

CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION



CONTENTS

Articles of topical interest by
the leading exponents of Bridge,
together with
Club news competitions cartoons
and
commentaries on Bridge progress.

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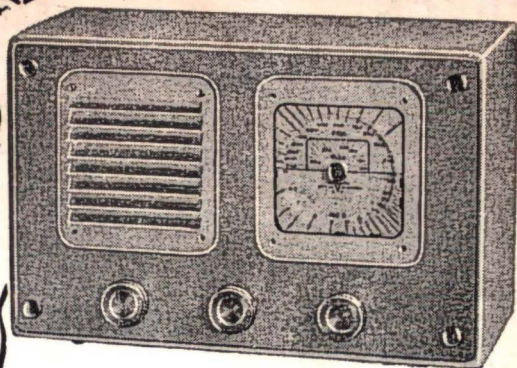
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THE CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL

Edited by
M. HARRISON-GRAY

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Regional Editors—

Eire	NOEL BYRNE	North Eastern ..	EWART KEMPSON
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Technical Editor—GUY RAMSEY.

Commercial Manager—GORDON D. JOHNSTONE.

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editorial

A new bridge magazine . . . Why ?

Because bridge is no longer a game for the Smart Set, the Professional Gambler, the small, fanatical colony of Experts.

Because bridge has kept minds by the million from the dread of air raids, the boredom of prison camps, the enforced inertia of troopships ; because bridge has filled in the snatched hours behind the lines, the all-too-brief respites from the actualities of war.

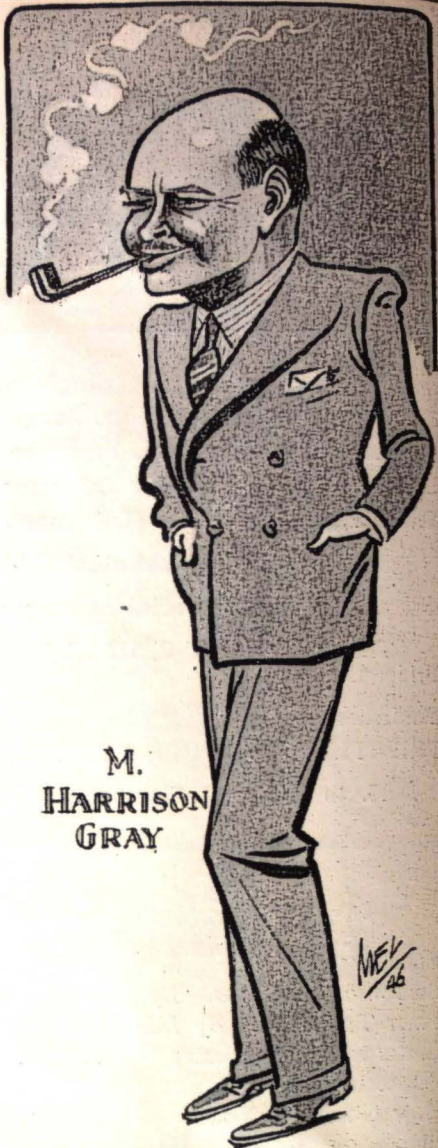
Because bridge has gone On The Air in a big way.

Because, in short, the hundreds of experts, the thousands of players, the hundreds of thousands of people who push round the cards and the millions who would like to play, want, need, and ought to have a magazine devoted to their interest.

This magazine has a set policy.

Far too often a bridge magazine has catered almost exclusively for the expert. The CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL is designed as much for the beginner as for the player whose attention can only be arrested by a progressive squeeze.

We cannot give you what you want unless we know ; we cannot know unless you tell us. Therefore, write to us : not only with your problems—which we shall do our best to answer as informatively as we can, but with your criticisms, your suggestions, your requests. We shall endeavour to disarm the first, adopt the second, and grant the third.



M.
HARRISON
GRAY

If YOU have an article, an idea, an illustration, a bridge story, send it to us.

Now that the game has resumed its legitimate status, all eyes are turned towards the British Bridge League, with its constituent national, regional and county Associations—the whole hierarchy of the game's organisation.

The democratic machinery, with its various activities, necessarily suspended during the war, has lumbered slowly, though steadily into operation.

With the resumption of the Camrose Cup matches between England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Eire, the question of international qualifications has inevitably been raised. The influx in recent years of a number of fine players from the continent—men (and women) who would prove towers of strength in any national team—has given rise to considerable controversy. On the one hand we have the diehards who maintain that England is capable of selecting an adequate team of English born players without the adventitious aid of ex-Middle-Europeans, and that the policy followed by the Lawn Tennis Association (but not by the Rugby Union) should apply to bridge. The more liberally minded consider that a foreigner who becomes a naturalised subject, and possibly served with the British Forces, should be entitled to the full rights of citizenship.

The donor of the Camrose Trophy takes the side of the liberals. With that view, the **CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL** whole-heartedly concurs. It is inconceivable that such British players as S. J. Simon or the late Richard Lederer, who have done so much for the game, should be debarred from playing for England through a mere accident of birth.

There will inevitably occur border-line cases. These must be judged on their merits.

To turn to lighter topics:

Every Bridge Magazine—every bridge player—lives by problems. What you should bid, lead, play, forms the substance of every bridge conversation.

The problems set this month by J. C. H. Marx will, doubtless, impress some as too difficult;

others (perhaps!) will find them too easy. We have advisedly pitched high the standard of this feature. It will require, no doubt, a Master Mind (if not a series of Master Bids) to gain full marks month by month, but we feel sure that anyone who attempts these problems will admit to learning something useful when he studies the answers a month later.

But if you would like an additional and easier series—as a London newspaper publishes two Crossword puzzles—write and tell us. We shall be only too happy to oblige.

Systems come and systems go. On another page a review of all widely current methods of play is published for which, doubtless, the author will be in hiding for his outspoken comments for some time to come.

The most successful "system" to-date seems to have been conceived by two Naval ratings who informed us with some pride that they won consistently below deck without the aid of any conventions: with one proviso.

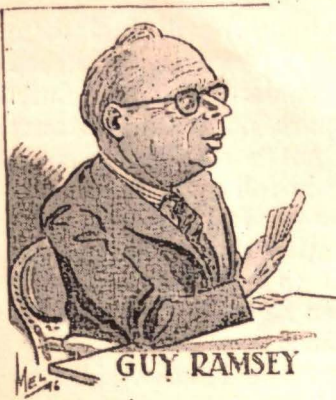
"We decide beforehand," we were told, "to bid the suit immediately lower in rank than the one we really hold. If I open, for example, a Heart, my partner knows—but the opponents don't—that I really hold Spades.

"After an hour of play, the system changes. We then bid the suit higher in rank to our real suit, so that a Heart bid tells partner that I hold Diamonds."

This, we have no hesitation in saying, carries bridge research just a little too far!

Your Magazine wishes you success at the bridge table.

M. HARRISON-GRAY.



bridging the years

by Guy Ramsey

THE difference between Pre War and Post War Contract is the difference between a range of mountains and a plateau. In 1939 there were peaks rising above whole prairies of palookas. In 1946 there are, instead, only a few undulations marking clusters of players better than others.

Eight years ago, M. Harrison-Gray, the Bald Mountain; S. J. Simon, the shaggy Ural; Ewart Kempson, swart as the Black Cuillin and Dick Lederer, Everest of the lot, bulked so large—Lederer by person and personality; the Gray contingent on metropolitan, Kempson on provincial performance—that they almost filled the tournament-players' vision.

Beyond those, Kenneth Konstam, a slender peak (seen in a bobby's helmet early in 1940); Leslie Dodds, a grinning crevasse into whose pitfalls many a player stumbled; and a few superior mountains who played high rubber bridge and never deigned to mingle with the (often very mixed) crowd at tournaments and congresses: these made up the "British Bridge World" (wherein their exploits were duly recorded).

All save the Everest are still with us; but war has worn away the fine cutting edges that cleft the sky. Moreover, the ground has risen about them. The standard of play

in the card-clubs—from Crockfords and the Hamilton down through the "Half-Crown-Top-Stake" to the Three-penny Suburban—is, for all the inquests, horror-stories, and fatuities, generally higher today than it was eight years ago.

The convulsion of the war has flung up a handful of new mountains but they do not tower. There is the Carpathian range, playing Vienna: headed by Dr. Paul Stern, backed by that Austrian Ruperta, Rixie Markus—a team (rightly enough) consisting very largely of *çi-devant* Austrians, Germans and Czechs with Standish Booker and A. J. Smith to provide (in theory only) British steadiness and phlegm.

Also emergent is the Baronial Chain: Baron-Meredith-Leist-Goldinger-Juan-Squire, and Boris Shapiro, their brightest star, who has elected to sever his connection with it and revert to his first love, Acol. I am tempted to borrow from Simon's flippancy and say these superb card-players have nothing to lose but their Chain: the chain of their system.

The "new" systems—Vienna and Baron (for Vienna 1946 is less like Vienna 1938 than Algerian wine is like a Richebourg)—are both strait-jackets. It is freely, credibly and authentically reported that if a Baronite gets a good result

by flouting the system at the expense of his card-sense, he is taken seriously to task ; while, if he gets a bad result by sticking to the system, he is patted on the head—though the team then goes into conference to amend the fault.



As for the Carpathians, Dr. Stern is prone to produce with a flourish at every weekly meeting of the teams he sponsors and trains, one or more hands, for each of which he immediately invents a new conventional bid. Members of The Stern Circle often sit down to a match wondering if they must bid the suit in which they have a guard, or the suit in which they have no guard in answer to partner's opening Three. Absolute, definite, final and different instructions are given . . . every seven days.

The main snag about playing Vienna—as I know to my cost—is that, playing the sort of "F & B" or "2C & B" that one encounters daily at the club, one is apt to add one Austrian Ace (counting 7) to a couple of English Queens (counting 2) and get the wrong answer.

Against the strait-jackets of the Baronites and the Sternites are ranked two groups which have not modified their methods for a decade: the Kempsonites in the North, and their allies in Ireland,

and the Acolytes (now justly regarded as high Priests) anywhere from Carlton-House Terrace to Leeds. Acol and Kempson are fluid where Baron clings to academic "sequen- cies" and Stern to arbitrary, ingenious, wrong-headed even if right-resulted conventions.

The 2 Club is as varied as ever. One or two die-hards—though none among players of the first rank—cling to Lederer's Simple System. From the Hamilton, pressurised by Col. G. G. J. Walshe in his book and Jordanis Pavlides at the card-table has emerged CAB. Pavlides in *his* book has gone on record that, to bid perfectly, all the reader needs to do is to count up to the 40 points in the pack.

Scotland is virtually a Culbertson stronghold. Whether the rest of U.K. will be able to stand out against the threatened (and eagerly anticipated) visit of Ely himself with an overwhelming American team—and the consequent rocketing of his prestige in the event of an American victory—remains to be seen. Nothing succeeds like success: Ely swept the country into playing Culbertson by his victories over Buller, Beasley and Lederer—and, *if he wins*, may easily do it again.

Even if we all go Culbertson, there will not be very much need to alter the stuff we have (except, of course, Barons and Viennas) been playing for a decade: Culbertson 1946, save for one or two specialised bids, is roughly ordinary standard of British practice.

If Culbertson, anxious to pour the shekels he collects from Approach Forcing into his Quota Force Peace Plan, does make the British come-back he confidently expects, I cannot forbear to voice a personal plea for

(Continued on page 42)

first thoughts

by Iain Macleod

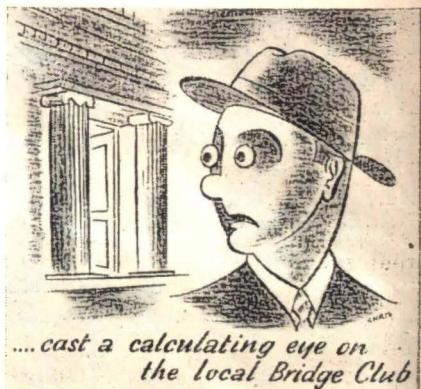
(The first of a monthly series of articles by the well-known International player).



OR rather second thoughts because I must assume a certain basic knowledge. So I shall assume that you know the elementary theory of contract bridge, that you have started to play family bridge and are casting a calculating eye on the local club. Probably you play one of the variations of approach forcing, and probably — almost certainly — you have one or more pet bidding formulae (I suspect the Blackwood) to enable you to bid slams. Let us be clear on this. I am trying to teach you Bridge, not a system of bidding, and I will tell you nothing of such formulae. I shall be much more dogmatic than I would be if I were writing for experts. Above everything DON'T listen to anyone who says that the answers and theories I give you conflict with those of Harrison-Gray or Culbertson or Simon. Of course they do. They are meant to. And finally we will use the Milton work count (Ace = 4, King = 3, Queen = 2, Jack = 1) to express the value of a hand.

So much for introduction and for theory. Now let us be practical and consider the opening bid of one of a suit. Whether you should open or not is governed by two factors, first your high card strength secondly your "shape," *i.e.*, the suit distribution of your hand. An

average hand (one Ace, one King, one Queen, one Jack) is 10 points. To be able to open you must expect to take more than half the tricks (with normal support from your partner) and you should therefore have about a King over average — or about 13 points. We will consider freak distributions later but with any normal shape the opening zone of decision is 10 to 14 points. I am going to give you five rules. I suggest, to begin with, that you follow them religiously. You won't go far wrong and with experience you will learn to be more flexible. Leave the rest of



the magazine to your more expert husband (or wife) and for the time being believe only what you read here. These then are the rules:

1. Always Bid on any hand with 14 points or more.

2. Always Bid on any hand with 13 points unless it has a suit distribution of 4-3-3-3.
3. Always Bid on any hand with 12 points if it has at least a five card suit.
4. Always Bid on any hand with 11 points if it has a six card suit or two five card suits.
5. Always pass a hand with 10 points or less unless it has a freak shape.

In other words these are bids :

AJxxx	Axxx	AQxxxx	KQxxx
Axx	KJxx	Axxx	KJxxx
Kx	AQxx	Jxx	Qxx
xxx	x	—	—

and these are not :

Axxx	AKxxx	Ax
Axx	Qx	KJxxx
Axx	Qxx	Qxxxx
Jxx	xxx	x

These rules tell you clearly when to bid. What to bid is rather more difficult. I shall deal later with no trump bidding, but I intend to lay down a minimum of 16 points even non-vulnerable. On any non freak holding then of between 10 and 16 points you have two mental steps.

1. Should I open at all ? Check by the rules given.
2. If so, what ? And check this by the following :
 - (a) Always open your longest suit if it contains five cards.
 - (b) If two are of equal length, open the higher ranking first, except—
 - (1) If you have 4 3 3 3 and 14—16 points open the four card suit if it has five points or more. Otherwise bid one club.

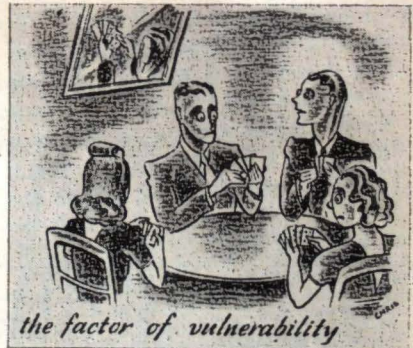
- (2) With three four card suits open the one immediately below the singleton (*i.e.*, Axxx x QJxx AQJx, bid one diamond).
- (3) With two biddable four card suits open the higher suit with Spade-Heart, Heart-Diamond, Diamond-Club holding and the lower ranking on all others.

NOTE.—Any suit of five cards is biddable. A four card suit is biddable if it has three points.

- (4) If your count demands an opening bid but the four card suit selected by these rules is not biddable, bid the other suit. If neither is biddable, bid one Club.

i.e.

1 ♠	but 1 ♦	and 1 ♣
♠ AK	AK	AK
♥ Kxxx	Jxxx	Jxxx
♦ AJxx	AJxx	Jxxx
♣ xxx	xxx	AJx



Let me deal quickly with the factor of vulnerability and of the
(Continued on page 42)

Crime and Punishment



I

NORTH

♠ A K Q 10 9 5
♥ 10 2
♦ 7 2
♣ Q 10 3

WEST

♠ 8 2
♥ Q 9 6 5
♦ K Q J 9 6 5
♣ 2

EAST

♠ J 7 6 3
♥ —
♦ A 10
♣ A K 9 8 6 5 4

SOUTH

♠ 4
♥ A K J 8 7 4 3
♦ 8 4 3
♣ J 7

Dealer, North.

North-South vulnerable.

Bidding—Room 1

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♠	3 ♣	4 ♥	No bid
4 ♠	Dble	5 ♥	Dble

♣ 2 led. South made 7 tricks.
1,100 points to East-West.

Bidding—Room 2

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♠	3 ♣	3 ♥	No bid
3 ♠	No bid	4 ♥	No bid
No bid	5 ♣	No bid	No bid

Dble
♥ K led. East made 9 tricks.
300 points to North-South.

COMMENT

This deal occurred in the 1938 series of International matches for the Camrose Cup. The loss of 1,400 points (for it will be noted that the same team lost points in both rooms) virtually decided the fate of the match. The hand provides a striking example of the poor judgment even of expert players in this type of competitive bidding situation.

In Room 1, South was over-eager in bidding Four Hearts, but owing to West's failure to double his side might well have kept out of trouble, had it not been for North's premature rescue into four Spades. Can the 100 honours have gone to North's head? South's retreat to Five Hearts was the final step in this inglorious round of bidding. The variations of the defence against Four Spades and Five Hearts, ensuring in each case a heavy penalty, are interesting to work out.

In Room 2, the bidding by the North-South pair was better, but again West had his chance of doubling Four Hearts and failed to take it. Presumably his excuse was that he was satisfied with the contract and feared a possible switch to Four Spades; this argument entirely fails to realise

the implications of East's jump overcall and the defensive potentiality of his own hand. Finally, East attempted an ill-judged sacrifice of Five Clubs, and North-South were allowed to escape unscathed.

A curious feature was that in neither room did West see fit to mention his Diamonds.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT—2

NORTH
 ♠ J 7 2
 ♥ A 7 6
 ♦ Q 7
 ♣ Q J 8 5 2

WEST

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

EAST

♠ Q 9 5 3
 ♥ Q 4 3
 ♦ 2
 ♣ K 10 9 6 3

SOUTH

♠ A K 8 4
 ♥ K 8
 ♦ A K 10 6 5 3
 ♣ A

Dealer, South.

East-West vulnerable.

Bidding—Room 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 ♦	No bid	3 ♣	No bid
3 ♦	No bid	4 ♦	No bid
4 ♠	No bid	5 ♦	No bid
6 ♦	No bid	No bid	No bid

♥ J led. South made 11 tricks.
 50 points to East-West.

Bidding—Room 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 ♦	No bid	2 N.T.	No bid
3 ♠	No bid	4 ♣	No bid
4 ♦	No bid	4 ♥	No bid
No bid	No bid		

♠ 3 led. North made 9 tricks.
 50 points to East-West.

COMMENT

This is another hand from a pre-war International match, but in this case the punishment fails to



fit the crime. Excellent bidding by North-South in Room 1, and a ridiculous display in Room 2, achieve precisely the same result: a loss of 50 points. Such is the element of luck even in duplicate bridge.

In Room 1 the small slam in Diamonds is bid on academic lines, but is defeated by the adverse trump distribution.

North-South in Room 2 were also playing the Forcing Two, or so they alleged; and the trouble started with North's negative response of Two No-Trumps. The vogue of requiring something like an Ace and a King for a positive response has its adherents, but is entirely without authority; the "book" says one honour trick plus is sufficient, and indeed the Forcing Two starts with the bidding so high that the cutting out of a round of bidding with an unnecessary response of Two No-Trumps is a luxury to be dispensed with whenever possible. In an attempt to rectify this underbid, North tried to show his Ace of Hearts. But South by this time was beginning to take a poor view of his powerhouse, and decided that North had a weak two-suited hand. The only redeeming feature of this grotesque misunderstanding was the fact that North contrived to make nine tricks in his unpromising contract!

personality page

No. 1—Gordon D. Johnstone

GORDON JOHNSTONE appears as the first Personality in this Magazine, not only because he inaugurated it but by virtue of his Chairmanship of the English Bridge Union.

For this onerous task, Johnstone has three supreme qualifications:

1. He is so experienced a person in public affairs that he holds posts of distinction on no fewer than eight public bodies, ranging from the trusteeship of the Cheltenham District Savings Bank to the secretariat of an association of electric power companies.

2. He is such a glutton for work that he conceived, organised, arranged the finance for, and generally supervised the Cheltenham Bridge Congress—a triumphant success—in the minutes snatched from other (and more profitable) activities; so hard-working, in fact, that he has only one complaint—that every day holds but 24 hours, every week but seven days.

3. He possesses so demoniac an ambition, so sublime a confidence, so irrepressible an optimism that he has already gone on public record to the effect that he will not be satisfied until the E.B.U. has a membership of 50,000 and this Magazine a circulation of equal dimensions.

In addition, the E.B.U. owes the very form of its existence to him already: he, with G. F. Stapleton Harris, drafted its constitution in 1939.

Scottish-ancestored, Yorkshire-born, Gloucestershire-resident, he



unites the shrewd determination of the one to the kindly, rock-like steadiness of the other. The two are flavoured by his metropolitan experience.

So far as Contract goes, Johnstone has played with distinction, largely in the hottest schools of the North where he has made an appreciable mark; has written both in the North and the West.

Not the least valuable of his bridge assets is his membership of the Card Committee of the Portland Club—a position really required by the Chairman of the E.B.U.

Johnstone, still comfortably short of forty, can cram more into his life—his appetite has a Yorkshire zest—than most. He ranks among his hobbies not only bridge but chess, at which he has only just short of ranking-player status; and golf, which he plays off a handicap of 6.

Bridge does not figure in his list of hobbies. That, to him, is business—Big Business. It surely will be if he hits the 50,000 mark at which he aims.

Gordon—our founder—carries our hopes: not merely because we shall succeed with him and suffer if he suffers; but because he has set before the not-so-small world of card-players the good democratic slogan that will characterise his tenure of office: The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number.

How good are you?



Can you make this Contract?

The first of a monthly series of hands from actual tournament play, submitted by Dr. Paul Stern.

Hand 1

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

Dealer, West. Love all.
West leads ♥ 5.

Played in a pairs contest of 11 tables. Only one North-South pair bid Six Hearts, and the declarer made 12 tricks.

Can you make this contract?

Hand 2

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

Dealer, South. Game all.
West leads ♣ 6.

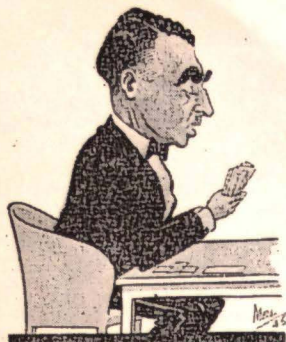
Played in a pairs contest of 13 tables. Three North-South pairs bid Six Diamonds. Two declarers made 12 tricks, but the third made all thirteen tricks.

Can you make a grand slam after the opening lead of the Six of Clubs?

(Solutions on page 43).

CONGRESS DATES

Devon Congress, Torquay	Nov. 8-10
North Western Congress, Blackpool	Oct. 25-27
Harrogate Congress	Nov. 15-18
E.B.U. Congress, Bexhill	Nov. 29-30, Dec. 1-2



E W A R T K E M P S O N . . .

(The first person in this country to broadcast on Contract Bridge, way back in the 'twenties, was Ewart Kempson. In the two years preceding the war he gave a fortnightly series of Bridge Half Hours on National and Regional programmes. As he represents the views of a great number of listeners, he is eminently fitted to submit this critical survey of the current series of bridge broadcasts.—ED.)

BRIDGE went on the air in a big way on Monday, 29th October, 1945. Starting with a listening audience of a few thousand, this weekly feature has grown steadily in popularity and is at present attracting an audience of more than one million; throughout the country, bridge players (and many who have never played bridge in their lives) make a point of listening to "Bridge on the Air" at 11.3 every Monday night; it is hardly an exaggeration to say that it has become part of their lives, and many a rubber is interrupted to listen to the experts, chief of whom are M. Harrison-Gray and Terence Reese, who take it in turn to be master of ceremonies.

Before the war the B.B.C. gave occasional running commentaries on important bridge matches, and, more often than not, the commentator was a nationally known B.B.C. personality who, despite his charm of manner and excellent style of delivery, completely failed to

"bridge on the air"

by Ewart Kempson

convince listeners that he knew much about the game.

Adverse comment was heard in bridge circles and only a handful of people bothered to listen.

In future bridge commentaries, it is probable that the commentators will be experts, and features of this kind will then attract the vast majority of bridge players.

What goes on behind the scenes at Broadcasting House prior to "Bridge on the Air"? Who decides what to do and how to do it? Who invites the guest players?

Dealing with these questions in reverse order, the guest players are invited at the instigation of the master of ceremonies after the particular type of broadcast has been decided on. Thus Mr. Reese suggests that a discussion on bluff bidding should be featured, obtains the consent of the B.B.C. producer in charge of bridge, and at once decides that the outstanding artist of bluff bidding should be invited. An invitation is sent to Mr. H. St. J. Ingram.

I have not been present at one of Mr. Reese's broadcasts, but I imagine that it follows the lines of "In Town To-night" or a Quiz or a Brains Trust. An hour before the, say, Bluff Bidding broadcast goes on the air, Mr. Reese, Mr. Ingram, the producer and the

announcer meet in the studio. Mr. Reese gives an outline of what he proposes to do, and this is vetted by the producer who decides what part the announcer will play. There is neither rehearsal nor script for this particular broadcast. Occasionally the play of a hand is rehearsed (as in the case of the duel between attack and defence on August 20th), but where any rehearsal takes place an announcement to that effect is made. In all other cases "Bridge on the Air" is practically impromptu.

I have been at some pains to collect opinions on this series, and Messrs. Harrison-Gray and Reese, who take it in turn to be Master of Ceremonies, should be gratified to know that their respective efforts are much appreciated.

Generally speaking, they both avoid the pitfall of talking over the heads of their audiences, the majority of whom consist of the poor to average player.

Anyone in the public eye should expect criticism; the man in the street can always do better. The criticisms I have heard may be placed under two main headings: (a) Badly put over, and (b) A waste of time instructionally.

Sometimes hands are read out too quickly; this infuriates listeners. Sometimes the players are given insufficient time to decide on their bids in a "bidding match"; this produces a race against the clock and results in ludicrous contracts. Sometimes an obviously rehearsed joke (alleged) is introduced; this causes listeners to wonder if the entire broadcast is being read from script. Sometimes an outside influence is brought in as a stunt; this defeats the whole object of an instructional broadcast, which,

while it may be made light and entertaining, should not be held up to ridicule.

Many listeners may have enjoyed the Bluff Bidding broadcast; others, to whom I have spoken, thought it "badly put over."

Many listeners may have enjoyed the Quiz between stage and club players; others, to whom I have spoken, thought it a "waste of time."

It is possible that the treatment of both broadcasts was decided by the B.B.C. authorities, and, if so, they missed a splendid opportunity in the Bluff Bidding.

In putting over Mr. Ingram, a great "character" in the bridge world, I should have built up an atmosphere of a tense struggle



between England and America. Then, with England leading and Culbertson jumpy, along comes a typical "Ingram." At this stage the hands are read out.

The tense atmosphere is again worked up as Culbertson sits and studies his cards. The listener is told what he bids and then the voice of Ingram is heard making his bluff bid. The entire bidding sequence is re-enacted, and then Ingram is called upon to give his explanation.

Possibly this is how Mr. Reese wanted to stage the affair; I

don't know. He did, in fact, engage in a long discussion with Mr. Ingram which most listeners found excessively dull.

One of the best broadcasts in the series was the blindfold exhibition, the skill of the experts in remembering the cards being particularly noticeable in the case of Mrs. "Rixie" Marcus, who held a most uninteresting (and most difficult to memorise) collection of rubbish. Most players would have been at sixes and sevens trying to memorise those fours and fives, but Mrs. Marcus named every one.

Another very good broadcast was the one referred to above, when Harrison-Gray was assisted by S. J. Simon, Boris Shapiro and Stewart MacPherson. He announced that the hand was an old one and had been rehearsed. It was a hand which required expert treatment, but was put over so well that even the novices could appreciate it.

First MacPherson read out the hands with real life in his voice:

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

West led the 10 of Hearts against South's Six Spades contract, and the declarer got his first shock when

he led the King of Spades at Trick 2 and found West void.

We now heard S. J. Simon (South) wondering how to avoid the loss of a Club and a Spade, and we followed his reasoning when he said his best chance was to try to throw East in the lead after stripping the hand. So a Diamond to dummy's Ace and an innocent-looking Club from the table.

Now came Boris Shapiro (East) wondering what "Skid" was up to, spotting the ruse and playing his Queen of Clubs. Stewart MacPherson put on the 10 to encourage East to continue the unblocking process.

So the hand went on until the final under-ruffing defence by East which defeated the contract. It was beautifully put over by Gray, who was well backed by the announcer and guests.

If I may venture to give a little advice, I would urge the masters of ceremonies to remember that there is always tomorrow. While a broadcast which drags is quite painful, the cramming in of as much as possible is equally bad.

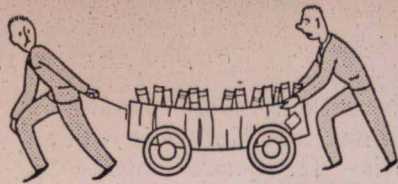
Bridge players do not like comic strips introduced. If I were listening to a talk on tennis, I should want to hear tennis and not be interrupted even by the greatest comedian in the world.

The object of this chipping in is to clear up points for the poor player, but Mr. Gray and Mr. Reese are quite capable of doing that without assistance.

When bridge players tune in to a bridge broadcast they want to hear the experts.

What is the point in buying a dog if you can bark?

New Books



THE ACOL SYSTEM OF CONTRACT BRIDGE

By Ben Cohen and Terence Reese.
(Contract Bridge Equipment, Ltd., in association with Joiner and Steele, Ltd., 7/6)

For more than a decade the Acol system has dominated the tournament world, and will no doubt continue to do so, for every week some new team, using these methods, makes its presence felt in competitions. I very much doubt whether the authors' claim that 90 per cent of our leading players use undiluted Acol is correct; one would expect more teams to employ the Acol Two-bids, surely the most logical and effective of all. But I am convinced that 98 per cent. of the experts make use of the essentials of the system, the famous Acol "attitude of mind."

This new edition, the third, adorned with a new introduction by S. J. Simon and twelve selected hands from Waddington Par Contests, is stated to be "completely revised." In point of fact, the only differences to be noted are a strengthening of pre-emptive Three-bids and the omission of the redundant "King Convention." The most striking feature of the system is the fact that it has stood the test of time since 1933 without the necessity for a single major modification, and slowly but surely the leading Americans have swung right round to a brand of Approach-Forcing scarcely distinguishable from Acol.

The authors have outlined the system in this edition as efficiently as ever, and I am only inclined to quarrel with them on one extraneous point; the lay reader might be pardoned for forming the impression that Messrs. Cohen and Reese are solely responsible for the birth, development and success of the system. Surely a word of acknowledgment to the inventors, S. J. Simon and J. C. H. Marx, and to the players who put Acol on the bridge map, would have been a reasonable gesture.

FROM NO BID TO GRAND SLAM

By F. W. Taylor, M.A.

(The Holywell Press, Ltd., 3/6)

In this little book the author sets out the principles both of bidding and play which he advocates. Whilst the sections on play in the main follow standard practice, his theories on bidding are so revolutionary that they are likely to appeal only to those who are prepared to explore every avenue in their search for ultimate perfection.

KEMPSON VERSUS BARON—EXHIBITION CONTEST

By Ewart Kempson.

(Newcastle Chronicle and Journal Ltd.)

Those who like studying the bidding and play of experts will do well to obtain this booklet,

which sets out the 100 deals of a recent match at Newcastle with an analysis for each hand in inimitable style. Copies may be obtained by sending a minimum donation of 2/6 for the author's pet charity, the *Chronicle* Sunshine Fund for poor children, to Ewart Kempson, Bridge Editor, Newcastle Chronicle and Journal, Ltd., Kemsley House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

THE BARON SYSTEM

Outlined by Leo Baron and Adam Meredith.

(Nicholson and Watson, 2/6)

This attractive little booklet condenses a complete system of bridge into a short precis; the fundamental doctrine is lucidly explained, as well as the frequent departures from hitherto accepted practice.

The Baron team has won the Gold Cup; it has won matches and lost matches, and in this topsy-turvy post-war season it is difficult to assess their form, let alone to decide what share the system (as distinct from the players) has had in their successes and failures.

Whether or not one believes in this system (it has variously been described by unbiassed judges as "horrible" and "a masterpiece"), one cannot fail to respect the thoroughness of the research work put into it by some of the best brains in bridge. Where the system sticks to fundamental principles of cards, it is wholly admirable; it is the peculiar exploitation of the unorthodox that will deter the rank and file from adopting it in its entirety. One is compelled to open the

bidding with One Spade on 8 6 4 2 in order not to interrupt the even flow of a Baron bidding sequence, and as a corollary a direct raise of partner's suit can only be made with four trumps. Frequent recourse is made to bids of non-existent suits; any change of suit by opener or responder is forcing; One No-Trump is opened with $12\frac{1}{2}$ — $13\frac{1}{2}$ points regardless of vulnerability. Simple overcalls and informatory doubles can only be made on strong values, but a jump overcall is a weakness bid; if partner opens the bidding and an opponent doubles, a bid of some sort must be made with 5 points or less.

All these features have been tried out in the past by other players, and hurriedly discarded. There is no doubt that their use has been partly responsible for some of the Baron team's defeats; at the same time no other system can paint such an accurate picture of the distribution and limited strength of the partners' hands, albeit at the cost of flexibility.

It is early yet to judge a system which, although it can scarcely appeal to the bulk of rubber bridge players, may well prove predominant, after a certain amount of revision, in the field of competition bridge.

HEARD AT THE BRIDGE TABLE

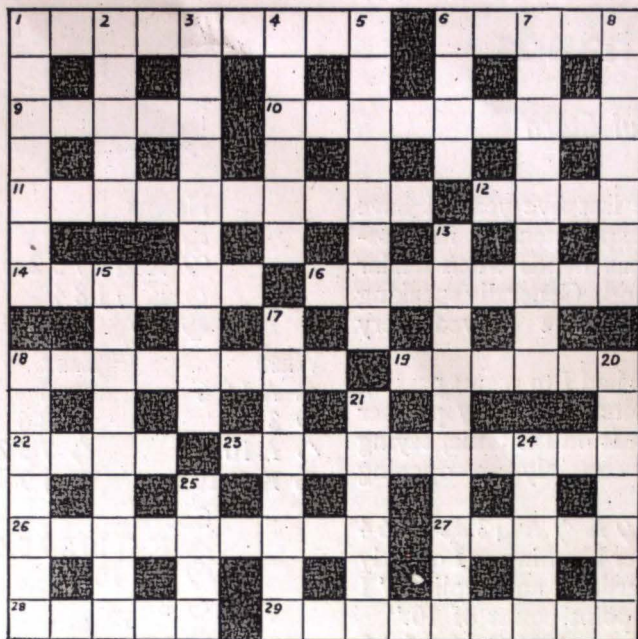
TWO REASONS for responding with One No-Trump, when holding three Aces, to partner's opening bid of One Spade:

"Partner, I had ten losing cards, so on the Losing Trick Count One No-Trump is my only response."

"Partner, you know I like playing the strong No-Trump."

THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD

Devised for the Bridge Player



CLUES

ACROSS

1. Popular form of ebony. (9)
6. The Hays Office doesn't object to this play. (5)
9. Fruity meetings. (5)
10. Unwritten belief. (9)
- 11 & 6 down. Trouble with the dry-cleaners? (10, 4)
12. With this score you pay. (4)
14. Turkish view of disastrous session? (6)
16. Emulate Bruce's spider. (3, 5)
18. Pre-war sundaes had many. (8)
19. Dolce far —. (6)
22. Repository for human bun. (4)
23. Does this describe the holder of a Two Club opener? (10)
26. Insufficient trump support. (9)
27. King from Ace King is a this lead. (5)
28. Tree. (5)
29. No prize is offered for solving this puzzle thus. (9)

DOWN

1. Alibi? (3, 4)
2. Following. (5)
3. X.T. Herod. (4, 3, 3)
4. A confused noise. (6)
5. A Self appointed Bridge instructor usually addresses these. (4, 4)
6. See 11 Across.
7. What Adam and Eve might do with trump support. (5, 4)
8. Bridge without conventions. (7)
13. There was one on the back of "Why You Lose at Bridge." (10)
15. Pencils are. (9)
17. Well known temperament. (8)
18. Avoid unless your eye-sight is good. (7)
20. The final coup? (3, 4)
21. Bad loser. (6)
24. When in this lead trumps? (5)
25. Musical blot. (4)

See correct solution in next month's issue



experiments with freak hands

by Dr. Paul Stern

FOR the last five years I have been experimenting in passing freak hands when dealer or second hand. Generally speaking these tactics have proved very successful.

Only once had I to regret passing second in hand, when my partner put these cards on the table, saying "There is certainly no opening bid here":

♠ 85432 ♥ A ♦ AQ3 ♣ 9764

I remember blushing as I quickly threw my cards in and replied "I only had a point count of 10."

♠ None ♥ KQJ98642
♦ KJ75 ♣ 3

But I enjoyed many of the remaining deals, for their success as well as for the great fun of watching opponents who never realised until too late what they were up against. These tactics have also helped to save thousands of points, because the opponents, once bitten, twice shy, refrained from doubling late calls, suspecting that I held at least a 7, 6, 0, 0 distribution.

Here are two of these hands. The first was dealt in the fourth round of the Tournament Bridge Association's Richard Lederer Memorial contest of 1945; the second comes from a qualifying round of the T.B.A.'s "Two Stars" pairs contest, in which there were 13 tables.

NORTH

♠ —
♥ K Q 9 7 5 2
♦ K Q J 8 4
♣ A 7

WEST

♠ A J 9 6
♥ 3
♦ A 10 9 6
♣ K Q 10 4

EAST

♠ 3
♥ 8 6
♦ 7 5 2
♣ J 9 8 6 5 3 2

SOUTH

♠ K Q 10 8 7 5 4 2
♥ A J 10 4
♦ 3
♣ —

Dealer, South.

North-South vulnerable.

Bidding—Room 1

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
No	1 ♠	Double	2 ♣
2♥	3 ♣	4 ♣*	No
5♥	No	6 ♥	No
No	Dbl	Redble	No
No	No		

Opening lead, ♣ K.
South made 12 tricks.
1,970 points to N.S.

* Asking bid.

Bidding—Room 2

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
4 ♠	No	No	No

Opening lead, ♦ A.
South made 9 tricks.
100 points to East-West.

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

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

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

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

Dealer, East Both vulnerable.

Bidding

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
No	No	1 ♥	No
1 NT	5 ♦	Double	Redble
No	No	No	

Opening lead, ♣ K.

After the lead of the King of Clubs, I had no difficulty in collecting 13 tricks on a simple squeeze, while on the lead of the King of Hearts only 12 tricks could be made. Realising that on his tepid bid of One No-Trump, East probably held only the King of Spades and the Queen of Diamonds, the play was easy, and our score of 1,700 was a clear top. At the remaining tables, the hand was played ten times in 6 Diamonds but only one declarer was doubled. Here the opening lead was again the King of Clubs, and 13 tricks were made for a score of 1,690. One pair bid and made 6 No-Trumps, while the thirteenth declarer contracted for 7 Diamonds which was defeated by the lead of the King of Hearts

But sometimes things happen which are even more peculiar. Playing at Lederer's Club on

July 28th, 1943, two new packs of cards—a great rarity in those weary days of war—were placed on the table, and the first hand, dealt with the blue pack, passed off quite normally. My partner, a so-called “good card holder,” managed to make 3 No-Trumps, although I had my usual collection of rubbish. I dealt the next hand myself with the red pack, and picked up the following:

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

I passed. To my amazement, South, playing the Two-Clubs, opened with Two Diamonds. The bidding, believe it or not, proceeded as follows:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
No	2 ♦	Dble	Redble
No	No	3 ♦	6 ♦
No	No	Dble	Redble

It was not until the dummy went down that at last I came to my senses. This was the full deal:

NORTH
 ♠ K 9 8 4 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ K Q 9 7 5 4 2
 ♣ 3

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A J 10 2
 ♥ —
 ♦ A Q J 10 7 5
 ♣ K J 7

The most astounding feature was that not a single Diamond was duplicated in any one hand.

competition round-up

by M. Harrison-Gray

WITH the present wave of enthusiasm which is sweeping the country, the value of tournament play as a means of improving one's game cannot be too strongly stressed. Large numbers of potential champions shirk taking up duplicate bridge for a variety of reasons, chief among which is lack of knowledge as to how to start this fascinating form of the game. Next month we are publishing an article explaining the A to Z of duplicate and just why it is important that all players of reasonable proficiency should try their hand at tournament play.

The 1945-46 season draws rapidly to a close, the only outstanding events being the Pachabo Cup (the English Bridge Union Inter-County Championship), the Whitelaw Cup (the E.B.U. Championship for Ladies' Teams of Four), and the Tournament Bridge Association's Richard Lederer Memorial Cup. The second round of the Pachabo and the Whitelaw contests have been completed and the results are given below; in the Lederer, teams captained by Dr. Paul Stern, J. Pearlstone and Dr. Fraser Allan have reached the semi-final.

The English Bridge Union will be issuing to its members the Competition Brochure for next season, and the Tournaments Committee has gone all out to make the programme attractive both to expert and newcomer to the competition game. In the past the luck of the draw has played far too prominent a part. It is not

particularly desirable that our Number One team should be eliminated in an early round through the hazards of a short match of 32 boards; nor that a promising team who gallantly enter every competition in sight in the London area should go out in the first round with monotonous regularity through being drawn against teams of International players.

Nevertheless, as there are many who prefer the type of contest where all contestants play right through with a "straight" draw, certain events will continue to be run on the old lines, notably the British Bridge League's Gold Cup, the "blue riband" of British bridge, and the Club Pairs Contest for the Portland Club Cup. It is only in the English Bridge Union's Championship events that, for the first time, seeding and exemption from early rounds will come into force.

The events affected are the National Pairs and National Individual Championships, and the new Teams of Four Championship for Crockford's Cup. The latter will culminate in a final of eight teams, composed of those granted full exemption from the preliminary stages and those which have struggled through to the last round. Each team will play *two* matches against every other team in the final, which will therefore be an exact replica of the European Championships at which British teams have so often failed to justify themselves.

The news will be acceptable both to the hard-working doctor or solicitor whose prowess is known to the Tournaments Committee and who will thus be saved some of the endless sessions of duplicate

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necessary if he is to participate in the leading events, and to the rank and file of tournament players who will be assured of a fair run for their money by meeting opponents of approximately their own calibre in the earlier rounds.

In order to minimise travelling, the first stages of each contest, whether it be seeded or otherwise, will be held as near as possible to the districts which provide the entries: thus a team which enters in Lancashire will in the first place be drawn against another team in the same town or at any rate in the same county, and it is only as the competition progresses that they will be called upon to play against, say, a team from Yorkshire.

Of the new contests, one of most interesting is the Inter-County League, for teams of eight-a-side, for the Tollemache Cup. This will be run on much the same lines as the County Cricket Championship,

each county playing a home and away match against each other County team in the same division; for, again in order to reduce travelling, it may be necessary to divide the country into sections.

A novel feature of the Pairs Contest for the Harewood Challenge Trophies, which is open to non-members of the E.B.U., is the clause which permits the first round to consist of rubber bridge instead of duplicate and to be played off in private houses or wherever convenient to competitors.

As the closing date for entries for some of the 1946-47 contests is not far off, all non-members of the E.B.U. should lose no time in applying to the Secretary, English Bridge Union, 21, Hale Grove Gardens, London N.W.7, for entry forms and the Competition Brochure, and for details of how to join their respective County Associations.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—OCTOBER

Tournaments Committee Meeting, E.B.U.—Crockford's Club, 10.30 a.m.	October 1st
Selection Committee Meeting, E.B.U.—Crockford's Club, 11.45 a.m.	" "
Council Meeting, E.B.U.—Crockford's Club, 2.30 p.m.	" "
Closing date for entries for:	
The Gold Cup (B.B.L. Championship for Teams of Four)	October 28th
Crockford's Cup (E.B.U. Championship for Teams of Four)	" "
National Individual Championship (E.B.U.)	" "
Affiliated Clubs Cup (for Teams of Four from Clubs affiliated to the E.B.U.)	" "
Inter-County League (for representative County Teams of Eight)	" "

Items for inclusion in the Calendar should be forwarded to reach the **CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL**, Editorial Department, 8, Waterloo Place, London, S.W.1., not later than the 10th day of each month.

results of matches

PACHABO CUP

Results of Second Round Matches are as follows :

LONDON, SURREY & MIDDLESEX

Dr. P. Stern's Team beat Mr. S. F. Chorley's Team by 2,690.

Mr. C. E. Davis' Team beat Mr. J. Colvin's Team by 1,270.

Mrs. P. Williams' Team beat Mr. M. Block's Team by 1,520.

Mr. L. W. Dodds' Team beat Mr. G. Ramsey's Team by 4,400.

Mr. A. L. Della Porta's Team beat Mrs. Lyons' Team by 3,400.

Mr. D. P. Braithwaite's Team w/o. Mr. R. Cole's Team scratched.

Mr. G. Forbat's Team beat Mr. L. Baron's Team by 1,250.

Mr. T. V. M. Cotter's Team beat Mr. S. C. Kastell's Team by 580.

Mr. M. Harrison Gray's Team beat Mr. J. W. Waller's Team by 700.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Mr. W. H. Weightman's Team beat Mr. A. J. Smith's Team by 2,930.

SUSSEX & KENT

Mrs. E. A. O'Callaghan's Team beat Lady Climo's Team by 1,990.

Mr. A. L. Fleming's Team beat Mr. E. Summers Team by 380.

HAMPSHIRE & DEVONSHIRE

Mrs. C. Trollope's Team beat Sir Hugh Garrett's Team by 1,890.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Mr. A. Barnett's Team beat Mr. G. D. Johnstone's Team by 820.

Mr. R. F. P. Holloway's Team beat Major C. MacLachlan's Team by 1,200.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Mr. S. Joseph's Team beat Mrs. M. Cole's Team by 2,900.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & DERBYSHIRE

Mrs. Wibberley's Team beat Mr. N. R. C. Frith's Team by 320.

WARWICKSHIRE & STAFFORDSHIRE

Mrs. T. S. Crisford's Team beat Mr. L. Jacob's Team by 2,140.

Mr. A. F. Bearn's Team beat Mr. R. Morton's Team by 80.

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE

Major R. B. Verdin's Team beat Mrs. F. Bailey's Team by 750.

YORKSHIRE & LINCOLNSHIRE

Mr. G. Nelson's Team beat Mr. J. Brown's Team by 4,480.

Mr. H. L. Shapira's Team beat Mr. R. F. Corwen's Team by 540.

WHITELAW CUP

Results of Second Round Matches are as follows :

Mrs. P. Williams' Team beat Lady Rhodes Team by 1,980.

Mrs. D. S. Kastell's Team beat Mrs. Titmas' Team by 670.

Mrs. Furse's Team beat Mrs. Block's Team by 1,500.

Mrs. Summer's Team beat Mrs. Godfray's Team by 320.

Mrs. Griffith's Team beat Mrs. Cavendish's Team by 540.

Mrs. Jarvis' Team beat Mrs. Paxon's Team by 1,170.

Mrs. Symes' Team beat Mrs. Hardman's Team by 1,600.

Mrs. Flemmich's Team w/o. Mrs. H. M. Williams' Team scratched.

Mrs. Wibberley's Team beat Mrs. Burn's Team by 690.

Mrs. Eames' Team beat Mrs. Smith's Team by 6,250.

Mrs. Crisford's Team beat Mrs. Rowley's Team by 730.

Mrs. Booth's Team beat Mrs. Turner's Team by 1,110.

what? - another convention!

by J. C. H. Marx



IN the Early Culbertson Age, the opening No-Trump was an out-cast in the community of bids. It was considered capricious and unreliable. It had been censured by the High Priest for violating his sacred Approach Principle and it was denied all honourable employment save by the few militant Bullers and the more numerous but pathetic Bourbons who still sighed for the languid allurements of Auction. It was a happy-go-lucky vagabond, and might be secretly envied but could not be openly approved.

Then came its regeneration. The 1936 Gold Book and the contemporary emergence of Acol made it respectable and it became in fact almost puritanical. The code of conduct laid down for it was rigid and austere. In this guise it survives to-day as the "Strong No-Trump," beloved of so many good average players.

In theory it is an admirable bid. It states simply and squarely both the nature of the hand pattern and, within narrow limits, the general high-card strength. The responder can usually judge at once whether there is a hope of game. But sometimes he cannot, and, what is worse, has no safe means of finding out. Let us examine some of these difficulties which may be encountered by the responder. It is

assumed in all these cases that partner has opened One No-Trump of an agreed range of strength between 16 and 18 points.

(1) You hold ♠ Q 10 x x x ♥ K x x ♦ x ♣ Q x x. There may be a game in Spades, if the no-trump is not a minimum and the hand fits. Or there may not. What can you do about it under current methods? Bid 2 Spades, the weakness take-out, which partner, fearing you have six to the Jack and a bust, will almost certainly pass, whatever his hand? Bid 3 Spades, committing you to a game, whether or not partner has a minimum? Raise happily to Two No-Trumps, in spite of that singleton Diamond?

(2) You hold ♠ K x x x ♥ Q J x x ♦ Q x x x ♣ x. There is a likely game in a major if partner has four of either, and an unlikely game at No-Trumps because of the singleton Club. Can you investigate with any assurance that you will find both the right spot and the right level?

(3) You hold ♠ K x x x ♥ A x x x ♦ K J x x ♣ x. More than ample high card strength for game at No-Trumps, provided the defence do not run away with the Clubs. But they might, yet you dare not force with either of these scanty majors and risk being raised on three to the Queen.

(4) You hold ♠ K x x x ♥ K J x ♦ A x x x ♣ x x. A sound raise to Three No-Trumps, but Four Spades might be safer; unfortunately you cannot find out.

(5) You hold ♠ K J x x x ♥ Q x x ♦ x ♣ 10 x x. A possible game at Spades if the No-Trump is a maximum. But partner will pass Two Spades and Three Spades commits you to game in any case.

(6) You hold ♠ x ♥ K x x x ♦ Q x x x x ♣ Q x. A possible game at Hearts, Diamonds or No-Trumps. The best course is to bid Three Diamonds and hope partner bids Three Hearts. But if he doesn't there is nothing to tell you whether the resultant Three No-Trumps will be perfectly hopeless or almost a lay-down.

Is there a remedy? Yes, of course there is. You knew it all the time—another confounded convention! And although I am opposed to the proliferation of conventional devices (other people's, anyway), I am prepared to sponsor this one. Its rules are simple, easily remembered and require only a little good judgment and sense of playing trick values to operate successfully. Moreover they can be explained to the opponents' satisfaction in ten seconds.

On all the above examples, you make a conventional one-round forcing bid of Two Clubs. This bid is not in itself forcing to game, though a forcing to game situation may develop from it. The subsequent procedure is governed by the following rules.

(1) Opener must rebid, in response to the Two Club take-out, as under:—

(a) Holding any four cards in either major, he

must bid the suit at the range of Two. If he holds both majors, he should bid Spades first and, if the opportunity arises, Hearts later.

(b) Holding no four card major and a minimum no-trump he must bid Two Diamonds.

(c) Holding no four card major and a better than minimum no-trump, he must bid Two No-Trumps.

(2) When the opener has rebid denying a four card major, a further bid of either a major or a minor by the responder implies a suit of not less than five cards.

(3) The rebid by the responder, where it reverts to No-Trumps or raises the four card major bid by the opener is purely quantitative and should be passed by the opener if his holding is a minimum.

(4) If the opener has a minimum, he should not bid again unless the responder creates a game forcing situation by jumping the bidding. Exceptionally, with some distributional support (4 4 3 2) for a five card major bid by the responder, he may raise.

(5) Further bidding after a Two No-Trump rebid by opener, showing a better than minimum No-Trump, is forcing to game, except as in (6) below.

(6) A rebid by responder to 3 Clubs or Diamonds denotes a suit of at least five cards, an unbalanced hand and a consequent fear of No-Trumps as a safe contract. (Example 6 above is a case

in point). Opener should pass unless he can envisage game at five of the minor; exceptionally, holding a maximum and three to a top honour in the suit, he may bid Three No-Trumps.

The effect of the use of this convention on normal bidding procedure can be assessed by examining the types of hand, in the examples above, on which the use of the bid is recommended. All of them are hands on which there exists at least some shadow of hope of game. All of them are either unbalanced or have a pronounced weak suit, suggesting that a final contract in No-Trumps may be less desirable than in a suit, especially a major suit. The conventional Two Club bid is in effect a bid of Two and a half Spades or Hearts, standing between the weakness take-out of Two of a suit and the Forcing Take-out of Three.

It follows that the simple Take-out of Two of a suit, other than Clubs, should be reserved for hands of extreme weakness and should invariably be passed by opener. If responder had thought there was any hope of game, he would have bid Two Clubs. The forcing take out of Three of a suit also becomes more clear-cut and can be reserved for really powerful hands, more closely approximating to those on which a forcing take-out is used after an opening of One of a suit, a game being assured and a slam not unlikely.

Every bridge player has met hands where, on account of tenace holdings in one or more suits, every card instinct urges him to bid One No-Trump. He fears, however, that if he does so, he may miss a

game in a fitting four card major, either or both of which he may hold. The convention banishes this inhibition. No-Trumps can be opened on any suitable 4 3 3 3; 4 4 3 2 or even 5 3 3 2 hand, provided its high card strength falls within the agreed range. Incidentally, the convention can be used in conjunction with a No-Trump of any prescribed strength; it works particularly well with the "weak" No-Trump of 13-15 points.

Finally, there is nothing to prevent the responder making normal raises to two or three No-Trumps, when playing the convention. In fact, he should always do so, where there is no point in exploring other contracts. For instance, Three No-Trumps is the most promising landing place for a balanced hand such as ♠ Q J x x x ♥ A x ♦ Q x x ♣ J 10 x with no pronounced weakness anywhere, and it should be bid without further ado.

CONTRIBUTORS TO OCTOBER
ISSUE

Godfrey Winn—eminent author and columnist.

Col. G. G. Walshe—"Yarborough" of the "Sunday Times."

Gordon D. Johnstone, who will write on first steps to Duplicate and Tournament play.

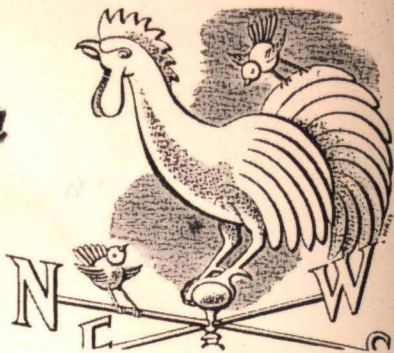
S. J. Simon—author of "Why you lose at Bridge."

Geoffrey L. Butler—well-known Bridge columnist.

And all our regular contributors, including Guy Ramsey, distinguished journalist, author and Bridge Editor; Dr. Paul Stern, ex-captain of the World Champion Austrian team; Iain Macleod and J. C. H. Marx, International players of repute; Ewart Kempson, leading player and authority in the North of England.

The Northern Outlook

by Ewart Kempson



LET'S go back a bit, back to the 1940 North v. South match, which was played in aid of the Red Cross.

The South team mistook the date and only the non-playing captain, Colonel Walshe, turned up. With the aid of Geoffrey Butler, Geoffrey Fell and the non-playing captain of the North (us), a "South" team was raised to play against the North cracks: Messrs. J. W. Crake, H. Marks, R. Vincent, R. Mercado, A. Ralli and Mrs. Parkes.

We started off in partnership with Geoffrey Fell and soon got into his way of bidding. By the same token he got into our way. In the other room, Geoffrey Butler quickly mastered the Walshe system but the North team led by the negligible margin of one thousand points after three boards.

Thanks to some rare bidding by Fell, the "South" team reached a contract of four spades on Board 5 . . . down three. With the other cards Colonel Walshe and Butler, remarkably enough, also bid to four spades. They were rather less lucky and came down four.

At this stage the "South" was 2,000 behind, but subsequently went to pieces.

At Board 65 Colonel Walshe reported to us that Butler had been "too awful." Apparently Butler

had dared to play one of the 64 boards and it was at once agreed to teach him a sharp lesson. He was carried screaming from the room and forced to play with Geoffrey Fell.

The Walshe-Kempson combination at once bid a lovely grand slam and made it. In the other room, the North stopped at six and went one down through guessing all three finesses wrong.

Three further slams by the Walshe-Kempson combine, each requiring some delicate play and a couple of leads out of turn, helped the "South" to draw level and eventually to win.

Colonel Walshe claims this as his own triumph.

In 1942 we played an unofficial match in aid of the Red Cross. Colonel Walshe, as the holder, insisted on playing, whereupon every player in London refused to take part.

Eventually we persuaded Graham Mathieson to play with the late Wash Carr, but we couldn't get a fourth. This is what the other experts said:—

M. Harrison-Gray: "Who, me?"

Jack Marx: "I don't really mind the blitz."

Mrs. Evers: "Is Walshie still trying to play bridge?"

Colonel Beasley: "I'm no masochist."

Lord Tollemache: "No ——— fear."

Geoffrey Butler: "I'm a respectable married man."

Mrs. Rankin: "——— !"

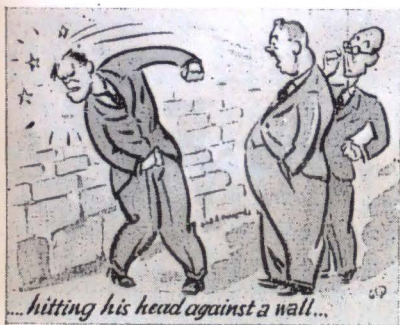
Sydney Josephs: "Who is Colonel Walshe?"

Mr. N. Goldinger: "How can I possibly get away next week; I've got to finish playing this hand."

Eventually we bribed Mr. John O. Hastie.

The North team duly won and Mr. John Hastie was seen in Ipswich the following day, cracking his head against a stone wall. He said he found this extremely pleasant.

The 10th North-South match was played last January, Colonel Walshe, M. Harrison-Gray, S. J. Simon, Jack Marx, Niel Furse, Geoffrey Fell, Rex Vincent, Dr. Goodman Jones and Ian Freeman defeating Selby Wraith and us by 2,680.



Towards the end of July we visited Brussels with Colonel Walshe, Leslie Dodds and Eddie Rayne to play a series of private matches against (a) the Belgian champion team, (b) Liege, (c) The Automobile Club and (d) the

Energieia Bridge Club. We won the most important match against the champions by 360, lost to Liege by 200, lost to the Automobile Club by 1800 and defeated Energieia by 4,600.

All the matches were played in an atmosphere of great cordiality and our hosts, headed by Colonel R. Bergerhoff, secretary general of the Belgian Federation of Bridge, gave us a generous helping of the traditional Belgian hospitality.

Only one woman player played against us; she was Miss Simone Moulia, a petite brunette with a great flair for the game.

We were in dazzling form, one of our best efforts being against Mr. Albert Cranz who dealt and passed. Colonel Walshe, wearing his famous look of depression (whenever he plays with us), passed and so did the third player. We examined ♠ x x ; ♥ A K x x ; ♦ Q J 10 x x ; ♣ K J and called one heart in a strong voice. Mr. Cranz bid one spade, Colonel Walshe bid four hearts and this was passed to Mr. Cranz who bid four spades. What would you do, chum? You're vulnerable.

We made a devastating double, but refused to be bluffed by Mr. Cranz's re-double. We know when to pass, so we passed. Mr. Cranz made only thirteen tricks and Colonel Walshe continued to wear his look of depression.

The four English players stuck closely together throughout the tour. They did this to prevent any three discussing any one behind his back. This panned out very well until it was discovered that Mr. Dodds could not speak French, from which moment Mr. Dodds was at the mercy of the other three who discussed his

many shortcomings in front of his face. Thus we would say to Colonel Walshe and Eddie Rayne "Monsieur Dodds est un joueur tres mauvais" To which Eddie would reply "Mais oui, et mon oncle est dans le jardin avec les lions."

Colonel Walshe would then chip in with the statement that the pen of his aunt was black, but nothing like as black as Leslie.

It was all exceedingly pleasant, but we understand that Mr. Dodds is now taking French lessons so it wont be any use taking him on the next tour.



Last month Leslie Dodds, Edward Rayne, and Selby Wraith handicapped us in 100 boards against Leo Baron, Nico Goldinger, Adam Meredith and Dr. H. Leist. We lost (by 4,100) to a better team.

Mr. Baron's team triumphed despite many handicaps. In the first place, Dr. Leist arrived without any shoes (apparently the poor fellow had failed to draw trumps earlier in the week). In Newcastle we don't allow people to play

without shoes, so Dr. Leist's feet were forced into a pair of local shoes, and he played throughout in great pain. Had he been fortunate enough to secure a pair of Rayne's, he would have played in perfect comfort (Cheque from Rayne's should be made payable to the writer).

Mr. Meredith was playing extremely well until a spectator asked if he was S. J. Simon: From that moment, Mr. Meredith concentrated entirely on keeping his hair brushed.

It is quite untrue to suggest that we tried to put Mr. Baron off by sending him a telegram which read "London wishes Leo Luck." It was signed by all the members of Mr. Harrison-Gray's team and by all the members of Dr. Stern's team.

The only unfortunate incident in a fine, sporting match was when a spectator said that Mr. Goldinger had played par bridge for 99 of the 100 boards. Mr. Goldinger promptly struck this obnoxious person and is bringing an action for defamation of character.

The rate of play was extremely fast, the average being nine boards to the hour. Mr. Baron interchanged his partnerships, but Eddie Rayne was not allowed to escape from Leslie Dodds even for one board.

The first person in England to achieve Master rank (regional) is Mrs. Harry Jackson, of Whitley Bay, Northumberland.

GREETINGS

from

ELY CULBERTSON, Esq.

*16a East 62nd Street,
New York City, U.S.A.*

*M. Harrison-Gray, Esq.,
Editor, Contract Bridge Journal,
London, England.*

Dear Harrison-Gray,

It is good news, indeed, to learn that Britain is to have a Bridge Magazine again after the seven-year interval of the war.

Such a venture can do only good both to the game and its players.

All our good wishes for your great success.

In sending you this message, which comes from my associates and myself and from the "Bridge World," I should like to take the opportunity to assure you—an assurance you should not need—that if we over here can do anything to help you, you can count it already done.

Cordially and fraternally yours,

ELY CULBERTSON.

from

A. NOEL MOBBS, Esq.

*Chairman of the Portland Club
and the British Bridge League.*

*18b Charles Street,
London, W.1.*

It is indeed with pleasure that I learn that the English Bridge Union is to produce a monthly Contract Bridge Journal.

The lack of any Magazine to keep Bridge players in touch with one another, and with what is happening in the Bridge world, has undoubtedly been one of the causes of the difficulties that have hampered the post-war revival of Bridge Leagues, both of a National and County character.

The first Congress held at Cheltenham was an outstanding success, reflecting great credit on the Officials of the British Bridge League, the English Bridge Union and the Gloucestershire Contract Bridge Association. It will be followed by further Congresses and International matches.

I shall recommend the Journal to Clubs and Bridge players, and I hope that you, its first readers, many of whom must be friends and colleagues of mine at Bridge Congresses, will do likewise.

A. NOEL MOBBS.



News from Eire

by Noel Byrne

THE 1946-47 season has been ushered in by the, now famous, Killarney Congress. Founded in 1944 by Dr. T. P. Magnier of Fermoy and organised by the Killarney Club, the Congress proved an instantaneous success and entries for this year's fixture have broken all records. Ireland's best players are being challenged by leading teams from England, Scotland and Wales, to whom the idea of a Bridge Congress, set against the background of the unrivalled beauty of Killarney, appeals mightily.

With improved transport facilities available, steps are being taken to extend the scope of the Association's activities, so as to cater for bridge players in the Provinces.

The Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on the 23rd September at which tribute will be paid to that active centre of Bridge, Drogheda, when their Mr. J. M. Stanley will be elected President for the coming year. One of the best known and most popular figures in the Association, Mr. Stanley's election will be hailed with acclamation on all sides and under his leadership, the Association seems assured of a record year. In honour of the new President, the executive committee

have allotted the Spiro Cup (for mixed pairs) to the Drogheda Branch and it will be held in that town on Saturday and Sunday the 2nd and 3rd November. Another of the Association's trophies will be competed for outside the Metropolis, namely, the Jackson Cup (for women pairs), which will be held at Cork on the 8th and 9th March, 1947.

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Our 1945-46 series of Camrose Trophy Matches will be continued on the 19th and 20th of October, when we take on Scotland at The Central Hotel, Dublin. Despite the poor display put up by our Representatives in the matches played to date, I have great hopes that they will score their first win in the series—their form in previous matches was too bad to be true.

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The team to meet Scotland has been selected and is as follows:—Mrs. F. McMenamin and T. D. Purcell, T. P. Boden and T. Ryder; W. J. L. O'Connell and Barry O'Connell (Cork). Reserve Pair, J. J. Bastow and W. R. Bastow. Of the team selected, Messrs. Boden and Ryder are both new to International Bridge and owe their selection to consistently good performances in the trial matches.



News from Northern Ireland

by A. J. Fletcher

ENTHUSIASM for Contract Bridge in Northern Ireland, evident but controlled during the war years, has now developed beyond expectations.

Revival of the Camrose Cup matches has, of course, been a determining factor, as competitive play at the highest level is ever an outstanding attraction. The NIBU. got off to a good start with a substantial victory over Eire in March, and there were visions of the famous trophy leaving England for the first time. Alas, we slipped at the second hurdle, when Scotland deservedly won in Belfast in April, though the margin was not large. In the match against England at Cheltenham yet another defeat was suffered, so that early expectations have not been realised. The forthcoming Welsh match is, however, being anticipated as a means of adjusting the balance. Hope springs eternal . . . !

In the matches played to date ten players have taken part. These were Mrs. McKee, Cohen, Fletcher Gabbey, Goldblatt, Hanna, Lindsay, Mackinnon, Shanks and Vard. Only one player, Eric Goldblatt, took part in all three matches, and, as usual, he gave an excellent performance. A brilliant exponent his only failing is that he is inclined too often to expect the unusual.

For the second year in succession which in fact means since the inauguration of the event, by virtue of leadership of the Senior League, Barney Vard's Jewish Institute team represented the North against the South for the handsome trophy provided by Colonel Walshe, President of the N.I.B.U. Once again he was narrowly defeated. At the annual prize distribution in May he and Tom Shanks shared the honours, each receiving three well-deserved awards.

The annual Easter Congress, in abeyance since 1939, attracted a number of prominent players from the other home countries and the standard was exceptionally high. The main event, the Invitation Teams of-four for the Belfast News-Letter Cup, was won by one of the English nominations, Ben Cohen's Yorkshire team, and David Cohen's Belfast-cum-Dublin side was successful in the Open Congress Fours. A very interesting deal occurred in the invitation Fours. At most tables South reached a 3 no-trumps contract after North had bid Spades and West has to find a lead from ♠ A.9.6.5., ♥ J.9.4.2., ♦ 6.5.2., ♣ K.6. The only lead which will defeat the contract is the ♣ 6. Partner holds ♣ A.J.10.9.4., and must play the 9, declaring winning with the Queen, To land the contract tricks in spades are needed, and when West gets in with the Ace the Club King is played and partner overtakes with the Ace to cash the rest of his Clubs. However, had declarer, holding Q x x in Clubs, refused the first trick, he can still get home as East cannot establish his suit with the necessary entry!

Unfortunately for the story, no one made the lead, so that declarer did not get the opportunity for the brilliant counter.



Scottish Notes

by Albert Benjamin

LAST season was the halfway stage in the return to pre-war standards. National and District competitions were revived, but entries for the most part fell short of 1939 numbers. One cause was the difficulty faced by clubs, closed down for the duration, in finding suitable premises.

The interest in Duplicate is definitely on the increase. This was evidenced by the appeal of a new event introduced last year—The National Pairs Championship. A very fine cup was presented by the "Scotsman" for this competition.

Another pointer to the spread of organised bridge is the creation of a new district within the Scottish Bridge Union. This will take in the counties of Angus, Perth and North Fife and will be known as the Central District.

At no time during the period of hostilities did the S.B.U. cease to function. To cut down travelling, emphasis was laid on district competitions and teams of 4 were substituted for teams of 8.

The guiding spirit during these troubled times was Mr. C. Ellis, President of the Union. His long services, technical and administrative, to Scottish Bridge have no doubt received the tacit appreciation of players, and now that Mr. Ellis has demitted office, it is

to be hoped that his connection with S.B.U. affairs will not be completely severed. The new president, a popular choice for the post, is Mr. W. A. McKerrow of Edinburgh. Mr. McKerrow has along with Mr. Ellis, done much to maintain Scotland's interest in the B.B.L. and has been honoured by being elected Vice-President of that body.

The honours of the season were shared by Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Scottish Cup went to Glasgow (Messrs. S. B. Nicolson, C. Ellis, P. Duff and G. Bryce) as did the Scottish Women's Cup (Mrs. Turpie, Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Burnside, Mrs. Langmuir and Miss Smith). The new National Pairs was won by Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Porteous of Edinburgh. This pair were part of the team of 4 narrowly defeated by Mr. Nicolson in the final of the Scottish Cup. A team of Edinburgh ladies (Miss A. G. McKenzie, Miss Bell, Miss McNair and Mrs. Porteous) did well in reaching the final of the Lady Milne Cup, staged at the Cheltenham Congress. Although beaten by Lady Rhodes' team, they did not return empty-handed from the Congress as they won the Queen Cup.

The recent A.G.M. of the Union was well attended. The main debate centred round the procedure of international team selection. After a critical discussion the

meeting upheld the policy of the executive and refused to sanction any alteration to the constitution.

Welcome news is to hand that a Congress will be held at Dunblane Hydro in October. By the time these notes appear full details will be in the hands of Scottish readers, many of whom will recall past triumphs of the bridge table at this popular and traditional venue of Scottish Congresses.



Welsh Bridge Notes

by W. H. Ricardo

DAILY GRAPHIC CONTEST

The largest and most ambitious competition yet staged is being organised by the British Bridge League on behalf of the "Daily Graphic" and "Daily Sketch."

The competition is for teams of four and it is understood no entry fee will be payable. It will be organised on a regional basis and trophies will be awarded to area winners and the area winners will go forward for a National Final to be held in London. Members of those teams who are fortunate enough to get into the Final will be entertained for 2 days by the "Daily Graphic."

Preliminary announcements will be appearing in the National press this month and entry forms will shortly be in the hands of County Secretaries.

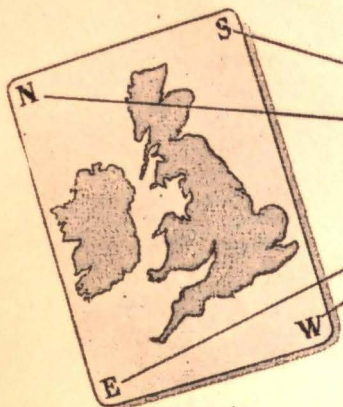
The entry anticipated for this most attractive competition is expected to be a record for any British event and on the terms and conditions outlined above it certainly deserves to be.

THE international Bridge match against England is due to take place in Cardiff on October 12th and 13th. The selection Committee have adopted the policy of not altering a winning team, and are playing the same side as defeated Scotland recently. F. E. Perry (non-playing Captain), E. J. Carter, D. McAllister, A. Stone, S. Rivlin, E. Fine, and H. Belman.

Special interest will be taken in this match as the result may have a distinct bearing on the destiny of the Camrose Trophy. England will be all out to avenge the defeat inflicted on them by Wales in the last match played at Leicester in 1939.

Cardiff is setting out in force for an invasion of Eire, and the venue is again at Killarney, where every prospect pleases and only your partner is vile. If the same delightful holiday that we all enjoyed last year is given us again, we shall all of us be indeed fortunate.

The finals of the Webber Cup are due to be played on September 29th, and will consist of from 8 to 12 teams, playing on Patton Schedule. The Welsh Bridge Association are gradually getting back to their pre-war activities, and are hoping for a much extended programme for next year.



*from the
Four Corners*

North Western

The North Western Contract Bridge Association prior to the war was very active and run in a very efficient manner with W. H. Preece as Hon. Secretary and Lieut.-Col. P. L. Coates, D.S.O., T.D., as Chairman. During the war, activities were reduced to nil, but in July, 1945 the Committee decided to proceed with its activities on a limited basis. The first event was a trial to choose a pair to represent this area in the North v. South match at Newcastle in January, 1946. In a very close Contest, the first position was gained by Mr. Freeman and Dr. Goodman Jones of Liverpool.

In the Liverpool area the Waterworth Cup competition was resumed. This is a match pointed event covering 168 boards played in 7 sessions. In spite of a disastrous start, J. E. Gordon and A. C. Douglass were the winners, nine match points above Mrs. M. Parkes and C. M. Ralli.

In Southport the invitation pairs took place during the winter months and in an exciting finish S. Goldstone and S. Yates just beat M. Hargreave and A. McCarthy.

In Blackpool a teams-of-four championship was played during the winter and spring. 14 teams

participated and the event was eventually won by a team captained by W. H. Preece, consisting of himself and Messrs. Henriques, Maud and Mills.

In June, this Association ran on behalf of the English Bridge Union the International Pairs Trial, which resulted in a very close scoring amongst the first five pairs: C. Henriques and W. H. Preece (Blackpool) 177 match points; J. E. Gordon and A. C. Douglass (Liverpool) 174 match points; T. Gee and A. V. Rahr (Bolton) 174 match points.

During the coming season the Association hope to be more active and an area congress has been arranged to take place at Blackpool, 25th, 26th and 27th October.

So far not many new first-class players have made their appearance in this area, but C. E. Phillips, V. J. G. Eayres and M. Keppner now in Blackpool greatly strengthen bridge in that area.

The Annual Meeting of the Association was held in Manchester on 31st July. The Chairman reviewed the past twelve months and the Treasurer submitted a satisfactory balance sheet. All the officers were re-elected and it was announced that a much enlarged programme of competitions was being arranged for the coming year.

Yorkshire

by Nancy Bedford

When the Yorkshire Contract Bridge Association was first formed in 1935, under the chairmanship of Mr. George Nelson, amongst its active supporters were Mrs. F. B. Bailey (Hull), Mrs. L. Hadfield (Sheffield), Mrs. E. M. Turner (Halifax), Dr. L. Bathurst (Leeds), Major G. Fell, O.B.E. (Leeds), Mr. J. Morrison (Harrogate) and Mr. J. H. Taylor (Bradford). It is good to see these members on the post-war Council, along with Mrs. M. Cartwright (Dewsbury), Mrs. L. Dixon (Leeds), Mrs. M. S. Rankin (Sheffield), Mrs. E. A. West (Bradford), Messrs. W. Barker (Hull), F. Bray (Dewsbury), L. M. Bodlender (Harrogate), R. C. Hartley (Sheffield), R. Niman (Leeds), F. Sleightholme (Leeds), A. R. Steele (Huddersfield), L. Taylor (Mytholmroyd) and R. Vincent (Leeds). This strong and representative Council is under the active chairmanship of Mr. Ben Cohen, who is successor to Dr. L. Bathurst.

A very full and interesting season is expected, and with Autumn Congresses at Blackpool, and Harrogate Northern bridge players are indeed provided for.

What is likely to prove the most interesting contest of the Blackpool and Harrogate events is the bridge "Battle of the Roses" between teams of twelve pairs a-side representing Yorkshire and Lancashire. This match is to be played in two halves, the first at Blackpool on Sunday, October 27th and the second at Harrogate on Sunday,

November 17th, the winners to be decided by the aggregate score of the two matches. Lancashire are the present holders of the *Yorkshire Evening News* Cup and the Silver Record Book presented by Major Fell. This event was promoted by G. Nelson in 1932 between teams of four-a-side and it was more in the nature of an annual "friendly" match until it became "official" in 1936, when the North Western Association was formed.

The Association have arranged the following events for the coming season:—

Yorkshire Pairs Championship for the *Yorkshire Evening Post* Cups. Open to any player resident in Yorkshire, whether a member of the Association or not. A substantial proportion of the net entrance fees to be contributed to a charity.

Teams -of- four - Championship for the Waddington Shield.

Yorkshire Individual Championship for the *Yorkshire Post* Cup.

Mixed Teams-of-four Contest for the Nelson Rose Bowl.

Inter - City Teams - of - eight Contest for the *Yorkshire Telegraph and Star* Cup.

Yorkshire League Championship for the Waddington Cup.

In addition a monthly pairs competition will be played in each local area in rotation, winners to qualify for a final at the end of the season. There will also be County Selection Trials participation in which will be by invitation only.

I do not claim to be a bridge expert myself, but that well-known Yorkshire player, Mr. George Nelson (my father) has promised for this page any deals of interest that crop up in his tilts with the prominent Yorkshire players.



(From the author's introduction to the the new edition of "The Acol System of Contract Bridge" by Ben Cohen and Terence Reese, reviewed on page 15 of this issue).

THE Acol System has often been described as an attitude of mind. It is high time this attitude was set down in print for, judging by their constantly suggested improvements which have to be firmly sat on, a great many alleged Acol exponents don't even begin to possess it. It is never easy to explain an attitude but I feel that I must have a stab at explaining this one.

The Acol attitude comes half-way between two schools of thought. The first and most popular school, whom I call the scientists, believe that bidding is essentially a duet between partners, an exact science subject to immutable laws, and that the more one learns of those laws the more accurate will bidding become. The second school, still flourishing in the North, believes in no conventions and common sense, the more you've got the more you bid, and, when hard-pressed in argument, that all these features showing conventions are nothing but cheating anyway and, in the words of

attitude of mind

by S. J. Simon

Mr. James Agate, there is no difference between them and looking at your wrist watch to tell partner you hold all four Aces. What Mr. Agate of course ignores is that bidding, say, a conventional Four No-Trumps uses up a tempo while looking at your wrist watch doesn't.

The Acol attitude has realised that bidding is not an exact science but a scientific estimation of mathematical probabilities. It has also realised that the probabilities to be estimated include the probable actions of opponents, who regrettably happen to be present, and that the entire language for estimating is limited to 35 bids (1 Club to 7 N.T.), and that that is not nearly enough to paint a complete picture of the hand most of the time or even part of the time. It has therefore realised that there is a limit to the accuracy any system can reach and that no system can hope to be completely accurate all the time.

Accordingly it has thrown that particular ambition into the gutter, where the scientists can scramble for it, and set itself out to evolve a loose flexible style of bidding, which, though not as accurate as some systems on certain types of hands, will in the long run achieve better results over all types of hands both by the aid of it's own bidding machinery and opponent's mistakes.

Opponent's mistakes!

These words form an essential element of the Acol attitude. But the scientists do not appear even to envisage that they can happen.

Recently I found a bunch of them clustered round a hand published by Ewart Kempson in the *Star*.

	♠	10 x x x x x	
	♥	K x x	
	♦	x x x	
	♣	x	
		N.	
W.		S.	E.
	♠	A K J x x	
	♥	A J 10 9	
	♦	A Q	
	♣	A 10	

The late Colonel Walter Buller had played this hand in 6 Spades against an opening lead of the King of Clubs. Winning the trick with Ace, he drew trumps, played the 10 of Clubs and when West covered with the Jack, let him hold it discarding a Heart from dummy.

Kempson had been rightly enthusiastic about Buller's line of play but the scientists were sceptical and were busily discussing percentage angles, distributional frequencies and what nots in an effort to prove a simple Heart finesse through East offered the better chance. Whether or not they were right mathematically, I would'nt know. Buller fails while they succeed against ♥ Q x x x or ♥ Q x x x x in East's hand, while Buller succeeds and they fail against Q x x with West. Both fail against ♥ Q x x x with West. Mathematically it is clearly extremely close.

But in practice there is no argument but that Buller's line of play was correct. Because while

the scientists line of play gives opponents no chance to go wrong, Buller offered both East and West a first class opportunity to chuck.

First West on play does not know whether to lead Hearts or Diamonds and, if he leads Diamonds—that's that! And if he leads Hearts and East holds Queen to four, then East must play low or he will present declarer with the contract.

And how many Easts do you know who could be guaranteed to play low in this situation?

But this aspect of the Colonel's play had inevitably never even occurred to the scientists. It never does occur to them to think about opponents.

Opponents will make mistakes. Further, opponents can be encouraged to make mistakes. If they don't make mistakes you won't win many matches. But the Acol is the only system I know that consciously devotes a part of it's machinery to encouraging opponents into errors. There are other systems that are difficult to play against—natural bidders for instance are a nightmare to oppose. But it is an accidental nightmare arising out of the general slovenliness of their methods and not a planned nightmare. You don't know what to do against them because these bidders so often don't know what they're doing.

Acól bidders always know exactly what they're doing. Their machinery often puts opponents on a spot from which they have to guess while the partnership knows it's own combined strength to within a point.

This is known as making life difficult for the enemy and easy for yourself.

feminine slant?

by Carmel Skidelsky

What is the feminine slant on bridge?

Quite simply. There ain't no such animal.

Unreliable statistics (mine) show that there are far more women bridge players in this country than men. Voluntary ones at any rate.

Yet bridge, on its creative side, is still as exclusively a man's game as chess.

You don't agree?

O.K. Then answer a few questions.

Can you think of any bidding system invented by a woman? Any coup or convention in the play of the cards either invented by or named after a woman?

Can you think of a single woman who has evolved bridge principles of her own?

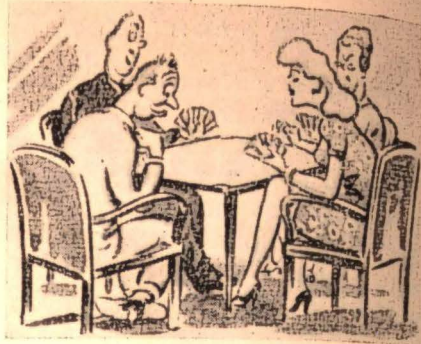
If you can, I'd like to meet her. I should say she was rarer than the dinosaur.

And don't drag the red herring of first class women players across this page.

We all know there are women who can take men on at their own game and beat them. But the operative words are "at their own game." The highest praise ever given to a ranking woman player is:—"She plays like a man."

However high their executive skill, these women have contributed nothing to the structure of bridge. Not even a characteristic feminine style.

When it is said, "She plays a man's game," no further explanation is needed. Everyone under-



stands at once that the woman plays an aggressive game with judgment and skill.

But take the converse. You are told, "Oh! She plays a typical woman's game." Do you honestly know anything except that the speaker considers the player in question bad?

You don't know if she underbids or overbids or wobbles between the two extremes. You don't know if her card play is beneath contempt or as good as the shocking contracts she lands will allow.

In fact, in spite of their superior numbers, women are only bridge parasites.

The reasons for this are debatable.

My own theory is that most women suffer from a centuries old lack of education.

Elegant accomplishments may charm potential ever-lovers but they seldom train more than the surface of the mind.

Bridge is a game requiring logic, common sense and concentration. Such qualities are not often the by product of Mendelssohn's Spring Song or exquisite embroidery.

I am well aware that this curriculum was obsolete by the time my generation was educated. By my parents' time as well. But I think that the inherited bent towards the graces rather than the sinews of the mind persists.

The result is that the average woman learns to play bridge reasonably well with a good deal more difficulty than the average male. With a further result that while the purely instinctive woman player doesn't stop to think out anything, the rest think only along the already beaten tracks.

Look where you will, there is

neither inclination nor ability for feminine research work. Which means that women cannot influence the game except on its purely social side.

So creative bridge remains an exclusively masculine industry lacking even the germ of a suffragette movement.

And who cares anyway?

(The editor hastens to add that he does not necessarily agree with the authoress, and would welcome reactions by readers.)



She plays an aggressive and skilful game!

This month's Competition

Set by J. C. H. Marx

The CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL offers a prize of TWO GUINEAS for the best set of solutions to the following problems. In the event of two or more sets of solutions being of equal merit, the monthly prize will be divided.

Answers to CONTRACT BRIDGE JOURNAL (Editorial Department) 8, Waterloo Place, London, S.W.1. not later than October 10th, 1946. Solutions and prizewinners' names in November.

NOTE.—For the purpose of this competition, it should be assumed that the players are employing the Approach-Forcing method of bidding. This is not necessarily identical with any particular vintage of the Culbertson system, but conforms to the flexible form of the method followed by most "Forcing Two" and "Two Club" players in this country.

In framing their solutions, competitors should disregard specialised conventions, such as the Blackwood or the Herbert, unless the terms of the problem includes specific reference to them.

PROBLEM NO. 1. (15 points)

Score Love all. North holds:

♠ 7 5 ♥ A Q J 10 8 2 ♦ 3 ♣ J 6 5 3. What should he bid in each of the following situations?

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

(a) 1 ♠ NB 2 ♥ NB
2 NT NB ?

(b) 1 ♣ NB 1 ♥ NB
2 NT NB ?

(c) 1 ♦ 1 ♠ 2 ♥ NB
2 NT NB ?

PROBLEM NO. 2. (10 points)

Score East-West Game. East holds ♠ J 6 ♥ 8 7 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ A K 9 7 4 2.

The bidding has proceeded, with North and South silent through out:

WEST	EAST
1 ♠	2 ♣
2 ♣	?

What should East bid now?

PROBLEM NO. 3. (10 points)

Score North-South Game. North holds:

♠ 6 ♥ K Q 10 9 8 7 ♦ K 10 4 ♣ Q J 4

The bidding proceeds:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♥	3 ♠	4 NT	6 ♠

(Blackwood)

?

What should North bid now?

PROBLEM NO. 4. (12 points)

Score Game All. South holds:

♠ Q J 9 7 5 3 ♥ 6 ♦ A Q J 9 ♣ J 5

The bidding proceeds:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 ♣	1 ♠	DBL	NB
2 ♣	NB	NB	2 ♥
?	?		

What should South bid

(a) if East passes 2 ♥
(b) if East doubles 2 ♥?

PROBLEM No. 5. (10 points)

Score North-South Game. The bidding has proceeded:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 \diamond	DBL	2 \heartsuit	?

North holds:

\spadesuit 98 \heartsuit QJ987642 \diamond Void
 \clubsuit J73

What should he bid?

PROBLEM No. 6. (10 points)

The bidding has proceeded, with East and West silent throughout

NORTH	SOUTH
1 \clubsuit	2 \spadesuit
3 \clubsuit	3 \spadesuit
4 NT*	5 \spadesuit
6 \spadesuit	NB

* Blackwood

West holds

\spadesuit 865 \heartsuit K1042 \diamond Q10965
 \clubsuit 5

What should he lead?

PROBLEM No. 7. (33 points)

The four hands are:

NORTH
 \spadesuit A9752
 \heartsuit 3
 \diamond Q
 \clubsuit A Q8653

WEST	EAST
\spadesuit 643	\spadesuit KQJ8
\heartsuit Q52	\heartsuit KJ9876
\diamond J107642	Void
\clubsuit 2	\clubsuit 1074

SOUTH
 \spadesuit 10
 \heartsuit A104
 \diamond AK9853
 \clubsuit KJ9

The bidding, with the score North-South Game

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1 \heartsuit (1)	3 \diamond (2)	Dbl (3)	3 \spadesuit (4)
Dbl (5)	NB (6)	NB	4 \clubsuit (7)
Dbl (8)	Red (9)	4 \heartsuit (10)	Dbl (11)
NB	NB	NB	

Competitors are asked to classify by merit, or demerit, all the bids above which are numbered in brackets. The terms to be used are (a) Sound, (b) Doubtful, (c) Ill-judged and (d) Shocking. In explanation, the term "doubtful" should be applied where an alternative better bid exists, though the decision is close; the term "ill-judged" where such alternative is markedly and demonstrably better.

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Bridging the Years.

(continued from page 5)

the substitution of the old 4/5 No Trump for the almost ubiquitous Blackwood.

The 4/5 does impose *some* restriction upon unduly optimistic partners: with Blackwood, one is at their mercy. In fact, Blackwood requires, simple as it seems, infinitely more expert treatment than Culbertson.

The new (about 2 years old) Four Aces bid—the Weak Two—has not caught on over here. A handful of successful money-players experimented with it; but Crockford's barred it at the request of the mass of ordinary practitioners. Acol preserves it for 8 plus playing-tricks; Kempson keeps opponents (and partner) guessing whether it is AKQ to 7 and a blizzard or A to 4 with a couple of Ace-Kings on the side. A handful reserve the bid for a two-suiter and most Two Clubbers play it to show about four honour tricks with a bit of shape, or five with none.

Three-bids have become (thank Heaven) sane at last. The Queen to-six-and-a-bust Three is a relic of an unhappy past. Asking bids, optional in Culbertson, have been dropped by all but a few seasoned partnerships and, of course, the Vienna addicts, for whom they are integral.

By and large, it is, I think, fair to say that, while the bridge generally played has appreciably improved, the top-notch bridge has declined even more appreciably.

The standard exhibited in the Gold Cup Final, the North-South match, and the Stern-Ellinger dog

fight put even Culbertson's appalling display when he lost to Stern in 1937 to inglorious shame.

This is, on the whole, a healthy symptom. It proves a thing which needed proving: that even bridge players have realised for the past seven years that there are questions more burning than that revolving round the dilemma whether East or West holds the Queen of Spades.

First Thoughts.

(continued from page 7)

position you occupy at the table. Should you be stronger to open the bidding if vulnerable and do you need a stronger hand to open fourth in hand than you do as dealer? In both cases the answer is "No." There are certain niceties of bidding when a part score is involved, but these are too advanced to discuss here. Take as your guide that if the rules given indicate that an opening bid is sound, then it is equally sound under any circumstances. We have not explored the difficult country of freak hands. For the moment use your own judgement on them, and when in doubt pass.

And that, I think, is enough to digest in one month. Read the article again and learn the rules. Write to me if any point worries you, but do not at this stage raise problems outside the scope of this article. And remember again. This article is not for experts but for near beginners. Don't muddle your thinking by trying too much at once.

HOW GOOD ARE YOU? SOLUTIONS

Hand 1

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1. ♠ 5	♥ 2	♥ Q	♥ A
2. ♣ 3	♥ K	♥ 9	♥ J
3. ♣ 5	♣ 6	♣ 2	♥ 8
4. ♠ A	♠ 6	♠ 2	♠ K
5. ♠ J	♥ 3	♠ 3	♠ 4
6. ♣ 8	♣ 7	♣ 4	♥ 10
7. ♠ 5	♦ 3	♠ 7	♠ Q
8. ♠ 10	♥ 6	♠ 8	♠ 9
9. ♣ A	♣ J	♣ Q	♥ 4
10. ♦ 2	♦ A	♦ 6	♦ 4
11. ♦ 7	♣ K	♣ 9	♦ 5
12. ♦ 9	♦ 10	♦ J	♦ K
13. ♦ Q	♥ 7	♣ 10	♦ 8

West is squeezed at trick 2. If he discards a Spade, South's 9 of Spades becomes good. If he discards a Diamond, South's 8 of Diamonds wins the twelfth trick. The choice of opening lead is immaterial.

Hand 2

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

and the three top Hearts win the last three tricks.

West is the victim of an early progressive squeeze from which there is no escape.

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1946-47

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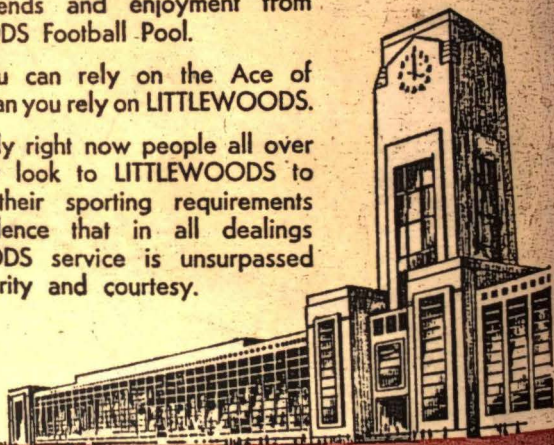


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