

The British Bridge World

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Read G. C. H. Fox

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Daily Telegraph

Editorial

In some ways the most remarkable tournament in the calendar is the Charity Challenge Cup. Begun in 1959, it raises desperately-needed money each year for appeals which command worldwide sympathy. Last year the Freedom from Hunger Campaign received a cheque for £952 from bridge players in 17 countries, who each paid 5/- to play in heats held in their own clubs.

The American Contract Bridge League in its national charity games, and many other Americans in local tournaments, raise vastly greater sums. They are to be envied, for to give pleasure to bridge players while at the same time lightening the pain or misery of less fortunate people is a happy thing. Nevertheless, in its own way the Charity Challenge Cup is remarkable.

It sets out to be the pairs championship of the world for the ordinary player. There is no qualifying round and the hands are not par hands nor trick hands. Within a particular club the C.C.C. is just like any other duplicate pairs and is scored so. But the hands are the same throughout the world, and are guaranteed to be interesting because they are colourful hands

with a history, presented by Britain's top eight bridge columnists. (And described by them in a little book presented to each player, the price of which is included in the 5/- entry fee.) The winning scores in each club are converted to a percentage and the worldwide winners are the pair with the highest percentage. (Last year, A. N. Gregory and W. H. R. Grundy of Bolton Golf Club, Lancashire were the overall winners.)

This year the C.C.C. is to be held on 19 March in aid of the United Nations Children's Fund. Clubs which participated in 1963 will be notified again, but those which did not are urged to write to Mrs. Jill Gatti, Honorary Organiser, 33 Palliser Road, London, W.14. Any club in any country is welcome, and all necessary instructions will be sent by return of post, airmail if necessary.

If you can run an ordinary pairs duplicate you can run a heat of the Charity Challenge Cup. Won't you help raise money for this good cause? You don't *have* to be secretary of a bridge club; you can run a heat at your sports or social club, women's circle, workplace or home.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Although entries are up for E.B.U. tournaments, Britain lags behind comparable Western countries. The Charity Challenge Cup has only a five-year history and is the creation of a private person, with official consent but no special help. Yet last year in Britain alone it attracted more players than the Gold Cup, Crockford's Cup, National Pairs and Portland Pairs combined. Does not that show what might be done if officialdom promoted bridge with energy and imagination?

If there is one quality which is in plentiful supply it is the ability to provide excuses for doing nothing. Officialdom accounts for the success of the C.C.C. easily enough: "It's a charity event. Everyone will play in a charity event, and it gets plenty of publicity. It's not like official events."

That may be true. If it is true, what a wonderful way of promoting bridge. If one energetic woman is so successful, what might not the E.B.U. achieve? Why not a big charity tournament on the lines of the Portland Pairs at the beginning of each season? Could not famous people be persuaded to play in such an event, and

would it not be possible to get a great deal of publicity for bridge? Would not some social or rubber bridge players enter, knowing that at least their few shillings would benefit a needy charity? And might not some of these become regular duplicate players?

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Making his debut in our middle pages, The Watcher rebuts a reader's criticism concerning the expenses of British teams in European and World Championships. I am not of the same mind as he. By all means pay players' expenses when there is money to spare, but there are more urgent needs. For example, a brochure of the kind recently distributed by the Americans on a massive scale, designed to attract people to duplicate bridge; and an annual list of master-point rankings—so far the only information disseminated in eight years has been by courtesy of the bridge press. Money is also needed to invite a foreign team regularly to the Eastbourne or London Congress, repaying the very generous hospitality which British players receive abroad. These and many other constructive purposes should have priority over payments to players, the majority of whom are professionals reaping financial benefit from the prestige which cham-

pionship appearances bring them. The non-professionals are more concerned with the honour of representing their country.

HIDDEN PRESSURE

I shall be interested to learn The Watcher's views next month on a letter received too late for publication. "A year ago," writes an illustrious but dispassionate observer, "pressure from a few top players caused the B.B.L. to abandon a scheme of selection determined after lengthy consideration of players' views and which is now in general favour throughout the world, and which produced one winning team out of two in spite of a boycott by a minority with special interests. Now the pressure has reached the point of causing the authorities to abandon an announced method of selection for the Olympiad. Is a very select tail wagging the British Bridge League dog?"

A fair question. The British selectors have been silent since their first Olympiad selection scheme flopped for mysterious reasons. Meanwhile the hard-fought American trials are already decided and Italian captain Carl Perroux has announced that he will field the top two pairs from a three-stage pairs trial, plus one pair of his own choosing. That the famous Blue Team,

winners of six successive world championships, should have to earn their places will interest certain British players who felt that their good performance at Baden-Baden entitled them to play in the Olympiad without the formality of a trial.

A FEAST OF BRIDGE

The Olympiad, to be held in New York from 2-12 May, presents the chance to combine a visit to the New World with a feast of bridge. Bridge-playing visitors, whether or not they are connected with a team, can obtain very advantageous hotel rates by booking directly through the American Contract Bridge League, 33 West 60th Street, New York 23. (Examples: Americana headquarters hotel, \$14.00 single, \$18.00 double. Squire Motor Hotel, adjoining, \$10.00 single, \$16.00 double, as compared with normal prices of \$18.00 and \$22.00 respectively). The A.C.B.L. will do their best for those needing cheaper accommodation.

A little bird tells me that the Americans were willing to undertake an ambitious air charter scheme which would have slashed costs, but European Bridge League officials decided they could do better. Optimists should direct their enquiries to this august body through the proper channels.



TEST YOUR RUBBER GAME

Kenneth Konstam is not only world class at duplicate and rubber bridge—he is an astute, though reticent, observer of other players' mistakes. This original quiz will size up your rubber game.

There are many excellent tournament players who cut a moderate figure at the rubber bridge table, but I am doubtful if there is one first-class rubber bridge player who would not prove a formidable adversary at the duplicate game. Psychology and the ability to aim at what the late 'Skid' Simon so aptly described as "the best result possible," instead of "the best possible result," are the important qualities at rubber bridge.

In this little quiz I am asking readers to rate their game. Write down your answers, then turn to page 10 and add up your score.

Over 80%. You are at least Master Class.

60%—80%. You are either a first-class player with too little psychology or a moderate technical performer with plenty of flair.

40%—60%. You have either played too little rubber bridge and have scope for improvement

or you have played for a long time and have too much in common with the unlucky expert.

Under 40%. You had better stick to what the Americans call the 'Board Game.'

Now let me give the background to my quiz:

You have come into the Club and have been introduced to an American visitor. You are informed that he is a keen tournament player in the States and is well on the way to becoming a Life Master, a rank which his wife has already attained.

You make up a game with the visitor, the Club's unlucky expert and Aunt Agatha. The game should be what is termed a push-over if your cards are not too bad.

(1) *You cut with the American visitor. Before play commences he asks whether you play Goren, the Weak Two and Fishbein. Do you answer:*

(a) along the lines that you

prefer C.A.B. and Three No Trumps over an opening Three bid, that your Two-Club bid is forcing to game, and that you play the Ace responses? Or,

(b) that you agree to play what he suggests, while making a mental note to play your own game anyway, apologising during the game if you misinterpret any part of his system? Or,

(c) that while you agree to play everything he says you would like to make an exception of the "Weak Two," begging to be excused on the score of inexperience?

(2) *During the course of the rubber you find that your partner is an adequate card-player but has a tendency to keep the bidding alive just in case you happen to hold a rock crusher.*

(a) Do you mentally decide to tighten up your requirements for an opening bid while playing as his partner?

(b) If the answer is yes, do you make this reservation in all positions or only third or fourth in hand?

(3) *With both sides vulnerable the opponents open Three Hearts and the A.V. bids Three Spades (Fishbein). The hand on your right passes and you hold:*

(see next column)

♠9876 ♥42 ♦J5432 ♣65

Do you bid (a) Four Diamonds, (b) Four Spades, or (c) Pass.

(4) *With both sides vulnerable and no score below, the A.V. opens One No Trump. You hold:*

♠KJ42 ♥Q953 ♦J ♣10542

After a pass on your right you bid a Stayman Two-Clubs. To your surprise partner now bids Two No Trumps.

Do you (a) Pass, or (b) raise to Three No Trumps?

(5) *Still partnered by the A.V., and not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, he deals and opens Three Hearts. Aunt Agatha bids Three Spades and you pass, holding:*

♠K4 ♥532 ♦K1087 ♣K543

The Unlucky Expert bids Three No Trumps, A.V. passes and Aunt Agatha bids Four Clubs. You pass and the expert bids Six Spades.

Do you (a) Double, or (b) Pass? In either event, (c) What do you lead?

(6) *You are now partnered by Aunt Agatha and are playing a strong No Trump. Partner opens One No Trump and you hold:*

(see next page)

♠AQJ94 ♥1042 ♦642 ♣74

Do you bid (a) Two Spades, (b) Three Spades, (c) Two No Trumps, or (d) Three No Trumps?

(7) *With neither side vulnerable you hold:*

♠AK10543 ♥— ♦AK72 ♣543

You open One Spade, A.V. bids Two Hearts and Aunt Agatha doubles.

Do you (a) Pass? (b) Take out the double? (c) If you take out, What do you bid?

(8) *Your hand is the same as in question (7) and the bidding has gone the same way. This time your partner is the Unlucky Expert.*

(a) Have you any reason to alter your answer to the previous question? (b) If so, give the reason.

(9) *You are on lead against Three No Trumps, the bidding having gone One No Trump, Two No Trumps, Three No Trumps. You hold:*

♠98 ♥Q1042 ♦KJ6 ♣K1083

What do you lead if your partner is (a) the A.V., (b) Aunt Agatha, (c) the Unlucky Expert?

(d) If you find reason to change your lead according to your partner, what is the guiding factor?

(10) *You are partnered by the Unlucky Expert against A.V. and Aunt Agatha. Your score is game and 60 and the opponents are Nil.*

(a) Do you prefer a penalty of not less than 300 to taking the rubber? (b) Are you more careful or less careful than usual about doubling the opponents in a low-level contract that will give them game if made?

ANSWERS

(1) (a) 0, (b) 8, (c) 10.

(2) (a) Yes, 5, (b) third or fourth in hand, 5.

(3) (a) 0, (b) 2, (c) 10.

(4) (a) 0, (b) 10.

(5) (a) 10, (b) 3, (c) a small club, 10.

(6) (a) 5, (b) 0, (c) 7, (d) 10.

(7) (a) 10, (b) 0, (c) Two Spades, 0, Three Spades, 2, Three No Trumps, 5, Three Diamonds, 10.

(8) (a) Yes, 10, (b) Aunt Agatha's double is probably sounder than the Expert's, who may be doubling for lack of any better choice.

(9) (a) 2 of hearts, 10, (b) 2 of hearts, 10, (c) 9 of spades, 10, (d) The Unlucky Expert is likely to understand top of nothing, but the others may be muddled.

(10) (a) Yes, 10, (b) More careful, 10.

LUCK FAVOURS THE BRAVE



Leon Sapire, Johannesburg lawyer and editor of the South African magazine "Bridge Bulletin," recalls hands from last winter's tour of South Africa by Nico Gardener's team.

Last winter Nico Gardener brought out Albert Rose, Tony Friday, Michael Wolach and Albert Dormer to tour the Union. In the course of a circular trip from Johannesburg to Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Durban and back to Jo'burg, they played 22 matches and won 18. Sportsmen that they are, they will, I am sure, forgive me for the title of this article. Just look at what happened in the unofficial "test" match between them and South Africa at the end of the tour!

(see next column)

Despite the combined 26-count there is no game for East-West, but Gardener and Rose in Room 1 reached 3NT by ambitious bidding. Dr. Aaron Gordon (South), who at Port Elizabeth had been a member of the first home team to beat the visitors, led the 6 of hearts, a lead which he later agreed was inferior to the 5 of spades. (A heart is a "dead end"

South dealer
Game all

NORTH

♠ A K 3

♥ 4

♦ 10 7 6 5 4

♣ K 10 9 6

WEST

♠ 10 7 6

♥ A Q 3

♦ A K 8

♣ A 7 4 2

EAST

♠ J 2

♥ K J 8

♦ Q J 3 2

♣ J 8 5 3

SOUTH

♠ Q 9 8 5 4

♥ 10 9 7 6 5 2

♦ 9

♣ Q

lead compared with spades.) Albert Rose (East) saw that there were eight tricks on top but there appeared to be no quick way of developing a ninth. To bluff the opponents, he won the opening lead with dummy's Queen of hearts and played the 6 of spades. Hill, North, ducked, hardly expecting the spade situation to be as it was; he probably thought the declarer might have Q9xx and

his partner Jack to three. Thus the suit was blocked. South won with the Queen and returned a heart, won in dummy. Now Rose, did he but know it, had only to play Ace and another club to bring home the contract. In fact he played dummy's small club, not the Ace, but was reprieved when North climbed up with the King.

In the other room the auction was more competitive:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
<i>Dormer</i>	<i>D. Katzen</i>	<i>Priday</i>	<i>Martin-ovic</i>
No	1♣	No	1♦
1NT	Dble	2♠	3♣
3♠	No	No	No

Having passed on the first round, Dormer's 1NT overcall was, of course, the Unusual No Trump, asking partner to choose between the unbid suits. Katzen doubled, and when Priday went Two Spades East could do no more than bid Three Clubs. Presumably Dormer construed Priday's Two Spade bid, after the double, as a voluntary gesture based on a four-card spade suit. No other interpretation would justify Dormer's next bid of Three Spades at this vulnerability. After some thought Katzen passed but I consider that since his partner had made two free bids he might well have doubled.

Neither defender seemed to appreciate the significance of the bidding — that East-West had superiority in high cards, and that North-South were bidding on "shape." The standard defence in such a situation is to lead trumps at every opportunity, but the defenders never looked like doing this. East led the Queen of diamonds, which held, and switched to a club. West won with the Ace and played hearts. Now Priday was able to make one club trick and eight more tricks on a cross-ruff.

If East had started by leading the Jack of spades, the declarer would of course have pursued different tactics and would have tried to establish the hearts. As the cards lie, however, he would have been unable to manoeuvre to ruff even one round of hearts without establishing a trump trick for the defenders, and so would have been defeated. It is true that on the lead of the 2 of spades, not the Jack, a heart ruff can be negotiated and the contract made, but irrespective of that I think that to lead trumps was the correct defence.

Anyway Britain scored a total of 740 on the hand—13 i.m.p.s. up instead of 12 down.

On a later board from the same match Gardener and Rose again

showed a tendency to favour a game contract in no-trumps in preference to a safer contract in a suit. These were the cards:

East dealer

East-West vulnerable

NORTH

♠ Q J 6

♥ 10 9 8 5 4 2

♦ 8

♣ J 5 4

WEST

♠ 7 2

♥ K J

♦ A J 9 6

♣ A K Q 9 3

EAST

♠ A 9 5 4 3

♥ Q 7

♦ K 10 7 5 2

♣ 10

SOUTH

♠ K 10 8

♥ A 6 3

♦ Q 4 3

♣ 8 7 6 2

Rose played 3NT from the East position. A club was led and Rose finessed diamonds the right way and made twelve tricks. In Room 2 the bidding went:

WEST

D. Katzen

1♣

2NT

3NT

EAST

Martinovic

1♠

3♦

No

I thought at the time that Katzen should have been more enterprising, since we were unlikely to beat the British unless we could get a lucky break or two on a borderline slam hand such as this. In any case, surely

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3NT cannot be right, with partner showing a two-suited hand. With such a strong fit in partner's second suit, West should have raised to Four Diamonds, and in view of the state of the match (Britain were leading 99—38 at half-time) a slam might well have been reached. Actually it is rather unlucky to find that Six Diamonds is not a better contract than it is, depending on both finding the diamond Queen and running the clubs, but it has nearly as good a chance of succeeding as has 3NT and it was, therefore, "worth a bash." The correct contract for the British, I consider, was Five Diamonds.

We were hardly surprised at losing the "test" match, but the moral is that, no matter how good your opponents are, you may still win if opportunism can be combined with lucky breaks.

Annals of Ruff's Club

"Reward for Enterprise:"

Walter Hurry always welcomed a men's four since he assumed that there would be no narrow-minded objections to his psychic bidding. Thus he was happy to cut Alfred Bulldozer against Commander Scroop and Sir Yoicks Harkaway. With both sides over-bidding, the rubber had been in progress for three-quarters of an hour when Hurry dealt.

NORTH

Scroop

♠ Q 2

♥ J 9 6 3

♦ K Q J 10 5 4

♣ 5

WEST

Bulldozer

♠ 4 3

♥ A Q 10 8 2

♦ A 3

♣ K J 10 7

EAST

Hurry

♠ A 10 8 7 5

♥ 5

♦ 9 8 7 6

♣ 9 6 3

SOUTH

Sir Yoicks

♠ K J 9 6

♥ K 7 4

♦ 2

♣ A Q 8 4 2

Both sides were vulnerable, but that did not deter Hurry from opening the bidding with One Spade. Sir Yoicks made a tacti-

cal pass, waiting for Hurry to step into trouble. Bulldozer responded Two Hearts and Scroop passed. So did Hurry, though of course the sequence was technically forcing. If Sir Yoicks had been well inspired he would have passed as well, but fearing that he was being bluffed out of a game he re-opened with 2NT. The bidding continued:

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

At the end of this auction everyone except Hurry, who had been in such a situation many times, was a little apprehensive. Bulldozer knew that he might find no support from his partner, and neither Scroop nor Sir Yoicks had any grounds for confidence.

Bulldozer led the 8 of hearts and Scroop put down his dummy. "I assume that you have the Ace of my suit," he said. "Otherwise we shall be in bad shape."

Attempting to look cheerful, Sir Yoicks played the 9 of hearts from dummy, which held the

trick. Now he played a high diamond, hoping that the opponents would let this pass. But Hurry and Bulldozer played too well. Hurry dropped the 8, beginning a peter that would tell his partner that he held either two diamonds or four. Realising that there would be no point in holding up if declarer held three diamonds, Bulldozer played the Ace on the first round and laid down the Ace of hearts.

Keeping his head despite his perilous situation, Sir Yoicks dropped the King, so that if Bulldozer continued with hearts there would be an entry to the table. As Hurry had discarded a low club on the Ace of hearts, Bulldozer cashed the Queen and exited with a spade. Hurry put in the 7; Sir Yoicks won with the 9 and returned a spade to Hurry's Ace. The position was now:

NORTH

♠ —
♥ J
♦ Q J 10 5 4
♣ 5

WEST

♠ —
♥ 10 2
♦ 3
♣ K J 10 7

EAST

♠ 10 8 5
♥ —
♦ 9 7
♣ 9 6

SOUTH

♠ K J
♥ —
♦ —
♣ A Q 8 4 2

Hurry led the 9 of clubs and the Queen was covered by the King. Bulldozer returned the Jack and Sir Yoicks did the best he could by allowing this to win. He made the rest of the tricks, but he had lost six tricks and the penalty was 1000.

"I can't think what you fellows are bidding on," said Hurry.

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DO BE A SIMPLETON

Our Midlands correspondent, A. Hutchinson, extols the virtues of the simple game.

Every man has his price, according to Milton. Had bridge existed in his day, I'm sure he would have applied his remark to conventions. Not the least part of the price to be paid is the bad results emanating from misuse. Employ conventions only when the circumstances are well suited, is my motto—but then, I'm a bridge simpleton.

Consider this hand from the heats of the Warwickshire Pairs Championship. South was dealt:
 ♠AK74 ♥K83 ♦Q74 ♣AK5

What would you bid? Some enthusiasts like One Diamond, intending to jump to 3NT on the next round. Their hope is to discourage a diamond lead. Others open One Club to give partner the maximum bidding space and they, too, intend to rebid 3NT. The trouble is, particularly in pairs events, that partners tend to move a minor-suit bid on inadequate values, giving shocking results from the ensuing 3NT.

NORTH

♠ 10 6 3

♥ Q 4 2

♦ 8 5 3

♣ Q 6 3 2

WEST

♠ Q 9 5 2

♥ J 10 7

♦ K 10 2

♣ 10 8 4

EAST

♠ J 8

♥ A 9 6 5

♦ A J 9 6

♣ J 9 7

SOUTH

♠ A K 7 4

♥ K 8 3

♦ Q 7 4

♣ A K 5

In my simple way I opened One Spade, my contention being that, if partner cannot find a bid, then One Spade is likely to be the best contract. In the play I made eight tricks for an excellent result, thanks largely to the defence. I can only assume that they were playing a form of MUD (Middle-Up-Down leads) used by some players in this area for many years. This consists of playing the top of a doubleton,

the middle card of three, and the fourth-best of four from suits either of small cards or containing an honour. Discretion should be used, however, and surely one cannot afford to play the 10 from K102 when dummy holds nothing higher than the 8. But at one point in the play, my West led the 10, taken by East, who I suppose was deceived. He could have retrieved the position by returning the Jack but in fact he played back the 6. I played low and my Queen became a winner. Yes, it pays to be a simpleton.

"Well really!" exclaimed Mrs. Whiteside. "How provoking! Somebody's made twelve tricks in no-trumps. Why, it's impossible!" She herself had made Four Spades. This was the deal:

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

It seemed inexplicable at first but the mystery yielded to investigation.

When East had mentioned spades in the auction, North led a heart against the subsequent 3NT contract and only nine tricks could be made. But one poor North heard only 1NT—3NT, so his lead of the 10 of spades did not appear unreasonable. The declarer, Peter Millar, took the trick with dummy's Ace, concealing his Jack, and immediately took the losing club finesse. North now reasoned that they might beat the contract if his partner held the Jack of spades and four hearts. (It was too much to expect both the Queen of hearts and the spade Jack because of the opening 1NT.) North's reasoning does not withstand analysis, but, thinking he was likely to get a bad result anyway unless the spades could be held, he led the 2 of hearts. Curtains! Once again, simple bidding had produced a fine result. The moral is, DO be a simpleton.

Now my partner, George Bara, is a scientist by profession and a bidding scientist by inclination, but he had reluctantly agreed to adapt himself to my uncultivated methods and keep it simple. All went well until I picked up this hand: *(see next page)*

♠AK6 ♥Q975 ♦8 ♣AQ1053

After East had opened One Spade, I had no really satisfactory bid and decided to risk 1NT, despite the singleton diamond. To my surprise, West came in with Two Clubs and partner with Two Spades, East then passing. There seemed to be a liar about but, at unfavourable vulnerability, surely it couldn't be partner. It hardly seemed likely that he would want to play in spades unless East had psyched, and I regarded the whole proceedings with suspicion. A grave doubt assailed me. Can a leopard really change its spots? Had George, like a neglected rose, reverted to type and sprung some new scientific trick on me? Filled with foreboding, I decided to play for time with Three Clubs, converted by partner to 3NT.

NORTH

♠ Q J 9 5 2

♥ 10 6

♦ A 9 3 2

♣ K 8

WEST

♠ —

♥ A 8 4 3

♦ Q 10 7

♣ J 9 7 6 4 2

EAST

♠ 10 8 7 4 3

♥ K J 2

♦ K J 6 5 4

♣ —

SOUTH

♠ A K 6

♥ Q 9 7 5

♦ 8

♣ A Q 10 5 3

West led the 3 of hearts, East playing the King. This was not an unfavourable beginning, since it seemed likely that neither black suit would break favourably, in which case I should need a heart trick. To take dummy's 10, East returned the Jack, covered by the Queen and Ace, and West hopefully tried a third round, thus giving me *two* heart tricks. Four rounds of spades followed, embarrassing West. He decided to play for his partner to hold the Queen of clubs and the King of diamonds, so he released three clubs and one diamond, permitting me to come to eleven tricks.

With silent opponents, the normal contract is Four Spades by North, going as much as three off, whereas 3NT appears to be a make against any lead.

This being only the first round let us omit the long list of qualifiers. Instead, spare a kind thought for those well known players who were expected to qualify, but who went down with colours nailed to the mast and guns still blazing.

Roll of Honour

Mrs. G. Gardner and F. C. Keates.

Mrs. Townsend and E. Foster.

A. Isaacson and P. Hartill.

A. N. D. Others.

Resurgent.



PAR POINT OLYMPIAD (2)

Terence Reese continues his account of the British heat of this worldwide competition.

Last month I described the first 9 deals of this 32-deal contest. This was the 10th board:

NORTH

♠ 10 9 8
♥ 10 4 2
♦ 9 7 3
♣ 9 8 6 3

SOUTH

♠ A J 7
♥ A K Q J 3
♦ A Q J
♣ 7 5

South had to play Four Hearts after East had opened 1NT. The defenders began with three rounds of clubs, South ruffing the third round high. As West turns up with ♣Q, declarer must place East with all the remaining honours. So that he can take all the required finesses, he must play ♠J from hand after two high trumps. Later he can finesse spades again and still be in dummy to pick up East's ♦Kx. A test of ordinary technique.

I thought that Hand 11 was more difficult:

WEST

♠ 10 7 5 3
♥ 9 6 4 2
♦ 10
♣ A K 7 5

EAST

♠ A K J 9
♥ A K J 10
♦ A K Q J 4
♣ —

East has to make 6NT against the lead of ♦3. Declarer knows roughly how the suits are going to break, but to secure his par he must find a line of play that will win against any distribution. The key card is dummy's ♥9. One high club must be taken at trick two, declarer discarding ♥10. A spade is led to the King, South showing out. Declarer plays ♠J, which North naturally refuses. Then come the remaining top diamonds, followed by ♥A, ♥K, and ♥J. South has to win the third heart (or leave declarer in hand to make another top spade) and then dummy's ♥9 and ♣A win the last two tricks. Though not complicated, this was a confusing sort of hand.

Hands 12 and 13 were bread-and-butter hands, then came this one:

NORTH

♠ A 8
♥ A K 10 4 2
♦ A K J
♣ A Q 5

SOUTH

♠ 7 6 2
♥ 6 5 3
♦ Q 10 7 4 2
♣ 9 7

North has to play Four Hearts, and he is told that East might have opened 1NT, showing 13-15 points. East leads ♠K.

Declarer holds off the first spade and wins the continuation. The only danger lies in a 4-1 trump split. Knowing that East must hold both trump honours, he plays ♥10 from hand at trick three to prevent West from gaining the lead. East wins and forces with a spade. Declarer ruffs this and plays another low trump; now dummy's third trump protects against a fourth spade.

This was a fair but decidedly difficult hand. Apart from this deal North had a rather easier time than the other players.

(The play depends upon the condition that East may open 1NT with two good 4-card majors but not with ♦98653; Ed.).

WEST

♠ 4 3 2
♥ 4
♦ A K 10 7 4 3 2
♣ A 3

EAST

♠ A
♥ K 3 2
♦ J 5
♣ K Q 7 6 5 4 2

To secure their full bidding par, East-West had to reach a slam after South had opened with a vulnerable 1NT. In play, East had to make 6NT against the lead of ♠K.

Declarer has to appreciate the significance of West's ♦7. He leads ♦J at trick two, finding North with a void. Seven club tricks are run off and then ♦5 is led, South having to split his 9 8 6. Then dummy exits with a heart to South's Ace, now single, and the last two tricks are won by dummy's tenace in diamonds.

NORTH

♠ 3
♥ 7 5 2
♦ K 10 8 7 5 3
♣ J 8 3

WEST

♠ K Q 4 2
♥ A 8 6 4
♦ 9 6 4
♣ A K

EAST

♠ A 10 9 8
♥ Q
♦ Q J
♣ 10 9 7 6 5 4

SOUTH

♠ J 7 6 5
♥ K J 10 9 3
♦ A 2
♣ Q 2

West plays in Four Spades and North-South have to defeat this after the lead of $\diamond 7$. The defence begins with three rounds of diamonds. When dummy ruffs the third round South must not overruff but must discard a club. Then he ruffs the second round of clubs and leads a high heart. South may go wrong here by thinking that he has to attack hearts early on, with a view to forcing dummy.

The second half

The contest was spread over two evenings, 16 boards each evening. The second 16 were more difficult than the first. Players who were determined to improve on their first-half performances soon suffered disillusionment.

Immediately there was a tricky combined defence for East-West.

NORTH

\spadesuit 6 5 4 2

\heartsuit K 4

\diamond A 9 7 3

\clubsuit 7 4 2

WEST

\spadesuit 3

\heartsuit J 5 2

\diamond K 10 5 4

\clubsuit A K 9 6 5

EAST

\spadesuit 10 9 8 7

\heartsuit Q 9 6

\diamond J 8 6

\clubsuit J 8 3

SOUTH

\spadesuit A K Q J

\heartsuit A 10 8 7 3

\diamond Q 2

\clubsuit Q 10

To earn their full par North-South had to stay short of game, but the directed contract was Four Spades. The "guidance bidding" marked South with longer hearts than spades.

West opens \clubsuit K and East, not desiring a switch, probably encourages with the 8. When West follows with the Ace it is easy for East to think that there is no point in unblocking with the Jack, since South will be ruffing the third round. But South is instructed not to ruff—he throws a diamond. Now, if East has not unblocked in clubs, the par has flown. If East has unblocked, West must appreciate the situation and play a fourth club. Dummy ruffs, East throws a heart.

Hand 18 was another defensive problem for East-West.

NORTH

\spadesuit A K Q J

\heartsuit 10 8 7

\diamond 9 8 6 3

\clubsuit 10 8

WEST

\spadesuit 10 8 6 4 2

\heartsuit Q

\diamond Q 2

\clubsuit J 7 5 3 2

EAST

\spadesuit —

\heartsuit J 9 6 5 4

\diamond J 10 7 5 4

\clubsuit 9 6 4

SOUTH

\spadesuit 9 7 5 3

\heartsuit A K 3 2

\diamond A K

\clubsuit A K Q

North plays in Six Spades and East leads ♣9. Declarer is instructed to cash two diamonds, come to hand with a trump, and ruff a diamond on the table. If West overruffs, a red-suit squeeze develops against East. Whether he foresees this or not, West may well judge that there is no hurry to expand one of his long trumps. To beat the contract, he must throw a club. If he throws ♥Q he exposes his partner to finesses in hearts and loses the par.

Of all the players, it seemed to me that South had the roughest time in the second half. His trials began with the following hand:

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

The contract is 6NT and West leads ♥9. If West has 987 precisely there may be advantage in covering with the 10, though it is not easy at the beginning of the

hand to see why. At any rate, the 10 must be played, fetching the Jack and King. South plays a club to the Ace, returns to ♦A, and takes three more rounds of clubs. After one top spade from dummy, he returns to ♦K. This is the end position:

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

On the last club West throws a diamond, North a diamond, and East a spade. Now comes a spade to the King, and Jack of spades back to the Queen. West is caught in a vice squeeze. Tony Friday negotiated this hand successfully, but I should imagine that it defeated the great majority of competitors.

(The official results are not yet to hand, but it is largely that U.S. players will fill the leading places. Ed.)

You Say . . .

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

Problem 5 in the November 100 Up leaves one sympathising with the difficulty of the decision. One panelist gave North "a shortage in clubs" and another stated that North "has apparently a fit in clubs."

I am also worried about the panelists who could have scored 800 to 1400 by doubling in Problem 3, but who thought "a double might give unsatisfactory results."

Contradictions and mistakes like these are not exceptional. Why not publish the North hands—maybe East and West as well—so that we can see who is right?

J. W. GIELKENS,
Sittard, Holland

But Alan Hiron's object is to provoke differences of opinion so that the readers can choose between varied styles and interpretations. The lad would be desolate if he got uniform answers.

As to the so-called "contradictions and mistakes," I am afraid you will just have to accept that the poor old panelists are doing their best. Believe me, they give a great deal of thought to their

answers—and, in spite of what they say about each other, they are not bad bidders.

* * *

Replying, in the October, 1962 issue, to a letter from Sir Hugh Garrett asking for more items of general interest and fewer tournament reports, you stated that the solution was to increase the number of pages. This has been done, but I wonder whether Sir Hugh and others are altogether satisfied. The main difference seems to be the provision of even longer reports on the same events and players, plus some lengthy reminiscences of the early days of bridge and, of course, Bridge Academy. My suggestions are:

(a) Could we not have more reports on the main Congresses? Not, of course, mere "inscriptions on the sands of time," to use your own descriptive phrase, but comment and criticism of the bidding and play. All the world and his wife visit congresses and would I think be interested.

(b) More important still, I should like to see articles on interesting ideas on bidding and play. Occasional ones there have

been but not enough. The Gardener INT overcall is an example of what I mean. If such items can be provided, I think it would be interesting if readers could be persuaded to comment and criticise, with the author replying. Let's have a bit of controversy. It's the breath of life.

(c) This is my third and most important point. Until recently the magazine was described as "a Medium for English Bridge Union News" but there never is any. Now I think it of the greatest importance that the decisions of the E.B.U., which affect us all, should be given full publicity. In particular I have in mind the licensing of conventions. At present it is impossible to know what is and what is not licenced. One should not have to meet new conventions in tournaments and match play without the chance of working out in advance counter plays. Surely publicity in the magazines should be required before they are used in competitive bridge. In general, it is simply fantastic that the E.B.U.'s only communication with their members is the annual tournament brochure, in style reminiscent of a seed catalogue of the Victorian era.

Who are the E.B.U.? That is

the question. I picture them as a murmur of wives, with husbands in the dog-house, so firmly sealed are their lips.

A. HUTCHINSON,
Sutton Coldfield.

Let me take your three points in order:

(a) *I feel that such reports would be of interest only to the persons whose activities were reported. We have never sought to gain subscribers by flattery and name dropping; indeed, I think we would be more likely to lose Mrs. Katzenjammer's subscription by an honest account of her endeavours at the Rawtenstall closed congress.*

(b) *A sound suggestion which we shall try to meet.*

(c) *I entirely agree. If it were not for the bridge magazines and a few public-spirited columnists, the E.B.U.'s strange silence would strangle the tournament game.*

I know that a vast amount of honorary work is done, but good intentions are not enough. If every E.B.U. delegate read the A.C.B.L. monthly bulletin and tried to adapt to the English scene as many American ideas as possible the game here could leap ahead.

Writing in similar vein, my predecessor once said: "It is important that the E.B.U. should have a policy and should announce it forthwith." That was in 1956.

I note that you don't intend to publish my last letter, but do you really think that it has less reader-interest than Ruff's Club and Ingram's delving into the past, even with his comic spelling?

This general urge to live in the past is why we fail to keep up with the times in bidding technique. "Acol is good enough for me, old boy," may have been all right in the 40's, but not today.

I liked Stanislaw Bitner's remarks, "Of course, we use weak Two bids." Should not you have made the editorial comment, "And of course we don't, and we'll have nothing to do with Asking Bids either." At all costs let us be conservative.

C. E. HOLMES,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The answer to your first question is an unqualified "Yes." Your reference to the mistakes in the caption to the photograph on page 21 of the November issue is more damaging, but there have been worse printing errors in more august pages than ours.

The fact that British experts don't dig Asking Bids and weak Two bids is not proof of senility. Both are now fairly ancient weapons, and you are the conservative one for failing to perceive that over many years they have made little impact in internationals.

This is to tell you how much I and many of my friends have enjoyed the recent issues of the B.B.W.

Harry Ingram's reminiscences I find are most interesting, amusing and, indeed, instructive, combining nostalgia of the great players of the past with the early exploits of those who are still with us today.

H. S. EDWARDS,
Esher, Surrey.

We are glad to have confirmation of our belief that bridge history is fascinating. Barring actual mob demonstrations in Dover Street, we intend to continue our "archive" series. Coming shortly is an account of the sensational impact of Dr. Paul Stern's pre-war Austrian team.

* * *

May I raise a small voice in protest? Does Mr. Reese realise what he has done with the introduction of the Little Major, with which we have been bombarded in recent issues? I have no doubt that the system is admirable in the right place—Baden-Baden—but not for the 98% of bridge players on whom the main support of the game rests. The vast majority of them have their work cut out to assimilate old-fashioned Acol, but that will not

deter them from attempting the Little Major in order to be "with it," to the detriment of their game.

I have the greatest admiration for Mr. Reese, but I feel he is doing the rank and file player a disservice, not only with the Little Major, but also with the book, *The Acrol System Today*.

F. B. RAMSEY,
Barnham, Sussex.

I would answer the criticism of editorial policy implicit in your second sentence by remarking that, sadly, 98% of bridge players don't read the B.B.W.

I was somewhat alarmed recently to read the following in a national newspaper:

"The E.B.U., after meeting in Rome on Wednesday, decided to experiment further with the U.S., French and German systems and to meet again in Zurich."

If we *have* to have artificiality, (which heaven forbid), I reflected, must we go abroad? What's wrong with the Little Major?

It turned out that the report was about colour television, and the E.B.U. are the European Broadcasting Union.

G. ROBSON,
Whitton, Middlesex.

MASTER POINT NEWS Continued

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REMINISCENCES OF A BRIDGE PLAYER

The third instalment of a series in which Harry Ingram delves into his memories of British bridge. This month he recalls the early Camrose Trophy matches.

To play for his club, his county or his country is usually the keen player's ambition at any game or pastime, and bridge is no exception.

The Camrose Trophy has always been the Championship event amongst the home countries and every individual who has played in the various matches must at some time or another have had a feeling of satisfaction. In the 1930's and for a few years after the war, the teams representing England were invariably selected on merit, with a strong leaning towards Gold Cup winners. The "trials" of today were unheard of and would have been laughed to scorn. Selections were made on the known form of the players and, although at times it is possible a name was included which did not meet with general approval, there was little grumbling.

As now, a team consisted of three couples, a backbone of

four London players and one pair from the provinces. At that time London players looked down their noses at provincial bridge, but the British Bridge League, anxious to promote interest throughout the country, thought it advisable to include a provincial pair and, I must say, seldom if ever in my experience have the "weak" pair let the side down.

Well do I remember the match against Scotland in 1936. The team was:

H. Ingram and S. E. Hughes,
J. C. Marx and Iain Macleod,
Dr. Mackay and S. Josephs.

Going up to Glasgow, the London four discussed tactics and gravely decided to put in "the provincials" if and when we had a substantial lead. (Incidentally, I would like to record here what a great loss it was to international bridge when Iain Macleod's success and advancement in politics made it impracticable for him to remain in the competitive game.

He was one of the real "tops," and I sometimes wonder what the British and international bridge scene would be like if he had remained with his first love.)

Going back to the Scottish match, by board 24 we had a fair lead and Mackay and Josephs came in for Marx and Macleod. They proved their worth on board 26. East dealt at game all:

NORTH

♠ A Q 10 8 3
♥ A Q J 10 7 4
♦ 9
♣ A

WEST

♠ J 7
♥ 3
♦ A J 10 7 6
♣ Q J 6 4 3

EAST

♠ 6 5
♥ K 8 6
♦ K 8 5 4 3
♣ K 9 7

SOUTH

♠ K 9 4 2
♥ 9 5 2
♦ Q 2
♣ 10 8 5 2

Hughes and I, sitting North-South, bid and made Five Spades after the opponents had passed originally and had later contested in diamonds. In the other room Josephs, West, boldly opened One Diamond; North doubled and East's jump to Three Diamonds was passed back to him. North went Three Hearts and this was passed out for a game swing.

Some may say that is not so

TORQUAY CONGRESS

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- ★ Cocktail Party

THE HAPPY CONGRESS

*Hon. Sec. F. C. Keyte
64 Fleet St., Torquay.*

very brilliant, but believe me, it was not bad for a provincial pair playing their second board in a 1936 Camrose match.

On the very next board they played in 3NT making an over-trick, a far superior contract to the Four Hearts reached by Scotland, which went one down. After that the Leicester pair were "one of us."

There was a bit of humour on this board towards the end of the match when we had established a long lead. Stan Hughes was hoping to get the opponents into a slam and I was struggling to keep them out of one. He won. North-South were vulnerable with North dealer. (see next page)

NORTH

♠ A Q 10 3

♥ 4 3

♦ 3

♣ A K 10 8 6 4

WEST

♠ 8 7 6 4

♥ 6 5 2

♦ 6 5 4 2

♣ 9 5

EAST

♠ K J 5

♥ K Q 8

♦ J 10 9 7

♣ Q J 3

SOUTH

♠ 9 2

♥ A J 10 9 7

♦ A K Q 8

♣ 7 2

Marx and Macleod made a peaceful Four Hearts, but the bidding in our room really looked crazy. Hughes and I sat East-West.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1♣	1♦
2♥	2NT	3♦	Dble
3♥	3NT	Dble	4♣
Dble	4♦	4♠	No
4NT	No	5NT	No
(Cul.)			
6♥	No	No	Dble
No	No	No	

What Four Diamonds doubled would have cost! Against Six Hearts, I did not find the spade lead and the contract could have been made, but fortunately it was misplayed.

One cannot mention Scottish matches without remembering the grand parties by Bill and Susan

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Knox. They must have given dozens. On one occasion we were all so well entertained that having a "final one" resulted in our losing the Midnight Scot back to London.

Irish Interludes

Another Camrose match which caused me high blood-pressure was against Northern Ireland in Belfast in 1947. The English team was:

J Tarlo and J. T. Reese,

L. Baron and A. Meredith,

R. Vincent and C. Vickerman, with me as non-playing captain.

The match was level throughout and at board 92 England were 200 in arrears. Baron and Meredith had got into trouble time and time again, and at this point I gambled on taking them out and putting in "the provincials." I'm sure that most onlookers thought, with due respect to this excellent couple, that to take out Baron and Meredith was an act of suicide.

Immediately, East opened One Heart and Vickerman, vulnerable, made a fully justified overcall of One Spade which was doubled for one down, 200. Imagine my

CROYDON CONGRESS

February 7-9, 1964

*Hon. Sec. Mrs. H. C. Hobden
Flat 3, 26, Park Hill Rise,
Croydon.*

feelings, sitting behind Vickerman. The boards were being played in duplicate and I went into the other room to see the result there. Was I happy? Northern Ireland had got into *Three Spades* doubled for the loss of 800. Vincent and Vickerman bid and made a good 3NT on board 97, which Northern Ireland failed to reach, and the match was won. Whew!

A month later in Dublin we were again doing poorly, the team being: A. Meredith and B. Schapiro, J. Tarlo and J. T. Reese, J. C. H. Marx and Iain

Macleod. For some reason the E.B.U. had split up Boris and Terence and the team never seemed to be working well, so at board 73 I put them together, with Meredith and Tarlo as a pair. Fortunately the change worked out well and we won fairly comfortably, but I don't think the E.B.U. ever forgave me for changing their selections.

After this match the Irish with their usual hospitality gave us a lavish banquet and at the end we Englishmen had a moving experience. There were probably 80 to 100 at the banquet and they all rose and, in the heart of Dublin, sang "God save the King". We expected the doors of the hotel to be broken down at any moment, but it was indeed a grand gesture and we all appreciated it very much.

One Hundred Up

Conducted by ALAN HIRON

January Competition

A panel of experts will answer the questions and the marking of the competition will be determined by, though not necessarily in strict proportion to, the votes of the panel.

FIRST PRIZE

Two Guineas.

SECOND AND THIRD PRIZES

One Guinea.

Please read these rules carefully. No competitor may send in more than one entry. Only annual subscribers are eligible.

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 February 1. Some latitude will be given to overseas competitors.

Problem No. 1 (10 points)

I.m.p. scoring, North-South vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1NT	2♦
?		(16-18)	

South holds:

♠KJ3 ♥QJ974 ♦J72 ♣J6

What should South bid?

Problem No. 2 (20 points)

Game all, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		No	No
1♦	No	3♣	No
?			

South holds:

♠K98 ♥AK4 ♦K10953 ♣A7

What should South bid: (a) at match-point pairs? (b) At i.m.p. scoring?

Problem No. 3 (10 points)

I.m.p. scoring, North-South vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
		1♥	2♣
No	3♣	Dble	No
?			

South holds:

♠74 ♥952 ♦K8762 ♣Q109

What should South bid?

Problem No. 4 (10 points)

Match-point pairs, love all, South deals himself this hand:

♠AQ72 ♥AK105 ♦AK32 ♣Q

What should South open?

Problem No. 5 (10 points)

Rubber bridge, game all, the bidding has gone:

(see next column)

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
No	No	1♥	2♣
?			

South holds:

♠KQJ106 ♥K5 ♦1076532 ♣—

What should South bid?

Problem No. 6 (10 points)

Match-point pairs, love all, the bidding has gone:

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

South holds:

♠AK104 ♥KJ97 ♦AQ ♣AQ3

What should South bid?

Problem No. 7 (20 points)

Match-point pairs, North-South vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			1♠
?			

South holds:

♠KQ52 ♥A532 ♦Q9 ♣A103

(a) What should South bid?

(b) What should South bid if East-West only were vulnerable?

Problem No. 8 (10 points)

I.m.p. scoring, North-South vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			3♥
No	6♥	No	No
No			

South holds:

♠104 ♥K5 ♦QJ93 ♣A10743

What should South lead?

THE WATCHER

Unbridled banter from our Special Commissioner on the inside of big bridge.

This month his subjects include the Eastbourne Congress, the Gold Cup, and expenses for British players abroad.



Tony Friday in the *Sunday Telegraph* says that nearly 5,000 players attended a recent American congress. Yet the E.B.U. feebly claims it is impossible to accommodate more than 450 at Eastbourne, our most important congress. Surely Britain's facilities are not so bad.

If it is deliberate, it does not seem to be working out very well in terms of popularising the game. America streaks ahead in numbers, while our rate of increase is among the slowest in the world.

BRIDGE TEACHER, Surrey.

The E.B.U. does not claim it is impossible to accommodate more—only that the Eastbourne congress would lose its quality if the numbers were increased.

Our congresses are week-end fixtures, while Americans seem able to congregate for a whole week. A programme for 1,000 players over three or four days would be a nonsense—like a one-day Ascot.

Whom does "The Watcher" tip for this year's Gold Cup, now that Nico Gardener has been knocked out in the first round?

J.M., Brighton.

Bit of a loaded question, that, J.M.! Not all his rivals would have made N.G. favourite this year.

The Editor and I have tapped up some of the fancied runners and the cockiest was Terence Reese. Quoth he: "If my crew of dead-heads were capable of mastering the Little Major, the rest of the field could stay at home. Of course that's not for P . . ."

At this point we resourcefully replaced the telephone.

* * *

Every year I am pressed, in one way or another, to contribute to some sort of international fund. All I want from duplicate bridge is a quiet game at my own club or a match against a neigh-

bouring club. Why must I be taxed to help spivvy professionals to disport themselves in foreign playgrounds?

A.J.L., Halifax.

Even for those who have no ambitions to take part, international competition is a good thing for any game. It provides copy for the papers, establishes contacts, tests theories, and so forth. With no tournament world there would be nothing for the scribes to write about, and duplicate bridge at your own level would soon fade.

The "spivvy professionals," by the way, reckon they are knights in shining armour, suffering financial loss and unjust criticism, pro patria mori.

* * *

Personally I enjoy your magazine, but my teammates, when they read my copy, say there is too much mutual admiration and not enough real criticism of our top players.

EUSEBIUS, Cheltenham.

If that's what your teammates think, they should cadge a look at some other periodicals. How about the flowery compliments in Le Bridgeur, and the smug paro-

chialism in the new crop of American magazines? Nearer home, there's one in which the editor's friends are always magnificent people who play magnificently.

Meanwhile, Eusebius, instead of encouraging your playmates to dodge the column, kindly point out to them that the B.B.W. needs everyone's support if it is to serve the cause of bridge effectively.

* * *

Why don't Reese, Flint and Schapiro bring the Little Major team on tour? We don't believe they are as tough as they make out. If they would care to visit Yorkshire they would be sure of an enthusiastic welcome, and perhaps a surprise.

R. K., Yorkshire.

"On ne demande pas mieux," replied one of the more literate of the L.M. team when this suggestion was put to them. They say that any provincial team that will bear the expenses of staging the match can have odds of £1 to 10/- a match point per player (in a team of four) over 100 boards.

WRITE TO THE WATCHER

on any topic connected with bridge. You must supply your name and address, but these will not be published unless you so wish.



TOURNAMENT WORLD

Harold Franklin's main reports this month are on the Tollemache Cup (the English counties championship for teams of eight) and the ladies' trials for the New York Olympiad.

London, Somerset, Warwickshire and the North-West will meet at Bristol in this year's Tollemache final. This is the brief story of how they got there.

South-East region

1st London (12 v.p.s); 2nd Middlesex (9 v.p.s); 3rd Surrey (8 v.p.s).

Middlesex led for two-thirds of the journey in all six of their matches and at one stage were 20 i.m.p. up to London. A 3NT contract which was generally made provoked differences of opinion between defending partnerships. South opened 2NT, North raised to Three and West led ♠7.

NORTH

♠ 8 4

♥ A J 9

♦ J 10 6 3

♣ 10 8 5 4

EAST

♠ A 3

♥ K 10 8 4 2

♦ 9 5 4

♣ Q 6 3

Dummy played low, East won with the King and returned a heart, all following small. The declarer continued with the King, Ace, and a third club. On the third club West discarded ♠9. What would you play next as East?

Most East players decided to ignore the spade call and chose instead to knock out the last heart guard. They

argued that the declarer had only three club tricks and two hearts, and since East held ♠A the declarer would make his contract only if he were able to take four top diamond tricks.

In fact West held:

♠ KJ9xxx ♥ 7x ♦ 872 ♣ Jx

and the declarer was able to take his nine tricks. West regarded his ♠9 as a clear command—but a more helpful discard would have been ♦2. That would have made it clear to East that the declarer had nine tricks in hearts, clubs and diamonds and would have left the spade as his only hope. "I'm a simple soul," said West, "when I discard the 9 of spades, that means I would like my partner to play the suit." "I'm a simple soul too," replied East, "if I have a six-card suit headed by the KJ, I am prepared to play it myself."

It was bidding rather than play that finally decided the issue, when during the final boards of London v. Middlesex, West dealt this abundance of riches:

WEST

♠ Q J 5

♥ A K J

♦ K 5

♣ K J 8 4 2

EAST

♠ A 4

♥ 8 6 3

♦ A Q J 10 7 4

♣ A Q

Thirteen top tricks—and the 4-2 club break produced the fourteenth trick; the heart and spade finesses were right for good measure. The two Mid-

dlesex pairs assured their plus scores as follows:

WEST	EAST
<i>Rose</i>	<i>Nunes</i>
1♣	2♦
3NT	6NT
No	

By the Rose-Nunes methods the rebid of 3NT showed 17-18, a hand which would have rebid 2NT over a response of One Diamond, East seems to have been unduly precipitate; the possibility of ten or eleven tricks in the minor suits alone should not have escaped him and Four Clubs seems obvious. West should then cue-bid the diamond picture, after which East's courage should not be unduly strained.

WEST	EAST
<i>Flint</i>	<i>Harrison-Gray</i>
1♣	2♦
2NT	6NT
No	

Of this sequence it was suggested that having rebid 2NT West had a good deal in hand and should have bid the seventh on values when his partner jumped to Six. There may be some merit in the argument, but against that it can be said that East could be full value for his jump to 6NT without having three Aces. East would surely still bid Six if his spades were Kx rather than Ax; he would certainly not need three Aces if his diamond suit were AQJ10xxx, and it might still be natural for him to play in no-trumps in order to protect partner against the opening lead.

For London, Rodrigue and Schapiro fared no better.

WEST	EAST
<i>Schapiro</i>	<i>Rodrigue</i>
1NT	3♦
3♥	4♦
5♦	6NT
No	

Schapiro maintained that he displayed interest when he bid Three Hearts—that with a minimum hand he would bid 3NT. Rodrigue took the view that to bid a major suit over Three Diamonds was no sign of extra strength, and that to all intents he had raised 1NT to Six, having shown a good diamond suit on the way. His partner had the extra values to do the rest.

Who was right? You pay your money and you take your pick. Certainly it is remarkable that such good players should miss such an icy grand.

Konstam and J. Tarlo were the first to show the courage of their convictions.

WEST	EAST
<i>Konstam</i>	<i>Tarlo</i>
1NT	3♦
3NT	4NT (B'wood)
6NT	7NT

By their methods 4NT is conventional when a suit has been bid. Konstam, with extra values for his 1NT, was not prepared to have his partner pass a Five Diamond response and so bid 6NT. Tarlo quite properly decided that he had a good deal in hand, and that was worth 13 i.m.p. to London, and a win where it mattered most.

Surrey produced an unexpected challenge when they came to the final four boards against London only 7 i.m.ps. behind and with a chance of winning on a split tie, but London made no mistake and finished the weekend with maximum points. They were represented by J. Tarlo, Mrs. R. Markus, Mrs. F. Gordon, L. Tarlo, K. Konstam, B. Schapiro, N. Gardener, M. Wolach, R. Crown, A. Hiron, G. Mathieson, S. Lee, C. Rodrigue.

South-West Region

1st Somerset (9 v.p.s.); 2nd Bucks. and Berks., and Devon (both 6 v.p.s.).

Somerset, in fine fettle after their Tollemache and Gold Cup successes in the past two years, won convincingly. Devon put up a fine challenge and did well to tie with Bucks. and Berks., who had come near to winning last year's final. This is one hand which helped Somerset on their way at a critical stage. West dealt with North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A Q J 7 4

♥ Q 5

♦ 6 3

♣ 9 7 4 3

WEST

♠ 8 6 2

♥ J 10 4

♦ Q 10 5 2

♣ K Q 5

EAST

♠ 10 5 3

♥ A 9 8 7 6 2

♦ K 7 4

♣ 2

SOUTH

♠ K 9

♥ K 3

♦ A J 9 8

♣ A J 10 8 6

Three Hearts was a popular opening bid for East and North ultimately became the declarer in Four Spades. East led ♣2, clearly a singleton. Of course the contract should not make, but the number of mistakes one's opponents make is proportionate to the number of mistakes one gives them the opportunity to make.

Most declarers won the first club and thereafter could not reasonably expect the necessary amount of defensive co-operation. Even if West failed to switch to a diamond when he won the first club, East did so when he took the heart. Only Griffiths, for Somerset, gave the defence the best opportunity to go wrong, and was rewarded when they took it. He played ♣J to the first trick: West won and returned ♥J. East won and, with no

sure guide to the club position, feared to open diamonds lest the declarer should hold Qxx. He played a second heart and that was all the help the declarer needed.

Without opposition bidding Mrs. Thomas played 3NT against the opening lead of ♦2. The first idea might be to lay down ♣A and hope either to drop an honour or to find the clubs 2-2. Mrs. Thomas appreciated the danger of East holding a singleton club and she played to deny him an early opportunity to signal in hearts. She crossed to ♠Q and finessed clubs. West won and quite wrongly played ♦Q—but then, opponents often do make absurd mistakes, provided they are given the opportunity to do so. The Somerset players were G. C. Griffiths, P. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Phillips, A. T. R. Jones, and J. Spielman.

Midlands region

Warwickshire, regular finalists, qualified once more, though hard pressed by Staffordshire. The winners were represented by Cook, Whitehouse, Porter, Chapman, Valley, Moffatt, Levey, Twine, Plummer, Wilkinson, White, Baldwin. I couple with my congratulations an apology for the absence of initials.

The newest county association, Northants., appeared for the first time and exceeded their own expectations when they scored a win against the much more experienced Leicester team. Two or three years will see them setting their sights a good deal higher.

Northern region

This developed into the usual Lancashire-Yorkshire tussle, with the early signs all in Lancashire's favour. Yorkshire were making much heavier weather of their matches against the

"Friday's weekly column, by the way, does more to promote duplicate bridge than most of the other columns together. What a pity that other scribes do not pound their typewriters to that purpose, rather than the denigration of enemies and the elevation of friends."

British Bridge World, October 1963

R. A. PRIDAY'S

column appears
every week in the

**SUNDAY
TELEGRAPH**

remaining teams and in the first session lost points to Lancashire when only one pair out of four bid a slam which all should have reached.

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

At three of four tables East opened a non-vulnerable 1NT and the auction was:

WEST	EAST
	1NT
3♠	4♠
No	

Although the values are minimal for slam purposes, the hand is tailor-made for Acol bidders, as follows:

WEST	EAST
	1NT
3♠	4♣
4♦	4♥

At this point East has shown a more-than-minimum 1NT, has agreed spades and has shown ♣A and ♥A. West can go right there: partner's spade fit is probably the King, and West's own club suit promises to dispose of any third-round heart loser. The only pair to reach the slam did so by a less convincing route:

WEST	EAST
<i>Brock</i>	<i>Higson</i>
	1NT
2♣	2♠
4NT (Roman)	5NT
6♠	No

The response of Two Clubs seems ill-judged, since there might be slam prospects even though partner held no more than three spades; and equally, partner might hold a minimum hand with two Aces and ♠10xxx, when the slam would be a good deal less attractive. All that can be said in West's favour is

that 5NT showed specifically ♣A and ♥A. (Five Hearts would show two Aces of the same colour and Five Spades two Aces of the same rank) and those were the two most valuable Aces.

In the final session Yorkshire recovered to hold Lancashire to a draw, but on the way they had been held to a draw themselves by Lincolnshire. Lancashire took the title more convincingly than the final difference of one v.p. might suggest. They were represented by F. Farrington, J. Miezi, R. S. Brock, R. T. Higson, E. L. Figgis, Mrs. G. Higginson, C. Q. Henriques, L. P. Robinson, B. Goldenfeld, J. Robson.

The Ladies' Trials

The team which had such an outstanding success in Baden-Baden will have the opportunity to add the Olympic title to the European one which it won so handsomely. In June of last year Mrs. Fleming, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Juan and Miss Shanahan were the selectors' choice for adding to Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Markus after a trial in which the bridge was generally disappointing: two months later they produced a game of a quite different calibre when it mattered most. This year the pattern has so far been reproduced in the first part and we can but hope that it will continue to follow a parallel course.

Six pairs took part in the first stage of the trial, competing for the right to challenge the Baden-Baden team (less Mrs. Markus and Mrs. Gordon, who were pre-selected). Mrs. Forbes and Mrs. Rye, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Corwen qualified with something in hand. If they had the edge in luck they deserved it for they were clearly the most convincing partnerships. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Corwen carried their form over to the 5-match play-off

against the Baden-Baden team, but Mrs. Forbes and Mrs. Rye seemed no longer in tune. These were two problems presented in the first match:

♠AJ5 ♥KQ7 ♦AKQ ♣Q986
You are fourth to speak with neither side vulnerable. Left-hand bids Three Spades and your partner overcalls Four Hearts. Suppose you follow the example of the ladies, both of whom bid 4NT, Blackwood and Culbertson respectively, and in each case heard the response of Six Hearts—what next?

And a play problem. With no adverse bidding you, West, are the declarer in Six Clubs:

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

The opening lead is ♥10. How do you plan the play? Answers page 42.

The Baden-Baden team won the first match 91-46 (820 v.p.s.). But for weak play on one hand the challengers would have been 34 i.m.p. better off, but more of that anon.

The Baden-Baden team won the second match 8-0 in spite of one disaster. West dealt at game all.

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

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

SOUTH
♠ K 10 9 8 3 2
♥ 4 2
♦ Q 9 8 4
♣ 3

West opened One Club and North bid Four Hearts. Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Moss both bid 4NT with the East hand. Mrs. Corwen showed her two Aces and played in Six Clubs which she made by guessing the diamonds, though a partial elimination might have been more stylish.

At the other table Mrs. Fleming decided that 4NT was natural and passed; this went four down. The general practice is certainly to regard the bid as conventional in such a sequence, for a conventional 4NT is not an unlikely bid after a high preempt, while the frequency of hands on which one would want to bid a natural 4NT must be low.

The challengers made the best of another excellent slam:

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

WEST	EAST
<i>Mrs. Forbes</i>	<i>Mrs. Rye</i>
No	1♥
3♥	4♦
4♠	5♦
5♥	6♥

When West cue-bid ♠A there was a clear inference that she also held ♦K and East was full value for the slam. At the other table Mrs. Moss opened One Heart and Mrs. Fleming took an even rosier view of the West hand when she responded Three Diamonds. This force by a passed partner shows, in the modern idiom, a raise to Four Hearts which is not deficient of high cards. East jumped to Four Hearts but this left West with no possible further bid. East need have done no more than raise to Four Diamonds; after the inevitable Four Hearts, a cue-

bid of Four Spades would then be marked and if this produced Five Clubs from West the prospects of Seven Diamonds would be bright, but in any event Six Hearts would always be a fair venture.

The fact that the Baden-Baden team could afford these two heavy reverses and still win 8-0 is sufficient commentary on the match. It should in fairness to the challengers be stated that Mrs. Rye had been struggling with a cold of such severity as to make her an obvious candidate for the sick bed to which she retired the following day. Her place was taken by Mrs. Durran, who played with status.

In the third match the challengers were well on top and took all eight v.p. Slams and possible slams abounded and posed problems which all too often were unsatisfactorily answered. As, for example, on these difficult holdings:

WEST	EAST
♠ A K Q 5	♠ 8 7 3
♥ K 5 3	♥ A J 8 7
♦ A K Q 9 3	♦ 2
♣ Q	♣ A 9 7 6 3
WEST	EAST
<i>Mrs. Corwen</i>	<i>Mrs. Williams</i>
2♣	3♣
3♦	3♥
3♠	4♣
4NT	5♥
5NT	6♣
6NT	No
WEST	EAST
<i>Mrs. Moss</i>	<i>Mrs. Fleming</i>
2♣	3♣
3♦	3♥
3♠	3NT
4♥	6♥
No	

Six Hearts is the better of the two contracts, although it produced only ten tricks, one fewer than 6NT. Prob-

ably few pairs would come out with a plus score, for it is difficult for East to hold back after a Two Club opening—not a perfect bid on the West hand, but the best available. The obvious disadvantage of Two Diamonds followed by Three Spades is that it limits responder's opportunity to introduce a heart suit.

Having opened Two Clubs, however, West should hold back and it might be a good idea to suggest limitations by bidding 3NT on the second round. East would go on with Four Hearts and West, with nine cards in his partner's two weak suits, would back-pedal with 4NT.

The challengers continued to have the best of things in the fourth match, which they finally won 6-2, and almost 7-1. The Baden-Baden team were unfortunate when Mrs. Fleming went boldly, and not unreasonably, for a grand slam:

WEST	EAST
♠ K 9 7 3	♠ A 10 2
♥ A K	♥ Q 9
♦ Q 9 6 3	♦ A K 10 5 4
♣ A Q 8	♣ K J 4
WEST	EAST
<i>Mrs. Moss</i>	<i>Mrs. Fleming</i>
1♦	3♣
4♣	4 NT
5♥	5NT
6♥	7♦
No	

East had to force, and the only safe force was in clubs, West was right to show immediate club support but there—after she seemed marked with at least eight cards in the minors. Since ♠AK and ♥AK were accounted for by Blackwood, the odds were substantially against a losing spade; while if ♣Q were missing, no worse than a finesse would be involved. In fact the contract

was hopeless, although there was no unreasonable bid in the auction. At the other table Mrs. Corwen preferred to open One Spade and the contract was steered to 6NT.

The challengers, who generally had the best of the bidding, almost had a double game swing on this late board:

NORTH

♠ A 10

♥ A K 8 7 5 2

♦ Q 9 5

♣ J 8

WEST

♠ J 9 8 7 4 3

♥ —

♦ K J 3

♣ A 10 9 7

EAST

♠ K Q 5 2

♥ 10 4 3

♦ 7 6

♣ K Q 5 3

SOUTH

♠ 6

♥ Q J 9 6

♦ A 10 8 4 2

♣ 6 4 2

West passed at love all and North-South began 1♥-3♥. At this point Mrs. Williams came in with Three Spades and eventually played in a comfortable game contract. Mrs. Juan showed less initiative and North bought the contract in Four Hearts.

Miss Shanahan, East, found the best opening, a small trump, and the declarer went one down when she played her for a diamond honour. A better effort might have been to win the trump on the table and immediately lead a small club. Unless West ducks two club leads from the dummy (and that would be a brave defence) the declarer can bring off a successful end-play. If West wins either club lead the defence will be unable to play trumps three times; declarer then eliminates the spades, ruffs the third club in hand and leads ♦Q, still retaining trumps in both hands.

And so to the fifth and final match with a good deal more at stake than had seemed possible after one day. The Baden-Baden team led by 18-14 v.p. and required 3 more v.p. to earn selection. At half-time they were 5 i.m.p. behind, and the challengers needed a further ten. The strain proved too much and they lost a little of the form which they had maintained so well for two and a half matches. Two expensive errors cost 24 i.m.p. and their opponents, who kept their heads well, took the match 5-3. *(Continued on next page.)*

RESULT OF DECEMBER COMPETITION

This was quite a high scoring month, as several problems presented a very limited choice of bids and all feasible alternatives were well rewarded.

Problem 7 (b) snared a surprisingly large number of solvers who decided that they ought to make another effort in spite of having already reversed—a course of action that found little support from the panel.

Max. 100

Winner: H. DAVIDSON, 43 Highfield Road, Pontefract

93

Second: H. S. ROBINSON, 116 Bents Road, Sheffield 11.

92

Third: J. E. GORDON, Tunstall, Heswall Hills, Wirral, Cheshire.

89

Other leading scores: C. C. HEARD, 88; Mrs. T. SIMONS, J. E. TAYLOR, A. A. PESCOTT-DAY, 87; C. LEIGHTON, 86; S. LAHIRI, 85; G. K. RUSSELL, R. PEARSON, 84; G. HONORAT (France), J. HIBBERT, 83; Dr. D. GALULA (France), M. BREIT, G. G. FOWLIE, H. JOHNSON, N. ALMGREN (Sweden), L. O. GORDEJUALA (Spain), J. W. FARBROTHER, 82; I. G. SMITH, 81; B. HINTON, J. L. LATIMER, E. W. KIRK, K. L. G. MANLEY, J. K. PATES, 80.

Further good scores in the November competition were: N. ALMGREN (Sweden), 80; J. MASH, 73.

And so back to the two opening questions:

♠AJ5 ♥KQ7 ♦AKQ ♣Q986

You were fourth to speak with neither side vulnerable. The dealer bid Three Spades and your partner overcalled with Four Hearts. You bid 4NT and your partner bid Six Hearts. What now?

On what hand could partner be afraid to make a normal Blackwood response? No problem with only one Ace, because when partner corrects to Five Hearts she will still have the last word. With two Aces? It is just possible that the Four Heart bidder might have a spade void as an extra value and fear Five Hearts being passed. But she could scarcely show such confidence lacking KQ of her own suit unless there were some compensating value, and the club is the only possible one. In fact she held:

♠— ♥AJ109854 ♦1063 ♣AK10
and Six Hearts was passed at both tables.

Harold Franklin appears to assume that the ladies were not playing official responses to either the Blackwood 4NT (Six Hearts would show two Aces and a void) or the Culbertson 4NT (Six Hearts would show ♥A). Ed.

The play problem:

NORTH

♠ 5 4

♥ 10 9 8

♦ Q 9 6 5

♣ 10 7 6 2

WEST

♠ A Q J 10 8

♥ A K 3

♦ K

♣ A K J 9

EAST

♠ 3

♥ J 7 6 2

♦ A J 10 7 3

♣ Q 5 3

SOUTH

♠ K 9 7 6 2

♥ Q 5 4

♦ 8 4 2

♣ 8 4

In Six Clubs Mrs. Corwen won the heart lead and played ♠A and ♠Q. South returned a club and Mrs. Corwen won in hand, released ♦K, and crossed to the dummy with ♣Q. She discarded a heart on ♦A and then drew trumps, relying on a spade break. When that failed she was one down.

She might have made by leading a third round of spades and ruffing low when North failed to follow, but that would have proved awkward if North did follow since it would be dangerous to ruff high. A better effort would be to lead ♠Q at trick 2, rather than the Ace. Assuming this were taken by either defender, declarer would be able to lead ♠8 when she recaptured the lead and ruff low. This would have guarded against a 5-2 break in spades.

At the other table South led a club against 6NT. Declarer won in dummy and played ♠A and ♠Q. South won and returned a club and the declarer won in dummy and continued with two good spades. North had a blind spot and discarded the 8 and 9 of hearts; this did not escape the declarer's notice and ♥Q was successfully finessed to give her the contract. The challengers thus lost a slam bonus where they ought to have gained one, a turnover of 34 i.m.p. on one board, exceptional even with the new scale.

Young Players' Pairs

This was held simultaneously at Northern, Midlands and Southern venues and was won by N. E. Southern and B. C. Wilcox (North). Second were M. Peniston-Bird and I. G. Smith (South), and third J. Buck and G. McConkey (North). Best Midlands score was by D. E. D. Goggin and A. Graham, who shared fourth place with R. Ewen and M. Wlodarczyk (South).



MASTER POINT NEWS

Fred Bingham, master-points secretary of the English Bridge Union, reports on the latest rankings.

The most recent promotee to National Master rank, Mrs. H. Rye, brings the number in the "top flight" to exactly 100, all of whom are eligible to play in the Masters' Individual and the Masters' Pairs. Acceptances for the Individual, played for the first time in the North, numbered twenty-five, with a preponderance, naturally, of Northern players; twelve from Yorkshire, four from the North-West, three from Midland Counties, and four from the London area, with Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Thomas carrying the banner for the South-West. Result: 1st E. Jamieson (Staffs.), 2nd S. Fielding (Yorks.), 3rd I. Manning (Yorks.).

Ninety-nine invitations to compete in the Masters' Pairs are being sent. ("Plum" Meredith can have his if someone will give me his present address). In view of the size of the field, a qualifying round is to be played on February 15th-16th, from which the leading pairs will go forward to a final to be played at a Northern venue four weeks later.

* * *

The entry for the "Restricted Pairs" (Masters only), to be played at Droitwich over the same weekend as the first stage of the Masters' Pairs, exceeds sixty pairs, compared with 48 last season. Among the competitors is the sole holder of the rank of "Six Star Master,"

G. C. H. Fox. With a current score of more than 350 m.p., he needs but a few National Points to take him in one move to the top of the National Masters list.

* * *

Pending the circulation of a formal amendment to the Handbook, may I remind all Clubs that the weekly "ration" of Points events is now two per week. Paragraph 4 of chapter 6 should be amended accordingly.

* * *

4,944 E.B.U. members have, to date, registered their master points. In addition to those in the top two ranks, listed below, there are now approximately 650 players with the rank of Master. Leading scores:

Life Masters: R. Sharples (868); J. Sharples (865); M. Harrison-Gray (790); Mrs. P. Gordon (655); A. Rose (617); J. Nunes (600); B. Schapiro (595); Dr. M. Rockfelt (568); Mrs. R. Markus (544); E. J. Spurway (497); R. A. Priday (491); M. J. Flint (485); M. Wolach (465); A. Finlay (461); Mrs. M. Oldroyd (459); Mrs. A. L. Fleming (457); P. F. Swinnerton-Dyer (451); S. Booker (445); I. Manning (436); J. D. R. Collings (431); A. G. Dormer (423); F. North (422); P. F. Spurway (422); J. Hochwald (420); J. T. Reese (418); Miss D. Shanahan (415); C. Rodrigue (413);

(continued on page 26)



E.B.U. NEWS

Geoffrey Fell, Hon. Tournament Secretary of the English Bridge Union, gives monthly bulletins on the national tournaments.

I'd like to express the E.B.U.'s best wishes for 1964 to all competitors, and my wife Peggy joins me in thanking all who sent us Christmas Cards. We much appreciate them, but regret that replying to so many, individually, became quite impossible.

The Competitions have not progressed very far except that the Gold Cup Round I is now completed.

Dr. W. Shirer (London) beat J. D. Solomon (London) by 60; Mrs. P. Forbes (London) beat Mrs. P. Juan (London) by 38; J. E. Taylor (Herts.) beat C. Lester (Middlesex) by 6; J. T. Reese (London) beat G. Delbeke (Surrey) by 102; Mrs. R. Markus (London) beat J. O. Parkinson (Middlesex) by 34; R. Crown (Middlesex) beat A. J. Walkden (Kent) by 6; M. A. Sutherland (London) beat E. Schön (London) by 20; L. Bradford (Middlesex) beat S. G. Chevrett (Middlesex) by 4; Dr. J. C. Macfarlane (Derbys.) beat S. Meggitt (Lines.) by 18; D. A. Ray (N.E.B.A.) beat E. H. Pudsey (Yorks.) by 25; W. A. Cleverly (Glos.) beat I. R. Manning (Northants.) by 57; W. H. Gibson (N.W.C.B.A.) beat W. E. D. Hall (Warwicks.) by 17; E. J. Armstrong (Warwicks.) beat B. Hinton (N.W.C.B.A.) by 11.

CROCKFORDS CUP (ROUND II)

C. Hille (Surrey) beat Mrs. J. Harper (Surrey) by 7; A. S. Monckton (Staffs.) beat G. P. Hirst (Yorks.) by 24. 134 Crockford's Cup Captains still owe me letters with their views on this year's method of running.

HUBERT PHILLIPS BOWL

This event has always produced unexpected results and continues to do so. Two Giant killers of the 1st Round, Mrs. M. Stern and C. Hille, have failed to survive the 2nd Round but A. H. Dalton again had a good win by beating G. C. H. Fox. Other good results were: P. G. Mason's (Malton, Yorks.) win over the more experienced team of Mrs. H. Myers (Leeds, Yorks.) and R. Churney (N.W.C.B.A.) over M. R. Porter (Warwicks.). The full results:—

HUBERT PHILLIPS BOWL—ROUND I

G. C. H. Fox (London) beat Mrs. M. Hirsch (Middlesex) by 2,750; A. H. Dalton (Surrey) beat Mrs. J. Durran (Herts.) by 350; Mrs. R. Markus (London) beat Mrs. B. Tarlo (London) by 690; Mrs. M. Edwards (Surrey) beat J. E. Taylor (Herts.) by 540; W. W. Brown (Berks. & Bucks.) beat J. A. Nelsey (Sussex) by 2,120; Dr. W. Shirer (London) beat L. E. Handley (London) by 2,200; Miss V. Bass (London) beat A. Campoli (Middlesex) by 1,510; Mrs. M. Stern (Herts.) beat Mrs. P. Forbes

(London) by 90; Mrs. P. M. Williams (London) beat L. D. Levy (Middlesex) by 380; E. Schön (London) beat N. L. J. Davies (Surrey) by 270; P. Landy (Sussex) beat E. Wardman (Berks. & Bucks.) by 880; C. G. Ainger (Surrey) beat C. R. Fox (Middlesex) by 3,040; W. Kember (Kent) beat Mrs. Rutherford (Middlesex) by 1,060; Mrs. M. Whitaker (London) beat Mrs. A. L. Della Porta (London) by 1,710; J. Albuquerque (Sussex) beat E. S. Staveley (Oxon.) by 2,540; A. M. Hiron (London) beat J. O. Parkinson (Middlesex) by 1,800; C. Hille (Surrey) beat Miss D. Shanahan (Middlesex) by 1,560; Mrs. V. Cooper (Middlesex) beat J. D. Solomon (London) by 2,150; G. C. Wakefield (Yorks.) beat Mrs. I. Golding (N.E.B.A.) by 260; W. Grimble (Lincs.) beat J. Newton (Yorks.) by 580; G. P. Hirst (Yorks.) beat N. M. Wiles (Lincs.) by 1,380; M. Allen (Lincs.) beat Dr. V. P. McDonagh (Yorks.) by 1,630; K. Sharples (Lincs.) beat M. MacLeod (Yorks.) by 130; P. G. Mason (Yorks.) beat W. H. Parker (Lincs.) by 1,530; Mrs. H. Myers (Yorks.) beat H. Sargent (Lincs.) by 2,240; Mrs. R. Oldroyd (Yorks.) beat S. Meggitt (Lincs.) by 4,630; Dr. J. B. Fulton (Yorks.) beat M. H. Stephenson (Lincs.) by 250; G. Fell (Yorks.) beat E. Burston (Derbys.) by 1,580; Miss O. Ramus (N.W.C.B.A.) beat H. P. Dash (Staffs.) by 4,030; W. E. D. Hall (Warwicks.) beat E. G. Dutton (N.W.C.B.A.) by 1,470; Dr. J. C. Macfarlane (Derbys.) beat K. Blundell (Yorks.) by 4,030; Mrs. M. G. Jessop (Glos.) beat F. C. Keyte (Devon) by 770; E. Foster (Warwicks.) beat J. C. Oxland (Somerset) by 1,180; S. W. Thomas (Somerset) beat E. F. Briscoe (Warwicks.) by 1,870; A. T. M. Jones (Somerset) beat R. Vincent (Worcs.) by 1,100; Mrs. J. M. Davies (Warwicks.) beat Mrs. R. T. Higson (N.W.C.B.A.) by 1,380; Mrs. E. L. Figgis (N.W.C.B.A.) beat A. S. Monckton (Staffs.) by 1,080.

HUBERT PHILLIPS BOWL—ROUND II

D. Baskin (Essex) beat E. F. Simpkin (Norfolk) by 570; Hon. Pamela Walpole (Norfolk) beat Miss M. Eve (Essex) by 370; J. R. L. Thompson (Notts.) beat P. A. Broke (Norfolk) by 830; A. H. Dalton (Surrey) beat G. C. H. Fox (London) by 1,410; Mrs. R. Markus (London) beat Mrs. M. Edwards (Surrey) by 360; W. W. Brown (Berks. & Bucks.) beat Dr. W. Spicer (London) by 1,670; Miss V. Bass (London) beat Mrs. M. Stern (Herts.) by 620; P. Landy (Sussex) beat C. G. Ainger (Surrey) by 40; Mrs. M. Whitaker (London) beat W. Kember (Kent) by 1,500; J. Albuquerque (Sussex) beat A. M. Hiron (London) by 2,800; Mrs. V. Cooper (Middlesex) beat C. Hille (Surrey) by 700; Mrs. J. Gatti (London) beat Mrs. A. Easey (London) by 500; Mrs. K. Garfield (London) beat Mrs. E. Summers (Sussex) by 150; Mrs. R. Preston (London) beat K. C. Smith (Surrey) by 100; Dr. G. I. Cohen (N.E.B.A.) beat Mrs. R. Campfield (Yorks.) by 110; L. Morrell (Yorks.) beat D. A. Ray (N.E.B.A.) by 1,620; M. Bergson (N.E.B.A.) beat Mrs. Kent (Yorks.) by 2,190; E. H. Pudsey (Yorks.) beat G. C. Wakefield (Yorks.) by 2,210; G. P. Hirst (Yorks.) beat W. Grimble (Lincs.) by 3,700; K. Sharples (Lincs.) beat M. Allen (Lincs.) by 1,120; P. G. Mason (Yorks.) beat Mrs. H. Myers (Yorks.) by 230; Mrs. R. Oldroyd (Yorks.) beat Dr. J. B. Fulton (Yorks.) by 3,230; Miss O. Ramus (N.W.C.B.A.) beat G. Fell (Yorks.) by 950; Dr. J. C. Macfarlane (Derbys.) beat W. E. D. Hall (Warwicks.) by 800; Mrs. M. G. Jessop (Glos.) beat E. Foster (Warwicks.) by 250; R. Churney (N.W.C.B.A.) beat M. A. Porter (Warwicks.) by 1,020; G. P. Littler (N.W.C.B.A.) beat J. L. Alexander (Derbys.) by 1,660; G. G. Endicott (N.W.C.B.A.) beat F. W. Edwards (Staffs.) by 4,480. 4 results awaited.



ONE HUNDRED UP

Conducted by ALAN HIRON

December solutions: If you did not enter for the December competition, try your hand at the problems in the December issue before reading how the experts voted.

The panel for the December competition consisted of the following seventeen experts: Mrs. R. Markus, E. Crowhurst, R. Crown, A. Dormer, G. C. H. Fox, F. North, J. Nunes, T. Reese, D. Rimington, C. Rodrigue and J. Sharples, all of London and the Home Counties; C. E. Phillips of Cheshire; P. Swinnerton-Dyer of Cambridge; J. Besse of Rome; J. Vanden Borre of Ghent; J. le Dentu of Paris; and H. Filarski of Amsterdam.

Problem No. 1 (10 points)

Im.p. scoring, North-South vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

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

South holds:

♠753 ♥Q1087 ♦2 ♣A10973

What should South bid?

Answer: Three Hearts, 10; Four Hearts, 9; Three Diamonds, 7; Three Clubs, 5; Five Hearts, 4.

The panel's vote: 6 for Three Hearts; 6 for Four Hearts (Reese, Phillips, Fox, Rimington, le Dentu and Rodrigue); 2 for Three Diamonds (Mrs. Markus and Sharples); 2 for Three Clubs (Crowhurst and Vanden Borre); 1 for Five Hearts (Swinnerton-Dyer).

It's generally agreed that South is worth a raise to Four Hearts. But

tactical considerations have to be borne in mind, and while the supporters of an immediate game raise are pleased with their virtue ("I'm a simple soul who bids what he's got"), the more crafty operators seem to have the edge in their arguments.

NUNES: "Three Hearts. Little doubt that we can make game, but the vulnerability makes it likely that if I bid Four the opponents will compete with Four Spades. I feel that Three Hearts will not be passed out and I will have a good chance of being 'forced' into Four Hearts. In fact, I would almost prefer to try my luck in Five Hearts, rather than defend against Four Spades."

BESSE: "Three Hearts. The hand is worth ten tricks but its competitive value is uncertain. By bidding Three Hearts only, South will hear what the other players have to say."

DORMER: "Three Hearts. In competitive bidding I am by nature ingenuous to the point of oafishness, but a certain dissimulation is needed here. Partner will be on lead against a spade sacrifice and even if he *could* give me diamond ruffs he won't. Any diamond finesses are right for opponents and the hand cannot defend well for us.

"Therefore we *must* corral the contract in hearts and, though South is obviously worth Four on values, creepy-

*Reserve part of your holiday for
the bridge festivals of
YUGOSLAVIA*

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crawly tactics may be best. I'm not scared of being stranded in Three Hearts with a vulnerable game on. 170 or 200 is better than 100 from Four Spades doubled."

Filarski reminds us that if North-South fit well in hearts and clubs, then so will East-West in spades and diamonds.

A few panelists were keen on the idea of suggesting the diamond singleton in the hopes of attracting a favourable lead against a spade sacrifice.

SHARPLES: "Three Diamonds. Quantitatively, of course, the hand is worth Four Hearts, but it would be premature and short-sighted to bid it directly. A diamond lead from partner, paving the way for a subsequent ruff, may well turn out to be key play."

A less savoury suggestion was to bid Three Clubs in order to let partner appraise the North-South prospects the better if East-West got too active in spades. But suppose this is passed out?

There is the usual entrancing suggestion from P.S.-D.

SWINNERTON-DYER: "Five Hearts. Normal expert theory is to underbid, hoping thereby to be allowed to play in Four Hearts. But I feel that this will not work here; and anyway, other policies demand at least a spokesman. Bid in this fashion the hand will present East-West with a very nasty problem; and though I may not know what to do to Four Spades, I shall certainly double Five."

Problem No. 2 (20 points)

Match-point pairs, East-West vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	No	2♣	No
4♥	No	4♠	No
?			

South holds:

♠—♥AKQJ92 ♦K953 ♣K84

(a) Do you agree with South's bid of Four Hearts? If not, what alternative do you prefer?

(b) What should South bid now?

Answer to (a): Agree with Four Hearts, 10; Prefer Three Diamonds, 5.

The panel's vote: 13 agree with Four Hearts; 4 prefer Three Diamonds (Crown, Sharples, Swinnerton-Dyer and Nunes).

To jump to four in a major after opening One is generally a sign that the opener's hand has improved by a fit in responder's suit. (Otherwise opener would have been worth an Acol Two.) That is a satisfactory message to convey here and the choice of Four Hearts is well supported.

RODRIGUE: "Agree with Four Hearts. Beautifully descriptive."

DORMER: "Agree with Four Hearts. There *ain't* no alternative. Better to emphasise the good hearts than bid Three Diamonds."

BESSE: "Agree with Four Hearts. A good hand, revalued by the fit but short of a Two-bid."

NORTH: "Agree with Four Hearts. Perhaps a shade good, but it is not easy to find a more descriptive bid without exaggerating the values."

Nevertheless, an alternative lurked. . .

SHARPLES: "No, prefer Three Diamonds. Too rich in controls for Four Hearts, a bid which we would make if we had a singleton spade in place of the fourth diamond."

Answer to (b): 4NT (Blackwood), 10; Five Clubs, 9; Six Hearts, 7; Six Clubs, 5; Five Diamonds, 5.

The panel's vote: 5 for 4NT; 7 for Five Clubs (Dormer, Reese, Rimington, Vanden Borre, le Dentu, Fox and Nunes); 3 for Six Hearts (Mrs. Markus, Crowhurst and Crown); 1 for Six Clubs (Filarski); 1 for Five Diamonds (Sharples).

The marking is accounted for by the fact that the apparent majority vote for Five Clubs is really the vote of the slightly conservative minority, albeit a substantial one.

DORMER: "Five Clubs. Even in Space-age Acol, Four Hearts does *not* guarantee support for clubs in my neck of the galaxy. So I am not afraid of overstating the club holding."

FOX: "Five Clubs. Although I was shot down in flames by my partner for this bid I shall stick to it. I do not consider that Five Clubs can be passed (although it was) and I want to leave room for a cue bid of Five Diamonds. In any case Six Hearts looks a likely spot."

REESE: "Five Clubs. Sufficient, for partner will not expect you to accept the slam invitation with two losing diamonds. If he bids only Five Hearts now you will have no more to say."

Le Dentu cogently argues that partner will not be keen on playing in Five Clubs in a pairs event, with possibly exactly the same tricks available in hearts.

All sound points, but it is apparent that partner might read a lot of different shades of meaning into this simple-sounding bid; and as we have heard, an expert North passed it at the table. For my money, the simple bread and butter approach:

BESE: "4NT. North obviously has

the Ace of spades. If he has another Ace, then I want to be in Six."

PHILLIPS: "4NT. If partner shows two Aces, I'll take a chance in 6NT."

RODRIGUE: "4NT. Roman Blackwood. If not allowed, delete Roman."

Not allowed.

SWINNERTON-DYER: "4NT, Culbertson. If not allowed, substitute Blackwood."

Not allowed. Observant readers will note that South lacks the qualifications for a Culbertson 4NT bid, but P.S.-D. (who is determined to have a *really* solitary 1964) appends an ingenious justification, showing that no response from partner can embarrass him.

Incidentally, how many Blackwood operators nowadays follow the original convention to the letter? If *either* partner has unambiguously cue-bid a first-round control in a suit, then the responder to Blackwood should not count the Ace in this suit in replying. Perhaps, in view of the increasingly tenuous holdings on which cue-bids are made these days, it is as well to have an explicit agreement that *all* Aces should be shown.

Problem No. 3 (10 points)

Rubber bridge, game all, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	2♦	Dble	No
?			

South holds:

♠KJ74 ♥AQ652 ♦— ♣KQJ4

What should South bid?

Answer: Three Diamonds, 10; No Bid, 9; Three Clubs, 5; Two Spades, 5.

The panel's vote: 8 for Three Diamonds; 7 for No Bid (Crown, Reese, Phillips, Sharples, Filarski, Crowhurst and Nunes); 1 for Three Clubs (Swinnerton-Dyer); 1 for Two Spades (North).

Perhaps a question of style. Some North players would double with quite tenuous diamond holdings, relying on partner to remove the double unless he has a suitable hand. In this case the penalty in Two Diamonds doubled may not be very rewarding. Again, North could well hold a four-card spade suit which he shrank from bidding, and an easy game might be available. One thing that seems certain: if you decide to remove the double, then Three Diamonds seems preferable to anything else.

BESSE: "Three Diamonds. No question, of course, of leaving the double in. South has a strong and shapely opening and should say so."

RODRIGUE: "Three Diamonds. Partner may well have doubled with values outside diamonds. I might pass if I had a trump to lead through."

VANDEN BORRE: "Three Diamonds. I am sure to be a lone wolf here but I think the hand is too good for a mere reverse with Two Spades."

No lone wolf, but a member of a howling pack. However, others had equally strong views:

CROWN: "No Bid. At rubber bridge and equal vulnerability I have no hesitation in passing."

REESE: "No Bid. Normally I do not like to pass with a void, but here there is good compensation in the defensive tricks outside. If partner has anything like a double we could pick up 500."

FILARSKI: "No Bid. This is a very respectable opening bid and I do not like to go down in something instead of scoring something between 200 and 800. If I remove the double, North, holding five good diamonds over West's six-card suit, will not be impressed by my arguments. If they make it, well, they score 180."

Mrs. Markus balances elegantly on the fence, observing that rubber bridge is essentially a matter of psychology and that partner's doubling habits have to be taken into account; but that should her partner look like a co-operative doubler, then she would remove briskly to the popular Three Diamonds

Problem No. 4 (10 points)

I.m.p. scoring, North-South vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

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

South holds:

♠Q83 ♥A10753 ♦76 ♣A42

What should South bid?

Answer: Two Spades, 10; Double, 5.

The panel's vote: 11 for Two Spades; 4 for Double (North, Crown, Rodrigue and Vanden Borre).

South's hand, with its bare 10½ points, has not the quality for 2NT. Furthermore, if we *must* play in no-trumps then it had best be played by North, who might hold Queen and another club. The panelists rightly rejected this possibility and declared strongly in favour of Two Spades.

RIMINGTON: "Two Spades. Annoying—I would have bid the fourth suit as a relay, but the cunning East has prevented this."

LE DENTU: "Two Spades. I am not afraid of my spade support and am not strong enough to try Three Clubs. If partner passes, then I don't think there will be a better contract."

REESE: "Two Spades. Really, you ask silly questions sometimes. Where will you go if partner has no more to say?"

May I remind you that this is the

close season for shooting conductors? And—oh, yes—don't be too hard on your Little Major team-mate, C—R—. Or, for that matter, on the following:

VANDEN BORRE: "Double. A very good problem indeed: several bids have equal merit but the double is outstanding, covering all possibilities with an expert partner, who should treat this as a proposition."

CROWN: "Double. This is very difficult indeed and I would rate Two Spades as very close to my actual choice."

Good sound judges of problems, both of them. But the unperceptive Two Spade bidders sweep them aside by sheer weight of numbers. As the editor remarks:

DORMER: "Two Spades. Not likely to win the Bid of the Year prize, but anything else is worse and one dast not pass."

Problem No. 5 (10 points)

I.m.p. scoring, love all, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
			INT
			(12-14 points)
No	No	2♥	No
?			

South holds:

♠AQ973 ♥Q ♦97432 ♣AJ

What should South bid?

Answer: Two Spades, 10; Four Hearts, 7; Three Hearts, 6; 2NT, 5; Three Spades, 4; No Bid, 4.

The panel's vote: 6 for Two Spades; 4 for Four Hearts (Mrs. Markus, Dormer, Besse and Rimington); 3 for Three Hearts (Phillips, Filarski and Fox); 2 for 2NT (Crowhurst and Nunes); 1 for Three Spades (Rodrigue); 1 for No Bid (Crown).

Competitors may remember recent problems where partner has overcalled a weak no-trump with Two of a major and the course of action recommended by the panel has been to raise partner to game on very little trump support. Here the same possibility is open, but the exploratory bid of Two Spades is an alternative. This must be constructive and cannot be based upon a long spade suit, *for with this you would have overcalled 1NT yourself*. In other words, Two Spades must suggest heart tolerance, but not sufficiently good support for a direct raise.

SHARPLES: "Two Spades. If I were playing a minor-suit overcall of a weak no-trump as an informatory double, I would certainly pass. But without any conventional takeout available to partner we should now try Two Spades."

NORTH: "Two Spades. In some ways I would like to pass but the risk of doing so is considerable. There are many hands where Four Spades is an easy contract, despite the fact that partner has been unable to double. Even Four Hearts is not out of the question."

However, assorted heart raises were mooted:

PHILLIPS: "Three Hearts. When partner overcalls a no-trump opening, it is rarely wise to fight him by mentioning some moderate suit."

RIMINGTON: "Four Hearts. To bid Three would merely pass the buck."

And a very good one to pass too, I would say.

DORMER: "Four Hearts. Reminiscent of November Problem 4, and probably one of a chain of related problems in which I shall always be vainly chasing the *avant garde* with last month's top scoring answer."

Your forecast is accurate so far. One last idea, again seeming to miss the

inferences conveyed by South's first round pass:

CROWHURST: "2NT. We are clearly worth a bid of some sort, but Three Hearts seems way-out and Two Spades would suggest better spades and a worse hand. Over 2NT partner may introduce a second suit, jump to Four Hearts or even raise to 3NT."

As we have seen, these possibilities are also available to him if we choose Two Spades.

Problem No. 6 (10 points)

Match-point pairs, love all, the bidding has gone:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	1NT	Dble	Rdble

?

(West's 1NT shows 12-14 points).

South holds:

♠52 ♥43 ♦97642 ♣8653

What should South bid?

Answer: Two Clubs, 10; Two Diamonds, 8.

The panel's vote: 8 for Two Clubs; 9 for Two Diamonds (Mrs. Markus, Dormer, North, Vanden Borre, Le Dentu, Filarski, Rodrigue, Crowhurst and Fox).

I have taken a liberty with the mark scale here for I think that the minority suggestion of Two Clubs is considerably superior to Two Diamonds. And, at last, a *détente* with P.S.-D.

SWINNERTON-DYER: "Two Clubs. Planning to withdraw to Two Diamonds if doubled; but I get some extra chances this way. *They may not double*—stranger things have happened."

RIESE: "Two Clubs. Testing the weather. If Two Clubs is rapidly doubled, retreat to Two Diamonds. This is better than allowing partner to rescue himself into two of a major."

SHARPLES: "Two Clubs. To pass in this situation must show that we have some contribution to the defence. Otherwise partner is at the mercy of a bluff redouble. Here it is only prudent to make the cheapest bid available."

This argument is extended by a supporter of the other faction:

DORMER: "Two Diamonds. If only for ethical reasons, a pass must imply readiness to defend 1NT redoubled.

"Some argue that since East must be genuine in such a sequence, North-South will never want to defend. Therefore, they say, a pass by South shows a weak balanced hand with no rescue suit. Such an arrangement is dubious, since if the opponents were given advance notice then they might well attempt psychic redoubles, knowing that even if one defender passed the other would take out."

You are right, some do argue like that:

RODRIGUE: "Two Diamonds. Not that a pass would show a willingness to defend; but this is an attempt to stop partner choosing a major."

FILARSKI: "Two Diamonds. This hand was not a present from the Christmasman, I hope."

VANDEN BORRE: "Two Diamonds. Even the waiter will understand this bid."

CROWHURST: "Two Diamonds. Curious problem, for what else can we do? To bid Two Clubs first might work well, but what if this is doubled?"

You then retreat to Two Diamonds and are no worse off than if you had bid that immediately. Even experts sometimes fail to double with little in trumps. The risk that West will double Two Clubs and that North will remove incontinently to Two of a major is a very small one indeed.

Problem No. 7 (20 points)

I.m.p. scoring, love all, the bidding has gone:

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

South holds:

♠7 ♥KQ8 ♦KJ8643 ♣AK5

(a) Do you agree with South's bid of Two Hearts? If not, what alternative do you prefer?

(b) What should South bid now?

Answer to (a): Agree with Two Hearts, 10; Prefer 1NT, 7; Prefer Two Clubs, 6; Prefer 2NT, 4; Prefer Three Diamonds, 3.

The panel's vote: 7 agree with Two Hearts; 4 prefer 1NT (Phillips, Fox, Rimington and Crowhurst); 3 prefer Two Clubs (Besse, Reese and Nunes); 2 prefer 2NT (Mrs. Markus and Dormer); 1 prefers Three Diamonds (Swinerton-Dyer).

No rebid is completely satisfactory. South holds 16 points and a six-card suit, but his diamonds are very broken and there is a singleton in partner's suit. All five of the panel's bids are very worthy of consideration and I will content myself (and, I trust, competitors) by quoting a few comments and allotting marks *pro rata*.

If its author had been anyone but Honest Joe Vanden Borre, I might have had misgivings about the sincerity of the first remark:

VANDEN BORRE: "Agree with Two Hearts; more, I love it! Please tell us who found this masterpiece?"

His Benelux neighbour is less ardent:

FILARSKI: "Agree with Two Hearts. I don't like it, but what's better? Maybe T.R. will suggest Two Diamonds and maybe that's not so crazy. Certainly there will be votes for Two Clubs, but

if South decides to make an unnatural bid it seems better to show his strength with a reverse."

NORTH: "Agree with Two Hearts. Shows five diamonds and a good hand. The fact that we are a heart short is the only defect."

A defect which could be a sizeable one if partner passed Two Hearts.

CROWHURST: "Prefer 1NT. Two Hearts is too distorted and too dangerous. If one *must* invent a second suit, at least Two Clubs is below the level of one's true suit."

PHILLIPS: "Prefer 1NT. At least by making a limit bid we avoid having to face another awkward decision on the next round."

REESE: "Prefer Two Clubs. If you reckon that you are too strong for Two Diamonds, either 1NT or Two Clubs is preferable to Two Hearts. You are barely worth a reverse on values and there is insufficient compensation for making the bid on a short suit."

MRS. MARKUS: "Prefer 2NT. In spite of the singleton spade."

Oooh! And only three months ago you leaped to a slam in your suit after a 2NT rebid from partner, with the confident assertion that under no circumstances could he hold a singleton!

SWINNERTON-DYER: "Prefer Three Diamonds. There is of course the question of what you do after Two Hearts if partner raises them enthusiastically—this does not look a convincing hand for a four-three fit. Moreover the key to this hand is the diamond bolster and partner must be asked to value that very highly."

Answer to (b): No Bid, 10; Three Diamonds, 2; 2NT, 1.

The panel's vote: 15 for No Bid; 1 for Three Diamonds (Le Dentu); 1 for 2NT (Fox).

Little space is needed to deal with this corollary. Having made the forward bid of Two Hearts, South has absolutely nothing in reserve and must pass Two Spades. It may well prove true that 2NT would have proved a better contract than Two Spades, but it is unlikely that North would be able to stop there if South finds another bid. Incidentally, G. C. H. Fox remarked to me the other day that he had not seen the fatal "1 for 2NT (Fox)," for a long time.

Problem No. 8 (10 points)

Match-point pairs, North-South vulnerable, the bidding has gone:

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

South holds:

♠2 ♥1086432 ♦J962 ♣A2

What should South lead?

Answer: Two of hearts, 10; Ace of clubs, 5; Two of spades, 4.

The panel's vote: 12 for the Two of hearts; 3 for the Two of spades (Dormer, Rimington and Vanden Borre); 2 for the Ace of clubs (Reese and Swinnerton-Dyer).

Unless the opponents are way off beam, it does not seem that North can have doubled on high-card strength. Doubles of high-level contracts often have a lead-directing quality about them, as with the Lightner slam double. Here the majority of the panel are convinced that North is void in hearts. If this is so, then the lead of ♥2 must suggest a re-entry in clubs, and another heart ruff can follow.

LE DENTU: "Two of hearts. Hoping that partner will ruff and read my card as a suit-preference signal rather than indicating that I have four cards in hearts."

SHARPLES: "Two of hearts. This looks too easy!"

NUNES: "Two of hearts. Why ask? Any other lead must be wrong."

MRS. MARKUS: "Two of hearts. Should partner ruff, this will work well. Even if *declarer* is void in hearts this attack may well pave the way to a forcing game."

But other views were held.

DORMER: "Two of spades. Quiet defence will beat them."

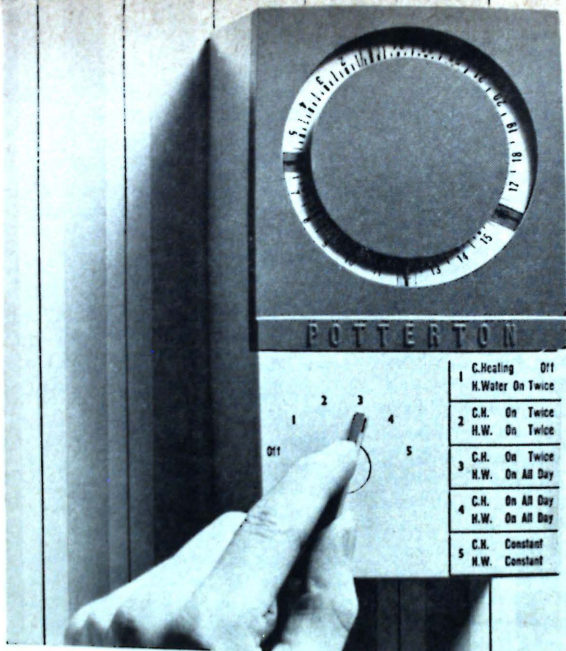
VANDEN BORRE: "Two of spades. I am a purist! And other panelists are too intelligent to give a different answer, unless they misread the problem."

REESE: "Ace of clubs. I was in despised solitude when I recommended such a lead before, but I still hold the same simple-minded view: when partner doubles and I have an unexpected Ace, I am going to lead it and blame him if they make the contract. Partner may have doubled on high hearts, but leading them is not going to help. (Singleton ♥A is not a doubling value.)"

SWINNERTON-DYER: "Ace of clubs. Even if partner has a heart void, it is not certain that heart ruffs are the best defence. And I don't believe he has: for he did not bid over One Heart on the first round although he has a good hand—for he has now doubled after a confident auction. (I hope this fact is too obvious to catch many of the panel, but it is a nicely-designed trap for a somnolent solver with a good dinner inside him.)"

Typical P.S.D. tactics, you will observe, to select a minority answer and blandly observe, "I hope this trap is too simple . . ."; but unfortunately the lead of ♥2 is overwhelmingly supported.

(*The Competition Result is at the foot of page 41.*)



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BRIDGE ACADEMY

Conducted by G. C. H. FOX

The noted bridge teacher and columnist continues his advice on tactics and scoring in match-point pairs contests.

The problem whether or not to accept a penalty is more difficult in match-point pairs than in other forms of duplicate.

For example, suppose that in a team event your side is vulnerable and bids to Four Spades. The non-vulnerable opponents bid Five Diamonds. You are in no doubt whatever that they cannot make the contract, but you don't feel that you are sure to defeat them by four tricks (700). Unless you are satisfied that you can make Five Spades you should double and ensure a plus score. If the penalty does not quite measure up to what you had hoped for, it is unfortunate but not disastrous. Suppose they go three down and you collect 500: you lose 120 (3 i.m.p.). On the other hand if you bid Five Spades and go one down, and in the other room your other pair lose 500 in Five Diamonds doubled, you lose 11 i.m.p.

In match-point pairs the situation is rather different. Your

result is compared, not with one pair but with several. Your score needs to be as good as at least half the other pairs to be average. It can happen that it may be no more disastrous to go down yourself than to accept an inadequate penalty. It is this fact which prompts experienced players to take great liberties at the One level when not vulnerable.

In a recent pairs event North, vulnerable, opened One Club and East, not vulnerable overbid One Spade. South doubled, holding:
♠AKQ9 ♥QJ74 ♦J762 ♣J

The contract went three down, 500, but East-West scored a top as every other North-South pair bid and made 3NT, scoring at east 600.

It might be tempting to double at rubber bridge or even in teams, but at match-point pairs it is far too difficult to guarantee setting the contract by the four tricks which are needed to compensate for the loss of a vulnerable game.



BIDDING WISE

This month his subject is "barrage," or pre-emptive, bidding.

When you have a good hand and an opponent opens with a pre-emptive bid, it is wise to be cautious. Many players think that as soon as an opponent advertises a weak hand and they have 13 or 14 points, they can make game or even a slam. You must remember that you or your partner have to start bidding at a high level and this is always dangerous. Even if you both have good hands, due to the lack of bidding space, it will be difficult to reach the right contract.

There are, however, many occasions when you *should* enter the bidding after a pre-emptive bid. With a good suit of your own there is no great problem.

♠AQJxxx ♥AJx ♦xxx ♣x

This is just enough for Three Spades over an enemy Three bid.

♠AQ ♥KQJ10xxx ♦Ax ♣xx

If an opponent opens Three Clubs or Three Diamonds, this hand is strong enough to bid Four Hearts.

♠Q10xxxx ♥AJxx ♦Kx ♣x

With a hand of this type it can be dangerous to bid over Three Clubs or Three Diamonds. It is best to pass as your suit, although long, is very weak.

The most difficult type is the strong and fairly balanced hand. If you hold:

♠AJxx ♥KQxx ♦x ♣AQJx

and an opponent opens Three Diamonds, it is obvious that you should take some action, but as you have no long suit you need your partner's co-operation to find the best contract. There are many conventions which ask your partner to bid his best suit in this position, and of these we shall use the bid of Three No Trumps as a "takeout." It is the simplest and most widely used of all these conventions. (If you like to go into these things more deeply, I recommend that you consider one of the newest methods, which is being adopted by many of the best players. This is: Double—

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3 NT—Double. This means that
an immediate double over Three
Clubs or Three Diamonds, and
a bid of 3NT over Three Hearts
or Three Spades, is for a takeout;
and in the last position, sitting
under the opener, a double is
always for a takeout, irrespective
of the suit that was opened.)

Going back to our last example,
by our chosen method we shall
bid 3NT over the opening bid of
Three Diamonds. This shows a
strong hand and asks partner to
bid his best suit. It is important
to remember that with this type
of hand, containing no long suit,
you need to be especially strong,
with a minimum of about 16
points.

Responding to a takeout bid

A takeout bid of 3NT is similar
to an informative double. There-
fore, when you respond you
should, if possible, bid the full
limit of your hand, otherwise
your partner will never know
whether you have a good hand
or a poor one. Examples:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
3♦	3NT	No	?

♠Jxx ♥xx ♦Qxxx ♣Jxxx

East's correct bid is Four
Clubs. It is a poor hand, so
you make a minimum response.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
3♥	3NT	No	?

♠xxx ♥x ♦AKx ♣Qxxxxx

Respond Five Clubs. This time
you have a very good hand and
want to be in game.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
3♣	3NT	No	?

♠QJxx ♥Kxx ♦Kxx ♣xxx

Respond Four Spades. Al-
though you have a fair hand, you
do not visualise a slam. You do
not need to jump as your bid is
at the game level.

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
3♥	3NT	No	?

♠AJ10xx ♥xx ♦AJx ♣Q10x

Respond Five Spades. This is
an extremely good hand, opposite
partner's strong bid, and a slam
is possible. Your bid should
convey to partner that you are
worried about heart control.

One important point which you
should always bear in mind.
When an opponent "pre-empt,"
you should be on the alert for a
chance to pick up a penalty.
This is often more judicious than
bidding a doubtful game or slam.
If you play 3NT as a takeout bid,
a double will be for "business"
and should be used on such a
hand as the following:

♠QJxx ♥AKx ♦A109x ♣Kx

If righthand opens Three Dia-
monds or Three Spades, you
should double rather than bid
3NT. This sort of double is best
made when you have "un-
expected" trump tricks.

BIDDING QUIZ

You are East and hold:

	♠ K x x x	♥ K J x x	♦ x	♣ Q J x x
1.	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	3♠	4♥	No	?

What do you bid?

2.	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	No	1♦	3♥	?

What do you bid?

You are East and hold:

	♠ A x x x	♥ K x x x	♦ x	♣ A J x x
3.	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	No	No	3♦	?

What do you bid?

You are East and hold:

	♠ J x x x	♥ Q x x	♦ x x	♣ A Q x x
4.	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	3♣	3♥	No	?

What do you bid?

5.	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	4♠	No	No	No

What do you bid?

6. You are East and hold:

	♠ K Q 10 9	♥ J x	♦ J x x	♣ x x x x
	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	3♠	3NT	No	?

What do you bid?

You are East and hold:

	♠ A x	♥ K J x	♦ A x x x	♣ Q x x x
7.	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
	3♠	3NT	No	?

What do you bid?

(Answers at foot of page 60)

PLAYING WISE



Dan Burgess improves your card play with his specially designed problems.

This month he advises on the backward finesse.

If you have grasped the principles behind leads from sequences (remember *Playing Wise*), you will be able to apply them to situations where your holding is not properly a sequence. Take the case when the declarer has Qxx in one hand and 10xx in the other. The defence's problem is to try and isolate both honours at the same time. Sometimes it cannot be done, but you should be on the look-out for the occasions when it can. For example:

DUMMY (NORTH)
10xx

YOU (EAST)
KJ9x

You are on lead in the middle game. From the bidding and the cards played, you judge that declarer may have either Ace of Queen but is unlikely to have both. If he has the Ace he will make just his one certain trick. If you do, but suppose he has Qxx? Then, if you lead a

small card and declarer plays low, your partner must play his Ace to beat dummy's 10. Now the declarer must make a trick with his Qx behind your KJ9.

Let's look at our holding again. We have a "broken" sequence but special circumstances apply in that the missing card, the 10, is in dummy and the one immediately beneath it, the 9 is in our hand. This enables us to treat our holding as if it were KJ10x, so we shall lead the Jack. Now declarer can gain no protection from dummy's 10 while, if he plays with the Queen, our partner will win our K9 tenace. You will observe, too, that the Jack can save a trick if declarer has AQx, for if we lead small, he can let it run to dummy's 10 and then finesse against our King.

The play of the Jack in this situation is called a "backward" finesse.

BIDDING QUIZ

East and hold:
 ♠ K x x x ♥ K J x x ♦ x ♣ Q J x x
 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
 3♠ 4♥ No ?
 you bid?

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
 No 1♦ 3♥ ?
 you bid?

East and hold:
 ♠ A x x x ♥ K x x x ♦ x ♣ A J x x
 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
 No No 3♦ ?
 you bid?

East and hold:
 ♠ J x x x ♥ Q x x ♦ x x ♣ A Q x x
 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
 3♣ 3♥ No ?
 you bid?
 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
 4♣ No No ?
 you bid?

re East and hold:
 ♠ K Q 10 9 ♥ J x ♦ J x x ♣ x x x x
 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
 3♠ 3NT No ?
 you bid?

East and hold:
 ♠ A x ♥ K J x ♦ A x x x ♣ Q x x x
 SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
 3♠ 3NT No ?
 you bid?

(Answers at foot of page 58)



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The play of the Jack in this situation is called a "backward" finesse and there are parallels to

it right down the scale. For example:

DUMMY (NORTH)
9xx

YOU (EAST)
Q108x

Here the two cards we wish to isolate are the 9 in dummy and the Jack in declarer's hand if he holds either AJx or KJx. If we lead small and declarer plays low from either of these holdings, our partner must play his King or Ace to beat dummy's 9, and now our Queen is caught under the AJ or KJ. But if we treat our holding as Q109x and make the normal sequential lead of the 10 we avoid this. Declarer can now get no help from

dummy's 9 and can make only one trick.

In close contracts you often get this sort of position occurring among quite low cards, especially when a suit has been led once or twice and the top honours have gone. When a player attempts a backward finesse his partner must be on the alert to "read" the lead. A careless or superficial player may take the lead of an intermediate card for "top of nothing." If you are ever in doubt yourself about the meaning of your partner's lead, don't let your opponents rush you but take time off to think. Simple logic should frequently get you the right answer.

ANSWERS TO BIDDING QUIZ

1. *No Bid*, 10 points. Although your cards will be very useful to partner, it is unlikely that you will make a slam. It is best to settle for the certain game.
2. *Double*, 10 points. You may not be able to make a game, so a penalty looks more attractive.
3. *No Bid*, 10 points. You have an opening bid at the One level, but you should not force your partner to bid at the Four level.
4. *Four Hearts*, 10 points. Your hand may provide enough for partner to make game.
5. *No Bid*, 10 points. This hand

will not be easy for declarer but he is by no means certain to go down. You should not expect defensive tricks from a partner who has pre-empted.

6. *No Bid*, 10 points. Although partner's 3NT is for a takeout, your hand is unsuited to a trump contract and you have the spade suit well held.

7. *Four Spades*, 10 points. You should be able to make a slam, but it is best to let partner choose the suit. That is the message conveyed by this cue bid in the enemy suit.

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1. *No Bid*, 10 points. Although your cards will be very useful to partner, it is unlikely that you will make a slam. It is best to settle for the certain game.
2. *Double*, 10 points. You may not be able to make a game, so a penalty looks more attractive.
3. *No Bid*, 10 points. You have an opening bid at the One level, but you should not force your partner to bid at the Four level.
4. *Four Hearts*, 10 points. Your hand may provide enough for partner to make game.
5. *No Bid*, 10 points. This hand

will not be easy for declarer to make. He is by no means certain to get down. You should not expect defensive tricks from a partner who has pre-empted.

6. *No Bid*, 10 points. Although partner's 3NT is for a takeout, your hand is unsuited to a trump contract and you have the spade suit well held.
7. *Four Spades*, 10 points. You should be able to make a slam, but it is not the message the bid in the

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READING BRIDGE CLUB, 35 Jesse Terrace, Reading. Tel. Reading 52136. Hon. Sec. C. T. Holloway. Hours of play: 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Duplicate alternate Mondays. Cut-in (3d.): 2nd, 4th and 5th Tuesday afternoons, every Tuesday evening and every Thursday afternoon. Partnership (3d.) 1st and 3rd. Tuesday afternoons, every Thursday and Saturday evening. Partnership (6d.) every Tuesday evening.

HANTS

BOURNEMOUTH, GROVE ROAD BRIDGE CLUB—East Cliff Cottage, 57 Grove Road, Bournemouth 24311. Hon. Sec., Mrs. Moss. Stakes 3d. Partnership, Thurs. and Sat. aft., Sun. evening. Duplicate, 1st Wed., 3rd Fri.

SOUTHAMPTON, SUTHERLAND BRIDGE CLUB—2 Rockstone Place. Tel.: 25291 or 73656. Hon. Sec., Mrs. Cahalan. Stakes 2d. Partnership: Tues. eve. and Wed. aft. Cut-in: Mon. and Fri. aft., Thurs. and Sat. eve. Duplicate: 3rd Mon. eve. (Sept. to May).

WESSEX CLUB, Lindsay Manor, Lindsay Road, Bournemouth. Westbourne 64034. Hon. Sec., The Secretary. 6d. Partnership Mon. aft. and Wed. evening. 2d. Partnership Tues. aft. and Fri. aft. Duplicate 1st, 2nd and 4th Friday evening each month and 3rd Thursday afternoon. 6d. cut-in every night except Partnership and Duplicate days. 2d. or 6d. cut-in every afternoon. Visitors welcome.

HERTS

HODDESDON BRIDGE CLUB—High Street, Hoddesdon. Hoddesdon 3813. Hon. Sec., W. Lamport. Stakes 3d. Partnership, alternate Wed. afternoons. Duplicate, Tues. evening.

ISLE OF WIGHT

SHANKLIN, CRAIGMORE BRIDGE CLUB—Howard Road, Shanklin, I.W. Shanklin 2940. Hon. Sec., J. S. Danby. Stakes 2d. Duplicate Mon. (Oct. to May). Partnership, Tues.

KENT

WEST KENT CLUB—12 Boyne Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Tunbridge Wells 21513. Hon. Sec., R. H. Corbett. Stakes 3d. and 6d. Partnership, Mon. and Wed. 6d., Wed. and Fri. 3d. Duplicate, 1st and 3rd Sat. (2.15).

SIDCUP—SIDCUP BRIDGE CLUB, Sidcup Golf Club, Hurst Road, Sidcup. Hon. Sec., Mrs. W. Davis, 24 Carlton Road, Sidcup. Telephone: FOO 1868. Stakes 3d. Partnerships Mon., Wed., Fri. Duplicate Mon., Wed.

LANCS

LIVERPOOL—LIVERPOOL BRIDGE CLUB, 22 Upper Duke Street, Liverpool. Tel.: Royal 8180. Hon. Sec., Mrs. H. T. Haleswood. Partnerships Tue., Fri. afternoon. Duplicate Mon. evening.

LONDON

MAYFAIR BRIDGE STUDIO—110 Mount Street, W.1. (2nd floor). GRO 2844. Hon. Sec., Mrs.

H. Ponting. Stakes 1/- and 6d. Partnership Sun. Wed. evenings 6d., Mon. afternoon 6d. Duplicate pairs 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings 7.30, 2nd and 4th Sun. afternoons, teams 2nd and 4th Sat. evenings. Tuition by G. C. H. Fox.

STUDIO BRIDGE CLUB—18a Queens Way, Bayswater, W.2. Tel.: Bay 5749. Hon. Sec., Mrs. H. Pearce. Stakes 2/-, 1/- and 6d. Partnership Mon. and Fri. evenings. Thursday evenings Slam Night.

MIDDLESEX

HIGHGATE BRIDGE CLUB—80 Highgate West Hill, N.6. MOU 3423. Hon. Sec., Mrs. Osborn. Stakes 2d. Partnership Wed. afternoons, Friday and Saturday evenings.

NOTTINGHAM

NOTTINGHAM BRIDGE CLUB—401 Mansfield Road, Nottingham 65995. (Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hammond.) Half-way house for Sunday matches. Duplicate Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 7 p.m.

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WARWICKSHIRE

HEATHERCROFT BRIDGE CLUB—2 Pebble Mill Road, Birmingham 5. SELLY Oak 0443. Stakes 3d. to 1/-. Cut-in or Partnership every aft. and eve. Duplicate Sun. eve., Mon. aft., and as desired by Members. Visitors welcome.

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Diary of Events

1964		
Jan.	3-5	MIDLAND COUNTIES CONGRESS
	17-19	WHITELAW CUP
	18-19	ENGLAND v. NORTHERN IRELAND
Feb.	7-9	CROYDON CONGRESS
	21-24	SPRING FOURSOMES
Feb. 29-Mar. 1		WALES v. ENGLAND
March	7-8	PORTLAND PAIRS (DIRECT ENTRY)
	13-15	CUMBERLAND CONGRESS
	14-15	MASTERS PAIRS
	19	CHARITY CHALLENGE CUP
	21-22	THE FIELD TROPHY
April	15-19	DEVON AND CORNWALL CONGRESS
	24-26	DURHAM CONGRESS
May	1-3	GLoucestershire CONGRESS
	2-12	WORLD OLYMPIAD
	8-10	LONDON CONGRESS
	29-31	YORKSHIRE CONGRESS
	 Droitwich
	 Eastbourne
	 Bournemouth
	 Fairfield Halls
	 Eastbourne
	 Wales
	 Regional
	 Keswick
	 Harrogate
	 Worldwide
	 London
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