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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

Edited by HAROLD FRANKLIN



EDITORIAL

A twenty year reign has come to an end. Italy, who have held all or at least one of the World, Olympic and European Open Championships throughout that period, surrendered the last of them when they came second to a young Swedish team in this month's European Championship at Elsinore.

It is doubtful whether the like of the famous Blue Team will be seen again and even less likely that their record of performance will be matched. It is, however, good to see new stars appearing and in this respect Elsinore was not without its satisfactions for British bridge. Although the British Ladies team gave up the title which they won in Brighton they only did so after a truly magnificent fight.

Nicola Gardener and Sandra Landy, the only pair remaining from 1975, were the outstanding pair of the Ladies Championship. Two young pairs, making their first appearance in an event of this level, far exceeded all reasonable expectations. Michelle Brunner and Rosemary Hudson of Manchester, Pat Davies and Sally Carpenter of Bristol and Herts settled down after the shortest time and helped to produce a final score that would win four Championships out of five. They were helped considerably by their non-playing captain Eric Crowhurst, who was able to bring the element of calm which is so necessary to relieve the strain of a Championship.

Our Open team on the other hand was frankly disappointing, the more so after their splendid performance in last year's Olympiad. They too included a young pair of proven ability. Shenkin and Rosenberg possibly failed to do themselves justice and the two senior pairs failed to find their best form. But Shenkin and Rosenberg are young and extremely talented: they will profit from this year's experience. The chief need for British bridge is to unearth other young players of talent to join them and help build for the future.

At county, national and international level it would seem to be a priority to give the promising young player a maximum opportunity for competitive and representative bridge. Our players lack neither the talent nor the temperament. Properly encouraged our young players can make us the leaders of the next two decades as Italy were of the past two.

E.B.U. ROUND-UP

Members of the E.B.U. Selection Committee for the next twelve months were elected as follows:

M. J. Flint, E. C. Milnes, W. J. Pencharz, R. A. Friday, H. Scully,
A. P. Sowter, K. E. Stanley.

Appointment of E.B.U. Delegates to the B.B.L. for the coming year 1977/78:
M. Blank, J. G. Faulkner, R. A. Friday, H. Scully, K. E. Stanley.

THE BARTON AND GUESTIER EASTBOURNE CONGRESS.

The Eastbourne Autumn Congress is to be sponsored by Barton and Guestier Seagrams range of fine French wines.

The Congress will be at its habitual venue, the Grand Hotel, Eastbourne, from 4th to 7th November.

The features which have proved so attractive in the last two Eastbourne Congresses will be in evidence again. Jeremy Flint and Robert Sheehan, both members of the British Team which took the Silver Medal in the 1976 Olympics, will be the guest experts and will conduct an analysis with Vugraph of the Friday and Saturday evening sessions; in addition, they will lead discussions on the Saturday and Sunday mornings on new trends in bidding and play.

Once again, on Friday and Saturday evening all competitors, in whatever events they may be playing, will play the same hands, so that all will be able to find interest in the post-session discussions.

The prize office will be open each morning from 11 o'clock. Prizewinners will have the opportunity to meet leading figures in the Bridge World and to take coffee or a glass of sherry with them.

Mr. Paul Tillotson, Marketing Director of Seagram (U.K.) Ltd., officially announced the Company's sponsorship at "The Samaritans" Charity Match, reported on page 7. He said: "We are delighted to announce today our continuing sponsorship of Bridge. Our Barton and Guestier range of fine French wines will be sponsoring the 1977 Autumn Bridge Congress at the Grand Hotel, Eastbourne. I know that this Congress is one of the premier Bridge events of the year, so we are very pleased to be associated with it."

Our picture shows Mr. Paul Tillotson (left) with Mr. Gerard Faulkner, Chairman of the English Bridge Union.



ROTHMANS INTER-REGIONAL PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

This new National event, run in association with Rothmans of Pall Mall, the Cigarette Manufacturers, and aimed largely at provincial players, will fill a long standing need by introducing "Green Point" events to all regions of the country so that players may have the chance to compete in their own areas without the burden of long-distance travel. Heats will be run in Birmingham, Manchester, Bournemouth, Bristol, Bedford, Hove, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and hopefully, a Scottish heat in Edinburgh: all on varying dates so that players may enter for more than one heat if desired.

A proportion of pairs in various categories—Open, Junior and Women's—will qualify for a final in London for which the heat winners will have their travel and overnight expenses paid.

Major prizes, in the final, will include a number of packages each to the value of £150 for travel to the World Bridge Olympiad in New Orleans, 17th-30th June, 1978. (Not complete packages as stated in the Competition brochure.) Participation in the event would be subject to the approval of the B.B.L. in accordance with their statement overleaf.

Further details and entry forms are included in the Competition Brochure and full news of the arrangements will be given in the November Quarterly.

LAWS AND ETHICS.

BYE-LAW 42.

To read:

The Committee shall have power to authorize the systems and conventions which may be used in competitions organized by the Union and/or Associations, and conditions (if any) attached to the use of any system or convention. A system or convention

(i) shall be deemed to be authorized when published by the Union in any publication nominated for that purpose from time to time by the Council; but

(ii) may be authorized prior to publication as aforesaid when, and upon such terms, as the Committee shall direct.

Any system or convention not authorized by the Committee may not be played in any competition organized by the Union and/or Associations.

Any infringement of this Bye-Law shall be deemed to be misconduct in the game of Contract Bridge.

Under the above Bye-Law the Council has decided that in future systems and conventions will be published in a separate booklet circulated annually with the May Quarterly.

Roman Two Club System. The full licence was extended to 31/12/79.

Romac. The full licence was extended to 31/12/77.

Other applications were deferred pending consideration of the format for licences under the amended Bye Law 42.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE NOTES

1. Revised Swiss Teams Scales will come into operation on September 1st, 1977.
2. League Awards: Handbook—page 17, Section D3. The Basic League Scales should be doubled to read:—

County 320 L.P.s District 240 L.P.s Club 160 L.P.s

and Inter County events: Handbook—page 19, Section A(i) to read:—

First Open Team	640	Women's or Men's Team	320
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Second Open Team	320	Third Open Team	216
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3. Teams-of-Four Championships—Knock-Out throughout: Handbook Page 14, Section 3(i). The (e) awards 'any earlier round' should be doubled to read:—

320, 240, 160 L.P.s

N.B. These should be the minimum awards for any round, notwithstanding the calculations set out in (a), (b), (c) and (d).

4. Hotel Reservations.

The practice introduced last year of making hotel reservations on behalf of competitors was not an unqualified success and will be discontinued.

5. Pachabo Cup.

No player may enter the County Championship Teams event of more than one County Association.

SELECTION FOR JUNIOR CAMROSE 1978

The Junior Camrose series of Home Internationals will be staged at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool on Saturday and Sunday, January 7th and 8th, 1978. The team to represent the English Bridge Union will be chosen by direct selection, and applications are invited from pairs with good current form who wish to be considered. These should reach the E.B.U. office (15b High Street, Thame, Oxon) by November 1st, 1977 and should be accompanied by details of age (date of birth), Master Points rank, and recent achievement in national competitions. Both members of any pair must be under the age of 27 on January 7th, 1978.

B.B.L. NEWS

The 1978 World Bridge Federation Olympiad Pairs will be held in New Orleans from 17th-30th June. The B.B.L. may pay the entry fees for a few pairs who are willing to meet their own travel and accommodation expenses. Any pairs wishing to be considered should write to the B.B.L. Secretary, Mrs. J. Newton, 21 Sandringham Road, Wrexham, Denbighshire LL11 2RF by 31st October, 1977.

The B.B.L. Gold Points Scheme for Trials.

The rules for this new selection procedure were given in the May Quarterly. Some players' geographical situation might enable them to play in two National Teams events, e.g., the Crockfords and the Welsh Cup. This would give them an unintended advantage, and pairs will therefore be awarded points for the National Teams event of the country for which they are eligible for Camrose selection. Pairs intending to play in more than one National Teams event in 1977/78 should indicate their country of allegiance when applying to the B.B.L. Secretary for their points to be registered.

Pairs are reminded that they must inform the B.B.L. Secretary by 30th September 1977 if they wish their Gold Points to be registered.

Visit by Swedish Teams.

It is hoped that a senior and a junior Swedish team will visit Great Britain in January 1978. It is intended that the teams will travel to play matches against regional teams, and Warwickshire have already indicated that they would welcome such a visit. Receiving counties will be responsible for the cost of accommodation for the teams, either in hotel or privately, and a reasonable amount of hospitality.

Would any county that would welcome such a visit please write to the Chairman of the B.B.L., Mr. K. E. Stanley, 2 Cambridge Close, Upper Welland, Malvern, Worcs. WR14 4JZ as soon as possible.

A WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION CODE FOR CONDUCT

For years past the Bridge world has been bedevilled by accusations, open or veiled, which are neither fully substantiated or refuted. The World Bridge Federation is attempting positive steps to rectify this situation.

In an unprecedented move the WBF's Management Committee has raised the possibility of disciplinary action against a member NCBO, the Italian Bridge Federation.

The Chairman of the Management Committee, who is the WBF President, Mr. Jaime Ortiz-Patino, has addressed the following letter to the President of the Italian Bridge Federation, Professor Luigi Firpo:

"The Management Committee of the World Bridge Federation at its meetings held in Geneva in May, 1977, considered and discussed the status of bridge in Italy as it affects bridge throughout the world. The Management Committee deplores the manner in which the investigations of alleged serious improprieties have been handled by the Italian Bridge Federation and further that the undertakings of the President of the Italian Bridge Federation given to the World Bridge Federation Executive in Monte Carlo have not been fulfilled.

The Management Committee is of the unanimous view that it is imperative that the Italian Bridge Federation take immediate and drastic steps to strengthen its administrative and investigative procedures. This should involve a complete review and changes in existing regulations and administration of the Italian Bridge Federation.

The World Bridge Federation must be in a position to be absolutely sure that the behaviour of bridge players and their governing bodies throughout the world be above suspicion.

Accordingly the Management Committee has unanimously resolved that unless evidence is given within three months of the date of this letter, that necessary steps have been taken by the Italian Bridge Federation to remedy this situation, it will recommend that the Executive Council of the World Bridge Federation take disciplinary action against the Italian Bridge Federation."

The letter, which is dated 2 June 1977 and signed by Mr. Ortiz-Patino, is addressed also to each member of the Consiglio Direttivo of IBF and also to the IBF Secretary.

The WBF Executive Council consists of delegates from each Zone of the Federation: 4 from Europe, 4 from N. America, and lesser numbers from other Zones. The Council's next meetings are due to take place in Manila in October.

Magnetic Tapes

The IBF investigations, which are deplored in the letter, relate to allegations of impropriety, made by the well-known Italian player, Mr. Leandro Burgay, a contender for international honours. In support of his charges Mr. Burgay produced magnetic tapes of telephone conversations, including conversations with a former Italian world champion.

The allegations were first brought officially to WBF's notice just before the Bermuda Bowl championship opened in Monte Carlo last year. Two hours before the first round matches began, the then WBF President, Mr. Julius Rosenblum, issued the following press statement:

"The Executive Council of the WBF received information on the eve of the opening of the 1976 Bermuda Bowl that an enquiry is in progress before the Italian Bridge Federation concerning the Burgay-Bianchi affair.

The Italian Bridge Federation has informed the WBF that it will continue energetically the enquiry into the Burgay-Bianchi affair and will report in detail its findings and decisions together with full documentation to the European Bridge League and the WBF as soon as its final determination has been made.

In view of the above commitment by the Italian Bridge Federation, the Executive Council of the WBF deferred further consideration of the Burgay-Bianchi affair pending receipt of the final decision and report of the Italian Bridge Federation to the EBL and WBF.

It was further asked by the Executive Council that the President of WBF shall, by letter to the Italian Bridge Federation, express strong disapproval of the WBF Executive Council with the failure of the Italian Bridge Federation to report and reach a final decision in this affair prior to the start of the 1976 Bermuda Bowl." (*WBF statement on 2 May 1976 by Julius Rosenblum*).

The Italian Bridge Federation's decision is understood to involve relatively minor penalties for unjustified allegations.

Before receiving the IBF's report, the EBL recently passed the following resolution:

"The EBL will refer the handling of the Leandro Burgay accusations by the Italian Bridge Federation to the WBF and furthermore the EBL will support and abide by the decision of the WBF."

Invited to comment further on the position, Mr. Jaime Ortiz-Patino, President of the World Bridge Federation, made the following statement:

"One of my avowed intentions on assuming office as President of the WBF was to improve the image of tournament bridge. By and large the standards of sportsmanship in top level bridge compare favourably with those at the top of most other competitive games. Bridge unfortunately receives its widest publicity on the rare occasions when there is a suggested departure from these high standards.

Administrators owe it to the good name of the game and to such individuals as may from time to time be accused to investigate such accusations thoroughly and promptly, and to be seen to do so. The WBF's present action is not intended as a reflection on any individual players. It is intended as a reproof to the IBF for its failure to deal with outstanding problems with reasonable speed and decisiveness. Its failure to do this over a period of years has contributed largely to an undesirable aura of suspicion in World Championship Bridge. My Management Committee and I believe that it is within the competence of the IBF to correct this situation."

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SAMARITANS MATCH



Sitting : Mrs. R. Markus, R. A. Priday, C. Rodrigue, I. N. Rose, M. J. Flint.
 Standing : I. Panto, M. Rosenberg, G. Cooke.

An Exhibition match between the British Open team and a team representing Popular Bridge proved to be a multi-purpose event. Pencharz and Brock, Panto and Lester, Amsbury and Sowter were useful opposition. The proceeds of the match were contributed to that most worthwhile organization, the Samaritans, and Barton and Guestier, sponsors of this year's Eastbourne Congress, took the opportunity to meet the bridge Press, as reported on page 2.

How would you have planned the play on the following hands ?

West

♠ A K J 9 5 4

♥ 10 7

♦ A 9 7 3

♣ 4

East

♠ 10

♥ A K Q 6

♦ 8 5 4

♣ A 7 5 3 2

North leads the ten of diamonds against West's contract of Four Spades. North would conventionally lead the ten from J 10.

And how do you bid the following ?

♠ None

♥ 4

♦ Q 10 6 4 2

♣ A K Q 9 7 5 3

You are South, vulnerable against non-vulnerable opponents, with East the dealer.

East

1 H

4 Sp

South

2 Cl

?

West

2 Sp

North

Pass

Taking the second hand first, the choice in the first instance is whether to compete or to hope that distribution will work against declarer in Four Spades. The odds are against limiting one's diamond losers to one trick and a bad break might cost 500 or more. As against that the king or ace of diamonds might be enough to produce a vulnerable game.

And if you decide to compete, what bid do you make ? Five Clubs, and suppress the second suit in the belief that you can't improve upon a near solid seven card suit ? Peter Lester took a different line when he bid Four No Trumps, inviting partner to select a minor at the five level. The fact that he had bid clubs first rather than an immediate Two No Trumps marked the disparity of his holding in the two suits. Had prudence not been the better part of valour his decision might have been an outstanding success. This was

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the complete deal :—

			North			
			♠ Q 7 5 4			
			♥ K 10 9 6 5			
			♦ K 9 3			
			♣ 6			
					East	
					♠ K 10 3	
					♥ A Q J 7 3	
					♦ A J 8	
					♣ J 2	
			South			
			♠ None			
			♥ 4			
			♦ Q 10 6 4 2			
			♣ A K Q 9 7 5 3			

Over South's bid of Four No Trumps North, Ian Panto, bid Five Diamonds and East doubled and led a low spade. Declarer discarded a heart from dummy and West switched to a heart for the ten, jack and a trump. A diamond to the king and ace was followed by the king of spades and when declarer ruffed he was reduced to two trumps. The bold line was to ruff a second round of clubs in dummy and take what would have been a winning trump finesse. Had the finesse failed declarer might have been five down and Panto prudently chose instead to lay down the king of diamonds, giving himself the chance to win if the jack were doubleton and to go no more than one down if the jack were third.

The greater pity was that Four Spades cannot be managed. The defence begins with three rounds of clubs and declarer lacks the entries for two heart finesses and must therefore lose a trump, a diamond and two clubs.

And the first hand.

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

North led the ten of diamonds against Four Spades. South covered with the queen and declarer won and played three top hearts, discarding a diamond. North ruffed the third heart and put his partner in with a diamond to lead a fourth heart. Declarer ruffed with the jack. North over-ruffed with the queen and still had a diamond trick to defeat the contract. It was suggested that declarer would have done better to have played two top trumps before tackling the hearts. In practice, certainly, though it might have been even better to have ducked the first diamond. If South plays a second diamond declarer wins and plays a third diamond. The ten of spades will take care of the fourth diamond—and if the defence should return a trump, declarer will be able to clear trumps before taking his heart tricks.

The British team, reduced to two pairs because of the indisposition of one of its members, had slightly the better of a close match. And the audience, entertained and instructed by the expert commentary, can look forward to more entertainment and instruction at the Barton and Guestier Autumn Congress when once again top experts will discuss the evening hands on Friday and Saturday and will lead morning discussions on new ideas in bidding and play.

THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

The following appointment was reported in W.B.F. News :

"Confirm Mr. Harold Franklin (Great Britain) and Mr. Harry Braunstein (U.S.A.) as the W.B.F. Chief Tournament Director and Assistant Chief Tournament Director, to be present at every W.B.F. Championship Event."

THE EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE.

Mr. Harry Scully has been appointed a member of the European Bridge League Executive, taking the seat vacated by Mr. Geoffrey L. Butler on his retirement.

RESPONDING TO ONE NO TRUMP by Eric Crowhurst

The theme of Eric Crowhurst's successful first book, "Precision Bidding in Acol" (Pelham Books; £4.00), is that the adoption of a complex artificial system is certainly not the only way in which you can improve the accuracy of your bidding. Moreover, it is far from clear that it is the best way, and his suggestion is that much better results can normally be achieved by toning up your existing bidding methods. With this in mind, he takes a critical look in this book at every sequence of bidding which is likely to occur in an uncontested auction, attempting to add greater definition to areas of bidding in which an essentially natural system like Acol is often accused of being inefficient. In the following article, Eric Crowhurst pursues and develops one particular section of an early chapter in the book.

When I was struggling with the responses to 1 NT opening bids in my first draft of "Precision Bidding in Acol", I deliberately decided against devoting too much valuable space to transfer bids. I took the view that, since transfer bids are not a fundamental part of the Acol system, the average reader would not show any great interest in the subject and would almost certainly prefer to read about possible improvements to more traditional bidding aids like Stayman. How wrong I was. At least 50% of the letters which I have received since the publication of the book have referred in some way or other to transfer bids, and I am now certain that there is considerable popular interest in the way in which transfers can form the basis of an efficient structure of responses to 1 NT.

Rather belatedly, therefore, I set out below a fairly simple system of transfer bids. However, I must emphasise at the outset that there is considerable scope for building onto this basic structure. Any partnership prepared to devote a little time to the subject will discover, as I have, that the adoption of transfer bids unleashes an enormous range of new bidding sequences; if you attempt to allot a different shade of meaning to each one, you will almost certainly find that there are more possible sequences than there are categories of hands which can be usefully described opposite an opening bid of 1 NT.

PARTNER OPENS ONE NO TRUMP

It will be assumed for the purposes of this article that 1 NT shows 12-14 points; exactly the same principles can be applied opposite any other three-point range for 1 NT, provided that you make the necessary adjustment to the high-card strength shown by the responder in the various constructive sequences.

(a) The Response of 2♣—Stayman.

The Stayman convention is so well-known and so widely played that it can be drafted into any proposed new set of responses with very little comment.

However, it might be helpful to have a closer look at one of the ways in which the bidding can develop after a Stayman 2♣ enquiry: SID, or "Stayman In Doubt". This attractive convention utilises the otherwise idle bid of 3♦ after the original 2♣ bid has elicited a major-suit reply by the opener. Consider the following hand:

♠ A 7 5
♥ K Q 9 3
♦ J 7 2
♣ K 8 4

North	South
1 NT	?

Many experts would probably not bother with Stayman in this situation, assuming from the balanced nature of the hand that it will play just as well in 3 NT even if there is a 4-4 heart fit available. This is a slightly dangerous assumption, however, and it is possible to show that it is actually more important to play in a 4-4 fit when the responder is completely balanced than when he has a 4-4-3-2 distribution. For the sake of argument, let us suppose that there is a 4-4 major suit fit between the two hands and that the opener's shape is 4-4-3-2. If the responder is also 4-4-3-2, the chances are that each player's doubleton will coincide with this partner's second suit, thereby considerably

reducing the dangers involved in playing the hand in no trumps. If the responder's distribution is 4-3-3-3, on the other hand, the opener's doubleton is certain to be opposite a three-card holding, and it will be more prone to attack in a no trump contract.

Returning to the responder's hand shown above, therefore, he must realise that it will probably play better in a 4-4 heart fit if the opener's hand contains a doubleton. If the opener is also precisely 3-4-3-3, however, there will be little advantage in playing in a suit fit and it will be preferable to contract for a mere nine tricks in no trumps. It is here that the so-called SID convention comes into operation. The responder bids 2♣ and, if the opener is able to reply 2♥, rebids 3♦ to show four-card heart support and a completely balanced hand; this precise information should enable the opener to judge the correct denomination in which to play the hand.

Furthermore, if the opener decides to play in the 4-4 heart fit, he can show the strength of his hand by simply rebidding 3♥ or by jumping to 4♥ over 3♦. While the responding hand is known to have sufficient high-card strength to play in 3NT, it is also known to be completely balanced and therefore rather unsuitable for a suit contract; if the opener shows a minimum hand by rebidding 3♥, therefore, the responder may occasionally elect to play in a safe part-score, particularly in a match-pointed pair competition. For example:

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

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

West
 1 NT
 2 ♥
 3 ♥

East
 2 ♣
 3 ♦
 No

Notice that, despite the combined holding of 25 high-card points, no game contract stands any real chance of success. Even 3♥ might be defeated by careful defence, and East-West will be assured of an extremely good result if they can collect +140 on this deal.

Another application of SID occurs on hands on which the responder receives a favourable reply to his Stayman enquiry and now has interest in a slam contract. This extension of the convention was suggested by my regular partner, Alan Wardman, who is normally so loth to clutter his mind with gadgets and gimmicks that his occasional contributions to the theory of bidding should always be taken seriously.

Consider the following hand:

♠ A Q 7 3
 ♥ K 5
 ♦ Q 10 5
 ♣ A Q J 4

North
 1 NT
 2 ♣

South
 2 ♣
 ?

Now that your Stayman enquiry has succeeded in locating a 4-4 spade fit, you must have hopes of a slam, even opposite a 12-14 INT. The problem is how to convey your enthusiasm to your partner, for there are very few bids available for use at this point. 3♣ would show a weak hand with a long club suit; 3♥ would be a game try based on a long heart suit; 3♠ and 4♠ would be non-forcing limit bids; 4♣ and 4♦ are usually reserved for the Sharples convention, seeking a minor suit fit for slam purposes; and 4NT, even assuming that partner interpreted it as conventional, would not tell you all you want to know.

The suggested solution is to temporise by bidding 3♦. Partner will clearly assume that this is SID. If he jumps to 4♠, suggesting a maximum hand with a bit of shape, the chances of a slam are even better and you can proceed by way of a 5♣ cue bid. And if partner attempts to retreat to 3NT or 3♠ over 3♦, you can emerge from the bushes by bidding 4♣; he will then realise that you are agreeing spades and making a slam try, and everything thereafter should be quite straightforward. This extension of the SID convention does, in fact, make it considerably easier to investigate major suit slams after the bidding has started 1NT-2♣.

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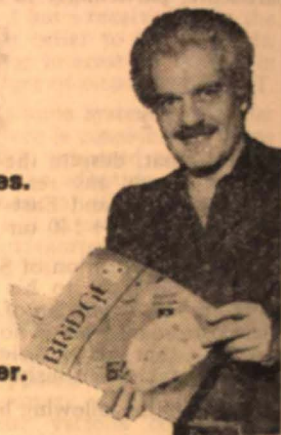
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(b) The response of 2♦ or 2♥.

The basic principle of transfer bids over 1NT is that a simple response of 2♦ or 2♥ is a request for the opener to convert to the next higher-ranking suit, that is, 2♥ or 2♠ respectively. This simple idea leads to a number of significant advantages:

(i) Transfer bids enable an eventual suit contract to be played by the 1NT opener, so that the opening lead comes into, rather than through, his presumed tenace holdings in the other suits. This point applies particularly, of course, if the opening 1NT is strong or if the responder has a weak hand on which he decides that the final contract should be 2♥ or 2♠.

♠ Q 10 6 4 3	North	South
♥ 7 5	1 NT	?
♦ A 8 7 2		
♣ 6 4		

Playing transfers, bid 2♥ and pass the compulsory conversion to 2♠. It is clear that the final contract should be 2♠, and it is also clear that it will be better if partner plays the hand. This is not only a tribute to the quality of his card-play; he may well benefit from the opening lead, and the fact that the stronger hand remains concealed may make the subsequent defence more difficult.

(ii) Transfer bids provide an ideal solution to an awkward problem which arises all too often at the table.

♠ 9 6	North	South
♥ A J 7 5 3	1 NT	?
♦ K 9 4		
♣ Q J 2		

This kind of holding is difficult to handle under normal methods. The two equally unattractive approaches are to make a quantitative raise to 2NT, concealing the five-card heart suit, or to make a try for game in hearts by bidding 1NT-2♣-2♦-3♥, which misrepresents the essentially balanced nature of the hand and which makes it impossible to rest in the comparative safety of 2NT if partner has a minimum hand containing a doubleton heart. Playing transfer bids, this hand is duck soup. The auction commences:

North	South
1 NT	2 ♦
2 ♥	2 NT

and you have described your hand exactly: a raise to 2NT containing a five-card heart suit.

Similarly, game tries based on a six-card major suit can be expressed with perfect clarity by way of transfers.

♠ 9 6	North	South
♥ A J 7 5 3 2	1 NT	?
♦ K 9 4		
♣ Q 2		

Under normal methods, this type of hand has to be shown by the overworked 1NT-2♣-2♦-3♥ routine, and partner cannot be certain about the exact nature of your holding. Once again, transfer bids remove the ambiguity.

North	South
1 NT	2 ♦
2 ♥	3 ♥

This sequence can be used to show a game try based on a six-card heart suit.

(iii) Transfer bids add a new dimension to the bidding after 1NT. For example, certain 5-4 hands which are impossible to describe under normal methods can be bid with complete accuracy.

♠ A Q J 6 5	North	South
♥ J 8 4	1 NT	?
♦ 7		
♣ A Q 10 5		

Traditional Acoll methods leave very little scope on a hand of this kind. All you can do is to offer partner a choice of game contract by jumping to 3♣, and you have no real chance of mentioning your club suit at all. If transfer bids are part of your armoury, on the other hand, you can complete a full description of your holding without progressing beyond the three level. After the sequence:

North	South
1 NT	2 ♠
2 ♣	3 ♣

the opener should be in a good position to judge whether the best game contract is 3NT, 4♣ or 5♣. Moreover, if the hands are revealed to be a particularly good fit, there might even be a slam in one of your suits:

North	South	North	South
♠ K 7	♠ A Q J 6 5	1 NT	2 ♠
♥ A K 5 3	♥ J 8 4	2 ♣	3 ♣
♦ J 10 6	♦ 7	3 ♥	3 ♣
♣ K 9 4 3	♣ A Q 10 5	4 ♣	4 ♦
		6 ♣	

Notice how the additional bidding space released by South's transfer response at the two level allows the partnership to discover the mutual weakness in diamonds before it is too late. South's failure to bid 3NT over 3♥, followed by his cue bid in diamonds, makes it clear to North that the hands are an excellent fit, and enables him to bid the odds-on club slam. Notice, too, that traditional methods might result in an ignominious minus score, for the auction could well proceed 1NT-3♣-3NT-No.

(c) The response of 2♣.

Unless you are planning to allocate a specific conventional meaning to an immediate response of 2NT, there is little point in using a response of 2♣ as a straightforward transfer to 2NT. 2♣ is therefore in danger of becoming an idle bid in the system, but it is not difficult to devise a number of useful meanings for the bid. It is, for example, possible to use 2♣ as a transfer to 3♣; or as a cipher bid announcing the possession of a specific type of slam-going hand.

My personal preference is to use 2♣ as a try for game based on a long, broken minor suit. 2♣ demands a conversion to 2NT, and a rebid of 3♣ or 3♦ then shows an intermediate hand containing a six-card suit. For example:

♠ A 7 2	North	South
♥ 10 4	1 NT	?
♦ J 7		
♣ K J 10 9 5 3		

Bid 2♣, and follow with 3♣ over partner's compulsory conversion to 2NT. This is not forcing, but it invites partner to bid 3NT if his hand appears to fit well. For example, if North has something like ♠Kx ♥Jxxx ♦Axx ♣Axxx, you could well find yourself bidding and making 3NT on a combined 21-count.

(d) The response of 2NT.

This is normally played as a natural, invitational raise.

(e) The response of 3♣.

The one slight drawback to transfer bids is that it becomes impossible to make a weakness take-out into 2♦. This will often not matter, for the opponents are quite likely to enter the auction in any case when you hold that kind of hand, but it is nevertheless important to have some kind of mechanism for playing in a minor suit part-score.

The simple solution is as follows. If you are anxious to play in a part-score in clubs, you can proceed via a Stayman 2♣ enquiry and rebid 3♣ to end the auction. To enable you to come to rest in a diamond part-score, you must add one further transfer bid to your armoury: an immediate response of 3♣. The opener is compelled to convert to 3♦, which you pass if you have a weak hand with long diamonds.

If the responder bids on over 3♦, he confirms that his first response of 3♣ was natural after all. Thus:

North	South
1 NT	3 ♣
3 ♦	3 ♣

South shows by this sequence that he has at least five clubs, at least four spades and a good hand.

(f) Other three-level responses.

As we have seen, it solves an awkward problem to use an immediate response of 3♣ as a transfer to 3♦. There is no theoretical necessity for any other transfer bids at the three level, and the simplest form of transfer system would incorporate natural responses of 3♦, 3♥ and 3♠. Such responses are strong bids, probably with a vague hint of slam possibilities; hands with mere game-going values would be shown by starting with a two-level transfer bid.

The adoption of a complete range of transfer bids at the three level does, of course, add even greater depth to the bidding after a 1NT opening. One simple illustration of the possibilities which become open should suffice to convince any non-believers.

Let us suppose that your partner opens 1NT and that your hand contains a five-card heart suit and the values for at least game. Under normal methods, your first response will be 3♥, and you have made only limited progress at describing the exact nature of your hand. Playing a full range of transfer bids, you can use your first two bids in a large number of ways. For example:

North	South	North	South	North	South	North	South
1 NT	2 ♦	1 NT	2 ♦	1 NT	2 ♦	1 NT	3 ♦
2 ♥	3 ♣	2 ♥	3 NT	2 ♥	4 ♣	3 ♥	3 NT
		North	South				
		1 NT	3 ♦				
		3 ♥	3 ♣				

The omnibus 1NT-3♥ is therefore replaced by five distinct sequences, all showing a five-card heart suit in the responding hand, and regular partnerships can amuse themselves by allocating a different shade of meaning to each one.

HOW WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IN ELSINORE?

(Three problems in bidding and play from the early British matches)

- (1) Game all. Dealer East.

West	East
♠ K 10	♠ A 7 5
♥ Q J 10 9 6 4	♥ K 3
♦ K 8 7 4	♦ J 3
♣ 7	♣ A Q 6 5 4 3
West	East
—	1 Cl
1 H	2 Cl
3 H	4 H

North leads the four of spades. How would you plan the play?

- (2) East-West game. Dealer West.

West holds:—

♠ Q J	♥ K 10 8 4 3	♦ Q 10 4	♣ K 8 4
West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1 D	3 Sp
?			

What would you bid now as West?

- (3) You are North. Both sides are vulnerable and the dealer is West.

You hold:—

♠ K Q J 6 4	♥ A 10 9 8 6 5	♦ 8	♣ 2
West	North	East	South
Pass	1 H	Double	3 H (a)
5 D	5 H	6 D	Pass
Pass	?		

(a) A normal sound raise to 2 H.

What do you do now?

Answers on page 19

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



As a player, Nicola Gardener has achieved more at a National and International level than any other member of her age group. Firmly established as a key member of our British ladies team she is a current European champion and an Olympic silver medallist and is only the fourth woman to have been a member of a winning Gold Cup team.

Professionally she is co-director with her father, Nico Gardener, of the London School of Bridge, an establishment which, over the past twenty-five years has introduced more than 20,000 pupils to Contract Bridge. Amongst those who have taught in the School are international stars such as Alan Truscott, John Collings, Ronnie Crown, Pedro Juan, Jane Friday, Jack Marx, Bob and Jim Sharples, Norman Squire and the present "Head Teacher", Alan Hiron.

The following exercises set by Nicola are not for beginners. However, even if you do not find Nicola's recommended answers the explanations may help you to think like the "experts".

Bidding

What do you bid on the following? You are always West.

Dealer West. Game all.

a

♠ 64
♥ 83
♦ K7
♣ A Q J 10 7 6 3

West
3 Cl
?

East
3 D

Dealer North. Game all.

b

♠ 5
♥ Q 7 4
♦ 10 9 7 4 3
♣ A 6 5 2

West
1 D
?

North
1 Cl
Pass

East
Double
2 H

South
Pass
Pass

Dealer East. North-South game.

c

♠ 5 3 2
♥ K 8 6 4 2
♦ 8 7 6
♣ 10 4

West
—
?

North
—

East
3 H

South
4 Sp

Dealer East. Game all.

d

♠ Q 10 9 6 3
♥ 7 6 4
♦ J 9 4
♣ K 5

West
1 Sp
2 D
?

East
1 D
2 Cl
2 Sp

Play

How do you play the following hands as West?

e

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

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

West	North	East	South
1 Sp	2 D	3 H	Pass
4 Sp	Pass	5 Cl	Pass
5 D	Pass	6 Sp	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North leads the ace of diamonds and then the king,
 South following to both.

f

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

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

West	East
1 Sp	2 Cl
3 Cl	4 Sp
4 NT	5 H
6 Sp	Pass

North leads queen of diamonds to dummy's ace.
 Both defenders follow to two rounds of trumps.

Defence

g

West
 ♠ Q
 ♥ Q 7 2
 ♦ 10 9 7
 ♣ K Q J 9 7 3

North
 ♠ K 8 7 4
 ♥ K J 10 3
 ♦ J 8 4
 ♣ 8 4

West	North	East	South
2 Cl	2 Sp		1 Sp
Pass	Pass	Pass	4 Sp

West leads king of clubs to South's ace (East playing the 2). Declarer plays ace of spades and a spade to the king. East following with two of spades and ten of spades. Next declarer cashes AKQ of diamonds (East following with the 3, 2 and 5) and exits ten of clubs. What should West lead?

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HOW WOULD YOU HAVE PLAYED IN ELSINORE?

(1)

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

Rodrigue won the spade lead in hand and at trick 2 he led a low diamond towards the jack. This was a play unlikely to cost since declarer would still make his king if the ace were placed. It showed an initial profit when North played low and was surprised to find that dummy's jack held. Rodrigue would appear to be still one trick short but he hopefully led a second diamond. North won and switched to a club rather than to a trump. Rodrigue won in dummy with the ace, ruffed a club and led a third diamond, ruffing with the three of hearts and hit the jack-pot when South had to over-ruff with the ace. At the other table Poland were two down in the same optimistic contract.

(2) East-West game. Dealer West.

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

East opened One Diamond in third hand and South bid Three Spades. Friday bid Four Diamonds and Rodrigue passed and made eleven tricks, luckily. West's choice would seem to be between Four Diamonds and pass (not too conservative if you discount the spade holding). The Polish West bid Four Hearts and the British North did well to compete with Four Spades. East went on to Five Hearts and the defence began with one spade and a club switch to take only two tricks.

Declarer is much more severely tested if South continues with a second spade. He will then make his contract only if he ruffs the second spade with the queen and continues with the ace of hearts and a finesse of the ten.

Game all. Dealer West.

		North		
		♠ K Q J 6 4		
		♥ A 10 9 8 6 5		
		♦ 8	East	
		♣ 2	♠ A 5 3	
West	♠ 2			♥ K 7
	♥ 3	South		♦ A Q J 9 6
	♦ K 10 7 5 4 3 2	♠ 10 9 8 7		♣ A Q 6
	♣ K 10 9 5	♥ Q J 4 2		
		♦ None		
		♣ J 8 7 4 3		

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 H	Double	3 H
5 D	5 H	6 D	Pass
Pass	?		

Friday took the right decision when he bid Six Hearts and was doubled for two down after a diamond lead. Norway also sacrificed in Six Hearts but Flint found the more effective lead of the ace of spades and continued with a second spade for three down and a useful swing.

COMPETITION REPORT

GOLD CUP 1977

Third time proved lucky for Barry Posner's London team. They made up for the disappointment of being runner-up in the last two years when they won this year's event in handsome style. There were few close contests in the closing stages, with the results as follows :

Round 6

M. White (SC) bt R. Webb (L)	12	J. MacLaren (SC) bt D. J. Greenwood (L) 40
A. J. Waterlow (M) bt P. Casselle ...	49	B. Posner (M) bt R. K. Knapp (Y) 60
W. J. Pencharz (M) bt F. To (L)	23	D. J. Lockyer (Sm) bt B. L. Teltcher (L) 25
A. C. Williams (S) bt M. H. Airey (Wo) 48		
R. D. Bretherton (BB) bt D. A. Robson (NW) 38		

Quarter-Finals

J. McLaren (Edinburgh), T. N. Culbertson, B. D. Short, A. H. Duncan, Dr. J. R. Allan beat A. C. Williams (Surrey), C. P. Melluish, G. F. Luck, S. F. Hewitt, F. Warren, M. Fletcher by 46 I.M.P.s.
 B. Posner (London), G. Breskal, D. Smerdon, J. Collings, J. Nunes, G. Haas beat D. J. Lockyer (Somerset), J. T. Chapman, J. D. Rue, D. N. King by 107 I.M.P.s.
 W. J. Pencharz (London), R. S. Brock, R. & J. Sharples, J. Amsbury, Dr. A. P. Sowter beat A. J. Waterlow (Herts), J. Sadler, A. Wolfeld, D. Oram by 101 M.P.s.
 R. D. Bretherton (Bucks and Berks), E. W. Crowhurst, M. Pomfrey, D. Huggett, R. Morrish beat
 M. White (Edinburgh), H. Kelsey, J. E. Patterson, K. Baxter, N. Guthrie, Mrs. E. McGowen by 42 I.M.P.s.

In the last of these matches the issue was still open going into the last eight boards. The Scottish representation in the last eight was just a little more than the two teams stated since Gerald Haas of Glasgow proved to be an extremely valuable member of the winning team.

Semi-Final Round.

Posner beat Pencharz by 51 I.M.P.s.

Bretherton beat McLaren by 69 I.M.P.s.

Posner was always in a strong position in his match. In the other semi-final Bretherton got off to a flying start, lost almost all of their early advantage, but came back to win in good style.

The Final.

Posner beat Bretherton by 48 I.M.P.s.

The greater experience of the winners stood them in good stead. They took an early lead and were never seriously threatened. John Collings, who is now out of the country for most of the year, was in excellent form. He made the winning play on today's hand from the final at his usual high speed.

North

♠ Q 5
 ♥ A 8 7 4
 ♦ A Q 9 6
 ♣ K 7 3

South

♠ A 7
 ♥ Q 9 6 3 2
 ♦ 10 7 2
 ♣ A Q 4

Collings opened One Heart with the South hand and Nunes raised to Four Hearts. Declarer was off to a good start when West led a low spade and the queen held the opening trick. The danger was two losers in each red suit but Collings found the safest answer. At trick 2 he led the ace of hearts and when both opponents followed he cashed the second spade and played three rounds of clubs.

These were the other hands :—

West

♠ K 10 8 6 2
 ♥ K J 10
 ♦ 8 3
 ♣ 8 6 2

East

♠ J 9 4 3
 ♥ 5
 ♦ K J 5 4
 ♣ J 10 9 3

After eliminating the black suits he led a trump but now the defence could come to no more than one diamond trick. Had declarer played a second round of trumps too early, West could have won and played a diamond while East still had safe exit cards.

Collings' partner, Jack Nunes, scored in defence against his counterpart on the following hand from the semi-final round.

		North			
		♠ K Q J 3		East	
		♥ K 8 3		♠ A 10 9 7	
		♦ 7 4		♥ None	
		♣ A Q 6 2		♦ Q J 9 8 6	
				♣ J 8 5 3	
				South	
North				1 H	
1 Cl				2 H	
1 Sp				4 H	
3 H					

At both tables West led the king of diamonds and East encouraged with the nine. West continued with the ace and East played the queen to call for a spade switch. West duly switched to a spade for the king and ace—and then came the parting of the ways. For the Pencharz team East returned the ten of spades. For the winners Nunes played a third diamond. This was the complete deal.

		North			
		♠ K Q J 3		East	
		♥ K 8 3		♠ A 10 9 7	
		♦ 7 4		♥ None	
		♣ A Q 6 2		♦ Q J 9 8 6	
				♣ J 8 5 3	
				South	
West				♠ 8 5	
♠ 6 4 2				♥ A Q J 9 7	
♥ 10 6 5 4 2				♦ 10 3 2	
♦ A K 5				♣ K 9 4	
♣ 10 7					

When East returned a spade declarer won in dummy, led a heart to the ace and was able to pick up West's ten of trumps. When East played a third diamond there was no reasonable way for declarer to avoid a trump loser. And the third diamond was a play which could not lose since declarer could not conceivably hold three losers in each black suit and with only five black cards or with the king of clubs he had no further loser outside the trump suit.

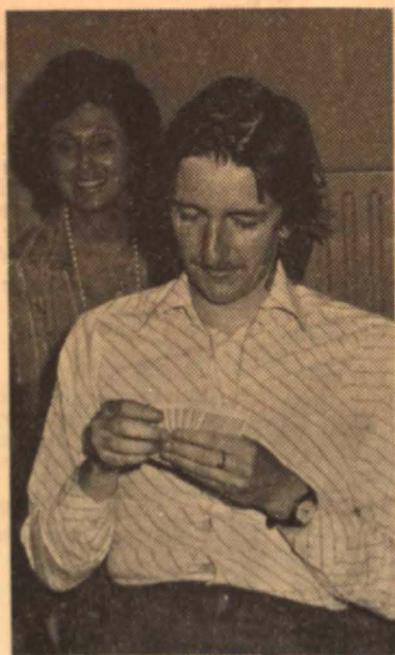
The semi-final match between the winners and Pencharz also produced the largest swing of the week-end.

Dealer North. Game all.

		North			
		♠ 7		East	
		♥ K Q 10		♠ J 10 8 5 3	
		♦ A K J 8 2		♥ 9 8 4 3 2	
		♣ K J 10 8		♦ 6	
				♣ Q 2	
				South	
West				♠ A K Q 9 6 4 2	
♠ None				♥ 7	
♥ A J 6 5				♦ 7 4	
♦ Q 10 9 5 3				♣ A 6 4	
♣ 9 7 5 3					
				North	
South				3 D	
2 Sp				4 Cl	
3 Sp				5 H	
5 Cl				6 N.T.	
6 Sp					



D. G. Smerdon Spectators R. Morrish Dr. G. Haas (back to camera)



D. F. Huggett



John Collings

East led a low spade and declarer, Gerald Haas, had his first unpleasant surprise when West discarded a diamond. At trick 2 declarer led a heart and though West's play of the ace was surprising it need not have proved costly—had he played low declarer would certainly have finessed the ten.

At trick 3 West made the surprising return of the three of clubs and this could have turned out well since declarer failed to analyse the situation thoroughly. He played the jack of clubs covered by the queen and ace. Next he cashed two spades and had West discarded two hearts declarer, in hand for the last time, would have needed to finesse both the diamond and the eight of clubs in order to make his contract and would have been one entry short.

On West's play of a club at trick 3, declarer does best if he discounts the possibility that West has led from the queen. He plays the king from table, cashes two hearts and then leads the jack of clubs, covered by the queen and ace. Now when he plays the two winning spades West will be truly squeezed in the minor suits. In practice West discarded clubs on the king and queen of spades, leaving declarer no more than the diamond finesse for his contract.

At the other table East led a heart against the same contract. West won and led a diamond, taken by the ace. Declarer played a spade to the ace and continued with a winning diamond finesse and a third diamond. When the diamonds failed to break he came to hand with the ace of clubs, cashed the top spades and continued with a losing club finesse to go several down.

When the Scottish team were pressing hard for points in the semi-final round against Bretherton a close double called for accurate defence.

Dealer South. North-South game.

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

West
 ♠ K J 7 5
 ♥ J 9 2
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ K 9 6 3

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

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

South
 1 Sp
 Pass
 Pass

West
 Pass
 Pass
 Double (end)

North
 1 N.T.
 2 Sp

East
 2 H
 Pass

West led the two of hearts and East held the trick with the queen. East switched to the eight of clubs for West's king and West led the five of diamonds, taken in dummy. A spade to the eight and jack was followed by a second diamond, won by South. The ace and queen of spades put West on lead again. If he could find his way into partner's hand a diamond ruff would defeat the contract and West had to decide whether his partner held the ace of clubs or the ace of hearts. He guessed wrongly, although complete partner-confidence would have provided the right answer—can you see how?

When the queen of hearts held the first trick it must have been clear to East that his partner held three hearts. On the second and third spades East had discarded small hearts. Had he begun with A K Q he would have been expected to clarify the position by discarding the ace of hearts. His failure to do so would suggest that his entry was the ace of clubs.

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PACHABO CUP 1977

29 out of the 30 County Associations competed in this year's event played in Derby, when the leading scores were as follows:

1	MIDDLESEX (P. N. Lee, Mrs. M. Lee, M. E. Dilks, D. M. Gostyn) ...	349
2	BERKS. & BUCKS. (F. B. Boucher, R. D. Bretherton, E. W. Crowhurst, M. R. Pomfrey, A. E. Wardman) ...	348
3	LONDON (Mr. & Mrs. G. C. H. Fox, Mrs. P. M. Williams, W. M. Langiert, P. Gordon, A. Hiron) ...	344
4	LEICS (B. E. Seabrook, P. A. Harvey, D. F. K. Griffiths, A. N. Odams, J. D. Beattie) ...	331
5	SURREY (R. Kyang, A. R. Armitage, K. C. Smith, D. A. Webber) ...	329
6	YORKS. (P. D. Littlewood, G. D. Sharpe, F. Littlewood, G. W. Jepson) ...	327
7	LINCS. (B. G. Smith, Mrs. P. Bloomer, R. Mitchell, J. K. Morris) ...	321
8	STAFFS. (A. S. Monckton, J. A. Bieganski, S. Zychlinski, P. E. Morley) ...	318
9	NORTH-WEST (A. Prothero, Mrs. D. Dutton, R. W. Graham, E. G. Dutton) ...	313
10	BEDS. (D. G. Bond, N. F. Janes, R. F. Wale, H. E. Shiebart) ...	308
11	SUSSEX (C. J. Elliott, Mrs. S. Landy, P. Poulter, C. M. Summers) ...	307
12	CUMBRIA (J. Y. Martin, J. W. Wilson, L. Boardman, R. T. Brunsell) ...	305
13	CAMBS. & HUNTS. (R. N. Speller, Mrs. J. Lax, P. A. Shawdon, Mrs. C. A. Kirkby) ...	290
14	NOTTS. (Dr. & Mrs. A. P. Sowter, M. F. Walsh, R. W. Sharpe, W. P. Crook, A. E. Kitson) ...	289
14	ESSEX (A. M. Grant, I. Rose, R. M. G. Green, P. J. Franklin) ...	289

Middlesex won in a very close finish. Berks. and Bucks., the early leaders, were overtaken on the second day by Middlesex, but with one round to go Berks. and Bucks. were back in the lead, two points clear. In their final match they lost 11-9 to Somerset, leaving Middlesex a fixed target—a win by five I.M.P.s against Leicestershire; they managed this in a well judged finish, gaining exactly the required five I.M.P.s on the following hand.

Dealer North. North-South game.

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

At both tables South opened One Heart after two passes. When Middlesex sat East-West, West overcalled Two Clubs and North over-valued his hand in a raise to Three Hearts, the final contract. At double dummy ways are available to avoid all the obvious losers; in practice South, following a normal line, lost one spade, three hearts, one diamond and two clubs for a score of minus 300.

At the other table, after South's opening bid, West judiciously passed and North quite properly, in our view, made a simple raise to two hearts. The North hand has something in hand for a raise to two hearts but does not fully merit a raise to three hearts.

It is a well established principle that when one has to make the choice between an underbid and an overbid, the underbid is the one which pays in the long run. The reason for this is that if the auction continues and one has made an underbid one has "something in hand" that one can express later. However, if one has stretched to make a bid one is invariably embarrassed in a subsequent round of bidding.

Against a contract of two hearts West led the eight of spades, East won and decided on a switch to the seven of diamonds, covered by the four, queen and ace. After a losing heart finesse, West returned a second diamond for the king and East, carelessly, returned a low diamond on which South discarded a club. West ruffed, but his next lead had to give declarer a trick and enable him to escape for one down—just enough to earn the necessary swing of five I.M.P.s.

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CROCKFORD'S CUP 1977

Final

1	M. C. Landau (K), D. A. Gostyn (M), P. F. Spurway (L), K. Loveys (L), S. Levitt,	M. Esterson (L)	94
2	M. R. Pomfrey (D. F. Huggett, E. W. Crowhurst, R. D. Bretherton, R. Morrish) (BB)		87
3	W. J. Holland (Miss M. Brunner, J. K. Morris, B. L. Ewart) (NW)		82
4	S. W. Thomas (Mrs. Thomas, J. L. Spielman, Mrs. S. C. Pike) (Sm)		67
5	G. C. H. Fox (Mrs. Fox, Mrs. P. M. Williams, C. R. Lawson) (L)		63
5	W. J. Pencharz (R. S. Brock, J. Sharples, R. Sharples, J. Amsbury, Dr. A. Sowter) (M)		63
7	M. J. Willoughby (P. Edwards, M. Walsh, R. Sharpe, W. Crook, A. Kitson) (W)		61
8	A. M. G. Thompson (J. L. Reardon, P. N. Collins, C. Bishop) (M)		43

An initial entry of 405 Teams for the Qualifying Regional Heats of the Crockfords Cup was reduced to 128 for the knockout stages and these reduced eventually to 8 teams for the final which finished as shown above.

The Home Counties Team were eventually comfortable winners, and attributed their success to their greater fortune (or skill) in the popular three no trumps contract. On the hand that follows there was a combination of both.

Dealer South. Love all.

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

For the winners Loveys sat North and Gostyn was South and the auction went :

West	North	East	South
2 ♦	2 ♥	Pass	1 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	2 NT
Pass			Pass

West led the four of clubs, declarer tried the King from dummy and East won with the ace and returned a diamond for West's ten, West played a second club and East, who could see five tricks had partner taken two diamonds, paused and decided to take three clubs and wait for the fifth trick to appear. This proved to be a costly error. When East was unable to return a diamond, when West failed on the third club and when the spades divided three-three, Gostyn had no problem in gauging the situation accurately. After cashing three clubs, East led a spade, declarer cashed four spades, continued with the ace of hearts and a heart to the queen and was able to finesse the ten of hearts for his ninth trick with complete confidence.

At the other table West did not overcall and South reached Three No Trumps after an uncontested auction. Again West led the four of clubs but this time the declarer played low from the dummy and East won with the jack of clubs. He switched to a spade which declarer won in his hand. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts, crossed to the queen of hearts and, when the jack was played by West, he correctly finessed the nine of hearts. After cashing the last heart, he won the last three spade tricks to reach the following position.

		North	
		♠ None	♠ None
		♥ None	♥ None
		♦ 8	♦ 3
		♣ K 9 7	♣ A Q 8
West	East		
♠ None	♠ None		
♥ None	♥ None		
♦ A Q J	♦ 3		
♣ 2	♣ A Q 8		
		South	
		♠ None	♠ None
		♥ None	♥ None
		♦ K 9 7	♦ 10
		♣ 10	♣ 10

The declarer played dummy's diamond; had he played low from his hand the defence would have had to give him his ninth trick in either clubs or diamonds. Luckily for the winners, he put up the king and lost the rest of the tricks.

Maurice Esterson gained a valuable swing for his side in a suit contract contained in the following hand:

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

At both tables the bidding was:

North	South
2 ♥ (i)	1 NT
3 ♦	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠

(i) Transfer to spades.

When the winners were defending the declarer led a club to his king at an early stage and when that failed he fell back on the diamond finesse and having already lost two heart tricks, was one down. Against Esterson, West led the queen of hearts and declarer ducked and won the heart continuation. He then drew trumps, ending in dummy and played dummy's club. East played the queen and Esterson decided that West held the ace and played low. East cashed the third heart before playing a second club. Declarer ruffed in dummy and cashed dummy's last trump, discarding a diamond to leave the following ending:

		North	
		♠ None	♠ None
		♥ None	♥ None
		♦ A J 7 4	♦ A J 7 4
		♣ None	♣ None
West	East		
♠ None	♠ None		
♥ None	♥ None		
♦ 10 9 8	♦ Q 5		
♣ A	♣ J 10		
		South	
		♠ None	♠ None
		♥ 8	♥ 8
		♦ K 6	♦ K 6
		♣ K	♣ K

Esterson came back to hand with the king of diamonds, cashed the thirteenth heart. West had to discard a diamond and East parted with a club. When declarer played his last diamond and West failed to follow with the Queen, South, confident that the ace of clubs was still with West, played the ace of diamonds, bringing down East's queen to land his contract. Declarer did well but there were two technical errors. Did you spot them?

After three rounds of trumps, declarer does better to play a third heart rather than the singleton club. As the play went when East won the queen of clubs, he should have continued with a second club rather than the king of hearts. The declarer would then have had to play a third heart himself when East won he would have been able to play a third club and avoided the guessing squeeze position.

Declarer's mistake, therefore, was to lead the club rather than the third heart and East in turn erred when he cashed the third heart rather than leading a second club.

DAILY MAIL SCHOOLS CUP 1977

Final

1	Desborough Schools (R. J. Pantlin-Handley, S. R. Krag, B. N. J. Clement, A. N. Grover)	120
2	Highgate School 'A' (R. A. Bowley, R. C. A. Dawson, T. R. Bechman, A. N. Gilbert)	120
3	Hove County Grammar (D. G. S. Hird, C. C. Platt, S. K. de Lacy, J. B. C. Sirodcar)	100
4	Bristol Grammar (J. M. A. Dagnall, R. D. Coates, M. C. Bowman, A. J. Furphy)	92
5	Eton College (M. Q. Choyce, W. J. Sibree, P. R. V. Broke, J. J. Cox)	90
6	Plymouth College (S. C. Jury, N. M. Lunn, N. D. Richards, D. M. Hardie)	89
7	Formby High (J. E. Stanforth, D. M. Bramhall, R. J. Williams, S. M. Allison)	81
8	Manchester Grammar (R. Clark, J. B. Roussak, D. M. Adelman, P. J. Ridehalgh)	76
9	Wirral Grammar (M. V. Stuart, A. Franklin, R. I. Lynn, C. D. Simmons)	73
10	Highgate School 'B' (C. A. Young, G. R. Wanders, A. S. Hilditch, G. P. Sanford)	59

HUBERT PHILLIPS BOWL

Round 7

J. Bloomberg (Y) bt T. E. D. Quibell (Sx)	60
M. E. Dilks (L) w/o v. M. H. Airey (W)	
S. Norris (NW) bt G. A. Hart (S)	800
P. D. Austwick (Sm) bt Mrs. E. F. Foster (NW)	2200

Semi-Finals

J. Bloomberg (Mrs. R. Oldroyd, A. Forrester, R. Smolski, I. Manning)	
beat	
M. E. Dilks (Miss N. Gardner, D. Rimington, R. J. Rowlands)	3150
P. D. Austwick (Mrs. V. J. Austwick, Miss P. S. Davies, J. Mendela)	
beat	
S. Norris (A. J. Barnes, I. H. C. Powell, R. Greenhalgh, Mrs. A. Hirst)	2940

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NATIONAL SWISS TEAMS

QUALIFYING HEATS

Corby

1	P. A. Jackson (S. G. Barnfield, B. J. Callaghan, S. A. Young)	83
2	L. Young (J. Amsbury, Dr. A. Sowter, Mrs. S. Sowter)	71
3	Mrs. J. Morrey (A. Palit, D. Harper, K. A. L. Ford)	70
4	A. Waterlow (D. Oram, P. Channack, D. Walker)	69
4=M.	Vail (J. J. Hunt, J. S. Cooke, D. Spooner)	69
6	A. N. Odams (D. F. Griffiths, B. E. Seabrook, P. A. Harvey)	67
7	D. I. Peters (S. Rogers, S. Forrest, N. Stevens, F. Brickwood, M. Walsh)	66
8	J. R. Manning (D. Ashworth, J. M. Sheppee, Mrs. E. D. Manning)	65
8=A.	M. Coburn (Mrs. R. Coburn, M. Brandon, Mrs. R. Brandon)	65
8=D.	J. Bell (Mrs. Bell, R. L. Shadbolt, R. M. Manser)	65
11	A. Andrews (Mrs. M. G. Briggs, M. Lynn, Mrs. E. Proctor)	64
12	S. Gore (D. Williams, A. Bayley, P. Bowkley)	62

Droitwich

1	J. Salisbury (R. Upton, P. D. Jourdain, P. Shields)	85
2	P. E. Morley (C. J. Morley, A. Daughton, S. Zychlinski)	76
3	W. Scott (Mrs. V. Scott, D. Shepherd, Mrs. M. Shepherd)	74
3=P.	F. L. Tottenham (B. A. Topley, M. Allen, Mrs. M. Armstrong)	74
5	C. E. Weston (J. Robbins, G. F. Howard, T. A. Parkes)	73
5=D.	Jones (R. J. Baker, G. Watson, P. Franklin)	73
7	R. Horwood (J. Hamilton, C. Crocker, M. Huggins)	67
7=E.	S. Staveley (Mrs. Staveley, Viscount Parker, R. G. Haydon)	67
7=A.	Cohen (Mrs. B. Cohen, R. F. Saines, P. B. Chapman)	67
10	E. Wilkinson (M. A. Buckingham, Mrs. B. Roberts, Mrs. M. D. Jones)	65
10=C.	E. A. Samuels (A. T. M. Jones, G. A. Pike, D. J. Cairns)	65
12	D. C. Smith (G. E. Thomas, J. L. Pepin, F. J. Passmore)	64
13	N. N. Laville (Mrs. M. Vanner, J. R. Turner, W. M. Orriel)	63
14	J. S. Havard (M. Bavin, M. Smith, R. F. Wale)	62
14=P.	Young (P. Waller, S. Whitehouse, R. Harris)	62
16	P. D. Austwick (Mrs. Austwick, Miss P. S. Davies, J. Mendela)	61
16=B.	I. Hasell (D. C. Lakin, C. A. Ridge, Mrs. E. Ridge)	61

Liverpool

1	P. Ashton (R. Bowden, J. O. Parkinson, E. S. Bilborrow)	92
2	E. Howarth (Mrs. M. Farr, M. Kenyon, P. Williams)	78
2	D. Robson (B. Goldenfield, R. Semp, J. Buck)	75
4	G. Wilson (Mrs. T. Richardson, J. Dutton, P. Hepworth)	67
5	Mrs. E. F. Foster (Dr. R. P. Slatcher, A. B. Wilkinson, Dr. E. B. Krasner)	65
6	G. Rednall (G. Lawrenson, Mrs. O. Martin, G. Maloney)	64
7	D. Whyte (S. Ball, Mrs. S. Gingell, S. Williams)	59
7=M.	McLaughlin (Mrs. R. Hudson, P. G. Watson, J. A. Hudson)	59
7=A.	B. Ogden (J. Johnstone, A. P. Brown, J. Dowbiggin)	59
7=M.	Blank (D. Myers, A. Myers, M. Lipworth, R. Myers)	59

Maidenhead

1	A. Rosen (A. Lowry, T. Lowry, I. Miller)	81
2	Mrs. S. A. Harris (Mrs. L. Hayes, Mrs. S. E. Carpenter, D. J. M. Carpenter)	79
3	R. Jackson (R. Sharples, J. Sharples, G. Cooklin)	78
3	R. McRobert (R. Bradley, J. Bentley, M. Ladbroke)	77
5	A. Kay (A. M. Black, A. Cohen, R. Teesdale)	73
6	I. Gardiner (P. Lowry, P. Casselle, T. Bolshaw)	71
7	T. J. Moore (V. Rasiah, Mrs. M. Thomas, K. Philpott)	70
7=L.	N. Bruce (A. B. Bailey, Mrs. K. Camrass, L. Wolfers)	70
7=W.	W. Brown (Mrs. Brown, Mr. & Mrs. G. S. Francis)	70
10	J. Dhondy (Mrs. E. Pencharz, W. J. Pencharz, P. D. Alder)	69
10	S. P. Haley (T. J. Cooper, D. Simpson, N. Donnelly, P. Leverick)	69
12	H. J. Totten (Mrs. M. Totten, D. Beaver, Mrs. Beaver)	67
13	Mrs. P. Cohen (R. Cohen, A. Lee, A. Hardy)	66
13=R.	Rolland (Mrs. C. Elton, Mrs. R. Jenkins, A. Whiteway)	66
13=M.	Theelke (M. J. Kaltz, J. Scriven, F. Yunus)	66
16	J. B. Slater (J. D. Knowles, V. Savage, J. Laurent)	65
17	Mrs. M. B. Betts (F. Lucas, S. Gokulsing, S. Goldstein)	64
18	Dr. A. W. S. Williams (D. Mossop, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. M. Dennison)	63
18=C.	Leighton (M. Leighton, Mr. & Mrs. G. C. H. Fox)	63
20	M. Channing (M. Auger, B. Hope, P. Long)	62
20=B.	G. Midgley (Dr. Flower, J. Pares, J. Riles)	62
22	R. A. Nicolson (M. J. Morton, R. M. Sinclair, I. R. McDonald)	60

Tunbridge Wells

1	M. E. Dilks (R. Butland, J. Reardon, A. Thompson)	...	...	...	...	89
2	Mrs. J. Cross (J. Farbrother, N. Harley, E. Cook)	...	...	...	...	80
3	J. Ryan (B. Hannam, H. Humble, H. Robinson)	...	...	...	...	77
4	G. K. Shaw (R. A. Bruty, D. I. Davies, P. Messer)	...	...	...	...	69
5	R. Alexander (N. Barlow, Dr. J. Williams, G. Chamberlin)	...	...	...	...	69
6	N. Selway (P. Gordon, J. Harouni, R. Robinson)	...	...	...	...	67
7	D. Muller (G. Hiller, B. Rigal, N. Smith)	...	...	...	...	66
8	B. D. Lewis (Mrs. J. Wilson, D. J. Abbotts, D. McVey)	...	...	...	...	62
9	Mrs. Putt (Mrs. Tuff, D. Stretton, W. Kiernan) (unable to play in the Final)	...	...	...	...	59
10	J. Sarjeant (A. M. Grant, J. Cullingworth, L. F. Jones)	...	...	...	...	58

York

1	B. Senior (S. Ray, F. N. Bryden, D. Little)	...	...	...	...	86
2	A. V. Shivdasani (D. Reid, I. Spoors, N. McTaggart)	...	...	...	...	80
3	S. J. Payne (K. G. Owen, P. G. Owen, W. E. Niccol, A. M. Ferguson, J. E. Bagshaw)	...	...	...	...	79
4	A. Simpson (R. B. Atkinson, Dr. G. I. Cohen, J. A. Miller)	...	...	...	...	75
5	M. R. Allan (D. H. Baldwin, A. Urwin, C. F. Owen)	...	...	...	...	72
6	H. Stephenson (Mrs. B. Sharples, S. J. Walters, Mrs. F. Walters)	...	...	...	...	70
7	D. J. Pendlebury (K. C. Renno, Mrs. M. Littlewood, Mrs. M. Rider)	...	...	...	...	69
8	M. A. Ladlow (R. Wall, A. Brown, E. M. Perry)	...	...	...	...	69
9	R. S. L. Alexander (V. Roman, A. P. Race, A. Humphreys)	...	...	...	...	65
10	G. Kenyon (Miss S. Fawcett, P. Laddin, K. Clarke)	...	...	...	...	63
11	B. G. Smith (Mrs. P. Bloomer, K. Sharples, P. Genney)	...	...	...	...	62
12	A. W. Puckrin (Mrs. Puckrin, Mrs. M. Hall, J. Legg)	...	...	...	...	62
13	M. N. Urmston (V. A. Martindale, E. H. Barnby, C. Leigh)	...	...	...	...	62
14	Mrs. C. Harris (D. Musson, P. D. Littlewood, G. Jepson)	...	...	...	...	61

Scotland

1	W. D. Wallace (G. McRobert, J. I. Cowper, M. Whytock, D. J. Frew, G. Davidson)	...	...	...	...	...
2	S. B. Kissen (Mrs. Kissen, T. H. Johnson, Miss M. Malcolm)	...	...	...	...	...
3	T. N. Culbertson (J. M. MacLaren, A. H. Duncan, B. D. Short)	...	...	...	...	...
4	Miss J. S. C. Macnair (R. G. Manson, A. H. Yzer, A. H. Bishop, G. Wellington)	...	...	...	...	...
5	F. Lamarra (G. Hunter, D. M. Denoon, J. R. Woodburn)	...	...	...	...	...
6	W. P. Richardson (A. A. Hepburn, C. B. Fettes, J. Morris)	...	...	...	...	...
7	D. A. Sutherland (K. Sarwar, G. Mishra, J. Anton)	...	...	...	...	...
8	W. Innes (W. Mitchell, F. Marshall, M. Innes, Dr. J. Bennett, J. Murray)	...	...	...	...	...
9	M. McGinlay (Dr. I. Swan, N. Guthrie, M. White, N. Franklin, I. de Harley)	...	...	...	...	...
10	G. Anderson (J. McMenemy, D. Newlands, D. Mitchell)	...	...	...	...	...
11	M. D. Sudjic (C. D. Bowman, R. W. Edwards, R. J. R. Benstead)	...	...	...	...	...
12	D. Nairn (N. McLeod, Mr. & Mrs. P. A. Symon)	...	...	...	...	...
13	N. McLaren (P. Tait, Mrs. M. Reid-Kerr, Mrs. Graham)	...	...	...	...	...
14	Dr. D. D. Gibb (Mrs. Gibb, P. Shaw, J. Muirden)	...	...	...	...	...

NATIONAL PAIRS 1977

Final

1	P. D. Littlewood, G. W. Jepson	1758	7	G. J. Allan, G. C. Chamberlin	1601
2	J. M. Armstrong, G. T. Kirby	1716	8	A. Wells, W. Crook	1584
3	R. D. Green, C. S. Gore	1695	9	Mr. & Mrs. A. P. Sowter	1566
4	E. N. Wilde, K. A. Forsyth	1650	10	R. M. G. Green, P. J. Franklin	1554
5	M. D. J. Huggins, C. Crocker	1626	11	R. W. Sharpe, M. F. Walsh	1547
6	S. J. Ray, I. Spoors	1613	12	J. J. Boyd Barrett, Mrs. M. Krauth	1529

FIELD CUP 1977

1	M. F. Walsh, W. P. Crook (Cams. Grammar School)	...	...	...	...	1102
2	J. Rudolf, Mrs. P. Rudolf (Liverpool University)	...	...	...	...	1050
3	K. G. Cornish, R. Pike (University of Sheffield)	...	...	...	...	1028
4	D. Peters, A. Johansson (St. John's, Cambridge)	...	...	...	...	1002
5	H. J. Tutchings, J. Waring (King Henry VIII, Coventry)	...	...	...	...	974

COMPETITION BRIDGE WEEKEND

February 3rd to 5th inclusive, 1978

at NORTHFIELD HOTEL, MINEHEAD, SOMERSET TA24 5PU

Licensed by EBU. Organised by W. Lundie Rees

From £29.50 per person

ANSWERS

(a) **THREE NO TRUMPS**: East's reply to West's pre-empt is forcing and, with quite a good three bid, West would like to co-operate. Four Clubs is unimaginative and Five Clubs might not be right. West can hardly have guards in both spades and diamonds after pre-empting, but could show a spade feature below the level of Three No Trumps by bidding Three Spades. Logically, then, Three No Trumps suggests a diamond feature but no guard in spades.

(b) **FOUR CLUBS**: Partner's sequence (doubling, then jumping) suggests a hand too strong for an immediate jump overcall. He will have something like an Acol two bid in hearts. Now West has limited his hand with his first simple response he can catch up without over-exciting partner. Four Clubs agrees hearts, shows a club control, and (by implication) warns that the diamond suit is bad.

(c) **DOUBLE**: Even the most conservative of players will feel the urge to try something in this situation. Against vulnerable opponents who have a certain small slam and a likely grand slam an immediate Six or Seven Hearts might work. A double is another way of confusing the issue, especially against opponents who have not met the stratagem before. If they play in Four Spades Doubled with three overtricks they will only score 1390 points against the 2210 they would score in a grand slam. Of course, if someone redoubles, West will retreat rapidly to Five Hearts.

(d) **FOUR SPADES**: (or Three Spades). The important thing to realise is that West, in spite of his meagre point count, has far too many cards in the right places to pass. At the table a point-count enthusiast passed without a second glance and found partner with:

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

With both the spade and diamond finesses right, East-West had the humiliating experience of scoring +230.

(e) Two possibilities suggest themselves. Declarer can hope for a 4-2 break in hearts and, after drawing trumps, simply ruff a heart to establish his twelfth trick. Alternatively, he can hope for a defender with four or more hearts to hold king of clubs as well—West cashes ace of clubs (Vienna coup) and runs all his trumps to execute a squeeze. Unhappily, this may fail if it proves the hearts were 4-2, but the length is not with the king of clubs; then the first plan would work.

There is a neat way for West to combine his chances. After ruffing the second diamond, he should run off all but one of his trumps, coming down to:

West
 ♠ 3
 ♥ 7 3
 ♦ None
 ♣ Q 10 6

East
 ♠ none
 ♥ A K Q 5 2
 ♦ None
 ♣ A

Now West tests the hearts. If they divide 4-2, all is well. But if they break 5-1 there is still the chance that king of clubs is with the heart length. If it is, it is now single and will fall under the ace as the defender will already have been squeezed.

The full deal:

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

It is upsetting, from the purist's point of view, to see that the Vienna coup would also have succeeded. But, as we have seen, it would have failed against some of the more likely 4-2 heart divisions.

(f) The obvious chance on the hand is to find the clubs breaking 2-2 when there are twelve top tricks. However, declarer can improve his chances. After winning the diamond lead, he draws trumps in two rounds and eliminates the hearts and diamonds to leave this position:

West
 ♠ J 9
 ♥ none
 ♦ none
 ♣ 10 6 4

East
 ♠ 10
 ♥ none
 ♦ none
 ♣ A 8 7 5

Then West leads a low club from hand and, if North plays an honour, ducks in dummy. If North's honour was a singleton he must now concede a ruff and discard. If South can overtake his partner's club he can only lead nine of clubs and West can play the ten secure in the knowledge that he has the rest of the tricks. If North follows with nine of clubs on the first club lead declarer still does best to play low from dummy. This will win when clubs are 2-2 or when North has K J 9 or Q J 9.

The full deal:

North
 ♠ 7 3
 ♥ Q 10 8 5 3
 ♦ Q J 10 7 5
 ♣ Q

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

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

South
 ♠ 6 2
 ♥ 9 7 6 2
 ♦ 8 6 3 2
 ♣ K J 9

(g) The full deal:

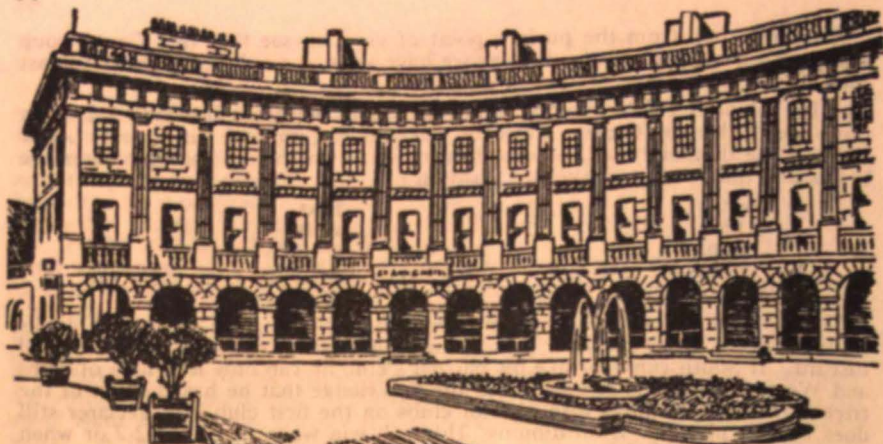
North
 ♠ K 8 7 4
 ♥ K J 10 3
 ♦ J 8 4
 ♣ 8 4

West
 ♠ Q
 ♥ Q 7 2
 ♦ 10 9 7
 ♣ K Q J 9 7 3

East
 ♠ J 10 2
 ♥ A 6 5
 ♦ 6 5 3 2
 ♣ 6 5 2

South
 ♠ A 9 6 5 3
 ♥ 9 8 4
 ♦ A K Q
 ♣ A 10

South wins the club lead with the ace, draws two rounds of trumps, cashes three diamonds and exits with ten of clubs. West, on lead, has a complete count of declarer's hand and knows that he has three hearts. If West leads a low heart declarer will have no chance of holding his losses in the suit to one trick unless he plays West for the queen. And, as West well knows, that play will succeed. It may not work, but West can give declarer a guess if he concedes a ruff and discard by leading a third club. Dummy ruffs and declarer discards a heart. Now a spade goes to East's jack and declarer ruffs the diamond return, but now, with only two hearts left, has a choice of plays remaining and may go wrong. West must of course rely on partner for the jack of spades, since otherwise he can count on ten tricks for declarer.



BRIDGE NEWS from ELIZABETH HICKMET

at
ST. ANN'S HOTEL, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE (0298 2788/2789)

DUPLICATE BRIDGE WEEKENDS

LICENSED BY THE E.B.U. — MASTER POINTS

We continue to hold our popular Bridge Weekends, and hope to see many of our old friends and to welcome new ones.

Hosts: Dudley and Phyllis Freshwater, assisted by Mary Higson.

PROGRAMME 1977/78

22nd - 25th July.

26th-30th August. Bank Holiday £35

16th - 19th September.

14th - 17th October.

11th - 14th November.

NEW YEAR GALA

including New Year Ball,
Carnival Dinner and special prizes,
from dinner on 30th December,
until after breakfast on 3rd January,
1978. £50 + VAT + 10%.

Unless otherwise stated, terms from dinner on Friday until after breakfast on Monday morning, inclusive of accommodation, meals, bridge fees, modest prizes and five sessions, will be £25.00 + VAT + 10%.

For rooms with private bathroom, there is a supplementary charge of £1.00 per day.

New single "Cottage" rooms are available on the third floor (lift to second floor) at a reduction of £1.00 per night.

ECONOMY BRIDGE WEEKENDS from dinner on Friday until after luncheon on Sunday — £19.50 + VAT + 10%.

DAILY NON-RESIDENTIAL VISITORS: Two sessions of bridge in the afternoon and evening, with afternoon tea and dinner, will be charged at £5.00 per person + VAT + 10%. Tickets may be obtained in advance through the post, or on the reception desk on the day of play.

We hope to keep the prices throughout the series, but the Management reserve the right to increase the prices should this become necessary due to inflation. Bridge Programmes may be varied in accordance with circumstances.

BRIDGE ENTRY FORM — ST. ANN'S HOTEL, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____

DATE OF WEEKEND _____ No. of Guests _____

No. of Rooms _____

I/we shall arrive on _____ and shall stay _____ nights

I enclose cheque for £ _____, being £2.00 per person per day deposit.

All bills are subject to V.A.T. and 10% service charge.

MASTER POINTS REPORT

PROMOTIONS From 1.4.77 to 30.6.77

BEDFORDSHIRE

Regional: 4*—T. C. S. Northover. Master: 1*—R. G. Smerdon, K. H. E. Toms; Master: J. A. Gooding; County: A. M. Orchard, Mrs. R. B. Taylor, A. W. Taylor; Club: P. B. Cocker, P. Douglas.

BERKSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Regional: 4*—C. R. Flood; 2*—D. C. Stone; Regional Master: A. P. Cluley, D. G. Fletcher, Dr. A. Parker; Master: 8*—H. J. Toten, Mrs. M. E. Toten; 3*—A. H. W. Lorman, Mrs. M. E. Lorman; 2*—Mrs. M. T. Colliver, F. V. Savage; 1*—V. L. Bates, Mrs. B. Bines, A. P. Cluley, Mrs. D. Cowlin, Mrs. E. Southern; Master: P. Benda, Mrs. K. Brazendale, M. N. Copley, Mrs. K. W. L. Copley, F. Coupe, D. Cowlin, T. H. Gillett, Mrs. T. H. Gillett, Mrs. M. Gover, Dr. M. G. Heskey, Mrs. P. Ockerby, J. B. Slater, L. I. Wilkinson, County: D. L. Barnes, P. Bryant, G. G. Gent, C. D. Hall, J. Harman, Mrs. V. Jenkins, T. J. Moore, Mrs. L. F. Murray, B. C. V. Oddie, Mrs. B. C. V. Oddie, Mrs. N. M. Steel, Local: Mrs. G. Dale, M. Jackman, C. P. King-Farrow, Miss P. Marris, R. J. Pantlin-Handley, E. Tweddel, Club: Mrs. E. W. Gordon, Miss S. Gray, R. Howard, W. R. Kane, J. L. Knapp, R. J. Lee, L. E. Morgan, G. R. Morris, G. D. Nichols, Mrs. J. C. Rivett, N. H. Rundell, R. J. Sandford, Miss C. M. Walls.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Regional: 5*—Flt/Lt. F. G. Hill; 1*—Dr. A. L. Burn, Regional Master: S. A. Young, M. J. Atherton, Master: 3*—R. A. Cliffe; 2*—D. J. Harrison; 1*—D. A. Hough, Mrs. M. Pamplin, Master: Mrs. M. C. Burrow, J. R. Leeming, Dr. M. G. Strong, County Master: A. J. Macnair, Dr. J. A. Short, Local: R. M. Craddock, D. Harris, D. Scott-Jones, A. B. Stenner, Mrs. A. B. Stenner, Club: J. Heanue.

CUMBERLAND

Regional Master: H. R. Brooks, Master: 1*—Miss H. N. Jacobs, E. Martiner, P. H. Thompson, Master: D. E. Blake, Mrs. B. McMurtie, County: J. Dennis, Mrs. M. B. C. Faulder, Local: Mrs. M. Douglas, Club: Mrs. J. A. Gardiner, E. E. Garrett, D. Preston.

CHANNEL ISLES

Master: 2*—W. B. Fleet; 1*—M. H. Blamey, Master: D. Hole, Mrs. N. Hind, Mrs. M. C. Lovell, County: Mrs. R. W. Bence, R. Hodge, Mrs. A. Lindsay, Local: C. G. Laski, Club: E. W. De la Mare, R. A. De-Putron, F. G. Martel, Mrs. V. A. Peters, C. Walker.

DIRECT

Master: 1*—Mrs. S. S. Holloway, Master: W. E. Lee, H. Y. Loh, Mrs. Y. Thierry, County: Mrs. J. Caley, J. J. Caruana, B. R. Overy, Mrs. D. E. Simes, Local: Miss M. Abecasis, Mrs. M. B. Bisson, M. Curtis, F. W. Hille, E. Kirchhoff, R. Lynn, J. R. Mallinson, G. Morris, Mrs. G. Morris, M. Read, Major J. G. Saul, W. J. Wilson, J. Wolff, Club: Mrs. Z. J. Allen, D. Aveline, K. Black, A. D. Canessa, Mrs. A. Canessa, J. P. Houlbrooke, L. H. Powell, M. J. Powell, E. H. Pyrah, S. Richards, M. Rowlandson, Mrs. M. Rowlandson, Mrs. J. G. Saul, W. J. Sibree, Mrs. S. J. Tatchell.

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LOCAL POINTS PRIZES 1976/77

The winners of this year's prizes are as set out below. As in past years only those who have submitted valid claims have been taken into consideration.

LIFE AND NATIONAL MASTERS

1—R. J. Granville 12108, 2—J. Lavis 7723, 3—R. J. Fleet 7344

REGIONAL MASTERS

1—B. H. O'Connor 6709, 2—P. A. Jackson 5185, 3—B. Senior 4535

STAR AND MASTERS

Claims were submitted by members of only 14 County Associations. A prize of £10 will be awarded to the leading scorer, and one of £6 to the runner-up (where more than one claim has been submitted).

B—1 M. G. C. Clarke 2731; BB—1 S. A. Townsend 3755, 2 H. J. Toten 3474; C—1 F. G. Tams 1584; CH—1 D. Burn 3438; D—1 D. Jennings 1925, 2 Mrs. D. Ford 1875; DC—1 Mrs. A. Snee 3813; E—1 M. Hockin 3931, 2 P. Scott 2379; G—1 P. J. Phair 2012; L—1 Mrs. K. Camrass 2816; NE—1 C. S. Calow 2211; NW—1 R. W. Graham 3205; SC—1 H. K. U'ren, 1—Mrs. H. K. U'ren 4153; Sm—1 T. E. Girdlestone 6390, 2 P. C. Bower 3626; Sx—1 Mrs. K. Mack 2554; Y—1 P. M. Wrigley 2059.

(Continued on inside back cover)

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BB—1 M. Carroll 619; **CI**—1 R. Dodds 1193, 2 J. Grant 531; **CH**—J. A. Johannsson 2032, 2 M. G. Strong 1919; **D**—1 B. R. Elliott 1452, 2 J. E. Sowter 1157; **DC**—1 G. E. W. Heaton 1675; **E**—1 V. G. E. Davies 1135, 1 Mrs. V. G. E. Davies 1135; **L**—1 A. Newman 833; **Ln**—1 R. McCracken 2467, 2 R. F. Humphrey 1092; **M**—1 R. McRobert 2083; **N**—1 Miss F. Brickwood 2491; **NE**—1 D. Stuart 1790; **Nb**—1 E. F. Marchant 2624; **NW**—1 D. T. Nelson 948; **W**—1 J. Leese 1314, 2 D. A. Andrews 1300; **Y**—1 C. Bottomley 3067, 2 I. Holdsworth 487.

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