

ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION
QUARTERLY

NUMBER 1 ★ APRIL 1966

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

*

Edited by HAROLD FRANKLIN



Dear Member,

As chairman of the English Bridge Union I am able to talk and listen to each of you through the offices of your elected delegates. That is the way in which democratically organised bodies such as ours work. Laudable though this may be I have always felt the need of something more . . . the possibility of speaking to each of you individually.

With the appearance of this, the English Bridge Union's first Quarterly Review, the possibility becomes a reality. The Council and the various committees which are responsible for organised duplicate bridge in this country can pass their decisions directly to you and, where necessary, explain the considerations which helped them to formulate those decisions. And you too, I hope, will be able to speak more easily to your officers. If space does not always permit the editor to publish your views and suggestions, you may at least be assured that your letters to him will always be brought to the proper notice.

A bridge magazine, even an official publication such as ours, should do more than communicate ; it should also amuse and instruct. I hope you will find that this does both. I wish you pleasant reading.

R. F. Brown

REPORT FROM THE BRITISH BRIDGE LEAGUE

Following widespread reports about allegations of cheating made against J. T. Reese and B. Schapiro in the World Championship in Buenos Aires last May, an emergency meeting of the Council of the British Bridge League was called for May 30th, the day after the scheduled return of the British party. It was expected that a report from the World Bridge Federation would be put before the Committee. In fact the report was not then available and the meeting was adjourned until June 15th.

The complaint was first heard by the Appeals Committee of the World Bridge Federation and then referred to its Executive Committee. The effect of the statement issued by the W.B.F. at that time, which has already been published in full, was that the matter had been fully investigated and that a report of the proceedings would be sent to the British Bridge League.

The Council of the British Bridge League considered this report at the meeting of June 15th and decided that it could not act upon it. The essential reasons for this decision were :

(1) The World Bridge Federation did not see fit to publish its finding or take any action on it but referred the report to the British Bridge League.

(2) Two persons who gave evidence about the matter sat as members of both the Appeals and Executive Committee and adjudicated on it and one of them prepared the report.

(3) Some of the evidence related to hands played at the Championships. No details of these hands appeared in the report, making it impossible to assess the value of the evidence.

(4) It appeared that the players had been given inadequate opportunity to defend themselves.

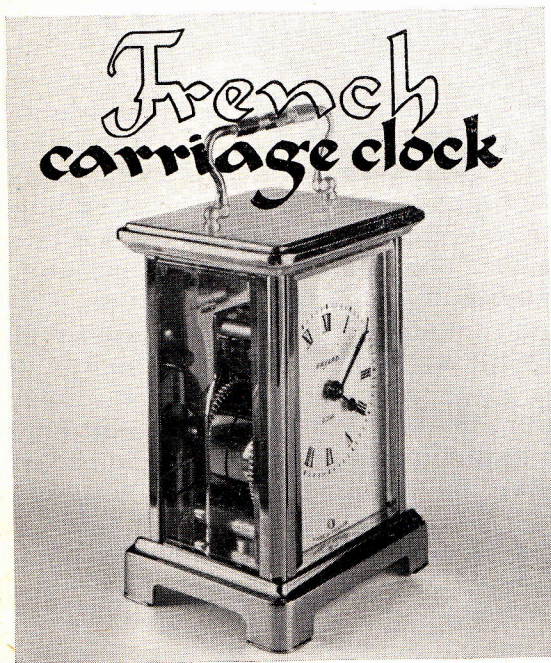
The Council of the B.B.L. decided that the allegations must be fully investigated and that this could only be properly carried out by an independent tribunal. Sir John Foster, Q.C., M.P., was invited and agreed to conduct the inquiry. General Lord Bourne, G.C.B., K.B.E., C.M.G., accepted an invitation to join Sir John on the tribunal. Sir John Foster and Lord Bourne, regarding their work as a public duty, are providing their services without fee.

The B.B.L. are represented at the tribunal by Mr. John Pugh, who has instructed Mr. Simon Goldblatt. Messrs. Reese and Schapiro are represented by Mr. Eric Leigh Howard who has instructed Mr. Leonard Caplan, Q.C. Mr. R. A. Priday and Mr. Alan Hiron were nominated as experts in bridge matters to attend at the enquiry.

To date there have been twenty-six sittings of the inquiry, of an average length of five hours. Eleven witnesses have been heard and a large number of hands have been examined.

It is recognised that there is concern at the time that it is taking to complete the inquiry. There are three main reasons. Firstly, there was some difficulty in organising the appearance of the American witnesses at a suitable time. Secondly, the legal personalities involved are men with heavy commitments and there has been understandable and continuous difficulty in finding times for sittings which were suitable for all parties. Thirdly, the General Election, called at a time when the inquiry was almost complete, made both Sir John Foster and Mr. Simon Goldblatt temporarily unavailable, since both were candidates.

After the election, World Bridge Championships and other commitments prevent meetings for a further few weeks. The next meeting is scheduled for the middle of May. It is estimated that the inquiry should not need more than a further three or four full sittings.



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BIDDING THEORY

John Collings and Jonathan Cansino

John Collings and Jonathan Cansino, aged respectively 31 and 26, are the outstanding pair in British bridge today. Their successes in the past twelve months include the Gold Cup, the British Selection Trials, the Waddington Cup for Life Masters, the Spring Foursomes and Crockford's Cup. They play an adventurous game and though they describe their system as basically Acol, they have grafted on to it a large number of specialised conventions, some borrowed, others adapted, from leading thinkers at home and abroad. In this article they explain a few of them.

The art of playing well is to make fewer mistakes than your opponents. That has been the long-recognised battle cry of the Old Guard, a call to arms that has invoked the response of solid bidding and a "down-the-middle" approach. We agree that this approach will always enable the good player to defeat an opponent who plays less well. But when the good player meets his equal, or even his master, then the call should be for a more positive approach. It is not enough to wait for mistakes that may not be forthcoming ; you have to create your own swings.

This end is best achieved by the use of specialised conventions which have a constructive value to you and a nuisance value against your opponents. If you are able to constantly force your opponents to rely on their judgement rather than on their system you help to exhaust their reserves of mental energy, and that is a factor of considerable importance in top-class tournament play. Greater mental stamina is the quality which enables a team to win from behind in the closing stages of a long match. Perhaps you have noticed how often really top players manage this. That is a vital tenet in our philosophy of bidding. These are a few of the ways in which we apply it.

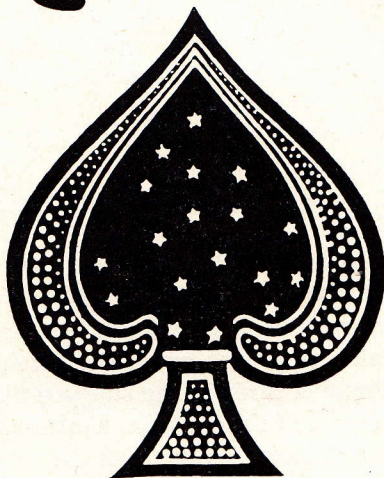
(a) **ASTRO.** A valuable convention for competing against the Weak No Trump. The bid can be used on a variety of hands, both balanced and unbalanced, which do not qualify for a double.

The convention is simply explained. When opponent opens with a bid of One No Trump an overcall of Two Clubs shows a heart suit and one other suit, an overcall of Two Diamonds shows a spade suit and one other suit.

Partner may pass only when he has a weak hand with length in the suit you have bid. If he makes a minimum bid in the major you have indicated, e.g. South 1 N.T., West 2 Clubs, North No, East 2 Hearts. this should be read as a sign-off, promising at least three hearts. If partner holds fewer than three cards in the promised major he makes

A
♠

**don't
pass**



up the Bridge Quiz
everyday in the
Daily Mail
—the paper that leads

♥
V

the cheapest available bid (2 D in the example above). This is a relay bid and asks partner to name his second suit.

Experience has taught us that when partner makes a relay bid he generally has four cards in the relay suit, and that it is therefore sometimes safe to pass. The only forcing bid is a raise of the suit partner has actually bid (in the example East would force with Three Clubs). Two No Trumps is a natural bid and East would show positive values by a jump bid in a major suit.

To supplement the Astro sequences, our overcall in a major suit after opponent's No Trump opening is natural and shows a one-suited hand, our jump overcall is weak and pre-emptive and, against an opening of a Strong No Trump, we double to show a hand with two long minor suits. Armed with this battery of bids we are able to compete against the No Trump opening with a fair degree of safety. Of course we suffer occasional penalties—but we often find contracts of our own and we often provoke our opponents into errors of judgement. We believe that the balance is in our favour.

When the opponent opens with one of a suit it is helpful if you can get into the bidding on hands of distributional value no less than on hands of high card value. We have modified the Roman Overcalls and present them as :

(b) **THE COLLINGS DISTRIBUTIONAL OVERCALLS.** ("A" *licence granted*.) There are four bids over opponent's opening of a suit call, all of which guarantee two specific five-card suits. These are :

(1) Jump Overcall. Opponent opens One Club you overcall Two Spades. This promises five cards in the suit you bid and five cards in the suit bid by opponent, in this instance five clubs and five spades.

(2) Two No Trumps shows 5-5 in either the two major suits or the two minor suits. If the opening bid was a minor then the Two No Trump bid shows the majors, and vice versa.

(3) An overcall in the opener's suit shows five cards in the next higher ranking suit and five in the lower minor or major. E.g. 1 H-2 H would show five spades (next ranking suit) and five clubs (lower minor). 1 Sp-2 Sp would show five clubs (next ranking suit) and five hearts (lower major).

(4) Overcall of One No Trump shows 5-5 in the only remaining combination of the three unbid suits, e.g. 1 H-1 N.T. shows five spades and five diamonds. 1 Sp-1 N.T. shows five diamonds and five hearts.

Of course you may help opponents if you disclose your distribution and fail to buy the contract. You offset this, constructively by the ability to compete on slender values, destructively, by the nuisance value you create. Again we think the balance is ours.

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MASTER POINTS COMMITTEE

(Chairman : John Hammond)

More than five thousand of the eight thousand five hundred English Bridge Union members who will receive this magazine are already registered holders of Master Points and may therefore be assumed to be reasonably familiar with the working of the scheme. The space which is accorded to my committee will normally be devoted to Master Point news, Master Point events, Master Point promotions. This first issue is my one opportunity to say something to the uninitiated of what the Master Points scheme is all about. I hope I may do so with the indulgence of the initiated.

The scheme was introduced by the English Bridge Union in September, 1956. The first names to be registered were those of eleven players who shared the distinction of having won the European Championship. All eleven were appointed Honorary Life Masters. In ten years the eleven names have grown to 5500, graded in the following twelve ranks : Grand Master, Life Master, National Master, five grades of Star Master, Master, County Master, Local Master and Club Master.

Almost all duplicate bridge tournaments in England, if they are conducted by bodies or clubs which are in any way associated with the English Bridge Union, qualify for the award of Master Points. You can earn Master Points in the familiar surroundings of your own club duplicate as well as in the rarified atmosphere of the major National Championships. There are two types of points : the ordinary Master Points and National Master Points. National Master Points are awarded only in National Competitions organised by the English Bridge Union. Grand Master, Life Master and National Master ranks require a specific number of national Master Points.

The obvious question is, what benefit does the Master Point scheme offer to the duplicate player, other than a sop to his vanity. The readiest answer is that most of us, and especially in these travel-conscious days, find many occasions when it is helpful to be able roughly to identify one's status as a bridge player. The Master Points scheme was first introduced in the U.S.A. Today there is scarcely a bridge-playing country in Europe which does not operate a scheme, and the Far East, the Middle East and the Antipodes are other known areas of participation. Cyprus, Bahrain, Tripoli, Aden and Hong Kong all operate within the E.B.U. scheme. In almost any part of the world where organised duplicate bridge is played, your status as a bridge player will be recognised by the position or rank you hold in our own Master Points scheme.

There are further advantages nearer home. Master Points Restricted Competitions, open only to ranked players, are held annually both at a National and at a Local rank. The winners and runners-up of this year's events, recently concluded, are shown at the end of this article. The E.B.U. and various county organisations offer special incentive prizes to players who make the greatest advance in a season and the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH offers a trophy and prize for the leading score in non-National point events.

The Master points register is maintained in the form of a card-index. As soon as you send your first certificate of award to the secretary you have your index-card, you are sent your own personal record card, and you are issued with a certificate of rank each time you achieve a new grade. Promotions to every grade will be published in every future issue of the E.B.U. Quarterly. If you are not yet registered in the Master Points scheme you might try to reach the first rank before the August issue. If you are already amongst our numbers, why not try to make that your target date for promotion.

MASTER POINTS RANKS

Club Master	2 M.P's
Local Master	10
County Master	25
Master	50
One Star Master	100
Two Star Master	150
Three Star Master	200
Four Star Master	250
Five Star Master	300
National Master	150 (incl. 75 National Points)
Life Master	300 (incl. 150 National Points)
Grand Master	1200 (incl. 600 National Points)

J. Sharples (Middlesex) is the first player to become a Grand Master.

WINNERS OF THE 1965/6 RESTRICTED COMPETITIONS

- Life Masters Pairs**—1st. J. D. R. Colings and J. Cansino.
2nd. Mrs. J. Juan and Mrs. G. Durran.
- National Masters Pairs**—1st. P. Gordon and D. Smerdon.
2nd. J. Sarjeant and A. W. Bowen.
- Star Pairs**—1st. C. Beach and H. Abrahams.
2nd. W. Spirer and L. Navello.
- Restricted Pairs**—1st. E. Schön and Cdr. H. O. Worger.
2nd. R. M. Q. Henriques and J. Lester.
- County Masters Pairs**—1st. Mrs. D. Hewson and Mrs. M. Frost.
2nd. E. J. Westaway and G. W. Thompson.
- Rixi Markus Ladies' Individual**—1st. Mrs. M. Armstrong.
2nd. Mrs. M. Edwards.

Note. National Points will be awarded at the E.B.U. Northern Congress (in aid of the N.S.P.C.C.). Make October 28th to 30th a date for Ilkley.

FABER & FABER

Albert Morehead

Morehead on Bidding

'It is a book no bridge player can afford to ignore. Mr. Morehead is a giant in every sense of the word'—GEORGE F. HERVEY, *The Field*. Preface by Ewart Kempson. 30s.

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J. Victor Dewhurst

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TOURNAMENT REPORT

By **Geoffrey Fell** (*E.B.U. Honorary Tournament Secretary*)

The Gold Cup. The entry for the E.B.U. section of the Gold Cup was 123 teams, who compete for six places in the final stage. By virtue of the size of their entry the Scottish Bridge Union qualify for the two remaining places. The six E.B.U. finalists will be :

- P. F. Spurway v. M. Harrison-Gray.
 R. T. Higson v. Mrs. R. Oldroyd.
 R. Preston v. R. E. Philipps.
 A. T. M. Jones v. D. H. Seddon.
 H. Superfine v. G. Fell.
 J. R. L. Thompson v. K. W. Konstam.

The finals will be played at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, on the week-end May 27-30. The quarter-finals will be of 64 boards, played in two sessions on the Friday. The semi-finals, also 64 boards, will be played in two sessions on the Saturday and the final, 100 boards, will be played over three sessions, two on Sunday and one on Monday afternoon.

The prospects are for one of the best final week-ends for several years. Spectators will be able to follow the semi-finals and final stages on Bridgearama, or some similar viewing device, with expert commentary. Those of you who would like to see the country's leading players competing for Britain's premier trophy in ideal viewing conditions will be well rewarded by a visit to Harrogate at Whitsuntide.

The Hubert Phillips Bowl. (Entry 104 teams.)

The draw for the Quarter-final rounds is as follows :

- G. C. Wakefield (Yorkshire) v. Mrs. C. J. Cahalan (S.C.).
 L. Burtt (Essex) or J. Collings (London) v. Mrs. Whitaker (Middlesex).
 Mrs. K. Garfield (Middlesex) v. Dr. W. Spier (Middlesex).
 E. Burston (Derbys.) or J. B. Fulton (Yorkshire) v. W. W. L. Fearn (N.W.C.B.A.).

Crockfords Cup. This year's entry was 139 teams.

The final, played in London, resulted as follows :

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|------------|
| (1) J. D. R. Collings, J. Nunes, J. Cansino, I. N. Rose, | A. Milford,
A. M. Hiron. | 36 points. |
| (2) M. Harrison-Gray, Miss D. R. Shanahan, J. Sharples, R. Sharples, | R. J. Rowlands, M. Wlodarczyk. | 33 points. |
| (3) Mrs. R. Oldroyd, A. Finlay, K. W. Konstam, R. S. Brock, I. Manning, | J. Bloomberg. | 33 points. |
| (4) R. Preston, R. Swimer, N. Gardener, A. Rose, Dr. M. Rockfelt, | C. Goldstein. | 28 points. |
| (5) R. A. Priday, L. Tarlo, C. Rodrigue, Dr. S. Lee. | | 26 points. |
| (6) R. T. Higson, J. Miezi, D. Robson, B. Goldenfield. | | 26 points. |
| (7) G. Fell, E. C. Milnes, P. Purcell, Mrs. R. F. Corwen. | | 23 points. |
| (8) G. C. H. Fox, Mrs. B. M. Harris, C. Lawson, A. Wardman. | | 19 points. |

Collings, adventurous as ever, lived dangerously against Mrs. Oldroyd's Yorkshire team. This was one of three successive hands on which the cup was in the balance.

North-South game. Dealer South.

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

Collings opened One Diamond with the South hand. West intervened with One Heart and North raised to Two Diamonds. South had no entirely satisfactory rebid and Collings made the bold choice of Three No Trumps—there was always the possibility of West opening a low heart from a long suit headed by the ace-king.

West in fact led a spade, for the queen and ace. Declarer took his five diamond tricks. West discarding three hearts

and East discarding the nine of clubs followed by the two of clubs. The contract would appear to depend on declarer's ability to guess where the queen of clubs lay, but Collings thought his best chance was to allow opponents to make a mistake.

After five diamonds he led the queen of hearts. West won with the ace and led a club—and that made nine tricks. West's defence does not stand up to analysis. South was likely to have the ace of clubs to justify his bid, and if he did not have it, declarer could not make his contract if West exited with the jack of hearts, even if that gave declarer two heart tricks.

The purist might question Collings' technique, but part of the strength of Collings' game is that he is prepared to sacrifice mathematics to psychology.

Claude Rodrigue, on the other hand, was the one declarer to make full use of mathematical probabilities on this slam hand, when his victims were the winners.

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

Against Six Spades by West the opening lead was the ten of hearts. Declarer continued with the king of spades and a second spade to the ace and was

encouraged by a 2-2 division. Clearly the contract will always succeed if the diamond finesse wins, but what are the additional chances? If

the clubs are 3-3 West's second diamond can be discarded on the long club. If South is long in clubs, declarer can eliminate the hearts, discarding one club on the king, and put South in with the third round of clubs, to force a diamond lead into the A Q or a ruff and discard.

The snag? Once a club is discarded on the king of hearts it is too late to profit from a possible 3-3 club division. After two rounds of trumps Rodrigue ruffed a low heart in dummy, when South followed with the jack he had his clue. If the cards were true, North had at least six hearts and two spades, a total of eight cards, as against four or five cards in the major suits in the South hand. The probabilities heavily favoured South having club length. Rodrigue returned to hand with the ace of clubs, cashed the king of hearts, discarding a club from dummy, and continued with the king and a third club. South held ♠ Q 5 ♥ Q J 4 ♦ K 8 5 3 ♣ Q 10 9 4 and was powerless.

At the other table Collings was unfortunate when North opened the jack of diamonds. He won with the ace, drew two rounds of trumps, and led a diamond towards the queen, Dr. S. Lee found the club return, the one way to destroy the club-diamond squeeze position and so defeat the slam.

E.B.U. NORTHERN CONGRESS

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Southern Area Qualifiers :

- (1) J. Moskal and M. Hofman (London), Southern Area Champions.
- (2) J. Ockenden and K. A. Woodward (Oxford).
- (3) L. Summers and C. Summers (Surrey).
- (4) Mrs. A. R. Hodges and Mrs. H. W. Haycocks (Kent).
- (5) J. W. Tait and J. Cansino (Middlesex).
- (6) P. Posner and A. Adler (Middlesex).
- (7) R. Cremona and S. Kissen (London).
- (8) I. G. Smith and J. Barkman (Southern Counties).
- (9) P. D. Hackett and M. V. Morgan (Bucks. & Berks.).
- (10) K. Konstam and Mrs. J. Garfield (London).
- (11) J. D. Rosse and H. Abrahams (Middlesex).
- (12) R. J. Rowlands and B. R. Cowley (Middlesex).
- (13) R. E. Clark and D. C. Rimmington (Surrey).
- (14) A. Rose and M. Harrison-Gray (Middlesex).

Midland Area Qualifiers :

- (1) D. Valley and S. Moffat (Birmingham), Midland Area Champions.
- (2) C. Ward and J. R. L. Thompson (Nottingham).
- (3) B. G. White and M. Wilson (Coventry).
- (4) L. B. Guy and J. Thompson (Nottingham).
- (5) E. J. Spurway and G. C. Griffiths (Somerset).
- (6) R. C. C. Gyles and F. Boot (Somerset).

A further 8 pairs will qualify from the Northern Area Championship which at the time of going to press is still to be played.

PRACTICAL PLAY

by Nico Gardener

When I was asked by an eager student what counts most in card play, I replied : to count. The lady retorted immediately : but I can count and remember things all right. I nearly always know how many aces, kings and queens are out, but I am not so hot with the knaves and further downwards. It was no easy task to impress on her that I took her sort of counting for granted, and what I really meant was to count out suits, hands, partners', opponents' . . . anybody's !

The principle of counting all the time embraces not only length of suits and distribution of hands, but also counting points and locating the remaining high cards in the right hands, consistent with the bidding, if any. Automatic counting is indispensable in any serious play and is the greatest single contribution to success at bridge. Sometimes it will disclose an exact picture of the unseen hands, at other times it will only help to obtain better odds. A simple example of the latter :

WEST

♠ A 10 x x

♥ A x x x

♦ 10 x x

♣ A Q

EAST

♠ K J 9 x x

♥ K x

♦ x x x x

♣ K x

West opens One Spade, North bids Two Hearts and eventually leads the king of diamonds against the final contract of Four Spades. South overtakes with the ace, continues the suit and West ruffs North's fourth diamond, South discarding the 3 and the 10 of hearts. West finesses South for the Qxx of spades and makes his contract. No certainty, nothing particularly clever, but nevertheless the play suggests an awareness of what is going on. If all the facts of bidding and play are considered, a finesse looks superior. North has 5 hearts, 4 diamonds and 4 black cards. A singleton spade is more likely for several reasons, one of them being that a 2-2 division in the black suits in the North hand would give South 7 clubs, and he never looked like a man with a seven card suit. Only little guides, true, but enough to make the winning play more often than not.

Evidence of a more concrete nature is available in the next hand :

WEST

♠ K 10 x

♥ Q 10 x

♦ A x x

♣ A K J x

EAST

♠ A J x x

♥ K x

♦ x x

♣ Q 10 x x x

West is the declarer in Five Clubs. North, the dealer, has bid One Diamond, having passed originally.

North leads the king of diamonds. Declarer wins, draws trumps and plays a heart. North, in with the ace, cashes the queen of diamonds and the play reveals that South started with knave and another in diamonds. With two top losers West has to find the queen of spades for his contract. What are the clues? North, who passed originally and overcalled One Diamond later, turned up with KQ10xxx and an ace. He is, therefore, hardly likely to have the queen of spades as well. A spade finesse should therefore be taken through South with a certain degree of confidence.

A good player is in the habit of counting each suit as it develops in order to form a complete picture of the unseen hands. These certainties, however, are not always available, in which case it will boil down to "intelligent guessing." In principle, a budding player should train himself to observe closely, to gather every little piece of information and store it all up in his memory chamber for later use. There is plenty to be gathered from the bidding, opening leads, signalling, discarding and, last but not least, from helps of a psychological nature, like signs of distress by a defender imagining himself being squeezed. But beware of scientists and clever Dicks! When a good player was once asked why, when it was his turn to follow, he went into a deep trance holding the 5432 of a suit, he replied quite seriously: I wondered whether to play the 2 or the 3.

The arts of counting and card reading are probably the most difficult assets to acquire, but are also the most satisfying. It is nearly as effective as looking into opponents' hands and will cause less antagonism.

The Benson & Hedges Bridge Calculator enclosed with this issue is recommended as a practical aid to an appreciation of the probabilities in card play.

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RULES AND ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT

(Chairman : G. L. Butler)

The experience of referees and Tournament directors throughout the country has made it clear that a certain amount of confusion exists in the minds of the average tournament player as to what systems or conventions he may or may not employ, what explanations he is required to make to his opponents, how properly to protect his rights in matters which touch on either the Laws or the Proprieties.

The law which relates to Partnership Understandings, Law 40 of the Laws of Duplicate Contract Bridge, having laid down the principle that a player has full licence to make any call which is not based on partnership understanding, that is to say, which may mislead the partner no less than the opponents, goes on to say :

(a) A player may not make a call or play based on a partnership understanding unless an opposing pair may reasonably be expected to understand its meaning, or unless his side has announced its use of such call or play before either member has looked at his hand.

(b) If the Director decides that a side has been damaged through its opponents' failure to explain the meaning of a call or play, he may award an adjusted score.

(c) The Sponsoring Organisation may from time to time publish special regulations regarding the use of conventions. It may publish lists of special conventions, showing those which are authorised, those whose use is forbidden, and those whose use is optional with the Tournament Committee or Director in charge of a particular event.

(d) The Sponsoring Organisation may provide a printed convention card on which partners are required to list their conventions, and may establish regulations for its use.

(e) During the auction a player may request an explanation of a conventional call made by an opponent. The inquiry may be made only by the player whose turn it is to call. During the play declarer (but not a defender) may request an explanation of a conventional call or play made by an opponent. Explanations may be given only by the player whose partner made the conventional call or play.

In accordance with (c) the English Bridge Union has published lists of systems and conventions which are permitted in all events under their control. The English Bridge Union issues two types of licence : "Full licence" and "'A' licence." A system which is granted a Full licence may be employed in any form of duplicate bridge. An "A" licence is a provisional licence, granted for a fixed period ; systems so licensed may only be used in straight, as opposed to multiple, team

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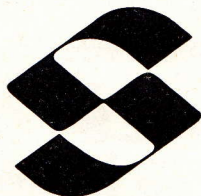
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matches, and opponents must be furnished with full details of the system at least seven days before the match. This assures that opponents have the opportunity not merely to understand what is likely to be a little practised system, but also the time to consider how best to play against the system.

Systems which currently hold a Full licence are : Culbertson or Forcing Two ; Nottingham Club ; Acol ; Austrian ; C.A.B ; Two Clubs (Utility); Baron; Kaplan-Sheinwold (excluding regulated psychic bids); Benjaminised Acol (incorporating the weak Two) ; Beasley.

The Neapolitan Club and the Little Major are amongst systems which hold an "A" licence. Efes, Marmik and the Roman are systems which have been refused licences.

The following is a list of conventions which have been licensed for use in conjunction with any permitted bidding system.

Bidding. Various forms of 4 clubs and 4 diamond bids over one of a major suit to show a good raise to game in the opener's major, covered by the general term of "Swiss." Delayed game raise. Texas, various forms of defence against pre-emptive openings. Unusual No Trumps (defensive overcall), Flint 3 diamond response to opening bid of Two No Trumps, Roman Two Diamond opening bid to show three-suited hand, New Zealand Gladiator responses to One No Trump, Marx and Stayman variations of Two Club response to opening of One No Trump, Sharples and Landy bids of Two Clubs (or Two Diamonds) over opponent's No Trump opening to indicate weak double with strength in major suits, Responsive doubles, ASTRO (2 clubs, 2 diamonds, 2 No Trumps) over opponent's No Trump opening to show various types of two-suited hand, KAT (double to show a weak distributional double, cue-bid of opponents' suit to show a strong double. Fourth suit forcing, bid of Two No Trumps when right-hand opponent has doubled partner's opening bid of one of a suit to indicate natural raise to three of partner's suit. SNAP (strong response of One No Trump, 9-11 points, when hand has previously passed), Sputnik (Roth-Stone negative double), Jacoby transfer bids, weak Two bids, Asking bids, S.O.S. redoubles, Crowhurst 2 clubs bid after opener has rebid a No Trump, to narrow down point count. Spencer-Wilson defence to Stayman Opening Two No Trumps to show a weak two-suiter. Levey variation of Stayman, Texas opening bid of 3 and 4. Prepared Club Convention.

Conventions in play. High-low peters, Reverse peters, Revolving discards, Roman leads, any specified order of play from three cards, distributional echoes (to show three trumps), McKinney or Lavinthal suit preference signals, Odd-even discards.

Note. Permission to use any of the above conventions does not release the player from the obligation to declare them and to explain their precise meaning on demand.

In pursuance of Law 40 (d) the E.B.U. does in fact provide that systems should be set out in the appropriate space on the individual score card. The obligation is firstly on the player to have set out his system and special conventions as required, and secondly, on the opponent to have seen what is set out.

As to section (e), the governing bodies both in this country and in America have agreed that a player may inquire as to the meaning of a bid not only when it is his turn to call, but also at the end of the auction.

If any player should want to use any system or convention which is not licensed, his correct procedure is to write to the secretary of the English Bridge Union, set out details of the system or convention, and request a licence.

Slam bidding conventions have not been set out in the list of conventions, since all such conventions are licensed. The guiding principle is that a licence is only refused when a system or convention is so little used as not to have been brought to the attention of many players, and may interfere with opposing bidding and therefore require their prior consideration of defensive bidding. These conditions are clearly unlikely to apply when a slam is being considered.

One of the most frequently recurring awkward situations in duplicate bridge arises after a player has hesitated for an appreciable time before passing. A subsequent bid by his partner is often suspect as having been influenced by the hesitation. Of course it is not wrong to make a bid which would have been obvious even had partner not hesitated—but there are so many borderline hands.

To cover the situation the E.B.U. has issued the following directive :
 “When a player bids, following hesitation by partner, the time to send for the Tournament Director (if so wished) is at the end of the auction and before dummy has been exposed or the lead made. When the Tournament Director is called he should take note of the facts and either give an immediate ruling or wait until the hand has been played out and, if necessary, award an adjusted score. He may do this even if an unethical bid has not reaped a profit. The committee has decided that either member of the non-hesitating side may, instead of immediately calling the Director, say ‘I reserve the right to call the Director at the end of the hand’, or words to that effect.”

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BRIDGE COMPETITION

CONDITIONS.

- (1) Entries may only be submitted by members of the E.B.U.
- (2) Entries are limited to one per person.
- (3) Entries should be addressed to:—**The Editor, Bridge Competition, 4 Roman Avenue, Leeds 8.** Last date for posting—**May 16th.**
- (4) **PRIZES.** 1st Prize—**French Carriage Clock**, as advertised on page 3. Offered by Crown Manufacturing Co.
2nd and 3rd Prizes—**Free Congress Ticket for entry in E.B.U. Autumn Congress.**
- (5) Markings will be decided by a panel of leading players and writers.
- (6) Ties will be decided by a public draw.
- (7) In all matters relating to the conduct of the competition the Editor's decision will be final.

1. Game All. Dealer West.

♠A74	♥J5	♦K862	♣Q943
W.	N.	E.	S.
1 Sp.	Double	No	1 N.T.
No	2 H.	No	?

2. North-South Game. Dealer North.

♠QJ10753	♥K7	♦Q83	♣42
N.	E.	S.	W.
1 Cl.	1 N.T.	?	

3. Love All. Dealer North.

♠Q5	♥AJ62	♦9764	♣KJ8
N.	E.	S.	W.
3 D.	4 Sp.	?	

4. East-West Game. Dealer South.

♠—	♥AJ1074	♦KJ6	♣AK1075
S.	W.	N.	E.
1 H.	1 Sp.	Double	No
2 Cl.	No	2 D.	2 Sp.
?			

5. Game All. Dealer North.

♠J83	♥Q98	♦K2	♣96532
N.	E.	S.	W.
1 D.	No	1 N.T.	2 Sp.
3 H.	No	?	

6. North-South Game. Dealer West.

♠AQ84	♥1052	♦J63	♣QJ5
W.	N.	E.	S.
1 Sp.	2 N.T.	No	?

7.

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

W.

♠ 6 led

E.

♠ A Q J 9
♥ Q 7 6 3
♦ 10 2
♣ K J 10

South played a contract of Six No Trumps. East won the first trick and returned the Queen of Spades, and declarer made his contract. "Pity," said West, "had you returned the King of Clubs you would have defeated the contract." "Quite right," said South, "and what is more, I would have been held to eight tricks."

Assuming that South and West's statements were accurate, what is South's hand? If you make the right inferences you will find that you can build up South's hand card by card.

In questions 1 to 6, competitors are asked to state South's next bid.

E.B.U. Secretary,
Mrs. A. L. Fleming,
12 Frant Road,
Tunbridge Wells.

The Editor,
E.B.U. Quarterly Review,
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Printed and Published by Bendles (Torquay) Ltd., 15/16 George St., Torquay

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