

# The British

A MEDIUM FOR ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION NEWS

## Bridge

SUCCESSOR TO THE CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

## World

EDITED BY TERENCE REESE

# March 1957

I N T H I S M O N T H ' S I S S U E

The Masters Pairs, by Terence Reese

Small Cards, by Herman Filarski

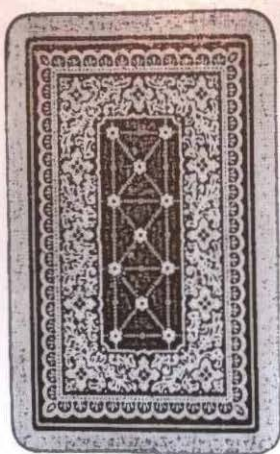
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MEDIUM FOR ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION NEWS

Edited by  
**TERENCE REESE**

VOLUME 3

**March 1957**

NUMBER 3

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March, 1957

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# Editorial

## WELL OF WISDOM

On the next page we introduce a new competition, a development from our earlier feature, One Hundred Up. The answers will be determined, not by a single mind, but by an expert panel.

We hope that readers will find this a model form of competition: its experience multiplied, its wisdom broadened, its fads eliminated, its errors excepted.

## HOME AND AWAY

Now that England has once again won the Camrose Trophy without defeat, albeit after a good match against Scotland, this may be the moment for some hard thinking about the future of that event. England had two home matches this year and the London and North-Western Associations worked hard to make them a success, but they were flogging a somewhat moribund horse and I put forward for consideration the proposal that England's matches should always be played "away." The visit of an English team is an attraction in the other countries, and also it is a pleasanter week-end for the players.

## SEARCH FOR THE SUN

Players who enjoy the continental tournaments have an attractive programme ahead. Juan-les-Pins is later than usual—May 25-29. As last year, a demi-pension place will be offered to the winner of a B.B.W. competition. Monte Carlo follows immediately afterwards, and Deauville, ideal for golfers, from July 5-12. There are sure to be many British visitors to the European Championship at Vienna from August 23-31—whether or not they have already enjoyed a summer holiday in Austria.

## BIG BID

The many friends of Jimmy Ortiz, the Swiss international player, will wish to congratulate him on the outcome of his action against Kemsley Newspapers and the writer of an article in the *Sunday Graphic*. Mr. Ortiz obtained damages of £20,000, the largest sum ever awarded in a British court for written libel.

## OVER YOUR SHOULDER

The firm of W. H. Smith and Son Ltd. has greatly increased its order for the British Bridge World.

When next someone wants to borrow your copy or read it over your shoulder, will you please do us a good turn by saying: "Ask for it at a Smith's bookstall"?

#### HEARD AT THE MASTERS PAIRS

*Sympathetic inquirer:* "How's it going today?"

*Philosophical player:* "Not too bad. We're bottom, but not badly."

*Percy Charters, after wiping off a mark made by affixing a notice to the wall of the London Club:* "Oh dear! It's left a nasty clean patch."

**STOP PRESS.** For result of the international trials, see page 48

---

# One Hundred Up

Conducted by the EDITOR

In response to many requests, the series One Hundred Up is to be resumed, but in a slightly different form from last year. The essential character of the feature—the replies from a panel of experts—will be retained, but with it will be combined the usual monthly Competition. Thus, the questions on the opposite page will not be answered until the next issue.

The following prizes are offered for the best sets of answers:—

#### FIRST PRIZE

Free accommodation, with demi-pension, at a first-class hotel in Juan-Les-Pins during the tournament from May 25 to June 1.

#### SECOND AND THIRD PRIZES

Two Guineas.

The marking of the competition will be determined by, but not necessarily in strict proportion to, the answers of the expert panel.

Answers should be sent to One Hundred Up, British Bridge World, 35 Dover Street, London, W.1, to arrive not later than first post on April 2. Some latitude will be granted to overseas competitors.



**Problem No. 1 (10 points).**

I.M.P. scoring, love all, the bidding has gone:—

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

North holds:—

♠A98642 ♥J5 ♦74 ♣AQ6

What should North bid?

**Problem No. 2 (10 points)**

Match-pointed pairs, game all, the bidding has gone:—

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

West holds:—

♠94 ♥AJ95 ♦Q852 ♣A84

What should West bid?

**Problem No. 3 (10 points).**

I.M.P. scoring, game all, the bidding has gone:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	No	1♥	No
3NT	No	?	

North holds:—

♠Q104 ♥AJ965 ♦J106 ♣K10

What should North bid?

**Problem No. 4 (20 points).**

I.M.P. scoring, game all, the bidding has gone:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	No	2♥	?

East holds:—

♠KJ72 ♥Q84 ♦A9 ♣KQ76

If you were marking a competition of this sort, with a maximum of ten points, what points would you give to the following calls: No Bid, Double, Two Spades?

**Problem No. 5 (10 points).**

I.M.P. scoring, love all, the bidding has gone:—

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

East holds:—

♠— ♥AKQ1085 ♦1098 ♣K976

What should East bid?

**Problem No. 6 (10 points).**

Match-pointed pairs, love all, the bidding has gone:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	No	?	

North holds:—

♠AK ♥K753 ♦1065 ♣10852

What should North bid?

**Problem No. 7 (10 points).**

I.M.P. scoring, game all, the bidding has gone:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
No	No	1♠	No
?			

South holds:—

♠K74 ♥852 ♦AQ86 ♣K73

What should South bid?

**Problem No. 8 (20 points).**

Rubber bridge, East-West vulnerable, the bidding went:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
3♠	No	4♥	No
4♠	No	No	4NT
No	5♣	Dble.	No
No	No		

East held:—

♠K4 ♥3 ♦AKJ963 ♣A1084

Do you agree (a) with East's pass on the first round, (b) with his bid of Four No Trumps, (c) with his pass of Five Clubs doubled? State alternatives which you consider better.

# The Masters Pairs

by TERENCE REESE

Good hands, a good crowd, and some surprises in the results, made the Waddington Cup for 1957 a memorable event. The final order of the leading 8 out of 16 pairs was:—

1. Mrs. Markus and Wolach ... 596
2. Harrison Gray and Schapiro 594
3. Reese and Rodrigue ... 566
4. Gardener and Mollo ... 551
5. Priday and Flint ... 541
5. Konstam and Dodds... 541
7. Sharples and Sharples ... 527
8. Preston and Swimer ... 523

Familiar names, it is true, but what was remarkable was that Mrs. Markus and Wolach, Rodrigue and myself, were completely untried combinations. Partnership understanding is perhaps overrated, or perhaps I should say, partnership familiarity. Certainly Rodrigue and I, playing old-fashioned Acol, had no misunderstandings at all in the 75 boards.

At the end of the first session Gray and Schapiro, with a 67 per cent. score, were well away, with only Mrs. Markus and Wolach within range. Then came a group of pairs around average. There were some in-

teresting slam hands in this session. This was board No. 20:—  
East dealer  
Love all

NORTH

♠ K 8 6 4 2

♥ 3

♦ 6

♣ A Q 9 7 5 3

WEST

♠ J

♥ 7 4 2

♦ A J 10 9 5 3

♣ 6 4 2

EAST

♠ Q 10 9 7 5

♥ J 5

♦ 8 7 4 2

♣ K 10

SOUTH

♠ A 3

♥ A K Q 10 9 8 6

♦ K Q

♣ J 8

At six tables the final contract was Six Hearts. Swinnerton-Dyer and North stopped in Five Hearts. Gray and Schapiro bid to Six No Trumps, which scores the extra points if it is made but loses the chance of spade break and no club lead.

The slam was down at every table except where Mollo and Gardener were North-South against Rodrigue and myself. Here, after Two Hearts—three Clubs, Four Hearts—Four Spades,



East interposed a double, with good intentions but fatal result. When Six Hearts was reached I led  $\diamond A$  and switched to a club. Mollo went up with  $\spadesuit A$  and ran off all the red winners, discomfiting East. The defence had both rectified the count for a squeeze and pointed the Vienna coup of  $\clubsuit A$ . At the other tables declarer, without the information supplied by the double of Four Spades, took the simple line of finessing in clubs.

Only a club lead defeats the contract if South plays for a squeeze. Suppose that West leads  $\spadesuit J$ ; South wins with  $\spadesuit A$  and plays a diamond. West's best exit is a trump; this prevents the Vienna coup, for South cannot play  $\clubsuit A$  and return to hand, but by playing off his red winners he can develop a ruffing squeeze instead.

"Match-pointitis" was a contributing factor to the downfall of several pairs on these cards:—

NORTH

$\spadesuit$  10 7 6 4 2

$\heartsuit$  A K

$\diamond$  —

$\clubsuit$  A 8 6 5 3 2

SOUTH

$\spadesuit$  Q 5

$\heartsuit$  J 9 8 4

$\diamond$  A K 6 3

$\clubsuit$  K Q 10

Konstam-Dodds, Markus-Wolach, Reese-Rodrigue, all went down in Six Clubs. North had the first call and the bidding usually began: One Club—One Diamond; One Spade—Three No Trumps. Now, if North went on with Four Spades, South was tempted to go Six Clubs, expecting Five Clubs to be a bad match-point contract. In this sequence should North bid over Three No Trumps? It is an interesting point which we will put to a panel when recollection of the deal has faded.

Dormer-Rimington and the Sharples played in Four Spades, also one down, for the trumps were 4—2. Truscott-Beale and Topley-Silverstone played in Three No Trumps, scoring 630, and Booker-Lee in Five Clubs, scoring 600.

### The Second Session

In the second session Rodrigue and I scored well, Gray and Schapiro were under average, and Mrs. Markus and Wolach kept going, so that they entered the last session with a 25-point lead from those two pairs, with no one else very close. The following was a disheartening board for North-South:—

*See next page.*

After West had opened One No Trump, if his system permitted,

West dealer  
Love all

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

East usually went to Four Spades by fast or slow methods. This contract was doubled and made at five tables. Preston and Swimer had the good luck to be doubled (by Franklin-Tarlo) in Three Spades, Gray and Schapiro the bad luck not to be doubled (by Topley-Silverstone) in Four Spades. The best score for North-South was by Dormer-Rimington, one down in Five Clubs.

It looks as though a heart lead, preparing a ruff, may beat Four Spades, but East has a counter in the coup-without-a-name. Winning the second heart, he plays ♦A and ♦Q, discarding a club, thus cutting the enemy communications.

Board 23 was a touch-and-go

affair which gave plenty of thrills to the spectators:—

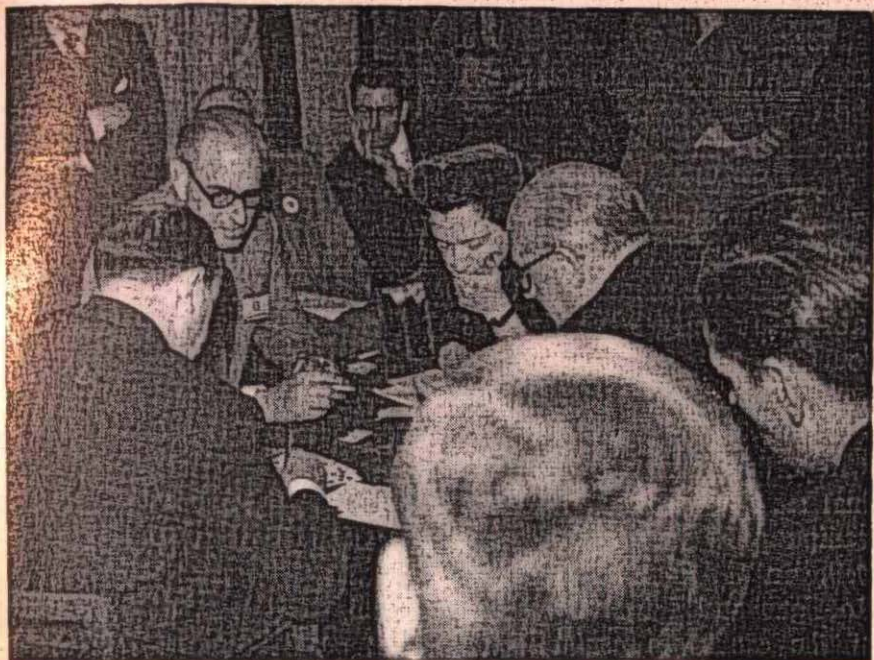
North dealer  
East-West vulnerable

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

After One Diamond by East and a pre-emptive jump by South the majority of the East-West pairs took advantage of the vulnerability of the situation to bid a confident Six Diamonds, almost forcing North-South to sacrifice. The only pair not to fall for this trap were J. Tarlo and Rockfelt, who accepted 100 points and a top from L. Tarlo and Franklin.

At three tables East-West were satisfied with Five Diamonds, scoring 600, so when North-South were in Six Spades doubled much depended on whether they were three or four down. West leads ♣K and East begins a peter. West must then switch to a





*The winner, Mrs. Markus, in a characteristic pose*



*Reese and Rodrigue, about to play the first round against North and Swinnerton-Dyer*  
*Photos by courtesy of the London "Evening News"*



diamond; after ruffing, South cannot conveniently come off the table and can be held to six spades and two ruffs, or six spades, one ruff and one club. Rodrigue and I defended thus against Truscott and Beale and scored a top, for while Rose and Nunes also found the defence the contract at their table was only Five Spades doubled.

### The Third Session

Reports mid-way through the final session were that all three leading pairs were doing fairly well. In the last set but one Rodrigue and I had the better of the exchanges against Mrs. Markus and Wolach, so that when the last set began the issue must have been very open. We had a bad set against Konstam and Dodds, however, while Gray and Schapiro finished very strongly against Rose-Nunes, so that they went well ahead of us and almost caught Mrs. Markus and Wolach. The prizes for the best score in the third session went to Gardener and Mollo, who rose from thirteenth to fourth place (a procedure that was reversed by Rose-Nunes).

Mrs. Markus has many brilliant successes to her credit, but this had not hitherto been one of her best events. She was in her best form, daring and incisive. Wolach performed excellently in

a role that some have found difficult; he was runner-up some years ago with Moskal.

In this last session there was another exciting slam sacrifice hand:—

East dealer

North-South vulnerable

NORTH

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

WEST

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

EAST

♠ K 10 8 4 3  
♥ 10 7 3  
♦ J 9  
♣ 9 7 2

SOUTH

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

At six of the eight tables North-South advanced no further than Five Diamonds or Clubs, either playing at that level or doubling East-West in Five Spades. This was the poorest result for North-South, gaining 500 and 1 match point each for Priday-Flint and Tarlo-Franklin. There is one mystery entry on the score sheet—600 (not 620) to Preston-Swimer for Five Diamonds. Miscounting his tricks, declarer at one point played off Ace and another heart, as though for an elimination end-play.



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North and Swinnerton-Dyer forced Rose and Nunes to Six Spades; 700 was worth 10 points. As on the hand from the second session described above, Rodrigue and I put on steam and after a prolonged auction against Topley-Silverstone bid up to Seven, which on our combined 23 points was creditable in a way; but only in a way, for we bid the grand slam in diamonds, where the limit is 12 tricks, instead of clubs. The issue had been confused by a psychic call in hearts by East, raised by West. However, it proved to be only a technical fault on our part, for the opponents went to Seven Spades, and 900

gained us 12 points. The top of 14 went to Truscott and Beale, whom Dodds-Konstam, way off beam for once, doubled in Five Clubs; two overtricks gave them 1,150.

Summing up, one must say that although Flint and Friday finished fifth equal, and Truscott and Beale ninth, the younger players did not, on the whole, seize their opportunity to display parity with the old hands.

There was only one faultless performance over the week-end: that was by Percy Charters and Tony Lederer in the field of tournament direction.

# The "Coffee House"

by PEDRO JUAN

## No. 1 By way of Introduction

"Coffee-housing" is an ancient and favourite pastime of Bridge players. Its object is to demolish the false alibi and to expose the mystery-shrouded technical terms so widely used to camouflage mediocre play.

It is this salutary, if somewhat cruel, practice that prompted us to start our Coffee House. Suppose there were no praise to be earned, no matter how brilliant the performance, could we not sit down to play with only the urgent, exclusive purpose of *trying not to make a mistake*? And when the mistake did occur, taking good care that there should be no escape?

For this purpose, at least eight players must take part in the game at one table. Four cut for places, four become "Guardian Angels" or "Avenging Devils" as you may wish to call them, each sitting behind, and being allowed to watch, only one of the players, mentally playing the same cards; ever ready to ring a little bell when, in the "Devil's" opinion, the player has made a mistake.

When the hand is over, the post-mortem attempts to clear all issues in doubt—if any.

It is a rule that any player found "guilty" must give up his seat to the bell ringer. When the player is proved right, the watcher pays a small fine. This fine is also imposed for failure to spot a mistake or for suggesting a bid or play which is admitted to be better than the performance at the table but is still not accepted as the best available. Once all these points have been cleared, the Guardian Angels move up one place round the table, clockwise fashion, and the next deal is tackled.

Play is deemed to be I.M.P.'s team-of-four and, after the opening lead, a slight pause is compulsory, thus giving everyone a chance to plan the play. The dummy's watcher is allowed to transfer his attention to the defending hand on his right. Ringing the bell during the auction must be strictly limited to what are claimed to be obvious mistakes and not matters of style or personal opinion. The Coffee



House is primarily concerned with the play of the cards and we all like to think of it as an experiment in the field of better playing skill and sustained high concentration. That is why no Coffee House is ever held without the attendance of some of our world class players who are asked to come and fight it out with young people believed to have the ability and diligence which may lead to future greatness.

Today you are all our welcome guests at one of the Coffee House sessions which we hold from time to time, and perhaps you would like to join Mr. Konstam who, at the moment, is acting as Mr. Flint's Guardian Angel. Mr. Flint (South) is playing with Mr. Marx (North), it is game all, North dealer, and here is Mr. Flint's hand:—

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

The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1♣	No
2♥	No	4♥	No
4NT	No	5NT	No
6♦	No	7♥	No
No	No		

North-South are using the Culbertson 4—5 No Trump convention. Four No Trumps shows

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by NORMAN SQUIRE

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two Aces and the King of a bid suit, and Five No Trumps shows two Aces.

West leads ♠8 and we can now see the combined holdings:—

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

♠8 led

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

You may think that North had done enough and should have

signed off in Six Hearts over Six Diamonds, but it is a close point and in practice the bell was not sounded.

As soon as Jeremy Flint played low from dummy on the first trick, however, there was a vigorous ting-a-ling-a-ling from behind his chair!

If you had been his Avenging Devil, would you have been so quick to gong him? On the face of it, the 50 per cent spade finesse is a better chance than the squeeze, which will succeed only when East holds ♠K and five clubs or four clubs to the QJ109. But hasn't declarer missed a vital clue? The bidding has not disclosed the position of ♠A and West is most unlikely to have led away from the King against a grand slam. The right play, there-

fore, is to go up with ♠A and play for the squeeze.

However the cards had lain, Mr. Konstam's "gong" would have been upheld and Mr. Flint would have lost his place at the table. As it happened, the squeeze would have succeeded, for the full deal was:—

#### NORTH

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

#### WEST

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

#### EAST

♠ K 10 9  
♥ 4 2  
♦ 9 4 3  
♣ J 10 9 7 2

#### SOUTH

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

## E.B.U. MASTER POINTS

Miss D. Shanahan leads in the race to be County Master No. 1 (50 Master Points). Her score is 42; next come R. and J. Sharples, with 39 and 38 respectively.

The Welsh Bridge Union has adopted the E.B.U. scheme, and points will in future be awarded at Welsh congresses. Scotland and Ireland also are considering similar action.

Please note that Local Point Certificates should be sent to Mr. F. O. Bingham, 58 Pennymead, Harlow, Essex, for registration: NOT to Fulham Palace Road.



# Hidden Tricks

By CHIEN-HWA WANG

It is a thrilling pleasure to a declarer to find a way to land a difficult contract, especially when game is concerned. It is also an amusement of mine to examine various bridge hands, trying to improve the play a little so as to gain an extra trick.

The following hand appeared some ten years ago in the bridge column of a newspaper of which the name I have forgotten.

NORTH

♠ A K J 9 5 3

♥ 4

♦ Q 8 6 3

♣ K 9

WEST

♠ 8 4

♥ A J 7 6

♦ 7 4

♣ 7 6 5 3 2

EAST

♠ Q 6 2

♥ 10 9 8

♦ A J 10 9

♣ 10 8 4

SOUTH

♠ 10 7

♥ K Q 5 3 2

♦ K 5 2

♣ A Q J

The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	No	1♠	No
1NT	No	3♠	No
3NT	No	No	No

West led the seven of diamonds on which North played low.

East, seeing that the only chance to set the contract was that West should be able to win three tricks in hearts, immediately took his Ace of diamonds and returned ♥10. South covered with the King and West ducked. As soon as East was in with ♠Q and led another heart, the contract was set.

It was pointed out that if North had bid Four Spades over Three No Trumps the game in spades would have been easy; but since North had honours in three suits I do not think that he can be greatly blamed for passing Three No Trumps.

The interesting point, however, is that Three No Trumps can be made despite the good defence by East. When South held the second trick with ♥K he could count three tricks in clubs, two in diamonds, one in hearts and two in spades, still one trick short of his contract. He should suspect the position in hearts and should realise the danger of a spade finesse.

If the hearts break four and three there are just sufficient entries left in the South hand to establish and cash a heart winner.

So at trick 3 South should begin to attack the heart suit, conceding to the opponents three tricks in hearts, which together with  $\diamond A$  are the only tricks they can make. The whole hand is a not-so-obvious example of the old principle that at no trumps it is generally right to play on the suit in which there are losers on top.

My second hand is joined to the first by a slender thread: once again the declarer's salvation lies in returning the suit that the enemy has attacked.

At rubber bridge some years ago I found myself in Four Hearts on the South hand. West led  $\clubsuit 4$  and I captured the Queen with my Ace. With three losers in diamonds and one in hearts staring me in the face, I tried the ruse of returning the *ten* of clubs.

NORTH

$\spadesuit$  Q 9 7 5 4  
 $\heartsuit$  K J 4  
 $\diamond$  J 5 2  
 $\clubsuit$  5 3

WEST

$\spadesuit$  J 8 6  
 $\heartsuit$  6 3  
 $\diamond$  K Q 7  
 $\clubsuit$  J 7 6 4 2

EAST

$\spadesuit$  K 10 3 2  
 $\heartsuit$  A 8  
 $\diamond$  A 9 6 4  
 $\clubsuit$  Q 9 8

SOUTH

$\spadesuit$  A  
 $\heartsuit$  Q 10 9 7 5 2  
 $\diamond$  10 8 3  
 $\clubsuit$  A K 10

West scarcely gave this a look: he followed with  $\clubsuit 2$  and the 10 won. Then I discarded a diamond on  $\clubsuit K$  and led a diamond. The opponents quickly attacked trumps, but my luck held when these broke 2—2 and I was able to ruff my third diamond and make the contract.

## American News-Letter

by ALFRED SHEINWOLD

Edgar Kaplan won the annual Life Master Individual Championship from a field of 136 Life Masters. (including England's Adam Meredith) during the first weekend of February. The chief advocate of the Weak No Trump

in America, Kaplan has won national team and pair championships before but this was his first victory in the Individual.

Important factors in Kaplan's success were his temperament, widely regarded as one of the



mildest in American tournament circles, and his knack of convincing a perfect stranger that a fine partnership understanding exists (outside of the fertile Kaplanian imagination). Only once in the five sessions of the weekend tournament did the typical moan of the tortured expert escape from Kaplan's tight control, wrung from him by this disaster:—

West dealer

North-South vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 9 5

♥ Q J 8

♦ A K 7 6 5

♣ A J 6

WEST

♠ A J 8 7 3 2

♥ A 5

♦ 9

♣ Q 9 7 2

EAST

♠ K Q 4

♥ K 6 4 3

♦ Q 10 3 2

♣ 8 5

SOUTH

♠ 10 6

♥ 10 9 7 2

♦ J 8 4

♣ K 10 4 3

This was the bidding, with Kaplan South and an unidentified lady North:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1♠	Dbl.	Redbl.
No	No	2♦	Dbl.
No	2♠	No	4♠
No	No	Dbl.	No
No	No		

The lady opened the ♦K and

shifted to a trump, taken by dummy's Queen. Declarer (West) led the ♣8 from dummy and finessed it to North's Jack. Back came another trump, to dummy's King, and declarer finessed the ♣7.

The lady, an experienced player with far more than the required 300 master points to her credit, began to see what was coming. Unnerved by the fact that on the previous hand she had doubled an unbeatable Four Spades, she played a low club instead of her Ace.

Declarer was on his way to Four Spades doubled and made, but this strange duck gave him an overtrick. He ruffed a club in dummy, returned with the ♥A, and ran the trumps to execute a double squeeze.

The lady entered up 690 points for E-W and, feeling the silence oppressive, took her hand out of the board and displayed it, remarking: "I had 15 points."

"Madam," Kaplan replied, "I thought you needed 300."

A more serious hand from the final session shows Kaplan at his wily best:—

*See next page*

After two passes East opened One Club, and Kaplan passed the South hand silkily. West responded One Heart, and East

West dealer

East-West vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 8 6 4

♥ K 10

♦ A 10 8 7 6

♣ Q 9 7

WEST

♠ J 7 3

♥ Q 9 8 6 3

♦ 9 5 2

♣ 10 5

EAST

♠ Q 10 5

♥ J 7 2

♦ K J 4

♣ K J 6 4

SOUTH

♠ A K 9 2

♥ A 5 4

♦ Q 3

♣ A 8 3 2

passed, somewhat to Kaplan's disappointment. He doubled, and North took out to Two Diamonds. Kaplan now bid Two No Trumps, and North raised to game.

West opened ♥6, and East held the first trick with the Jack. In dummy next, with the ♥K, Kaplan returned a low diamond. East unwisely played low, and South won with the Queen.

Three rounds of spades put East in again, and another heart went to the Ace. Kaplan discarded a diamond from dummy and led the last spade, discarding another diamond. On the last spade West discarded a heart and East a club.

Kaplan next led a low club and

finessed dummy's ♣9. East won with the ♣J and returned ♦K to dummy's Ace. Now the ♣Q was led from dummy, picking up ♣10 and ♣K and enabling declarer to win three club tricks.

It was an impressive demonstration of the art of winning an Individual. Kaplan gave the vulnerable opponents the chance to get too high, then took over when they stayed out of trouble. His partner was good enough and trusting enough to understand the auction and raise to game. In the play Kaplan took full advantage of a slip in the defence and then executed a little-known finessing manoeuvre to land an overtrick.

An interesting low-card situation developed on the following hand:—

NORTH

♠ 7 5

♥ 8 6

♦ A 7 3

♣ A Q 10 8 6 5

WEST

♠ A Q 9 6 2

♥ K 3

♦ K 10 6 2

♣ J 4

EAST

♠ K J 8 4 3

♥ A J 9 4

♦ J 8 4

♣ 2

SOUTH

♠ 10

♥ Q 10 7 6 2

♦ Q 9 5

♣ K 9 7 3



At Four Spades, West won the opening heart lead, drew trumps, cashed ♥A and ruffed a heart. He next gave up a club, ruffed the heart return, and ruffed his remaining club in dummy to lead ♦J.

South covered with ♦Q, and

West put up the King. Several Norths fell from grace by taking ♦A. The forced diamond return allowed West to make the rest.

The good technicians allowed West to hold ♦K. Now North-South were sure of two diamond tricks.

## Small Cards

by HERMAN FILARSKI

It is not easy in war to learn the secrets of the enemy leaders in a direct way. The indirect way, the observation of lesser people surrounding the enemy leaders, is often more successful. I believe that, in bridge, the behaviour of small cards can help thoughtful players uncover the secrets of the hand.

Here are some deals from actual play to support this view. In the first deal there is no certainty of conclusion—only a very strong indication.

Rubber bridge. Dealer South, North-South vulnerable.

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

NORTH

♠ J 7 3

♥ K 9 8 4

♦ A 7 6 3

♣ Q 9

SOUTH

♠ K

♥ A Q 10 3

♦ Q 10 8 5

♣ K 7 6 4

West led the ♠A and continued the 9, declarer ruffing. The ♣4 was led, West played ♣5 and dummy's Queen lost to the Ace. East continued a high spade, South ruffed with ♥10 and West played ♠2.

Now both defenders followed to two rounds of trumps, East dropping the Jack, and the position was:—

# NORTH

♠ —  
♥ K 9  
♦ A 7 6 3  
♣ 9

# SOUTH

♠ —  
♥ —  
♦ Q 10 8 5  
♣ K 7 6

How to handle the diamonds?

East was a rather good player, with a strong tendency to contest the bidding, even on weak hands. He might have the ♦K, but this is by no means sure. The constant passes of West, who is not vulnerable and has already shown Axx of his partner's spade suit, lead one to suspect that he may be well furnished in diamonds and have hopes of defending a diamond contract.

Let's try to count the hand. West probably started with three spades and three hearts. If he holds four clubs, then he has three diamonds and East two. In this event, declarer might well play ♦A, ♥K and another diamond; if East holds a diamond honour, the contract is safe.

But if West has three clubs and hence four diamonds, the best chance is to lead ♦Q hoping that East's singleton is the J or 9.

Remember Trick 3? South

♣4, West ♣5, North ♣Q, East ♣A.

West is a normal rubber-bridge player, certainly no super-expert. He might be false-carding in clubs, but this seems unlikely. If the 5 is his lowest, then almost certainly he has only a three-card holding—with J1085 a normal player would be likely to play the 10.

On this reasoning, declarer decided that West had only three clubs and therefore four diamonds. So he led the ♦Q and was duly rewarded, the full deal being:—

# NORTH

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

# WEST

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

# EAST

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

# SOUTH

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

The defender's play on the next hand was so simple:—

*See next page*

At both tables in a team-of-four match South opened Five Diamonds and all passed.



North dealer  
East-West vulnerable

NORTH

♠ J 8 7 2

♥ 10 8 3

♦ 5 4

♣ A Q 10 7

WEST

♠ Q 10 5 4

♥ K Q J 4

♦ A 9 2

♣ J 8

EAST

♠ A K 9 6 3

♥ 9 6 2

♦ 7

♣ 9 6 4 3

SOUTH

♠ —

♥ A 7 5

♦ K Q J 10 8 6 3

♣ K 5 2

In Room 1 West led ♥K to the 3, 2 and Ace. Trumps were led and West won the second round, East discarding ♥6. East felt a spade signal would be wrong, since if West could not cash two heart tricks he would switch to spades of his own accord.

When West played the ♥Q and his partner's 9 fell, it was obvious that the setting trick could be taken; so simple that East's thoughtful discard drew no comment from the other three players.

So simple, but in the other room East discarded ♠9 at trick 3. West cashed ♥Q and now had to guess—and he led a spade.

In bridge, as in war, there is opportunity for counter-espionage. My last deal is from a

high-stake game where the bidding was crazy, but the play was not so crazy:—

NORTH

♠ Q 9 8 6 5

♥ 7

♦ K Q 10 5 4 3

♣ J

SOUTH

♠ A J 10 7 3

♥ A K 10 4

♦ 6

♣ K Q 10

Both sides were vulnerable and East-West has a lot of snow on the roof—which may account for North's bidding. Her partner opened One Spade, she raised to Four and bid Six over his Blackwood Four No Trumps.

West led ♦A, studied his partner's 2 and, after a long huddle, continued a small diamond. Dummy's 10 was finessed and when this held declarer discarded a club. Now ♦K was led.

You see, declarer had not wasted his time during West's huddle. He knew that if West had ♠K it must be singleton, otherwise West would not bother to think so long. When the ♦10 held it should be safe to play another round, since West must follow suit. And if East ruffed the third round of diamonds, that would be a fairly sure indication that he did not possess the guarded ♠K.

So when East discarded a heart on the third round of diamonds, declarer finessed spades with some confidence. Unfortunately, the finesse *lost* and the King was singleton, so it seems

that East also was aware of the importance of small cards; at any rate, he was not so naive as to contribute one of his "worthless" trumps when  $\diamond K$  was led.

---

## "Blanking Blackwood"

If you heard the phrase "Blanking Blackwood" you might say, after a rubber at the club with the average partner, "Them's my sentiments too!"

In the Victorian Blackwood Convention, however, devised by Australian expert M. B. Thwaites, a Blanking Blackwood is a bid to show a void and extract from partner responses according to the Blackwood principle *in which the void suit is ignored*.

Thus,  $1\spadesuit-3\spadesuit$ ; opener,  $4\diamond$ ,  $4\heartsuit$ , or  $5\clubsuit$ ; all those bids would denote a void and ask partner for responses not taking that suit into account. Suppose, for example, that opener's rebid were  $4\heartsuit$ : the sign-off would be  $4\spadesuit$ : the next bid,  $4NT$ , would show one Ace apart from hearts, the blank suit.

The bid could also be used in a sequence such as  $1\spadesuit-2\heartsuit$ ;  $4\clubsuit$ . Responder would take hearts to be the agreed suit and in his responses to  $4\clubsuit$  would discount Ace (and later King) of clubs.

A jump bid in an opponent's suit is also a Blanking Blackwood. South  $1\heartsuit$ , West  $1\spadesuit$ , North  $3\spadesuit$ . This last bid shows a void spade and sets a Blackwood sequence in motion.

Mr. Thwaites does not give such an example, but the bid could also be used, presumably, in immediate response to an opening bid. Thus South opens  $1\heartsuit$  and North responds  $4\diamond$ , showing a void. That was once a Culbertson convention to agree hearts and show a void, although there were no set responses of the Blackwood type.

A convention of this sort, which of course is only one part of the Victorian system, limits the use of normal cue bids but goes a long way towards solving the perennial problem of the void suit.



## Middlesex v. Surrey

Daily Telegraph  
Cup—Final.

West dealer  
Love all

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

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

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

## Room 1:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Gray	J. Walker	Miss Shanahan	Harrison
	1♠	2♦	3♠
5♣	No	No	Dbl.
No	No	No	
♠A led. 11 tricks. 550 to N-S.			

## Room 2:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
W. Walker	R. Sharples	Dalton	J. Sharples
	1♠	No	3♠
No	4♠	No	No
No			
♣K led. 9 tricks. 50 to N-S.			

Room 1. North judged that her good distribution was worth an overcall, and this inspired her partner to leap to Five Clubs. This is an excellent bid, based on the knowledge that North has at the most a singleton spade and is therefore likely to have a few clubs to an honour. As both minor suits break, 12 tricks can in fact always be made. But Harrison Gray, naturally enough, preferred to ensure his contract by ruffing three spades rather than search for speculative overtricks.

Room 2. Without opposition bidding the Sharples brothers reached Four Spades, which makes if the defenders fail to cash their winners, but the defence did not falter.

This Middlesex team won the "Telegraph" trophy for the third time. They built up a big lead in the first two sessions, but were almost overhauled in the third session by another Middlesex team, consisting of Hughes and Smerdon, Pressburger and Kuhn.

# England v. Scotland\*

Camrose Trophy  
Hand 64

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

East dealer  
Game all

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

	N	
W		E
	S	

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

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

Room 1:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Maclaren	Leader-Williams	Forbes	Clark
No	4♥	No	No
No			1NT

♠K led. 10 tricks. 620 to E-W.

Room 2:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Franklin	Goldberg	L. Tarlo	Jesner
No	No	1♠	No
2♦	No	2♠	No
No	No		

♥J led. 10 tricks. 170 to N-S.

**Room 1.** Advocates of the Weak No Trump throughout will view this hand with pleasure. It is one of the swings which have to be balanced against the occasional 800 or 1,100 roundabouts. The slightly optimistic response of Four Hearts makes it too dangerous for North to bid his spades. When he bid four Hearts, West is prepared for one down, to save a part score by the opponents. As it happens, the fit is good and Four Hearts is unbeatable.

**Room 2.** Both East and West could have made a bid on either the first or the second round, but both showed the cautious spirit which characterised the Scottish bidding. In this case it cost them a game, but it is only fair to point out that if they reach Four Hearts by a slow route North-South might well go to Four Spades as a sacrifice. Only an inspired diamond ruff defeats this, and a double game-swing could easily result. South should consider an immediate raise to Two Spades, partly because of the chance that West may be able to come in with Two Hearts.

\*A full account of this match, which England won by 14 I.M.P., appears on page 32.



# England v. Scotland

Camrose Trophy  
Hand 94

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

West dealer  
North-South game

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



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

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

Room 1:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Maclaren	Leader-Williams	Forbes	Clark
	No	1♥	No
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
4♥	No	No	No
♦K led. 13 tricks. 710 to N-S.			

Room 2:

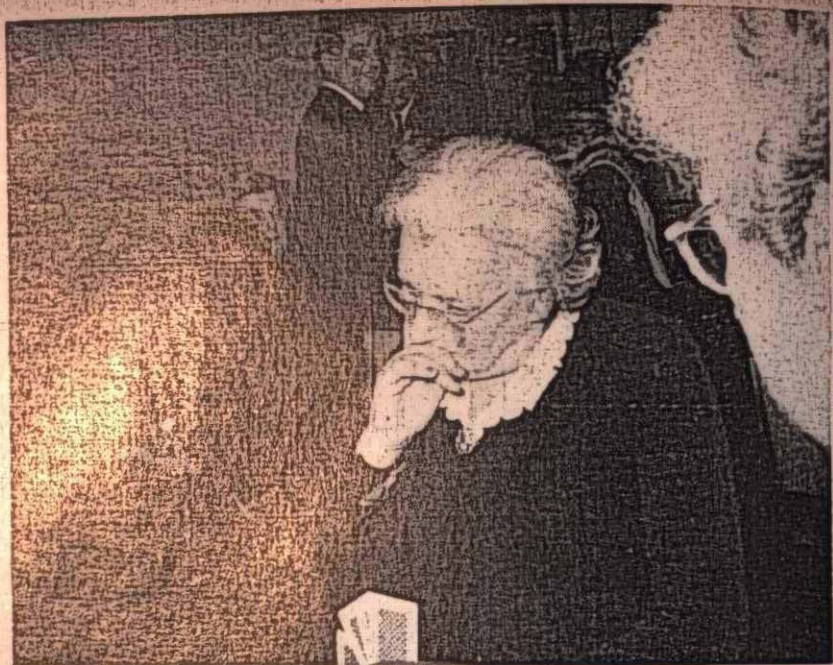
SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Franklin	Mitchell	Tarlo	Benjamin
	3♣	No	5♣
No	No	No	
♠A led. 7 tricks. 200 to N-S.			

Room 1. West would normally open Three Clubs, but with a comfortable lead and only a few boards to go decided to take no chances. I would prefer to force on South's hand with such an enormous heart fit\*. Slam possibilities can then be explored and the club weakness discovered with this sequence: One Heart—Two Spades—Three Spades—Four Hearts—Five Diamonds—Five Hearts—No Bid.

Room 2. The pre-empt achieves its purpose, as North has a hand on which action or inaction may be fatal. East co-operates with a leap to Five Clubs, which is an imaginative anticipatory sacrifice. North should, I feel, double this "for luck." He can probably defeat the hand even if East has his bid, and there is a strong possibility, at this vulnerability, that East is completely bogus. Careful defence can beat Five Clubs by five tricks.

\*But there is a good sprinkling of top losers; I should have said that, on all grounds, Four Hearts was the bid.—T.R.





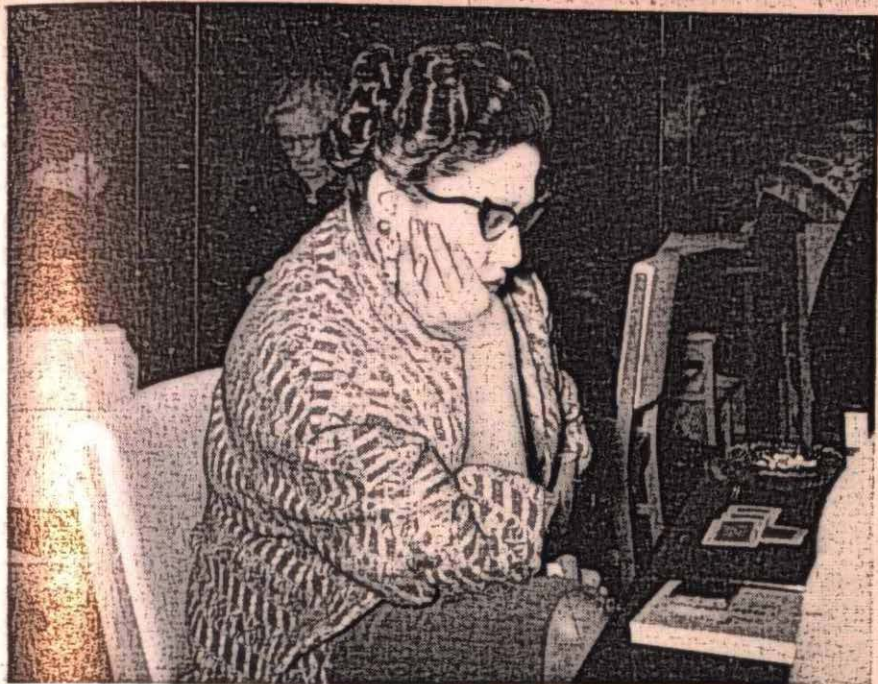
ESTIMATION.—Mrs. Ida Freeman was the winner with Mrs. J. Abrahams.



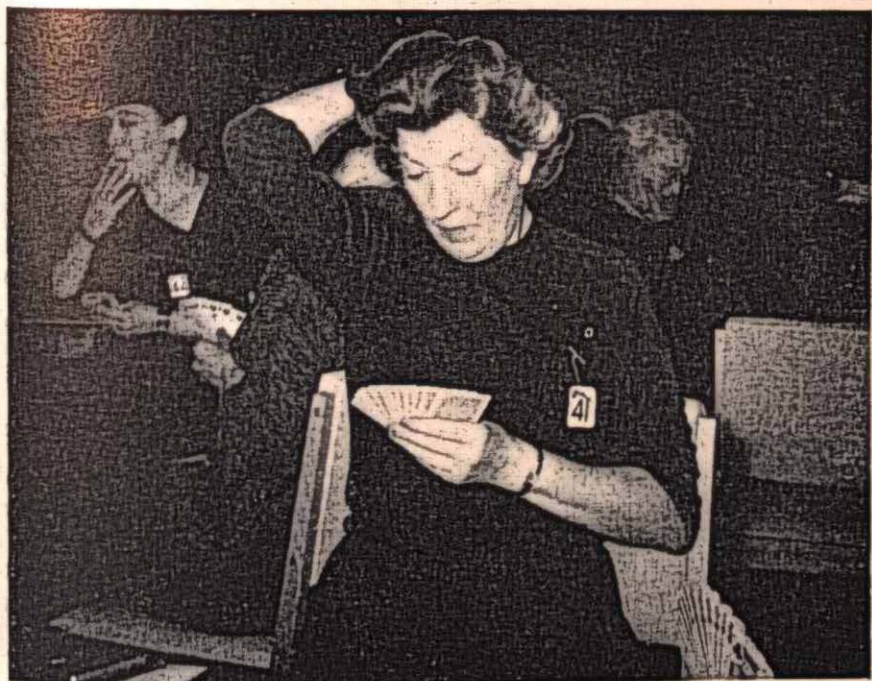
INDICATION.—Mrs. D. Shammon, runner-up with Miss N. Jack.

*Photos from the Anne Reese Cup*





RUMINATION.—Mrs. Brinda Gordon was sixth with Mrs. Van Rees.



COMPLICATION.—Mrs. F. Gordon, "also ran" with Doris, Lady Rhodes.  
by Claude Rodrigue.

# Autour de L'Etoile

by JEAN BESSE

## Selection in France

The trial matches between several teams of four players, with the purpose of selecting the French national team for the 1957 European Championship open class, are now in being.

Particularly interesting was the match between the team—Ghestem—Bacherich—Bourchtoff—Svarc, all members of the French team in Stockholm, and the team Tintner—Grouchesky—Malabat—Stetten.

This match ended in a draw after 96 deals, which shows the evenness of the players and the inconclusive character of most selection matches.

The pair Ghestem—Bacherich is always amusing with its curious bidding system. To wit:—

*See next column.*

With Ghestem North and Bacherich South, the bidding went:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
No	No	1NT	No
2♠!	No	2NT	No
3♠!!	No	4♠?	No
No	No		

Except for South's No Bid and North's final Four Spades, all these bids are more or less artificial!

South dealer  
Love all

NORTH

♠ A 9 6 5  
♥ A K Q 6  
♦ A J 10  
♣ K 6

WEST

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

EAST

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

SOUTH

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

The One No Trump opening may show any strong hand unable to open Two Clubs.

The Two Spade response is a low "Texas" requiring opener to rebid Three Clubs, over which, I imagine, South intended to pass.



But North apparently disobeyed in order to show a maximum No Trump hand by rebidding Two No Trumps (instead of Three Clubs). Responder had still the possibility of signing off at Three Clubs.

But South, holding a little something after all, showed now "something in spades" by bidding Three Spades!

That induced North to try for Four Spades. Did he misconstrue his partner's bidding and delicate inferences, or did he voluntarily choose to play with 7 trumps? I cannot say.

Full of traps, the play went as follows: West led a small heart for dummy's ♥A.

At trick 2 dummy led ♣K, taken by East's Ace. East, Mr. Stetten, made now the fine deceptive return of ♦K, taken by dummy's Ace. ♥K and ♥Q permitted declarer to discard his remaining diamonds, after which ♦J was led from dummy for a ruffing finesse (against East's hypothetical Queen). South discarding a small club and West making the bare ♦Q.

West of course led his ♥J for East to discard his remaining small club.

South ruffed with ♠8 and led ♠J.

Had West at this point been

**BACK NUMBERS**  
of the

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alert enough to cover the Knave of spades, nothing could have prevented East from ruffing a club and setting the contract, as South would have been blocked with ♠Q.

West, however, not realising that South might hold only three spades, played low, and declarer was quick to play three rounds of spades to win the game.

At the other table the story was short. Opener Two No Trumps. Responder Three No Trumps. Peacefully made. Thus, Ghestem's team gained one I.M.P. on the board.

The big swing of this match

came when *both* teams bid a very dubious vulnerable grand slam in hearts on this hand:—

North dealer  
Game all

NORTH

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

WEST

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

EAST

♠ K 10 5 4 2  
♥ 8 5 4  
♦ 9 8  
♣ 10 8 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 7 6  
♥ A J 10 2  
♦ 2  
♣ J 6 4

Although the finesses are on, Bouchtloff went one down owing to the bad breaks, after a neutral trump lead.

At the other table Ghestem, West, led ♣ 7, forcing declarer to

take an early view. South, Mr. Stetten, took the right view by recognising the necessity for the club finesse. So he let the lead run to his own ♣ J, which gave him just the thirteenth trick needed. Careful play, including the spade finesse when the diamonds failed to break, gave Mr. Stetten the other twelve tricks.

Two other grand slams having been previously lost by Messrs. Malabat and Stetten, this deal just made the match a tie.

### Robert Darvas

While writing this article, I am just informed of the sudden death in Budapest of my old friend Robert Darvas, author of that fine and original book "Right through the Pack."

Every one who knew this splendid brain will share my deep sadness, which the distance still increases.

## England v. Scotland

by "MACDUFF"

The Camrose Trophy has so long been in the possession of the E.B.U. that its whereabouts have become doubtful and the formality of having it present at critical matches has on occasion

been overlooked. The E.B.U. captain showed concern at its non-appearance for the decisive match of this year's series, a concern which developed into frenzied efforts to locate the cup as



the match progressed. The efforts were unsuccessful and it was not until after 75 boards had been played that England were in a position from which they could not reasonably do worse than draw, a result which would have seen them through on "goal average." In fact they won by fourteen points after what must have been one of the closest matches in the history of the competition.

Scotland took a lead of one point on the first board and maintained the lead throughout the first session, fluctuating between five and fourteen and closing at seven, when England gained the largest swing of the afternoon on the last board. With both sides vulnerable your partner, the dealer, opens One Heart and the second hand doubles. You hold:—

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

Redouble — No Bid — One Spade—some number of Hearts are all possible bids. Goldberg, for Scotland, elected to redouble and when his left-hand-opponent's bid of One Spade was passed round to him he doubled. LHO now bid Two Clubs, which was passed round, and Goldberg con-

tested with Two Hearts. His partner, Jesner, tried Two No Trumps and a retreat to Three Hearts closed the auction. This was the complete deal:—

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

Three Hearts was defeated by one trick and what prompted Clark to choose this happy moment for his bid of One Spade remains a mystery to your reporter. In the other room South again doubled One Heart and West, Franklin, contented himself with a bid of One Spade. Tarlo raised to Two Spades and Franklin bid the game. When faced with a difficult choice of bid it is not a bad idea to make the bid which leaves you with something in hand.

The cards had been quite unexciting and the one good slam had been missed by both teams.

WEST

♠ K 2

♥ Q 8

♦ K 10 7 6 3

♣ K 10 9 6

EAST

♠ A 9 7 3

♥ —

♦ A 9 8 5 2

♣ A Q 8 3

West dealt and passed and East opened One Diamond over which South bid One Heart. West bid Three Diamonds and North Three Hearts. Dr. Forbes, sitting East for Scotland, now bid Four Hearts and West made an unimaginative return to Five Diamonds. Having limited his hand by his original pass, his holding could scarcely be more suitable and there seems much to commend a bid of Four Spades. In the other room East, Clark, jumped to Five Diamonds after North's bid of Three Hearts and West could not reasonably do more. Perhaps East's best line of action is somewhere in between the two selected. A bid of Three Spades over Three Hearts would leave him well placed to bid the slam if partner were able to bid Five Diamonds, and well advised not to bid it if partner showed good values in hearts with a bid of Three No Trumps.

The story was continued almost throughout the evening session. The peak point for Scotland was a lead of thirteen and they remained ahead until the very last deal of the day, board 64, when England gained the largest swing

of the day, seven points, to end with an advantage of six points.

(For a report of this deal, see "Hands of the Month," page 26.)

In the final session England were quickly off the mark and gained swings on six of the first eight boards to place themselves twenty-five points in front. A grand slam is always worth a mention and Clark and Leader-Williams did well with this one:—

WEST

♠ A 8 5

♥ A K 8 7 2

♦ A 9 5

♣ 9 6

EAST

♠ 9

♥ Q J 10

♦ K Q J 7 6 3 2

♣ A 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			1♦
1♠	2♠	No	4♦
No	4NT	No	5♣
No	5♥	No	7♦
No	No		

After West had shown all three missing Aces and the King of hearts East was wise to rely on partner for either a fourth heart or some other value. For Scotland Maclaren bid Three Hearts over One Spade and East, Dr. Forbes, bid Four Hearts. West now bid Four Spades and East gave it the "old Black," and after discovering that partner held three Aces he modestly retired into Six Hearts.

At this point, when England seemed to be hammering home



the last nails, Clark and Leader-Williams, on successive boards were unluckily defeated in Four Spades, with Three No Trumps made in the other room, and one down in Five Clubs, losing a trick to the blank King of clubs with a combined holding of ten, when the other room rested in Two Clubs. The two hands totalled eleven points and Scotland were back in the fight, fourteen behind with twenty-five to play. England plugged away, picking up the odd one or two and giving little away and with seven boards to go were 23 in front. Then came board 94 (reported by Alan Truscott on page 27). That left the Scots only 17 behind, with the chance of an honourable draw, since eight points constitute a winning margin, but they were given no chances.

In the whole of the hundred boards there were six hands only on which slams were or might have been bid and not one freakish deal. The play, as a consequence, was somewhat unspectacular, but was consistently sound and the low number of points exchanged,

107—93, is a fair indication of that fact. There were no failures on either side and it was easy to see why Scotland, who have been represented by the same team in all three matches, had convincing wins in the two earlier ones. They are a well balanced team made up of three sound and tenacious pairs with Mitchell of the old school and Goldberg of the new the most impressive card players.

The North-Western Association made admirable arrangements and Mr. and Mrs. Robinson of Blackpool performed the offices of host and hostess in their characteristic manner—and nothing could exceed that.

The teams were:—

E.B.U.—L. Tarlo, H. Franklin, R. E. Clark, E. Leader-Williams, B. M. Hargreaves, N. F. Choularton, R. F. Corwen (non-playing captain).

S.B.U.—A. L. Benjamin, L. Mitchell, J. M. Maclaren, Dr. R. Y. Forbes, G. D. J. Jesner, V. Goldberg, H. J. Kennedy (non-playing captain).

## Portland Club Cup for Mixed Pairs

The allocation of free places at Juan les Pins has been generously doubled by the French organisers, and the leading four pairs in the Portland Club Cup Final will be entitled to free accommodation at the tournament.

# Any Questions?

*Tricky questions are answered independently by a panel of four.*

1 At game all in a match-pointed pairs South holds:—

♠ K 10 ♥ A Q 5 ♦ 7 3 ♣ A Q J 7 4 2

The bidding proceeds:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	No	1♥	No

?

Mrs. M. Goetz, of Lancaster Terrace, London, writes: "I was interested in this hand from the Masters Pairs because several different bids were made by the South players over One Heart. What does the panel say?"

Mrs. Goetz's question presents no great problem. Since it is essential to support partner on this type of hand it only remains to determine to what extent. The choice is between Two and Three Hearts. I just prefer the underbid of TWO HEARTS since over a possible Two No Trump rebid South can bid Three Clubs to show his distribution, whereas if North replies Three No Trumps to Three Hearts South may be uncertain whether to pass or remove it (to Four Clubs.)

I have no time for a direct club rebid or any of the "modern" bids such as One Spade.

*Kenneth K. L. L.*

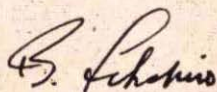
The choice is not really as wide as the question would suggest. It seems that South must either support hearts or bid Three Clubs. If partner makes the not unlikely bid of Three No Trumps over Three Clubs there is danger (if South passes) of excluding what may be the best contract of Four Hearts. A raise to Two Hearts carries caution too far, which leaves my choice, THREE HEARTS. If partner raises to Four Hearts it should be a fair contract; if partner bids Three No Trumps we are well content and if partner bids Three Spades we can rebid our long club suit.

*Harold G. Franklin*



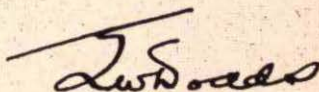
I don't believe in making heavy weather of a bid of this sort—of tying myself in knots because the right "value" bid may lead to a tricky decision in the event of one particular reply.

The hand is worth **THREE CLUBS**—just that. I realise that if partner's next bid is Three No Trumps I shall have to consider whether to pass or go Four Hearts. And that is not difficult either: I should pass.



So far as South can judge at this stage, the hand will play best in either hearts or clubs, and partner must be informed accordingly. Since the clubs have already been mentioned, it is logical that the heart support should be shown now.

Whether South should raise to Two Hearts or to Three Hearts is a matter of style. Two Hearts leaves more room for manoeuvre afterwards—if there is an afterwards! According to my valuation, the only correct bid is **THREE HEARTS**.



*Terence Reese sums up*

In the Masters Pairs I bid Three Hearts in this situation, but that was because I had read my partner a little lecture on the modern habit of bidding a major suit on a holding such as 10xxx and was preparing to punish him if he had committed that iniquity.

The hand is not good enough for Three Hearts and by British, though not by American, standards it is too good for Two Hearts. I fully agree with Schapiro's estimate of the situation: bid **THREE CLUBS**, which reflects the character of the hand, and let the future take care of itself.

In a team-of-four match South holds:—

♠ Q 5 2   ♥ A   ♦ A K 10 8   ♣ K J 10 4 2

The bidding proceeds:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	No	1♠	No
2♣	No	2NT	No
3♠	No	4♣	No
?			

Mr. G. Cartwright, of Willesden, London, writes: "I am not asking for an answer to this question as it stands. It is a peg on which to hang a larger question, namely: when the bidding, as here, has been fairly informative, do the experts, in deciding whether to try for a slam, (a) construct possible hands that partner might have, (b) concentrate on their own holdings and decide whether they have something in reserve, or (c) is it something between the two?"

The short answer to Mr. Cartwright's question is: a combination of the two. For myself, I consider first whether I have any strength in reserve. If I have, does it look as though my reserve strength will fit in well with partner's hand, taking his bidding into account?

Thus, in the present instance, while I don't agree with the One Diamond opening, I would bid Four Hearts now, for that should be a valuable indication to my partner.

*Kenneth Lane*

It is difficult to dogmatize on a question like this except that one can say that (a) is apt to be a fatal policy. If you need partner to have specific cards you must give him the opportunity to show them rather than hope or assume that he holds them. (b) Is substantially true, except that we can take account of cards that partner has specifically indicated or is very likely to hold.

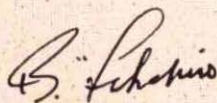
I would not have bid the present hand in the way that South did, but as things are he can suggest a slam with Four Hearts.

*Harold Goulthie*



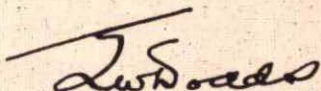
I have always had a tendency to construct what I think are likely hands for partner to hold, but I think it can be overdone and among my New Year resolutions is to concentrate primarily on my own cards.

In the example given it is easy to construct suitable hands for North, but against that the combined hands cannot contain more than 28 or 29 points and South should not do more than put forth a mild slam suggestion.



Normally, the mere fact that there have been several rounds of bidding means that each partner is able to build up some sort of picture of the opposite hand. If, taking a pessimistic view of partner's hand, a slam can be foreseen, a direct slam try can be made above the game level; but if the slam can be foreseen only by taking an optimistic view of partner's holding, then any slam try should be below game level.

The present hand is typical, for North may be looking ahead in clubs or simply running away from spades. For the moment South can bid Four Hearts, suggesting a slam but not going beyond Five Clubs.



*Terence Reese sums up*

More than any other good player, I think, I have always been a (b) merchant. I hold that there is a justice in these things: that if the system is sensible and both players bid accurately and not fancifully there won't be much wrong with the final contract. One considers, naturally, whether one's hand improves or not with the bidding; but that is quite different from constructing one of the thousand and one hands that may account for partner's sequence of bids. Franklin's remark on this is very much to the point.

Come to think of it, when partners have landed you in the tureen, don't their explanations always begin with the words: "I placed you with . . ."?

# Across the Green Baize

By GEORGE BAXTER

*George Baxter replies to some questions sent in by readers.*

*Question* (from Mr. F. G. Randall, Goodmayes, Ilford).

The following hand came up in the Essex heat of "The Daily Telegraph" Cup and I should like to know what the experts would say.

"Game all—I.M.P.—Acol system; East deals and bids One Spade. South holds:—

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

"(a) What should South say?

"(b) Assuming that South bids Two Spades and West bids Three Spades, what should North say, holding:—

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

*Answer:* With regard to (a), either an immediate Three No Trumps, or a double followed by Three No Trumps, is better than the overcall of Two Spades, whose only effect can be to incite

partner to pursue a long suit of his own—which is not what you want.

As for (b), North is hardly good enough for a free bid at the level of Four. If he had had five hearts, however, Four Hearts would have been a reasonable bid and would have refuted the Two Spade overcall.

*Question* (from Mr. J. E. Brough, Alexandra Road, N.W.8).

"I was interested in the bidding of a hand from the Masters Pairs on which the cards of West and East were:—

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

"At game to East-West, South invariably opened One Club. Now some of the West players overcalled One Spade and the partnership was able to stop in Three Diamonds; but at other tables West doubled and East then tended to jump to Five Diamonds,



which was generally two down because North had a singleton club.

"I would like to know whether the double is recommended on West's hand, and what East should reply if North passes."

*Answer:* As suggested by the division of practice in the Masters Pairs, it is close whether double or One Spade is better for West. Harrison Gray was among those who doubled and he stands by the bid. Reese and Schapiro both prefer the simple overcall, holding that there is not much future unless partner can make a free bid.

East's hand, in response to a double, cannot be exactly assessed because so much depends on whether West has his strength in the right place. On the whole, Four Diamonds looks a more accurate bid than Five.

*Question* (from Mr. I Cotsen, Roath Park, Cardiff).

"There has been considerable argument in our part of the world about the interpretation in Acol of East's bid of Five Clubs in the following sequence:—

WEST	EAST
2♠	2NT
4♣	3♣

"East had some strength, including the Ace of clubs, which

## WELSH BRIDGE UNION

### SPRING CONGRESS

at

### LLANDUDNO

May 2nd—5th, 1957

(Pre-Congress Pairs April 29—May 1)

#### E.B.U. MASTER POINTS AT ALL EVENTS

##### Seven Teams-of-Four Events

(Including Championship Teams and  
Ladies Teams)

WRITE FOR BROCHURE

MR. J. RAWLINSON

"Avalon," Bryn Gosol Road  
Llandudno

he thought it safe to show in view of his negative response on the first round. West, however, took Five Clubs to mean a very long club suit headed by the KQ and passed. Everyone told West he was wrong, but he wouldn't agree."

*Answer:* This exact sequence may not have been covered in the text-books, but the situation is surely analogous to an opening bid of Four Spades and a response of Five Clubs, which is universally regarded as a slam try. In practice, one does not fight partner when he makes a pre-emptive opening or, as in the present example, a very strong jump rebid.



# You Say . . .

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

I must criticize the Master Points scheme which I consider cannot be a genuine success unless there is equal opportunity for all.

It is beyond my comprehension why a scheme in its first year should operate to the benefit of a number of selected players who are able to compete in closed events. In effect, these players have an unfair advantage over players who cannot enter. The conscience of players obtaining points from these closed events must be troubled.

In my opinion points should be awarded only in OPEN events, national, county, or local, which anyone can enter.

Let all have an equal chance and there could be no objection if in time (say 1959-60 season) there were closed events based on points earned up till then in the open market.

Surely the good player is not afraid.

MAX LEVITEN,  
Leeds 17.

*Your view has support in influential quarters and has been discussed by various committees concerned with the matter.*

*The fundamental point on which a decision has to be reached is this: Is the Master Points table to be purely a record of achievement, or is it to be a record of achievement and an indication of ability, in the way that a handicap at golf is an indication of ability?*

*The scheme is being administered on the basis of the second of these principles. Thus, a closed event like the Masters Pairs carries Master Points in proportion to the difficulty of winning it.*

*Leaving aside the humorous suggestion that their consciences might be troubled, what would you have the good players do? Go pot-hunting in every minor event? Some do that, but others prefer to play in their own league. First-class cricketers, after all, obtain their averages in first-class cricket.*

\* \* \*

I have laughed and chuckled aloud to myself times many, as I read and re-read (in Kenneth



Konstam's article, "The Birth of a Bridge Player") the letter by "My Correspondent" about her play in Five Clubs doubled. It appeals to me as a beautiful piece of descriptive writing, and I think she must be a very charming person.

F. R. MACKRILL,  
Corby, Northants.

*Yes, it was something new and fresh in bridge writing.*

\* \* \*

In a review of "Bridge for Beginners" by Nico Gardener and myself, your correspondent Mr. George Baxter says:—

"One is especially glad to observe that the authors have for the most part forsaken the jaunty style that characterised their previous works. To convey instruction on a technical subject it is not necessary, like Omo, to 'add Brightness'".

Since when, Mr. Baxter, has Bridge been a "technical subject"? Possibly it has escaped your notice, but Bridge is a game, and not a trade or a profession or a branch of science. What is more, it is a game for live, warm-blooded men and women, not for soulless batrachians. Reflecting all the facets of human nature, Bridge can be happy and gay, and

it lends itself essentially to wit and humour and the "Brightness" which induces such revulsion in Mr. Baxter.

VICTOR MOLLO,  
London, S.W.1.

*I thought someone wrote a book called "Card Play Technique."*

\* \* \*

Congratulations on an excellent magazine. I like particularly descriptions of the big matches—World, European, International, Gold Cup, etc. I think perhaps that international matches should be reported more fully.

D. MCALLISTER,  
Bridgend, Glamorgan.

*Thank you for the kind comments, but we have nevertheless to be wary of being caught up too much in the world of tournament play, and next month there will be the first of a new series by Albert Dormer on intermediate play.*

\* \* \*

May I make two points in regard to the comments by Alan Truscott on hands from "England v. Wales."?

(a) On board 16 he has no right to assume, without consultation with the players, that "South's cautious bidding would have meant a big gain to Wales if it had not been for the odd preference to Four Diamonds by East."



I submit that this is poor criticism because, had East passed Four Clubs, South would certainly have bid Four Hearts. As the bidding went, South was able to pass and leave the decision to his partner.

(b) On the other board, No. 49, the bidding is not given correctly. In fact, it went: 1♠—2♣; 2♠—3♥; 4♥. When a commentator has not been present himself, should he not check with the players?

G. GRIFFITHS,  
Somerset.

(a) *A fair criticism of the criticism.*

(b) *Ideally, yes; but the players also can check the recording; it used to be standard procedure to sign the bidding slip after every hand.*

\* \* \*

Why not a *Scottish* column?

W. F. JOHNSTON,  
Aberdeen.

*We have many readers in Scotland and would be glad to receive, for "Tournament World," news of principal Scottish events.*

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# Duplicate Night at the Club

by HAROLD FRANKLIN

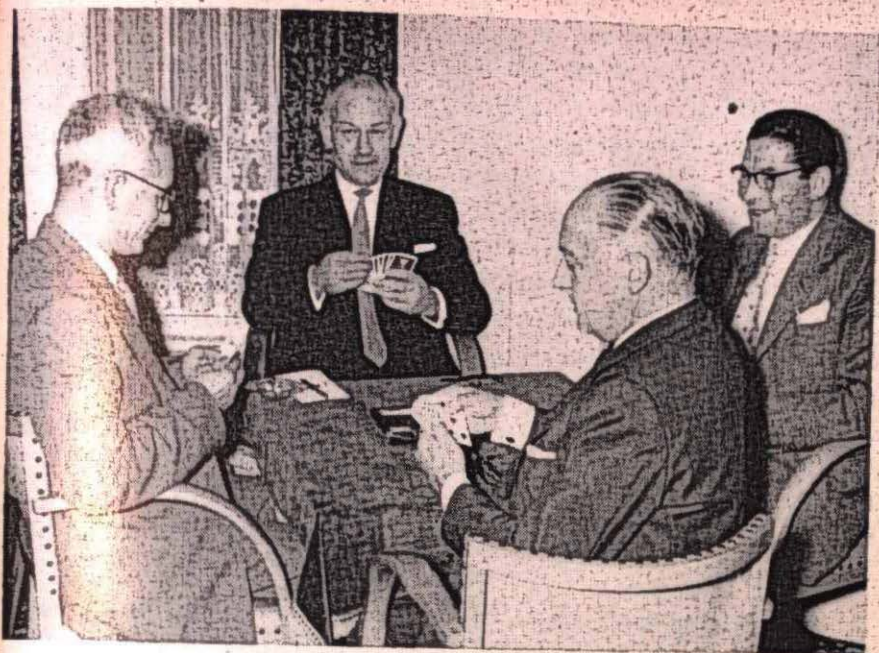
## No. 4 The Central Bridge Club, Manchester

81 Central Road. Tel: Didsbury 2190

Tuesday night is Duplicate night. Hoping to find out a little about the workings of the club I arrived a few hours before the 8.0 p.m. starting time. I had just completed a speedy tour of the excellently appointed playing rooms where the afternoon games were still in progress when the first of the evening players began to arrive—hungry. In the space

of fifteen minutes I heard orders given for poached eggs on toast, a fillet steak, tongue and salad, roast beef and more fillet steak. The staff seemed no whit perturbed and inquiry revealed that not only could such a variety of orders be met as a matter of course, but that they could be and were met at any hour when the club was open. From 2.30





*Left to right: Frank Farrington, Eric Silverstone, Manny Esner, Kuba Rubinstien*

p.m. until the club closed, which might be in the very small hours, service was continuous and two stewards and three waitresses looked after the needs of the members, under the friendly and controlling eye of Mr. Manny Esner and the most personable Mrs. Edith Esner.

With the creature comforts so cared for it is small wonder that the local bridge enthusiasts make Central Road a second home. And while they devote so much time to the pursuit of the game it is again small wonder that the standard of play in the area should have made such startling advance.

Some twelve towns compete in the inter-area team championship of the North-West. Manchester is permitted two entries. The whole of the first team and the largest part of the second team was made up of members of the Central Club. Manchester won the title, winning every match.

The North-West's finest performance has been that of winning the Tollemache Cup, the English counties championship, for the past two years. Of the ten people who have represented them two have been non-members of the Central (and they no doubt are fairly regular visitors). The



trophies and titles which the club has won are too numerous to list, but mention must be made of the fact that two members, P. Topley and J. Nunes, teamed up with R. Preston and R. Swimer to win the coveted Gold Cup in 1955, that the North of England Pairs Championship seems to have an almost permanent home on the club shelf (this year's holders, B. Franks and J. Lazarus only just failed to add the national title to it), and no fewer than eight members have been capped for England.

Nothing is so conducive to a high standard of card play than a high priced rubber bridge game and the Central is one of the few provincial clubs to provide this. But the most popular evening game is the more moderately priced two bob and a sixpenny game is well supported in the afternoons. And whatever the price, the friendly atmosphere is one which might be the envy of any club.

Duplicate night is a social occasion and enjoys the support of all the strongest players in the area. My visit was at an unfortunate time—the middle of the holiday season—and the attendance had dropped to a meagre fourteen tables. It seemed to me that many of the competitors were

people who had from time to time come under my control at Congresses. How I wish they could carry their example to the next one. Twenty-eight boards were played in three and a quarter hours and it seemed to me that at almost any given moment one could have heard the proverbial pin drop.

Mrs. Franks and Mrs. Sherr (a pair who have had many major successes) won the North-South line from a very strong field with a score of about 70 per cent. Mr. Topley pulled me through on the East-West with a much more modest total. The prize would have done credit to a major Congress event (normal at the Central). The runners-up who received special prizes from Messrs. De La Rue were S. Blaser and J. Lazarus and S. Abrahamson and C. Sinclair.

And one surprising "helping hand":—

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

South opened One Club, West bid One Diamond, North One Heart and East One Spade. West raised to Two Spades, the final contract. When South led the two of diamonds East (your reporter) con-



gratulated himself on being out of a good game, since clearly, with the diamond finesse wrong (as shown by the lead of an obvious singleton) the game must fail. Just as I was about to call for dummy's Ace, South put her hand to her mouth and exclaimed in horror. I was just sufficiently alive to realise that she had

imagined the diamond bid to have come from her partner and might well be leading away from the King. Practically nobody bid the game—without the exclamation the lead of the two of diamonds would have produced a near top instead of the reverse. It seems that a poker face has its uses at other games.

---

## E.B.U. Results

### Gold Cup

#### Round I (Completed)

- E. White (Derby) beat Mrs. D. M. Hallet (Staffs. and Derby) by 29 I.M.P.  
Dr. S. Lee (London) beat R. Preston (London) by 8 I.M.P.  
W. H. Hinton (Nottingham) beat E. J. Spurway (Warwickshire) by 1 I.M.P.  
R. B. Everett (Bristol) beat L. T. Vowles (Gloucester) by 70 I.M.P.  
G. N. Breskal (London) beat Dr. R. Taylor (Kent) by 16 I.M.P.  
E. L. Figgis (Liverpool) beat B. Hargreaves (Cheshire) by 3 I.M.P.  
J. T. Reese (London) beat J. C. T. Tatham (London) by 65 I.M.P.  
A. G. Hoyles (Newcastle) beat Dr. M. Rushton (Durham) by 5 I.M.P.  
M. Esner (Manchester) beat B. P. Topley (Manchester) by 1,500 pts. after a tie.

#### Round II

- E. L. Figgis (Liverpool) beat P. E. Morley (Liverpool) by 36 I.M.P.  
R. B. Everett (Bristol) beat D. Gordon Smith (Staffs.) by 12 I.M.P.  
A. G. Hoyles (N.E.B.A.) beat R. Roncoli (Scarborough) by 17 I.M.P.  
J. T. Reese (London) beat A. E. Ranwell (Herts.) by 65 I.M.P.  
Mrs. R. Markus (London) beat J. Taylor (Surrey) by 32 I.M.P.

### Crockfords Cup

#### Round II (Completed)

- Dr. M. Rushton (Durham) beat J. H. Taylor (Leeds) by 48 I.M.P.  
R. T. Higson (N.W.C.B.A.) beat G. F. Short (Cheshire) by 42 I.M.P.  
G. R. Dawes (Birmingham) beat H. K. Cooke (Birmingham) by 2 I.M.P.  
E. J. Spurway (Birmingham and Herts.) beat P. Brooke (Norfolk) by 35 I.M.P.  
J. Lazarus (Manchester) beat M. Blank (Manchester) by 59 I.M.P.  
L. Tarlo (London) beat R. J. Kerr (London) by 60 I.M.P.  
J. N. Colley (Hull) beat R. Dorsey (Leeds) by 12 I.M.P.  
G. F. Mathieson (London) beat J. C. J. Tatham (London) by 9 I.M.P.

### Hubert Phillips Bowl

#### Round II (Completed)

M. A. Porter (Warwickshire) beat H. K. Cooke (Birmingham) by 3,390 pts.  
Mrs. D. M. Hopewell (Nottingham) beat R. H. Chope (Sheffield) by 990 pts.  
Mrs. Moss (London) beat Mrs. P. M. Williams (London) by 1,880 pts.  
Mrs. M. Whitaker (London) beat D. Smerdon (Middlesex) by 4,740 pts.  
J. C. Street (Surrey) beat Mrs. K. Richard (Herts. *Holders*) by 1,130 pts.  
A. Truscott (London) beat L. D. Levy (London) by 1,900 pts.  
J. H. Taylor (Leeds) beat B. P. Topley (N.W.C.B.A.) by 1,590 pts.

#### Round III

Mrs. Moss (London) beat A. Truscott (London) by 1,680 pts.

#### Meritorious Performances

##### Gold Cup

Dr. S. Lee, S. Booker, C. Rodrigue, Mrs. F. Gordon, L. Tarlo, beat R. Preston, R. Swiner, Dr. M. Rockfelt, J. Tarlo, by 8 I.M.P.  
M. Esner, Z. Shneider, H. Reece, S. Zychlinski, W. J. Wong, beat B. P. Topley, E. Silverstone, F. Farrington and Mrs. Higginson, by 1,500 pts. after a tie.

#### Hubert Phillips Bowl

J. C. Street, L. G. Helm, Mrs. Harper, A. Elliott, beat Mrs. K. Richard, E. Rosenfelder, Mr. and Mrs. Durran, A. Grossman (*holders*), by 1,130 pts.  
Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Litante, C. M. Raphael, J. Moss, beat A. Truscott, Mrs. M. Van Rees, D. C. Rimington, A. G. Dormer, by 1,680 pts.  
J. H. Taylor, R. Corwen, G. Fell, Mrs. M. Oldroyd, beat B. P. Topley, E. Silverstone, Mrs. Higginson, F. Farrington, by 1,590 pts.

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## STOP PRESS

The second B.B.L. trial for the European Open Championship was played at the London Club, from March 8-10, six teams competing.

1st—R. Preston, R. Swiner, N. Gardener, A. Rose.

2nd—Dr. S. Lee, S. Booker, E. Leader-Williams, R. Clark.

A. Truscott's team, which was second in the first trial, lead up to the last round and finished third.

The first trial for the Ladies Championship was played the same weekend, four teams competing. The result was:—

1st—Mrs. R. Markus, Mrs. M. Lester, Mrs. P. Williams, Mrs. M. Whitaker.

2nd—Miss D. Shanahan, Miss S. Hargreaves, Mrs. M. Van Rees, Mrs. Della Porta.

The teams finished equal on victory points, Mrs. Markus winning on I.M.P. quotient.



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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.*

## L.C.C.B.A.

### Daily Telegraph Cup

The final of this inter-county championship developed, as in most previous years, into a struggle between the forces of Middlesex and London. The Middlesex "B" team, consisting of M. Harrison Gray, Miss D. Shanahan, J. Sharples and R. Sharples, led throughout to win with a score of 63 I.M.P., but was chased home in the final session by Middlesex "A," D. Smerdon, N. Hughes, H. Pressburger, and P. Kuhn, who scored 60 points. London was a good third with 52 points, and then came Kent "B" with 25, followed by Hertfordshire and Surrey "A." The remaining teams all had a minus score.

### London Flitch

This was won by Mr. and Mrs. M. Harrison Gray. Runners-up were Mr. S. Barlow, a Civil Service player, and Mrs. Barlow.

### Mixed Pairs

The winners were C. Rodrigue and Doris, Lady Rhodes; second, J. Collings and Mrs. D. Lloyd; third, H. Lever and Mrs. R. Markus; fourth, A. Lederer and Mrs. J. Gatti.

### Anne Reese Cup

The 18-table final of this event for Ladies Pairs was played in one day but in three parts. The early leaders were Mrs. Shammon and Miss Jack, of London, but they were overtaken at the finish by Mrs. H. Freeman and Mrs. J. Abrahams, of Middlesex. Mrs.

Lester and Mrs. Williams, who were third, did best of the five international pairs in the field.

## Harrogate Congress

The restrictions of petrol rationing have little meaning when faced with the appeal of Master Points for the tournament player. How else can one account for the fact that at each of the six sessions there was an increase of between 25 and 30 per cent. on last year's attendance?

In spite of the representative nature of the assembly Yorkshire players more than held their own. Although only eleven teams contested the Queen Cup, three of them contained leading international ladies and the sixty board event provided a searching and satisfying test. At the half-way stage the issue was completely open but time and experience told and the three most experienced combinations emerged from the ruck, and while the teams led by Mrs. P. Williams and Mrs. A. L. Fleming had the "might-have-beens," Mrs. Markus had the victory points, sixteen of them, representing eight wins out of ten, as against twelve points scored by each of the other two. The other members of the winning team were Mrs. Lester, Mrs. Whittaker and Mrs. Della Porta while the members of Mrs. Williams team, runners-up on a divided tie, were Mrs. Corwen, Mrs. Oldroyd and Mrs. B. Gordon.



A London team led by H. St. J. Ingram met a Leeds team captained by R. Dorsey in the final of the Provost Cup, the Men's Teams Event, and in a twelve board match the local team always had something in hand. The other members were E. Masser, D. Lyons and S. Leviten.

Nothing could have been closer than the final of the Open Teams event for the Hamilton Cup. Net I.M.P. decided and the three leading scores were 26, 25 and 24. The winners were J. Hochwald, D. Smerdon, Dr. M. Rushton and Dr. D. Dove of Yorkshire, London and the North East. S. Fielding, E. Newman, I. Manning and D. Sellman were the unlucky runners-up and the Dorsey team were only two points away from completing a most impressive double. Having reached the astonishing score of 73 I.M.P. in the qualifying round this team could count their time well spent.

The Championship Pairs took a new form, containing within the one tournament an open championship, a Ladies Championship and a Men's Championship, each with their own trophy, and special prizes for the leading Mixed Pairs and a fitch for the leading married couple. While a number of ladies subsequently felt that they might have preferred a tournament without masculine competition the hard facts are that this novel form so appealed to the imagination as to attract an entry of one hundred and twenty pairs, seventy five per cent. of those in play at the time, a much higher percentage than is normally attracted to a main event. The players all played duplicated boards and two sessions of fifty boards in all made it a good test. The roses combined to telling purpose when G. Fell and F. Farrington followed a good

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first session with a tremendous second one to win with 134 points to spare (a top was 116). Civil Service players G. Griffiths and J. Hibbert were runners-up and winners of the Men's Pairs. The Mixed Pairs was won by Mrs. Gottesman and E. Mayer who were in fourth place, the Fitch winners were Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Gill of York (seventh) and the leading Ladies Pair and winners of the John Hirst Trophy were Mrs. Campfield and Mrs. Frith of York.

Pedro Juan brought a light and expert touch to the compering of the Bidding match which resulted in a tie between Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Lester and B. P. Topley and P. Swinnerton-Dyer.

The numbers taxed the available accommodation to the utmost and the Congress staff could feel well pleased with their efforts in having the situation mostly in hand.

# Answers to February Competition

*We much regret that Mr. Marx's own answers to this competition were not received in time for inclusion in this issue. Accordingly, we publish a set of answers by the Editor. The result will be found on page 56.*

## Problem No. 1

South's hand is:—

♠1036 ♥AKJ6 ♦A ♣AK1054

Dealer South. Game all.

The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	No	1♥	No

What should South call next?

*Answer:* Three Diamonds.

South is too strong for a direct raise to Four Hearts, and experience has shown that a forcing jump should be made in a suit in which either first or second control is held.

## Problem No. 2

South's hand is:—

♠AQ1094 ♥AJ532 ♦2 ♣J4

Dealer North. Love all.

The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1♣	No
1♠	No	3♣	No
3♥	No	4♥	No

*Answer:* Five Clubs.

The Jack is an important card in support of a suit in which a jump rebid has been made, and clubs may well be the best suit for a slam.

This bid shows by inference the shortness in diamonds. The objection to Five Diamonds is that partner will take it that hearts are agreed and by jumping to Six Hearts may exclude Six Clubs.

## Problem No. 3

South's hand is:—

♠J62 ♥Q1042 ♦KQ4. ♣QJ4

Dealer South. Game all.

The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
No	No	1♣	1♠

What should South call?

*Answer:* One No Trump.

There is no ideal bid, but one has only to consider the alternatives to realise that One No Trump is best. South has no sure spade guard but this is balanced by the fact that in terms of points he has something to spare.

A directional bid of Two Spades, suggested by many learned competitors, may take the partnership too high; and since partner's next bid will be forced, it will have little meaning.

## Problem No. 4

South's hand is:—

♠A10974 ♥— ♦AJ976 ♣K108

Dealer West. East-West game.

The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	3♥	No	4♥

What should South call?

*Answer:* Four Spades.

Here the wiliness of the problem-setter, if wiliness there was, escapes this writer. South can hardly give the enemy best, and any other call that he may consider will exclude a final contract of Four Spades.



# Problem No. 5

South's hand is:—

♠K9643 ♥64 ♦K6 ♣J975

Dealer North. East-West game.

The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-------	------	-------	------

		1♦	No
--	--	----	----

1♠	No	2NT	No
----	----	-----	----

What should South call next?

*Answer:* Three No Trumps; alternatives, No Bid or Three Diamonds.

This, obviously, is close. Seven points is normally the borderline between a pass and a raise in this sequence. Here South has the advantage of possessing the King of his partner's suit, and also a 5-card suit and two 9's.

Three Diamonds is a possibility, because if partner then says Three Spades, a contract of Four Spades may be best.

Three Clubs is not well judged because it may provoke Four Clubs; also, it will pin-point the weakness in hearts.

Three Spades, a sign-off, is a popular sort of call among poor players. The strong objection to it is that there is no reason to suppose that Three Spades will be a better contract than Two No Trumps; it may be much worse.

# Problem No. 6

South's hand is:—

♠J103 ♥4 ♦A5 ♣AQ107653

Dealer South. Game all.

The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-------	------	-------	------

1♣	No	1♥	No
----	----	----	----

2♣	No	3♦	No
----	----	----	----

4♣	No	4♠	No
----	----	----	----

What should South call next?

*Answer:* Six Clubs.

North did not force on the first round, but showed lively interest when the

clubs were rebid. It must be assumed, therefore, that he has some support for clubs and is inviting a slam despite the minimum rebids.

South's hand is far from a minimum, of course, so he must respond to the slam invitation. Five Diamonds would be a little optimistic, for a grand slam could hardly be on after North's failure to force on the first round.

# Problem No. 7

The hands of West and North are:—

NORTH

♠ K10

♥ J93

♦ AQ876

♣ 1096

WEST

♠ 2

♥ AQ10875

♦ J5

♣ AQ54

Dealer North. Game all, North-South 40.

The bidding:—

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-------	------	-------	------

		No	No
--	--	----	----

1♠	2♥	3♦	No
----	----	----	----

3♠	No	No	No
----	----	----	----

West leads ♥A, North plays ♥3, East ♥4, South ♥K.

What card should West lead at the second trick?

*Answer:* Queen of hearts.

Far and away the best chance for the defence is to hope that South has ♥K62 and has made a standard deceptive play to avert a heart continuation. The absence of ♥2 from the cards played to the first trick is significant.

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Mar.	16-17	FIELD TROPHY	...	...	...	London, K.P.H.
	23-24	NATIONAL PAIRS AREA FINALS	{ Southern Northern Midland			London, K.P.H.
	30-31	PORTLAND PAIRS	...	...	...	Harrogate Droitwich Harrogate
Apr.	5-8	DEVON C.B.A. CONGRESS	...	...	...	Torquay
	13-14	CROCKFORDS FINAL	...	...	...	London, K.P.H.
	26-29	GOLD CUP FINAL ROUNDS...	...	...	...	Harrogate
Apr. 29 to May 5		WELSH BRIDGE UNION CONGRESS	...	...	...	Llandudno
May	3-5	LONDON CONGRESS	...	...	...	London
	10-12	Y.C.B.A. CONGRESS	...	...	...	Scarborough
	10-11	MIDDLESEX CONGRESS (Closed)	...	...	...	
	18-19	NATIONAL PAIRS FINAL	...	...	...	Sheffield
	25-29	JUAN-LES-PINS PAIRS TOURNAMENT	...	...	...	Juan-Les-Pins
May 30 to June 1		MONTÉ CARLO TOURNAMENT	...	...	...	Monte Carlo
June	22-23	LADIES INDIVIDUAL FINAL	...	...	...	London, K.P.H.
	15-16	PACHABO	...	...	...	Midlands
July	5-12	DEAUVILLE TOURNAMENT	...	...	...	Golf Hotel
Aug.	23-31	EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP (provisional date)				Vienna
		K.P.H.—Kensington Palace Hotel				

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### Winner

G. F. Short, 34 North Park Road, Bramhall, Cheshire.

### Second

E. Pyke, 127 North Road, Preston, Lancs.

### Third

J. E. Gordon, Beechbank, Bromborough, Wirral, Cheshire.

### Commended

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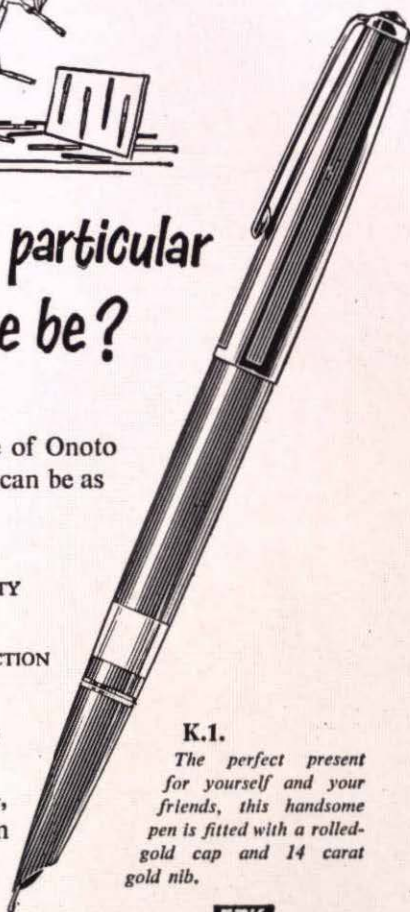
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