples
No	1NT	Dbl.	No
2♥	No	4♥	No
5♥	No	No	5♣
All pass			Dbl.

This was made with an over-trick for a score of 1,050; Preston gaining 7 I.M.P. from Tarlo.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Meredith	Reese	Juan	Schapiro
No	1♣	Dbl.	No
No	No	4♠	No
No	Dbl.	All pass	
Contract made for 790.			

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Dodds	Kehela	Konstam	Squire
No	3NT	Dbl.	No
4♥	5♣	5♥	All pass
An overtrick was made to score 680, but the result was 2 I.M.P. to Meredith.			

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Beale	North	Truscott	S-Dyer
No	3NT	4♠	No
No	5♣	All pass	
Ten tricks made for a loss of 50.			

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Friday	Dormer	Flint	Rimington
No	1♠	No	2♣
No	No	3♠	No
No	4♣	All pass	

Fearlessly Dormer reopened to score 130 and gain 3 I.M.P. for Truscott.

Round II

Truscott (35) 54 beat Meredith (13) 48.

Tarlo (13) 45 drew with Reese (19) 42.

Preston (23) 47 drew with Flint (21) 47.

At the end of this round Truscott was the only one with an unbeaten record.

The cards continued lively and board 8 proved too hard for all pairs bar one.

East dealer
Love all

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

WEST
 ♠ J 10 9 2
 ♥ K Q J 9 8
 ♦ J 6
 ♣ Q 7

EAST
 ♠ A 7
 ♥ A 7 5 3
 ♦ 4
 ♣ A K 8 6 5 2

SOUTH
 ♠ K 5 4
 ♥ 10
 ♦ A Q 10 9 3 2
 ♣ J 9 3

The bidding started with One Club, One Diamond, One Heart (except when Reese bid Two Diamonds and Sharples Two Hearts). Some Norths raised diamonds and whether East chose to cue bid diamonds or to call Four Hearts directly the auction stopped at game in hearts. (It seems to me that if East cue-bids in diamonds and raises Two Hearts to Four Hearts, West can show his Queen of Clubs). Squire (East) chose to explore with Two Spades over Two Diamonds, and

when Kehela raised him to Four Spades, reached Six Hearts via Blackwood.

Board 24 provided more excitement in the bidding, and proved interesting in play.

East dealer
North-South game

NORTH
 ♠ A
 ♥ A K J 8 4
 ♦ A 8 6
 ♣ K Q J 3

WEST
 ♠ K J 5 3 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ Q J 9 7 5 3
 ♣ 7 2

EAST
 ♠ 10 7 6
 ♥ 7 6 5 3
 ♦ 2
 ♣ A 9 6 5 4

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 9 8
 ♥ Q 10 9 2
 ♦ K 10 4
 ♣ 10 8

Juan made a dealer's psike of One Club as East, but Truscott and Beale got as far as Five Hearts, Beale making an overtrick after a spade lead.

In the same match Dormer opened as West with One Diamond, and Kehela ended in Six Hearts. Receiving a diamond lead and testing trumps he decided to credit Dormer with the Ace of clubs and King of spades in addition to the diamonds, and hence to play for the squeeze; this line went down when East won with ♣A and led a spade.

Twelve tricks can be made if clubs are played after one round of trumps, and two diamonds discarded from dummy. Declarer must not play a second round of diamonds. R. Sharples and Schapiro both got a spade lead, but only the former succeeded in making the slam for which both sides had contracted.

Preston also reached the slam after an opening bid of One Diamond and duly went down on a lead of that suit; meanwhile Rose and Gardener sacrificed in Four Spades over Four Hearts at a cost of 700.

The modern theory of opening bids did not come out best on board 31.

North dealer
Love all

WEST

♠ A 10 9 7 6 2
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ K 8 6
♣ —

EAST

♠ K
♥ A Q 7 5
♦ A J 4 3
♣ A K 8 5

Dodds, Gardener and Juan opened with One Heart and reached the small slam in hearts after sequences varying between three and eight bids.

Rimington chose the diamond suit for his opening, and wound up making eleven tricks in that suit when he had contracted for twelve.

Dr. Rockfelt gave his preference

to the club suit, and rebid Three No Trumps over One spade. There he played.

North and Swinnerton-Dyer started with the same three bids as Rockfelt and Tarlo, but Swinnerton-Dyer now found a bid of Four Diamonds which his partner raised to Six. This went one down.

Round III

Meredith (36) 57 beat Flint (23) 44.

Reese (20) 34 beat Preston (16) 25.

Tarlo (27) 40 beat Truscott (9) 35.

Meredith and Truscott now jointly led with 4 V.P. from Reese, Tarlo and Preston with 3 V.P. each.

The excitement died down during this session, with more standard situations and less room for idiosyncrasies; with the exception, one must add, of board 13, on which Swinnerton-Dyer found himself left in an S.O.S. redouble at a cost of 2,800. At this form of scoring the outcome was a mere 12 I.M.P., a part score going to his side in the other room.

Round IV

Reese (20) 64 beat Truscott (19) 33.

Preston (19) 43 beat Meredith (11) 37.

Flint (10) 30 drew with Tarlo (16) 27.

With one round to go Reese and Preston had 5 V.P., to Tarlo, Truscott and Meredith's 4 V.P.

The first half of the Flint v. Tarlo match was notable in that all contracts were made at both tables.

Board 3 was a triumph for the weak No Trump, points being gained on the four occasions on which this opening bid was used, and lost on the remaining two occasions—this on an unfavourable ratio of 17 to 23 points.

North dealer
East-West game

NORTH
 ♠ Q 10 5 3
 ♥ K 6 4 2
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 9 6 5 3

WEST
 ♠ K J 9 7 4
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ A 7 6
 ♣ K 8 4

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A 2
 ♥ 10 7 6
 ♦ Q J 9 3
 ♣ A J 10 2

At every table the bidding was opened by South. Dodds chose One Club and played it in Two Clubs after an overcall of One Spade. He was one down.

At the opposite table Dormer opened One No Trump, Reese doubled and Schapiro, expecting

to hold the balance of points, passed. The lead of ♠7 went to the Ace and the diamond return to Schapiro's King. The contract was now unbeatable, declarer emerging with an over-trick. To beat the contract Reese has to find the difficult play of taking the Ace of diamonds at the first opportunity and switching to Ace and another heart; or, equally difficult, Schapiro must allow ♦10 to hold.

The swing to Truscott was 50 plus 280, amounting to 4 I.M.P.

In the second match Swimer opened with One Diamond, and Squire had no competition after his spade overcall. The contract was just made for 80.

In the same match the second sequence was:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Meredith</i>	<i>Rose</i>	<i>Juan</i>	<i>Gardener</i>
1NT	Dbl.	2♣	2♦
3♣	No	No	3♥
No	4♦		

Meredith forgot to double and collected 200 instead of 500; thus gaining 4 I.M.P. instead of 6 I.M.P.

At the remaining two tables the auctions were:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Rockfelt</i>	<i>Priday</i>	<i>Tarlo</i>	<i>Flint</i>
1NT	Dbl.	2♣	No
No	2♠		

Six tricks were made and 200 lost.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>S. Dyer</i>	<i>R. Sharples</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>J. Sharples</i>
INT	Dbl.	2♣	No
No.	Dbl.		

The contract was made for 180 and a gain to Tarlo of 1 I.M.P.

Round V

Truscott (18) 45 beat Preston (13) 26.

Tarlo (20) 38 beat Meredith (17) 27.

Reese (9) 34 drew with Flint (24) 34.

At half time both Preston and Reese were down, with nothing in the quotient, so that when the Reese match ended in an exact tie it was apparent that Preston only needed a winning draw to beat Reese on the split tie. Preston lost more points in the second half and lost his match decisively, to finish with 5 V.P. Tarlo, Meredith and Truscott were all back in the chase when they saw the position at half time, and a big win in the second half would put any one of them on top, provided that Reese and Preston could do no better than draw their matches.

The finish saw Reese, Truscott and Tarlo tying with 6 V.P. and the quotients announced were 1.17, 1.00, and 0.8995 respectively. Preston had 5 V.P., Meredith 4 V.P. and Flint 3 V.P. Truscott and Tarlo must have looked back with special regret at their second

half against Reese, and first half against Preston respectively.

Reese now goes straight to the final trial where he will play off against the winner of the second trial and Truscott if he finishes second again.

This scheme of selection seems to have been accepted with a minimum of criticism from the players who, generally, are only too prone to disagree with the B.B.L. methods. A degree of realism is caused by playing a series of short matches, as in the European Championship itself.

In this final round Board 1 was another slam. This time Flint and Priday alone reached Six Clubs.

South dealer
Love all

WEST

♠ A 5
♥ A K
♦ J 8 6 5 4
♣ K 10 8 5

WEST

Priday

1♦

2♣

3NT

6♣

EAST

♠ 9 8
♥ J 7 6 5 4 3
♦ A
♣ A Q 4 2

EAST

Flint

1♥

2♠

5♣

Thirteen tricks were made when everything lay right, but this certainly was a good slam to reach. Rimington and Dormer got to Five Clubs, all others stopping in Four Hearts.



*Squire and Kehela in play against Dormer (the declarer) and Rimington.
The scorer is Mrs. Fleming.*

Board 7

North dealer
Game all

NORTH

♠ J 8 5 3
♥ K 9 7 3 2
♦ 4 3 2
♣ 2

WEST

♠ K Q 10 4
♥ Q 4
♦ 8 7 6 5
♣ A 9 5

EAST

♠ 9 7 2
♥ A
♦ A K 10 9
♣ K J 7 6 3

SOUTH

♠ A 6
♥ J 10 8 6 5
♦ Q J
♣ Q 10 8 4

Four Spades was reached at

five tables, Meredith being the only declarer to succeed in fulfilling his contract. At the sixth table Schapiro got to Five Diamonds and after taking the right view in trumps omitted to give himself the superior chance in tackling the club suit (finessing the 9 can lose only when North holds the singleton 10. The full safety play of King followed by a small club was impracticable as declarer had already been forced once and was short of entries.) Thus he found himself going one down.

Board 26 gave six different sequences and five contracts.

West dealer
Love all

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

WEST
 ♠ 5
 ♥ —
 ♦ Q J 10 7 6 5
 ♣ J 10 9 5 4 2

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

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

Meredith opened as North with Three Spades, where he played and went one down. Meanwhile his team-mates Juan and Kehela bid unopposed to Four Diamonds and made two overtricks, dummy's spades going away on the clubs.

Beale got to Five Diamonds after opening with three of that suit. He got the lead of the Ace of spades and a heart switch, and now played a small club before drawing trumps; the ruff put him one down. In the same match Rose reached the same contract, which he made.

Things became really interesting in the third match. At one table the bidding took this course:—

SOUTH <i>Dodds</i>	WEST <i>S-Dyer</i>	NORTH <i>Konstam</i>	EAST <i>North</i>
	No	1♠	INT
Dbl.	2♦	2♠	No
3♥	4♣	4♥	All pass

This contract was defeated by one trick after some complicated play.

At the other table the auction went as follows:—

SOUTH <i>Priday</i>	WEST <i>Reese</i>	NORTH <i>Flint</i>	EAST <i>Schapiro</i>
	No	3♠	No
No	3NT	All pass	

Reese's Three No Trumps was the "unusual No Trump," asking for a minor, but Schapiro thought there was a chance for game at No Trumps.

Flint led ♠Q, and not wanting to risk a catastrophe should ♠A be held by South, declarer did not cover. At the second trick Flint switched to ♣Q; Reese covered with the King, "looking," he said afterwards, "as though I were going to my own funeral." Priday won with the Ace and returned a club, presenting declarer with two most unexpected overtricks!

This super-comedy, the last board but one at Reese's table, made a cheerful ending to a tournament admirably run by an organisation in which Mrs. Fleming, Percy Charters, Mrs. King and, at the turnstiles, Mrs. Pitt-Reynolds played the leading roles.

For another view of the trials, see "Rustic on Olympus" on page 38.

Test Your Play

These are practical problems of a sort that a good player should be able to solve. The answers are on page 49, but do not look at them until you have arrived at your own solution.

No. 1

NORTH

♠ A 4 3
♥ K J 7
♦ K 9 7 4 2
♣ 10 4

♣K led

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 9 8 5
♥ A Q 8
♦ Q 6
♣ A 7 5

South is in Four Spades after West has bid strongly in clubs. West leads ♣K and South wins the second round, noting that East has petered with the 9 and 3. How should South tackle the trump suit?

No. 2

NORTH

♠ K
♥ A J 8 4 2
♦ 7 4
♣ A K J 5 2

♦10 led

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 10 9 4 2
♥ Q
♦ 8 2
♣ 9 6 3

South plays in Five Spades after East has bid up to Five Diamonds on his own. West leads ♦10, and after two rounds of diamonds, to which all follow, East plays a third diamond. How should South play?

No. 3

NORTH

♠ 10 4
♥ 8 3
♦ A K 9
♣ Q 10 9 6 4 2

♦5 led

SOUTH

♠ K 8
♥ 10 7 5 2
♦ Q J 10 8 6 3
♣ A

South sacrifices in Five Diamonds after East has opened One Spade and the opponents have bid up to Four Spades. West leads ♦5 and East follows suit. What is South's best chance to make the contract? There is a psychological point here.

No. 4

NORTH

♠ 9 8 4 3
♥ Q 10 5 3
♦ 10 8 7 3 2
♣ —

♠5 led

SOUTH

♠ A K 7 6 2
♥ A
♦ 6
♣ Q J 9 6 5 2

South plays in Four Spades, doubled by East. In the bidding East has opened and rebid hearts, and West has bid diamonds. On West's lead of ♠5 East plays the 10 and South the King. How should South continue?

American News-Letter

by ALFRED SHEINWOLD

Sidney Silodor was the individual star of the Winter National Tournament, held in New Orleans, December 1-9. Silodor won the Mixed Pairs with Helen Sobel (for the second year in a row); the Open Teams with Crawford, Becker and Rapee; and the Men's Teams with Crawford, Paul Hodge and Ben Fain. The two last-named players amassed the biggest total of master points at the tournament by winning the Open Pairs in addition to the Men's Teams and second place in the Open Teams. Total attendance at the 17 sessions amounted to 2,777 tables.

Figures are not yet complete on the year's master point totals, but first place will surely go to Tobias Stone and his bride of a year, Jan, who as Janice Gilbert is a regular participant in a T.V. give-away programme, but as Jan Stone gives away very little at the bridge table.

There was great acclamation at the Winter Nationals when Al Sobel announced that Dr. Arthur M. Dye had won the two additional points needed to make him a Life Master. Dr. Dye is totally blind. He brings Braille

cards for use in his section and plays on level terms with the best.

This hand from the Open Pairs Championship is an example of the aggressive bidding and imaginative play of the winners, Hodge and Fain:—

North dealer
Game all

NORTH

♠ A K 5 4
♥ K Q 10 9
♦ 7
♣ K J 5 2

WEST

♠ 3 2
♥ A J 6 5
♦ 10 8 5 4 2
♣ 8 7

EAST

♠ 10 9 7 6
♥ 7 4 3
♦ A K Q J 9
♣ 9

SOUTH

♠ Q J 8
♥ 8 2
♦ 6 3
♣ A Q 10 6 4 3

This was the bidding, with Hodge South and Fain North:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1♣	1♦
2♣	2♦	2♥	No
2♠	No	4♠	All pass

West opened a diamond and East won with the Jack. Suspecting that declarer's trump position

was not too robust, East continued with a second diamond. Hodge refused to ruff in dummy, but discarded a club deceptively.

East fell for the trap and led another diamond. Now Hodge ruffed in his own hand, cashed ♠QJ, and entered dummy with ♣K to draw the outstanding trumps. That added up to 11 tricks and the score of 650 was better than anyone else could do.

Many players hold that a trump lead against a slam contract is undesirable. Israel Cohen played on that feeling to land a slam contract that was defeated at all other tables.

North dealer
Love all

NORTH

♠ A 10 6 2
♥ A J 10 6
♦ 10 7
♣ 7 6 3

WEST

♠ 9 4
♥ K 9 3
♦ J 8 3 2
♣ A Q 5 2

EAST

♠ 5 3
♥ 8 7 5 4 2
♦ 9 6 5
♣ 9 8 4

SOUTH

♠ Q J 8 7
♥ Q
♦ A K Q 4
♣ K J 10

When West led ♠9 against Six Spades, Cohen was disposed to place him with honours in all the

other suits. Since no side suit had been mentioned on the way to the slam (except in response to Blackwood), I should not have thought that any strong inference could be drawn from West's failure to make an attacking lead, but Cohen's assessment of the deal could not have been more right.

The normal play for the slam is a finesse in clubs, but Cohen drew trumps and then ran ♥Q. Crossing to dummy with a ruff of the third diamond, he played off ♥A and ruffed a heart; when the King came down, the contract was safe, for one club had been discarded on ♥A and a second could be thrown on the established ♥J. This method of playing the hand was, of course, theoretically inferior to finessing in clubs, for the heart finesse by itself was not enough to win the slam.

By the time this is read, new world champions will have emerged from the match between Italy and the U.S. at the Biltmore Hotel from January 6-12. I look forward to describing that encounter in the February B.B.W.

HUNGARIAN RELIEF

A rubber bridge tournament held at the Mayfair Bridge Studio on December 16 raised £81 10s. 0d. towards the Lord Mayor's Hungarian Relief Fund.

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SATURDAY, FEB. 9th, 8.30 to 11.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 10th, 2.45 to 6.15 p.m.

Spectators: Admission to each Session ... 2/6

Among the sixteen pairs taking part will be:

K. W. Konstam and L. W. Dodds, L. Tarlo and H. Franklin,
J. Tarlo and Dr. M. Rockfelt, R. and J. Sharples, B. Schapiro
and M. Harrison Gray, R. Preston and R. Swimer, N.
Gardener and V. Mollo, J. T. Reese and C. Rodrigue.

Fell v. Manning

Camrose Trial
Harrogate♠ A 8 7
♥ A Q J 8
♦ A 4
♣ A K 4 3East dealer
Game all♠ J 10 6 5 3
♥ 10 3
♦ Q J 7 6 5
♣ 5♠ Q 9 2
♥ 9 7 6 2
♦ 3 2
♣ J 10 7 2♠ K 4
♥ K 5 4
♦ K 10 9 8
♣ Q 9 8 6

Room 1:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Farrington</i>	<i>Helm</i>	<i>Fell</i>	<i>Street</i>
No	No	2NT	No
4NT	No	5♣	No
6NT	No	No	No

♥9 led. 11 tricks. 100 to E-W.

Room 2:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Sellman</i>	<i>L. Williams</i>	<i>Manning</i>	<i>Clark</i>
No	No	2♣	No
2NT	No	3NT	No
6NT	No	No	No

♠5 led. 12 tricks. 1,440 to N-S.

Six Clubs and Six Hearts are both safer contracts than Six No Trumps, and Six Clubs ought to be reached in a team event. North-South in Room 1 could have got there after North's well-judged natural bid of Five Clubs, but unfortunately South persevered in No Trumps. I prefer the opening bid in Room 2, as the four Aces make the hand equivalent to a normal balanced 23-pointer. Here South could have explored with Four Clubs on the second round, but chose to bid directly, and not unreasonably, to Six No Trumps.

Six No Trumps is only troubled by the bad club break. When the play of ♣A and ♣K reveals this, a good line is play ♦A and duck a diamond, preserving menaces in three suits. The subsequent play of ♦K and the remaining hearts squeezes East in spades and clubs, and then West in spades and diamonds. In Room 2 Sellman brought off a pseudo-squeeze by playing four rounds of hearts and then four rounds of clubs. West had to guess whether to keep spades or diamonds, and guessed wrong. In such a situation East can help by discarding downwards in hearts to show strength in spades.

International Team Trial

East dealer

♠ 9743
♥ J7
♦ Q86
♣ 10952

Love all

♠ 5
♥ K1043
♦ A9
♣ AK8643

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ KJ62
♥ A95
♦ 10532
♣ Q7

♠ AQ108
♥ Q862
♦ KJ74
♣ J

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>J. Sharples</i>	<i>Truscott</i>	<i>R. Sharples</i>	<i>Beale</i>	<i>Dormer</i>	<i>J. Tarlo</i>	<i>Rimington</i>	<i>Rockfelt</i>
			No				No
1♥	2♣	No	3♣	1♠	Dbl.	2♠	3NT
No	3NT	All pass		No	No	No	
♥J led.	9 tricks.	400 to E-W.		♠A led.	11 tricks.	460 to E-W.	
<i>S-Dyer</i>	<i>Juan</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>Meredith</i>	<i>Squire</i>	<i>Flint</i>	<i>Kehela</i>	<i>Friday</i>
			No				No
1♠	Dbl.	2♠	2NT	1♠	Dbl.	2♠	2NT
No	3NT	All pass		No	3NT	All pass	
♦4 led.	7 tricks.	100 to N-S.		♠8 led.	9 tricks.	400 to E-W.	
<i>Dodds</i>	<i>Gardener</i>	<i>Konstam</i>	<i>Rose</i>	<i>Swimer</i>	<i>Reese</i>	<i>Preston</i>	<i>Sc'ziro</i>
			No				1♦
1♦	2♣	No	2♦	No	2♣	No	No
No	3♥	No	4♥	Dbl.	No	2♠	Dbl.
All pass				All pass			
♦6 led.	7 tricks.	150 to N-S.		♣Q led.	8 tricks.	470 to N-S.	

Three different routes led to Three No Trumps at the first four tables, but only once did the defence succeed. The ♥J lead was unfortunate, and the ♠8 lead somewhat ill-judged; at this table Friday made the good safety play of ♣7 at trick 2, allowing ♣J to hold, Dormer's ♠A was better, but North unwisely encouraged a fatal continuation.

Gardener's Four Heart contract is partly due to the opening bid, which makes Three No Trumps hard to reach. At the last table a typical piece of Schapiro roguery recoiled for once; but by plugging away at clubs the defenders can beat the contract.

Middlesex v. Sussex

Tollemache
Cup

♠ A Q 9
♥ K 9 8 6 3
♦ —
♣ K 10 8 6 4

North dealer
Game all

♠ 6
♥ A J 5
♦ 10 9 8 6 3 2
♣ A 9 5



♠ K 10 8 7 4 3
♥ 4
♦ A J 7 5
♣ 7 2

♠ J 5 2
♥ Q 10 7 2
♦ K Q 4
♣ Q J 3

SOUTH <i>Pearlstone</i>	WEST <i>Crown</i>	NORTH <i>Bernard</i>	EAST <i>Kehela</i>	SOUTH <i>Pugh</i>	WEST <i>R. Sharples</i>	NORTH <i>North</i>	EAST <i>J. Sharples</i>
		1♥	1♠			1♣	1♠
3♥	No	4♥	No	2♥	3♦	4♦	No
No	Dbl.	Redbl.	No	4♥	No	4♠	No
No	No			5♣	No	5♥	No
				No			
♣7 led. 10 tricks. Sussex +1,030.				♠6 led. 7 tricks. Midd. + 400.			

SOUTH <i>Gray</i>	WEST <i>Frances</i>	NORTH <i>Miss Shanahan</i>	EAST <i>Albuquerque</i>	SOUTH <i>Nunes</i>	WEST <i>Giddins</i>	NORTH <i>Rose</i>	EAST <i>Hawkins</i>
		1♥	1♠			1♥	1♠
3♥	No	4♥	No	2♥	No	No	No
No	Dbl.	No	No				
No							
♠7 led. 11 tricks. Mid + 990.				♣7 led. 10 tricks. Midd. + 170.			

This hand is a trap for the too-ready doubler. Although West is bound to be tempted after partner has made a vulnerable overcall, he should restrain himself with the thought that the double will probably cost him a trump trick. Note that after F. North, dazzled by the fit in hearts, had gone too high, J. Sharples was too wily to double even Five Hearts. At the fourth table Nunes was unduly pessimistic.

In this contest the four results are added together, and Middlesex gained 530, or 6 I.M.P. They had a clear win with 14 Victory Points, 4 V.P. clear of the runners-up in a field of 9 teams.

The Way Back

by KENNETH KONSTAM

This article is unlikely to be a popular one, nor is it intended to be. It is written simply with a view to assisting in producing a ladies' team which can bring us back the European Championship. This after a few years of supremacy seems at the present moment to be as far from our grasp as the Wimbledon tennis title.

Let us examine the reasons. Messrs. Juan and Meredith put the cat amongst the pigeons with their article in the November issue of *The British Bridge World* drawing attention to the smugness that appears to prevail in women's bridge circles. Mediocre bidding and play is glossed over and lost matches are explained away by publicising one or two horrors of an individual player.

What are the facts, and what are the remedies? Firstly, four players, Mrs. Fleming, Lady Rhodes, Mrs. Renshaw, and Mrs. Evans, who were responsible for many of our successes, have for one reason or another dropped out of international bridge. Secondly, Mrs. Markus and Mrs. Gordon, also members of our winning teams, with all their

natural aptitude for the game, can no longer command the same authority over much improved continental players. Their game has stood still while others have improved and we have in this country not one player of the steadiness and skill of Helen Sobel of America, Christiane Martin of France and Mrs. Damm of Denmark. Thirdly, we have no established partnerships and after a year of extensive trials during which the leading players had the advice and help of Terence Reese, an attitude sprang up which appears a mixture of self satisfaction and lack of team spirit resulting in the negation of any successful training and even creating a quite absurd but eagerly accepted theory that team captaincy can be a substitute for team efficiency.

Obstructive criticism will get us nowhere but I have constructive suggestions to make. Lady players who are interested enough to want to play for their country should join a team which is committed to strict self criticism. Teams should consist of five members with two recognised pairs and a captain who could

play with at least one member of each partnership. They should enter for as many national competitions as possible and strive to arrange challenge matches with some small stake on the result. Teams should only be formed between friends and no team should attempt to enlist in it any player, whatever her standard of bridge, whose association with the team might in any way destroy the harmony of it.

Last year the B.B.L. initiated the nomination of teams and at least one of these achieved a quite excellent result by just failing to reach the final of the Gold Cup. Unfortunately, for reasons which have never been clear, only three of the five players concerned were

invited to represent Great Britain.

There are to my knowledge a number of players keen enough and potentially good enough to work at the game on these lines. They can all improve providing that they really get down to an analysis of their own game instead of their partner's and providing that they can instill into themselves sufficient confidence in their team mates to avoid the temptation to "go it alone."

The European teams they will meet in Vienna next year will hold no terrors if our players can train themselves to keep their heads, to ignore but not to find excuses for the occasional bad result and to avoid the temptation to treat their opponents as inferior beings.

GOOD WINS IN THE EARLY ROUNDS

The tournament secretary of the E.B.U. has picked out the following outstanding performances from the early rounds of the competitions:—

GOLD CUP.—Mrs. R. Markus, Mrs. J. Durran, Mrs. M. Whitaker and Mrs. K. Richard, beat M. J. Flint, R. A. Friday, P. Swinnerton-Dyer, J. R. A. Beale, F. North and M. Triefus *by 37 I.M.P.*

CROCKFORDS CUP.—J. N. Colley, J. D. Colley, M. Dickenson and E. Pudsey (Hull), beat I. Manning, D. Sellman, S. Fielding, C. Manning and A. Finlay (Leeds) *by 4 I.M.P.*

G. F. Short, J. L. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. W. Holden (Cheshire), beat B. P. Topley, E. L. Silverstone, F. Farrington and J. Miezes (Manchester) *by 24 I.M.P.*

J. C. J. Tatham, I. V. Idelson, D.

Davenport and A. Simmons (London), beat M. Harrison Gray, Miss D. R. Shanahan, J. Sharples and R. Sharples (London) *by 10 I.M.P.*

HUBERT PHILLIPS BOWL.—D. J. Smerdon, N. Hughes, Mrs. V. Cooper and H. St. J. Ingram (Middlesex) beat Mrs. R. Markus, Lady Rhodes, L. Dodds, and Dr. S. Lee (London) *by 190 Points (aggregate).*

Dr. J. Henneman, Mrs. Henneman, Mrs. Coles and Dr. Robertson (Bournemouth), beat Mrs. A. L. Fleming, N. S. L. Smart, P. Juan, and Mrs. B. Gordon (London) *by 360 Points (aggregate).*

Any Questions

Tricky questions are answered independently by a panel of four.

1 At game all in a team-of-four match South holds:—

♠ — ♥ Q 10 8 7 4 3 ♦ A J 4 3 ♣ K J 7

The bidding proceeds:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	No	1♠	2♦
?			

Mr. H. G. Field, of Carson Road, Dulwich, writes: "This situation caught me not in two, but in three, minds: should South pass, since he has opened light? Double, to discourage further progress on a likely misfit? Or bid Two Hearts, as he would have done had East not overcalled?"

Mr. Field's problem is a good one. Everyone has his own method on this type of hand. I myself have no doubt that the correct bid is **DOUBLE**. If North has an unsuitable hand he will remove it, but at least you are warning him of a misfit.

A pass to show a minimum is ill-advised since it might convey to partner some support for spades which he will almost certainly rebid. The only alternative, and a bad one, is Two Hearts.

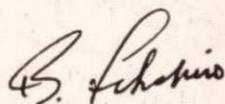
Kenneth Lane

Discount the double first of all—you just don't have the tricks. You can beat the declarer twice in trumps—which he knew—but you can see little more and even if you can defeat Two Diamonds you are quite likely to have a better score in hearts.

The soundest course is to say **NO BID**. You have very few high cards, so someone else is sure to bid. Partner is warned of a weak opener by your pass—even if he continues with a dreaded bid of Two Spades you may well be safe in Three Hearts since he will have some values and, being short of diamonds, may well have two or even three hearts. And if partner cannot muster another bid you have certainly done well to drop out of the auction.

Double is definitely out. The diamond pips are too small and there is only one defensive trick outside.

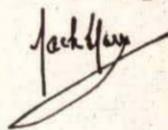
In my view TWO HEARTS is best. Partner may have a hand where he wants to dispute the part score and will bid Two Spades where he would gladly have passed Two Hearts. Another point is that with a heart holding such as Ax, Kx, or even Jx, he may be able to raise in hearts where otherwise he would have rebid his spades. I cannot therefore see any advantage at all in passing.



If South, nervous of his sketchy opening, is in a mind to play for safety, he will not necessarily achieve it by doing nothing. In fact, I think a pass carries the heaviest risk of all.

True, it warns North that the values are moderate, but it leaves him in the dark as to where they lie. To contest the part score, North may repeat what are perhaps only moderately good spades. In this event, South can only guess whether he should rebid now what he must regret not having rebid before.

However, the heart rebid in my view takes second place to the DOUBLE. Game prospects are at best obscure, whereas the double, even though speculative, is quite likely to bring in a substantial score. The long hearts may well undermine East's control of trumps.



Terence Reese sums up

The panel, like our correspondent, is in three minds. It seems to me that you can double only if you play the "co-operative double," whereby partner passes a double of a low contract only if it suits him well. Otherwise, you just have not enough defence; inability to lead partner's suit is no recommendation.

As to the choice between Two Hearts and No Bid, I find Marx's arguments against a pass, and Schapiro's in favour of TWO HEARTS, conclusive. Franklin has no qualms about passing now and going to Three Hearts over Two Spades, but I don't care for that. "I wasn't strong enough to bid Two Hearts freely, partner, but here I am with Three Hearts."

2

At love all in a team-of-four match West holds:—

♠ 9 8 7 4 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ J 7 ♣ A Q 10 6

The bidding proceeds:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	No	1♠	No
INT	No	2NT	No
No	No		

Mr. H. Preston, of Hagley Road, Halesowen, Birmingham, writes: "This is the hand on which the debated lead of ♥Q was made by one of the British ladies in the European Championship. Messrs. Juan and Meredith criticised the lead, preferring the safer ♠9. Mr. Truscott defended the lead and said that Mr. Schapiro agreed with him. It would be very interesting to hear some more opinions."

I cannot accept the lead of the Queen of Hearts since it may well be disastrous. What you want to do is to get partner in to lead clubs through and therefore your duty is to find two quick entries. ♠9 is the obvious first shot and after that you will see the dummy.

The only object of ♥Q would be to find a suit in partner's hand. If the club holding were only Q10xx I would allow the heart lead on the assumption that partner had a good hand.

Kenneth Lamb

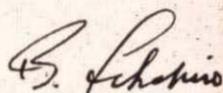
Although I vote with Meredith and Juan on this one I regard the choice as a close one and do not think that the heart lead can be severely criticised. I think that the hand is one on which the declarer will have to work to produce eight tricks, particularly if he holds the clubs, and therefore I settle for a passive defence and leave him to make his own running.

There is, however, the argument that players who open a diamond are unlikely to have a four-card heart suit, and the same applies to players who respond a spade. On that reasoning you may think it likely that partner has four hearts. If the declarer can develop his tricks in diamonds and spades the best chance for the defence may be to establish East's long heart.

Harold Goulthie

It is quite true that I did defend the lead when shown the hand. I do not agree that ♠9 is any safer as a lead than ♥Q. There are many positions where ♠9 may "cost." Partner can have Qx or Qxx or K10 or A10—all quite likely on the bidding. It is also extremely unlikely that you will be striking a telling blow by this lead or gaining a tempo.

The ♥Q lead, on the other hand, is much more attractive in my view. Admittedly it might "cost," as I understand it did in this case, but one has only to find Axxx or Kxxx in partner's hand and the suit will be quickly established. You may even be lucky enough to find Kxx in dummy and partner holding A10xx. To my mind, the choice of leads is not even close.



From the bidding, if trustworthy, West can judge that North-South's resources will be fully extended for the fulfilment of their contract. They must not therefore be presented with tricks in the early rounds of any suits when, as here, there is no obvious prospect of a return in the form of an establishable suit length.

I think West should therefore play a passive defence, at least until he learns more about the hand from a view of the dummy. This seems best represented by the ♠9, as being least likely to give anything away.



Terence Reese sums up

The point originally made by Juan and Meredith—that this particular auction calls for a tight defence—is sound; so, too, is Konstam's remark that you have too much yourself to play for partner's hand, and that in so far as you have an attacking objective it is to put partner in to lead a club.

It strikes me as perverse to pretend that ♠9 is as likely to give away a trick as ♥Q. It will not necessarily do so in the situations mentioned by Schapiro. The Queen from QJx, on the other hand, is one of the most costly leads in the game.

I think that ♥Q is a dreadful lead—risky in defence, destitute of attack.

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Slams and Slips

by MALCOLM WARD

When England beat Northern Ireland at Newcastle, Co. Down, by 102 I.M.P.—the first time any Camrose team has scored a final and definitive century—the two biggest single swings in the match went to the losers.

NORTH

♠ 6 4 3

♥ A K 7 3

♦ A J 8 4 2

♣ 9

WEST

♠ 10 8 7

♥ 9 5 4

♦ 7 5 2

♣ 7 4 3 2

EAST

♠ K 9 5 2

♥ Q 10 2

♦ K 10 9

♣ J 10 8

SOUTH

♠ A Q J

♥ J 8 6

♦ Q 6

♣ A K Q 6 5

West dealt at game to East-West and, not unnaturally, passed. North opened in both rooms; but Jeremy Flint preferred the prepared heart, David Cohen the longer suit. Both Souths forced with Three Clubs.

Take the Irish sequence first: 1♦—3♣; 3♥—4♣; 4♦—4NT (Blackwood); 5♥—5NT; 6♦—6NT. B. P. Topley led ♥9 and

H. "Sonny" Diamond, South, won with dummy's ♥K.

It is no comfortable contract; to give any chance, diamonds must produce four tricks and the spade finesse must be right; entry trouble dictates (at sight) that trick 2 should be a spade finesse. When this holds, the diamonds should be played. As everything in South's garden is lovely—3-3 diamonds and ♠K on-side—12 tricks are there for the taking.

Diamond, however, led a club at trick 2 and then ran ♦Q. E. Silverstone, at East, won the diamond at once and led a would-be deceptive ♠9. After considerable heart-searching and heart-burning, Diamond finessed as he had to. Twelve tricks were now rolled up.

(Superficially, it seems that Silverstone should hold off ♦Q, win ♦J and return ♣10. Now, with West holding the fourth round of clubs, it appears that the afore-mentioned entry trouble will prevent declarer taking two spade finesses. This is, however, illusory: after all the diamonds have been played off, plus the

Repeated for convenience

NORTH

♠ 643
♥ AK73
♦ AJ842
♣ 9

WEST

♠ 1087
♥ 954
♦ 752
♣ 7432

EAST

♠ K952
♥ Q102
♦ K109
♣ J108

SOUTH

♠ AQJ
♥ J86
♦ Q6
♣ AKQ65

three top clubs, East is squeezed. Evenly-breaking diamonds alone bring home the bacon.

The English sequence ran as follows: 1♥—3♣; 3♦—3♥; 4♥—4NT; 5NT—6♥.

Flint, on the club lead, had not only an unenviable, but a hopeless task; two red losers were inescapable. In practice, he went down two. In a prolonged post-mortem—away from the table, be it said!—he criticised the bidding of South, his old friend and partner, R. A. Priday.

The constant re-assessment of values in the light of the bidding is of cardinal importance to any first-class player; and South, claims Flint, should have recognised that his heavy point-count in the black suits was of depreciated value in a heart contract. Priday, said Flint, should have been content, over Three Dia-

monds, to bid Three No Trumps—because his 19 points had shrunk to at most an effective 14.* With but 14 points, Three No Trumps is marked as the second response.

In fact, pontificated Mr. Flint, Priday had virtually bid Six Hearts over One Heart on the strength of knowing that North held two Aces! North had, in fact, never *genuinely* rebid the hearts at all: his Four Hearts over South's correction to Three Hearts was the weakest bid he could make. Since preparation on weak 5—4 hands forms part of the Flint-Priday style, South had no excuse to read North with more than he had.

Flint conceded that he would have taken no action over Three No Trumps, so England was booked for a bad result on this hand anyway.

I must confess that my own sympathies are some 60—70 per cent. on the side of the Flint contention. I should myself open 1♥, rather than 1♦. But I doubt whether I should quite so easily write off my 19-count if I

*I am reluctant to believe that Flint said anything so foolish. Note that the cards so depised (♠QJ and ♣Q) pulled all their weight in Six No Trumps. The slam is borderline because of the unsubstantial character of North's holding—T.R.

were sitting in Mr. Friday's seat. I should incline to trot out the fourth suit here: 3♠. If I received club preference, I should have a long look at a club slam; if I heard 4♦, I should bid 4♥; if I received 3NT, I should (I am almost sure) jump to 6NT.*

The other big gain to Ireland occurred when Flint and Friday, at a time when the lead was in three figures, failed in a light-hearted grand slam venture.

The swing brought England's lead back to 95. It was an elementary safety-play which finally achieved the cherished goal. Both sides reached Three No Trumps on:—

NORTH

♠ A 9 6 5

♥ 8 4

♦ J 9

♣ A K 9 8 2

WEST

♠ Q J 10

♥ K 9 3

♦ K 8 4

♣ Q 10 6 3

EAST

♠ 8 7 3

♥ Q 10 7 6 5

♦ Q 10 6 3

♣ 7

SOUTH

♠ K 4 2

♥ A J 2

♦ A 7 4 2

♣ J 5 4

Both Norths opened One Club and the Irish South bid One Diamond. North rebid One Spade and South jumped to Three No Trumps. England, scorning a fiddling diamond suit, went direct to Three No Trumps over the opening.

Both Wests led ♠Q. The English South lapsed badly when he allowed this card to hold. Maurice Gabbey found a switch to ♦K and South ducked with ♦4. A second diamond South won and led a low club. West—unexpectedly enough—produced ♣10 and a low club back to the Knave put West in. Now East overtook ♦8, but South was home—♦7 was good; he was home anyway (though he did not know it) since the spades broke 3—3.

The Ulster South had the wit to win the first trick, but he then

have thought that Four Diamonds from North would be more encouraging.

The South hand reinforces my theory that Four No Trumps in these positions, where the opportunity to settle a suit has been neglected, should be natural. It is certainly the "value" call for South over Three Diamonds.

In the international trials there was a similar situation. I held:—

♠AKJxx ♥Kxx ♦xx ♣Kxx

and after One Diamond—One Spade—Three Diamonds, bid Four No Trumps. This was meant to be natural, although my partner, who doesn't read my books, did not treat it so.—T.R.

* Since Three Spades has no meaning for players who use the fourth-suit convention, partner's Three No Trumps would show ♠K, and that is not a card one specially wants him to hold. I should

played off dummy's two high clubs. Now the hand went two down.

Misunderstandings, resulting in heavy adverse swings, are apt to disrupt both partnerships and team morale. It is due to both the players and the side as a whole to record the fact that Messrs. Flint and Priday were completely unrattled by their two ill-fated slam ventures, but played with unshaken confidence and great success after both, and the "other room"—in both cases, Topley and Silverstone, who had a very fine match indeed—were never

tempted into wild attempts to retrieve the vanished points.

M. Harrison-Gray and Dorothy Shanahan, the "nominated" pair, scarcely put a foot wrong; a cold analysis might at worst charge them jointly with a loss of 10 I.M.P. over the 68 boards they played.

It is due to the Northern Ireland side to record that their bridge never disintegrated despite the merciless pressure to which they were subjected, and their sportsmanship (like their hospitality) was flawless.

Autour de L'Etoile

by JEAN BESSE

Selection

Every national bridge league in Europe meets the same very tough problem: how to choose their representatives for the European Championship. And this problem is more and more painful every year.

The reason, of course, is that it is very difficult, in bridge, to *prove* that one player is better than another. As a matter of fact, every player is the best player, you know. Thus, when any selection committee chooses

any six players to represent the country, the rest are more unanimous than ever in their opinion . . .

Nobody likes such responsibilities and, as a result, the selection in France for instance is now almost automatic by means of trial matches between teams of four. Little if anything as they prove, these trials are now accepted as the lesser evil in this country.

In the November issue of the B.B.W. Terence Reese listed some qualifications that the selected

players should possess to make a good team. In my opinion he did not stress one of the most important, which is previous experience of international and, particularly, European Championship play.

At Stockholm, for example, the Swiss players in their first match were quite enthusiastic about the play of the four new young players in the Swedish team. In the end, however, this team could finish only sixth, and I am sure that the reason was lack of experience rather than lack of ability. Thus I believe that a country with ambitions to win the title must include not more than two, or at most three, newcomers in the team.

American bidding

In the October issue of the American *Bridge World* we find the following problem:—

Match points, love all, dealer North.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1♦	No
1♠	No	1NT	Dbl.
Redbl.	2♥	No	No
?			

What should South now say, holding:—

♠ Q 10 8 5 4 2
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ J 2
 ♣ K Q 9

The marking, based on the votes of 44 American experts, was:—

Three Spades	...	100
Two Spades	...	60
Three Clubs	...	50

What for us, on this side of the Atlantic, appears utterly fantastic is that 11 experts out of 44 chose TWO SPADES, which we would regard as the underbid of the century.

The American editor, while prepared to listen to the argument that Two Spades is forcing, considers the jump to Three Spades greatly superior.

Quite a few experts in Paris would not regard even Three Spades as forcing. Yet Mr. Roth: "Two Spades. Even at the Cavendish this should be forcing."

This problem shows how large is the gap between the American trend and our own way of thinking.

Tournament news

France: The *Coupe de Paris* was won by the young pair, Pariente—Stetten.

The *Coupe Jean Bue* for teams-of-four from Paris was won by Heredia — Lerville — Romanet — Lattes.

Switzerland: The 96-board final of the *Coupe de Suisse* was won by Beguin—Bernasconi—Janushkowski—Ortiz—Besse.

Rustic on Olympus

by MAJOR CHARLES GIBSON

When I remarked that I thought it would be a good idea to watch the six best men's teams competing against each other and so learn how to bid and play better, the folks at our club agreed with unflattering alacrity. So it was that the Queen of Bohemia, looking down from her golden frame, some five dozen others and I saw the first two rounds of the international trials.

Dodds and Konstam play CAB, which the patient and courteous Colonel Walshe tried to teach me a dozen years ago, so I watched their match with Meredith and Juan for the first hour. For some reason I had thought Meredith to be bald-headed—why, I don't honestly know—but nothing could be further from the truth. He even has two petite tendrils caressing his right ear.

I waited to see one of his famous psychic bids, but he held some frightful hands. And here was my first lesson. Not by the slightest facial or verbal expression, even when the hands had been played, did he betray his feelings. Such impassive self-control was common to all the

maestros. Yes, I know *you* can sit for two hours with an average point count of four or five and still be your usual amiable self; but it was a lesson to me, who am not so inhibited.

It was not until the second half of this match that I saw a "Meredith special." He opened Three Clubs as dealer on a suit consisting of Q7432 and achieved a wonderful result, keeping Reese and Schapiro out of a vulnerable Four Spades. "The * 7 rather spoilt it" was his grave comment on the Three Club bid.

Meredith has a leisurely approach to the game, slowly counting his cards before he looks at their faces, then checking with the travelling record, and finally appraising his hand.

It seemed to me, and I repeat in defensive italics, it *seemed* to me, that bidding and play were sometimes very slow at all tables. There were times when even "No Bid" took long consideration, and it took two hours to play the first sixteen hands.

Juan was playing Four Diamonds doubled on Hand 8 (First Round) and took three minutes

to decide on the play after the seventh trick. He finished three down.

And perhaps the Editor will be good enough to say what was passing through his mind during the long interval in the fourth hand on Friday night when he was in Four Hearts, holding: ♠x; ♥AK1042; ♦Q104; ♣AK109.

On the table were: ♠Qxx; ♥xxx; ♦AK973; ♣J3. Bidding (opponents mute) One Heart; Two Diamonds; Three Clubs; Four Hearts.

Somewhere about the fifth trick he went into a long trance, broken only by Schapiro's offer of a sweet as an aid to analysis. He then tabled his cards, said something I didn't hear, so I don't know the result. The players' expressions, as usual, gave no clue.*

Here was my second lesson. If the Aces (thank you, Mr. Ramsey) need so much time to work out the play in a difficult situation, you and I need even more. If we are wise, we shall take it, even if our opponents or partners tap their impatient fingers down to the knuckle.

The bidding on Board 19 in

the second round amazed me, but even more amazing was its *dénouement*.

Just stand with me between Schapiro and Rockfelt. Schapiro sits North, Rockfelt East, and we can see:—

NORTH

♠ A Q 6 4

♥ 9

♦ A K J 5 4

♣ 10 6 3

EAST

♠ 7

♥ A J 4

♦ Q 9 8 7 6

♣ A J 5 2

After North has dealt at game all the bidding goes:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1♦	No
No	Dbl.	No	No
Redbl.	No.	1♠	No
No	Dbl.	No	No
No			

East led his only trump and the contract was made with an over-trick.

I could understand East passing the double of One Diamond and South's S.O.S. redouble; but it did seem to me that East with the Aces and Knaves of both his partner's probable suits, might have taken a different view of his holding. His partner held—

♠Kxx ♥KQxx ♦10x ♣KQxx. Surely there is a game in hearts here?

*Major Gibson is not quite on the mark in his observation. After reflection I made a critical play and only then was able to put down the cards.—T.R.



Konstam and Dodds oppose Gardener and Rose

But I mentioned a strange *dénouement*. When the hands were compared, it was Tarlo as West who apologized for his bidding, an apology which his partner agreeably accepted.

So there was a third lesson. If at all possible, take the blame yourself. Your partner will not need convincing: indeed, he will admire your perspicacity and, who knows? Some night he may even copy your example.

I stood behind Norman Squire, hoping for a fourth suit bid. You know the situation. Early bidding has not been properly synchronized and you failed to

show support of partner's suit at a low level. You now bid Four Diamonds to make it plain you hold strength in clubs and solid hearts with four honours. I never quite believed this, and unfortunately there seemed no opportunity to see it in action.

Brief impressions: intense concentration of all players, Mrs. Fleming gallantly licking large pieces of paper before sticking up the scores, one of the Sharples fanning his cards "upside down" so that one cannot be certain of the identity of the court cards, the holding of their cards above their heads by the more con-

siderate (and experienced?) players so that the spectators can see them, Harrison Gray, happily recovered, hovering like a benevolent vulture alert for any tasty morsel for his readers' delectation, the terrific amount of paper work carried out by the cheerful lady at the top table, the simultaneous time-saving dealing of all hands at the beginning of the play, the team conferences at half-time ("What on earth happened on board . . . ?"), the gentle but adequate control of the whole proceedings, the plaintive reminder that the tea and biscuits on the tables were for *players only*, and the happy discovery that the patient lady in the gold frame

was not only the Queen of Bohemia, but was known to her contemporaries as the Queen of Hearts.

It was indubitably the best five-bobsworth of bridge education I've ever had, and if I have not profited by it there is only my own obtuseness to blame. I only hope that despite this article I shall see the next round from March 8-10.

Coming out into Berkeley Street, a fellow rustic asked me with whom, of all the famous players there, I should like to play.

"Mrs. Fleming," I replied. He peered at me suspiciously, and swerved hastily away.

Duplicate Night at the Club

by HAROLD FRANKLIN

No. 3 The Leeds Bridge Club

Bridge clubs are normally of two types—proprietary clubs and members' clubs. The Leeds Bridge Club is a strange amalgam of the two. Ideally situated from the point of view of the bridge playing populace, it was formed to meet an obvious need. The formation of a club, and particularly of one so well appointed, ordinarily entails years of planning, of assidu-

ous accumulation of funds and of a gradual development from small beginnings. Thanks to the generosity and public spiritedness of six enthusiasts the Leeds Bridge Club was able to begin at the top. These six were solely responsible for financing the club, of which they are the directors, and have never sought profit from their undertaking. Any surplus has

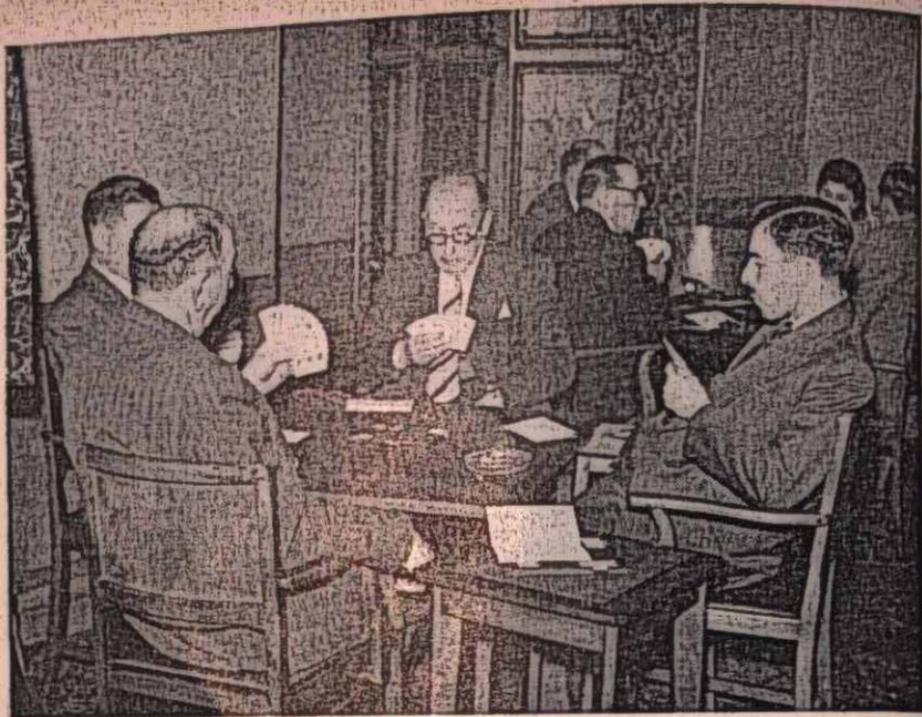


Photo by courtesy of the Yorkshire Evening News

been systematically ploughed back into the club whose members have thus enjoyed all the benefits of a members' club without some of the attendant responsibilities.

The varied bridge interests of the directors give an interesting side-light on the character of the club. A. Kremer and R. Mercado have both made a firm mark in the tournament world and though in recent years their duplicate activities have been restricted by pressure of business, both have earned their places in England teams. A. Morris, the chairman of the club, is a county player of many years standing, an "old-fashioned" player with a fine flair who prefers the rubber

bridge game but can still surprise the best of opponents on his occasional Congress appearances. S. Richmond is a genuine devotee, without pretensions, rubber bridge for threepence or five shillings, a Pairs tournament, an individual, a team event—all are to him a game of bridge which he is prepared to enjoy, with a startling number of doubles and redoubles and not without a share of important successes. J. Stross and M. E. Stiller are probably the keenest of all—on rubber bridge. To both of them the stake and the standard of play are matters of indifference. Give them two or three fellow members, a pack of cards, a comfortable chair and

no inquests, and they are content if not at peace.

So with the club. There are duplicate enthusiasts and those who want rubber-bridge or nothing, and all find their needs equally well catered for. The Tuesday night duplicate tournament is in my view (which may be prejudiced since I conduct it) one of the top standard club duplicate tournaments in the country. The membership includes five international players, such distinguished bridge personalities as the chairman and tournament secretary of the E.B.U., R. F. Corwen and G. Fell, and it is almost true to say that the entire Leeds and Yorkshire representative teams can be drawn from its card rooms. Its regular members provided nine of the ten who represented Yorkshire successfully in the Northern Tollemache.

A cosy bar, good catering and comfortable furniture make the Leeds Bridge Club an ideal port of call for transient bridge players, to whom a warm welcome is always extended—from 8 p.m. in the evenings (except Friday) and on Sunday afternoons. I have no hands to offer from the evening of my official visit—for on that evening the proceeds were devoted to two local Christmas charities and most of our time

was taken up in receiving the generous contributions. So generous that a ten table tournament (second day of petrol rationing) produced eighty pounds for two excellent causes. An excellent response—but no surprise to those who are familiar with the spirit of the club and of its members.

GEORGE NELSON

A noble 'eart stopped beating when George Nelson died last month at the age of 79. In an appreciation for the *Yorkshire Post* Harold Franklin wrote as follows:—

"There was no better known or better loved figure in contract bridge circles locally, nationally, or even further afield than that of George Nelson. The bristling moustaches, the expressive eyebrows, the inevitable button-hole, and the cry, 'No 'hearts, partner?'" were an integral part of the bridge scene for more than two decades.

"As a player, he won the Portland Cup in his 70th year. As an administrator, he was largely concerned with the formation of the Yorkshire C.B.A., of which he was some years ago created a life president.

"The bridge activities for which he would most like to be remembered would be the events he organised for charity and from which he raised many thousands of pounds."

They Still Do It

by "NON-EXPERT"

Invent a useful artificial convention, and it seems inevitable that it will be overworked, and sometimes misapplied.

That most useful convention, the "informatory double," appears no exception.

For illustration, I am going back to the early days in the exploitation of this convention, and taking two hands from the Schwab Cup match between Great Britain and America, played in 1933. This was hand No. 96:—

West dealer

East-West vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 43
♥ 9632
♦ Q105432
♣ 7

WEST

♠ K976
♥ K5
♦ AJ6
♣ K1052

EAST

♠ Q102
♥ Q108
♦ 98
♣ J9643

SOUTH

♠ AJ85
♥ AJ74
♦ K7
♣ AQ8

The bidding went:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Gottlieb</i>	<i>Morris</i>	<i>Mrs. Culbertson</i>	<i>Tabbush</i>
	INT	No	No
Dbl.	No	2♦	No
2NT	No	3♥	No
4♥	Dbl.	All pass	

The contract was defeated by two tricks.

North was blamed for her Three Heart bid, but, strong as his hand was, South cannot be wholly absolved from blame for his rebidding after doubling. Then hand 240:—

East dealer

Game all

NORTH

♠ KQ9
♥ A1065
♦ A86
♣ KQ9

WEST

♠ AJ106
♥ J73
♦ KQJ2
♣ A10

EAST

♠ 8743
♥ KQ
♦ 53
♣ J8765

SOUTH

♠ 52
♥ 9842
♦ 10974
♣ 432

The bidding went:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Gottlieb</i>	<i>Morris</i>	<i>Mrs. Culbertson</i>	<i>Tabbush</i>
No	1♠	Dbl.	No
2♦	No	2NT	No
No	Dbl.	3♦	No
No	Dbl.	All pass	

South made four tricks only and was four down in his contract. North was unlucky in finding her partner with a bust, but these things do happen sometimes. She was certainly heavily penalized for rebidding her hand.

In the other room North showed more discrimination, and bid One No Trump over West's opening bid of One Spade. This was left in undoubled, and went one down only.

Of these two hands you might say: "Just plain overbidding! It wouldn't happen in these days." But it does! This was hand No. 88 in the world championship match played this year between France and America in Paris:—

See next column.

In Room I the bidding went:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Jais</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Trezel</i>	<i>Stayman</i>
	No	1♥	No
1NT	Dbl.	No	2♠
All pass			

West dealer

Love all

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

This contract was defeated by one trick. In Room II the bidding went:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Goren</i>	<i>Bacherich</i>	<i>Solomon</i>	<i>Ghestem</i>
	1♦	Dbl.	No
2♣	No	2♥	No
2NT	No	3NT	All pass

This contract was defeated by two tricks. Had North overcalled One Diamond with One Heart, the result would not necessarily have been the same as in Room I, but a final contract of Three No Trumps would surely not have been reached.

Either Two Hearts, or Three Clubs, would be made on the cards.

Now observe deal No. 114:—

East dealer

North-South vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A 9 7

♥ K 8

♦ A K 6 4

♣ A J 6 4

WEST

♠ K Q 2

♥ 7 6 2

♦ 10 9 7 3 2

♣ K 3

EAST

♠ J 8 5

♥ A Q 9 5

♦ Q J 8

♣ Q 10 8

SOUTH

♠ 10 6 4 3

♥ J 10 4 3

♦ 5

♣ 9 7 5 2

In Room I the bidding went:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Kahn</i>	<i>Jais</i>	<i>Stayman</i>	<i>Trezel</i>
No	No	Dbl.	No
2♣	2♦	Dbl.	No
2♥	No	4♣	All pass

This contract was defeated by three tricks.

Even though East-West were playing a weak No Trump, when non-vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, North was lucky in not being doubled in his optimistic contract.

In Room II the bidding went:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Bacherich</i>	<i>Hazen</i>	<i>Ghestem</i>	<i>Solomon</i>
No	1♦	No	1♣
No	1NT	Dbl.	No
2♠	All pass		

This contract was made.

I have made a study of all the hands in these two matches on which a player made a take-out double and then bid his hand again. On balance, the later bid cost points. It would seem, therefore, that players should either use more discrimination in choosing when to double or, having done so, should take a more pessimistic view of their partners' forced calls.

E.B.U. MASTER POINTS

On December 31st there were 102 Licensed Clubs and 40 Area Associations, or divisions thereof, regularly holding approved events. There were 252 names on the Master Points Register, including eleven Life Masters (honorary) and 166 Club Masters.

The leading players among the Club Masters, having between 14 and 8 Master Points, were: J. Sharples, R. Sharples, Mrs. A. L. Fleming, E. Leader-Williams, T. L. Hunter, G. Fell and Dr. M. Rockfelt.

You Say . . .

Readers are invited to send letters on all subjects to the Editor, B.B.W., 35 Dover Street, London, W.1

With regard to Master Points, I feel that consideration should be given now to a problem that will arise in a few years' time.

A player who takes up tournament bridge in, say, 1960, will have small chance of overtaking a player who started in the scheme from the beginning, and his Master Point total will not bear fair comparison.

Another aspect of the same problem is this: a player who has battled his way to County Mastership (50 M.P.) will think that the next goal, National Mastership (150 M.P. which must include 50 per cent. of full master points from national events), is too far ahead to be worth pursuit, and he will, in consequence, have no spur to continue to acquire Local Points.

My suggestion, briefly, is that all Local Points and Master Points should be cancelled after a period such as three years. Then the County Master in my previous example would, like the Red Queen, have to run fast as he could to stay where he was.

A little further down the scale,

the player who is at present piling up Local Points at the rate of about one a week will become a Club Master in four years. Thereafter he may well feel that the next goal of Local Mastership is rather far ahead (about a quarter of a century, in fact) and that life is too short. With my idea, he would have to run a little faster to become a Club Master at all and would have to keep on running to retain his status.

A great point is that a new entrant, to tournament bridge would soon be able to compare his Master Point total on a fair basis with any player in the country.

As to Life Masters, I would say that any player who could score 300 M.P. within the limited period might well retain the title for life. My idea would prevent the ultimate dilution of Life Master ranks by mediocre players who had taken twenty or thirty years to amass the necessary total. We have a lesson to learn from American mistakes in that respect. They have over 1,000

Life Masters, the total grows every day, and they can't all be that good!

As things are, the English Master Points Register will in two or three years' time provide a fairly reliable guide to relative ability. If my suggestion be adopted it will continue to do so indefinitely. Otherwise, it will gradually degenerate from an index of ability to one of longevity.

W. W. L. FEARN, Chester.

Mr. Fearn puts a strong case very well, I think. But perhaps his solution is not the best one. If points were to be cancelled automatically three years after they were won, then in time players would be bobbing up and down, Local Masters one week, not the next, the one after, and so on.

I have what I think is a better idea: that points won should never be actually cancelled, but that a player who has become, say, a County Master (50 M.P.) should lose that rank if, during the next two years, he fails to win an agreed proportion of those points—say, one half. Two years later he may have 68 M.P. to his credit but will not be eligible for events open only to County Masters. Only when he has scored 25 points within two years will he be on the list again—for the next two years.

In that way past achievement and current form will both receive their due.

* * *

I hope you will agree that the "Pyett Coup" is worth mentioning in despatches.

You are sitting West, playing in a Monday night duplicate at a Nottingham bridge club; and you pick up an uninspiring 9 points, including ♡10xxx.

North, on your left, opens One Spade, South bids One No Trump, and North Three No Trumps. You lead a low heart, and when dummy goes down you see the following position:—

NORTH

♠ Q J 10 9 8
♡ Q 9
◇ A Q x
♣ A K x

WEST

♠ A K x
♡ 10 6 5 4
◇ x x x
♣ Q x x

Partner wins the heart lead with ♡A and returns the 3. South plays the 7 on the first round, the King on the second. You win the next trick with ♠K.

What do you lead now? Examination of the small cards suggests that partner has a 5-card heart suit, for the 2 is still missing. To avoid a block you lead ♡10;

and to your chagrin partner throws a diamond and declarer proceeds to wrap up Three No Trumps with an overtrick for a score of 630 and a complete top.

South's hand is:—

♠ x x
 ♥ K J 8 7 2
 ♦ J x
 ♣ x x x x

And even Three No Trumps must go down without the enthusiastic co-operation of the opposition.

R. D. LOXTON,
 West Bridgford,
 Nottingham.

Most honourable mention in despatches.

Solutions to Test Your Play

DON'T LOOK NOW—unless you have made a conscientious attempt to solve all the problems. You will find them on page 19

No. 1

NORTH

♠ A 4 3
 ♥ K J 7
 ♦ K 9 7 4 2
 ♣ 10 4

♣K led

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 9 8 5
 ♥ A Q 8
 ♦ Q 6
 ♣ A 7 5

South to make Four Spades.

Declarer can afford to lose only one trick in spades and he has to take precautions against a possible over-ruff of the dummy on the third round of clubs. The best solution is to lead a heart to dummy, return a low spade and finesse the 10. If this loses to the King and a club comes, South can ruff with the Ace and finesse again in spades. This play takes care of Kx with West and Jxx with East.

No. 2

NORTH

♠ K
 ♥ A J 8 4 2
 ♦ 7 4
 ♣ A K J 5 2

♦10 led

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 10 9 4 2
 ♥ Q
 ♦ 8 2
 ♣ 9 6 3

South to make Five Spades.

An unusual safety play is offered. On the third diamond South should discard ♥Q and ruff in dummy. Then he plays a low heart from the table and ruffs low (unless East puts in a trump).

This play gains in two situations: when West has seven hearts and East might otherwise ruff the Ace; and, more likely, when East's hand is:—

♠— ♥K10xxx ♦AKQJxxx ♣x

Now, if South discards, for example,

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a club on the third diamond, West will throw a heart, and when South returns to hand by playing Ace and another heart, a trump trick will be established for West.

No. 3 NORTH
 ♠ 10 4
 ♥ 8 3
 ♦ A K 9
 ♣ Q 10 9 6 4 2

♠ 5

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

South to make Five Diamonds.

After the lead South can make the contract by playing on clubs if East has exactly KJ alone. A good play at trick 2, however, is ♣Q, which East may

well cover from an original holding of KJx. Whether, later on, South should play East for KJ or for KJx, will depend on his general observation and on whether East has a second trump; if he has a singleton trump he is more likely to have three clubs.

No. 4 NORTH
 ♠ 9 8 4 3
 ♥ Q 10 5 3
 ♦ 10 8 7 3 2
 ♣ —

♠ 5 led

♠ A K 7 6 2
 ♥ A
 ♦ 6
 ♣ Q J 9 6 5 2

South to make Four Spades.

This is another unlikely contract which South may bring off if he plays for a chance that is not so obvious.

By cross-ruffing South can probably make, in effect, three trumps in dummy, five in his own hand, and ♥A. That is one down. At the risk of going one more down, South can try for the contract by playing East for a club holding such as A10x or K10x or Axxx or Kxxx.

At trick 2 ♣Q is led and run if not covered. A trump return from East is won. Then comes ♣J, forcing the other honour from West. If, on the next round of clubs, the 10 can be ruffed out, South will be home, losing a spade, a diamond, and a club.

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Tournament World

by HAROLD FRANKLIN

Organisers of congresses and open events are asked to send their principal results direct to Harold Franklin, 4 Roman Avenue, Leeds, 8, to arrive not later than the 22nd of the month.

Camrose Trial

Five teams of four lined up for the second Camrose trial, as follows:—

1. J. Lazarus, B. H. Franks, S. Blaser, I. Morris.
2. E. Leader-Williams, R. E. Clark, G. Fell, F. Farrington.
3. E. J. Spurway, P. Spurway, E. Foster, A. Smith.
4. N. F. Choularton, B. Hargreaves, G. Griffiths, P. Richardson.
5. I. Manning, D. Sellman, J. C. Street, L. G. Helm.

My pre-match assessment was that it was a very good thing to give so many new players an opportunity of blooding themselves in this type of contest but that one could not really look beyond the seasoned campaigners of teams 1 and 2 for a winner. Early events confirmed this view and after one third of all the matches had been played the Fell team led in three matches and the Lazarus team, 23 points down to Fell, led in their other three. With two thirds of the boards played Fell was still better placed. Griffiths was holding on, however, and when he recovered to beat Fell by 7 points everything depended on the final four boards between Manning and Griffiths, in which Griffiths led by one and had to gain a further three points. The first three boards were all halved; and so to the last board—a mere matter of One No Trump—made

by Griffiths and Richardson, and one down in the other room, to give Griffiths the barest winning margin, of four I.M.P. and winners by virtue of their winning match against Fell.

The final positions:—

Griffiths	6 V.P.	Plus 8 I.M.P.
Fell	6 V.P.	Plus 59 I.M.P.
Lazarus	4 V.P.	Plus 4 I.M.P.
Manning	2 V.P.	Minus 37 I.M.P.
Spurway	2 V.P.	Minus 34 I.M.P.

While it is encouraging to see young and new players coming to the fore, one must say they were lucky that the old system of breaking a tie was in use. My own impressions were that the most effective pairs in the field were the Fell foursome and Lazarus and Franks, with Clark and Leader-Williams the best of them, and the soundest of the newcomers were Manning and Sellman. Depressing though this may be, it is only by continuing to give the younger players opportunities such as this that the order of things may be changed.

To conclude—one hand which found all the declarers wanting:—

See next column.

The play of this hand in Six No Trumps is also analysed in "Hands of the Month," by Alan Truscott.

At one table a spade was led and West kept the wrong suit guarded when South played four rounds of hearts and four of clubs. Franklin continues:—

East dealer
Game all

NORTH
 ♠ A 8 7
 ♥ A Q J 8
 ♦ A 4
 ♣ A K 4 3

WEST
 ♠ J 10 6 5 3
 ♥ 10 3
 ♦ Q J 7 6 5
 ♣ 5

SOUTH
 ♠ K 4
 ♥ K 5 4
 ♦ K 10 9 8
 ♣ Q 9 8 6

Even on a spade lead the contract could have been made without benefit of opponent's error. To do this, the first spade should be won by the Ace and four rounds of hearts followed by two rounds of clubs. Should West have discarded two diamonds, three rounds of diamonds will establish the fourth as a winner. In fact, West will have discarded one diamond only and the declarer now continues with a third club. If West discards a diamond, ♦A and a diamond to the 10 establishes a long diamond—if West discards a third spade, ♠K is played off before ♦A and a diamond to the 10. Perhaps the most surprising feature of the hand is that all the pairs were unable to find the much safer contract of Six Clubs, particularly since more than one was using the "scientific" club sequences after the Two No Trump opening. One not too unlikely sequence would be:—

SOUTH
 —
 3♣ (conventional)
 4NT
 6♣

NORTH
 2NT
 3♥
 5♣
 No bid

South's Four No Trump bid is of course quantitative and North, who is able to accept the invitation, can take the free opportunity of showing his second suit.

The Tollemache Cup Northern Area

In the past this has proved to be centred mainly around the duel between Yorkshire and Lancashire from which Lancashire have emerged successful in the past two years, going on to win the national title. The course of this year's tournament was not unlike that of the Camrose trial which it followed. Five counties met in eighteen board matches, played in six half sessions of three boards. With twelve boards played Lancashire led in all four matches—by 10, 16, 26 and 21 while Yorkshire were 10 down to Lancashire, 1 down to the North-East, 2 down to Notts and 8 up against Lincolnshire. In the penultimate three boards the Yorkshire team began to fire on all cylinders and were fortunate to find three eventful boards in the Lancashire match. This was the first:—
North dealer

Game all

NORTH
 ♠ 10 2
 ♥ A K 9 4 3
 ♦ Q 9 3
 ♣ Q 9 2

WEST
 ♠ Q 9 7 4
 ♥ Q 10 8 6
 ♦ A J 10 6
 ♣ 10

EAST
 ♣ A K J 8 5
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 8 7
 ♣ A K 8 7 4

SOUTH
 ♠ 6 3
 ♥ J 7 2
 ♦ K 5 4 2
 ♣ J 6 5 3

At three tables East played in Four

Spades, twice Yorkshire held the contract to eleven tricks and one Yorkshire declarer was permitted to take twelve tricks, which seemed to be worth about one point to Yorkshire. At the fourth table, however, where Fell and Vickerman were doing battle, the Yorkshire pair, stretching for points, overreached themselves into Six Spades. North having at some stage bid hearts, South opened with ♡2. The 6 was played from the table and a disciplined North should have realised that his partner's lead was almost certainly from Jxx. North, however, lacked confidence and played the King. Fell took full advantage, ruffed a second heart at a later stage and then led the Queen, ruffing the Ace and dropping the Knave. Seven points for Yorkshire.

The second hand:—

East dealer
Love all

NORTH

♠ K J 8 5 3 2
♡ 10 4
◇ K 8
♣ K 8 5

WEST

♠ Q
♡ K 8 7 2
◇ Q 9 4 2
♣ 10 9 7 3

EAST

♠ A 10 6
♡ A Q J 9
◇ 6 3
♣ A 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠ 9 7 4
♡ 6 5 3
◇ A J 10 7 5
♣ Q J

At two tables Yorkshire were permitted to play in safe Two Spade contracts, at a third Lancashire were pushed to Three Spades and one down, and at the fourth Fell and Vickerman, encouraged by their last success, were again over the top in Four Hearts. This time Vickerman was at the wheel, with the

West hand. North led a spade and Vickerman, who could see no hope, allowed this to run to the Queen. Two rounds of hearts were followed by a small diamond from the table and South contributed his mite by going up with the Ace and continuing with the Jack. There could be no point in covering, so North won with the King and exited with ♠K. The Ace of spades, discarding a club, and a spade ruff, a third round of trumps and the Ace and another club completed the story. If South held the trick he had to play into the diamond tenace, if North overtook, the ten of clubs became high. And that was another seven points. The third hand:—

South dealer
East-West game

NORTH

♠ Q 8 5
♡ 10 7 5 2
◇ J 9 7 6
♣ Q 4

WEST

♠ J
♡ A 8 4
◇ A Q 10 5 4 2
♣ J 9 2

EAST

♠ A 10 6 3
♡ K Q J 3
◇ K 3
♣ A K 3

SOUTH

♠ K 9 7 4 2
♡ 9 6
◇ 8
♣ 10 8 7 6 5

Lazarus and Franks went as follows:—

WEST

1◇
3◇
4◇
5NT
No

EAST

3♣
3♡
4NT
6◇

and had cause for self-congratulation when the diamonds failed to break. Farrington and Mrs. Higginson, for

Lancashire, bid Seven Diamonds and could count themselves unfortunate. Fell and Vickerman were now well in the mood and East would settle for no less than Six No Trumps. His initial response had been in spades which dissuaded South from attacking that suit and the contract was home and dry. The story was repeated at the fourth table, again in Yorkshire's favour, and they had collected a further ten points, turning a ten point deficit into a fourteen point lead. They had performed no less effectively in their other matches, gaining no less than 54 I.M.P. in the twelve board session to take the lead in all four matches. Lancashire tried hard in the final spell, Mrs. Higginson and Farrington landing a brave thin slam where the doughty Fell and Vickerman, spent from their previous efforts, had rested short of game, but this was not quite enough to save the match which Yorkshire won by five points—a minimum winning margin. Lancashire in turn won a match by the minimum (against the North-East) and finished with six Victory Points against Yorkshire's eight. A special mention for Lincolnshire who surrendered the wooden spoon and rose to third place, their best ever, with three V.P. Notts. scored two and the North-East one.

South-West Area

There were four competing counties and a no less exciting finish, Worcester winning from Gloucester on a split tie, with Somerset and Devon close behind.

Midlands Area

	V.P.
Leicestershire	5
Derbyshire	4
Warwickshire	3
Staffordshire	0

South-East Area

	V.P.
Middlesex	14
Sussex	10
Essex	10
Kent	10
London	9
Surrey	9
Norfolk	5
Herts	3
Bucks	2

Middlesex, Leicestershire, Worcestershire and Yorkshire will now meet in the final, at the Kensington Palace Hotel, London, on January 12 and 13.

L.C.C.B.A.

L.B.H. v. N.A.L.G.O.

The high standard of play in the thriving London Business Houses League is shown on this hand from a representative match:—

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

Playing as South in Six No Trumps, R. Hawkes won the diamond lead and ducked a club. He later played off ♥A (Vienna coup) before running the diamonds and spades, to squeeze West.

Devonshire Cup: Devonshire beat American by 840; Junior Carlton beat United Universities by 3,700.

The Camrose Trophy match, England v N.I.B.U., is reported in "Slams and Slips" on page 33.

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1957

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	25-27	WHITELAW	Old Ship Hotel, Brighton	
Feb.	1-3	CROYDON CONGRESS	Croydon	
	9-10	WADDINGTON CUP FOR MASTER PAIRS	London	
	15-16	DAILY TELEGRAPH CUP FINAL	...	...	...	Waldorf Hotel
	23-24	CAMROSE v. SCOTLAND	...	...	...	Blackpool
	24	SECOND INTERNATIONAL TRIAL	...	...	...	London
	24	ANNE REESE CUP FINAL	...	...	...	Eccleston Hotel
Mar.	1-3	E.B.U. CONGRESS	...	...	...	Harrogate
	9-10	LADIES INDIVIDUAL	} Midland	...	...	Cheltenham
				} N.W.	Manchester
					London, K.P.H.
	16-17	FIELD TROPHY	London	London, K.P.H.
			...	...	...	London, K.P.H.
23-24	NATIONAL PAIRS AREA FINALS	}	Southern	Harrogate	Harrogate		
			Northern	Coventry	Coventry		
30-31	PORTLAND PAIRS	...	...	...	Harrogate	Harrogate
Apr.	5-8	DEVON C.B.A. CONGRESS	...	...	...	Torquay
	13-14	CROCKFORDS FINAL	...	...	...	London, K.P.H.
Apr. 29 to May 5		WELSH BRIDGE UNION CONGRESS	...	...	...	Llandudno
May	3-5	LONDON CONGRESS	...	...	...	London
	10-12	Y.C.B.A. CONGRESS	...	...	...	Scarborough
	11-12	MIDDLESEX CONGRESS (Closed)	...	...	...
	18-19	NATIONAL PAIRS FINAL	...	...	...	Sheffield
	23-26	GOLD CUP FINAL	...	...	...
May 30 to June 1	25-29	JUAN-LES-PINS PAIRS TOURNAMENT	...	...	...	Juan-Les-Pins
		MONTE CARLO INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT	...	...	...	Monte Carlo
June	1-2	LADIES INDIVIDUAL FINAL	...	...	...	London, K.P.H.
	15-16	PACHABO	Midlands	
Aug.	23-31	EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP (provisional date)				Vienna	
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